Cover photo by Xabier Mikel Laburu
Photo 1: “Say NO to Violence Against Women!” poster created by HAWCA on IWD.
Photo 2: A girl in HAWCA’s primary school; photo by Steffer Scharagle.
Photo 3: Award received by HAWCA; photo by Nocem Collado.
Photo 4: A girl in HAWCA’s shelter; photo by Nocem Collado.
Photo 5: A woman receiving loan through JMCP; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 6: A woman seeking assistance through HAWCA’s LAC-Herat; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 7: A girl in HAWCA’s LAC-Kabul; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 8: Students in HAWCA’s peace building center; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 9: Women getting trained as CHWs in Bamyan; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 10: Training of ICCO Afghan Partners on UNSCR 1325 in HAWCA’s main office; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 11: Students in HAWCA’s culture center; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 12: Training on family law to law professionals in HAWCA’s main office; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 13: Street child; photo by Steffen Scharagle.
Photo 14: Selay Ghaffar, Executive Director of HAWCA in Geneva – Switzerland; photo by HAWCA.
Photo 15: A girl in HAWCA’s literacy center in Kabul; photo by Steffer Scharagle.

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Annual Report 2010

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Say NO to Violence Against Women!
We reached to the eleventh year of establishment of HAWCA, amid the circumstances where the world has called Afghanistan the most dangerous place for women to live. Yes it is true, we are living in a country with the highest rate of self-immolation of women and girls in the world, highest mortality of women during birth, the culture of impunity is ruling for the rapists of women and children, more women are drifted into drug world. The situation is worst for the children, every day and night mobs of children, girls and boys, are cascading as street children in the main cities of Afghanistan. They are subjected to various crimes.

The year 2010 and the upcoming year, 2011, are the most critical years for Afghan women and girls. The government is passing the Shelters Regulations to make the circle tighter for us to work. Our fate is put on the table of negotiation in the name of peace talks. How can it be possible to reach to a real peace when the most vulnerable victims of war are excluded from the process? But HAWCA with the assistance of other civil society organizations will never sit quiet and will work through direct service provision and advocacy for human rights in the country. It worth mentioning to thank our counterpart international organizations that didn’t left us alone and raised their voices equally as ours.

Last year, HAWCA published a book “Caged Bird: Stories from Safe House and Nadia Anjuman’s Poems” to let the world know about the ongoing plight on Afghan women and a tribute to Nadia Anjuman who was fighting for equality of women in society through her amazing poems. In the year 2010, with the help of our great supporters the book was translated and published into Italian and we have planned to publish the book into Spanish and French as well. So this will be the first time to have the poetry of an Afghan poetess in many international languages.

Taking this opportunity on behalf of HAWCA, I express my gratitude to our direct and indirect project beneficiaries, donors and partners without whom the successful implementation of projects would have been impossible.

We will continue to struggle for elimination of violence against women, gender equality and adequate facilities for youths and children.

Selay Ghaffar  
Executive Director  
HAWCA
# Table of Contents

About HAWCA 1  
Safe House for Women at Risk 3  
Jamila Micro-Credits Project (JMCP) 4  
Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence – Herat 5  
Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence – Kabul 6  
Peace Building for New Generation 7  
CHW Training 8  
UNSCR 1325/1820 Implementation in Afghanistan 9  
Afghanistan: Identity, Training, Work – Phase 2 10  
Capacity Building of Defense Lawyers on Family Law 11  
Sponsorship Program 12  
Other Activities 13
A group of youths were active since 1992 doing volunteer work in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan but after seven years of sporadic works they decided to get organized which resulted in foundation of a humanitarian organization. Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) was established in January 1999 by a group of youth Afghan women and men. HAWCA's establishment was motivated by the despair and devastation suffered by Afghan women and children as victims of war and injustice in Afghanistan and as refugees in Pakistan. Living under the same conditions and experiencing the same misery as millions of Afghans in Afghanistan and in Pakistan during the civil war, the leading members of HAWCA committed to achieving their aims and objectives as volunteers, and devoted their efforts to improving the lives of Afghans under difficult circumstances, from the era of Taliban domination to today's insecure Afghanistan.

HAWCA encourages the active participation of Afghan women and youth in the reconstruction and development processes of their country, and works in partnership with institutions and organizations that focus on just development in Afghanistan.

HAWCA received following awards since its establishment in 1999:

Isabel Ferror's Award: On 8th of March 2000 which was given for those who work on women's education;
Amnesty International Award: Amnesty International title for working on human rights for children and women from Italian Section;
Medalla de Oro del Ayuntamiento de Arganda del Rey: On 6th December 2001 HAWCA received the "Medalla de Oro del Ayuntamiento de Arganda del Rey" award in Arganda, Spain for its humanitarian activities.
Amotinada Mayor: "Amotinada Mayor" from Madrid of Spain, an award dedicated for the women of Afghanistan and received it as real representative of them in Humanitarian Field, on 9th of September 2002.
Sabino Arana Foundition's Golden Shield: On 27th January-2002, Spain. The Award was given especially to HAWCA and The New York Fire Department.
Award of l'hospitalet, the city of Cooperation: On 27th January 2002, HAWCA received the "Award of l'Hospitalet", from the city hall of l'hospitalet in Barcelona, Spain.
Primo Donne Award: On 12th March 2002, HAWCA has been honored to receive an award from Italy called "Primo Donne" from an institution called ANRP.
Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP): HAWCA received the first ever international award of Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP) from UK on November 27, 2009.
Mission
HAWCA is an Afghan national NGO dedicated to working for the social well-being of all people with a particular focus on women and children.

Vision
HAWCA envisions a safe and just society where all Afghans (men, women, children, elders) regardless of their race, ethnicity, tribe, language, and religion receive equal benefit from development processes and work together for a safer and better world.

Goals
HAWCA aims to encourage the active participation of women in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Mandate
HAWCA is and intends to be, mainly but not exclusively, engaged in promoting the participation of Afghan women in the development process and improve the well-being of women and children in Afghanistan. Consequently HAWCA’s mandates include:

1. Protection and Counseling
2. Education and Peace Building
3. Promoting Income-Generating and Micro-Credit Activities
4. Health and Child Care
5. Advocacy for Women and Children’s Rights at National and International Level
6. Emergency Response Operations
7. Sponsorship Program

Membership
HAWCA is member of the following networks:
- Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) – Member and Executive Board Member
- Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) – Member and Executive Board Member
- South Asia Alliance for Grassroots NGOs (SAAGN Network) - Member
Safe House for Women at Risk
Project Type: Protection and Counseling
Project Location: Kabul
Duration of Project: Since February 2004
Donor of Project: UN Women
Status of Project: Ongoing

HAWCA defines safe house as a temporary housing/protection for those women or girls who have been abuse physically, psychological or mentally by family members, powerful communities members, warlords, officials or any, and has not committed crime and need protection and those women who have no house to live (a temporary protection solution).

The women and girls at risk are being introduced to the safe house through MoWA by different organizations. Once under protection, HAWCA consider the women and girls at risk as its project beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are provided in the safe house accommodation, food, cloths, medical assistance, education, vocational training and awareness about their rights, civilian rights and violence against women as well as counseling on legal rights.

The safe house receives beneficiaries from different provinces and sometimes from Iran and Pakistan as well, HAWCA policy is to promote tolerance among the beneficiaries and tries to assist them to learn about the basic values of democracy and human rights while living in the same environment. The beneficiaries are related to different tribes, families and religious, but the management staffs of safe house are behaving with them equally and empower them with the sense of cooperation with each other at all time.

The project implementation is carried out with collaboration of MoWA, donor organizations, UN agencies, civil society, security authorities, and legal authorities.

HAWCA is grateful to offer legal, health, vocational training, literacy and awareness services to all those women at risk. Numbers of women became able to read, write and learned some skill during their stays in the safe house. This year, we enrolled a group of girls and women from the safe house into formal education system. A number of 119 women benefited during this year.
Jamila Micro-Credits Project (JMCP)

Project Type: Promoting Income-Generating Activities
Project Location: Kabul
Duration of Project: Since 2005
Donor of Project: Fondazione Pangea Onlus
Status of Project: Ended

Jamila Micro-Credit Project is an initiative of Fondazione Pangea onlus (Pangea). Pangea Foundation has decided to focus its efforts on implementing a project to promote little domestic economics and to improve their status through micro-credit. The project targets very poor and vulnerable families, particularly women, widows, orphans, and those families living on less than two dollars a day.

In the year 2007 Pangea decided to work under the supervision of HAWCA in Afghanistan and handed over all of its activities and programs to HAWCA along with some previous staff. It was decided that HAWCA as implementing partner has the responsibility for the correct implementation of the project plus its management while Pangea will provide the financial support for the running of the project.

In this project, the potential beneficiaries are selected through local women's NGOs or directly on its own. Every local NGO chooses a lady from its own staff and nominates her as the responsible for the microfinance program inside the NGO. She will be responsible for the NGO in front of HAWCA. HAWCA train and supports her and follows the microfinance process of the local NGO under our supervision to implement the planned activities with beneficiaries and developing the relation of work with HAWCA.

HAWCA distributes micro credit to very poor and vulnerable women, selected among those who have gone to the local NGO or live near to the women center or directly selected by JMC office. The aim is to help them to implement their economic activities and improve their domestic life conditions and their knowledge about literacy, sanitation and civic education.

A fixed amount of money is paid in form of loan to each woman to start a small business and after a fixed period of time she has to give back the loan along with 5% interest. Then the next family is selected and this money is given to this new family and also the interest goes to micro credit. There are five centers through which we provide micro-credit to the beneficiaries. Two of them are run directly by us; and the other three centers run by local NGOs namely HPWO and AWRC. We also provide micro-credit to the families of a number of students studying in Ashiana. This year, HAWCA provided loan to 300 women.
HAWCA opened a legal aid clinic called “Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence”, in Herat city in the month of July 2009. This project has been funded by EVAW Special Fund of UNIFEM Afghanistan and National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) with the help of an Afghan organization, Fayaz Foundation, based in Netherlands, active in lobbying and advocacy for human rights. This center works for the victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices.

According to the national and international media, Herat has been reported as "The Center of Domestic Violence". Herat province has the highest rate of self-burning by women and girls in the whole Afghanistan. Last year, the hospitals in Herat reported that 150 women and girls who have burned themselves had been brought to hospital, but of course there are more cases that haven't been brought to the hospitals and other health center which are all the outcomes of different kind of violence in particular domestic violence. Another reason for selecting this area was because women from neighboring provinces of Farah, Kandahar, Nimroz, Ghor and Helmand would have the access to get legal assistance and legal advices. Right now, there is no legal aid center and safe houses in the above mentioned provinces. Therefore, HAWCA believes that establishment of legal aid center in Herat province is convenient for other provinces as well and victims of violence would find a source to help them get their rights and reach to courts and justice.

In this center, two lawyers with the help of under-graduate law students/practicing lawyers provide legal advice and assistance for women and girls who are victims of domestic and sexual violence and harmful practices. This legal center also provides legal trainings to the recently graduated law students and other women and girls. The content of the trainings for the law students is more focused on how to deal with their clients to gain their trust and help them out. Other professional trainings are also provided to them. We also have trainings for other women and girls. These trainings include the women rights in Afghanistan Constitution; International Law and etc. The trainers of these trainings are law professionals and lecturers from Law Faculty of university. Besides this the legal aid center tries to establish a close coordination and relation with organizations that provide legal aid and advice to females. During this period 196 women benefited from the legal assistance and 54 women from the psycho-social counseling of the center.
Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence – Kabul

Project Type: Protection and Counseling
Project Location: Kabul, Afghanistan
Duration of Project: Since December 2009
Donor and Partner of Project: British Embassy Kabul, NZAID and Fayaz Foundation
Status of Project: Ongoing

After the successful opening of "Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence" in Herat City, HAWCA is opened another "Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence" in Kabul City in December 2009. This project has been funded by Oxfam Novib, British Embassy in Kabul and NZAID with the help of an Afghan organization, Fayaz Foundation, based in Netherlands, active in lobbying and advocacy for human rights. This center works for the victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices.

In this center, two lawyers with the help of under-graduate law students/practicing lawyers provide legal advice and assistance for women and girls who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. This legal center also provides legal trainings to the recently graduated law students and other women and girls. The content of the trainings for the law students is more focused on how to deal with their clients to gain their trust and help them out. Other professional trainings is also provided to them. We also have trainings for other women and girls. These trainings include the women rights in Afghanistan Constitution; International Law and etc. The trainers of these trainings are law professionals and professors from Law Faculty of Kabul University. Besides this the legal aid center tries to establish a close coordination and relation with organizations that provide legal aid and advice to females.

All beneficiaries of the project are women and girls who are facing violence and are in need of legal assistant. HAWCA provides help to the victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices. The lawyer with help of practicing lawyer are providing legal assistant and legal advices for all beneficiaries regardless of religion, language, ethnicity, culture and others.

HAWCA established connection with some public and private hospitals for the treatment of some beneficiaries who are in bad condition. Some beneficiaries also get benefit from small funding through this project for their treatment if their financial ability for treatment was very low or belong to very poor families. A psychologist provides psychosocial support to the individual beneficiaries of the project. As a clear fact and the experience we have almost all victims of violence suffering from psychological diseases, depression and stress. HAWCA tries to raise awareness of the staff first and then the beneficiaries on human women's rights and legal awareness. All laws, convention, declarations and other materials on human women’s right will be providing for them. This year, a number of 154 women and girls from this project.
This project is aiming to promote peace building and conflict resolution among the children of the communities in suburbs of Herat City in the west of Afghanistan. The project has 200 direct beneficiaries including girls and boys and around 7000 indirect beneficiaries as families of students and staffs. The study program helps girls and boys children in an after school program. It accepts those children who are attending primary schools from 1st to 6th grade. Within 12 months the children are expected to learn about the methods of conflict resolution and promoting peace within their families as well as their communities. HAWCA has experience with this project in the last four years in Kabul, Nuristan and Samangan provinces. The local communities living in a deep poverty and on day-to-day work are not in the position to contribute materially to the project, however HAWCA will ensure to get their commitment as local community to protect and support the center’s reputation in the location and collaborate in the overall management of the center.
CHW Training

Project Type: Health
Project Location: Bamyan, Afghanistan
Duration of Project: Since 2008
Donor of Project: AIDOS
Status of Project: Ended

In CHW trainings, the duration for training is for two months and as each training finishes we will select new students to be trained as CHWs. As HAWCA is a women headed NGOs and our target beneficiaries are women and children and we are working in country which is suffering from 30 years of war, so we have also included raising awareness training in course curriculum. Every day, students study for three hours in the afternoon; in first one hour they are following raising awareness program that includes women rights, children rights, human rights and Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) that has become a very important issue in Afghanistan. In the second two hours they are studying CHW curriculum that has been certified by Ministry of Public Health Afghanistan.

Besides the CHW training the medical team that forms a mobile health team goes to the surrounding villages one day a week to check up the patients and provides them with medicines.
UNSCR 1325/1820 Implementation in Afghanistan

Project Type: Protection and Counseling  
Project Location: Kabul, Bamyan, Wardak and Herat.  
Duration of Project: October 2010 to September 2011  
Donor of Project: ICCO  
Status of Project: Ongoing

Afghanistan comes in the top list of countries in conflict but nothing has been done when it comes to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325/1820 in more systematic way. Although the efforts of Afghan women groups and organizations are largely contributing to the implementation of UNSCR 1325/1820, but there has not been a systematic effort to ensure the full implementation through a comprehensive action plan.

On the occasion of 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325/1820, HAWCA and AWEC decided to work for the implementation of this resolution in the country. HAWCA and AWEC have expertise on this resolution and have many years of experience in aid for women have taken the lead to this process, while it will engage the rest of ICCO Afghanistan Program Coalition to ensure that this action plan is comprehensive at national level for Afghanistan and more specifically at local level to areas where are the geographical focus of ICCO and its partners.

This program will include the capacity building of Afghan coalition partners, AWN and concerned governmental department at province level (Bamyan, Herat and Wardak); establishment of a Steering Committee and a Working Group to prepare the national action plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325/1820. While this program will have developing a national and international level advocacy strategy for a core group on the progress Afghan women make in this field, it will also have specific inputs at the three provinces to start with which can later expand further by ICCO partners and beyond.
Afghanistan: Identity, Training, Work – Phase 2

Project Type: Education and Training
Project Location: Kabul
Duration of Project: Since 2007
Donor of Project: MAE Italy, Italian Cooperation, ICS and CISDA.
Status of Project: Ongoing

Officially the name of this project is "Afghanistan ITW (Identity, Training, Work)", which is a cultural center where public especially women and girls can take advantage of it. This cultural
center has library, internet point, historic archive, English and computer courses, movie archive, music class, training/conference/exhibition hall. The other aim of this project is to co-finance a part of safe house activities and empowerment of HAWCA management by organizing training for HAWCA managers and operators on project cycle management, micro-credit and fair trade.

To make the project economically sustainable, one of the components of the project is to establish a print house. The profit earned from the print house will be utilized to run the activities of the project once duration ends.

**Capacity Building of Defense Lawyers on Family Law**

*Project Type:* Education and Awareness Raising  
*Project Location:* Kabul  
*Duration of Project:* 2010  
*Donor of Project:* UUSC  
*Status of Project:* Ended
The biggest achievement of the project was to bring law professionals from different sectors together which included students of law faculty, defense lawyers, attorneys, and judges. Besides learning of family law, they got the chance to share their experiences from different sections of the legal system. There were 18 trainees in this training who were trained for six days on family law. Other topics like women rights and EVAW were also included in the curriculum of the training.

The contents of the training were as following:

1. Reviewing the contents of family law within civil law;
2. Different forms of divorce in family law;
3. Formation of courts in all over Afghanistan;
4. Filing cases from start till end;
5. International human rights law;
6. Interviewing with clients to reach the reality;
7. Demonstration of court by trainees.

We gave lots of emphasis on the practical work because it is important for the law students to demonstrate their learning practically. One of the biggest gaps in the university is that there are no practical activities for the students. We think that this was another achievement of the training.

After three months of the training, a questionnaire was sent to all of the participants to see the impact of the training. Overall, all of the participants were satisfied with the training and their new learning. This was a good experience for HAWCA as well. This was a new practice for HAWCA to do the follow-up of the training and see the impact of the training.

Sponsorship
Project Type: Sponsorship
Project Location: Kabul
Donor of Project: Individual Supporters
Status of Project: Ongoing

Since HAWCA’s establishment in 1999, we are running this project in order to support individual families, children and women so they can have a normal. For example, we are supporting children so they go back to school instead of collecting useful stuff from garbage or being a labor child. In this program, HAWCA is acting as a bridge between the sponsoring person and sponsored person. During the year 2010, HAWCA with the help of individuals and supporters managed to sponsor several girls and boys. Each month a fixed amount of money is given to the kids in the condition that they have to go to school and score good grades in their exams. There are some special cases in our sponsorship project that HAWCA with help of its foreign supporters has helped them to be operated in Europe or being treated here in Afghanistan.
Other Activities

In the year 2010, HAWCA representative participated in many national and international workshops, conferences and other events. Some of the important ones are as following:


- On September 15-16, 2010, Selay Ghaffar was one of the speakers in UN’s High level Consultation Panel on UNSCR 1325, in Geneva – Switzerland.

- On September 29-30, 2010, Selay Ghaffar participated in the conference “Interfaith Perspective in Realizing the Role of Women Peacemakers in the Implementation of UNSCR 1325” in Jakarta – Indonesia, organized by MWPN, Komnas Perempuan, WPP-IFOR and supported by ICCO, Cordaid and Oxfam Novib.