

---

**Awareness-Raising on Peace Process and Supporting Women Rights-Media Project**

**Weekly Report**

**Date: from: 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 to: 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2020**

---

**The Latest Achievement in Peace Efforts:**

Efforts are being made by government to ease the tensed situation and let people live their lives as desired, to minimize the prospects of bloodshed and to let the economy grow raising slogan of khushal and wadan (developed & prosperous) Afghanistan. But women role in political participation was endorsed with strong words.

On 7 of August 2020, President Asraf Ghani invited Loya Jirga in Kabul to decide the fate of hundreds of Taliban prisoners that Taliban leaders insist should be released before they join peace talks with the government. Despite the Loya Jirga said in a resolution that the decision to free the 400 was made in order to "remove obstacle in lying in way to peace deal, and to allow the start of the peace process and an end of bloodshed." It emphasized that women, as half of the country's population, should enjoy their legal and political status and play a constructive role in all stages of the peace process.

The same week, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in a report that more than 1,280 Afghan civilians had been killed during the first half of 2020 -- mainly as a result of fighting between government forces and Taliban militants. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) chairperson Patricia Gossman said that the dispute has highlighted "fundamental problems" in the Afghan justice system and amplified fears that the peace process will not challenge longstanding impunity.

"These 400 are those who have been convicted in killings from two to 40 people, drug trafficking, those sentenced to death and involved in major crimes, including kidnapping," Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for Ghani, said as he announced the date of the Loya Jirga.

## **Highlights of the week:**

*Using bullet points, please list all deliverables of the week/reporting period.*

During last week and reporting period, the following activities took place:

- Conducted a coordination meeting with partner radio about organization of 2 panel discussions.
- Developed Panel Discussion Scripts
- Coordinated with Panelists and invited them to the Panel Discussions
- 2 Radio Panel Discussions were held on 8th and 13th of August 2020
- Developed script first Radio Drama
- Panel Discussion event monitored
- Panelists and Radio audiences' feedback received.
- Panel Discussions published through partner and WHMO social media

## **Summary of Activities**

*Please briefly explain each activity delivered during the week/reporting period.*

**Coordination Meeting with Partner Radio:** Though activities of the first week were successfully accomplished, yet to improve the quality and efficacy of the program more, and to turn it more worth-listening for the target audience in the target province, a meeting with partner radio was conducted. Besides, light was shed on PD, its broadcasting schedule and panelists' selection. Mr. Ezatullah Akbari, media specialist asked the partner radio to provide daily audience contact information to be shared with WHMO main office in Kabul.

**Developed Panel Discussion Scripts:** The media team developed panel discussions scripts for two roundtables broadcasted this week through our partner radio based on approved schedule. The media team focused on important issues such as security challenges for women in the Peace Process in Khost and their role as decision-makers in peace negotiation process.

<b>Guest Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
Ms. Sohela	Women's right activist	Ms. Sohela who has been an women's human rights activist in the Khost province, has been engaged working for women rights, women empowerment and gender equality. Her advocacy, lobbying and untiring efforts for promoting gender equality, peace and security throughout Afghanistan both in urban and rural areas are respected and acknowledged.
Mr. Khalil Jan Garizwal	university lecturer	Islamic Scholars in afghan community are the perfect option like tested tools for instantly raising public awareness about any burning issue as their workaholic involvement brings about 100% result and satisfaction. Moreover, they are deemed as ultimate power to guide public thoughts.
Mr. Bustan Walizi	Law & legal Rights Expert	Islamic scholars' vital and constructive role in positively changing people attitude and behavior is unquestionable and undeniable. They play this role on different and provincial and national forums.
Ms. Amena	Women Rights Activist	Ms. Amena, women rights activist, on every forum supports the idea that involving women in peace negotiation and empowering them to take

		control of decisions can guarantee achieving better development outcomes and social prosperity.
--	--	---

These top women rights activists provided a deep, detailed and comprehensive discussion on the women’s rights and their meaningful participation in peace talks from the sharia and Islamic prospective which is more acceptable to listeners and families and Islamic scholars are considered the ultimate power to guide public thoughts.

The panel discussion aired through partner radio aimed at awareness-raising of the local audience and participation about women’s participation in the peace process.

The media team broadcasted the program on the 8th and 13th of August based on WHMO already approved broadcasting schedule. The Panel Discussion was aired from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Saturday and Thursday across the Khost province.

**Developed first Radio Drama Script:** The media team developed the first Radio Drama script based on the feedback received from radio audiences and panelists during broadcasting the three live panel discussions. Radio drama is the greatest tool, medium and vehicle for raising awareness regarding any challenging social issues that is why their results would be far-reaching brining the desired improvement. These dramas are meant to focus on different aspects of women lives, different roles women can play, issues of peace process, women’s responsibilities, and to encourage community to support the ongoing peace negotiations, and encourage women participation in local governance and social initiatives.

**Panel Discussion event monitored:**

Monitoring and evaluation of any running program is quite essential to check the project activities and their successful execution. Mr. Ezatullah Akbari, the media specialist on 8th of August took part in the third panel discussion with partner radio to monitor both the program and its quality closely. He monitored guests’ response and reaction to live calls made by the audience concerning the ongoing peace process, women rights and their participation in government and social activities.

**Panelists and Radio audiences’ feedback received:**

Peace if prevails undoubtedly paves the way for physical as well as mental growth of the common folks. People build up positive attitude with constructive thinking and exercise their potentials and energies for the betterment of their country. If peace is in full swing all creatures can heave a sigh of relief and live with contentment and ease sharing goodwill equally among them. In such relaxed peaceful setting, youngsters prefer going to schools and universities utilizing their energy for healthy practices rather than unhealthy. Mr. Spen Rawan Noorzi (Khost University Lecturer).

Peace is a social process and a social requirement. In a society where there is no peace, there is no chance of life. Women should not only ask for their role in peace process rather they should ask for their equal rights in every walk of life as they are half of the population and half of society. Mr. Spen Rawan Noorzi insisted on saying that as women are half of the society, they should go shoulder to shoulder with men both in public and private environments. He further stated so for as women's participation in peace is concerned, it has not been taken as a serious issue in because of social and cultural constraints and barriers. To increase women's participation women who are active in the peace process at local, provincial and national levels should come forward to work together for women and girls’ equal rights and quality both indoors and outdoors. They should visit the outskirts meeting with women and seeking their family members’ help and the Department of Women's Affairs as well.

If women's views are not taken into account in the Afghan peace process, it will be illegal and injustice with them. Freedom of expression is the right of every men and women to raise voice for their due social and political rights. Being half of the social shareholders, women must share their views or concerns over any issue with their countrymen brothers in intra-Afghan negotiations. In the recent year's women have developed the courage to raise their voices for peace on any national or international forum and this is their utmost fundamental achievement. Women who are formally educated are quite eager to work for peace and to bring peace but those who are deprived of this great blessing of education can neither ask nor claim their due rights. This is very pathetic that no due attention so far has been paid to this significant issue. When women are integrated, their voices will be better heard. So, to overcome this issuer, they need to develop their unions and associations which enable them to find work and will be able to better manage the jobs that Islam allows.

Comments received from audience are as follows:

- “We need such peace that respects our Islamic, cultural and national values otherwise this peace would be meaningless for us”.
- “Women should be given a role but within the framework of Afghan culture and Islamic values”.
- “We support women in our society as a teacher-to teach our girls, as a doctor-to treat our female patients and as a politician-to voice women concerns in our society”.
- “Peace is necessary as we are tired of war anymore”.
- “Women and girls should be equally treated as men and boys to realize their dreams of prosperous life”.

All the comments were not positive as some radio audiences had different views regarding women position in the society as one of them said “Women and girls are meant for homes or for death and need to be to home”.

**Panel Discussions published through Partner and WHMO Social Media:** The media team and local partner radio published their weekly programs though social media pages which is a good technique to facilitate information sharing and to develop understanding of the people about a specific issue. Social media networks are the major source for promoting gender equality and women empowerment. With the help of these pages and social media networks we can easily reach out to all folks to positively change their attitude and behavior for better development outcomes.

The links are:

- <https://www.facebook.com/298392240245218/posts/3208925665858513/?d=n> (**Partner Radio Facebook page**)
- [https://www.facebook.com/whmo.org/?eid=ARCm60DA6LS0fKifgAP-weCeFdWAXFUfmTt5GtgHh\\_DgJalsypZGD2McCuhOP8jY7lvxqBJgdNyl-P2S](https://www.facebook.com/whmo.org/?eid=ARCm60DA6LS0fKifgAP-weCeFdWAXFUfmTt5GtgHh_DgJalsypZGD2McCuhOP8jY7lvxqBJgdNyl-P2S) (**WHMO**)
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/35620162/admin/> (**WHMO**)

**Challenges:**

*Please briefly mention any challenges you have faced during the reporting period. How did those impact your activities? What was/is your mitigating strategy?*

- Security the first concern for the media team.
- Busy and tough schedule of the panelists

**Future Plan:**

*Please clearly list all your activities scheduled to be delivered next week. Please mention the exact dates, location, and timings.*

Activities being plan for next 7 days

- Recording first Radio Drama
- Developing second Radio Drama Script
- Developing fourth Panel Discussion Script and Content
- Coordination with Panelists for Programs and conduction of the Panel Discussion
- Broadcasting first Radio Drama

**Annexes/Attachments:**

*Please include any supporting documents to this report as annexes or attachments. These may include any photographs from an event convened during the reporting period, a list of participants, etc.*

**Annex A: Panel Discussion Event and Orientation Training Photos**



**Picture 1:** Mr. Suliman Basharmal (PD1)



**Picture 2:** Mr. Khalil Jan Garizwal (PD1)



**Picture 3:** Ms. Amena (PD1)



**Picture 4:** Mr. Kabul Jan Badlon (PD2)



**Picture 5:** Mr. Ustad Moh Unis (PD2)



**Picture 6:** Ms. Nasren Ahani (PD2)

**Attachments:**

- Annex B: Radio Drama Script
- Annex C: Radio Audiences list

