

Monthly Progress Report

Organization Details:

Grantee Name	Human Rights Watch and Media Organization
Project name	Women Voice and Leadership-Afghanistan
Location	Behsud district and Jalalabad city of Nangarhar
Reporting period	May 01, 2021 – May 31, 2021
Date submitted	June 07, 2021

Highlights of the Activities from 1st May until 30th May 2021

- Conducted third theatres on 10 May in Behsud district regarding women legal rights and violence against women and girls. More than 250 students, teachers and community leaders participated
- Conducted the fourth street theatre on 19 May for 150 students and teachers in Jalalabad city.
- Conducted second radio round table on 19 May about women legal rights and violence against women and girls
- Organized the first advocacy session for 10 women activists in Jalalabad city on 23 May
- Hosted the third awareness workshop for 20 women rights activists on 25 May
- Installed two billboards on 22 May
- To pictorial billboard with key message installed in Behsud dsictirct of Nangarhar province on 22 May
- Two meetings have been conducted, the first with Department of Women Affairs on 23 May 2021 with an objective to attract their cooperation and support for the WVL project whenever required while the second was conducted with Head of Department of Youth on 13 May for discussing project set goal and objectives.

Summary

WHMO project team is actively engaged creating and improving an enabling environment for women to realize their basic rights of education, employment, and political engagement by eradicating negative stereotypes against women and all sorts of violence against them in social and family environments and to empower them with decision-making power. As compared to Taliban regime, a great improvement in the current government has taken place, still it is less and we need to tighten our belt to further improve it.

To keep the ball rolling to develop a better peaceful environment for women, WHMO team during this reporting period accomplished many activities like theatre shows, talk-shows, workshops and advocacy session. We conducted the 3rd theatre on 10th May at Alnaser schools while the 4th one on 19th May at Arban school in Behsud district regarding women legal rights and violence against women and girls. More than 300 students, teachers and community leaders participated in both street theatres watching the message that women have rights to participate on equal terms with men in social and political engagement and opportunities at all levels of the society, including in peace processes. Besides, we conducted second radio round-table show on 19 May about women legal rights and violence against women and girls.

Moreover, we organized the first advocacy session for 10 women activists in Jalalabad city on 23 May in which they eagerly participated. On the 25th May, WHMO hosted the 3rd awareness-raising workshop for 20 women rights activists to raise their awareness on women constitutional and legal rights and protection their basic rights. Apart from this, a light was cast on the GBV issues women have been experiencing on regular basis across the province.

We installed two billboards on 22nd May in Behsud district of Nangarhar province to create awareness not only on EVAW and women rights through pictorial messages, but also on early/child marriages which is a burning issue in Afghan community.

A meeting with Department of Women Affairs on 11th May and Department of Youth on 13th was also conducted with an aim to discuss and share the WVL project with them for cooperation and support. The heads of both departments assured our team to cooperate with WHMO to effectively implement the project planned interventions.

Activities:

I. Activities accomplished during reporting period and results achieved, please explain whether the planned target is met or if not why?

As per the project plan, the activities WHMO achieved from 1st May until 31st May 2021 are as follows:

- **WHMO conducted the 3rd street theatre on 10th May in Behsud district regarding women legal rights and violence against women and girls in Afghan community. More than 250 teachers, students and community leaders participated.**
- **We conducted the 4th street theatre on 19 May for 150 students and teachers in Behsud district of Nangarhar province.**

Key Results:

- Participants with greater curiosity attended the street theatres and paid close attention to the message it highlighted and addressed.
 - Their knowhow and understanding developed on women constitutional and legal rights and on their protection.
 - They were made aware of the violence women suffer from on daily basis without any solid reasons.
 - 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.
 - They even expressed their views in support of girls' education saying that educating a girl is like educating the whole family.
- **WHMO conducted the second radio round-table on 19th May about women legal rights and violence against women and girls.**

Key Results:

- The invited guests deftly addressed the issue of women legal rights and family violence in Afghan community.
- They shed light on the factors causing family violence as well as their negative impacts on the children's mental growth and life.
- People became aware of women's basic rights and reasons causing violence in families and communities.
- Women and youth girls got encouraged to ask for their due legal rights.
- 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.

Guest Name	Designation	The Crux of their Discussion
Civil society and lecturer Rustam Jalalzai	Social Activist	GBV is a violation of human rights let's get together to put an end to gender-based violence in society.
Zekria Zaki civil society activist	Social Activist	The revive this spirit in women to work for the promotion and protection of women's right to have control and decide freely over matters related to their education, employment and political participation.

- **We organized the first advocacy session for 10 women activists in Jalalabad city on 23 May.**

Key Results:

- Women activists heartily graced the advocacy session with their presence and learning attitude.
 - Basic knowledge, understanding and awareness of the 10 women activists further enhanced on EVAW and different types of violence.
 - They got committed to mobilize women and youth girls for their constitutional due rights.
 - They learnt different tactics that could be applied for reducing gender-based violence and negative stereotypes existing in community among people.
 - Their advocacy and lobbying skills further developed for community mobilization, public relations and information education.
- **WHMO hosted the third (3rd) awareness-raising workshop for 20 women rights activists on 25 May.**

Key Results:

- 20-women activists' awareness on women rights further developed and enhanced.
 - Their insight into the fact that gender-based violence is a violation of human rights.
 - This idea has been inculcated into their minds that ensuring women's security is a priority for the current government and there should be no discrimination based on gender.
 - They got committed to work for women legal rights of education, healthcare, employment and social engagements.
- **WHMO installed two (2) pictorial billboards with key message in Behsud district of Nangarhar province on 22nd May.**

Key Results:

- Billboards fixed to create awareness concerning EVAW and children's early marriages in the target community.
 - Local people attitude and behaviour would positively be affected.
 - Cases of gender-based violence in families would minimize.
 - Youth girls and women understanding would build on their basic rights of education, healthcare and employment.
 - People would let their daughters to complete their education before tying knot.
- **Two meetings have been conducted, the first with Department of Women Affairs on 11 May 2021 with an objective to attract their cooperation and support for the WVL project whenever required while the second was conducted with Head of Department of Youth on 13 May for discussing project set goal and objectives.**

Key Results:

- 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 the achievement gender equality and women empowerment.
- They further added that they would continue their mission to reduce gender-based violence and gender inequalities.
- Moreover, they said women choices should not be restricted and their ability should not be limited to act.

II. Activities planned but delayed during the reporting period:

- During the reporting period, publishing articles has been put off thanks to the following reason.
- This issue raised thanks to the highest amount being charged for the articles in the market, now is under discussion with the TAF team to find a working solution for it.

III. Activities Planned for next reporting period:

- One radio roundtable has been planned to be broadcasted on EVAW and women's legal rights.
- One TV talk-show will be conducted concerning EVAW and women rights.
- Two street theatres will be displayed.
- Two advocacies of EVAW & Women Rights through Billboards.
- One workshop on EVAW and women rights will be conducted

- Leaflets distribution.
- Conducting meeting with project stakeholders

IV. Challenges & Lessons Learned

Challenge	Lessons learned / solutions
COVID-19	COVID-19 pandemic has ferociously broken out across the whole country during this third wave too. It has caused restlessness among the people disturbing the social fabric of the target society, but our team is successfully heading towards the achievement of the set goals and objectives by strictly following and observing the protocols set by the Ministry of Public Health and WHO. So, schools and universities once again got shut for the safety of the human beings.
Limited mobility due to Covid-19 and Lockdown imposed by Govt.	Though government has declared complete lockdown in the country, yet it may not affect our program that much as we ensured executing activities under the strict obedience of set SOPs. The nature of other activities like radio talk-show is such that pandemic may not interfere in them.

V. During this reporting period we required assistance from the WVL Project team related to the following:

Though we did not require any assistance during this reporting period, yet they are always very supportive in time of need.

VI. The WVL Project team provided the following guidance/directions/advice or

The WVL Project team provided guidance and advice for the following:

- To fix billboards in such a place that is eye-catching and attention-grabbing
- To carry out project activities in close coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- Ensure the safety of the project staff in case of any insecurity.

VII. The WVL Project team's response is still pending

There is no any response on the part of WVL project team pending rather they are very quick-responsive when asked or requested for any sort of support or information.

VIII. Program Pictures



Picture 1: Third Workshop Participants



Picture 2: Third Workshop Participants



Picture 3: Third Street Theatre



Picture 4: Fourth Street Theatre



Picture 5: First Advocacy session



Picture 6: Second Radio talk show

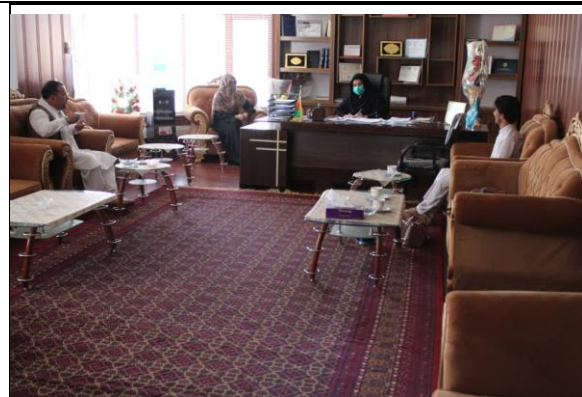
Women's Voice and Leadership program / The Asia Foundation



picture 7: first Advance Billboard



picture 7: Second Advance Billboard



Picture 9: Fatana Azizi DoWA director



picture 10: Ghertullah Malukzia Director of Youth Department

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IX. Work Plan Tracker: (Please copy your approved work plan for Year one in format below and update the status for the reporting month with any conditions/changes anticipated (e.g., not started, in progress, completed, pending, cancelled, On-board (for staff only))