

# FACT SHEET

## Importance of Participation in Democratic Process

### OVERVIEW

The Civil and Liberal Initiative for Peace (CLIP), through support of Counterpart International implemented two and half months project to encourage issue-based participatory behavior in the electoral process in Panjshir and Parwan provinces. It was carried out to encourage civil activists to discuss and raise the issues and priorities of their communities to the provincial council candidates and increase citizens' awareness on the importance of active participation in 2014 elections.

### ACTIVITIES

- Held 4 dialogue sessions between the civil society activists and provincial council candidates;
- Arranged provincial consultative conferences for the civil society activists, religious scholars, elders, teachers and other notables to consolidate their ideas and identify issues and priorities to be considered by the candidates during the elections campaign and after getting elected to the public office;
- Facilitated 4 town hall forums in target provinces to provide the constituents the opportunity to exchange views and discuss issues openly with their candidates;
- Designed and produced information packages including elections related information, electoral calendar, copies of the constitution and electoral law etc.;
- Broadcast around 6 roundtable discussions, each for one hour to reach-out to the wider audience;
- Aired 3 minute radio spots for a total of 180 times to raise public awareness on the significance of participation in the political process, especially the 2014 elections;
- Convened regional conference in Kabul in coordination with Empowerment Center for Women (ECW) to raise electoral awareness in which around 40 delegates representing civil society from Kabul, Logar, Wardak, Panjshir and Parwan attended.

### ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Enabled civil society activists and constituents to discuss and produce a coherent priority plan for candidates to consider when they get elected;
- Informed over 600 youth including 180 female participants through four youth consultative conferences on bottom-up policy making processes;
- Distributed over 3200 awareness packages to the participants of the events conducted under this project.
- Involved over 520 youth and civil society activists including 150 female participants to discuss and list their communities' priorities and issues;
- Disseminated messages related to political participation to the widest possible audience through radio spots and roundtables;
- Introduced youth to the significant role of social media on civic and political activism in a civil society.
- Organized mixed events amongst women and men where they shared views and challenges on policy making processes, a practice that could have rarely happened due to the socially constructed traditions in those target provinces.