





## Teachers and Religious Leaders Request More Legal Awareness Trainings

UNESCO estimates that just 40% of children complete primary education in Afghanistan. With literacy rates hovering around 30% for adults (and less than 15% for females), creative approaches have to be used to reach and inform the general population about complex issues.

UNDP's Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan (JHRA) project has partnered with local NGOs in 21 districts in three provinces in northern Afghanistan to reach communities and inform them about issues relating to the law and their individual rights under the law. One type of awareness raising is via public theatre, engaging the communities through humor and fictional storylines.

Working with a local NGO, JHRA has organized 42 theatre performances in public squares and performance centers on topics such as domestic violence, family law and the settlement of land disputes. In the Kishem District of Badakhshan, for example, approximately 1,500 spectators turned up in early 2010 to watch some of the country's best-known actors stage a performance on forced marriages.

Says Timor, a local farmer who happened upon the performance, "This type of domestic violence does exist. Public theater is a good way to teach people about these issues because it looks at real life."

The JHRA project also conducts regular "training of trainers" (ToTs) in partnership with local NGOs to inform community leaders about the issues. These leaders – such as teachers and village elders – can then pass these ideas onto their constituents. Since community councils, known as shuras or jurgas, often resolve family and other disputes where the formal justice system is unable to operate, JHRA and its partners have also reached out to Islamic leaders to integrate human rights principles into traditional community dispute mechanisms. JHRA ToTs reached over 435 teachers and 46,500 secondary school students in 2010.

## Key Results 2010

- Establishment of the Human Rights Support Unit and its Official Inauguration in the Ministry of Justice
- 7 justice facilities, including court houses, detention centers and residences, handed over to district officials in Balkh and Baghlan Provinces; 9 new projects initiated in Faryab, Jawzjan and Badakhshan Provinces.
- Trained 55 Judges, 59 Prosecutors, 39 Huquq Officers, 18 Judicial Police, 638 Religious Leaders, 465 Teachers and 46,500 Students in Public Legal Awareness of Human Rights.
- Established the Supreme Court Translation Unit including a full-equipped Knowledge Resource Center; in 2010 the Unit translated the main UN human rights instruments, including the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), into Pashto to increase the ability of Afghan judges to access international laws.
- Conducted a nationwide media campaign on access to justice and human rights, and awareness trainings for students

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