



BUREAU FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (BRD)

## Afghan Justice Sector and Public Administration Fellowship Program

### Report on US Fellows Visit on Afghanistan



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To: Relief International

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## **ECA Exchange Program Report**

US fellow visit form Afghanistan

10-16 December 2011

### **Summary**

Under the ECA exchange,for Afghan Justice System and public administration Fellowship Program, The Bureau for Reconstruction and Development facilitated the visit of the 4 US participants in Kabul. In close coordination with the Relief International Kabul office, the US exchange participants were provided with the first hand experience of the justice system and public administration and familiarized with Afghan culture and traditions, including the work of the civil society in Afghanistan. The US participants were also provided opportunity to re-connect with the Afghan participants, where the Afghan participant's briefed the US exchange fellows on the latest achievements by utilizing the experience gained during the one month fellowship in the United State. The total duration of the program was one week, there were not any major constraint in place and the program was completed in a peaceful environment.

### **Detailed Activities:**

#### **1. Preparation for US fellow Visits**

As per the schedule, the US fellow visit was planned on the first day of October 2011. In order to facilitate the visit of the US fellow successfully, BRD has started its preparation in the month of September 2011, through meeting with the relevant institutions planned to be visited by the US fellows; the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women Affaires, Supreme Court, Kabul University and also the key members of the civil society network from the provinces, for a joint discussion of the civil society work .

BRD completed all the preparation for facilitating the visit of the US fellows till end of September, but due to security incident in this month, the visit was postponed to the month of December, consequently all the planned meetings and activities were also postponed.

BRD resumed again its preparation in November 2011, when till the end of the November all the planned meetings in targeted institutions for the US fellows visit were set up, according to the detailed visits program agreed with Relief International.

### **Day One 10 December 2011**

After the security briefing by the Relief International and Fellows visit from the US embassy, BRD has organized a reception dinner, inviting the Afghan Fellows to re-connect with US fellows, in which the Afghan Fellows briefed the US fellows in their latest achievement after their return from the US including the follow up project planned by the Afghan fellows, followed by general discussion and

Question and Answer Session. Both the Afghan and US fellows served dinner together and had individual discussion with each other.

### **Day Two 11 December 2011**

Based on the detailed program schedule, the US fellows visited the Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Justice.

During the meeting organized in the Ministry of Women Affairs, the US participant have been familiarized with activities and functions of the Ministry of Women Affairs, including the Women Action plan, Gender mainstreaming, working relation of the MoWA with other ministries, latest achievement, including the visits from different department of the MoWA.

Meeting took place with the director of women affairs for Kabul province during which US fellows visited the women garden, in which the director of the women affairs briefed the US participant on the activities and function of the women affaire departments. The US participant also visited the vocational training projects at women garden funded by different donors.

The second round of the meeting with the legal institute of the Ministry of Justice has been commenced, in which participated the director of the Legal Institute, the director of the Legal Aid department and also the director of the Women Juvenile center of Kabul province, including the Afghan fellows from the ministry of justice participated.

The director of all the 3 sections briefed the US participants on their function and activities under the ministry of justice, including the legislation development process, from processing the request of different institutions for the legislation, the drafting and review process, approval and publishing of the legislation in the national gazette. At the end, QA session was held where the directors of each section has responded to the questions raised by the US participants. The meeting was the key in provision of the first-hand knowledge to the US participant of the process of law development in Afghanistan and the relations of the Ministry of Justice with other Ministries and institutions.

### **Day Three 12 December 2011**

According the second day meeting schedule, the US fellows visited the Supreme Court, where the director of the Research and Studies department mr. Usman Zhouble, has provided in depth information on all aspect of the supreme court's activities, including the challenges and achievements of the highest legal body. He also distributed the information book including detailed information in regards to the independent judicial system and its latest achievement. He also gave the opportunity for US fellows to ask questions and then provided detailed information in regards to their questions.

In the afternoon session the US participants visited the office of All Afghan Women Union and met with the leading women right activist Soraya Parlika. She briefed the US participants on the challenges faced by the Afghan women in all aspect of their life and the advocacy process for defending the rights of Afghan women. She also provided an overview of the current activities undertaken by her organization,

including the update on the Paris conference hold recently, in which Soraya Parluka represented Afghan women and the women civil society.

#### **Day Four 13 December 2011**

As per the original plan, a meeting was planned with the member of Provincial council in Kabul, province, alternatively the US participants were given the choice to observe the court proceeding and they have preferred the latter option, to observe the court proceedings in the Primary Court of Kabul city. Before observing the court proceedings the US participants met with senior Primary Court judge and also with Afghan fellows who recently completed their fellowship at the United State. During the meeting different aspects of primary court have been discussed and then the court proceeding has been started. After observing few cases the judge has provided time for the questions of the US participant in regards to the cases and the decisions of the court.

During the afternoon session the US fellows visited the faculty of Law and Sharia Law in which the professor of both faculties provided detailed presentation regarding the faculty of Law and Sharia Law, followed by QA session in which the US fellows raised several questions, which were then answered by the professors.

#### **Day Five 14 December 2011**

At the first session of the day, the US fellow visited the Appeal Court of Kabul province where they have been briefed by the judge assigned by Appeal Court judge on the function of the Appeal Court and its jurisdiction, followed by QA session. The US fellows also met with the Afghan fellows who have recently completed their fellowship in the United States.

US fellows participated in an interactive workshop with the members of the provincial CSOs networks from 10 provinces of Afghanistan. Each CSO member gave briefing of their activities, projects and challenges that the civil society faces in the given province, including the efforts of civil society in carrying advocacy. They also discussed the ways of collaboration with the US fellows in some of the activities, including the capacity building of the local CSOs in the provinces.

The workshop was effective in providing the US fellows with provincial perspective and also the work of civil society organizations in the provinces.

#### **Day Six 15 December 2011**

The US fellow visited the historic Baber Garden, in order to be familiarized with the culture and history of Afghanistan. As it was the last day of the program, BRD has organized a Farwell Party inviting the Afghan fellows and to reconnect with US fellows in the last day and spend some time together. BRD also conducted the evaluation survey among the US fellows and then the Certificates were also distributed to the US fellows. The farewell dinner finalized the Fellowship program.

### **Coordination of the Program**

The program was fully coordinated on a day to day basis with the RI office in Kabul and also with the targeted Ministries, in order to ensure that all the preparation for the visits and meetings, timing and logistic are arranged on timely manner including the after and security of the US fellows.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The program was fully monitored by the Relief International Kabul office and the two staff members of the RI Kabul participated in all the meetings and visits facilitated by BRD for the US fellows.

The evaluation of the program took place using the evaluation questionnaire filled by the US participants including their verbal conversation in which, they expressed their satisfaction from the program delivery, logistics, meetings and materials.

Based on the evaluation form filled the participants, the overall quality of the program is ranked 4 from 5 with higher ranking and also their meetings with civil society leaders has gained the most higher ranking of 5, and the rest of the visits and meeting gained 4 ranking from the total 5 . Which indicates the success of the program.

### **Conclusions:**

The program was successful as it provided opportunities to bath US and Afghan fellows to share their experiences and sustain the linkages. It also provided broader picture of the Justice System and Public Administration in Afghanistan, including the work of the Civil Society Organizations and the challenges they faced in the current context of Afghanistan as well as their struggle for overcoming these challenges to bridge between the people and government. The program was fully consistent with the objective of the project and all the activities outlined in the syllabus for the US participant have been achieved.

