



AFGHAN CIVIL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

FINAL GRANT REPORT

- 1. Name of Organization:** Civil and Liberal Initiative for Peace
- 2. Type of Grant/Name of Grant:** Civic Education and Advocacy Grant
- 3. Grant Agreement Number:** ACEP-CVE-1401-08
- 4. Project Name:** Responsible Citizenship
- 5. Life of the Project:** From 29-01-'14 to 31-07-'14
- 6. Project Coverage:**
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|----------|----------------------|---------------|
| Province | Panjshir District(s) | All districts |
| Province | Parwan District(s) | All districts |
- 8. Date of Submission:** 15-08-14

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The year 2014 has been regarded as one of the most important year for the Afghans due to the presidential election and the first democratic transfer of power in its history. The 2009 was considered to be full of frauds which generated a sense of disappointment for the citizens, especially for youths and women. Despite a considerable achievement in the last decade, women and youth are still viewed as a major part of marginalized strata in Afghan society. It is only by making them aware of their democratic rights and responsibilities that they will not only confer legitimacy in the electoral processes through active participation, but also broadly contribute in policy-making processes in the governance structure. Therefore, to increase women and youth turnout in the 2014 elections, the organization of Civil and Liberal Initiative for Peace (CLIP), supported by Promote Afghan Civic Engagement (PACE), implemented a five and half month project called “**responsible citizenship**”. The goal of the project was to “**increase citizens’ awareness on democratic rights and responsibilities**” and it had the following objectives: 1) *to promote youth and women understanding on their rights in a democratic electoral process*, and 2) *to encourage youth and women responsibilities as active citizen’s in a democratic society*. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, CLIP, with close coordination of CPI implemented the following activities; 1) Orientation sessions for women activists, youth activists and religious and traditional leaders. 2) Interprovincial youth conference for the youth activists of target provinces. 3) Networking events for youth. In addition, a series of pre-elections radio forums were conducted in which the Provincial Independent Election Commission (PIEC) officials along with other participants from civil society provided awareness on the importance of women and youths rights and responsibilities in the electoral process as well as information about the electoral process itself. Also, after the elections, CLIP carried-out another set of radio forum where the elected Provincial Councilors (PC) participated and responded to their constituents’ call-ins. Moreover, CLIP in close coordination with Provincial Youth Associations launched youth networking events before and after the elections. The youth – male and female – by partaking in the awareness and interprovincial conferences learned about the importance of participation in the elections and policy-making decisions.

III.II. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED:

In light of its objectives, in the first step, the organization recruited and assigned relevant staff for the implementation of the project. After that an initial study aimed at attaining firsthand information about the target provinces was conducted through meetings with local partners to identify project needs such as venue, logistics, accommodation, means of transportation etc. In this phase, CLIP directly engaged in focus group discussions with local civil society activists, politically engaged influential figures, women activists, youth associations and the provincial departments of youth affairs. In these meetings the organization introduced the project goals and objectives in a detailed manner to the concerned parties. Furthermore, CLIP, based on its past experience and relation, contacted the most popular radio stations (Radio Dunya and Radio khurasan) in the target provinces for conducting the planned radio forums. In addition, CLIP along with provincial wing of Radio Television Afghansitan (RTA), the only TV station in the province conducted 4 TV talk shows before and after the elections. In this phase the organization initiated memorandum of understanding (MOU) with contracting radio stations and TV channel to ensure quality services and technical capabilities in conducting the radio forums. , CLIP conducted 2 training workshops for women activists on 30-03-14 in Parwan and on 03-04-14 in Panjshir in which a total of 40 women activists participated. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the participants understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encourage them to help other female members of their community to actively take part in the election. In parallel with aforementioned workshop, CLIP conducted 2 seminars for 40 gate keepers and local influential figures on 02-04-14 in Parwan and on 01-04-14 in Panjshir. The purpose of this seminar was to strengthen participant's understanding of the role the Maliks and khans can play in encouraging female members of the community to partake in the 2014 elections. Furthermore, CLIP organized 2 pre-election (01-04-14 in Parwan and 03-04-14 in Panjshir), and 2 post-election (05-05-14 in Parwan and 08-05-14 in Panjshir) interprovincial youth conferences. The main goal of pre-election conferences were to enhance youth's understanding of their rights and responsibilities and active participation in the democratic processes, and to facilitate better understanding among the wider youth groups. 100 youth activists got together in one day conference to exchange views and came up with a resolution to be adapted by the youth before the elections. It helped the youth to identify the most important issues and communicate them to the provincial council candidates to be considered during the elections and after taking office. The other two conferences were held after the elections where more than 100 youth activists in both provinces explored democratic and civic ways to hold the government bodies in general and elected officials accountable for their actions. They also discussed ways to create a meaningful and effective pressure group to advance the legitimate interests of the youth through civil and legal ways which would in turn empower the culture of civic and political activism and encourage the youth to take part. In addition, despite and insecurity before the second round, CLIP conducted 4 networking events for youth in which close to 200 participants took part. The intent of these events was to generate motivation in the youth population to debate the related issues and coordinate their acts in practicing their rights and understanding their responsibilities as the most vibrant and important segment of the society. Moreover, the organization produced and distributed around 2680 awareness and promotional packages for the participants of the events for youth and women. The packages which contained the relevant messages were disseminated by the participants of the events to the peer groups in the target provinces. To ensure complete implementation of the activities towards the objectives and overall goal of the project, the project activities were monitored and evaluated by CLIP's monitoring and evaluation officer during the implementation phase.

IV.III. WOMEN AND YOUTH:

A. WOMEN AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

To ensure smooth implementation of the project, youth and women engagement, and sustainability of the inputs through this project, CLIP organized a participatory approach for both project designing and implementation.

Through its facilitators, CLIP discussed the project proposal with the youth association of Parwan and Panjshir. This allowed the organization to identify the perspective of women and youth in both provinces. On the other hand, in order to raise the issues, CLIP identified key influential figures among women and youth in target provinces. This included women and youth entering into the process of dialogue as well as their participation in the political environment. CLIP conducted two workshops for women activists in which 40 women from both the provinces participated. Furthermore, CLIP organized total of 4 networking events for youth in both provinces, in which 100 youth activists both male and female participated. The main purpose of these events was to generate motivation in the youth (–male/female–) population to debate on related issues such as their role in the electoral process, and coordinate their acts in practicing their rights and understanding their responsibilities as the most vibrant and important segment of the society. These events created an opportunity for youths from across the target provinces to get to know each other and make good use of one another’s knowledge and experience. In addition, a poetry session was also included in the day-long events to generate enthusiasm among the youth participants of these events. –In addition, CLIP organized total of 4 interprovincial youth conference in which total of 200 youth activists both male and female participated. These conferences helped to facilitate better understanding among the wider youth groups in both provinces helped them and exchange views and opinions to come up with a joint commitment for mutual cooperation in the future.

B. IMPACT ON WOMEN AND YOUTH

The project impact on women and youth are explained in the following manners. First, as result of the networking events and interprovincial conferences, female and male got together and raised their voices for the first time in Panjshir. These conferences were set in a mixed way where women and men shared issues and challenges together, a practice that could have rarely happened in Panjshir due to socially constructed traditions. Second, the youth conferences provided the youth with chances to understand the importance of participating in discussing on local, regional as well as national issues in a democratic government. They shared their ideas hoping that such practices get institutionalized in target provinces so that youth, which make over half of the population, can defend their right. Finally, youth got introduced to the significant role of social media in introducing civic and political activism in a civil society. In short run, they actively participated in the events and learned about their democratic right, but as far as the long term effect is concerned, it is hoped that they could socialize their peer groups in the foreseeable future.

I. OVERALL ANALYSIS OF IMPACT

The most notable achievement of these conferences and events of the project is_it helped increase youth understanding of challenges in target provinces. At the individual level, the conferences CLIP conducted and the opportunities that youth (male and female) were provided help them raise their concerns and share their ideas that could get transferred to other youth group such as families and friends. Knowing this, other youth will follow their peers’ footprint and will participate in such type of initiatives in the future. In respect to the impact of the project on youth community level, the perception of people at local level could have transformed. For example, social taboos viewed as serious as some religious texts were challenged. Men and women learned that it’s no more a taboo to know each other’s name, take part in conferences without separation (–which did not have any precedence in the past) so on and so forth. Considering the importance of youth conferences in target provinces, participants suggested for the conduct of similar projects more frequently in target provinces in the future.

V. CHALLENGES / LESSONS LEARNED:

As cultural sensitivities were presumed to be one of the major challenges during the implementation phase, the project management at CLIP cautiously mitigated it by involving the DoWAs while developing the concept of the project as well as during implementation phase. CLIP identified and invited the participants to each event in close coordination with Provincial Governor Offices (PGOs), Department of Women Affairs (DoWA, and provincial Departments of Hajj and Endowment (DoHE) in each target provinces. The events were opened by the officials from line ministries in order to convince the participants that the conferences are legally and religiously accepted in terms

of structure, setup and topics of discussion. -In addition, CLIP learned that it makes it difficult for many vocal CSO activists to attend similar conferences during the electoral campaign seasons. It might not affect a lot since many people are often involved in various election activities one way or another. However, this project managed to bring a number of women activists in Panjshir to attend the conferences in Parwan without their spouses accompanying them. CLIP considers this a success story of the project. Furthermore, due to the traditional perspective of the ulema whose social positions are based on hereditary structure rather than religious knowledge, CLIP faced with a minor criticism from a few of them during the first day of the seminar. These ulema pointed out that girls and women had no right to vote other than their fathers who represents the whole family in electoral process, and also they casted a doubt that these elections and seminars are a symbol of foreign elements in Afghan culture. In an attempt to mitigate the risked alluded to the ulema's disagreement, CLIP immediate intervened and asked an influential khateeb from among the participants to elaborate on the issue further. Along with CLIP's master trainer, the khateeb provided adequate justifications from the Quran and Hadith and managed to control the audience. As a result, the issue never escalated again throughout the seminar, and at the end, those who criticized apologized from CLIP and promised to support women in the political processes.

VI. INDICATORS OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Performance Indicator	Planned Target	Achieved Target	Status (achieved/exceeded, not met)	Explanation
To encourage youth and women activists to discuss and raise their voices during the conferences and seminars.	Conduct 4 networking events in two target provinces.	200 youth and women activists attended 4 networking events in two target provinces.	Achieved.	On time planning, proper coordination with DoWA MoHE etc., and on time invitation.
	Conduct 4 youth interprovincial conferences.	Around 200 youth and women activists attended.	Achieved.	On time planning, proper coordination with youth associations, and on time invitation.
	Produce and distribute around 1680 promotional packages.	1680 promotional packages distributed.	Achieved.	Proper procurement planning and procedure.
To increase citizens' awareness on their rights and responsibilities in the upcoming elections.	Conduct 4 workshops for gatekeepers and women in target provinces.	4 workshops conducted in target provinces.	Achieved.	On time planning, proper coordination with DoWA MoHE etc., and on time invitation.
	Produce and air 22 Radio forums and TV show.	18 Radio forums and 4 TV discussions produced and aired.	Achieved.	Excellent planning by the project officers along with CPI well organized conference in Kabul.

VII. PROJECT DELIVERABLES/ DOCUMENTATION (Required):

- Photocopies (or soft copies) of any materials/tools developed (training materials, agendas, invitations, policies, procedures, records, etc.)
- Soft copies or hard copies of sign-in sheets
- Photos (original JPEGS; not embedded in a document)
- Evaluation tools, methodologies, reports
- Commitment letter

Approval by Grantee:

Name: Zuhail Barakzai

Title: Project Manager

Signature:

Date: 15-08-'14

Approval by Counterpart:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date (DD-MM-YY): _____