

JGEA Women's Engagement Strategy: Paktia Province



Paktia CCM Meeting the Deputy Provincial Governor

Justice & Governance Eastern Afghanistan (JGEA)
(Logar, Khost, Paktia)

Paktia CCM Women's Engagement Strategy

Introduction

Women's empowerment is inextricably linked to the achievement of our women engagement strategy in Paktia province –including improvements in Afghanistan's security, economic opportunity, governance, and social justice development. Afghanistan cannot prosper, if half of its citizens are left behind. Consequently, the Paktia CCM's women's strategy for Paktia includes assistance to women to build their capacity to participate fully in Afghan society such as the Paktia CCM. This is a key component of our efforts to strengthen rural communities against the reach of *Bad* and *Badal*(Exchange marriages) and other domestic violence against women practices in the southeast. Our strategy is to help the Paktia women according to Sharia law and civil law of Afghanistan.

Challenges to women taking part in the CCM

- I. Security barrier
- II. Cultural and religious barrier
- III. Lack of capacity
- IV. Lack of experience in Jirgas and conflict resolution

CCM Recommendations

The active role of the CCM for the following steps would be to support all the government and non government institutions, which work for the improvement of women in the province. The more direct role of the CCM would be to conduct public awareness regarding the importance of women and their role in the rural communities, so the CCM consists of traditional elders and religious figures. They can also arrange meetings once or twice a month with civil societies, community leaders and formal and informal justice providers for the support of the rights of women in the province. Another step of the CCM would be even to provide training women leaders on the conflict resolutions in the province;

- I. Improve the security of women and institutions that serve women;
- II. Support women's leadership development in the public, private, and voluntary sectors separately from male until the security improves in the area ;
- III. Promote women's access to formal and informal justice mechanisms;
- IV. Enforce existing Sharia law and statutory and Constitutional rights of women in Islam ;
- V. Improve women's and girls' access to education and healthcare;
- VI. Strengthen and expand economic development opportunities for women, especially in the agriculture sector; and
- VII. Increase women's political empowerment and participation in the public sector according to the Sharia Law and civil law of Afghanistan.

Education

Investing in girls' education is the single most effective development decision, a provincial government can make. Increasing recruitment and training for women attorney, raising the female literacy rates, conflict resolution and improving access to education at all levels in Paktia province.

Health:

Improvement on women's health has been significant issue, particularly in reproductive health, remain low in Paktia province. This can be expanded existing programs to further increase women's access to: health services; essential medicine; family planning, pre- and postnatal care; and drug treatment centers for women and as well as recruitment of female doctors in the province.

Security:

Southern and southeastern provinces of Afghanistan are more insecure, than other provinces of Afghanistan. Women cannot easily perform any kind of formal job and also are not able in taking part in Jirgas and conflict resolution process alongside with men in current situation. Even if women sit alongside men on the CCM, they might face serious threats against CCM members by extremists or by other insurgent groups. This has a political aspect and the CCM is a non political and traditional mechanism to resolve major conflicts among local communities. The mediators would like to maintain their reputation and do not want to involve in such political issues.

Economic Development:

The Paktia CCM helps remove barriers to Paktia women's full participation in economic activity. Assistance extends women's access to credit and provides training to improve women's ability to compete in local/regional markets. In Islam women are also allowed to take active part in trade. The CCM suggests that women need to be trained in Agricultural production and animal husbandry; veterinary medicine; poultry breeding; and skills for using farm machinery.

Next Step:

Support for the mentioned steps can be integrated throughout all government and international, donor agencies' programs in Afghanistan, including programs in education, health, security, rule of law, and economic development.

Safeguarding women's rights, while also ensuring women have a participation in critical discussions of major conflict resolution related to women, about Paktia's CCM future is a priority. The Paktia CCM will not make any decision that ignores women rights or in contrary of Sharia Law and civil law of Afghanistan. The CCM members also suggested that a separate CCM consisting 20 female members can be created for the time being and both male and female CCMs will work in close coordination for the resolution of major conflicts in the province. In the future the Paktia CCM particularly needs to be more inclusive institution that represents both men and women as equal citizens of Afghan society. The Paktia CCM has the potential to bridge tradition with modernity; it has the capacity to express traditional



values in a modern setting. Gradually the opportunity can be created, that women will be able to sit alongside men on the CCM within one or two years. In the short term the CCM will work with female CCM in the same office, but in separate rooms through of the female staff members, while working on conflicts related to women's rights. The current CCM can also help in monitoring the implementation of laws and policies related to women's rights in the province.