

## Afghanistan Protection Cluster: Impact Stories

### Empowering Women as an Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE): Farida Nikzad's Story



Farida Nikzad, mother of three children, received training and became an EORE trainer with the Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) in Maydan Wardak province.

Despite restrictions, Farida works as a EORE trainer, accompanied by her husband, and in the last two years, Farida has:

- conducted 730 EORE sessions (in Pashto and in Dari)
- trained 7,739 girls and 8,097 women
- empowered 14 female community volunteers

Farida exemplifies the vital role that women can play in post-conflict reconstruction and public safety efforts.

*"Before joining ATC, I was unemployed and struggled to provide for my family. This job has not only allowed me to support my children and in-laws but also has given me the chance to make a real difference in the lives of my fellow Afghans." Farida.*

### Psychological counselling services UNHCR/ HealthNet TPO: Farzana Amini's story



*"My life has changed since coming here for help, I'm so grateful. Before, I was hopeless and desperate to a point where I wanted my life to be over. I couldn't share my problems with anyone else before." Beneficiary of Farzana's counselling*

Farzana provides psychosocial counselling services for women, girls, men, and boys.

Farzana also coordinates with a community health worker to:

- Disseminate information on mental health and psychosocial issues and available services,
- enable referrals of cases needing MHPSS support

UNHCR 3-year plan: to strengthen mental health services. In 2024 more than 35,000 individuals participated in mental health and psychosocial activities.

## Empowering Afghan Women Amid Crisis: ACAO's Dedication to Protection and Support: Amina's story



Amina, mother of two, faced prolonged domestic violence that left her emotionally and physically scarred.

Through ACAO, Amina received counseling, medical care, legal support as well as a vocational training, enabling Amina to start earning a modest income through tailoring.

- ACAO provided crucial support to hundreds of women, empowering them to navigate Afghanistan's legal landscape.
- It has enabled over 400 women to gain skills in tailoring, handicrafts, and food production, helping them earn a sustainable income.
- ACAO engage with local leaders and increases awareness on women's rights, safety, health.

## PSN Cash assistance - UNHCR / WADAN: Abdul Sayed's story



Since arriving in Afghanistan from Pakistan last year, Abdul Sayed, a refugee returnee and father of six, has managed to open a grocery shop in Nangarhar province, through the cash support of UNHCR's local partner WADAN. Abdul is determined to expand his business.

In 2024, UNHCR supported over 280 individuals so far with cash for specific needs in Nangarhar province.

*"Life is getting back on track. Now we have a source of income. I am very happy, and I hope to expand this business in the future." Abdul*

## UNHCR/Community Outreach Volunteer Program: Asfana's story



Asfana is working as a UNHCR-trained Community Outreach Volunteer (COV) in Ghor province.

She has been working to help UNHCR partners assist families in the province who were hard-hit by devastating flash floods.

The floods have killed at least 111 people and destroyed almost 2,300 houses and agricultural land.

As a COV, Asfana helps communities to understand what help and services UNHCR and its partners provide and raises issues facing communities and cases where people need specific help.

*"I can give a voice to the people and raise it to others." Asfana.*

## Restoring Safety & Hope: Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation's (OMAR) impact in Baghlan and Kunduz



### OMAR's project achievements:

- 1,172,813 square meters land cleared
- 1,117 Explosive Devices Destroyed:
- 324 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions conducted, reaching 8,149 individuals.

### Impact on communities:

- 4 communities in 4 districts are free from explosive hazards.
- 13 schools are free from explosive threats, drastically reducing risks for children.
- Reopened roads have revived trade and travel.
- Return to farming and raising livestock are contributing to economic recovery and food security.

## Legal Awareness Program - UNHCR/WSTA: Khodai Noor's story



*"Without a tazkira, I felt invisible. My children couldn't attend school, and we were unable to access basic services."  
Khodai.*

After his return to Afghanistan, Khodai Noor, father of three children, faced many challenges without having the necessary legal documentation, including enrolling his children in school.

Khodai received legal advice through a legal awareness session organized by Watan's Social and Technical Service Association (WSTA - UNHCR partner). This has supported Khodai in acquiring civil documentation for his children and himself.

In 2024, more than 1,000 people were supported through UNHCR legal awareness program in southeastern Afghanistan.