

Annual Report 2010



The Norwegian Afghanistan Committee

Purpose of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

NAC is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious, member-based organisation. The purpose of the organisation is to support the Afghan people's right to independence, promote democracy and support rebuilding and development in Afghanistan. The statutes of NAC state that NAC will conduct development work in Afghanistan, and information work and fundraising in Norway. The work shall be based on knowledge, and mutual understanding and friendship between the Afghan and Norwegian peoples.

Strategy of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee

The Norwegian Afghanistan Committee is founded on the principle of maintaining a strong solidarity with the Afghan people. Activities in Afghanistan shall be founded on the need of its people, contributing to development and self sufficiency. NAC wishes to support those most in need through targeting vulnerable groups in remote areas and women and children in particular. Health, education and environment are the prioritised fields of work. In these fields NAC has long experience, which shows its ability to adapt to the different situations in which Afghanistan has found itself during the NAC's close to three decades of support. Based on this experience as well as good relations with the local communities where NAC works, NAC hopes to be able to continue a long lasting engagement supporting the Afghan people to improve their lives.

History of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee

The Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) was established in Norway in April 1980 as a reaction to the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan. Local committees in Norway immediately generated public opinion against the invasion, promoted solidarity with the Afghan people and conducted fundraising campaigns to assist the growing number of Afghans caught in the middle of the conflict. In 1983 NAC opened its first office in Peshawar, Pakistan, followed by a field office in Ghazni in 1986 and in Keshem, Badakshan province, in 1991. In 1997 a liaison office was opened in Kabul, which in 2002 became the Country Office.

The NAC Head Office is located in Oslo, and through a consultative process between Afghanistan and Norway, the employees in Kabul, Ghazni, Badakshan and Oslo aim at reaching those most in need, affect and improve their lives and through this, contribute to a better future for Afghanistan and its citizens.

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NAC in 2010 and beyond

Introduction by the Chair of the Board

Transition period in Afghanistan

In November 2010 the Government of Afghanistan signed a Declaration on Enduring Partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and NATO. It was a starting point for the so called transition period in Afghanistan; the period of time, during which the Government is to gradually take full responsibility of all sectors in the Afghan society, from providing health services and education to a secure life for all the Afghan people.

During the last ten years Afghanistan has opened up to the rest of the world; and the knowledge of the country and the conditions under which the Afghan people are living has never been so widespread. Literature, films and the voices of Afghans themselves, particularly the women's voices, have been contributing to insight and involvement in the harsh reality for the major part of Afghan population.

Withdrawal of ISAF from Afghanistan is not going to change the fact that Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. The people of Afghanistan will be left with progress being made in many areas, due to the efforts done by the Afghan people themselves and the international humanitarian community in trying to build and re-establish fundamental institutions into a nation. Sustainable projects and programs will have to continue to contribute to the development of Afghanistan and the international support needed in development is stretching beyond withdrawal of the NATO forces in 2014. Commitments to a long term strategy for the development of Afghanistan and transparent policies are urgently needed.

NAC has been present in Afghanistan for 30 years with development and solidarity work. The focus of our work has been, and continues to be, always to integrate and implement hand in hand with Afghan organizations and with the Afghan people themselves carrying out the work in the various projects within health, education and natural resource management.

During 2010 NAC has prepared the ground for a program approach to the development projects in order to have a more integrated way of operation. The Integrated Rural Development Program (IRD) consists of the strategic sectors in which NAC is working; health, education, agriculture, livestock, enterprise and private sector development as well as civil society development. By building capacity of its partners, NAC is increasingly shifting from a direct implementer to a facilitator, allowing the local structures to take the lead. This is a key focus for NAC and the way we wish to carry out our development work. Long term solutions demand long term engagement. I wish to express gratitude and appreciation for the commitment shown and the work done at the Country Office in Kabul and all the sub offices, as well as all the numerous hours of volunteer work provided by our members in Norway in support of NAC.



Rune Fimreite
Chair of the Board
NAC

Rune Fimreite
Chairman of the NAC Board

Country Director's Report



Country Director, Simon Forster

2010 has been a challenging year for the NAC in Kabul. We continued to deliver quality community projects in the provinces of Badakhshan and Ghazni and our midwifery colleges in Nangahar, Kunar and Wardak were recognised for the high levels of health sector training bestowed on the students. However, funding limitations began to threaten the NAC's ability to continue this vital work. As such considerable energy was expended by a core of dedicated employees and volunteers to formulate an ambitious programme of Integrated Rural Development activities which was subsequently accepted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as being worthy of immediate funding. The NAC owes a great deal to these individuals who never for one minute lost sight of the overriding purpose of the organisation – to stand in solidarity with the Afghan people in their attempts to survive the prevailing conditions in the country.

Extensive recruitment of specialised skills was undertaken including project design and management. A start was made on restructuring the NAC's posts and responsibilities together with the associated salary scales. New project offices were opened and existing offices were rehabilitated; IT systems were upgraded and secure staff accommodation was greatly improved. Whilst much of this work will continue well into 2011, an important foundation for growth was established during 2010.

When any organisation undergoes a period of change and renewal there are unavoidable casualties. Sadly, 2010 was no exception. The deteriorating security situation in the Rawza area outside of Ghazni City culminated in the kidnapping of two NAC employees. Fortunately, following lengthy negotiations, both employees were released unharmed. However, the event forced us to downscale our activities in the area and install a 'maintenance and monitoring' program. Although we re-deployed many staff members to other offices and re-assigned equipment to our new western Ghazni operations, sadly some job losses were inevitable. In addition, some long standing NAC staff members also resigned during the reporting year in order to follow personal career goals. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to wish all those employees who left NAC in 2010 the very best of good fortune in the years ahead.

2010 has been a watershed year for the NAC. Secure funding and a revitalised organisation have set the NAC on an exciting course of growth and achievement. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that Afghanistan remains a deeply troubled country in which to work. In some areas the security situation has deteriorated rapidly while others have remained relatively peaceful. NAC continued also in 2010 to work under the changing circumstances and conditions with flexibility and ability to adapt according to the demands prevailing in the Afghan reality.

Simon Forster
Country Director

The Integrated Rural Development Program (IRD)

Introduction

More than 30 years of civil war and political instability exacerbated by recurrent drought periods have left Afghanistan with overwhelming development challenges. In 2001, the year of the downfall of the Taliban, UNDP described Afghanistan as one of the poorest countries in the world: millions had died and more than 800,000 people were physically and mentally disabled; many were vulnerable to food shortages and displaced from their homes; nearly two-thirds of the population was illiterate; 90% of people did not have access to sanitation; health services reached just 17% of the rural population; and 80% of the Afghan population lived on less than US\$1 a day as household assets had been eroded by years of war and destruction.

Since 2002, Afghanistan has made notable progress towards democratization and economic recovery. More than four million refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have returned to their areas of origin; four million children, mostly girls, have returned to school; infrastructure has been rebuilt across the country; and the Afghan government completed two rounds of Presidential and Parliamentary elections since its transition to democracy in 2005. On behalf of the Government of Afghanistan the Ministry of Rural Development (MRRD) has been implementing National Solidarity Program across the country since 2003. This program is bringing in a sustainable democratic change in the local participatory governance. Community Development Councils are being established through a secret ballot election system with equal participation of women. This process enhances the understating of people's right to choose their representatives. Hence

The Integrated Rural Development Program aims to enhance the capacity of people living in rural areas to sustain and improve their quality of life. Overgrazing and degeneration of the soil are challenges for a sustainable agriculture. Photo: Simon Forster





Farmer in the Agro District of Badakhshan, a new focus area for the Integrated Rural Development Program. Photo: Simon Forster.

this understanding also influences the overall election processes in Afghanistan be they Presidential Elections or parliamentary ones. This emerging opportunity provides the basis for further establishment and strengthening of sustainable democratic processes to enhance right-based participatory good governance – much focus of bottom-up participation of citizens in the whole system of governance in Afghanistan.

Building on 30 years experience in Afghanistan, NAC plans to strengthen and consolidate ongoing interventions through its multiinput rural development approach. A multiinput rural development program refers to the development of institutions and systems across a variety of sectors, responding comprehensively to the needs and priorities of specific geographic regions. This approach requires NAC to work not only with government and civil society institutions to develop effective systems for service delivery, but also with communities to implement their own projects and demand basic levels of support.

To establish effective systems, NAC works in several strategic sectors: health; education; agriculture; livestock; enterprise and private sector development and civil society. In each of these sectors, NAC establishes an internal core of expertise that allows both direct service delivery and the effective training of government and nongovernment partners within a coherent plan, based on national strategies. As NAC develops the capacity of its partners, it is increasingly shifting from a direct implementer to a facilitator, allowing local structures to take the lead. This is a key focus of NAC Integrated Rural Development Program.

In 2010 NAC made a transition from projects-based approach of programming towards a multi-input area development approach by integrating livelihoods, rural education and rural health into a multifaceted rural development program funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A comprehensive and participatory needs assessment took place in the pre-selected districts in the provinces of Ghazni and Badakhshan. 60% of the population in Badakhshan are living below the poverty line and in Ghazni 40%.

The environmental projects already existing in Badakhshan and Ghazni will be incorporated in the Integrated Rural Development Program. The actual implementation of the IRD Program will start in 2011 after preparations in 2010.

Program objectives

The Integrated Rural Development program aims to enhance the capacity of people living in program areas to sustain and improve their quality of life. The programs aim at implementing national priorities to reduce poverty in Afghanistan by enabling rural communities, including women, to make informed choices that will promote sustainable and equitable development of their communities. Major objectives of the program are to:

- Support the establishment of representative and sustainable, community and district level institutions that have the legitimacy and capacity to represent developmental interests and implement projects
- Increase food security and incomes through improved farming techniques and inputs, market-oriented crop diversification, and by supporting the development of cash income opportunities for farming households as well as micro and small enterprises
- Improve access of remote communities to markets and energy
- Improve rural education by enhancing teachers' capacities, thus contributing to a child-friendly school environment and focusing on mothers, through literacy programs, life skills training and vocational skill enhancement programs
- Improve community health status through provisions of integrated Water and Sanitation Hygiene Cluster (WASH) interventions

The Integrated Rural Development Program in Badakhshan and Ghazni will be implemented over a period of three years. The key activities in the Integrated Rural Development Program are:

- Participatory Governance
- Natural Resource Management
- Micro and Small Enterprise Development
- Rural Infrastructure and Renewable Energy
- Rural Education Support Program
- Integrated Community Health Program
- Cross Cutting Themes

Overview of the projects:

Project Title	Donor	Location	Time Frame
Ghazni Environment/Rural Development Program	MFA RNE	Ghazni (Rawza village)	July 2008 – June 2011
Human Institutional Development (HID)	MFA RNE	Badakhshan (Argo and Darayam) and Ghazni (Jaghuri and Malistan)	Sep 2010 – Dec 2012
Natural Resource Management (NRM)	MFA	Badakhshan (Argo and Darayam) and Ghazni (Jaghuri and Malistan)	Sep 2010 – Dec 2012
Micro and Small Enterprise Development (MSED)	MFA	Badakhshan (Argo and Darayam) and Ghazni (Jaghuri and Malistan)	Sep 2010 – Dec 2012
Rural Education Support Program (RESP)	MFA	Badakhshan (Argo and Darayam) and Ghazni (Jaghuri and Malistan)	Sep 2010 – Dec 2012
Community Productive Infrastructure (CPI)	MFA	Badakhshan (Argo and Darayam) and Ghazni (Jaghuri and Malistan)	Sep 2010 – Dec 2012
Integrated Community Health Program (ICHP)	MFA	Badakhshan (Argo and Darayam) and Ghazni (Jaghuri and Malistan)	Sep 2010 – Dec 2012



Dasht-e-Qurough Farm, Faizabad,
pine seed collection.
Photo: Elisabet Eikås

Natural Resource Management

Introduction

Afghanistan is a landlocked country of some 65 million hectares and an estimated population of 30 million. It is characterized by a rugged mountainous landscape, large rangeland and desert areas, limited arable land, scarce water resources, and scattered human settlements (35,000 villages). Rainfall increases from west to east and vegetation ranges from desert in the south and west, to steppes and dry woodland in the centre and north, to coniferous forests in the humid mountains along the Pakistan borders. The prolonged war has massively accelerated already established negative trends in natural resource use, particularly deforestation, over-use of marginal agricultural and pastoral lands, and wildlife harvesting. Afghanistan is still a predominantly agrarian society with 80% of the population living in rural areas, and directly dependent on natural resources for livelihoods (small scale farming, pasture, and forest products). Despite massive migration to urban areas or outside the country (some 3-5 million people), the conflict over the past twenty years has led to the intensification of natural resource extraction, and particularly the acceleration of loss of natural forests through illegal logging, and the conversion of pasture lands for crop production. These processes have also contributed to increasing soil erosion, flooding, and water scarcity.

The Badakhshan Nurseries and Watersheds

Since 1992 NAC has been running a diversified number of activities under the heading of Environment Program in Badakhshan Province. In 2008 it was agreed between the Embassy and NAC that an external evaluation be commissioned to give recommendations as to whether, or how the existing program should be phased out. In waiting for the evaluation to take place, there was an agreement for NAC to maintain the program to avoid the loss of any investments. The evaluation was carried out at the start of June 2010, and a further provision was made by

RNE (Royal Norwegian Embassy) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for NAC to run the program until the end of 2010.

The program NAC has carried out in Badakhshan since 1992 has included management of several nursery farms, watershed management, forestry sites and some parks. These individual sites played a substantial role in demonstration, and for engaging farmers and women in extension services mainly around fruit and non-fruit sapling production and propagation through farmers and the Department of Agriculture.

Overview of the projects:

Project Title	Donor	Location	Time Frame
Dasht-e-Qurough Demonstration Farm and Nursery	MFA	10 kms west of Faizabad	ongoing
Women's garden	MFA	10 kms west of Faizabad	ongoing
Chasme-Garmok watershed	MFA	3 kms south of Faizabad	ongoing
Keshem Demonstration Farm/ Nursery	MFA	Keshem Town	ongoing
Keshem watershed	MFA	Keshem Town	ongoing
Jeri Shababa watershed	MFA	5 kms east of Keshem town	ongoing
Farmanqully Demonstration Farm and Nursery	MFA	31 kms south of Keshem Town	ongoing
Kalafgan Poplar Nursery	MFA	25 km west of Keshem in Takhar	ongoing
Shuhada Demonstration Farm and Nursery	MFA	3 hours east of Faizabad	ongoing
Telecommunication Park, Faizabad	MFA	Faizabad City	ongoing
NRM Based Food Security & Women Empowerment Program	WFP	Argu, Yaftal, Keshim	April 10- Jan 11
Women Agriculture and Life Skills Training Project	GIZ	Argenchkhaw	March 10-Jan 11

Dasht-e-Qurough Farm, Faizabad. Foster Mum produced saplings. Photo: Wafiullah Wafa





From the Women's Garden in Faizabad established by NAC. The garden is a popular place for picnics.
Photo: Elisabet Eikås.

Results of the Badakhshan Environment Program

A well maintained nursery also functions as a hub for extension work. Saplings which are ready for final planting are transferred out of the nursery and used in forestry and horticultural activities by NAC and Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL). The saplings produced by foster mums were transferred to the farms for better care till the time of sapling maturity for planting activities.

According to the Scanteam's review of Badakhshan Environment Program, the Foster Mum project has an important socio-economic impact on the rural community that enhances household income through women participation in livelihood activities. The program has also contributed to NAC's nurseries in a very cost-efficient manner that has helped to secure the operation of the nurseries and watershed over time. Findings indicate that learning generated through the foster mums component is being distributed beyond the direct recipients and their families, but also to neighbours and other village dwellers in Badakhshan. It also attracted other donors such as World Food Programme (WFP) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to support similar activities in NAC's target districts and they replicated the same concept in other geographical locations with other partners.

Scanteam finds in the program review document that NAC-managed nurseries proved an impact on farmers' abilities by incorporating best practices on their agricultural related activities.

The table below illustrates the number of saplings transferred to the NAC farms in 2010. These saplings were produced by women through home-based nursery projects (Foster Mum projects) supported by WFP (500 women under

training) and GIZ (100 women under training). The saplings were taken into the farms for further nurturing until final planting. The NAC farms and nurseries in Badakhshan hold a stock of 481,594 nonpermanent saplings with an estimated market value of 420,000 USD. More importantly, this stock should be considered a substantial resource in terms of natural resources that can be made available for further extension activities and women empowerment in the province:

Varieties	Thuja	Heaven tree	Catalpa	Ash Tree	Pistachio	Almond	Others	Total
NAC Farms	26,096	320	400	450	-	2,660	56,443	86,369
	127,882	14,240	6,000	1,158	750	3,620	85,593	239,243
GIZ	6,936	11,780	1,521	4,942	6,563	7,118	-	38,860
WFP	18,704	66,663	1,171	30,584	-	-	-	117,122
Total	179,618	93,003	9,092	37,134	7,313	13,398	142,036	481,594

In 2010 the NAC transported 71,475 saplings out of its nurseries in Badakhshan for final planting. The details include:

- 52,570 saplings were transferred to NAC's Ghazni Rural Development
- 18,905 saplings were given to DAIL in Badakhshan in support to their campaign for a "Green Faizabad Belt". The saplings were planted in Faizabad City, and NAC Environment staff provided technical support to the planting.

Rural Development – The Rawza project

The Ghazni Rural Development Program is a three-year program from July 2008 to June 2011. This program has been implemented in Rawza village, 6 km north of Ghazni City on the main Kabul–Kandahar Road. The aim of the project is to improve the environment and living conditions of the population in the target areas by undertaking reforestation and rural development activities. The program consists of the following main components: a) tree plantation, b) food security at household level, c) improvement of watersupplies and d) capacity building.

Tree planting and reforestation

Results of the project:

A total of 100 hectares of land comprising 100,000 trees in the mountains around Rawza Village have been well maintained and will successfully grow trees to control soil erosion. A progress on biomass concentration is also seen due to protected site management from grazing exclusion approaches. The trees are planted at two different locations; the first phase is on a hillside above a historical shrine and minaret, and the second is on a similar slope above a residential and agricultural area. The trees are still small and will need several years of growth before a substantial impact will be seen. However, residents in the area have already noted that less mud and surface rain have entered into their land during the rainy season, as a result of diversion of storm water by the terraces made for tree planting.

NAC also stocks a steadily increasing number of saplings in Ghazni. In October 2010 a total of 46,330 saplings were collected from farmers and Foster Mums (FMs) to maintain them technically in the greenhouses till the time the plants are ready for plantation. In addition, NAC trained a further 200 Foster Mums in three

different villages on the outskirts of Ghazni City under WFP funding in 2010, where a total of 25,543 saplings were produced and collected. These saplings, in total 71,873, will be used for the replacement of missing plants over the years and also NAC will contribute towards greening Ghazni City towards preparation for 2013 event declaring Ghazni City as City of Islamic Heritage by the government and UNESCO. In this connection, the National Steering Committee lead by Vice President and DAIL(Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock) is planning to plant over 1 million trees in and around Ghazni City

The Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in Ghazni has expressed its gratitude to the NAC for its tree planting work in Rawza village. It is to be noted that DAIL adopted NAC's practice of forestation approach in Ghazni and scaled up to several hectares of hillside slopes in Ghazni City.

Progress of the project

- 112,500 meters of terraces completed during year 2010
- 52,570 saplings were planted on phase 2 site
- 4,200 drought resistant plants were planted in replacement of missing or dead plants on phase 1.
- Regular irrigation activities were carried out on all three sites.
- Establishment of irrigation system for phase two with a provision of deep well, water reservoir, diesel run water pump and tap-based irrigation points
- Some 10,200 almond tree saplings were pruned during April 2010 in order to ensure higher yields once nut production starts
- The planned planting in 2010 demanded a total of 112,500 meters of terraces.
- In May 2010, barbed-wire fencing was completed around the 2nd phase site in order to maintain security and grazing control.

Results achieved

- 50 hectares of land terraced and 50,000 trees planted
- The project generated 30,000 labour wages in the communities
- 90% of plants grown healthy on 50 hectares on first phase
- Considerable soil erosion control on 100 hectares of land achieved
- Through controlled grazing, high degree of vegetation and biomass observed
- The department of agriculture adopted and replicated NAC's method of forestations and soil conservation in approximately 200 hectares of land in Ghazni



Vegetable Kitchen Garden in Hisari Village, Yaftal district in Badakhshan. Photo: NAC

Food Security at Household Level

Results of the project

In order to achieve basic food security at household level NAC integrated a food security component with Women Empowerment Program. In this connection, some 100 Foster Mums and 150 Farmers were identified in a participatory manner involving the Community Development Committees in the villages around Ghazni municipality. These 250 men and women are now contributing to household food security by applying learned technologies in fruit and non-fruit sapling production, vegetable production, preservation techniques and marketing skills.

Progress of the project

- Owners of home based tree nurseries (farmers and women) received on site training from NAC agricultural trainers on the establishment of the nurseries
- The farmers and women received monthly incentive in cash
- The farmers and Foster Mums also received specialized trainings in nursery management, irrigation, disease control and weeding.
- NAC carried out awareness training focused on forest and environmental conservation and opportunities for income generation from sapling production.
- For the second cycle of cultivation farmers received inputs which include; vegetable seeds and agricultural handtools.
- On the organization of all training technical staff of DAIL was present and benefited from the training.

Capacity Building

Results of the project

Capacity Building of partners on the thematic areas of NAC's sectoral programs is an integral part of NAC's development approach in Afghanistan. In this connection comprehensive training programs were carried out for our partners. Through this initiative NAC managed to build the capacity of DAIL and direct community partners Natural Resource Management and Environmental Protection.

Progress of the project

In January 2010, a six-day workshop was conducted for 8 DAIL staff and 12 Shura members of Rawza Village. The training modules covered the following subjects: natural resource management, fruit and nonfruit sapling production, land protection and development, pest control, waste management and public awareness and mobilization.

- During January and February some 150 farmers were trained in sapling production, planting and orchard establishment, composting, vegetable production and processing and disease control. The farmers' training was a combination of theoretical and practical training.

Challenges

Like many other southern provinces, Ghazni experiences a precarious security situation caused by the Taliban, who are reported to control most of the rural areas outside of the provincial capital and are heavily involved in attacks on government infrastructure and employees. The province lies on the important Kabul - Kandahar road, and has historically functioned as an important trade centre. Strategically Ghazni is very important for the rest of the southern provinces as it connects these provinces to the capital of the country. The insurgents frequently attack the convoys, police check-points, which are there for the security of the highway, and are trying to disrupt the supply to other provinces. The development work is undertaken only in the government-controlled areas or partially in the outskirts of Ghazni City. NAC is implementing an environment project in Rawza village.

The security situation of Rawza village has been relatively good and peaceful but the outskirts of Rawza toward the Zana Khan district side are insecure. The Taliban and other criminal groups frequently come through the Zana Khan and patronize the area.

In some cases, visits and trips to the project site were restricted due to the security threats by the Taliban. This in fact reduced the number of visits by technical staff, but in general the program implementation was not affected. NAC's staff used private vehicles when visiting the project site. Extreme weather conditions remained another challenge during 2010.

Midwife Education

Introduction

Afghanistan faces major health challenges as shown by its high maternal mortality rate, low life expectancy and high child mortality rate. After over two decades of political turmoil, Afghanistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, estimated at 1600/100,000 live births meaning that on average 1 in 9 Afghan women will die in childbirth. Based on a study in four districts of Afghanistan, the maternal mortality found to be markedly higher in rural areas compared with the urban sites (see table below) :

Mortality in Rural and Urban Sites

	Urban	Semi-rural	Rural	Remote
District	Kabul	Alisheng	Maywand	Ragh
Province	Kabul	Laghman	Kandahar	Badakshan
MMR(per 100,000)	400	800	2200	6500
IMR (per 1000)	80	120	n/a	220

The main causes of maternal death among women are hemorrhage, obstructed labor, sepsis, hypertension (pre-eclampsia and eclampsia) and unsafe abortions, which occur during the reproductive age, especially in remote rural areas. This highlights a serious lack of access to health care and skilled birth attendants. The density of nurses and midwives is only 5 per 10 000 population, which is the lowest in the world. In addition to an overall shortage of health workers in Afghanistan, there is a lack of female health workers. The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) estimates that only 66% of the Basic Health Clinics (BHC) in Afghanistan have a minimum of one female health worker, doctor, nurse, or midwife (MOPH 2006). The rest do not have any female health workers. WHO estimates those countries with fewer than 23 health-care professionals (counting only physicians, nurses and midwives) per 10,000 populations will be unlikely to achieve adequate coverage rates for the key primary health-care interventions prioritized by the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Implementing both of the above recommendations seems to be challenging for Afghanistan, which signed the Millennium Declaration in 2004. Instead of adopting the MDG targets, the government of Afghanistan decided to extend the period of achieving the MDGs until 2020 (see table below). The reason for the extension was lack of baseline data as a basis for comparisons and limited financial resources to increase qualified health staff, especially females, in remote areas.

Overview of the projects

Project Title	Donor	Location	Value	Time Frame
Community Midwifery Education (CME) Program	GAVI	Kunar HSDO	USD 328 265	Aug 2009 – Apr 2011
Community Midwifery Education (CME) Program	USAID-(HSSP)	Wardak OAD	USD 448 454	Apr 2010 – 30 May 2012



Entrance examination for new
Midwife Students in Kunar.
Photo: NAC

Community Midwife Education

NAC as a leading NGO implemented in 2010 two Community Midwifery Education (CME) programs in consortium with Healthcare and Social Development Organisation (HSDO) in Kunar and Organization for Afghanistan Development (OAD) in Wardak provinces. The projects aimed to train and deploy midwives in rural areas to assist normal deliveries at community level and to consult women on high risk of pregnancy, nutrition and micronutrient supplementation, breast feeding, immunization, newborn care and referral process whenever needed. NAC has also implemented a Hospital Midwifery Education (HME) Program in association with the Institute of Health and Science (IHS) in Nangarhar Province, to train eighty-five midwives and deploy them in their respective communities within 3 years for service delivery in local health centres.

In close coordination with the stakeholders, NAC established academic components for the program in the centre of the provinces, which had spaces for classrooms, skilled laboratory practice, day care centre, and a hostel. All required staff, including program coordinator, course coordinator, trainers, preceptors and support staff have been recruited and students were enrolled according to the accepted criteria of Midwifery Education. Three practical sites have been selected and equipped with training materials; transportation was functional during the project period for trainers and students for practical work to the health facilities. Students were accommodated in a safe hostel and received three meals a day with refreshments. The hostel was managed by a female manager and female staff, which meets the community's requirements.

NAC ensures the regular provision of Community Midwife Education (CME) and health facilities for students. This includes practical work with medical equipment and teaching materials including skills and laboratory models. NAC and its partner focus on course facilitators/trainers' training to improve their skills and knowledge in order to impart the right education to the students at an acceptable pace. The program was supervised by the implementing NGO, NAC, MoPH provincial and central officials, and was fully accredited after three assessments by Afghan Midwifery and Nursing Education Accreditation Board (AMNEAB).

Main achievements of the project

47 Community Midwife students were trained and provided with evidence-based knowledge, clinical competence, ethical and professional attributes in the provision of quality community midwifery services in Afghanistan. Hospital Midwifery Education (HME) and CME students completed 24 and 18 months of intensive courses respectively and were subsequently deployed in their communities. Adding this group of educated midwives to the Afghan health network will increase the number of female staff in more remote areas and induce a positive change in community health-seeking behaviour as well as promote an acceptance to let female family members seek education away from their homes.

Hospital Midwife Education

Project Title	Donor	Location	Value	Time Frame
Hospital Midwifery Education (HME) Program, Institute of Health and Sciences	FOKUS	Nangarhar	USD 468 632	Jan 2010 – 31 Dec 2012

Under the HME Program, 23 midwives graduated and 15 midwives deployed to the communities in February of 2011. Based on the MoPH's ideal graduation standard of 20 HME in each program, NAC reached its 2010 target of deploying 75% of trained midwives in their local health facilities where there was visible shortage of female staff. All graduates were connected to the implementing NGOs of the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Nooristan provinces. NAC and IHS attempt to recruit the rest 25% of the graduates in health facilities to meet the BPHS recruitment target in the region.

All employed midwives have now economic income opportunities based on their skills and services that they offer. Their unique expertise has not only increased women's access to reproductive care in their catchment area, but have also created a special place for graduates in the community.

The Afghan Midwife Association

The Afghan Midwife Association (AMA) and three other implementers of the Midwifery Education Program remained key civil society actors for NAC, on which to build their organizational and institutional capacity, so that they become active partners in achieving NAC's overall development goals in Afghanistan. During 2010, AMA has taken important steps to strengthen its organization. A functional office with equipment is in place, an administrative manual, including HR and Finance, is elaborated, financial documents have been audited and regional AMA representatives have participated in their first Leadership training.

A strong AMA, both at provincial and national level,

The Hospital Midwife School in Jalalabad has its own day-care centre for children of the students. Photo: NAC





The 6th Annual Congress of the Afghan Midwives Association (AMA). During 2010 AMA has taken important steps to strengthen its organization.
Photo: Sissel Thorsdalen, FOKUS

is in a prime position to become an influential civil society actor, lobbying on behalf of its target group, women and children in Afghanistan. AMA is already represented in the reproductive health committees at central and national level, and is on several occasions consulted by the government on reproductive health issues. The AMA should also be considered an important civil society actor internationally. Through bringing testimony and knowledge about the current situation of reproductive rights for women in Afghanistan to an international arena, AMA has the potential to engage international support to keep the Government of Afghanistan accountable to reach its targets on the Millennium Development Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality and Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health.

AMA has proven itself as an active member, which advocates for its rights and explores support options to solve women's problems. Through their wider set of connections AMA representatives are able to provide updated technical capacity to the midwives, trainers and students. In addition they become part of an expanded network of midwives that provide them with the opportunity for exchange of knowledge, information and experience with their counterparts from different parts of Afghanistan.

This sharing of knowledge and information eventually helps and strengthens the health system, improves women's health and ultimately contributes to reduction of maternal and child morbidity and mortality in the country. Despite traditional and negative attitudes towards women working in public, AMA's experience through community involvement of supporting midwives is gaining more and more acceptance in the local communities.



Photo: Sissel Thorsdalen, FOKUS

Strengthening AMA's organizational and technical capacity to function as an independent association provided the opportunity for AMA to:

- Advocate for the rights of its members and midwives as a profession
- Empower women to participate actively in the development process of Afghanistan
- Train and strengthen the capacity of its members
- Improve services delivered by midwives
- Support women to explore economic development opportunities

Afghanistan is still in a conflict and severe humanitarian crises situation. The focus on reproductive health and women's situation is often overshadowed by crisis, obstacles and conflict. AMA can be a unique voice and report on the women's situation from the very grassroots. Through its members and focal points they can channel first-hand information about the situation for women throughout the country. By strong advocacy organization, with international linkage, we are trying to benefit women and their families.

Overview of the project

Project Title	Donor	Location	Value	Time Frame
AMA	FOKUS	Kabul	USD 36,444	1st Jan- 2010- 31th Dec 2010

Description of the project

Keeping in view the important role AMA can play as a union for midwives in Afghanistan, NAC prioritized capacity building of the organisation on national and regional level in cooperation with FOKUS and the Norwegian Midwife Association.

Progress of the project

The capacity-building program of the project is ongoing and will continue till the time when AMA will become an independent Civil Society Organisation (CSO) in Afghanistan capable of connecting Afghan women to better health care and facilities.



The NAC Education manager, Roya Mohmand is selecting participants for the Foster Mum Project in Baktash village, Argu district in Badakhshan. Photo: Nasima Shansap

Women's Empowerment Projects (Agricultural, Literacy and Life Skills Training)

Introduction

Afghanistan is a highly patriarchal society, where the role of the male is to protect the females. It is a cherished idea that men of the household should be the breadwinners while women take care of domestic chores. Such notions sit deep in the very fabric structure of Afghan society with social, economical and political consequences causing women to be responsible for the domestic affairs with poor representation at the sub-national level and in local governance bodies. Exposure to decades of hostilities has further attributed to forcing women, in particular in rural areas, to be engaged in informal activities as unpaid family work and small-scale economic activities that are difficult to measure and one that offers less enjoyment of employment rights and benefits.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Education has identified literacy and non-formal education as one of the priority areas in its National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) to develop a long-term literacy program to empower communities and individuals to build a productive, secure and literate nation. NGOs take an essential role as partners for the NESP and in expanding literacy and vocational training. These are measures which are crucial to women's expanded social, civic and economical involvement in rural communities. During the implementation, NGOs face a shortage of qualified literacy teachers, particularly females, to teach literacy textbooks and vocational courses and a lack of a functional system to measure the quality of courses across the country. There is a general consensus that NGOs' contribution to literacy is not a complete solution to empower women in Afghanistan unless a social safety and support network is built to help them, in particular marginalized ones, in receiving social acceptance and access to economic opportunities through vocational training.

Despite the general gloom and despair expressed in current issues relating to shortage of qualified literacy teachers, textbooks, training schools, a remarkable

degree of optimism is shown by women in rural areas. Rural women in NAC's literacy program have shown important insights about the importance of education and vocational skills. Their concern that less action is being taken by local government in women care issue signifies an improved level of understanding of women empowerment in the public domain.

Overview of the projects

Project Title	Donor	Location	Value	Time Frame
NRM and Food Security for Women project in Badakhshan/ Literacy and Life Skills Training	WFP	Argu, Keshem and Yaftal district - Badakhshan province	Part of NRM and Food Security for Women project in Badakhshan	April 2010-end of January 2011
Women's Agricultural and Life Skills Training in Badakhshan / Literacy and Life Skills Training	GIZ	Arghanjkhaw district - Badakhshan province	Part of Women's Agricultural and Life Skills Training in Badakhshan	April 2010-end of January 2011
Integrated Environment and rural development project in Ghazni / Literacy and Life Skills Training	MFA	Rawza Village - Ghazni province	Part of Integrated Environment and rural development project in Ghazni	December 2009-end of August 2010

In April 2010 NAC made an agreement with the WFP, GIZ and MFA to engage vulnerable women in Ghazni and Badakhshan Provinces to take part in its literacy program to support life skills and vocational training so that targeted women will have more livelihood options to contribute to their family income. The life skills training is an NAC added component to the literacy classes, and is taught in parallel to the standard curriculum set by the Afghan Ministry of Education.

Results of the project

The 700 Program participants completed 6 months of basic literacy training and 3 months of post literacy course which include topics on women rights in Islam and its practices; personal health, hygiene and nutrition; importance of forest; pollution and its consequences; domestic waste management; environment degradation; basic mathematics; and the ability to read signs when travelling to the city centre. Course participants reported that the program has given them a new window of opportunity for social interaction, being able to meet fellow villagers and a chance to discuss important social issues of the community in a designated meeting area.

Female course participants accommodated in 24 classes of 25-30 participants each, except in Batash village where four classes accommodated 35 participants. All classes equipped with carpet, white boards, stationary for group work, and heater to create an optimum learning environment for winter classes. Participants attended the training two hours a day, six days a week. The basic literacy classes were finalized by 31st October and the 3-month post-literacy training was completed by 31st January 2011.

During the project recruitment process, NAC put an emphasis on recruiting local Community Educators in surrounding villages in order to create local employment opportunities. NAC recruited local trainers with an educational qualification between grade 6 to Bachelors degree and assessed the skill gap of the trainers' knowledge on the subjects of MoE curriculum for literacy education. Following the assessment, NAC addressed the trainers' skills gap through provision of additional Training of Trainers (ToT) courses and resource allocation for trainers' capacity building.

A successful vegetable producer who manages to sell surplus production at the local market in Botash Village, Faizabad. Photo: Elisabet Eikås.



Progress of the project

The projects successfully completed within the timeframe agreed with the donors. NAC is engaging the same as well as new donors to scale up this program because of its relevance and success so that additional marginalized women can benefit from the program. In addition, NAC shares the success and methodology of the program in different stakeholder consultation meetings.

Challenges

Long established traditional practices continue to shape male-female relationships which directly influence the project implementation processes. NAC's participatory community mobilization methods managed to engage male population of the target villages and engaged them in the whole process of program implementation as partners. This strategy enabled us to reduce traditional constraints in engaging female population as direct partners.

The prevailing challenges have given NAC a unique experience of following a community mobilization and sensitization mechanism to ensure community acceptance of technical staff's access to female trainers and trainees. NAC has taken women-related issues into consideration in order to build female human capital and used its resources to move the rural women gradually from social crisis and poverty to economic stability and self-sustainability, thereby promoting a viable civil society and economic opportunities for women in the rural areas. Gradually rural women are becoming partners in sustainable development.

Friendship Schools Projects

Introduction

After decades of political turmoil and destruction the Afghan educational system is re-emerging. International aid, support from NGOs and efforts of the MoE have promoted new educational opportunities. In post 2001, the National Strategic Education Plan (NSEP) (2010-2014) aimed to revive Afghanistan's educational system by achieving 80% and 75% net enrolment rate for girls and boys in primary grades by 2010. Despite substantial contribution of donor to NSEP's implementation and communities' desire to educate their children, more than 50% of children still do not attend schools. Seemingly, the demand for education services has outstripped supply at every level. And the Ministry of Education (MoE) cannot cope with the expansion of enrolment and simultaneously generate demand for further enrolment, especially amongst girls, who continue to remain out of school in rural areas.

Currently, insecurity in the country is a serious threat to the delivery of education in volatile regions, which discourages qualified teachers from teaching in rural areas. Limitation of girls' school near their homes, low number of female teachers and social constraints in some rural communities undermine girls' enrolment and retention, particularly in the secondary grades. Also, economic conditions force some poor families to gain economic benefits from their child labour and prevent them from schooling. Political instability in general and frequent changes in the leadership of the MoE have negative effects on the governance and implementation of the education plan. Yet, the policies of MoE are in accordance with the education priorities of the country.

Despite prevailing challenges, currently there is an atmosphere of excitement



Girls at Gul Dara School nearby Kabul. Vinderen School in Oslo is a friendship school with Gul Dara School, and the pupils are exchanging drawings and pictures. Every year Vinderen School organizes a Friendship Day to raise funds in support of Gul Dara School. Photo: Elisabet Eikås.

and determination in schools throughout the country. Thousands of Afghan teachers and students are registering classes in urban area. The majority of parents are eager to send their children to school and see education as an important force for rebuilding the nation.

Overview of the projects

Project Title	Donor	Location	Value	Time Frame
Guldara School	Vindern school - Norway	Guldara District -Kabul province	NOK 107 922	30/4/2010 - ongoing
Girls Number 2 School	Krohnengen School - Norway	Faziabad district - Badakhshan province	NOK 58 637	8/6/2010 - ongoing
Astrid Morken School	Norwegian Institute of Nature Research (NINR)	Peshawar- Pakistan	NOK 30,000	25/2/2010 – 31/12/2010

Description of each project

NAC's long-term strategic objective is to contribute in the enhancement of the education sector in Afghanistan. In order to achieve this objective, NAC adopted a comprehensive education support program to ensure quality education, child-friendly environment in schools and subsequently promoting access to education for disadvantaged rural children and Afghan refugees/returnees. NAC managed to promote the idea to donor communities as well as to the general public in Norway. NAC received tremendous response from the private donors and as well as from primary and secondary schools in Norway. To act on this response, NAC conceptualized Friendship School Program (FSP). Through FSP, NAC identified committed schools in Norway willing to support a counterpart school in Afghanistan. Currently, Norwegian schools under this program raise money for their friendship schools in Afghanistan by several means such as selling Afghan food in Norway. The fund received from the FSP made a substantial contribution towards NAC's strategic objective, which is being reflected in the following schools:

Guldara school: Guldara is a friendship school built by funds from a private Norwegian donor in Guldara District of Kabul in 2004. A total of 500 girls are enrolled for whom there are 12 female teachers including a principle and a deputy principle. Guldara School is equipped with a day care centre, science laboratory and a library. It is the only school in this district that offers education for girls from grades 1 to 12.

Girls No 2 School: Girls Number 2 School is located in the populous part of Faizabad New City. The school was built by the Government of Afghanistan in 1984 where a total of 1300 students are enrolled annually and study in 3 shifts from grades 1 to 12. The school is staffed by 56 female teachers including a principal and a deputy principal.

Since 1998, NAC has been supporting Girls Number 2 High School with teaching material and equipment (i.e. stationery, library, science laboratory, office equipments, tailoring machines, school furniture, and teacher training courses). Recently, NAC added winter courses in the subjects English, Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics for 180 students. The school offers winter and summer classes.

Hadia is a student in grade 6 at Girls Number 2 High School in Faizabad. She lives with her six brothers and three sisters in Faizabad New City. Her hobbies are playing with toys and decorating her hands with Henna. She is friendly and loves to keep a sheep as a pet. Hadia's dream is to become a medical doctor and to live in a place free of war and flood.

The Astrid Morken School: The school is located in the Faqirabad area in Peshawar, Pakistan and is providing education from grade 1 to 12 for Afghan refugees. The staff consists of 23 female teachers including 1 principal and 1 deputy principal and the school currently accommodates 325 students out of which 125 are poor students fully financed by the school.

The Astrid Morken School was supported by Norwegian donors through NAC between 1984 and 2007. Since 2009, donations from the Norwegian Institute of Nature Research (NINR) enabled the school to be open for poor Afghan refugees until their return to Afghanistan.

Tamana 15, a student of grade 9 has been studying for 9 years in Astrid Morken High School in Faqirabad - Peshawar. She has 2 sisters and 2 brothers and her mother is a school cleaner and her father has physical disability. Tamana's parents cannot afford to pay for their children's education. During an interview, Tamana's mother burst into tears and said: "My children would have remained illiterate if Astrid Morken School had not given them a chance to study"



Tamana and class mates. Photo: NAC

During 2010, NAC evaluated the friendship school concept to further strengthen the exchange of cultural experience between Afghan and Norwegian school children and explore the possibility to further improve the quality of education and creation of a safe learning environment in Guldara and Girls Number 2 School in Badakhshan. In 2010 NAC consolidated and reformulated the entire friendship school program within its overall educational sector programme. The funds received from Norwegian schools in 2010 will be invested in the interventions envisaged in the new strategy of the school friendship programme. A result-oriented work plan will be developed during the course of 2011 programme planning process to meet expected results elaborated in the friendship school concept.

Security

The security situation in Afghanistan continued to worsen throughout 2010, as documented by the number of reported incidents. It is expected that the security will deteriorate further before it gets better. However, while there has been a marked shift in both the nature and geographic location of incidents, there are still many areas of the country which experience no threats to the safety of NGO personnel. Our operations in Badakhshan remained unaffected by the conflict, however the same cannot be said for Ghazni City and our health sector training centres in the Eastern Provinces. Moreover, security at our Head Office in Kabul had to be upgraded in response to an increase in insurgency attacks in the suburb where the office is located.

For NAC the primary security problem of 2010 was the deteriorating situation on our projects outside Ghazni City. Although the Afghan Government was able to maintain control of security in Ghazni City, the outlying villages and districts were largely under Taliban control. This resulted in inadequate management control of project activities and an increase in unchecked criminal activity. In November 2010 two of our local Afghan staff members were kidnapped by criminals at one of the tree planting sites near Rawza village. Three weeks of negotiations followed involving the families of the victims, the local Shura and NAC Kabul, which eventually led to the release of the two men, unharmed. A few weeks later some 550 meters of underground armoured electrical cable which provided power to one of NAC's water pumps was unearthed and stolen. Following discussions with the local Shura, in which it was admitted that the community could not provide adequate security for NAC personnel and equipment, it was decided to down-scale the project to 'maintenance and monitoring' only.

Towards the end of 2010 the Eastern Provinces of Afghanistan experienced an upsurge in cross-border violence with fierce fighting in areas such as Kunar and an increasing number of insurgency attacks in Jalalabad. Both locations are home to NAC's midwifery training colleges, which have so far been unaffected by the violence. However, contingency plans will have to be developed in 2011 in the event that the deteriorating security situation prevents the schools from operating.

Administration and Human Resources

Number of staff in Dec 2010

Sector wise:

Management	4
Administration	52
NRM	46
Education	12
Infrastructure	6
Health	2
	122

Gender wise:

Male	82
Female	40
	122

Ethnic origin:

Tajek	80
Pashtoon	23
Hazara	16
Expats	3
	122



NAC has 23 staff employed at the Country Office in Kabul which is managing and supporting the operations in Ghazni, Badakshan, Kunar and Nangahar. Photo: Simon Forster

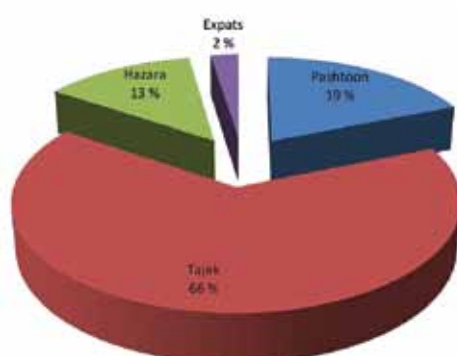
In the last quarter of 2010 NAC Kabul office was renovated, and new office equipment provided to staff to ensure optimal working conditions. Fifty-one new staff based on gender equality and ethnic diversity have been employed by NAC in the reporting period. Their qualification and areas of expertise are shown in the overview on the left.

NAC Program Restructuring

In 2010, NAC had salary scales that were well below market levels as far as Kabul was concerned. This made hiring qualified staff extremely difficult, which in-turn exerted a negative impact on the organization's ability to undertake and deliver quality projects that are sustainable and which meet international acceptable standards. The NAC management needed to recruit competent and skilled personnel to complement the small residual core of committed professionals, who are themselves, regularly confronted with more lucrative employment opportunities in an increasingly competitive market for indigenous skills.

It was deemed essential to establish a system of posts and salaries that is objective, fair, easily understandable, practical and merit based. This was seen as an essential precursor to the determination of a logical and more market-related salary scale.

Ethnic origin of NAC Staff



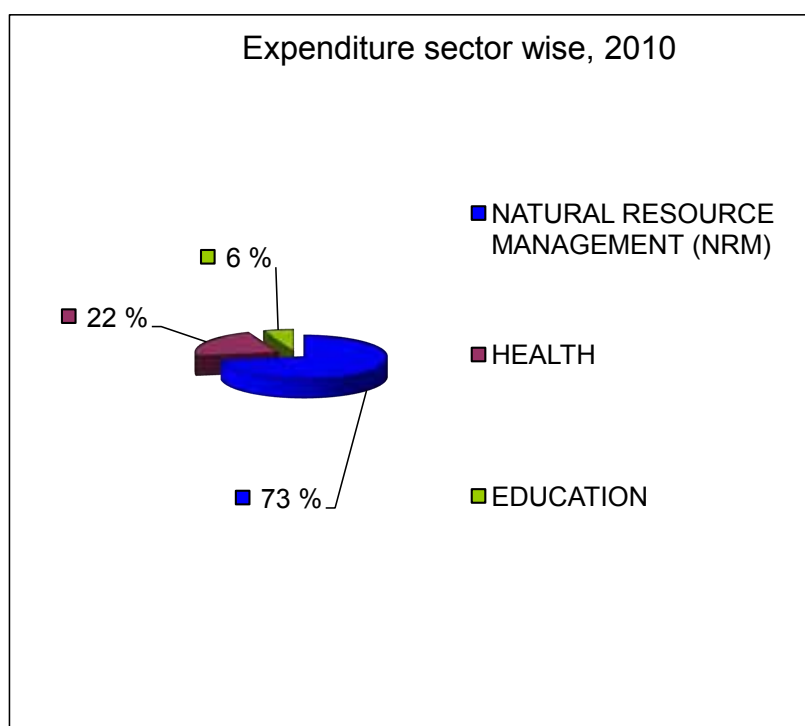
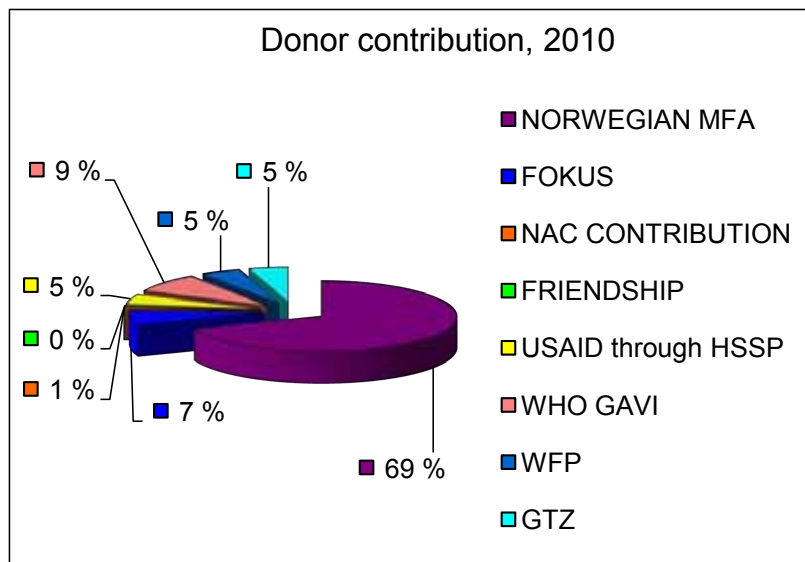
Finance

During year 2010 NAC engaged in 8 partner organizations and donor organization contributed to the program implementation of NAC. The financial statements of the 2010 indicate that we completed the project funded by US-AID/WHO in 2009 but no continuity in Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) implantation beyond 2009. However, NAC engaged the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on a three-year program 2010-2012. Hence NAC believes in consolidation of programs before scaling them up. Funds by several donors in 2010 make NAC ready for implementation of an expanded BPHS and EPHS program in Afghanistan for 2011 and onward. The financial statement indicates a substantial increase in funding from WFP and GIZ.

Overall 2010 remained a financially challenging year in the history of NAC due to two reasons, (i) year of consolidation and change of programmatic emphasis and (ii) organizational restructuring. Towards the end of the 2010, NAC secured necessary finances for 2011 and onwards and expended wisely. As a result NAC's geographical presence expanded in other provinces.

Subsequent to the expansion plans of NAC and volume of fund management, quality control, fraud mitigation and better budget management NAC is undergoing extensive financial, administrative and human resource management reviews and development exercises.

NAC established an Internal Auditor function to improve internal financial management control as well as monitoring of the financial management affairs of implementing partners.



Information activities

Voices from Afghanistan

Public Hearing

The year 2010 sadly marked 30 years of ongoing war and conflict in Afghanistan. Civilians continue to lose their lives and tens of thousands have been displaced from their homes. Millions more suffer as a volatile security situation restricts their access to education, health care, fields and markets for their agricultural products. In order to bring attention to the civilian perspectives of the conflict, NAC marked its 30 years of operations by organizing a public hearing “Voices from Afghanistan” in Oslo on November 9, 2010.

The concept of “hearing” was used by NAC in the 1980s in order to bring eye witness accounts from the conflict in Afghanistan to the Norwegian public. The 2010 hearing also included both speakers from Afghanistan and a questioning panel.

Session 1. Civilian Casualties

Speaker: Mr. Muhammas Ilyas Dayee, freelance journalist from Helmand Province, reporting from the remote areas of the province.

Questioning Panel: Mr Zahir Athari, student and human rights activist and Maren Sæbø, editor of Verdensmagasinet X (The World Magazine X).



Session 2. Health workers in zones of conflict

Speakers:

Dr. Abdul Baseer Qureshi, Deputy Health Manager of Basic Package of Health Services in Laghman province for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), and member of the community committee in his home village in Nangarhar. Dr. Toor Khan Shirzad, Health manager for NAC, based in Kabul. 12 years of experience in the field of health. He is also an experienced journalist and makes contributions to Afghan National Television and various radio stations.

Questioning Panel: Merete Taksdal, nurse by profession, and an expert in international health and Kjetil Mujezinovich Larsen, research fellow at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights.

Session 3. Human Rights

Speakers:

Ms. Shinkai Karokhail, member of the Afghan Parliament since 2005. Founder of Afghan Women Education Center, and acting director since 2002.

Mr. Hashim Shukoor, journalist with 10 years of experience, currently working for McClachy International News Agency.



Questioning panel: Maria Dahle, Executive Director Human Rights House Foundation and Arne Strand Research Director at Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI). The Hearing was organized in close cooperation with the European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan (ENNA), and after the event in Oslo, the Afghan speakers visited Stockholm and Copenhagen to participate in similar events.

Afghanistan Nytt

- 30 years for Afghanistan (special edition)

NAC also marked 30 years of operation by releasing a special edition of the membership magazine Afghanistan-Nytt. 17 articles shed light on the history of the NAC and the challenges faced in contemporary Afghanistan.

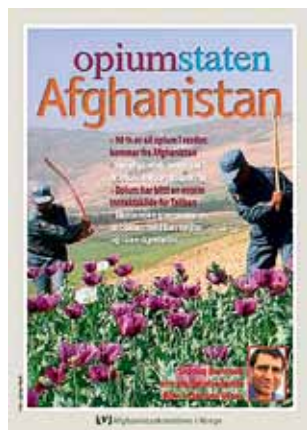


Film from the South Festival in Oslo

In collaboration with NAC, the festival of Films from the South, from 7 to 17 October, showed two films from Afghanistan, *Opium War* and *Afghan Star*. These two films present two very different aspects of Afghan society. NAC funded the trip and accommodation for Siddiq Barmak, the director of the film *Opium War*. In connection with one showing of the film, Barmak participated in a discussion with the journalist Gunnar Filseth about the film and the issues relating to opium production and use in Afghanistan. The discussion was led by Kristian Berg Harpviken, director of Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO).



Siddiq Barmak, Kristian Berg Harpviken and Gunnar Filseth discussing after the show of the film *Opium War* during the Film from the South Festival in Oslo. Photo: NAC



Leaflet on Opium

Problems relating to Opium production in Afghanistan are shared by the Afghan people, the Afghan state and neighbouring countries. This production affects individuals and countries all over the world. The brochure “Opium state” aims at explaining the nature of the production and the opium economy in Afghanistan, and was published in connection with the screening of Siddig Barmaks “Opium War”.



www.
afghanistan.no

The NAC webpage is updated on an irregular basis and focuses mainly on NAC activities and advocacy work in Norway.



NAC in the Media

NAC aims at promoting Afghan voices and perspectives in Norwegian media.

Magazines, print	5
Magazines, web articles	8
Newspapers, print	12
Newspapers, web articles	2
TV	3
Radio	1
Total	31

Friendship Schools

The Friendship Schools cooperation continued in 2010, between Vinderen School, Oslo and Gul Dara, Kabul, and Krohnengen School, Bergen, and Girls High School NR 2 in Faizabad. The pupils exchanged drawings and pictures. The two Norwegian Schools supported their Afghan counterparts by raising funds in ever more creative ways. The contributions from the Norwegian schools contribute directly to the need for maintenance and equipment at the Afghan schools.

The Norwegian Institute of Nature Research (NINA) continued its support for the Astrid Morken School in Peshawar in 2010. The school offers education to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and the support from NINA is vital in order to continue the running of the school.

Twenty experts on teaching and art from 12 schools of music and culture in Norway worked together on this art project. Each pupil made his or her individual line for the project and the lines represent the pupil's own signature. These lines were recreated in the artistic expressions of sculpture and animation. Each pupil has made contact with a child in Haiti or Afghanistan, who in their turn created their own lines. These lines were exchanged by e-mail. The Norwegian pupils developed art works on the basis of the lines from Haiti and Afghanistan, which in this way became important pieces in the finished works. The lines have become symbolic bridges between cultures and the children have been the bridge builders.



Girl at Gul Dara schools shows her interpretation of the Line. Photo: NAC



The sculpture Linjen (the Line) exhibited by the entrance to the Norwegian Opera symbolizes bridges between cultures and children are the bridge builders. Photo: Linda Våge

Fundraising

Letters to private donors

NAC needs to collect 10% of internal funds for the projects “Hospital Midwife Education” and “Networking with the Afghan Midwife Assosiation”, supported by Fokus/Norad. Campaign letters to private donors represent the most important source of income. Two letters were posted in 2010, resulting in NOK

AiN er avhengig av å samle inn 10 % egenandel til de Fokus/Norad støttede prosjektene “Hospital Midwife Education” and “Networking with Afghan Midwife Assosiation”. Campaign letters to private donors represents the most important source of income.

Regular supporters

A group of individuals contribute to the NAC projects by donating on a monthly basis.

Volunteers' contribution

NAC continues to attract dedicated volunteers, who contribute considerably to the organization working groups and on a case-to-case basis. NAC is privileged to benefit from high level competence as regards project management, development- and information work in general, and within the respective fields of health, education and natural resource management. And NAC is pleased to have established a group of technical advisors.

Networks/ Working Groups:

NAC is actively participating in all concerned line ministry coordination meetings at national and provincial levels. In addition, NAC is active in different consultative meetings/workshops of the following networks, agencies and UN led clusters.

- Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)
- Literacy Initiative For Empowerment (LIFE)
- Health NGOs Network (HNN)
- Afghan Midwifery and Nursing Education Accreditation Board (ANMEAB)
- Inter Ministerial Coordination Committee (IMCC)
- Water And Sanitation Hygiene Cluster (WASH)
- Provincial Development Council (PDC)
- European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan (ENNA)
- Food Security Cluster
- Provincial Level All Clusters/Working Groups
- FOKUS
- Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Forum 1325

The Project Committee

The Project Committee has been consisting of the following members during the reporting period: Hege Jacobsen, Mike Fergus, Lars-André Skari, Linn Marie Holberg, Rebekka Øvstegård, Brittina Berg and Marte Haugerud Moe, as well as Chair of the Board, Rune Fimreite and Director Liv Kjølseth. Hege Jacobsen has been the Chair of the Committee until the Annual Meeting in June 2010 and Marte Haugerud was elected as the new Chair.

The NAC Secretary General has had the responsibility for the daily communication with the Country Office in Afghanistan. The Project Committee has met on a monthly basis and has hosted managers from the Country Office in some of its meetings. The main tasks for the Project Committee in 2010 have been to assist in elaborating new project applications as well as in the design process of new projects, and to support the Country Office with organizational and technical competence. A comprehensive work has been done with the application for the Rural Development Program to the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul, and to establish a program within Rural Development. The Committee has been expanded during 2010 with new members who have professional background within the fields of environment and education. Important competence was also added to the organization through the work with the Rural Development Program through work with goal hierarchies.

Members of the Project Committee have not visited Afghanistan during the period, but the Committee has been contributing to a professional program during the visits of Wafiullah Wafa, Environment Manager and Dr. Toor Khan Shirzad, Health Manager to Norway during 2010.

Overview of tasks during the reporting period:

- Input to Project Manual and other quality systems for the Country Office
- Support to the Program Adviser and the Secretary General in elaborating project applications for different donors, including a three year Rural Development Program
- Assistance to NORAD in connection with the finalization of a review of NAC's work which commenced in 2009
- Follow up regarding internal audits in Oslo and Kabul
- Support to the Secretary General in the process of recruiting and employing a Rural Development Coordinator and a new Country Director
- Arranging meetings with the group of technical advisors for NAC, consisting of external professionals in different areas, as well as contact with other environments within development related areas
- Information regarding NAC's work in Afghanistan at schools and other foras
- Counseling the Secretary General regarding contact with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul

In addition Mike Fergus, member of the Project Committee has provided briefings and information on Afghanistan at Vinderen School in Oslo and at reception centers for asylum seekers in Skien, Namsos and Hvalstad, and at Rotary Clubs in Oslo and Bærum.



The Women's Committee

The Women's Committee of NAC was formed at the end of the eighties by a group of Norwegian and Afghan women who wanted to contribute to enhance the rights of women in Afghanistan through projects support, as well as to be a forum for debate regarding the situation of Afghan women in Norway.

Still to this day the Women's Committee is proud of being a mixed group of volunteers where both Afghan and Norwegian women meet on a monthly basis with a three-fold mandate:

- To be the link between the donor and umbrella organisation FOKUS (Forum for Women and Development) and the NAC
- A Forum for sharing information and news from Afghanistan
- Outreach and information activities in regards to the situation for women in Afghanistan, especially on the issue of reproductive rights.

Project activity:

NAC's Women's Committee group has supported projects run for and by women for almost 20 years with the extended support from FOKUS. However, 2010 marked the first year where the NAC Women's Committee and the Norwegian Midwife Association together partnered with the Afghan Midwife Association (AMA) and Institute of Science and Health (IHS) in Jalalabad. The partnership with the Norwegian Midwife Association is seen as an important development regarding the quality of the work and added value of the supported projects in Afghanistan.

In May 2010 the Women's Committee Representative Marianne Heibo, the vice chair of the Norwegian Midwife Association Trude Thommesen and Project Advisor Sissel Thorsdalen travelled to Afghanistan to meet with representatives of civil society in Afghanistan. The purpose was to get first hand updates regarding the situation of women in the country, particularly regarding reproductive rights, as well as to meet with the two partner organisation in the field. The visit was set to the Annual Congress of the AMA in Kabul where hundreds of midwives representing most provinces in Afghanistan came together to share experiences and to mark their efforts in reducing the infant and mother mortality in Afghanistan.

Sissel Thorsdalen from FOKUS, Trude Thommesen from the Norwegian Midwife Association and Pashtoon Afsar from the Afghan Midwife Association in Kabul, May 2010.
Photo: NAC



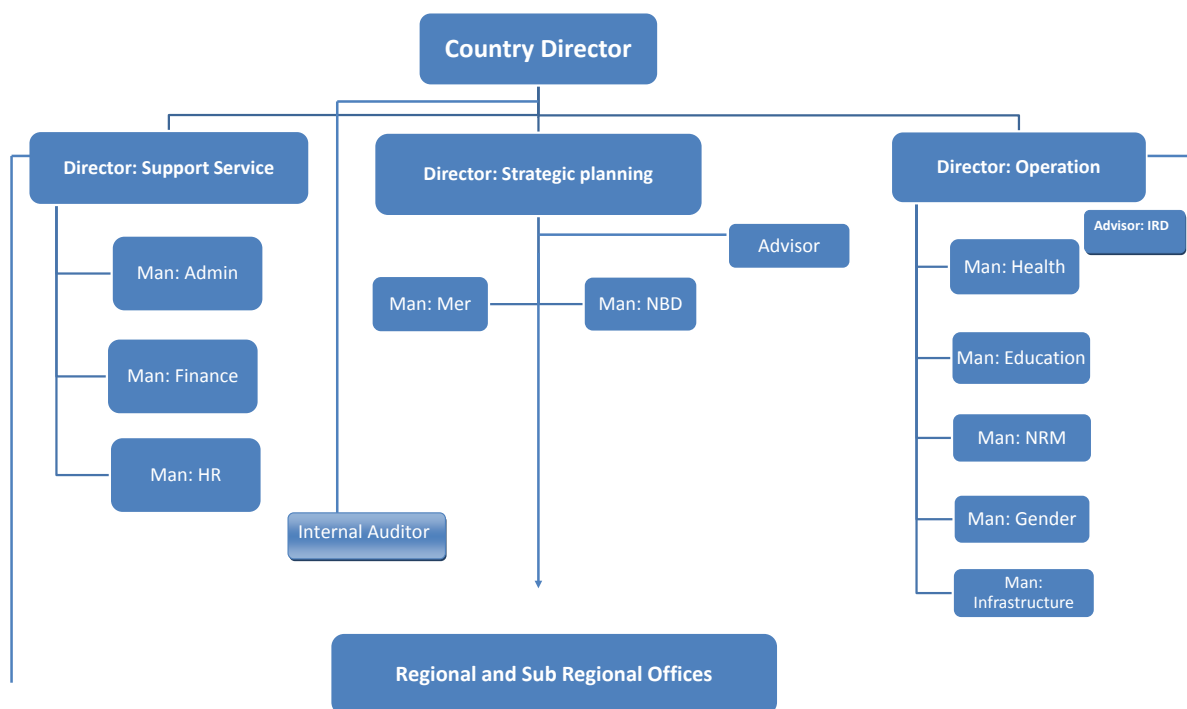
Members of the Women's group in 2010:

Najieh Sahag, Britt Kejo, Noor Saba Nael Tråvik, Farida Ahmadi, Latifa Enayati, Linda Våge, Unni Rustad, Sandra Petersen, Marianne Heibo, Homeira Taheri.

Masouda Dostyar and Marianne Heibo, (member of NAC Board 2010-2011)
Sandra Petersen (chair from August 2009-).

Map of the NAC Organisation

NAC KABUL: Interim Organizational Structure (Level 1)



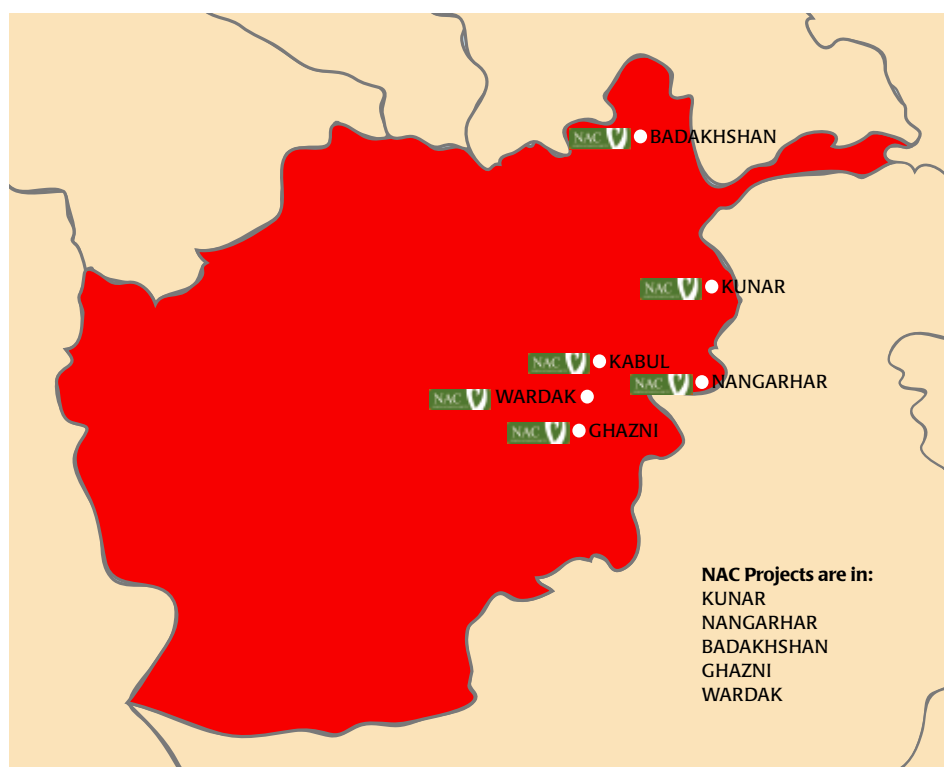
The organization of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee

The **Annual Meeting** is NAC's highest decision-making body. It enacts statutes of the organization, strategy documents and yearly work plans. The Annual Meeting elects a board to which it delegates the overall responsibility of the organization between the Annual Meetings.

The **Board** consists of four free members and one representative and one deputy representative from each of the working groups stated in the statutes and Bergen Local Committee.

The working groups are

- a) the **Women's Committee** : working with women's rights in Afghanistan, overseeing these are included in all NAC's projects and follows-up the projects supported through FOKUS (Forum for Women and Development),
- b) the **Project Committee**: follow-up and support to the projects implemented in Afghanistan and
- c) the **Information Committee**: provide information on the development in Afghanistan to the members of the organization and to the public in general.



The map:
Apart from the Head Office in Oslo, Norway; NAC has its Country Office in Kabul and two regional offices: one in the province of Badakhshan and another in the city of Ghazni. In Keshem there is an operational office. NAC are also involved in projects in the province of Nangarhar, Kunar and Wardak.

Contact Information

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August 2009 – 1 June 2011:

Liv Kjølseth

Acting Secretary General from June 2011:

Linda Våge

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Email: ain@afghanistan.no

Web: www.afghanistan.no

NAC Country Office, Afghanistan

Kabul Office

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Country Director: Simon Forster

Program Director: Zamarai Ahmedzai

Program Advisor: Elisabet Eikås

Integrated Rural Development Coordinator: S.

Jalaluddin Shah

Health Manager: Dr. Toor Khan Shirzad

Education Manager: Ms Roya Mohmand

Natural Resource Manager: Wafiullah Wafa

Engineering Manager: Eng. Mahfuz Ahmadi

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Finance Manager: Syed Ehsan

Administration Manager: Sultan Mohammad

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Faqir Mohammad Khan

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Keshem city

Phone 0707403876

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