

Mission Statement: Coordinate and amplify the voices of civil society actors on civilian protection, human security and peace.

Vision: The process aims to enhance the capability of Afghan Civil Society Organizations to develop an Afghanistan-specific guide to build capacity of grass-roots organizations on advocacy and ensure it is targeted to the needs of civil society organizations.

Location: Kabul (with consultation in selected provinces)

Facilitator: The Liaison Office (TLO)

Donor: The Open Society Afghanistan (OSA)

Target Group for Advocacy Papers/ Messages: All parties to the conflict: Afghan government, International Military Forces and their governments, Taliban and insurgent actors.

Key Activities

1) Facilitate the formation of a Civil Society Advocacy Working Group (CSAWG), uniting local CSOs around information-gathering, awareness-raising, and joint-advocacy on civilian protection, human security and peace. – Monthly meetings of group are envisioned with specific Task Forces working on identified topics.

2) Work with CSAWG to identify 3-4 pressing issues in the area of civilian protection, human security and peace that can be developed into policy paper and advocacy message. Group members are then expected to consult with their constituencies (including outside Kabul) on the issue to include rural voices into policy messages.

3) Facilitate the writing of policy

briefs and coordination of small scale research projects (that can feed into joint policy papers highlighting community concerns on peace, human security and protection).

- 4) Facilitate capacity building of Working Group members (one person per organization) in advocacy/policy writing best practices (mix of training and long-term mentoring)→ this is part of the sustainability of this project, to leave behind capacities within the group.
- 5) Facilitate linkages of CSAWG with other entities such as the Afghanistan Protection cluster, Friends of Afghanistan, and other organizations/networks identified by the working group.

Output: Facilitation of policy papers and occasional commentaries on topics identified by the CSAWG to ensure that Afghan, and particularly rural, voices are heard on these issues of grave concern. – Working Group members are then asked to consult with communities in their respective provinces of operation to ensure that rural voices are heard. – **Papers posted on Project Website**

CSAWG Group Participants

Existing active civil society organizations and their networks (in order to ensure sustainability and building organizational capacity); initial focus on Kabul-based organization during the first year, with aim in the future to replicate group in other regions/provinces. Aim is to reach into provinces through CSAWG members through a consultation process as well as dissemination of advocacy messages.