Afghanistan PEACE Project
Reducing Risk for the Kuchi People

Afghanistan
Pastoral Engagement, Adaptation and Capacity Enhancement (PEACE) Project

Quarterly Report

January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011

Submitted By:
University of California at Davis

In Collaboration With:
Texas A&M University System

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Introduction

The Afghanistan PEACE Project has one primary activity under the current extension funding, namely the Peace Ambassador Program. The Peace Ambassador Program has been progressing very well over the last quarter. Fifty-two Ambassadors have been working in their provinces as well as receiving additional training in conflict resolution. During the past quarter the Peace Ambassadors have come to Kabul for reporting and training once in February. They will be arriving in April to complete their year’s work. This will be reported in the next quarterly report.

Summary - Activities conducted this quarter

- Workshops for Peace Ambassadors held in February
- 14 Ambassadors replaced by Sabawoon
- Reports and presentations were translated and analyzed
- Kuchi Development Workshop Held

Major Implementation Activities conducted this Quarter

A. Building Capacity for Kuchi leaders and Villagers to Resolve Conflicts; Peace Ambassador Program

Workshop for the 14 New Peace Ambassadors

As we expected Wahidullah Sabawoon replaced 14 Peace Ambassadors that were not working out as well as we had hoped. He selected 14 new leaders and we brought them to Kabul. One workshop was conducted from the 6th through the 9th of February 2011. This workshop specifically focused on the topic of solving conflicts without creating new conflicts. Peace from the Islamic Perspective, Reconciliation, and Do No Harm, were the titles of the training sections. We also conducted training in report writing and planning.

The 4-day agenda is given below:

- Opening of workshop
- Introduce the participants of the workshop
- Introduce this month’s training to PA’s
- Aims, Objectives and roles of workshop
- What are Peace Ambassadors responsibilities?
- Meaning of conflict and kinds of conflicts
- Ways of solving conflicts
- What is Violence? Types of violence
- Review of the first day
- What is Conversation?
- Ways of communication and what are the steps of being a good communicator
- How do you start a discussion
- What are the skills for discussing conflicts
- Analyze conflicts using symbols
- A review of the 2nd day
- Observations from yesterday’s work
- What is Mediation?
- Steps of mediation
- Reconciliation from Islamic perspective
- Steps of reconciliation
- Meaning of Peace and its process
- From where do you start Peace?
- Observations from yesterday’s work
- What is planning?
- What makes a good plan
- Explain ways to make a plan
- Work plan for next two months
- What is a report?
- Characteristics of a good report
- Four steps of a report
- Close work shop

New Peace Ambassadors attending were from Takhar, Khost, Sarepul, Parwan, Ghazni, Balkh, Samangon, Badakhshan, Jawzjan. They started the workshop by reading verses of Quran and received warm welcome from SDO trainers. Mustafa and Haroon from the PEACE Project and Abobakir Sarwari from the Peace Commission attended the workshop. They seemed very interested and asked the trainers many questions.
Participants list

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Haji Abdull Nabi</td>
<td>Takhar</td>
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<td>Dr. Shah Wali</td>
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<td>Said Mohtasham</td>
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During the first workshop some they learned strategies for solving conflicts. One of these strategies is to first determine who are the correct people to bring together to solve a problem. Here is one of the strategies discussed during the workshop.

**Question: How we can find the right person to solve the conflict?**

Let us say that we find out that there is a conflict between Gul Mohammad and Fared over using a particular piece of land. By creating a diagram you can analyze the situation and possibly come up with a good solution. Let’s say we know that Gul Mohammad has the support of his father-in-law and Fared has the support of his Uncles. With a little investigation we find out that there is village leader nearby named Sultan Mohammad. It turns out that Sultan Mohammad is friends with Gul Mohammad’s father-in-law and with Fared’s Uncles. In addition, you determine that there is another person named Hamid who is friends with Fared but not with Gul Mohammad. Let’s analyze the situation using a diagram.
Analysis:

By sketching out the relationships between individuals it is quickly apparent that Sultan Mohammad could be the key to solving the conflict.

Figure 3 Analyzing the how the conflict might be solved.

On the last day Mr. Malang Balagh and Mr. Nawori talked and encouraged the Peace Ambassadors for doing a good job. Mr. Balagh said “It is the decision of Government to train Peace Ambassadors and send them to their provinces to seek peaceful solutions between Kuchi and Villagers. He spoke about Peace Ambassadors’ job according to Islamic law and encouraged them to do their best. He said that the Peace Ambassadors must help and support the innocent people and guide the cruel people until the cruelty is eliminated from our society. The work of the Peace Ambassadors is effective and graceful in rural areas. The Government and other organizations hope to solve the conflicts of people by letting the people do it themselves. He requested that the Peace Ambassadors pave the way for implementing peace and friendship between rural communities in the provinces. He added that it is the responsibility and duty of each Peace Ambassador to work within their society to build the path to peace.
Mr. Nawori added that the Peace Ambassador teams who are resolving conflicts in the rural areas are instrumental in reestablishing the relationships between different tribes and are creating a brotherhood. We can rebuild the relationships between different tribes with the Peace Ambassadors and we can remove the distrust. He requested that Peace Ambassadors should know their responsibilities in the light of Islamic teachings and must serve the people. We all hope the Peace Ambassadors will do a good job and that one day Afghanistan will be known as one of the peaceful countries.

On behalf Peace Ambassadors Mr. Abdul Ghani from Takhar and Dr. Shahkhan from Khost spoke. First of all we would like to thank the Peace Commission, SDO and the PEACE project for this wonderful idea of having a Peace Ambassador program and we think it is a very good program for solving conflicts and bringing peace to Afghanistan. We are not saying we can solve all problems in Afghanistan, but at least it is a first step for bringing peace to this country. He said that during these four days we have learned many new things that could help us for solving conflicts and we promise we will pass the peace message to the people and try very hard to solve as many conflicts as possible.

Workshops for the Experienced Peace Ambassadors

Peace Ambassadors working in six regions of Afghanistan reported their progress in meetings this past February. Two workshops were conducted between the 21st and the 25th of February 2011. The Peace Ambassadors followed their typical schedule which included additional training. This workshop was specifically focusing on the topic of “negotiation”.

- Opening of workshop
- Introduce the participants of the workshop
- Amis, goal and roles for workshop
- What is conflict? And kind of conflict
- Ways of solving conflict
- Meaning of conflict
- Ways of being a good speaker and listener
- Meaning of negotiation
- Review of the first day.
- Steps of Negotiation.
- Presenting last two months reports
- The important of Negotiation (Group work).
- Explanation of Group work.
- A review of the days
- Observation of yesterday works
- Making plan for next two months
- What are the skills for Negotiation?
- Challenges of Negotiation.
- Important points for a Negotiator
- Negotiation from perspective of Islam.
- Evaluation of workshop.
- Review of the day
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<td>Khoja M. Amin Sadiqi</td>
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There were 36 participants attending the 2nd and 3rd workshops due to the changing of the 14 Peace Ambassadors we mixed some ambassadors in these workshops. The participants were from Parwan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Sar-e-Pul, Samangan, Kapisa, Ghazni, Wardak, Balkh, Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Khost, Ghazni, and Bamyan.

At the beginning of the workshop, the SDO trainer introduced a new trainer for participants and said he was replacing Rahimyar. The new trainer is Hasmatullah Wahidi. He is the new Community-Based Development Manager at SDO. He presented himself well and should be a very good trainer.

We found out something very interesting about the Kuchi’s Shuras. When they are going to settle a dispute they have a person who assesses prices for any kind of injury that is inflicted. There are specific fines assessed for splitting someone’s head or if someone is killed. This person is called a “Narkhchi” which means price-man. For example, if two people fight and one of them was injured during the fight, the Narkhchi knows how much the other person should pay in compensation.

Figure 5 Monthly Presentation of progress in solving conflicts in Ghazni Province.
Discussions surrounding the process of negotiation were initiated with exploratory questions such as:

1. **In your point of view, what is required for negotiation to occur?**

   Responses:
   a. Negotiation should only be started with full consent of both sides
   b. Both sides of the conflict should trust the mediator
   c. During negotiation the mediator must remain neutral and show both sides respect
   d. At the beginning a guarantee letter should be taken from both sides to prevent further conflicts

2. **In your points of view what should be avoided during negotiation?**

   Responses:
   a. Disruptive people should not be part of a negotiation
   b. Unfair customs should be avoided
   c. Prevent discussions from escalating in anger
   d. Avoiding from dissents during negotiations
   e. Do not take sides, remain neutral
   f. The mediator should not abuse his position
   g. Do not allow the rights of others to be disrespected during the negotiation

While learning more about negotiating in relation to solving conflicts the question was posed. “*What are the PA’s primary problems during negotiation*”? The attendants gave the following responses.

1. Interference by political parties, local commanders, and other powerful people
2. Interference by a third person such as a supporter of one side of the conflict.
4. Including people in discussions who are not directly involved in the conflict. Their participation sometimes has negative effects on the decision process.
5. Inappropriate backing for one side of the conflict by an individual or a group of people
6. Sometimes people from one side of the conflict are not ready to pursue impartial peacemaking
Recommendation from this set of workshops

1. If it is possible to expand the workshops to include governments officials
2. For discussing the group work topics we need for more time

Results

As of February, 2011, at least 1900 meetings have been held and a total of 488 conflicts have been solved. Of the 488 conflicts solved, 50% of these were conflicts over land use and land access issues. Social conflicts between families, villagers, or Kuchi people made up 48% of the conflicts solved by PA. The remaining 2% resolved were conflicts between villagers and the government. This information is displayed in the following figure to show this relationship by Province.

All 52 Ambassadors will meet during the 3rd week of April. The results from the April workshop will be reported in the next quarterly report.
Kuchi Development Workshop

The Afghanistan PEACE Project organized a one-day workshop for representatives of the Independent Department of Kuchi to meet with representatives of various development organizations. The workshop was held at the German Guesthouse in Kabul. Kuchi leaders frequently stress the development needs of their communities and request assistance. Development organizations often do not have a clear picture of the Kuchi seasonal movements or have contacts with Kuchi leaders. Therefore, the objective of the workshop was to bring together representatives from both groups with the purpose of providing a forum for exchange of information and opportunities for networking and collaboration on future projects in variety of development spheres.

The workshop was attended by 4 IDK representatives and several Parliamentary Members and 18 representatives from 10 development organizations. The IDK staff in attendance were the Director and Department Heads from Health, Education, and Animal Husbandry. Representatives from the following development organizations were also present at the workshop: Youth Health and Development Organization, USAID, Dutch Committee (DCA), Italian Cooperation, Asia Foundation, PALAD/MAIL, CTAP/Mail, Save the Children, UNICEF, and the Egyptian Embassy.

In conclusion, the workshop provided a valuable forum for Kuchi leaders and members of the development community to meet, learn from each other, and explore possibilities for future cooperation. Since this was the main objective of the workshop, it can be concluded that the workshop proved to be a success. We will follow up with IDK to see if any concrete relationships develop.
Challenges

During the past quarter the PEACE Project has not had any major challenges. The Peace Ambassador Program has been our only funded activity. Our partners for this activity have all been doing their parts to make the program successful. We have been very happy with their cooperation and input on nearly all aspects. The Peace Commission has promised to increase the number of people it will devote to the program and this should help us to conduct the evaluations more effectively in the future.

With respect to the Ministry of Agriculture and the systems we have been institutionalizing over the first 4 years of the project. There are two main issues that do require some attention.

1) The person we trained for the last 3.5 years to run the Nutritional Profiling Lab at Darulaman has been shifted because during the MAIL restructuring MAIL inadvertently moved the lab under the livestock production department when the lab manager works for the animal health department. They have assured me that this will be fixed but they have been saying that since last fall.

2) The institutionalization of the Livestock Early Warning System is at a standstill at the MAIL for several reasons. First, more samples are required for the system to be fully implemented and security is an issue for that to take place. We discussed this at length in April with USAID and have decided to only offer technical support for the system at this time. We are also hoping that MAIL can put forward some candidates that may be able to learn how to run the plant growth models for LEWS. There is one promising person that they have suggested recently and he is currently attempting to look at satellite image data as a way to determine changes in desertification over the last 30 years and is very interested in modeling. I think this is promising and we should encourage his continued work at MAIL. Finally, there is a problem with the NOAA NDVI data. Currently the plant growth models that are running for areas that have already been surveyed are not receiving correct NDVI data. We have learned that NOAA’s satellite 18 is having a mechanical problem with the NDVI scanner. NOAA is hoping to have the system changed over to the new NDVI scanner (i.e., NOAA 19) this summer.