Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan

Annual Report 2018
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 who live in Afghanistan.

VISION
HAWCA envisions a safe and just society where all Afghans regardless of their race, ethnicity, tribe, language and religion receive equal benefit from development processes and work together for a safe and better world.

GOAL
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 HAWCAs’ mandate includes:

- Protection and counseling
- Education and peace building
- Promoting income generating and micro credit activities
- Health and child care
- Advocacy for women and children rights at national and international level
- Emergency response operations
- Sponsorship program
- Mobilization of human right defenders

MEMBERSHIP
- Afghan Women Network (AWN)
- Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)
- South Asia Alliance for Grassroots NGOs (SAAGN Network)
- Afghan Shelter Network (ASN)
- Afghanistan Legal Aid and Advocacy Network (ALAAN)
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Although the night is dark,
Keep a mighty heart,
The dawn is always close.

Hameed Musadeq, 20th century, Persian poet

Today the Afghan people are suffering from the ongoing internal war. Two of the key issues that the people are suffering are gender-based violence and child abuse. The established government is new and is currently not able to provide the people with the required services. It is up to the civil society to step forth and help the people. HAWCA is among the organizations that have been working since the past 20 years to support women and children. Today it has left another year behind with a handful of achievements and has made its mark among the well-known organizations working to support human rights.

As the HAWCA Executive Director I would like to thank the HAWCA staff for working day and night to support those in need. I would like to specially thank our donors and the individual contributors who has so generously supported us during these years and has made us able to get closer to our goal.

I would like to repeat our slogan that only by working together we can bring changes, so let us work together for a just society where everyone could live free of violence and benefit equally from the present opportunities.

Shafiqa Noori
About HAWCA

Humanitarian Assistance for the women and children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) is a non-political and non-profitable organization established in 1999 to support the Afghan women and children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We are focused on protecting and empowering women and children by providing legal, psychological, educational and economical supports to vulnerable women and children.
HAWCA Main Projects in 2018

WPC (WOMEN PROTECTION CENTER)

Location: Kabul
Duration: January-December 2018
Donor: UN-WOMEN
Status: ONGOING (extended)

Violence against women is like a cancer in Afghanistan, as time passes we hope that the number of violence against women decrease but unfortunately the last years’ statistics has shown that the number of violence against women and gender base violence has increased dramatically. The current culture and specially the presence of the Taliban and ISIS has made the women more vulnerable to violence. Many women get life threats if they complain to the police about the violent act of the male members of the family. For the same reason the women protection center is established to provide protection for the women and also to empower and make them self-dependent. Since the women protection Center is a close shelter the women are able to go out only if their case is going on in the court or if they get sick. For the same reason we have tried to make their environment a place where they do not feel lonely and bored. Educational courses such as literacy, numeracy and computer are organized for them, sports and entertainment programs are made part of their daily activities and vocational training has been made an
essential activity of the center where women can learn to sew and make cloths.

During the year 2018 a total number of 139 clients accompanied by 51 children were accommodated in the WPC operated by HAWCA. Out of the 139 cases accommodated, 108 cases were solved and reintegrated with their families. In total we had 190 beneficiaries and all the 190 beneficiaries received social services and necessities of life such as hygienic material, cloths, etc. The beneficiaries were also provided health service. The clients with normal health issues were provided with health care inside the WPC and the beneficiaries with serious health issues were taken outside for treatment. To increase the beneficiaries’ health awareness, 34 health sessions were organized covering the following and many similar topics: Vaccines and the Need for Vaccination of Children, Early Symptoms of Pregnancy and Pregnancy Test, Personal Hygiene, Child Care, Proper Usage of Medication, Sleep Deprivation, Dental Care, Common Cold, Prevention and Homemade Remedies, Malaria, TB. To increase the legal awareness of the women a total of 34 programs were organized for them on topics such as women rights, marital rights, divorce, guardianship, right to inheritance, right to education etc.
**LAC-MZR (LEGAL AID CENTER FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND EMPOWERMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES)**

Location: Balkh  
Duration: December 2018-November 2019  
Donor: FONDAZIONE CARIPLO, FONDAZIONE ADIUVARE and CISDA  
Status: ONGOING

During the past years the violations of Human Rights have reached its peaks, Hundreds and thousands of lives were taken in conflict zones. Among the countries that suffer the most from conflict is Afghanistan. Every year thousands of men, women and children are killed in suicide attacks, airstrikes etc. But war is not the only means of violence in Afghanistan. The Patriarchal system of the country has given extra privileges to men and has denied women from their basic and fundamental rights. Beating, Rape, child marriages, force marriages, Bad, Badal are some forms of the violence that women are facing in this country. To most of the men living in rural areas women are just made to give birth to their children, cook food, wash cloths etc. Balkh is one of the northern provinces of Afghanistan where the political parties are always in dispute with the central government and many times they have closed the government offices and blocked the roads. While they are struggling with each other, the number of kidnaps, rapes, murder etc. has dramatically increased. On the other hand, the presence of the war lords and influential peoples has brought a culture of impunity where the criminals can escape punishment with ease. But what prevents the people from asking for justice is the lack of awareness on women rights and the poor economy.

The legal aid for women victim of violence project is a tool to support those women who are unable
to get help from the government or need special care and support. For the women who come to the center just for help we provide the following services. After listening to what they want, we provide them with required services.

In total, 68 cases were registered with us in the past 6 months. 49 cases were solved in favor of the women which means their demands have been fulfilled. All the cases are being followed to be on the safe side that the women have not become victim of violence again. This is usually continued for the following six months after the case is solved but if the case is a serious one and requires additional follow-ups. It will be continued up to the end of the project life. This way we are sure that the women are safe and have got proper justice.

The Center also provided legal advice to 37 women. From the 68 registered cases 7 cases came to us directly and the remaining 61 cases were referred to us by the Directorate of Women Affairs, Directorate of Justice, Directorate of Economics, Courts, Attorney General and EVAW departments, IDLO and other entities which show that HAWCA has a good relationship with governmental and non-governmental organizations working to support women. In total, 111 people got benefit from our public awareness programs.

The Center provides the following services to women registered in LAC:

- Legal Advice
- Court Proceedings
- Mediation
- Information on Free Legal Services Providing Sources
- Medical Services (if needed)
- Psychological Services (through Medica Afghanistan)
- Visiting Their Families (if needed)
- Transportation to and from the Court
- Legal Awareness to the Victims and their Families

Medical services
Most of the women who are victim of beating and laceration require urgent medical services. HAWCA can only provide basic medical services under this project by taking the victims to the local doctors and get them some medicines. Some cases required additional service and these cases are referred to the public and private hospitals and clinics through HAWCA official letter for assistance. Usually the support they receive is limited however we have managed to organize meetings with some doctors who accepted to help the women as much as they could. In this semester a total of 33 cases got medical services out of which 15 cases got free medical services by the clinics.
Providing peace education to children in a country which is in war since the past 40 years is considered very important. In order to build a generation who believes in a peaceful life and denies any form of violence and conflict it is imperative to work with children on peace subject. For the same reason the peace building education has always been a key activity of HAWCA. The current project was originally designed for Ahmad Shah Baba for the third phase of the project to be implemented. The project was a success in this area and the project objectives were achieved.

In early 2018 due to security issues and the threats that our staff received from the local religious fanatics who settled there, with the consent of KNH, the project was relocated to a more secure area but with more children in need of support. The current project is located in Kot-e-Sangi which is close to refugee and IDP camps and everyday hundreds of children are working in the close by market selling plastics, vegetables and works as cheap labor in shops. The new location was registered with the ministry of education and a survey team came to us to monitor the project and approved the activities.

The Peace building Center provided services to 443 children in Ahmad Shah Baba Meena out of which 212 were girls and 231 boys. After moving to the new center in Kot-e-Sangi area 450 children registered with us out of which 185 are girls and 265 are boys. The Center provided the children with educational services with a key focus on peace education. Dari, Pashto, Dunyat, History, Maths, Computer, English and Paintings are some of the other subjects which are taught to the children in this center. Educational trips were organized for the children in order to give them a chance to learn new things and also to have a moment of happiness. In addition capacity building of the teachers, government officials and public at large has also been a key activity of the center.

At the end of the year HAWCA translated the book “If only someone had broken the Silence” in Dari and published it and distributed it among the children and their parents in order to prevent child sexual abuse.
The following programs were organized in 2018.

- 5 trainings sessions were organized for the teachers in which in total 65 teachers participated. The capacity building training covered different topics such as teaching methodology, child rights, child abuse etc.

- 3 programs were organized for the parents to provide them information on child rights, child marriages and prevention of child abuse. In each program 40 parents participated, in total 120 parent participated in our awareness programs.

- 3 programs were organized for the community on Child right convention, prevention of child abuse and women educational rights. In the first program 85 people participated, in the second program 103 people and in the third program in Kot-e-Sangi area 96 people participated out of which 10 people were religious and tribal leaders.
The ongoing warfare between the government and antigovernment forces has resulted in displacement of many people. In 2018 many people had to leave their native place and move to big cities such as Kabul to be able to live in a better and more secure situation. These people who are mostly farmers and shopkeepers has lost everything and has nothing left to go back to.

The project focused on providing emergency medical support to the people. In addition, it also provided capacity building programs to the local people.

The project covered 4 camps located in 4 different areas of Kabul city. In the first month of the project the doctors visited different camps but at the end of the month they asked to be together since both men and women were referring to them and so after that every day the doctors visited a new camp in circle form. They were able to assist a number of 1221 people in the past 6 months.

8 Health awareness programs were organized for the community. 2 programs were organized in each camp. In total a number of 232 people got benefit from health awareness programs. For the purpose of protection and precaution of getting the present disease the health awareness programs were provided considering the number of people suffering from a particular disease.
28 legal awareness programs were organized for the communities in the 4 camps, 832 people got benefit from the legal awareness programs. The programs were on women rights, child rights, IPD rights, National action plan etc.

4 groups of women were created to provide them with the basic medical awareness on pregnancy and child birth in order to have well aware women in these camps since most of the people are religious and will not go to hospital to give birth. In total 80 women are covered for this activity; however, the number of women is assumed to increase since many women are interested in this subject.
This project, “Legal Obstacles Preventing Women to Achieve Justice”, was designed to advocate for women’s rights and bring justice to women victims of violence by pointing out the gaps in the existing Afghan laws and legal procedures. The project specifically focuses on four cases of violence that did receive legal attention, but fell short of achieving justice. These cases originate from four provinces, Kabul, Baghlan, Balkh, and Bamyan. The activities of this project involve researching about each of the four cases, by traveling to the specific locations, collecting legal documents, meeting with the victims, culprits, their families, and the authorities involved. The 4 cases selected were Farkhonda from Kabul, Shakila from Bamyan, Sahargull from Baghlan and Maryam from Balkh province. The project focused on finding the result of these women not getting justice even when their cases were publicized through media. The findings of the research were put in a book and published. The book can be downloaded from HAWCA website.
NIHR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP: A PACKAGE OF CARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH OF SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE IN SOUTH ASIA

Implementing Partners: HAWCA, University College London (leading partner), King’s College London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, ST George’s University of London, University of Nottingham, Society for Nutrition, SNEHA and SANGATH
Location: South Asia (Kabul, Nangarhar and Bamyan provinces for HAWCA)
Duration: 2018-2021
Donor: NIHR Global Health Research
Status: Ongoing

Violence against women is a plague that is seen in all parts of the World. Even the most advance countries that have strong laws and regulations to protect women are not safe and free from this problem. Although the form of violence varies from country to country but at the end it always has its negative impact on the lives of the women and no matter what form of violence women experience, it always affects their mental health. This project is designed in order to find out how women could be helped through a care package which could be used by different organizations to support and help the women who have got mental issues after experiencing violence.
War is always brutal and leaves behind destruction and disaster. The afghan people are suffering from 40 years of continuous war which has left many people homeless and disable. There are hundreds of thousands of women and children who beg on the street just to feed themselves. Many children work as cheap labor in shops and usually become victim of child abuse and many women has to become prostitute to feed their families. For these women and children there seems to be no chance of having a better life. But HAWCA thinks differently and through its sponsorship programs always works to support these women and children and to give them a hope that they can have a better life. Currently many women and children are being supported by our supporters from Europe through which the children are able to go to school and the women could start their own business and have a decent life. The fund for this activity is collected individually and HAWCA becomes a bridge between the supporter and the receiver. You can become one of our sponsors and save a child or women who is at risk of child abuse and violence
SUPPORT HAWCA

You can support HAWCA by doing one of the following:

- Donation through bank transfer
- Fund a project or cofound any existing project
- Sponsor a child or family
- Buy any of our books, CDCs, postcards or stickers.
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