



# بیان گفتمان نو

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## BAYAN II:

Inclusive governance and improved security through  
influencing

## Bi-annual Report



*Sarak Tasadi Milli Bus, Second ally left, (A) Part of Khoshal Khan Mena, Behind Shadab Zafar Buildings, Kabul, Afghanistan*

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Name of Partner Organization	Women Human rights and Media Organization (WHMO)
Name of Contact Person	Wali Ahmad Shirzad
Start Date and End Date of Reporting Period	15 December 2014 -15 December 2016
Target Province (s)	Kabul, Balkh, Samangan, Jwzjan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Kandahar, Helmand, Sar-e-Pol, Faryab, Wardak and Logar, Paktia, Parwan provinces
Final Beneficiaries &/or Target Groups	women, Afghan young, students, and men

## Executive Summary

The BAYAN II project's aim was to raise awareness and strengthen the role of Afghan women in the decision-making process and their political campaign in society, as well as women's engagement to take part as potential candidates and voters in an upcoming parliamentary election. This was operationalized through deferent types of media and capacity building programs. The media campaigning included three wide-ranging radio programs (96 Panel Discussions, 96 Radio Dramas, and 96 Radio Packages) and advocacy events at national and International level. The activities enhanced the levels of Afghan women political participation knowledge and focused on Security Council Resolution 1325 that has strongly emphasized to the inclusive representation of women at all decision-making level.

Media programs invited and allowed women politicians, parliamentarians, religious scholars and women activists to discuss comprehensively women's rights at politically, socially and culturally levels, especially women involved in the media so that they can raise their voice at national and international level. Within panel discussions, women inclusive representation at all decision making level portrayed as core centre of society and has emphasized that Afghan women still need to be pushed by civil society and international actors who can play a crucial role in advancing women political mobilization and to improve their political attitudes and beliefs and their concerns in the country.

The project has started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2014 and completed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. In relation to the objectives set for its core activities. The audiences of the programs made aware about the context of political participation and Security Council Resolution 1325.

## Programs broadcasting 15 December 2014– 15 December 2016

- **Radio Drama:** under the project, total 96 Dramas recorded the different aspects of the women's political participation and women role in upcoming parliamentary elections are featured in drama and raised political social and cultural awareness on the number of issues related to the women's political participation: right to stand for election as potential candidates; rights to vote; right to conduct political and election campaign; who is eligible to vote; obtaining voting card; women vote in favor of women; women into parliament are portrayed as women's rights defenders; women's political participation through election and voting; legal conditions for those women who want to be nominated based on electoral law and Afghanistan Constitution, etc.
  - **Roundtable Discussions:** Under the project, total 96 Panel discussions have been recorded with total 96 round tables from the start of the project to date. The following experts took part in the panel discussions: Safia Sediqi, (Ex MP , women rights activist), Ezatullah Akbari (Islamic scholar), Mawlay Zaki (Islamic scholar), These top religious scholars at the country level and women rights activists provided in deep discussion on the women's political participation from the sharia and Islamic perspective to be more acceptable to listeners and community.
  - **Radio Packages:** Under the project total 96 packages with the female parliamentarians have been conducted with the total of 48 interviews from the start of the project to date. The interviews with female parliamentarians were also followed by the interviews with other experts: academic scholars, university students, women activists, it contributes to deep understanding of the community, women, Afghan young and families on the benefit of women's political participation, women role and right to work based on Islamic values and women right to vote and be nominated in upcoming parliamentary elections.
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- **Radio Drama:** the total of 96 dramas (48 Pashto and 48 Dari) had been broadcasted during the reporting period.
  - **Radio Package:** the total of 96 radio interviews (48 Pashto, 48 Dari) had been broadcasted during the reporting period.
  - **Roundtable Discussion:** the total of 96 roundtable discussions (48 Pashto, 46 Dari) had been broadcasted during the reporting period.
  - The programs (dramas, packages, and panel discussions) were aired according to the Project timeline in the specified times (drama: Tuesday, Time: 2:00 pm, 2:05 pm, package: Wednesday, Time: 2:00 pm, 2:10 pm, panel discussions: Thursday, Time: 2:00 pm, 2:20 pm)

### Stakeholder's relation and promotional activities:

- Weekly and bi-weekly meetings were initiated with the radio broadcasting partners for compiling the feedback received from the listeners from the radio stations. In addition, to get their feedback in regards to the quality of the programs in order to integrate feedback to be integrated into the program production to ensure the quality of the

programs aligned with the context and culture and full file the expectations of the listeners.

- Continues outreach and communication and visibility of the programs and dissemination of programs broadcasting information in to reach to wider listener has been commenced through; distribution of information leaflet (poster) during the focus group meetings. the information is also disseminated through our local radio partners in the provinces as well as by the provincial departments of women affairs in the province.
- Coordination meeting area also conducted with the ministry of women affairs, provincial departments of women affairs, civil society networks for coordination of the program activities; radio broadcasting and focus group meetings, selection of participants for the focus groups meetings.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation activities:**

- During the implementation of the project WHMO provided regular monitoring of the programs broadcasting based on the broadcasting schedule by WHMO journalist Through partner radios the office on daily basis.
- WHMO also initiative the cooperation plan agreed with the Ministry of Women Affairs, for monitoring the programs aired by the local radio stations by the provincial department of women affairs. The provincial departments of women affairs were consistently encouraged and engaged in monitoring of the program broadcasting. WHMO provided regularly with the department of provincial women affair through the phone to receive their feedback in regards to the broadcasting and feedback of the listeners and also relevance and interest of the program in the province.
- WHMO project officer performed weekly monitoring of the program through Nye CD Distribution Network.

### **What is your assessment of the results of the project so far? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of outputs, outcomes, and impact in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the project has had any unforeseen positive or negative results:**

Under the project, 4 rounds one-day focus group meetings have been conducted in Kabul, Jwzjan, Takhar, and Baghlan Provinces. The meetings participated by the representative of civil societies, listeners, teachers, media organizations, youths, and members of other professional societies such as women groups, universities, legal associations. The purpose of the meetings to evaluate the quality of the radio produced under the project, the major issues in regards to the women's political participation in the provinces which to be included in the program and also relevancy of the program with local costume and culture and potential impact of the programs. Their inputs are received through designed questionnaires. Inputs from the focus group were played a key role in ensuring the quality of the program, relevance with the existing issues of women encouraged and increased the listeners in regards to the program which is one of the key success increased potential impact on women's political participation and protection.

The provided feedback from the listeners through direct phone calls to our media monitor and our

panelist are the key indicators of the success of the programme, according to their feedback, the programs listen with great interests in the rural areas, and one of the key factors of the interest is integrating the religious aspect of the issue related to the women's rights especially women political participation and women's rights in all component of the programme.

### **Lessons learned and Recommendations:**

Women Human rights and Media Organization has also learned over the period of the project to pay particular attention to the programme produce in order to increase radio audiences knowledge about women's rights and women's political participation, this project also gave the staff opportunity to learn more about women political participation and Afghan National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security). Get to know various stakeholders within the Parliament, Ministry of Women Affairs, and Civil Society Activists, women politicians, university professors, religious scholars and Department of Ministry of Women Affairs in the country.

With the broadcasting of each radio programs, it is proved for WHMO that the contents of the programs are very effective and important for audiences and all the programs produced according to Islamic values, Afghan National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security) and Afghanistan laws. The audiences of the programs are satisfied that these programs are very fruitful for increasing the level of awareness of women to participate in political sphere especially in upcoming parliamentary elections as candidate and voter.

According to the feedback of participants of the interviews, focus group meetings and listeners the project activities can play vital role in educating and awareness raising of the women especially Afghan young and families, which will have real impact on increasing women's political participation at the community level, and recommended the project to be continued in the future, as well. Therefore we recommend that the project to funded for another year.

### **Success stories:**

My name is *Shukra "Barakzai"* a representative of Kabul people in the Parliament. The challenges that each Afghan women are facing is the challenges that I am facing, it is clear when you're in the politic and you want to behave on principles and not ready to accept any pressure in your political ideology, and whenever your way is clear, these challenges are much more in politics. For those who are a flower of hundred colors is very easy, but for those who move with one color and one ideology is very difficult. But I proud each challenge that has come to my way because each problem and difficult test much more united me to the way, which is the way of Afghanistan people and representation from the vast majority of silence people make me more closely.

Women participation whatsoever is not acceptable for me. Firstly, their role in the many matters is symbolic where they are positioned as decision-maker, they are not accepted and many obstacles have created to them. Don't forget that Afghanistan is the member of the International community, and this year at least we have to have 30% women in government and nongovernmental institutions that we are very setback of this sort. You see more women in government education and other sectors that are working as servants. I think if we respect to others as a human being regardless it is man or women will be the prosperity of Afghanistan.

My name is **Nad Bibi Omeri**, I was the representative of provincial councils for two terms. It is announced that women should come out from home and be nominated for provincial council seats because this is the political position and represent your people and defend of women's rights. No one was ready being nominated because the people said that the situation is very bad, the culture and custom of Khost province are more fundamental than other provinces and culture and tradition has value for our people than seats. Finally, there was no woman to be nominated. Therefore, director of Department of Women Affairs Ms. Sayra Sharifa who is the representative of the people in the parliament now told me that, I should be nominated to a provincial council seat. As, I, was the director of the Khost Union and one of the defenders of women's rights. I told to Ms. Sharifa that this is not a very ordinary issue as well as my family was not agreed with me. After a long time discussion with my father and father-in-law families, I could convince them. Therefore, I nominated myself. In the first time, Independent Election Commission and Independent Complaint Commission was very transparent and no vote was misused. So, I printed and installed my posters, but it was very bad for women to hang their pictures on the wall in Khost province, my brothers and sons were opposed suspending the pictures because they insisted that it is shameful for us and will reflect a bad image of our family among the people. Despite all these challenges, I strictly struggle with those people who were against women. I also ignored to sending my campaigning posters to my father's family due to my family dignity, so I organized an event there with community elders to change their mindset against women's rights, women rights to vote and candidate. Finally, I succeeded to find my way to provincial councils. Currently, I want to be nominated for upcoming parliamentary elections on behalf of Khost province women.

## Pictures



**Picture 1: Radio Actors**



**Picture 2: Radio Interview with Ministry of Women Affairs**



**Picture 3: listeners questionnaires participants**



**Picture 4: Panel Discussion participants**