

Annual report 2013



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In spite of all security concerns, unstable peace and shifting religious, political and social contexts facing women and girls, Medica Afghanistan's Team was able to continue its efforts to protect women's rights and advocated to reduce violence and inequality of women's rights that is pervasive to almost all Afghan Women. Unfortunately, women in Afghanistan confront the multiplier effect of inequality by the fact of being women.

The perspective of Medica Afghanistan is that without peace, development is impossible, and without development, peace is not achievable; but without women, neither peace nor development is possible. Thus, helping women means helping the entire society and nowhere is more critical than Afghanistan.

Afghan women deserve to have serious politicians at their side; politicians who have more to offer than lip service, those with a clear goal to support the flourishing of Afghan people not merely their own interests that bring more trauma and violence.

The year of 2013 is the third year for Medica Afghanistan to be an independent Women's Rights Organization, led and run by Afghan women for women. This itself is an achievement and an indication that Afghan women are not helpless victims; they have potential leadership skills and commitment to participate in public life in order to develop their country together with their male counterparts.

The year of 2013 was not an easy year for NGOs which operate in the context of transition of the aid policy, declining aid, the withdrawal of international military forces (IMF), a reduction in public expenditure and finally a relatively weaker economy with high rate of unemployment, political crisis, increased insecurity (particularly an increase in criminality cases). All in all these barriers made the delivery of humanitarian services more difficult.

Despite aforementioned challenges, Medica Afghanistan's endless efforts caused to implement its programs in Kabul,

Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat provincial offices and centers. Our lawyers, social workers, counselors and psychologists assisted clients desperately in need of their professional services. The heart of our projects consisted of providing legal counseling, psychosocial counseling, and mediation to those women surviving or at risk of severe violence. In addition, we provided literacy classes for women and girls attended in our psychosocial counseling groups. We were actively involved in advocacy and campaigning for Marriage Registration and working to prevent child and forced marriages and proactively participated in networks, task forces, working groups, media interviews, and lobbying meetings to address gender-specific legal problems and have influenced the government and the judicial system to enforce laws and prosecute assailants and human rights violators.

As an Executive Director of Medica Afghanistan, I would like to thank Medica Afghanistan's family whether working in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif or Herat for their tireless efforts and significant contribution to Afghan women during the year of 2013, which was achieved at great personal risks and in defiance of security threats and conservative social norms.

I am so grateful to our colleagues at medica mondiale e.V., our sister organization our board of trustees and our volunteers for their support, time and efforts. Without them, none of our achievements in this year would have been possible.

I am also grateful to all those who share our vision and continue to support us with their time and money. We have much more to offer and much more to achieve; so I offer my heartfelt thanks to all our supporters who make this possible, and I am looking forward to their future contribution, support, and dedication to foster true and sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

Humaira Ameer Rasuli
Executive Director
Medica Afghanistan



internal management meeting

A MESSAGE FROM A MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2013 was a year of anticipation of 2014: anticipation of how the presidential elections would go and how the withdrawal of most international troops would affect the security, economic and human rights situation of the country. Important national processes were put on hold, passing them on to the next government, while violence against women and girls increased nationwide. Under the radar of most international observers, women human rights defenders continued their cumbersome battle for justice and dignity, and it became ever more obvious that they have no protection to count on beyond individual and organizational structures. The international community and the Afghan government have to take their responsibility seriously to better protect women and men who risk their lives on a daily bases to advance women human rights.

In the third year after transformation to a national NGO, Medica Afghanistan has continued to develop internal structures fur-

ther while implementing remarkably comprehensive projects to support women affected by violence in an impressively professional way. Furthermore, the board of trustees was pleased to be able to welcome a new member, complementing the board with profound expertise in the financial area.

On behalf of the board, I deeply appreciate the honest commitment and professionalism of Medica Afghanistan's director Ms Humaira Ameer Rasuli and of each member of her team in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e Sharif. We are honored to support and be part of a healthy organization in a more than difficult environment.

Bele Grau
Member of Board of Trustees
Medica Afghanistan

INTRODUCING MEDICA AFGHANISTAN

As the role of Afghan civil society in protecting and empowering women and girls grows, Medica Afghanistan is privileged to lead to the efforts. Medica Afghanistan was launched in 2002 by medica mondiale, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Germany that provides holistic support to women victims of sexual violence in crisis zones around the world.

Addressing many forms of violence against women, Medica Afghanistan explored new grounds. It was the first women's organization in Afghanistan to offer psychosocial counseling to women survivors of violence and the first to provide such service to women in prison. It was the first to offer free legal aid to women accused of crimes or engaged in civil disputes. It was the first to train professional people, from hospital doctors to defense lawyers, as a means to support traumatized women and girls. It was the first to provide concrete evidence of connection between child marriage and domestic violence—and to take action to end these practices.

In the late 2010, Medica Afghanistan was officially registered as a self-sustaining Afghan national NGO, run by Afghan women for Afghan women. It is headquartered in Kabul with North and West coverage provided by branches in Mazar and Herat Prov-

inces. It offers training services and receives cases from many other neighboring provinces.

Medica Afghanistan focuses on improving the lives of women through direct legal aid, psychosocial counseling, family mediation services, informal educational service and public advocacy for women and girls affected by sexualized and gender based violence. Medica Afghanistan also raises awareness and builds capacity in the fields of health, education, and law. It seeks to raise awareness on women's rights and sensitize all those who deal with women at risk, regardless of gender. To that end, we work on sensitizing men to the key issues of gender-based violence and including them in finding solutions. For example, the organization offers advanced professional training to male and female lawyers, doctors, social workers, religious leaders, and police personnel on the multiple ramifications of violence against women. In short, Medica Afghanistan addresses the traumatic impact of all forms of violence against women upon survivors, families, institutions, and society. It promotes women's human rights by lobbying for change in structures and policies to produce a better quality of life for women and girls in a more equitable and peaceful Afghanistan.

OUR APPROACH

Medica Afghanistan is unique in important aspects. First, it is a women's organization led by women. All of our psychosocial counselors, lawyers, social workers, and advocacy staff are female. This is most important to the women and girls we serve who are reluctant to speak to male counselors, lawyers, or social workers about their problems. Second, Medica Afghanistan takes a trauma-sensitive approach in both legal and medical settings, offering holistic support to women survivors of gender-based violence.

Medica Afghanistan is specialized in supporting women and girls deeply affected by violence; all our programs and activities are focused upon them. All our staff members understand the relation between gender and violence, and they received exten-

sive training in working with traumatized women and girls. In addition, we are all committed to women's human rights.

Medica Afghanistan provides a range of different services to women and girls, including psychosocial counseling, legal representation, family mediation, social support, literacy classes, and referrals for health care, economic opportunities, and other appropriate services as needed.

In addition, Medica Afghanistan, as a part of the women and civil society network and women's movement in Afghanistan and around the world, strives to continuously advocate for the voice of women to be heard, and help and protect women to overcome their despair and trauma.

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.

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:

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

WORKING FOR OUR CLIENTS

Legal aid:

The Legal Aid Program of MA responds to Afghan women's needs for justice by trying to fill a big gap. Ten defense lawyers and six social workers provided legal advice, legal representation and defense, and family mediation to women and girls who have come into conflict with the law

or seek a solution to a civil issue. In addition, legal aid team provided mediation services to reintegrate women who were released from prison into their families and communities.



MA defense lawyer and social worker during provision of legal advice to the client.

Psychosocial counseling and advanced training program:

Ten psychologists and psychosocial counselors offered support to Afghan women affected by violence at easily accessible locations like counseling rooms across the cities, women's shelters, prisons. Medica Afghanistan's psychologists also provided case supervision to psychosocial organizations

and offered short-term counseling to bed-ridden patients during their hospitalization, especially those enrolled in the major surgical units and the burn units in Kabul and Herat Provinces. In addition, we offered crisis intervention to clients and medical professionals, on needed basis.



group meeting of Rabia-e-Balkhi hospital medical staff

Advocacy:

MA's advocacy work aims at complementing direct services with direct political lobbying within the Afghan Government and awareness-raising activities within society. Our advocacy programs designed to promote human rights and the rule of law in three ways:

- a) exposure of human rights violations,
- b) community mobilization around hu-

man rights themes, and
c) advocacy for law and policy reform at the national and regional levels for the benefit of women.

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



awareness raising session by MA's head of advocacy on EVAW Law to civil society organization members

Training programs:

In addition to direct services and advocacy efforts, MA offers and offer training to governmental and non-governmental agencies on basic counseling skills, application of gender sensitive approach-

es in legal and medical setting, family mediation, and gender and violence and other issues related to violence against women (VAW) to health, legal and social professionals.

Literacy and learning:

Medica Afghanistan provides literacy classes for women and girls, many of whom take part in psychosocial counseling groups. Medica Afghanistan's classes teach reading and writing 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.



MA literacy class, district 13 Kabul



MA social workers meeting

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR OF 2013

A) INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH LEGAL AID SERVICES

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. In most cases, the process starts in a detention center or juvenile rehabilitation facility where our lawyers go to offer assistance to detained women and girls.

The majority of criminal charges are based mostly on attempted adultery, moral offense, kidnapping, robbery, smuggling and murder, which is the result of harmfully traditional practices that have no basis in Afghanistan or Islam Law.

Medica Afghanistan lawyers also represent clients during civil proceedings, whether initiated by the client or brought against her. Our mediators also provide mediation support to our clients

to resolve their family disputes and reconcile the parties. Such interventions usually are undertaken at the request of a woman involved in a domestic dispute that threatens her rights within the family. In providing mediation services, Medica Afghanistan's lawyers and mediators workers work together; the lawyer takes the lead in handling legal matters, while the mediators help resolve family issues. We also provide post-release services by conducting follow-up visits to ensure the terms of the agreement or the court decision have been respected and implemented.

Most of these women said during the mediation sessions, "Based on Afghan culture we can't go to court and we don't know how to solve our problems inside the family, so we are here to seek some advice on how we can solve our problems and reduce violence against us within the family." As a result, some of the women and girls were able to achieve better treatment by their family members by implementing the lawyer's advice.

A case story from Mazar:

N. was 22 years old. She married B. 3 years ago from whom she has a 2-year-old son. Her husband had started to take drugs one and half years before she approached MA. He had become addicted and didn't pay alimony to N. and her son. She was referred to MA mediation center by the Department of Justice. The social worker had many sessions with N.'s father-in-law and mother-in-law because N.'s in-laws loved her and tried to support her. B.'s parents accepted to take B. to hospital for drug treatment. Now B. is in a hospital and he feels healthier day by day. N. lives with her in-laws. MA's social worker referred her to WAW children center which is named House of Hope and she works there as a teacher. N. and her in-laws are very satisfied with the MA social worker. N.'s husband said to our social worker, "You are the one who brought me from darkness to light, otherwise I would have lost everything, my wife, son, family even my life." The case is still under follow-up observation by our social worker.

B) ENHANCING THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR WOMEN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE AND WOMEN AT RISK

The social work program of MA is aimed to better answer the needs of women benefiting from legal aid. Social work activities address social needs of women when they are in detention including establishing communication with their families, making request on their behalf to visit their children and family members, providing hygiene materials to ensure their healthiness.

Client referral is an important part of our operations. We have built a strong relationship with stakeholders and partners through which we get referrals and serve more clients. Furthermore, we have established an internal referral system in which

psychosocial department of MA refers cases to its legal department and vice versa to evidently address holistic approach of our work. For instance, clients of psychosocial services also benefit from legal advice and awareness raising sessions offered by MA legal experts. In addition, MA clients benefit from an existing, well-functional referral system to legal, medical, income generating or other relevant services. Patients who need surgical support are referred to governmental hospitals where MA maintains a counseling center and our psychologists work jointly with MA-trained medical staff. It means we assess the overall well-being of our clients.

C) EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION SERVICES

We believe that education is one of the most significant means of empowering women and girls. We consider education necessary because it is an entry point to other opportunities. In fact, education is one of the most effective ways of increasing women's self-confidence and helps them understand their rights.

Our literacy program targets vulnerable women and girls who live under poverty line and are the only financiers of their families. The purpose of establishment of literacy classes is to increase the level of basic education for targeted group to be able to read, write, and secure future employment opportunities. In addition, women who have suffered from mental health problems need to stay busy with a useful activity to give them some way of building their self-esteem.

Participants are introduced to our literacy classes by other departments of MA, using our internal referral system and most are those who recovered from mental health problems. Indeed, most of families have big tendency for education of girls/women, but obstacles like poverty, security instability and cultural barriers prevent them from attaining formal education. Therefore, such provision functions as an opportunity to change women's lives for brightness and a light future.

We also conduct brainstorming session on Library Programming and Outreach Activities for literacy students. The session aimed to train them on the required skills of becoming a librarian and encourage them to read books. They could further develop their

competence by reading. Literacy participants also received value-added workshops on health, hygiene, nutrition, basic rights, legal rights and life skills to increase their knowledge of important life elements. One of our clients from literacy class of Herat province stated, *"One day, my teacher gave me a book full of pictures. The book was about the benefits of fruit and vegetable and different kinds of food. The book was interesting to me and that motivated me to continue reading more books. Therefore, I took a book from our library and I really enjoyed reading it. I found out that I can read for pleasure, I made more progress in reading skill, vocabulary and spelling. When I have a stressful day, a book can easily relax me."*



MA literacy class, Nahre Shahee district, Qazal Abad Mazar-e-Sharif

D) EMPOWRING WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELING AND SUPPORT

Sexualized and gender based violence is a major public health issue and it has been associated with a number of adverse health consequences and mental health problems. Such forms of violence may lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, sleeping difficulties, eating disorders, emotional distress and suicide attempts. Afghanistan does not have an appropriate health-care system to treat these women effectively; also there is no accompanying psychosocial counseling for traumatized women and girls implemented yet. Although an attempt has been made by the Ministry of Public Health with the design of the 'Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS), the implementation of it remains uncertain and will take many years. Medica Afghanistan plays an efficient role for the improvement and positive change in the situation of Afghan women by offering a trauma sensitive psychosocial services and training for medical and social staff on Basic Counseling and trauma related topics.

MA targeted women in women's shelters (safe houses), women's prison, Girls' Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers, Women's Garden Counseling Center, counseling centers in District 10 and 8 of Kabul, Qezal Abad District of Mazar Province.

Clients with psychosocial needs complained about chronic headache, anxious, hopelessness, irritability, sadness, problems in eating and sleeping and other forms of bodily disorder, which resulted from emotional and physical violence at domestic level, economic hardship, increased vulnerability and isolation. Counseling helps clients adjust with the environment, establish social interaction in their surroundings, and provide them with a safe and trustworthy ground to share their sorrows and sufferings. Eventually, they learned the alternative treatment for their bodily pains and learned how exercise, non-violent communication and self-protection during family conflicts contribute to their health and amiable life

In addition to group and individual counseling services, our counselors provided on-the-bed counseling services to hospitalized patients at Cure International Hospital, and Rabia-e-Balkhi Hospital in Kabul, and Burn Unit of Herat Public Hospital where MA psychologists work jointly with medical staff to provide consultation support for patients who suffer from psychosomatic symptoms because of trauma or violence.

“ CLIENTS' TESTIMONIALS:

"In the first session of group counseling I said to myself that maybe I am in the wrong direction for my treatment."

"It was the first time after 7 years (after terrible experience of collective trauma) that I saw someone coming and asking about my feelings. Now I feel I am a complete person."

"Before participating in the group, I thought why I should go to the center, I am not crazy. Then I learned that everyone has problems in their lives and they should seek support for solutions. It is not shame to talk about our life problems."

"I wish I had joined this group earlier to learn more about better life and good psychological health."

"My life was as tough as I was walking down a long dark tunnel; ever since I attended psychosocial counseling, I don't feel lonely and always think 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 one in the entire world, who has all the sorrows and problems, In short I can say by attending this center I am able to find my way to live and there is light along my way."

E) LEGAL AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR CLIENTS OF PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF MA

During the year, 918 clients benefited from legal awareness sessions about their rights. Conducting these sessions helped increase awareness and sensitize clients about their rights according to Islam and prevailing civil law such as the right of education, types of separation, alimony, marriage portion, child custody, right to health, divorce, breaking of engagement and the ERAW Law. The participants appreciated the sessions. They

found the topics useful and interesting. After a session one of the clients stated, *"Since I am informed about my rights, it is like you have opened our eyes and mind. Many times, I asked my father if I could study, but he said that it is not my right. Education remained only a wish for me, but now I can argue with my father as I have a lot of information about my rights which is an asset for me."*

F) MA LOBBIED TO ENSURE THAT ERAW LAW IS APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT WITHOUT ANY CHANGES

Enacted in August 2009, the Elimination of Violence against Women Law (ERAW) represented a landmark and immense progress in the adoption of legislation addressing violence against women in Afghanistan. For the first time the law has established a list of crimes against women, and it has provided specific sentences for perpetrators of violence.

During the four years following adoption of the law as a Presidential decree, the legislation has constantly encountered obstacles and has been legally challenged by its detractors, including powerful lawmakers and decision-makers. Medica Afghanistan has lobbied tirelessly for several months by meeting, reviewing, consulting and advocating with different politicians and stakeholders to protect this law and to bypass the parliament. Eventually, in

May 2013, the Parliamentary Commission on Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights brought the ERAW Law to the parliament with the objective to ratify the decree as a law. This decision led to violent reactions against the law and an inflamed debate concerning the amendment of sections of the law considered anti-Islamic. The law was submitted to 18 parliamentary committees to check its conformity with the Sharia Law. The findings of the committees were negative, as majority of the parliament, members are hesitant to approve the law. We struggled, with the help of our allies, to delay the referral of the law to the parliament to make it more complete before it goes to parliament for approval. Otherwise, the bill would have been rejected by the Parliament. In the meantime, we focused on the implementation and awareness-raising aspects of the law.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Afghan Women Network (AWN) identified a group of women and men expert in civil law and Sharia to analyze the problematic articles of ERAW Law deemed anti-Islamic by some MPs. Medica Afghanistan had the leading role in this committee and analyzed the articles with other members of the committee to safeguard women and children's rights.
- We continue serious advocacy on the implementation of the law with the police, prosecutors and judges who are involved in our cases. We provide strong arguments in comparative manner with police, prosecutors and judges and explain them that the law is not against Sharia .
- The lobbying efforts of Medica Afghanistan resulted in ERAW Law being one of the most important discussion issues among the government and international counterparts. For instance, the first report on the Implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women (ERAW) Law in Afghanistan was released in 2013. It has been a major step forward on the path to free women from violence and represented the Afghan Government's firm commitment towards its implementation. The report noted progress and continuing gaps in the enforcement of the law by police, prosecutors and courts.
- Commissions on elimination of violence against women (CoERAW) have been established in 32 out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan and their terms of reference were developed. Although they need to be further strengthened, their establishment itself is a great achievement. Legal protections for women have also been enhanced in recent years comparing few years back but still there is an urgent need to raise awareness of the ERAW Law and encourage Afghan police and judicial staff to implement it.

G) WHERE DO WE STAND ON THE FAMILY LAW?

Afghanistan was the first Muslim country to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) without any reservations. Additionally, relevant international human rights law provisions binding upon Afghanistan also include The Universal Declaration on Human Rights as a reflection of customary international law, The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). These provisions in particular crystallize the principle of free consent to marriage, and that of equality of rights and responsibilities of spouses as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

Subsequently to ratifying CEDAW, Afghanistan adopted a new constitution in 2004, according to which all existing laws have to be reviewed. Family Law reformed based on The Islamic Law, International Human Rights Law, and Equality, The Well-being of the Family, and Liberty and Human Dignity, which are embedded in Afghan Constitution.

The National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) also highlights the importance of reforming the legal and judicial systems to protect the rights of women guaranteed by

the Constitution as well as within international conventions and standards.

Medica Afghanistan has been active within the Family Law Drafting Committee in pushing for the enactment of a new family law respectful of women's rights since 2007.

During 2013, Medica Afghanistan together with its allies held several meetings with President Karzai, Minister of Justice, Supreme Court and The Parliament on the issue of Family Law. As a result, Minister of Justice added the Family Law to his agenda, but MOJ legislation section is against of having a separate Family Law. They intend to review the articles of Family Law and integrate it in the existing Civil Law. Our strategy is to convince authorities to review the proposed articles of Family Law and compare it against the Civil Law to decide if it could be a separate law. Advocacy efforts are in progress.

As a part of group efforts, we provided awareness on Family Law to 200 police officers, 60 wardens, 121 Mullahs, 20 defense lawyers, 150 women council members, 365 high school students, 23 school teachers, 116 MA clients and some of the district leaders.

H) REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGE_AN IMPORTANT MEASURE TO FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL MARRIAGES

Medica Afghanistan campaigns on the mandatory legal registration of marriages in order to prevent child and forced marriages which are illegal in Afghanistan and results in severe violence against women and girls. We provide trainings to Mullahs and

judges on the registration procedure and consequences of illegal marriages. Currently, a large portion of marriages is not registered with government due to complexity of the process and cultural barriers.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- › We conducted a research to identify the root cause of citizen's reluctance to register marriages
- › We advocated to relevant government institution to ease-up the process and reduce some unnecessary steps like presenting five witnesses
- › We emphasized on the importance of registration of marriages through distributing marriage booklets, posters, and radio announcements during the 16-Day of Activism Campaign
- › Ten- day training on Registration of Marriage was conducted by Advocacy Department of Medica Afghanistan to Care International Organization staff (women of local councils of Kabul districts, Mullahs, and elders of district). The training was participated by 154 people including 100 women and 54 men.

I) POLICE TRAINED TO SUPPORT WOMEN

During 2013, Medica Afghanistan along with a consortium of four NGOs conducted a mentorship program for policewomen to create a better environment for them to work and serve the communities in four provinces of Kabul, Herat, Mazar, Kunduz, Jalalabad under following main strategies:

- › Awareness-raising sessions within police officers and communities through working closely with women-centered Afghan civil society organizations to improve public perception of policewomen.
- › Advocacy programmes to equip high-ranking officials within Mol and ANP to lobby for better positioning of women in ANP. Also, advocacy with community elders and religious leaders to win their support for women working in the police.

This project was first time opportunity for women's rights organizations working with Afghan National Police (ANP) and police officers in partnership through multiple efforts. In addition, it was first time opportunity for police officers to raise work-related issues with women's rights organizations and seek consultation and solution. Medica Afghanistan utilized its internal resources to compile a training manual for policewomen and shared its expertise with the rest of partner agencies.

We increased awareness of women in communities that women's groups were not advertising for ANP by trying to gain recognition for the need for policewomen and their contributions to the community. Through our efforts, many educated policewom-

en were identified and a request made to Ministry of Interior to promote them to high-ranking positions. For example, an educated female guard was taken to the gender unit of Mol, and MA made request for promoting her to a high-ranking position. Mol agreed to award the female guard a position on completion of her degree.

Follow-up procedures are continuing and policewomen seek our guidance on how to overcome various work-related challenges.



police women training

“TESTIMONIALS:

“I am very happy to serve alongside my brothers in the rank of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and I will accomplish my task with honesty.”, said one of the female police officers in Balkh.

“I have learned many positive things during the training period and I am so happy to serve in the police force.” she said happily, “I ask other women to join the police force and serve their country.”

“Despite how negatively society looks at females working in the police force, I am happy with my decision of joining police force.” said a policewoman.

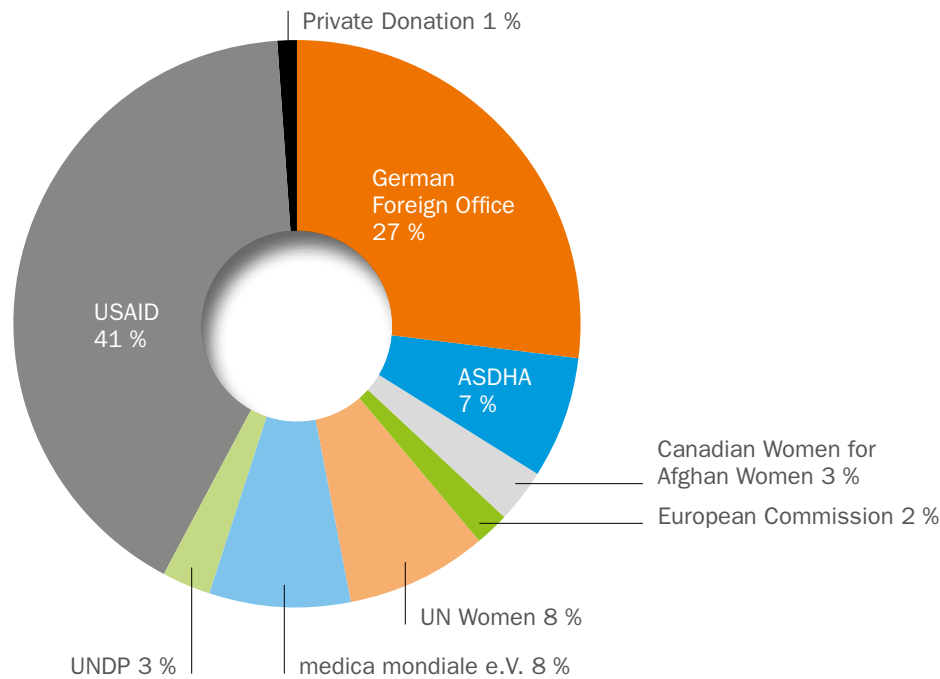


FINANCIAL REPORT

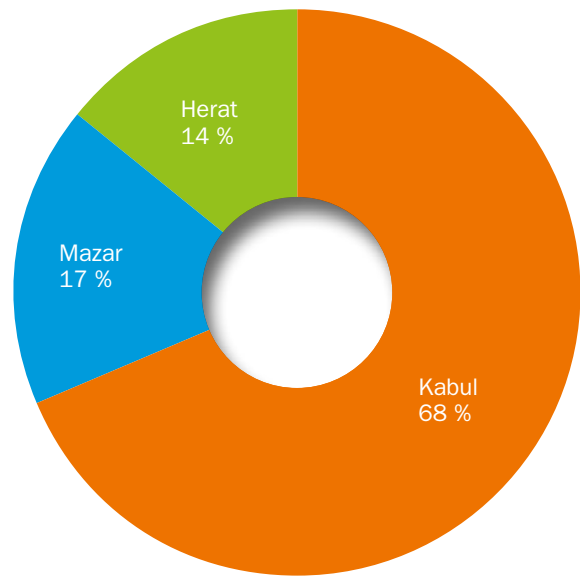
For the year 2013, we received a total of EURO 917,295.15 as donor contribution and private donation. The total expenses for year were reported EURO 874,496.36. We appreciate

all our donors and private contributors for their generous contribution and making this possible for us to support Afghan women and girls.

FUNDS CONTRIBUTION IN 2013



PROVINCIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

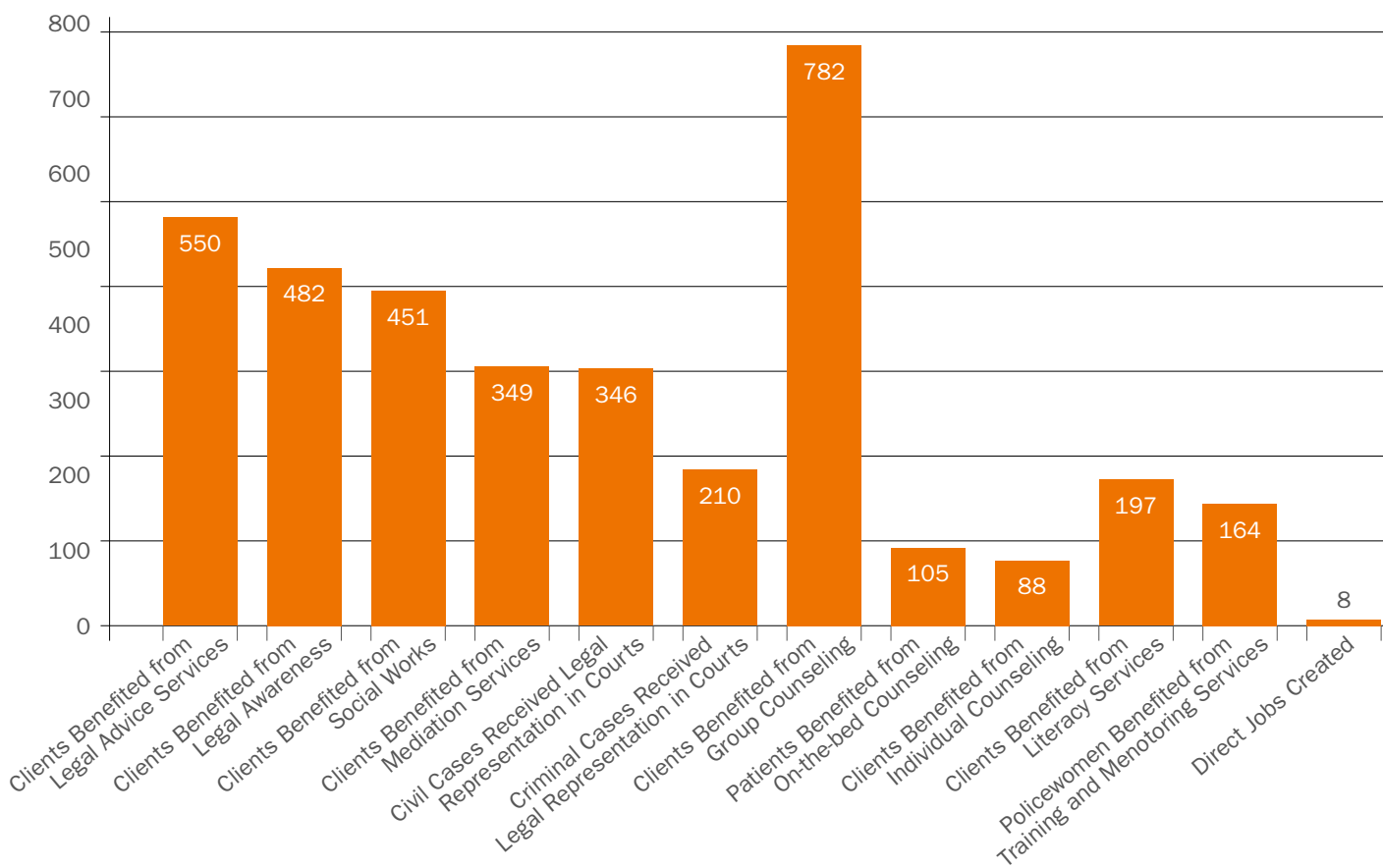


KEY STATISTICS

Medica Afghanistan records all beneficiaries and the multiple services offered to them into a well-established database system. Our program managers ensure the accuracy of data and monitor client's progress during the year. All the figures in donor reports as well as quarterly and annual reports are extracted from our database system.

The following graph is a representation of all beneficiaries, considering the fact that some of them received multiple services, during the year of 2013.

BENEFICIARIES OF 2013



Our vision:

“We envision a peaceful and independent Afghanistan where women are free of violence and any form of discrimination, have equal access to economic and social justice, political decision making, health services and education.”

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