



MEDICA AFGHANISTAN 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



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Executive Director's Letter



In spite of all the political and security concerns throughout Afghanistan, especially for women rights defenders, Medica Afghanistan's Team was able to guide its ship toward its aim. Medica Afghanistan continued its efforts to fight violence against women in Afghanistan and promote women's rights through advocacy, direct psychosocial services, legal aid, mediation, education services and networking. In addition to delivering services to women, Medica Afghanistan worked on sensitizing men on key issues of gender-based violence by providing multiple trainings for religious leaders and legal and medical professionals on the ramifications of Violence Against Women.

Medica Afghanistan Team believes passionately that helping women means helping the whole society, and that without women's involvement there will be little fundamental change. Medica Afghanistan Team is committed to supporting women in changing our own society. Thereby, we make a contribution to peace, justice and democracy in our country.

The year 2011 is the first year for Medica Afghanistan to be an independent women's rights organization. However, throughout the last year medica mondiale, our sister organization, has played a supportive role in the transition of Medica Afghanistan to its current status as a fully functional national NGO; and medica mondiale is committed to supporting and further building the capacity of Medica Afghanistan Team in the years to come.

Yet the year 2011 has not been an easy one. Sitting in new roles, we realized the amount of work and effort we all had to contribute, and we recognized the struggles and hardships that came along. But we are proud of our efforts and count 2011 as a combination of learning and achievement for Medica Afghanistan. We believe passionately that our work gives women the opportunity and the capacity to make their own life choices and to improve their lives and those of future generations.

This report shows what we have done and what we will do to provide education, awareness raising, mediation, and legal, social, and psychological help to women and communities. We hope you take new inspiration from the testimonials and stories shared by our beneficiaries and staff in this report. None of this would be possible without the dedication and generosity of our distinguished supporters and extraordinary staff and partners, and most importantly, not without the courage and unshakable belief in positive change demonstrated everyday by our clients and beneficiaries.

I am so grateful to our colleagues at our founder organization, medica mondiale, for their support, time and efforts, and to our staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Without them, none of our achievements this year would have been possible.

I am more grateful than ever to all those who share our vision and continue to support us with their time and money. We have much more to do and much more that we can achieve; so to all our supporters who make it possible for us to offer support to thousands of women across Afghanistan, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

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. Therefore, we had three crucial reasons for the nationalization of Medica Afghanistan:

First: It is all about empowerment of women. Empowerment has many different meanings, such as creating a space in which someone can develop her own ideas and take her own decisions. This means on an individual level providing opportunities for women to develop their professional skills and their careers. And on the organizational level it means creating the opportunity for an Afghan women's team to find its own identity and goal to strive for.

Second: As each specific context requires its own approach with new ideas, we found the most helpful way to build-up the organization was to combine the relevant experience of international staff with the local expertise of Afghan women. But in order to develop fully in "their own way" the team must eventually be in the decision-making position.

Third: Fighting violence against women is a long-term goal. There are no quick-impact projects. It's a world-wide issue and we know that still our daughters and granddaughters (hopefully together with our sons and grandsons) will have a task to work on. Therefore, a sustainable organization is needed with women who not only perform a job but also have the motivation and the energy to improve their own situation in their own country for their own families. They also do it for the next generations. medica mondiale is committed to standing by the newly born organization so that Medica Afghanistan can further develop the skills needed for long-term sustainability.

For the realization of Medica Afghanistan several steps had to be taken:

First step was to build an organization out of several separate projects that were only loosely connected until then. In 2007, we started to strengthen our finance and administrative procedures and other organizational structures. We built a management team that met each week to share information, coordinate across the organization, and take joint decisions.

Second step was to gradually phase out international long-term staff and replace them with national team members. This process started in 2008 and our last full-time international staff member left in early 2011. But the main and most difficult question was: who would be the future director? Who would be able and willing to take this huge responsibility on her shoulders? Would it be someone from inside the organization, or from outside? Eventually the perfect solution was found within the team. Humaira Rasuli became director in early 2010, and since then, with her tireless efforts, the organization has grown together and flourished even more.

Third step was to agree on the identity and the strategy of the organization. What will this Afghan women's NGO focus on in future? What will be the goal and the values of the organization? In a process that took us one and a half years, from mid 2009 until the end of 2010, the team members of Medica Afghanistan reached agreement on their mission, vision, and values. They also developed their three year strategy, containing long-term goals and objectives as well as concrete activities that they intend to conduct each year.

This in 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 more than deserve to have 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**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF OUR 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 2011 was the first year that Medica Afghanistan operated as a fully independent, national organization. It was also the first 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**

INTRODUCING MEDICA AFGHANISTAN

Medica Afghanistan is a national, non-governmental, non-profit, and non-sectarian Afghan women's organization. It is headquartered in Kabul with North and West coverage provided by branches in Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat Provinces. The purpose of the organization is to support women and girls affected by war and all other types of violence. It strives 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.

Afghan women and girls were deprived of their social and family rights during a devastating civil war and the Taliban Regime. Medica Afghanistan took the initiative soon after the establishment of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to lend a hand to Afghan women and girls who had survived personal violence, civil war, and persecution.

Medica Afghanistan was launched in Kabul in 2002 by medica mondiale, an international non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1993. Headquartered in Cologne, Germany, medica mondiale has established operations in numerous post-conflict countries to provide assistance to women and girls affected by violence. In all its operational areas, medica mondiale strives to develop the capacity of its local staff to carry out work of high quality while also promoting the self-sufficiency of the local organization. As a result, medica mondiale's local projects in Kosovo and Albania have become independent of the parent organization in Germany and now operate as national organizations. In 2010, Medica Afghanistan also became independent, registered with the Afghan government as a national organization. It operates today as a self-contained Afghan National NGO, run by Afghan women to serve Afghan women.

Since its establishment in 2002, Medica Afghanistan has worked diligently to support women and girls in Afghanistan targeted by violence during decades of devastating conflict. Today, Medica Afghanistan empowers Afghan women through the provision of direct psychosocial services and legal aid while advocating on their behalf for women's rights and the elimination of violence against women. The protection of women and girls from gender-based violence and the advancement of women's human rights are at the core of Medica Afghanistan's work.



Basic counseling training for staff of Bamyan CCA shelter



Helai Sohak, head of Mazar Office during her speech about MA activities in Mazar on women's day in women's prison

OUR MISSION

Medica Afghanistan is 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.

OUR VISION: WHY WE DO IT?

Medica Afghanistan envisions 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.

OUR VALUES: THE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

- 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.

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



Tuba Momand, distributing stationery for literacy students in Qazal Abad area, Mazar



Introducing MA lawyer in detention center of Kabul updating her client about progress of her case and noting the new points that client is raising about her case

OUR GOALS: WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

The overarching goal of Medica Afghanistan is: To end violence against women in Afghanistan

The long term Strategic Goals of Medica Afghanistan are:

1. Medica Afghanistan becomes a strong, sustainable and self-sufficient Afghan women's organization
2. Women who have experienced violence are able to access better quality services
3. Medica Afghanistan contributes to the development of a strong Afghan women's movement that pushes for an end to violence against women
4. The Afghan Government and key social and cultural actors promote policies, laws and practices that advance women's rights and end violence against women

OUR WORK: WHAT WE FOCUS ON?

Medica Afghanistan provides direct and indirect psychosocial and legal services to women and girls who have survived domestic violence and conflict. It raises public awareness on issues impacting women's lives and lobbies for local and national policies that aim to end violence against women and girls. It offers advanced professional training to lawyers, doctors, social workers and religious leaders on the ramifications of violence against women. In addition, since its establishment in 2002, Medica Afghanistan has published numerous research papers on topics related to gender and violence, trained many health and legal professionals, counseled 7,000 clients, and dealt with more than 9000 cases of women survivors of violence.



MA lawyer is discussing with prosecutor about criminal case of a client

OUR DREAM

We aim 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 is interviewing a new client in women detention center Kabul

Psychosocial and Health Program (PSHP)

Medica Afghanistan initiated services in 2002 for traumatized women and girls in Afghanistan who have been subjected to personal, military and political violence. Today, Medica Afghanistan is one of the very few agencies in Afghanistan offering both services and training.

Among its direct services, PSHP Program offers psychosocial counseling in individual and group sessions at key locations throughout Kabul, such as Districts Five, Seven, Eleven, and Thirteen, women's shelters and prisons, The Juvenile Center and Bagh-e-Zanana (Women's Garden). PSHP maintains consultation centers at Rabia-e-Balkhi and Stomatology Hospitals in Kabul and at the main hospital in Herat; psychologists work jointly with Medica Afghanistan-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 also runs literacy courses for recovering psychosocial clients and others. Medica Afghanistan's classes teach reading and writing skill and contribute to women's empowerment by raising awareness of women's 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 in a constructive manner.

PSHP Program also provides capacity building program, sensitization, and supervision. It offers certified courses to medical professionals and psychologists working with traumatized women and girls. The training Program 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. Medica Afghanistan's PSHP team networks with multiple stakeholders including governmental, national and international civil society organizations.

LEGAL AID PROGRAM (LAP)

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 defense, representation in civil proceedings, mediation, legal advice, awareness-raising and facilitation of safe family reintegration.

Medica Afghanistan's professionally trained lawyers undertake the criminal defense of women and girls prosecuted in the cities of Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Herat free of charge. Defense consists of 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 carefully inform the client about her legal rights, the proceedings she will undergo, the possible procedural alternatives open to her and their legal consequences, the remedies and compensation she is entitled to, and so on. Beyond informing the client, legal awareness is aimed at helping the client make her own decisions about her case. Medica Afghanistan offers legal awareness and advice to all women who seek assistance.

In 2009, Medica Afghanistan established social services to better answer the needs of women benefiting from legal aid. An assessment conducted by Medica Afghanistan staff had revealed that most women and girls in detention suffer greatly by being isolated from their families and friends in the outside world. In addition, women and girls released from prison to return to their homes faced many serious problems, from anxiety to rejection by their families and communities. With the establishment of the social work component, Medica Afghanistan social workers are able to attend to the social needs of women in detention: 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 also follow-up by referring women to appropriate services, such as medical facilities and organizations providing job training and opportunities to women.

Nasima Mirzada MA
social worker,
Nabila Sadat Lawyer
during group
advocacy meeting in
police station



ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN WOMEN'S LEGAL AND ISLAMIC RIGHTS

In addition to providing direct services to women, Medica Afghanistan works diligently to improve the quality of women's lives by advocating for their human rights. The purpose of the advocacy work is to bring about positive changes in legislation, policies, and attitudes towards women. One of the focuses of Medica Afghanistan is a campaign for mandatory legal registration of marriages in order to prevent child and forced marriages which are unlawful in Afghanistan and commonly result in severe violence against women and girls. This lobbying strategy, adopted in 2005, has produced positive results: the Supreme Court has elaborated an official marriage contract and established marriage registration offices in Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Parwan Provinces. Medica Afghanistan works to strengthen the on-going process of registration with special attention to raising the awareness of religious leaders, social workers, teachers, medical staff, NGO staff, police and staff of the Ministry of Justice within all the provinces where Medica Afghanistan operates.

Medica Afghanistan has undertaken advocacy programs with prosecutors and judges to implement the EVAW Law, which calls for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The organization also lobbies for the enactment of a new family law respectful of women's rights currently being developed by the Family Law Drafting Committee comprised of Afghan experts and hosted by Ministry of Women's Affairs. The Advocacy team works to persuade Ministry of Justice to improve the quality of women's detention facilities in Kabul pre-trial detention center and in Mazar-e-Sharif. Medica Afghanistan's advocates also provide training and capacity building programs on these issues upon request to selected local NGOs, community governmental bodies, and religious authorities.

OUR PROJECTS IN 2011

WHERE DO WE STAND ON THE FAMILY LAW?

Medica Afghanistan is lobbying The Parliament and The President to approve the Family Law. In this regard, Medica Afghanistan has conducted a number of awareness raising activities with the public, within civil society, and through them in The Parliament. Ministry of Justice is still not persuaded to send the law to The Parliament for ratification, but Medica Afghanistan's lobbying activities inform and encourage the public and parliamentarians to support approval of the Family Law and push the Ministry of Justice to send it forward for legislative approval.

Medica Afghanistan also conducts talk shows and round tables on National TV and Radio with the collaboration of other like-minded organizations. On 14 December 2011, Medica Afghanistan partnered with Women for Afghan Women (WAW) to present a live talk show on Radio Killid, broadcast in three cities: Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat. The main topics discussed were: the reason for drafting the Family Law, the contents of articles on Family Law, various types of marriage according to Islam and Afghan tradition; a comparison of family law and civil law. Participants included women's rights activists from Kabul Office of Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), the Family Law Committee and the Regional Director of Women for Afghan Women in Nangarhar.

In addition, Medica Afghanistan produced radio spots, TV spots, banners and publications to raise public awareness of other matters of the law. In particular, TV spots on article 5 of the law, concerning the legal age of marriage for girls and boys, were broadcast on Tolo TV and Ariana TV. Medica Afghanistan is a member of the Family Law Draft and Campaign Committee. On 9 February 2011, a Medica Afghanistan lawyer gave an interview on Killid Radio comparing the proposed Family Law to the current civil law. During the interview she emphasized some measures to be considered for the successful implementation of the law. These measures are: increasing the legal age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18 years, increasing the legal age limit for children retained in the custody of their mothers to 12 years, and ensuring mandatory registration of all marriages.

OUR PROJECTS IN 2011

MULLAHS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS BENEFIT FROM TRAINING PROGRAMS

Medica Afghanistan took some steps to build the capacity of Mullahs on marriage registration by conducting training programs with the support of Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs. In June 2011, 35 Mullahs and Khatibs (religious leaders) from the rural and urban districts of Mazar-e-Sharif participated in a training session on registration of marriage titled: "A Step Toward Elimination of Child and Forced Marriages". The training module was prepared by Medica Afghanistan in consultation with Ministry of Hajj and focused on Quranic Verses. Mr. Sheikh Nasruddin a religious leader of Charkent District of Balkh Province offered this comment: "I was lucky to attend the training program. I will pass the message to my villagers and encourage heads of the families, who are all men, to let their daughters go to schools, and not sell them at an early age to marry." He added, "At the moment only a few girls in our village travel to the district capital to attend school on daily basis, which is very difficult. Though we only have one boys' school in our village, I will urge our local council to have a school shift for girls in our village."

THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO TO IMPLEMENT THE EVAW LAW

Medica Afghanistan also contributes to the implementation of Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law in the courts of five large cities of Afghanistan: Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kunduz.

The lobbying efforts of Medica Afghanistan resulted in EVAW Law being one of the most important discussion issues among members of Afghan civil society and Afghan Government.

Medica Afghanistan's legal aid program lawyers applied the EVAW Law in cases that are usually ignored by judges. Lawyers reported that only prosecutors assigned to special EVAW Units monitored by the General Attorney implement this law. Although there are hundreds of cases of violence against women, the EVAW Law is not often applied because most law enforcement authorities, such as police, prosecutors and judges, are unaware of the law or unwilling to use it. Thus, there is still an urgent need to raise awareness of the EVAW Law and encourage Afghan police and judicial staff to apply it.

BUILDING PEACE AND PROMOTING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

Peace Building Project was a joint project between Medica mondiale, Medica Afghanistan, and PAIF (DR Congo) on Political Participation of Women and Girls in Afghanistan, DR Congo, and Liberia. Conducted in 2009-2011, it was aimed to connect women's networks in all three countries, and to empower women activists and women's organizations to take decision-making roles in civil society and the state, especially in regard to their security and access to political processes. It also encouraged women to get involved in community and national peace activities. UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 were key topics for this project.

Afghan Women's Network (AWN) partnered with Medica Afghanistan on this project. Together we organized a peace-building network (PBN) of 10 Kabul-based women's organizations: Afghan Women's Research Center, All Afghan Women's Union, Afghan Women's Skills Development Center, Rights and Democracy Afghanistan, Afghan Women's Educational Center, Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan, Education Center for Women, Support of poor women and children, Afghan Women Services and Education Organization, and Afghan Women's Network. Project activities of four types were conducted on national and international levels:

1. Advocacy and lobbying: Targeting representatives of state institutions through a round-table discussions, press conferences, several face-to-face meetings, two information sessions with House Committees, and an international advocacy tour of Brussels and Berlin.

2. Capacity building: Conducted among 10 network members through regular meetings and training sessions on human security, women's rights and women's political participation. Three training programs on Peace Building focused on concepts of peace, models of peace-building, diversity and gender in peace-building, violent and non-violent conflict-transformation, dispute resolution and mediation, communication and dialogue skills, collective trauma, conflict management mechanisms, storytelling and sharing experiences. Advocacy training focused on definitions and the scope of advocacy, developing an advocacy strategy, and advocacy theory and practice.

3. Public information: Through posters, banners, and radio and TV broadcasts.

4. Networking on national and international levels: Through participation in an international meeting in Cologne where experiences were shared with women from Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia.

WOMEN PRISONERS HAVE DEFENSE LAWYERS AND BETTER ACCESS TO SERVICES

In 2011, Medica Afghanistan's legal aid services represented a total of 281 women in criminal cases in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat. In individual interviews the women were informed of their rights as prisoners, the legal procedures they would have to go through, and their right to express their specific needs to appropriate officials. The majority of the cases reviewed in the three provinces concerned: charges of adultery, moral offense, kidnapping, robbery, smuggling, drinking alcohol, murder and attempted adultery. These criminal charges are based mostly on harmful traditional practices that have no basis in Afghan law or Islam; and the women charged are usually poor, illiterate, uneducated and unaware of their constitutional rights.

One client said, "Before Medica Afghanistan's legal assistance, I did not know anything about the law, the court, the legal procedures, or that I am entitled to have a defense lawyer. I was always depressed and lost hope for the future because I and many other women in the prison thought that we have to stay in the prison for a life time and bear the violence."

AFGHAN WOMEN LEARN OF THEIR RIGHTS FROM MEDICA AFGHANISTAN LAWYERS

Medica Afghanistan's legal staff provided legal advice to clients who were involved in separation proceedings due to harm inflicted by the husband, defect (impotence) in the husband, absence of the husband, or the husband's failure to provide maintenance, child custody disputes, and civil cases arising from a broken engagement, or the interference of in-laws. The legal advice helped women choose the best way to solve their problems, considering their social, economic and personal interests. In fact, legal advice provided by Medica Afghanistan's lawyers empowered 40 percent of the women to handle their family conflicts by themselves.

One client said, "Now we understand that women also have the same rights as men. Thus, we shouldn't accept violence any more." Another client said, "I am so happy that I could explain some of my rights to my husband so he got embarrassed and accepted that I am right. My husband is a Mullah in a mosque and he knew what the rights of a woman are under Sharia, but he didn't want to explain them to me so that he could continue to misuse my ignorance."

POLICE ARE TRAINED TO SUPPORT WOMEN

A Police District Office is often the first legal institution women and girls refer for justice. Unfortunately, according to Medica Afghanistan's clients, police often mistreat them. Women report being treated unfairly and aggressively, and their statements taken by force. They are insulted, intimidated, and in many cases sexually abused. To address these complaints, Medica Afghanistan undertook to train police to a higher standard.

In 2011, Medica Afghanistan trained personnel at four Police Districts in Kabul (Districts 4, 7, 13, and 15), one District in Mazar-e-Sharif, and two Districts in Herat. The training program aimed to develop greater police understanding of the concerns of women and the legal rights of women and juveniles, both as complainants and suspects. It sought to increase police knowledge of effective and responsive policing in regard to women's complaints and alleged offenses, and finally to build trust between women and the police.

In total, Medica Afghanistan trained 175 police in 2011. The training program resulted in strengthening the relationship between Medica Afghanistan and the police. An important outcome of the training program is that police treat women and girls with greater respect and refer more clients to Medica Afghanistan for special services.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES REACH INTO THE PRISONS

Medica Afghanistan offered psychosocial counseling in Kabul at three women's shelters, the women's detention center and women's prison, the girls' juvenile rehabilitation center, the Women's Garden, counseling centers in Districts 5, 7, 11 and 13, and Rabia-e-Balkhi and Stomatology Hospitals, and in Herat at the women's prison and the girls' juvenile rehabilitation center.

Most women found it very difficult to adapt to life in prison and lost their self-confidence, but in Medica Afghanistan's group counseling they learned how to cope with the jail environment and find solutions to the challenges they faced in the jail. They learned to do relaxation exercises daily to reduce stress and be healthy; and they learned about their constitutional and legal rights.

The prison commander, appreciating the work of Medica Afghanistan's counselors, said that she observed a great improvement in the behavior of the prisoners and their relationships with each other and with prison guards. She said, "Now prisoners have less tension; instead they share their family and personal problems with their peers, listen to the guards and even get more interested in the literacy and computer courses in the prison".

AFGHAN WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE EMPOWERED THROUGH LITERACY TRAINING

During 2011, Medica Afghanistan successfully implemented a literacy project for Afghan women and girls. Under this project, 95 women and girls successfully completed the literacy course in six districts (5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 13) of Kabul Province.

In the course, students were taught Dari language alphabets, numbers, Islamic issues, women's rights and basic health. The students showed interest in continuing their education; among the participants some young girls wanted to pass the prequalification test to go to formal schools because the literacy program provided education equivalent to the 4th grade of formal school.

The final evaluation of the literacy courses shows that 80 percent of participants improved their reading and writing skills and 70 percent of them were made aware of basic women's rights, health care and Islamic issues. Moreover, the participants post-examination sheets proved that students' skills had improved, and even those students who were not able to write their names on the first day were able to write short essays.

In 2011, the total income Medica Afghanistan received from donors for specific projects and activities was Euros 708,453 . Medica Afghanistan received funds from the European Union, Zivik, ASDHA, OSA and CWAU. Medica Afghanistan received core funding from medica mondiale to cover gaps in the operational expenses of the organization. The following chart shows the contribution of donors to programs and operations of Medica Afghanistan in the fiscal year 2011:

Our Donors and Grants



