

# MOHAMMAD EHSAN ZIA

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*Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development*

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• (+93) 0798.333.555

## KEY QUALIFICATIONS

Career professional in rural development and post-conflict reconstruction with in-depth knowledge of development theory, policymaking, and practice.

- ❖ Years of experience in strategic planning for public and non-governmental institutions
- ❖ Experienced in design of livelihoods development and poverty reduction interventions
- ❖ Skilled in participatory community development practices at various levels
- ❖ Effective capacity building and institutional development for governmental, non-governmental and community organizations
- ❖ Peace and conflict analysis, peace building and conflict resolution.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT – Government of Afghanistan (2006-2010)

### **Minister**

*As cabinet minister, provided strategic guidance and oversight to high-performing governmental institution with thousands of staff and \$300 million plus annual budget portfolio.*

- Expanded MRRD's five national programmes through increased focus on community based approaches, devising of coping mechanisms for high-risk areas.
- Improved overall monitoring and evaluation, budgeting and financial management capabilities across MRRD at the center and provincial levels.
- Improved civil-military coordination for better-aligned development across rural Afghanistan
- Successfully attracted major US funding to the National Solidarity Program's expansion through high level engagement with the US government and legislature
- Solidified plans for the development of Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) and attracted major donor support to the institution.
- As chair of the Board of Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) provided strategic guidance to the sector's growth and development.
- Led the conceptualization and design of a new initiative under the MRRD profile focused on improving rural livelihoods and enterprises (Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme – AREDP) and secured early donor support for the initiative.

- Increased Afghan leadership and ownership of development at all levels through innovative placement and utilization of international TA and investing on national capacities.

MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT – Government of Afghanistan (2004-2006)

### **Deputy Minister for Programs**

*Responsible for the strategic management and supervision of the Ministry's six National Priority Programmes with an average yearly budget of \$ 300 million; National Solidarity Programme (NSP), National Rural Access Programme (NRAP), National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP), Micro Finance Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA), and National Surveillance System.*

- Ensured the coordination of all programme activities, resulting in a coherent and unified approach to achieve the Ministry's objectives for equitable rural development.
- Guided the design of the second phases of various programmes, building on the lessons learnt through programme implementation and identifying new areas to further progress programme delivery.
- Devised a mechanism to achieve representative community participation and a productive partnership with the government in programme planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Led the coordination of national programme activities with other ministries involved in rural development, resulting in greater synergy between activities, increased collaboration within the government and the maximisation of development resource investment.
- Liaised with donors to positively influence funding investments and promote better planning and coordination with the government.

MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT – Government of Afghanistan 2002-2004

### **Policy Advisor**

*Advised the Minister on all policy issues related to the Ministry's reconstruction and development programmes.*

- Developed policy guidelines and a strategy to ensure the Ministry's programmes fulfill its commitments to pro-poor and people centered development.
- Responsible for the design and development of the approach and implementation modalities for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), the largest national programme in Afghanistan.

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID – Peshawar, Pakistan (1988-2002)

### **Program Manager**

- Responsible for the planning and design of participatory development programmes.

- Responsible for the implementation and management of developmental programmes including monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID – Peshawar, Pakistan (1993-2001)

#### **Human Resource Development Manager**

- Researched, analysed and designed appropriate programmes for organisational and institutional development of NCA and partner NGOs.
- Designed and developed peace initiatives and integrated peace building activities into all NCA development programmes.
- Successfully advocated and promoted the peace building agenda, including the facilitation of training and increased awareness raising on the Do No Harm concept in the aid community working in Afghanistan.
- Designed and implemented a pilot project on community-based peace building, through the integration of peace building into development and rehabilitation activities funded by the NCA Afghanistan Programme.
- Organised and facilitated workshops on Local Capacities for Peace, NGOs and Peace Building in Afghanistan, the Do No Harm Approach and Urban Recovery.

COOPERATION FOR PEACE AND UNITY (CPAU) (1996-1999)

#### **Chairperson**

- Co-founder and chairperson of Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU); a network of Afghan individuals dedicated to the promotion of peace and social justice in Afghanistan.
- Led CPAU's involvement in the development of local capacities for peace and the promotion of peace building and human rights at the community level.
- On a voluntary basis, served as chairman and trainer on conflict transformation, peace-building and the Do No Harm approach

NORWEGIAN AFGHAN COMMITTEE (NAC) (1988-1993)

#### **Various Positions**

*Served in various capacities in NAC, including manager of health and education projects.*

### **EDUCATION**

- M.A. (Post War Recovery Studies) University of York, UK (2000)

### **TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*January-April 1997*

Democracy, Human Rights and Peaceful Resolution of Conflict, Nansen School, Lillehammer, Norway

*September – December 1993*

Working with Conflict; Responding to Conflict, Birmingham UK,

*April- July 1991*

Social Development, Selly Oak College, Birmingham, UK,

Various other training programmes and seminars held by international organisations in the field of management, participatory approaches, human rights, monitoring and evaluation.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Role of Afghan Civil Society in the Process of Peace-Building in Afghanistan*, Carnegie Council, New York

*A Community Based Approach to Peace Building*, Norwegian Church Aid, 2000

*Peace-Building: Rhetoric or Reality?* (MA Dissertation) University of York, 2000

*Afghanistan, From Protracted Monarchy to Protracted Warfare*, University of York, 1999

## **CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS**

*A Whole of Government Approach to Rebuilding and Stabilizing Afghanistan*, George Mason University, 2008.

*Microfinance in Afghanistan: Achievements and Challenges*, University of Sussex, 2008.

*Aligning Government and Donor Priorities in Rural Development*, ISAF Headquarters, 2009.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

Recognized by the Columbian Government for innovation in international development practice for the design and implementation of the National Solidarity Program (2009)

Recognized by Citizens Councils and Provincial Shuras of several provinces in Afghanistan.

## **LANGUAGES**

Dari & Pashto (native), English (fluent), Urdu (fluent).

## **REFERENCES**

Provided upon request.