

Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric

2015

ISSN 2464-1472

Report nr. 3

## Gender, Human Security and Development in Post-Conflict Pakistan

Workshop: 'Gender, Human Security & Development: Learning through Research', 2013.

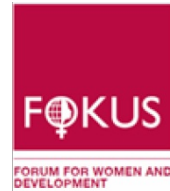
Prepared by: Meline Bernard and Ingrid Nyborg



The Department of International Environment and Development Studies is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). The Department's activities include research, education and assignments.

This report is part of a report series titled 'Gender, Human Security and Development in Post-Conflict Pakistan'. The report series includes reports from workshops and seminars that have taken place during the 4-year research project *Gender, Human Security and Development in Post-Conflict Pakistan: Policy Implications for Local, Gendered Perceptions of Security and Development*.

The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the author and cannot be attributed directly to the Department of International Environment and Development Studies or the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.



Meline Bernard and Ingrid Nyborg.

Report from workshop 'Gender, Human Security & Development: Learning through Research', 2013.

Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric

Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

P.O. Box 5003

N-1432 Aas Norway

<http://www.nmbu.no/en/about-nmbu/faculties/samvit/departments/noragric>

ISSN 2464-1472

Photo (cover): Abda Khalid. Workshop in Kabul, Afghanistan, 2013.

Cover design: Linn Jäckle/NMBU

# **Workshop**

## **‘Gender, Human Security & Development: Learning through Research’**

**November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Venue: Kabul, Afghanistan**

**August 2015**

Report nr. 3 in the report series: Gender, Human Security and Development in Post-Conflict Pakistan

Prepared by:  
**Meline Bernard and Ingrid Nyborg**

# Table of Content

Introduction .....	1
1. Background.....	1
2. Workshop Objectives .....	1
3. Participants.....	2
4. Facilitation Team .....	2
5. Workshop Methodology.....	3
Workshop Process .....	3
Workshop Evaluation.....	14
Concluding Remarks and Way Forward .....	15
Appendix.....	18
Workshop Program.....	18

# **Introduction**

## **1. Background**

Working with gender and human security in post-conflict settings continues to be a challenge not only in Afghanistan, but elsewhere in the region as well. The workshop ‘Gender, Human Security and Development – Learning through Research’ held in Kabul on November 18 & 19, 2013, was an opportunity to gather a number of international and Afghan organizations and agencies to explore how action/applied qualitative research on these issues might contribute to improvements in the ways we understand and address gender and human security in our work. The idea for the workshop evolved over the last few years in discussions between Noragric/UMB, FOKUS, NCA and NAC, who are all involved in research and activities in gender, human security and development, and who were all interested in promoting a common learning platform linking research and practice to be able to contribute to competence building of their own and partner staff within these areas.

## **2. Workshop Objectives**

The purpose of the workshop was threefold. Firstly, it provided an opportunity to explore what we actually mean when we use the terms gender, human security and development in post-conflict contexts – are we all talking about the same things? Secondly, it provided an opportunity for organizations and researchers in Afghanistan working on these issues to discuss their experiences, methodologies and findings both with each other, and with researchers in an on-going Norwegian research project ‘Gender, Human Security and Development in Post Conflict Areas’. Finally, it explored possibilities for action/applied research collaboration in the future.

### 3. Participants

Fifteen international and Afghan organizations and agencies sent representatives to the workshop. These organizations and agencies comprised: Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), NCA Afghanistan, Medica Afghanistan, Afghan Women Skills Development Center (AWSDC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Research Institute for Women, Peace and Security (RIWPS), Swedish Afghanistan Committee (SAC), Sanahee Development Organization (SDO), Norwegian Royal Embassy (NRE), United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), Afghan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO), Women for Afghan Women (WAW), Justice for All Organization (JFAO) and Afghan Midwives Association (AMA).

Since one of the main focuses of the workshop was on qualitative approaches and methodologies, it was particularly relevant to those working in these organizations and agencies on planning, monitoring, evaluation and research, both on central and provincial levels.

### 4. Facilitation Team

The facilitation team of the workshop was composed of members from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) and the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC).

Dr. Ingrid Nyborg, senior researcher and associate professor at Noragric (Department of International Environment and Development Studies at UMB), was the main facilitator for the workshop. She was accompanied by Ms. Abda Khalid and Mr. Noor Elahi, PhD students in Development Studies at Noragric, UMB. Additionally, Mr. Kenneth Marimira, Monitoring & Evaluation Expert at NAC, contributed greatly to facilitating the group works. Practical aspects of the workshop were performed by Ms. Meline Bernard, MSc student at UMB, and Mr. Mustafa Sarvary Communications Officer at NAC.

## 5. Workshop Methodology

The workshop was conducted over two full days. It began with a discussion of what we mean by gender, human security and development in post-conflict and conflict contexts in general, and Afghanistan in particular. This was followed by presentations of a few selected projects in Afghanistan which are addressing these issues, as well as a presentation of the Norwegian research project ‘Gender, Human Security and Development in Post-Conflict Contexts’, with a case study from the Swat Valley, Pakistan. This is a joint research project between the Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric (Norwegian University of Life Science), and the Department of Development Studies (COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad, Pakistan).

The workshop comprised both presentations and group work, where there was ample time to share, discuss, and brainstorm on how action/applied research on gender, human security and development might contribute to improvements in the quality and relevance of not only research activities, but to the strengthening of development programs as well.

The workshop was held in English, while interpretation into Dari was provided by Ms. Nabilla Ataiee from NCA, to a small number of participants less confident in English.

### **Workshop Process**

#### 1. Day One

After an introduction round, the first day of the workshop started with an introduction of concepts. Four terms were successively reviewed and questioned: security, conflict, development and gender.

- **Security** is often considered to be a pre-requisite for development. But whose security are we talking about? And does it make a difference who is saying security? The concept of human security, developed by the UN since 1994, is an umbrella term which allows analysis of how different kinds of insecurities intersect, in which circumstances, for different women and men, and offers an analytical link between security and development worlds. This means that by broadening our understanding of security to human security, we can more easily discover different kinds of insecurity, and how these can be addressed by different activities and institutions.
- **Conflict** can take different forms. Is conflict an event to be resolved, or is it a regular part of social relations that has to be managed? This will make a difference in how you address conflict. Also, *who you are* will influence *how you see* or discover conflict, and the way you think of conflict will influence how you will study it and address it.
- **Development** can be described in many ways: economic development and income increase, personal security, improved health and literacy, greater equity and respect of human rights, peacebuilding, statebuilding, and many others. Different people and organizations have different ideas about what development is and how to achieve it, although they often think they are all talking about the same thing. As a development actor, you can question what is included in your and others' definitions, how different aspects are linked, and whether they are sustainable in the long run.
- **Gender** identifies the socially constructed roles and relationships between men and women. Gender therefore refers not to only men or only women, but to the relationship between them, and the way this is socially constructed. Gender relations are contextually specific and often change in response to changing social, economic, and/or political circumstances (adapted from Moser 1993). Although we all use the term gender in our work, we often are not clear about exactly what we mean. For example, we tend to put people into two distinct categories of men and women, but is this always useful? To what extent can we generalize about women? About men? Are there differences between women, and between men? And



are women and men's interests always different? If gender relations are in fact always changing, how do we take account of that in our work?

Questioning concepts, their definitions and their linkage leads to asking new questions: How do security and development issues impact *different* women and *different* men *differently* (or the same)? How does the way we think about gender relations influence the way in which we think about, define and act on security and development issues? And who has the power to decide which definition is valid, and will then be used to design policy and interventions? These questions unveil the complexity of the debate, illustrating the importance of making sure there is a common understanding of key concepts from the start.

The first day of the workshop continued with three presentations of projects conducted by the organizations Research Institute for Women, Peace and Security (RIWPS), Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) and NCA Afghanistan.

- **Baseline Study on the implementation of Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) law – A pilot project conducted by RIWPS**

RIWPS carried out a pilot qualitative study in 4 provinces of Afghanistan in 2013. It aimed to provide up-to-date information for a campaign to raise awareness on the law, and to identify the main challenges in the effective implementation of the law. RIWPS also conducted advocacy meetings with governors and officials to address the need of political will with respect to the implementation of the law. RIWPS found out that awareness of the EVAW law and the Provincial Prosecution Units (PPU) is limited; consequently, there is no assurance that cases of violence against women will be investigated and solved.

- **Community Midwifery Education – A project conducted by NAC**

NAC runs a community midwifery education project in the province of Wardaq. The midwifery school has one class with the capacity to host 25 students. These students study during 3 semesters over a period of 8 months. The educational program includes both theoretical and

practical work on anatomic modules in school and on patients in health facilities. However the project is more ambitious than only dealing with midwifery skills. With this project, NAC aims to empower women through education within health and deployment in rural areas. Such education further increases women's access to reproductive rights and decrease the maternal and child mortality. They emphasize the importance of communication, both between students and between students and patients, and the role these women can play in promoting peace and negotiating women's rights in communities. In 2012, the school suffered the collateral damages of a bomb which exploded nearby and partly destroyed its building. Since then, the school has been rebuilt and the classes resumed. This has been possible partly due to the emphasis on negotiating with various community interests to ensure that they see women, women's education and women's health as valuable to all.

- **Women, Peace and Security Program – A project conducted by NCA Afghanistan**

NCA Afghanistan, over the years from 2011 to 2015, has committed to working on the right to peace and security as a thematic focus area, with gender integrated as a cross-cutting issue to all its programs. Within this focus area, NCA runs a specific program for women, peace and security. Based on the recognition of the UN Security Council resolution 1325, and the necessity to promote gender mainstreaming and women's participation, the program aims to work on community mobilization and advocacy activities with both male and female stakeholders. Achievements of the program include advocacy for women rights in one particular province (i.e. Faryab), the promotion of women human rights defenders, increased space for women participation in the community and greater understanding of women's situation. A key lesson learnt is the absolute necessity to include male community members in the activities.

The second half of the first day of the workshop comprised a presentation of the Noragric/CIIT project 'Gender, Human Security and Development in Post-Conflict Pakistan: Policy Implications of Local, Gendered Understandings of Security and Development' conducted in Swat Valley, Pakistan. The three-year study (2011-2014) aimed to explore, using the concept of human security, how women and men's local experiences and understandings of insecurity, vulnerability and development relate to security and development discourses, policies and

programs in post-conflict (post-disaster) situations. Six villages in lowland, middle and upper Swat were chosen, with varying degrees of conflict and flood impact. Qualitative, question guides as well as focus groups, key informants, life stories and participant observation were the methods used to collect data.

This research was an example of how one might use the broader definitions of gender, human security and development which we discussed in the introductory session in an actual study in the field. Emphasis was laid on discovering difference (between women, between men, between women and men, class, livelihoods, etc.) rather than keeping to neat categories. The impact of flood and conflict was very different in different communities and for women and men of different classes, ethnic groups and livelihoods, so it is very hard to generalize and this is difficult for development actors to manage, and in many cases they did not manage well, and conflicts actually increased. The idea of conflict was kept broad. It was then observed that there is, in fact, not one account of the conflict, and women and men experienced insecurity in so many different parts of their lives – not just in terms of insurgents. The project also discovered the emergence on new institutional arrangements to address conflict and development such as ‘constructed’ jirgas i.e. by UNDP, local initiatives taken by communities and police to manage conflict at earlier stages, and the inclusion of women (including female paralegals) into local jirgas to address women’s issues. Two concrete cases were presented from Swat in order to illustrate what interesting findings one can get when following this approach to research: one on women’s land rights, and the other on the effect of the conflict on participatory development approaches. The results are in the process of being written up as articles by the researchers.

The final session on the first day comprised group work, where the participants were asked to reflect on their experience and attempt to answer two questions: What are the main issues regarding gender, human security and development in Afghanistan that you have encountered in your work? What do we already know, and what do we know too little about? This resulted in lively discussions in all the groups!

## 2. Day Two

The second day of the workshop started with a series of presentations based on the group work done the previous day.

Groups made the following points in their presentations (the summary of the group work given in this report is in bullet point form with minimal editing, mainly for the benefit of participants such that they can recognize and be reminded of the presentations and discussions).

### **(1) What are the main issues regarding gender, human security and development in Afghanistan that you have encountered in your work?**

- The concept of ‘gender’ is often misunderstood in Afghanistan. It is viewed as a Western concept, or as contradictory to Islamic law. ‘It is our fault, we are using this term in the wrong way’.
- Afghan women are prevented from taking opportunities. Restrictions as to their mobility and the lack of acceptance of a male-dominated society contribute to this phenomenon.
- There is a lack of effective participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels in Afghanistan. In some cases, participation is observed, but it is not effective.
- Competition among women also hinders greater participation and representation of women.
- Inclusion of people with disabilities is very low in Afghanistan,
- Resource allocation of government budget for development is heavily centralized. Kabul and the provinces are considered, but districts are usually disregarded.

### **(2) What do we already know, and what do we know too little about?**

- Most burning issues in Afghanistan are very well-known, but knowledge is not based on proper research.
- Afghanistan lacks reliable statistics and data that can account for the reality of the country.

- There is a knowledge gap in Afghanistan on the topic of gender and the impact of project work related to gender. The ‘gender equity’ dimension often lacks in project designs and gender-based analysis is rarely done.
- Contextualizing and designing development programs according to culture and religion is pivotal. Pashtunwali (the Pashto code of conduct and honor) as well as logical religious arguments should be used for contextualization and design. Positive cultural and religious elements deserve to be taken into account and used in the debate over women’s rights.

The following points were made in the discussion which followed the presentations (the summary of these points is in bullet point form with minimal editing, mainly for the benefit of participants such that they can recognize and be reminded of the presentations and discussions).

**On centralization in Afghanistan and the NSP program:**

- MRRD has finally started up councils at the cluster and district levels, but the initiative is brand new and its outcomes cannot be evaluated yet.
- One third of the NSP program is not implemented yet. Moreover, there has not been proper follow-up on CDC shuras after they were established. These structures are now in bad condition; they face many challenges but lack capacity to tackle them.
- Women CDC are hardly active beyond the registration of women members on paper. CDC women are ignored; even CDC men are sometimes ignored.
- Training of CDC members by NGOs has shown a lack of understanding of their role, and even a lack of knowledge of basic elements such as the meaning of ‘CDC.’ Field staff often shows a lack of interest for training.
- Yet, NSP is viewed as a successful program overall.
- Most problems are related to NSP funds. It would be worth looking at initiatives where there is no money and how to achieve change without money in such a way as to get over the money issues and solve problems together with CDCs rather than simply ‘do projects.’

### **On gender and women empowerment-related issues:**

- Women were long locked behind walls; their exposure to life and access to education was very much restricted. Currently, women's representation is pushed through a quota system rather than through the recognition of their skills.
- Girls' education should be pushed even more. If co-education is not allowed or accepted, yet it could be envisioned to have separate education; at least the girls would be educated, even though it is challenging to discuss life and society issues if men and women cannot talk.
- Men often worry about women's security. Ask yourself: How can we design our society to ensure women's security?
- There is no chosen word in the Dari language that provides a common and recognized translation of the English word 'gender.' The English word 'gender' is usually used in conversations in Dari. It is therefore little wonder that the concept is seen as a Western concept. NGO, by bringing the English word 'gender' to communities, make it an issue and create problems. However, an integrated approach to gender and development activities should not require the use of the word in discussion with communities in the field, although it is needless to say that most donors are looking for projects using the word 'gender.' Language must be adapted so that issues can be talked about.
- 'Gender' is a constructed word, even in English. It did not belong to the common vocabulary until after the feminist movement which was a political movement. Following the movement, the academia world constructed the term to try to conceptualize relations between men and women. The concept is useful for us to help us to uncover power relations we may not see otherwise and think about how we include both men and women.

The second day of the workshop continued with a presentation on methodology and how qualitative methods can help in exploring complexity in society.

Qualitative methods can be more useful than quantitative methods to understand complex and sensitive issues such as gender relations, human security and development. In brief, qualitative research methods refer to the in-depth, systematic study of ordinary activities in the settings in which they occur, and what they mean to those who engage in them. They imply exploring not

just the *what*, *where* and *when*, but also the *why* and *how*. Such methods include focus group discussions, individual interviews, life histories, participant observation, and participatory tools. They require several conditions like physical presence in the field, and access to people; particular skills in observation and personal communication; and a plan for how to manage the data collected. Challenges of doing research in post-conflict contexts are numerous, as there are often many conflicts still existing in communities.

After the presentation, there was a second group work session on approaches & methods. Participants were asked to share experiences with different kinds of approaches and methods used in their work, and to attempt to answer four guiding questions: What kind of approaches and methods do you use in your work? Why have you chosen these methods? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these methods in addressing issues of gender, human security and development in post-conflict contexts? And finally, is the integration of qualitative methods into your work desirable, and where might they best fit to complement and enhance your assessment, baseline, planning, implementation and evaluation activities?

Groups made the following points in their presentations (the summary of these points is in bullet point form with minimal editing, mainly for the benefit of participants such that they can recognize and be reminded of the presentations and discussions).

- Methods used included baseline surveys, coordination meetings with stakeholders, pre-mapping, qualitative interviews and questionnaires, third-party monitoring in insecure areas, case studies, life stories, key informants, focus groups, online surveys for client satisfaction, setting indirect indicators, using previous clients to collect information about new clients in domestic violence cases
  - Beginning baseline
    - A. Secondary information: government, organizations, communities
- Strength: prevention of time waste
- Weakness: quality of information is not guaranteed

## B. Focus group

Strength: introduce the program and collect community perceptions on the program

Weakness: it is difficult to quantify the baseline indicators

## C. Individual interviews

Strength: find out about the actual situation of an individual – quantify the problems

Weakness: it takes time, it's costly

### ○ Completion of project

Evaluation: Case study and individual interviews

- Give in depth understanding of the impact of the project
- Bring a lot of learning
- Find out about the actual situation of individuals
- Quantify impacts

Strengths:

- Can share any info without influence
- Collect key info in less time

Weaknesses:

- Time consuming
- Can be dominated by some individuals and/or men
- Cannot collect comprehensive data
- Females may not attend for some reasons
- May not share the realities and talk about their own interest
- Not being able to rely on what people are telling us
- Focus groups cannot show the general situation of all beneficiaries
- Introducing foreigners/outsideers directly to the community

### ○ How to address challenges:

- Build long-term relationships to develop trust
- Use different methods to double-check information: ask indirect questions; do not ask questions people are not willing to answer



- Ask trusted people questions in communities located in insecure areas

The discussion which followed the presentations brought up various comments and much questioning. Several new methodological points were made (the summary of these points is in bullet point form with minimal editing, mainly for the benefit of participants such that they can recognize and be reminded of the presentations and discussions).

- You think about measuring various aspects of your work in order to report. What about thinking about learning? How might this affect what you are measuring and noticing?
- Baseline survey: it is not only to collect data - is an opportunity to build trust and good communication for the future, and to make people look forward to participating with you in the baseline and beyond.
- Give yourself time to build trust and create knowledge together for later use
- Ask yourself: what is the value of what you are doing? Why are you doing it?
- Invite locals to go through questions and think about them. Sometimes local staff point out problems with the questions unnoticed by other staff, and can suggest valuable improvements.
- Questionnaires (to quantify aspects) are different from question guides (where questions are open; it is about searching, learning). In questionnaires, you are only interested in answers to your pre-determined questions. In question guides, you open up for people mentioning other issues that you never thought of, but that are really important to local women and men.
- Do not compromise what you and local communities see as progress. Ask communities 'how do we know that we are doing a good job?' and they will tell you. This could then form the basis of what should be measured (alongside externally defined measures).
- Reporting upward should be done, but not at the detriment of accountability towards communities. You must be critical about how you operate in this regard, such that local communities have a real voice and influence in how development is affecting them.

## **Workshop Evaluation**

Following the workshop, NAC collected feedback on the organization of the event by sending electronic evaluation questionnaires to participants. A total of 10 participants answered. They shared with NAC the following views.

Participants appreciated the workshop for its friendly atmosphere and informality. For some, the workshop's topic was new, which motivated them to attend. Many highlighted its relevance to their work and to the country's context. Others were particularly interested in the experience sharing dimension of the event, with an exchange on regional i.e. Afghan/Pakistani experiences.

Participants felt they gained new knowledge on research methods, understanding of post-conflict situations, human security (inc. security and safety aspects), development issues, gender issues and human rights, as well as on the situation in Pakistan i.e. SWAT valley in Pakistan.

Participants feel they will have the opportunity to apply the learning in their own work on a daily basis, in specific with respect to planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting. Some mentioned their willingness to share the knowledge gained with their colleagues, the media and communities at the grass-root level. Participants said new projects are most likely to receive input from the workshops content, compared to ongoing projects. Participants see possible impact on their work effectiveness and increased professionalism, for example in journalism and midwifery.

Participants suggested more time to reflect on human security is required, as well as more time for group work. Also, the participation of more international aid workers, Afghan police and the involvement of Afghan social sciences students would be appreciated. On the practical side, some would have preferred another location or a location abroad arguably better for them to focus. National food is preferred over foreign food.

Participants would like to see follow-up to the event in the form of other workshops, information and material sharing between participating organizations/agencies, research and coordination

meetings. Training of human resources departments was suggested. Participants mentioned that follow-up also includes the integration of new ideas in participants' daily work.

Participants showed interest in covering the following issues also, or in greater details: gender mainstreaming in Afghanistan, participatory tools for assessment, human rights, women's rights awareness raising activities and women rights understood in an Afghan context.

## **Concluding Remarks and Way Forward**

The workshop ended with a plenum discussion of how the participants could envision a follow-up. There was for example an interest in having more such joint workshops, where organizations could meet with academia to discuss common themes, and perhaps even explore opportunities to collaborate on current and further activities. NCA Afghanistan and NAC, for example, had fruitful discussions on how they might interact in Faryab, where both will be working over the next few years. The workshop therefore proved to be an excellent networking opportunity.

The focus on broader themes (gender, human security and development) seemed also to be very relevant for the organizations, and provided a good opportunity for them to explore concepts which they use but never really think to question, and how they might be linked with each other. As seen in the previous section, suggestions of other relevant themes surfaced in the evaluation, and included for example gender and human rights.

The workshop also gave participants several opportunities to consider how changes in their understandings of concepts directly affect how they design their activities, in very concrete ways. NAC took advantage of the fact that they had several staff attending, and made the second group work an 'internal' discussion of their concrete plans and challenges in their MER activities.

An important point to bring forth is that this workshop was not a 'training' in the conventional sense of learning specific pre-defined skills. Rather this was a workshop which:

- Made space for critical thinking on development issues, and built confidence in discussing complex issues
- Provided examples of and tips on how to improve the quality of MER activities through the use of qualitative methods and improved research design,
- Encouraged networking and demonstrated the value of working with people from different organizations, with different backgrounds and capacities.
- Allowed communication between research and practitioners, for the absolute benefit of both!

It was apparent that several organizations saw the value of trying to find ways to re-think their MER activities, and expressed an interest in finding ways to link academia in these specific activities when possible to improve the quality of their work and to further build the competence of staff. Several of the organizations found areas where they could collaborate in the near future (NCA Afghanistan and NAC for example), and concrete ideas about applying for funding to link research and action were discussed in the breaks and after the workshop. The facilitation team hopes that these discussions continue with and between the organizations in Afghanistan, and that we can find new ways in the future to link research and practice on these that are central to our work.

Finally, the workshop facilitation team from Noragric would like to thank all those who made the workshop possible in the first place. Special thanks go to Sissel Thorsdalen, FOKUS, for engaging discussions over the last several years and assistance in linking with organizations in Kabul for this workshop; Liv Steinmoeggen, Padraig Maccarthy, and Thora Holter, NCA, for their interest and support both in Oslo and Kabul; Liv Kjølseth, Anne Hertzberg, Gry Synnevåg, and Terje Watterdal, NAC for their interest in collaboration and their willingness to be the main host of the workshop in Kabul – absolutely super support! Thanks to Ms. Muzhgan Jalal from NCA, Dr. Khadija Safi from NAC and Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Faizi from RIWPS for their presentations during the workshop. And thanks as well to the rest of the staff of both NAC and NCA who welcomed us warmly and made our stay interesting, pleasant and meaningful. And finally we would like to thank the participants, who despite the challenges in communication and logistics due to the Loya Jirga being held about the same time in Kabul, (with the resulting

roadblocks, security shutdowns and long travel time), bravely trekked across the city to manage the days of the workshop. We greatly appreciated your interest and enthusiasm in group and plenum discussions, and look forward to meeting many of you in the future if the opportunity arises for another stimulating engagement.

Warmest regards,

Ingrid Nyborg, Noor Elahi, Abda Khalid and Meline Bernard

Ås, January 16, 2014.

# Appendix

## Workshop Program

### **Gender, Human Security and Development – Learning Through Research**

*Dates: 18-19 November 2013*

*Venue: Le Jardin Restaurant, Taimani Street No. 9, Kabul*

*For direction please call: 0789001831 (Le Jardin) or 0790698225 (NAC)*

#### **The purpose of the workshop is threefold:**

- To provide an opportunity to explore what we actually mean when we use the terms gender, human security and development in post-conflict contexts – are we all talking about the same things?
- To provide an opportunity for organizations and researchers in Afghanistan working on these issues to discuss their experiences, methodologies and findings both with each other, and with researchers in an on-going Norwegian research project ‘Gender, Human Security and Development in Post-Conflict Areas’.
- To explore possibilities for action/applied research collaboration in the future.

#### **Day 1**

8.30-10.30

- Welcome to the workshop
- Introduction to the workshop topic and objectives, plan for the two days
- Introductions of participants
- Introduction of the concepts of Gender, Human Security, Development, and Conflict

10.30-10.40: Tea break

10.40-12.30

- Presentations by the organizations RIWPS, NAC and NCA followed by Q&A
- Discussion

### **Lunch (12.30-13.15)**

13.15-15.00

- Presentation of the Noragric/CIIT project: Background for the project; Description of the context; Research questions, methodology, and examples of findings.
- Questions and discussion
- Introduction to Group Work I: Exploring the Issues in Afghanistan
  - What are the main issues regarding gender, human security and development in Afghanistan that you have encountered in your work?
  - What do we already know, and what do we know too little about? Reflect on your experience.

15.00-15.10: Tea break

15.10-16.30

- Group Work I
- Summing up of the day, and what will be happening the next day

### **Day 2**

8.30-9.00

- Opening
- Group Work I Wrap-Up

9.00-10.30

- Group presentations and discussion

10.30-10.40: Tea Break

10.40-12.30

- Presentation on Methodology: Exploring complexity
- Introducing Group Work II: Approaches and Methods

Purpose: to share experiences with different kinds of approaches and methods used in their work:

- What kind of approaches and methods do you use in your work?
- Baselines, assessments, research, planning, monitoring and evaluation...
- Why have you chosen these methods?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of these methods in addressing issues of gender, human security and development in post-conflict contexts?
- Group Work II

## **12.30-13-15: Lunch**

13.15-15.00

- Groups presentations and discussion
- General discussion in plenary:
  - Is there a role for qualitative, gendered, human security approaches in addressing development issues?
  - How can they be integrated into your work? At what points? In what ways?
  - What is necessary to ensure the quality of qualitative methods?
  - How could you improve capacity in qualitative action research approaches?

15.00-15.10: Tea break

15.10-16.30

Discussion: Have the participants had experiences with action research in the past? Share examples (i.e. NCA livelihood studies), what did they gain through that exercise? What was challenging?



- Discussion: Interest in and ideas around collaboration between organizations in capacity building in qualitative, action research.
- Summing up

## Contact information of the organizers

### **Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)**

P.O. Box 5003,  
1432 Ås, Norway

<http://www.umb.no/noragric>

Contact: Ms. Ingrid Nyborg, Associate Professor

Mail: [ingrid.nyborg@nmbu.no](mailto:ingrid.nyborg@nmbu.no)

Tel: +47 64965337

Mobile: +47 95904751

### **Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)**

#### **Kabul Office**

Nawai Watt Street # 03, House # 148,  
Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan

Contact: Mr. Terje Magnussøn Watterdal, Country Representative

Mail: [t.watterdal@nacaf.org](mailto:t.watterdal@nacaf.org)

Mobile: +93 790 69 82 31

### **NCA Afghanistan**

#### **Kabul Office**

House 1071, Music High School Street  
Saraye Ghazni, District # 3  
Kabul, Afghanistan

Contact: Ms. Liv Steimoeggen, Country Representative

Mail: [liv.steimoeggen@nca.no](mailto:liv.steimoeggen@nca.no)

Mobile: +93 77 17 46 571

**FOKUS – Forum for Women and Development**

**Oslo Office**

Storgata 11

0155 Oslo, Norway

Phone: (47) 23 01 03 00

Mail: [fokus@fokuskvinner.no](mailto:fokus@fokuskvinner.no)