

Quarterly Progress Report

Organization Details:

Grantee Name	Human Rights Watch and Media Organization
Project name	Strengthen WHMO for implementing Women's Empowerment and Equality, And Human Rights Projects
Location	Jalalabad city and Behsud District of Nangarhar province
Reporting period	01st of June 2021 to 31 st of August, 2021
Date submitted	30 th of August, 2021

Background

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban captured Kabul without reaching a political and peaceful settlement, and years of democratic values, especially women's rights lost overnight. Afghanistan was the worst place to become a woman and after disintegrating of the Kabul regime the socio-economic, cultural, and political situation of Afghan women have extremely deteriorated and currently, women are facing new challenges of freedom environment, education possibilities, healthcare services, employment opportunities, as well as dire poverty; lack of access to justice and legal bodies; prevailing traditional norms and beliefs in new Afghanistan.

There were many legal bodies, mechanisms, and women's legal rights defender associations established to advocate violence victims' cases, their rights, and participation around the country. But unfortunately, by the downfall of the Kabul administration, the existing legal structures have totally been abolished. In addition, the mass media had a positive impact in raising their voice, concerns, and socio-political challenges in society, but, now more than 70 percent of local independent media (TV, Radio, and print media) have halted due to lack of financial and security challenges, as well as Gender Responsive Departments and Family Courts had thoroughly disappeared.

Women and girls are not just the victims of conflict and traditional norms but they are the first target of dire poverty and are sold underage as a commodity to feed their family stomachs. Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of violence against women globally, with 9 out of 10 women experiencing at least one form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime (UNAMA), and lifesaving services for women survivors of violence have closed on account of fear of being targeted.

Due to rapid political changes in the country, social, economic, and cultural interventions halted and Women's Organizations (WOs) stopped their operations on gender equality, women's participation, and access to legal rights and access and Human Rights Watch and Media Organization also immediately stopped its activities in Nangarhar and other targeted areas.

Summary

As per the project plan, the activities achieved under the second quarter report from 1st June, 2021 until 30th August 2021 were as follows:

I. Activities Status:

a. Tasks/activities accomplished during reporting period. Please explain fully the progress against target as planned per approved annual work plan.

- WHMO conducted 3 theatres in Behsud district regarding women's rights and violence against women and girls and more than 280 students, teachers, youth, women, and community leaders participated in all street theatres watching the message that women have the right to participate on equal terms with men in social and political engagement and opportunities at all levels of the society including peace processes.
- Broadcasted 2 radio round-table shows about women's legal rights and violence against women and girls.
- Developed and prepared 10 minutes HD women rights and EVAW Documentary (recorded, sounding, edited)
- 4 news articles on Women's Rights and EVAW through published through "The Daily Afghanistan" awareness on freedom of movement, freedom of thought and religion, freedom of rights relating to family life and children.
- 4 advocacy billboards on EVAW on Women Rights developed and installed to create awareness concerning EVAW, Women's Legal Rights, and children's early marriages in the target community.
- WHMO WVL Team conducted several stakeholder meetings with the department of women affairs, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the department of social affairs, the department of youth, the Department of Culture and information, and the women's rights organizations.

b. Provide detail of the Direct beneficiaries reached under any performed activities as per your approved work plan.

S/N	Description of the performed activity	Target		Beneficiaries covered (Previous reporting period)		Beneficiaries covered (this reporting period)		Beneficiaries covered (Cumulative)	
		Total project	This year only	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Street theatres	6000	2000	400	150	100	230	500	380

c. Tasks/activities planned but delayed or not accomplished during reporting period.

During the reporting period, TV talk shows, awareness workshops, street theatres, advocacy billboards, and publishing of advocacy articles were postponed due to disintegrating of the Kabul administration.

d. Reasons for delay or failure to accomplish planned activities during reporting period. How the organization is planning to address the gaps as a result of delay.

The activities have been delayed due to collapsing the Kabul regime and political change in the country. The WHMO team regularly monitors the cultural and political situation, now more space is available for organizations to plan and address the gaps. WHMO had several meetings with the department of cultural and information and economy regarding project objectives and re-organization of activities. The WVL team is welcome to work under the de facto authorities of the Taliban in Nangarhar province.

Program Activities:

Activity 1 Heading: Street Theatre on Women Rights and EAW and showing of documentary in villages

June – August, 2021



Picture 1: First Theater Show

Picture 2: 2nd Theater Show

Picture 3: 3rd Theater Show

ACTIVITY	STATUS
<p>Project Details/Action Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the 31st of June, the first theater show was held for 30 women, girls, and students in Araban Hight School of Nangarhar province. The main purpose of this theatre was to raise community women and activists' awareness on women's education and social barriers hindering girls. On the 24th of July conducted its second theatre show in Behsoud district of Nangarhar province. More than 100 students and teachers graced the show with their presence. On the 25th of July, WHMO Nangarhar Team held its third theatre show in Behsoud district and more than 200 female students and teachers took part. The main purpose of this theatre was to raise community women and activists' awareness on women's education and

	<p>social barriers hindering girls. During the reporting period so far, WHMO has conducted five street theater shows in different areas.</p>
<p>Key Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 380 participants' mindset, attitude and behavior positively altered regarding gender inequalities and family violence. • There were youths, community leaders, women, teachers, and students who became aware of the noxious impact of violence on family, its structure and children development. • Their knowhow was developed that how women can realize their legal rights and can find a solution and way out from violent environment to a peaceful environment based on Islamic perspective. • They expressed their commitment to work for women due rights in compliance with Islamic perspective as well as to eliminate violence against women in their families. • It is expected that an enabling environment for women and girls would be created where justice would rule, men and women sharing equal rights with zero violence.

Activity 2 Heading: Women Rights & ERAW Documentary Preparation:
June – August 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKayWuFwXLs>



Women Rights & ERAW Documentary

45 views • 1 Jul 2021

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ACTIVITY	STATUS
Project Details/Action Plan	<p>On the 2nd of June, 2021, WHMO produced 10 minutes HD documentary on women's rights and the elimination of families against women and girls.</p> <p>WVL project Team developed an EVAW documentary script based on Islamic values in terms of women's rights to different forms of violence against women and girls in the country. The documentary has been professionally recorded, edited, and finalized.</p>

Activity 3 Heading: Radio Round Table Talks of Women Rights & EVAW.

June – August 2021



Picture 1: Roundtable Picture



Picture 2: Roundtable Picture

1st Talk: <https://youtu.be/wLpMKQ7kjs0>

2nd Talk: https://youtu.be/D9_SC_JuWQ

3rd Talk: <https://youtu.be/mbYq3CCw7Hs>

4th Talk: <https://youtu.be/iDIkzSuZMNU>

Produced and Broadcasted Radio Programs

ACTIVITY	STATUS
Project Details/Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 22 June 2021 the fourth radio round table was conducted on women's rights and access to justice through a local radio partner (Muram FM) On 29 July 2021. WHMO media team has broadcasted the Fourth radio roundtables on women's rights and EVAW. The program invited honorable guests during discussion unearthed the areas which prevent women from actively taking part in education and employment. Based on the calls' feedback, the program sounds successful as it has positively altered citizens' perceptions and mindsets. WHMO accomplished the fourth radio talk-show on women's basic and legal rights and their access to justice through a local radio partner (Muram FM)

Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The invited guests deftly addressed the issue of women's legal rights and family violence in the Afghan community. • They shed light on the factors causing family violence as well as their negative impacts on the children's mental and physical growth as well as life. • People became aware of women's basic rights and the reasons causing violence in families and communities. • It is expected that an enabling environment for women and girls would be created where justice would rule, men and women would share equal rights with zero violence.
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Activity 4 Heading: TV Talk Shows on Women Rights and VAW:	
June – August 2021	
ACTIVITY	STATUS
Project Details/Action Plan	The TV program was scheduled with Sharq TV station in Nangarhar province, but due to the disintegration of the regime

Activity 5 Heading: Articles in Newspapers & Magazines on EVAW & Women Rights	
June – August 2021	
<p>Article 1st: http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/opinion_detail.php?post_id=156974</p> <p>Article 2nd: http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/opinion_detail.php?post_id=157120</p> <p>Article 3rd: http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/opinion_detail.php?post_id=157073</p> <p>Article 4th: http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/opinion_detail.php?post_id=156974</p>	
ACTIVITY	STATUS
Project Details/Action Plan	<p>WHMO published its four-news article on Women's Rights and EVAW through "The Daily Afghanistan" on:</p> <p>31st, of June, 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 12th of July, 2021 2. 17th of July, 2021 3. 26th of July, 2021 <p>The article can access both online and offline to positively change people's attitudes and behaviors. These articles will raise people's awareness of freedom of movement, freedom of thought and religion, freedom of rights relating to family life and children, rights relating to citizenship, and political participation.</p>

Activity 7 Heading: Advocacy of EVAW on Women Rights through Billboards

June – August, 2021



Picture 1: Advocacy Billboard



Picture 2: Advocacy Billboard



Picture 3: Advocacy Billboard



Picture 4: Advocacy Billboard

ACTIVITY	STATUS
<p>Project Details/Action Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 22 June 2021 two Billboards of Advocacy on EVAW on Women Rights were developed and installed to create awareness concerning EVAW, Women's Legal Rights, and children's early marriages in the target community in Araban village of Behsud district in Nangarhar province. One 11 July 2021, WHMO has fixed and installed two Advocacy Billboards to create awareness with reference to EVAW, Women legal Rights and children's early marriages in the target community on 11 of July in Araban village of Behsud district in Nangarhar province.
<p>Key Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is expected that these billboards will increase people's awareness of women's and children's legal rights so that they may no longer remain victims of physical and mental abuse and discrimination. Billboards fixed creating awareness concerning EVAW and children's early marriages in the target community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local people's attitudes and behaviour positively affected. • Youth girls and women understanding built on their basic rights of education, healthcare, and employment. • People letting their daughters complete their education before
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Activity 8 Heading: Printing of Advocacy Material for dissemination in villages

June – August 2021

ACTIVITY	STATUS
Project Details/Action Plan	WHMO media team developed and design its promotional material but due to collapsing of the Kabul administration, the printing process was delayed.

Activity 1 Heading: Holding civic education and advocacy sessions on EVAW in villages

June – August 2021

ACTIVITY	STATUS
Project Details/Action Plan	Civic Education and Advocacy Session with Local Women Activists was not planned for August 2021.

Activity 9 Heading: Provincial Workshop on Women Rights & EVAW

June – August 2021

ACTIVITY	STATUS
Project Details/Action Plan	Two provincial workshops were coordinated and planned for the month of August with women-led community organizations but due to political change was postponed.

Activity 10 Heading: Meetings with Project Stakeholders



WHMO WVL Team conducted several meetings with project stakeholders

Project Details/Action Plan

- On 11 May, a meeting with Fatana Aziza the director of the Department of Women Affairs was held with an aim to discuss and share the WVL project with them to coordinate and support. The heads of both departments guaranteed our team of cooperation with WHMO to effectively implement the project planned interventions.
- On 13 May, a meeting with Gheratulah Malukzai deputy director of the Department of Youth was also conducted with an aim to discuss and share the WVL project with them to attract their cooperation and support. The heads of both departments assured our team to cooperate with WHMO to effectively

	<p>implement the project planned interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the 17th of June, the WHMO project officer paid a visit to Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) where he met with its provincial director “Mr. Shamsulrahman Habibi” to exchange views and ideas on the challenges faced by women in Nangarhar province. They discussed how equality between women and men can be attained and how all forms of discrimination against women can be eliminated. Mr. Habibi further added achieving equality between women and men requires a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which women experience discrimination and are denied equality so as to develop appropriate strategies to eliminate such discrimination. He sounded committed to working for women's basic rights and eliminating violence against them.• On the 13th of June, 2021, WHMO provincial Project Manager met with the deputy director of the Department of Cultural and Information Mr. Ahmad Shah Safi. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss women's rights and violence against women in Nangarhar province. The deputy director expressed his views that there are some groups of women generally in Afghanistan and specifically in Nangarhar who face additional forms of discrimination based on their age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, health status, marital status, education, disability, and socioeconomic status, among other grounds. During the meeting, Mr. Attullah Mohmand, WHMO provincial director, and Lema Shirzad shared WVL Project objectives with Commission for further cooperation in terms of coordination and women and girls' vulnerabilities in the Nangarhar province.• On the 12th of July, the WHMO project officer visited the Department of Social Affairs to conduct a meeting with “Mr. Fazal Hadi Fazalizi”, the director in which they exchanged their views on the challenges preventing women from education, employment, and political participation in Nangarhar province. They discussed how the gap between
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	<p>women and men can be bridged and leveled and how all forms of discrimination against women can be eradicated. Mr. Fazalizi then continued that bridging the gap among women and men will require a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which women experience discrimination and are denied equality. So, our government needed to develop appropriate strategies to eliminate such discrimination. He showed his commitment to working for women's basic rights and eliminating violence against them in society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the 25th of July, 2021, WHMO Team held a meeting with civil society and women rights activist Ms. Hamida Malikzai, to discuss women's rights and violence against women in Nangarhar province. Ms. Malikzai expressed her observations that there are some groups of women generally in Afghanistan and specifically in Nangarhar who face additional forms of discrimination based on their age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, health status, marital status, education, disability, and socioeconomic status, among other grounds. During the meeting, Mr. Attullah Mohmand, WHMO provincial director, and Lema Shirzad shared WVL Project objectives for further cooperation in terms of coordination and women and girls'
<p>Key Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both appreciated the efforts of WHMO project team for raising awareness on women rights and EVAW. • They ensured to support the team whenever and wherever required in project implementation. • They acknowledged the reality that violence is the main obstacle to achievement of gender equality and women empowerment. • They further added that they would continue their mission to reduce gender-based violence and gender inequalities.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The following table summarises the challenges we have faced during the reporting period and the lessons learned / solutions for each challenge.

Challenge	Lessons learned / solutions
Political Changes	<p>After disintegrating the Kabul regime, the WVL provincial team immediately stopped its administration and operations activities in Nangarhar province.</p> <p>The WVL team regularly conducted meeting with the de facto authorities of the Taliban regarding WVL project objectives and interventions in the province, during the meetings, the WHMO technical team learned that the WHMO should change its way of implementation and develop new content based on Islamic values.</p> <p>Recently, the de facto authority's leader of the Taliban issued a new degree on women's rights, despite that Afghan women are not fully satisfied with this degree but it can be a promising opportunity toward prevention, protection, and improved success for women and girls in Afghanistan. The second article of this degree state that women is not commodity rather they are free and noble, he refused forced marriages and stressed in the first article that during a marriage contract, a girl's consent is essential. As per this degree all the religious scholars, tribal, community leaders, and the Taliban have been asked to take concrete measures toward implementation of this degree in the country.</p> <p>WHMO will take this degree into account during its upcoming campaign with community leaders and religious scholars as this is a new message to focus on women's rights with a new implementation methodology and strategy. In case the project starts again, the WVL team will revise and develop all its advocacy material, training manuals, and media discussion points on women's rights as per the Islamic perspective and Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (DHRI).</p>