

**Medica
Afghanistan**
مؤسسه حمایت از زنان

Medica Afghanistan 2012 Annual Report



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CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The political situation has been relatively stable over the reporting year in comparison to the year of 2011. However, future prospects are more blurred as preparations for the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan has started and the peace talks have not offered a concrete result, yet.

Increasing civilian unrest due to political instability motivates many Afghan families to seek immigration opportunities out of the country.

The activities of anti-government elements have been fluctuating during the course of the year depending on weather condition and political reasons. Suicide attacks continue to happen, which adds to the number of civilian deaths and injuries.

There have been major improvements in women rights in Afghanistan since 2001, notably in political participation, education and employment areas. However, these gains are both deceptive and fragile because there is lack of stable law, judicial procedures or governmental structure to sustain them.

Violence against women is endemic in Afghanistan. Crimes of violence against women are rarely reported to the police and even more rarely are led to investigations, prosecutions, and convictions.

Afghanistan's national human rights commission recorded a 30 percent increase in reported cases of violence against women last year over the previous year.

Harassment and abuse are unfortunately everyday experience for many Afghan women. Advances in women's basic rights is written on paper, but mostly ignored in practice.

Violence against women is still widespread throughout the society, but general awareness of women's rights seems to have increased. On the other hand, the scope and strengthening of women's and human rights within democratic processes has been significantly reduced during the past months.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We started the year 2012 with hope and worries, but now we can see that we have succeeded in achieving most of the goals we set at the start of the year.

I would like to thank all for their contributions in reaching our objectives of empowering women affected by gender-based violence to overcome their despair, trauma and poverty, and to find justice.

It is a great source of strength for us to serve women and to share their struggle for human rights, but we will not be able to relax.

We must be aware of and prepare for the possible worsening of situation in Afghanistan due to the withdrawal of international security forces after 2014, and the possibility of our own "financial cliff" in Afghanistan.

At the end of 2011, there was little hope to keep our position as a national Afghan women's NGO, working proactively for women. However, with the tireless efforts of all our colleagues here in Kabul, Herat, Mazar, Cologne and elsewhere around the world, we are now in a more stable position with secured budget to maintain the operations of our programs.

At the end of 2011, the perspective for our new project and substantial funding sources was dim. The EU social protection project was reaching its end, and except for some projects with small amount of funding there was no major project in pipeline.

But in 2012, MA was able to accept a direct grant award from USAID (Fixed Obligation Grant), which is quite rare for Afghan NGO's. Also MA signed contracts for projects with UNDP, UN Women, CW4AW, and ASDHA.

MA hopefully will sign another contract for a direct award call from EU. In addition, the joint concept note with BZFO has been accepted by EU.

Although there were many challenges like ERAW Law hasn't been approved, violation against women has increased dramatically, we still managed to offer concrete results in 2012.

We worked on 1120 legal cases, we provided psychological support to 974 clients, we trained 175 police forces. We, in addition, introduced and established meaningful psychosocial support for women and girls in Mazar and Parwan Provinces.

We were able to expand our training services in Bayman, to train the shelter staff in trauma counselling, and to train Mullahs/religious leaders on the importance of registration of marriage and the consequences of child and forced marriages.

In 2012, MA represented Afghan Civil Society in the 56th Commission on the Status of Women in New York, and two of our team members contributed as speakers at the conference co-hosted by medica mondiale in Germany on the meaning of peace process for Afghan women.

Last but not least, there is so much to be proud of, which should never be forgotten while we look ahead to the next challenges in order to ensure a truly independent and effective organization, like re- building the finance department, using quality assurance protocols for our direct services, and recruiting and maintaining senior management staff.

Humaira Ameer Rasuli, Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Creating long-term support for Afghan women and girls in order to make a real difference needs an enthusiastic and strong organization like Medica Afghanistan.

Establishment of Medica Afghanistan as a national organization itself is an achievement and a message to everyone who thinks that Afghan women are helpless victims.

All this would not have been possible without the efforts and support of several unique women, both international and national who committed all their skills, knowledge and energy to this process.

I want to thank all of them and the team of Medica Afghanistan whether you work in Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, or Kabul. You are courageous and strong women who meet many challenges.

In the light of their reality, Afghan women deserve more than just having serious politicians at their side-politicians who have more to offer than lip-service, but with a clear goal to support the flourishing of Afghan people, and not merely their own interests that bring more trauma and violence!

medica mondiale will remain a serious partner at the side of Medica Afghanistan, surely in a transformed relationship, but clearly determined upon long-term cooperation and learning from each other's experience.

This partnership is a sign of connection in this international network of women and a symbol of our solidarity and mutual support.

Let us stay connected!

**Monika Hauser, Founder and Executive
Member of the Managing Board,
medica mondiale**

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I am honored and grateful to write these words for Medica Afghanistan's annual report.

I am honored by the privilege of serving on the board of an organization that despite great difficulties and extremely challenging circumstances stood to protect women's rights and committed itself to supporting women in helping Afghanistan become a better society for women and men equally.

I am grateful to Medica Afghanistan staff for their continuing excellence in implementing programs and activities. Thanks to that commitment, hundreds of Afghan women received psychosocial and legal support. Besides providing direct services to women, Medica Afghanistan also advocated for better protection of women's rights, campaigning for registration of marriages and working to prevent child and forced marriages.

As chair of the Board of Trustees, I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the executive director, Humaira Rasuli, for her leadership, passion and devotion in guiding the organization through its first independent year, and for often making great personal sacrifices to do so.

Year 2012 was the second year that Medica Afghanistan operated as a fully independent, national organization. It was also the second year of the current Board of Trustees, and we too have been on a journey, learning how to govern and how to support the team in their efforts. There is much more to be done to bring justice and peace and to end violence against women in Afghanistan, and I am sure the Board of Trustees will continue to assist Medica Afghanistan in those endeavors.

**Morana Smodlaka, Chair of
the Board of Trustees**

WHO WE ARE

Medica Afghanistan is a national non-governmental, non-profit, and non-sectarian Afghan women's organization. We are headquartered in Kabul and expand operations to the North and West regions via our Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif divisions.

We exist to support women and girls affected by war and all other types of violence. We strive to improve the quality of women's lives by providing direct psychosocial and legal services, while also raising awareness and building capacity in the fields of health, education and law, and advocating for local and national policies to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Medica Afghanistan was launched in Kabul in 2002 by medicamondiale and was registered in 2010 in the Ministry of Economy as a self-contained national organization, run by Afghan women for Afghan women. Since its establishment, Medica Afghanistan has been working to support women and girls in Afghanistan who have been targeted by violence during decades of devastating conflict.

Our service scope varies depending on the condition of women in Afghanistan, new trends and the donor requirements. However, we highly focus on the areas that Afghan women were deprived for years. We provide:

1. LEGAL AND SOCIAL AID

Medica Afghanistan's legal aid program serves women and girls who have come into conflict with the criminal law or seek a solution to a civil issue.

MA provides legal advice, legal representation and defense, and family mediation.

In addition, in cases of women released from prison into their families and communities, MA follows up with its mediation service to resolve family conflicts and ensure the woman's safe re-integration. Since 2002, around 11,800 women and girls have received legal and social aid.

2. PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELING

Medica Afghanistan provides psychosocial group and individual counseling to women and girls at key locations in Kabul, including districts 5, 7, 8, and 13, the Women's Garden, Juvenile Center, the women's prisons and women's shelters.

MA also maintains consultation centers in three governmental hospitals: Rabia-e-Balkhi and Stomatology in Kabul and the regional hospital in Herat. In the hospitals MA psychologists work jointly with medical staff to provide consultation support to female patients who suffer from psychosomatic symptoms as result of trauma.

Additionally, MA provides training programs in several provinces. Since 2002, around 4,000 women and girls have benefitted from psychosocial counseling.

3. TRAINING SERVICES

In addition to direct consultation services, MA offers case supervision for psychosocial organizations and training for governmental and non-governmental agencies on basic counseling skills, communication skills, trauma-sensitive approach, family mediation, gender and violence and other important topics.

Furthermore, networking opportunities are provided with multiple stakeholders including governmental, national and international civil society organizations.

4. LITERACY AND LEARNING PROGRAMS

Medica Afghanistan provides literacy classes for women and girls, many of whom also take part in psychosocial counseling groups.

Medica Afghanistan's classes teach reading and writing skills and contribute to women's empowerment by raising awareness of their rights and basic health care.

Literacy education improves the quality of life for women and their families in some of Afghanistan's most vulnerable, marginalized female-headed households.

It enables women to practice better communication skills, reduce family conflicts, and exercise their rights to take part in decision-making in a more constructive manner.

In all our work we are guided by integrity, transparency, accountability, and a holistic approach.

MISSION

VISION WHY WE DO IT?

VALUES

We are an organization of Afghan women working for women's rights.

We advocate for the elimination of violence against women, both adult and child, and the elevation of women's social status through service provision, awareness raising, and capacity building in the field of psychosocial, health, education and legal aid.

We envision a peaceful Afghanistan where women are free of violence and all forms of discrimination, and enjoy equal access to economic and social justice, political decision-making, health services and education.

- We are women working for women.
- We believe in unconditional solidarity with women.
- We work inclusively with all women, without ethnic, class, religious, age or any other kind of discrimination.
- We respect human rights.
- We take an active approach to women's rights.
- We work in a culturally sensitive way.
- We believe women affected by a decision must be involved in the decision-making process.
- We strengthen women's self-esteem.

OUR GOALS- WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

We hope to end violence against women by:

- Providing the highest quality, inter-disciplinary legal and psychosocial services for women
- Increasing women's knowledge of their rights
- Increasing women's confidence and self-esteem
- Advocating for implementation of laws to improve women's lives
- Changing discriminatory attitudes towards women
- Working with governmental and non-governmental agencies to address issues of violence against women



MA lawyer Jamid Nasir during the meeting of his client's file of prosecution office in Herat province.



Family dispute case which reached to agreement in Mediation center of Herat. The picture shows the mediator in law, father in law and two witnesses (one waiting for signing the agreement).



Head of Herat Chahar Munawwad and MA lawyer during the first meeting with and first peace in Herat office.

Empowering Women through Legal and Social Services

Our Legal Aid Program (LAP) empowers Afghan women in their judicial needs. LAP responds to Afghan women's needs for justice by trying to fill a big gap: the extremely limited availability of legal services for women facing criminal prosecution or seeking to engage in civil proceedings.

The Legal Aid Program's services include criminal defence, representation in civil proceedings, mediation, legal advice, awareness-raising and facilitation of safe family reintegration.

Medica Afghanistan's professionally trained lawyers undertake the criminal defence of women and girls prosecuted in the cities of Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Herat free of charge.

Defence means assisting and representing the defendant during all stages of the legal proceedings until release. While providing legal aid, Medica Afghanistan's lawyers have a duty to raise the client's awareness on legal matters.

LAP lawyers inform the client about her legal rights, the proceedings she will undergo, the possible procedural alternatives open to her and her legal consequences, the remedies and compensation she is entitled to. Beyond informing the client, legal awareness is aimed at helping the client make her own decisions about her case.

Some quotes from our beneficiaries:

"After understanding my rights, now I know if I have family conflict in future there is other options like mediation or civil procedure, I don't need to elope or do anything unlawful."

"Since my husband was punished for his violated behavior, I feel myself very powerful and I am proud to be a woman, before I was thinking that everything is for men and they can do anything."

"When I went to the mediation center, I learnt that women have the same rights as men. My mediator opened my eyes to the world. I became like a leader for my family, and I am proud that my neighbor comes to seek my advice."

Social Work component of LAP addresses personal anxiety and social/family isolation problems of the newly released women and girls.

Medica Afghanistan attends to the social needs of women in detention through contacting their families and establishing links, conveying requests to see their children, arranging family visits, addressing material needs, and laying the groundwork for successful family reintegration after the women are released, or if need be, admission to a women's shelter.

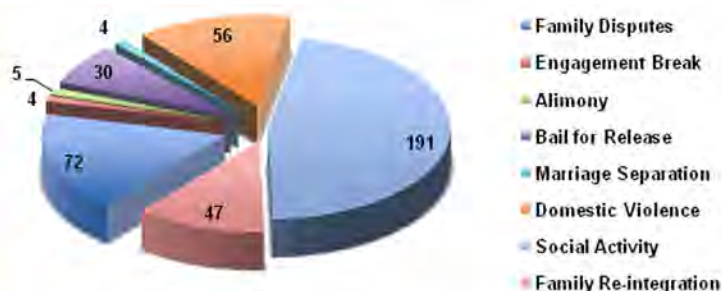
When women and girls are freed from detention, social workers follow-up by referring them to receive services like medical, training and job opportunities.

Family mediation services is a key element for integrating family members and end disputes.

Medica Afghanistan's social workers mediated many family issues that resulted in preventing domestic violence and family separations.

Our expert mediators turn many disputes to an amiable agreement. The pie chart below summarizes different types of scenarios that our team mediated and resolved successfully:

Mediation Cases



We worked on 1120 cases throughout the year:

476 legal cases
114 civil cases
122 criminal cases
200 mediation cases
208 social work
456 legal awareness

Empowering Women through Psychosocial Support

Medica's Psychological and Health Program (PSHP) is designed to serve traumatized women who have been subject to personnel, military and political violence. Medica Afghanistan is one of the few agencies in Afghanistan offering both services and training.

As a part of its direct services, Medica offers psychosocial counseling in individual and group sessions at key locations as women's shelters, prisons, juvenile center and women's garden.

Medica Afghanistan maintains consultation centers at Rabia-e-Balkhi and Stomatology Hospitals in Kabul and Main Hospital in Herat.

Psychologists work jointly with our trained medical staff to provide consultation support to female patients who suffer from psychological and physical symptoms as a result of trauma.

Medica Afghanistan's psychologists also provide short term counseling to bed-ridden patients during their hospitalization, especially those in major surgical and burn units in Kabul and Herat.

Additionally, they offer crisis intervention for clients and medical professionals, if needed. PSHP Program runs literacy courses for recovering psychosocial clients and others. We teach reading and writing skills and contribute to women's empowerment by raising awareness of their rights and basic health care. Literacy education improves the quality of life for women and their families in some of Afghanistan's most vulnerable, marginalized, female-headed households. It enables women to practice better communication skills, reduce family conflicts, and exercise their right to take part in decision-making. PSHP Program also provides capacity building trainings, sensitization, and supervision. It offers certified courses to medical professionals and psychologists working with traumatized women and girls.

The training program focuses on trauma work in a medical setting: using a trauma-sensitive approach, developing counseling skills, mastering multiple issues related to gender, and understanding violence against women and its consequences for women, families and society.

As a result of this program, Medica Afghanistan helps clients learn vital survival skills and how to happily live within their families and communities. Thus, it develops their self-esteem and decision-making abilities. Indeed, most of our clients are now taking the lead within the household and are grateful to what Medica offered them.

Under PSHP program, Medica Afghanistan has helped 974 clients in 2012.

- 10 staff of Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA) benefited from our training on basic counseling skills.
- 18 female medical doctors received three in-service trainings.
- 8 male and female of CW4WA master trainers received training on "psychological and trauma recovery".
- 18 medical group received training on "trauma sensitive approach" in two health modules in Herat Province.

Success Stories:

- A 24 year- old girl who was raped by her boyfriend lost all her life power and strength. After receiving 6 months psychological support she has regained all her ability, increased her self-esteem, become empowered and returned to university.
- A 35 year- old woman who was raped at the age of 17, after one year of individual counseling became empowered and returned to her normal life, leading 4 private schools now.
- 7 clients who experienced very terrible life problems successfully re-established their social interaction and decided to live together in peace and calm in the same room

Some quotes from our beneficiaries:

"I am not aggressive with my children anymore since I learn about my feeling and reaction and besides that being with my peers and my counselors in one group, I could succeed to share my problem and find solution on my own. Now life is much easier."

"My life was as though as I was walking down a long dark tunnel; since attending the psychosocial group counseling, I don't feel as lonely and have the sense that people are beside me, with whom I can share my feelings and from whom I can hear their problems and know that I am not the only one in the entire world who has sorrows and problems. In short, I can say by attending this process I became able to find my own way to live and lights along my way."

"When I woke up from sleep I was feeling my body like a dry wood but since I practice exercise learned from group counseling I feel much better. I would continue it."

The Power of Education and Literacy

Medica Afghanistan under its education programs provides hands-on training services to the religious leaders, police forces and other stakeholders to educate and improve their working capacity.

The purpose of this program is threefold. On one perspective it educates police officers on fair treatment of women detainees and respecting their rights, and on other perspective the program helps educate the trainees on what the religion requires them of treating women and detainees and finally the program helps improve the capacity of stakeholders working in parallel with Medica Afghanistan.

Police forces are provided with education programs to support women and understand and respect their basic rights. This program results in a more civilized treatment of suspected women who are detained for allegedly criminal cases. We locate specific scenarios and customize our training package to address those problems.

Mullahs and religious leaders also benefit from our training services. We educate religious leaders on the benefits and importance of marriage registrations as a step to reduce child and forced marriages. We partner with Ministry of Hajj Affairs to tailor training module to our targeted audience and focus more on Quranic Verses.

Empowering Women through Advocacy Programs

Medica Afghanistan has been the whistle-blower on women rights issues in Afghanistan since its establishment. Despite the challenges and failures, we had remarkable achievements, too. Medica Afghanistan has undertaken advocacy programs with prosecutors and judges to implement the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law. In addition, Medica Afghanistan is active in pushing for the enactment of the new family law respectful of women's rights. It is developed by the Family Law Drafting Committee comprised of Afghan experts and hosted by Ministry of Women's Affairs.

The Advocacy team also works to persuade the Ministry of Justice to improve the quality of women's detention facilities in Kabul's Pre-trial Detention Center and in Mazar-e-Sharif. Furthermore, Medica Afghanistan has established productive networks with like-minded organizations and individuals nationally and internationally.

Medica Afghanistan has trained 12 women in peace building and conflict resolutions and initiated a network of 10 women organizations who are working in the areas of health, legal and human rights and aimed to empower women activists and women's organizations in Afghanistan to participate more meaningfully in decision making, peace process, security planning and implementation with specific focus on building peace on the level of society, and linking elimination of violence against women and peace.

As a part of this program we trained a cumulative total of 175 police forces in multiple sessions in Kabul, Herat and Mazar Provinces. 30 female and male police officers received communication skill and VAW training in Kabul.

Mr. Marouf Nahil said, "In the past 10 years, a number of organizations provided training services on Human Rights and Women Rights, but the training service provided by Medica Afghanistan is unique."

This is my first time in life that I notice such a well-organized training on a very important issue. He added, "Women's dignity, pride and prosperity are mentioned in Islam, too. Any Muslim violating these principles violates their own rights." He also mentioned, "Islam respected Women's Rights in the 7th Century and their financial rights were ensured at that time. However, West has passed Women Financial Rights in the 18th Century." He added, "Men and women are created from the same soul and they both have equal rights. Women are our sisters, our mothers and they are the beginning of creature."

Through this initiative, Medica Afghanistan intends to contribute to increase the number of women taking an active role in decision-making process at civil society and state levels regarding their access to human security and engagement in political processes.

Medica Afghanistan has always condemned and raised voice against any violence took place across Afghanistan. This year a number of prominent women leaders marched against increased incidents of violence against women.

Medica Afghanistan's ten employees participated in this march along with other 200 women including Dr. Sima Samar-Head of Afghanistan Human Rights Commission, Miss Fatana Gailani-Head of Afghan women Association, Miss Fauzia Habibi-Deputy of MoWA and some other prominent women. The march started from Ministry of Women's Affairs and ended in the UNAMA Office. Following the march, a meeting was held with the Head of the Supreme Court in which women activists advised on violence prevention.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Thanks to our generous donors for financing our most important projects which help Afghan women gain access to their basic rights. Our on-going projects are:

No	Project Details	Anticipated Completion Date	Donor
1	Awareness raising, mentoring, coaching and training of potential police women interested in applying to join Afghan National Police and those who are currently serving in the police department	February 2014	UNDP/APPRO
2	Provision of psychosocial counseling and capacity building to address violence against women in Afghanistan	July 2013	EVAW
3	Enhance access for Afghan women and girls at risk to legal aid (professional legal counseling and civil/criminal defense), to social protection services (professional family counseling and mediation) and to social inclusion (re-integration into family or society)	August 2014	USAID
4	Empowerment and mobilization of women war victims, Afghanistan	February 2014	ASDHA- EC
5	Empowerment and mobilization of women war victims, Afghanistan	October 2013	ASDHA- Spanish

Helai Sohak Head of Mazar office, Najeba Head of gender in police quarter department with Mira kippers and M. Muosand, during meeting about MA activities and police women challenges in MZR.



MA lawyer Sharifa Surkhabi during the talking about her client with the head of secondary court in Herat province

ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2012

Anti-gender-based-violence Campaign:

Medica Afghanistan, in association with Afghanistan Women Network (AWN), conducted a 16-day campaign on gender-based-violence awareness using print and broadcast media.

A number of busy squares in Kabul were carrying our message of “eliminating violence against women” printed on large and highly-visible billboards. We had hoped to communicate elimination of violence against women as widely as possible by using respectable quotes from great Prophet of Islam and widely-used language. We also aired our message broadly through conduction interviews and roundtables via Killid Radio, commenting on women rights issues and human rights violation. We, in association with AWN, finalize the theme of our annul campaign and named it “Women are not for Sale or Stop Selling Women” and designed a logo for the campaign.

We believed that a diverse, but united, voice is always a powerful and effective tool to influence government policies and change public minds against women violation. We insisted that demanding dowry (TOOYANA) for marrying our daughters be stopped.

This act will significantly reduce early and forced marriages and domestic violence after marriage, and increase women's health and reproductive health issues, and opportunities for basic and high education. We expanded the scope of the campaign by launching a conference, attended by Islamic scholars and women rights activists, to talk about negative implications of demanding dowry and child or forced marriages on the family and the society.

The audience were then shown a real-life scenario of five women who were sold by their families and had suffered a lot in a 3-minute theater.

Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law:

Medica Afghanistan has still not reached to a concrete conclusion regarding actually implementing the EVAW Law, but our lawyers use the principles of this law to advocate in criminal cases. Out of the 13 criminal cases that our lawyers advocated in 2012, five received reduction in punishment and two were released as a result of unofficially referring to EVAW Law in the court hearings.

Medica Afghanistan printed messages on billboards in Kabul:

- Perpetrators of violence must be punished, not their victims
- Women have the right to live free from discrimination and violence
- The best are those who socialize with their wives. (Speech of the great prophet of Islam)
- Penalty for those convicted of crimes of violence cannot be suspension, remission or commutation (Article 42 of the EVAW Law)

“Women are not for Sale or Stop Selling Women” campaign logo demonstrated a scale carrying a girl on one side and a sack of money on another side with an old man pouring money inside the sack.



Basic counseling training for staff of Bamyan CCA shelter

ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2012

Progress on Registration of Marriage:

Considering the fact that marriage registration fee is non-affordable to many people, Medica Afghanistan requested Ministry of Hajj to issue an official letter to the court to reduce registration fee.

Medica Afghanistan expanded its training program on registration of marriage to Bamyan Province. The 2-day training for 16 religious leaders primarily focused on the benefits of registration of marriage with the aim that they protect women and girls from harmful traditional practices and to influence their regional district officials to register their marriages. The training also broadened their knowledge of other Islamic Countries and the disastrous consequences of forced and child marriages.

Medica Afghanistan's Mazar Office conducted an awareness campaign for four girl's high school with a cumulative participation of 360 female students and 23 teachers. The purpose of the campaign was to alert them about legal marriage, marriage registration and the negative impact for under-age and forced marriages. Medica team handled questions of the participants at the end of the campaign.

To communicate the benefits of registration of marriage and bride's absolute choice and decision in selecting her life partner, Medica Afghanistan got the message broadcast widely through Ariana TV and Ariana Radio for 10 consecutive days and four times each day.

We also distributed a total of 1000 booklets and posters to our stakeholders focusing on the benefits of registration of marriage and adding to their existence knowledge on marriage registration. For increasing public knowledge and public awareness, Medica team participated in multiple roundtable sessions in local radios elaborating the consequences of polygamy and elopement, consequences of illegal marriages, rights of women on education, registration of marriage process, the prescience of gaps on national laws and the benefits associated with enactment of Family Law.

Represented above Hundred Criminal Cases:

Women and girls who were accused of a crime received effective legal counsel and representation from primary court up to the Supreme Court by our lawyers. The lawyers studied their prosecution and court files, were present during their investigation by the prosecution, worked out a solid defense statement, and represented their clients in court hearings.

They used all available laws for the benefit of their clients. MA lawyers worked hard to ensure that women and girls who are arrested for moral offences that are not criminal acts (e.g. elopement from home) are represented and freed.

Some quotes from training participants:

Mullah Mohammad Azim said, "I am very satisfied with the contents of the training. It is the first time that I have received such training. I agree to raise the awareness of my community on the perils of forced and child marriages, and I accept that in Afghanistan, when people are given instructions based on their religious values, they will easily listen and accept them. I strongly believe that such programs will reduce domestic violence".

Syed Ali Alawi said, "I learned about the benefits and process of registration of marriages, and about my roles for elimination of illegal marriages and the problems which are caused by child and forced marriages to women and children and within the family scope".

Our lawyers represented a total of 128 cases of women who were referred by women prisons, detention centers and police departments and as a result: 19 clients were released, 28 finalized, 12 clients received sentence reduction and 81 cases are still in different process of judicial aspects.

Clients' Quotes:

"I wanted to commit suicide. Life had no meaning to me, but now I am hopeful to continue my life and fight for my rights."

"I learnt from my lawyer how to straggle with the problems in life and finally how to solve them."

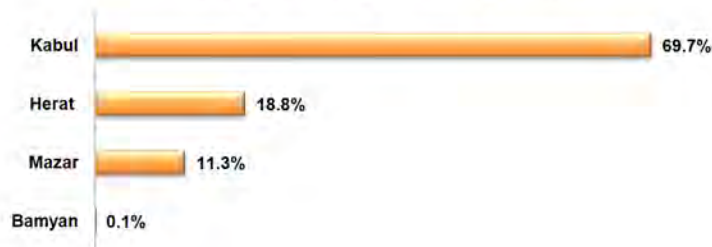
"Since my husband was punished for his violated behavior, I feel myself very powerful and I am proud to be a woman, before I was thinking that everything is for men and they can do anything."

OUR MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Medica Afghanistan's team is proud to have the financial support of following donors/organizations and we appreciate their contribution throughout our operations:

- Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan
- European Commission
- German Foreign Office
- USAID Afghanistan
- Open Society Afghanistan
- UNDP Afghanistan
- EVAW
- Association for Human Rights in Afghanistan
- medica mondiale

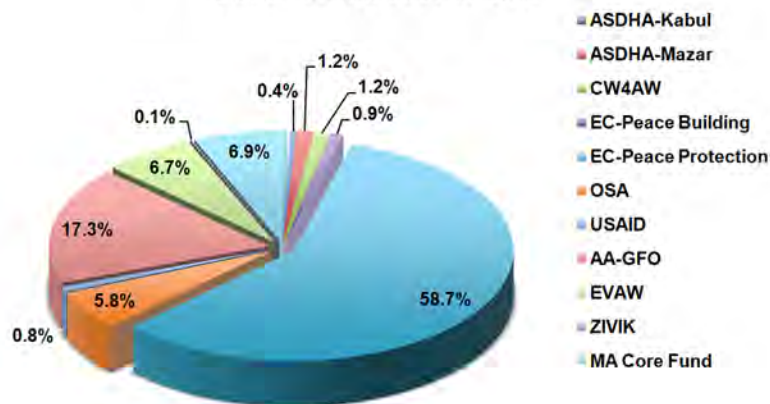
Program Budget Used by Offices



FINANCIALS

The total budget we received for the year 2012 was €940,422. The following pie chart represents budget breakdown contributed by various donors in 2012:

Donor Contribution in 2012



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