



## AFGHANISTAN INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

### EVENT REPORT



## 3<sup>rd</sup> PARTNERING FOR PUBLIC GOOD SUMMIT

SEPTEMBER, 2017

ARG HOTEL  
HERAT, AFGHANISTAN

## SUMMARY

Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society (AICS) convened its Annual PPG Summit on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Herat province. The Summit was attended by 91 (26 women and 65 men) leaders, experts and senior representatives of government, media, CSOs, donor organizations, academia and private sector from all round Afghanistan in order to discuss challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and achievements regarding PPG priorities. CS was represented by PPG-WG members from Kabul, representatives from seven regions of the country (east, southeast, south, west, central highland, north, and northeast) and Herat based CSOs. The main purpose of this multi-stakeholder event was to promote and institutionalize cross-sector partnership in the country; to de-centralize PPG program from Kabul to provinces and to provide the platform for zonal representatives to revise and re-plan PPG priorities according to the necessities and conditions in their respective zones.

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Habiba Sarabi, Chairperson of AICS board, followed by valuable speech by H.E. Mohammad Asif Raimi, Governor of Herat. Subsequently, Mr. Hafizullah Fayaz Head of Civil Society Affairs in Administrative Office of President delivered invaluable speech appreciating AICS's efforts towards paving the ground of partnership among various sectors in the country. Afterwards, Mr. Riaz Sediqi, Head of NGOs Department in MoEc talked about improvements made in terms of NGOs' affairs and proclaimed his continuous support and cooperation to CSOs. From private sector, Mr Khatibit, Head of Herat Chamber of Commerce had his remarks regarding private sector's role in partnership for public good. In addition, this year AICS paved the path for Open Government Partnership (OGP) Afghanistan and Citizen Charter (CC) through this initiative to reach out a diverse group of CSO representatives and expand awareness regarding OGP and CC. OGP and CC representatives presented comprehensive presentations and provided answers to participants' questions.

Eventually, the Annual PPG Summit participants who were clustered in 7 groups based on zonal representation; reviewed PPG priorities, selected certain priorities in each zone and planned certain activities for selected priorities through group works. The concluded zonal plans of PPG priorities are supposed to be keenly followed up by PPG focal points in zones and Kabul. The Aga Khan Foundation in partnership with Counterpart International supported the summit, with support from the USAID-funded Afghanistan Civic Engagement Program.

This report summarizes results of the summit, including commitments made by all partners, consensus on common challenges, need for establishing and promoting cross-sector partnerships, and implementing the agreed priorities throughout the country.

## EVENT'S PROGRESS

AICS convened the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual PPG Summit on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Arg Hotel of the historic city Herat. This big event was attended by PPG-WG members from Kabul, senior representatives of government, CSOs, media, academia and private sector from 7 zones (east, southeast, south, west, central highland, north, and northeast) and Herat itself. This event's purpose was to pave a path to all PPG stakeholders from throughout Afghanistan to set together and discuss and review PPG's success points, challenges and priorities.

Dr. Habiba Sarabi, Chairperson of AICS's Board, inaugurated the event by her invaluable remarks. She acknowledged AICS for its hard work on following PPG priorities with relevant partners and holding the PPG Summit once a year to fresh up the entire process. She emphasized on the constructive roles of Academia and Civil Society in development of a country and the essential role of such a multi stakeholder process in prospering a society. Furthermore, Dr. Sarabi explained how various partners of the PPG program can positively affect lives of Afghan people through this initiative and she said "The certification process held by AICS is robust effort toward a credible Civil Society in Afghanistan." Dr. Sarabi at the end of her speech, suggested that CS must have explicit suggestions to the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) because there, they can get more support of the International Partners of the Afghan Government.



Subsequently, H.E. Mohammad Asef Rahimi, Governor of Herat province started his speech with warmly welcoming and acknowledgments to AICS for taking the initiative and convening the Annual PPG Summit in this ancient city. Mr. Rahimi then, spoke about how Academic Institutions are the profound influencers of change in a society, he said "Academic Institutions all around the world are the researchers and problem identifiers, while Civil Society and Private Sector are the field practitioners." He reiterated that a cross-sector partnership for public good is very important towards development and declared his support for this initiative.



Afterwards, Mr. Hafizullah Fayaz, Director Civil Society Affairs in Administrative Office of the President (AOP), delivered his remarks mostly focused on CS and Government relationship and cooperation. He said "We, the Civil Society Affairs Directorate in AOP, deliver CS suggestions and concerns directly to the Afghan President." He talked more about the decisive partnership of various sectors for public good in Afghanistan and suggested CSOs membership in the High Council of Standardization. Mr. Fayaz, once again, proclaimed his consistent support to the Afghan Civil Society.

Following that, Mr. Riaz Sediqqi, Head of the NGOs Department in MoEc took opportunity to thank AICS for holding the Annual PPG Summit and delivered his speech on MoEc's efforts to better cooperate with the NGOs. He talked about the newly-launched website for NGOs [www.ngo.gov.af](http://www.ngo.gov.af) which will ease NGOs registration and reporting processes. Mr. Sediqqi also pointed out to a certain category of CSOs certified by AICS on the above mentioned website. The last speech was delivered by Mr. Khatibi, Head of Herat Chamber of Commerce, he talked about how strong private sector can entrench its engagement in public good efforts and provided information about Herat CC's achievements.

Later in the day, Mr. Jawed Shakaiab, a PPG Working Group member presented a comprehensive presentation on the achievements PPG have had during the year. He first explained the four main goals of the initiative and then presented and talked about progress made in each 8 priorities of PPG which are as follow:

- RAISE CREDIBILITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND IMPROVE COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION AMONG CSOS, GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR AND MEDIA;
- ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF LACK OF SUSTAINABILITY OF CSOS AND MEDIA – PARTICULARLY BY IDENTIFYING AND LEVERAGING ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES;
- SUPPORT, MONITOR AND COORDINATE ACTIVITIES WITH 'AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORITY' AND OTHER RELEVANT ACTORS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF IMPORTED RECONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, GOODS, AND PARTICULARLY MEDICINES AND FOOD;
- CONTEXTUALIZE CURRICULA OF THE BOTH PRIVATE, AND GOVERNMENT BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO MEET CURRENT TANGIBLE CHALLENGES OF THE COUNTRY;
- REFORM ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS GENDER INEQUALITIES – SUCH AS SAFE WORKING/ANTI-HARASSMENT GUIDELINES;
- IMPLEMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAW;
- INCREASE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES;
- SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES LIVING OUTSIDE OF AFGHANISTAN AND ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNEES, and IDPs.

Subsequently, Mr. Khalilurrahman Mutawakel, Head of Open Government Partnership (OGP), presented an introductory presentation about OGP and OGP Afghanistan. He talked about OGP background, its objectives and how Afghanistan got the membership. Moreover, he talked about OGP Afghanistan's official launch and implementation of the National Action Plan. At the end, Mr. Mutawakel answered to questions raised by PPG participants.

The last presentation was presented by Citizen Charter (CC) Herat representative. He gave holistic information about CC, its background, objectives, goals and overall implementation. Following that, PPG participants posed questions and raised their



concerns regarding CC implementation and thanked AICS for making this opportunity possible for them to learn more about CC and the way the whole program works.

After the lunch break, the group-work session began. PPG Summit participants were clustered in 7 groups based on zonal representation and each group had to discuss and identify certain PPG priorities



according to the necessities and demands of their respective zones and set plans for each of their priorities. After an hour of discussion, each of the 7 group came up with certain priorities and their implementation plans which are as follow:

#### WEST ZONE:

**1. Raise credibility of civil society organizations and improve coordination and collaboration among CSOs, government, private sector and media:**

- To build CSOs capacity;
- To prevent defaming and misusing CS's name
- To ensure CS activist security during war and emergency situations
- Financial sustainability of CSOs
- To differentiate active and non-active CSOs

**2. Reform administrative policies and procedures to address gender inequalities – such as safe working/anti-harassment guidelines:**

- To increase human resource quantity according to necessities of administrations and to consider the Principle of Qualification
- To hire women in key positions
- Elimination of all kinds of discrimination in employment

#### SOUTH ZONE:

**1. Raise credibility of civil society organizations and improve coordination and collaboration among CSOs, government, private sector and media:**

- To conduct regular meetings between government and CSOs for better coordination

- CSOs to get certified by AICS
  - CSOs to be accountable to people for transparency
  - To form Civil Society Network
- 2. Contextualize curricula of the both private, and government basic and higher education institutions in order to meet current tangible challenges of the country:**
- To form Joint Advisory and Monitoring Board
  - To work on growth and rehabilitation of Afghanistan's educational system
  - Conducting public awareness programs on importance of education in far-flung districts of Afghanistan
- 3. Support for Afghan refugees living outside of Afghanistan and assistance for returnees, and IDPs:**
- To pressurize the Afghan Government for implementing the National Policy of returnees and IDPs
  - To conduct self-reliance programs such as vocational trainings
  - To provide first-aid and emergency aid services

## NORTH ZONE:

- 1. Implement Access to Information Law:**
- To advocate for Access to Information Form in each provincial department
  - To advocate for forming provincial Access to Information Units
  - To launch Access to Information awareness programs and encourage people to ask for information from government administrations
- 2. Increase public support for Afghan National Security Forces:**
- To report about terrorist suspects to relevant security authorities
  - To advocate for designation of more responsibilities to credible and qualified people in security sector
- 3. Address the issue of lack of sustainability of CSOs and media – particularly by identifying and leveraging alternative funding sources:**
- To professionalize CSOs
  - To promote voluntarism
  - To assign a specific budget from the overall budget of government

**4. Raise credibility of civil society organizations and improve coordination and collaboration among CSOs, government, private sector and media:**

- Overall coordination and formation of a MoU among CSOs, government and private sector
- To design projects according to the necessities of the local residents

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS:**

**1. Contextualize curricula of the both private, and government basic and higher education institutions in order to meet current tangible challenges of the country:**

- To standardize the educational curricula of all private and governmental educational institutions:
  - To convene a coordination session among relevant institutions
  - To conduct a comprehensive research
  - To convene conferences on formation of a National Action Plan
- To monitor the educational process:
  - To create a National Evaluation Network
  - To advocate for establishment of an overall Teacher's Union

**2. Reform administrative policies and procedures to address gender inequalities – such as safe working/anti-harassment guidelines:**

- Formation of advocacy groups for implementation of EVAW
- Consistent advocacy for women's employment in key positions

**3. Implement Access to Information Law:**

- Awareness campaigns for implementation of the Access to Information Law
- Conducting coordination sessions for forming a National Action Plan

**4. Raise credibility of civil society organizations and improve coordination and collaboration among CSOs, government, private sector and media:**

- To advocate for implementation of the MoU between CS-JWG and the Afghan Government

**NORTH-EAST ZONE:**

**1. Raise credibility of civil society organizations and improve coordination and collaboration among CSOs, government, private sector and media:**

- Networking and coordination among networks
- Signing MoUs with sub-government authorities according to the MoU with IDLG
- CSOs representation at PDC meetings
- CSOs involvement in the provincial development plans

- CSOs involvement in formation of the provincial profiles
- Coordination meetings with provincial Chambers of Commerce
- Encouragement of investors in public projects

**In terms of Media:**

- Coordination meetings with media organizations
- Media capacity building through training courses
- Defending Journalist's Rights
- Advocacy for improvement of sports

**2. Implement Access to Information Law:**

- Coordination meetings with Provincial Sub-Governments and MoIC
- Advocacy for raising budget of the Independent Commission on Access to Information
- Awareness programs regarding the Access to Information Law, especially for provincial administrations

**3. Support for afghan refugees living outside of Afghanistan and assistance for returnees, and IDPs:**

- CSOs involvement in surveys and aid distributions to returnees and IDPs
- CSOs engagement in public policies and procedures in this regard
- CSOs participation in meetings and programs of government and relevant organizations on returnees and IDPs
- Formation of a CS Monitoring Committee

**4. Reform administrative policies and procedures to address gender inequalities – such as safe working/anti-harassment guidelines:**

- Conduction of a survey regarding women's participation in Sub-Governments
- Reporting outcomes of the survey to provincial governments and getting their commitments towards raising women's participation
- Conduction of a professional discourse towards changing the status-quo
- Advocacy for implementation of governments commitments

**SOUTH-EAST ZONE:**

**1. 1. Raise credibility of civil society organizations and improve coordination and collaboration among CSOs, government, private sector and media:**

- Formation of CSO networks
- Open discourses among CSOs, government and people in presence of media
- Ulema's participation in CSOs programs

**2. Reform administrative policies and procedures to address gender inequalities – such as safe working/anti-harassment guidelines:**

- Defending Human Rights in public and media discourses
- Promotion of Positive Culture through media and religious leaders
- Public Awareness Campaigns about women's rights, education and forced marriages



### **3. Implement Access to Information Law:**

- Public Awareness Programs on media laws and regulation and the right of access to information.
- Advocacy for implementation of the Access to Information Law
- Advocacy for independency of OCAI

#### **EAST ZONE:**

- Coordination among East Zone CSOs
- Assignment of a specific budget for Est Zone CSOs
- Encouragement of nation investors and political leaders to support CSOs
- CSOs involvement in standardization process and its media coverage
- CSOs oversight on the Educational Curricula of Afghanistan
- CSOs oversight on the distribution of land and other resources to returnees and IDPs.

#### **NEXT STEP:**

In result, each of the 7 groups based on zonal representation (east, southeast, south, west, central highland, north, and northeast), revised and redefined some specific priorities and plans for their respective zones which will be strictly followed up by zonal representatives. The zonal representatives have committed to take the next step in the following manner:

- Initially, forming all round zonal CSOs groups
- Zonal group regular meetings
- Coordination at zonal level through roundtables and conferences
- Regular meetings with relevant government offices
- Advocacy for CSOs better engagement in sub-government policy making
- Advocacy to strengthen CSOs monitoring over sub-governmental projects

## AGENDA OF THE SUMMIT:



انستیتوت جامعه مدنی افغانستان  
نشست سالانه مشارکت برای منفعت عامه ۱۳۹۶  
**PPG- Annual Summit 2017**  
۲ میزان ۱۳۹۶

وقت	فعالیت ها
۰۹:۳۰-۰۹:۰۰	ثبت و راجستر مهمانان
۰۹:۳۵-۰۹:۳۰	تلاوت آیاتی از قران عظیم الشان
۰۹:۴۰-۰۹:۳۵	پخش سرود ملی
۰۹:۵۰-۰۹:۴۰	پیام خوش آمدید و سخنرانی: داکتر حبیبه سرابی رییس بورد انستیتوت جامعه مدنی افغانستان و معاون شورای عالی صلح
۱۰:۴۰-۰۹:۵۰	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>سخنرانی محمد آصف رحیمی والی محترم ولایت هرات</li> <li>سخنرانی محترم حفیظ الله فیاض، رییس ریاست امور جامعه مدنی اداره امور ریاست جمهوری</li> <li>سخنرانی محترم ریاض صدیقی، رییس ریاست انجوها، وزارت اقتصاد</li> <li>سخنرانی نماینده اطاق های تجارت افغانستان</li> </ul>
۱۱:۰۵-۱۰:۴۰	ارایه پرزنتیشن در مورد پشرفت ها، موانع و چالشها در راستای تطبیق اولویت های مشارکت برای منفعت عامه (PPG) ارایه کننده: جاوید شکیب
۱۲:۰۰-۱۱:۰۵	۱. ارایه پرزنتیشن در مورد مشارکت دولرداری باز (OGP) و برنامه میثاق شهروندی ارایه کننده گان: سکرتریت (OGP) و سکرتریت برنامه میثاق شهروندی ۲. پاسخ به سوالات تسهیل کننده: جاوید شکیب
۰۱:۱۵-۱۲:۰۰	طعام چاشت و وقفه برای نماز ظهر
۰۲:۳۰-۰۱:۱۵	کارگروپی: بررسی پیشرفت ها و تعیین اولویت های PPG برای هر زون تسهیل کننده: اعضای گروپ کاری مشارکت برای منفعت عامه
۰۲:۴۵-۰۲:۳۰	وقفه چای
۰۳:۳۰-۰۲:۴۵	ارایه پرزنتیشن توسط نماینده گان زون ها در مورد اولویت های PPG برای زون ها
۰۴:۰۰-۰۳:۳۰	جمع بندی اولویت ها و فعالیت های آینده مشارکت برای منفعت عامه ارایه کننده: محترم بریالی عمرزی
۰۴:۱۰-۰۴:۰۰	اختتام





