United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

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UNICEF and Internews launch radio series on Child Rights

23 May 2010 - To promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which reached 20 years of age on 20 November 2009, UNICEF Afghanistan is launching a 30-minute radio series.

The 'Child's Home Radio Magazine', will be broadcast in Dari and Pashto via "Salam Watandar," a network of 42 community radios nationwide.

The programme is produced by UNICEF and Internews Network.

Broadcast on 21st in Dari and 24th May in Pashto, the first programme will be dedicated to Girl's Education, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the UNITED NATIONS GIRL'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE [UNGEI].

About 6.8 million children are enrolled in schools as per December 2009, with 2.5 million girls. The net enrolment rate for primary school-age children is 52 per cent (42 per cent girls, and 60 per cent for boys, National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment - VA 2007/8).

This is a significant improvement compared to 2001 when less than one million children were enrolled in primary school.

However gender disparity remains large, particularly among the rural and nomadic population, directly impacting on the access to basic social services, such as education and health. Today only 13 per cent of women aged over 15 years are literate, as opposed to 39 per cent of men.

Starting from 2010, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education aim to increase girls' enrolment in primary schools by 20 per cent by 2013.

Through improved quality of teaching and learning, 60 per cent of girls enrolled in Grade 1 last in 2009 will reach Grade 5 of the education cycle in 2013.

Some 30 per cent of all primary schools will be made child-friendly and will be transformed in a learning environment that is encouraging for girls and boys, including separate toilets for girls and boys, hygiene education, protective walls and playgrounds.

Through an expansion of literacy centers, literacy rates among females aged 15-24 years will be increased by 50 per cent, right, through reports from Kabul and the provinces and discussions with children.

In light of the Peace Jirga, the second programme scheduled for May 28 and 31st will be dedicated to Peace and Reconciliation, with children expressing their hopes, addressing Afghan politicians.

A song on peace, for and by children will be aired during the programme.



Insecurity will not deter UN's work in southern Afghanistan, says top envoy

20 May 2010 - The United Nations is committed to having an active presence in the southern part of Afghanistan, despite the insecurity in the region, the top United Nations envoy to the country pledged today.

"The UN has been here in this country and, particularly in the southern region, for a long time, and will continue to be there in support and by the side of the people of Kandahar even when times get difficult," said Staffan de Mistura, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

Mr de Mistura, who also serves as head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), paid a one-day visit to the area to assess the situation on the ground, as well as meet with local leaders and authorities and UN staff.

The Special Representative had constructive discussions with Governor Tooryalai Wesa and the Chairman of Kandahar's Provincial Council, Ahmad Wali Karzai.

He also met with tribal elders and heard their concerns on the security situation and access to humanitarian relief.

The world body has an active presence in the southern region, where UNAMA has a number of field offices and several UN agencies are working to assist local communities and provide vital humanitarian assistance.

Secretary-General names persistent recruiters of child soldiers

21 May 2010 - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has for the first time in his report on Children and Armed Conflict, included a list of persistent violators for recruiting and using children.

These violators, who have been in the annexes of the Secretary-General's report for at least five years, include rebel and militia fighters from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, as well as the transitional government of Somalia.

"The Secretary-General encourages the Security Council to consider more vigorous measures against these persistent violators and to consider including child recruitment and use in the mandates of all its sanctions committees. The report also lists state and non-state parties to conflict who have killed, maimed, raped and used sexual violence against children," said UN Deputy spokesperson Marie Okabe.

New to the annexes of the Secretary-General's report are the Afghan National Police, as well insurgents of the Convention of Patriots for Peace and Justice in the Central African Republic and Hizbul Islam in Somalia.

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Revenue collection swells in eastern Afghanistan

21 May 2010 - Customs houses in eastern Afghanistan are making extraordinary progress in collecting revenues, far above the set target, thanks to new technologies put in place and the simplification of Customs procedures.

According to data made available to United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) by the Customs officials in the eastern regional hub of Jalalabad, the officials were able to collect 3 billion Afs (US\$ 60 million) soon after the Automatic System of Customs Data (ASYCUDA) was set up in Jalalabad and Torkham along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in January 2006.

The target was 2 billion Afs (US\$ 40 million), said Jalalabad Customs House Director Ehsanullah Kamawal.

Since then, the revenue collection has been swelling every year.

"In 2009, the targeted amount was 6.75 billion Afs (US\$ 135 million) but we were able to collect almost 9.07 billion Afs (US\$ 181.4 million), 34 per cent more than the target set by the Ministry of Finance," said Mr Kamawal.

In 2005, before the new system was put in place with assistance from the World Bank and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), a total of 2.1 billion Afs was collected in revenue.

Although Jalalabad is the capital city of Nangarhar province, it also serves as the eastern regional hub and main point along the Torkham-Kabul highway, the lifeline of the Afghan capital and the international military forces operating in the region and beyond.

Mr Kamawal said the main goods that are imported from Pakistan through Torkham and Jalalabad Customs points are cooking oil, tea, rice, flour, garments, construction materials and food items.

The main items that are exported through these points are apricot, grape, animal skins and dry fruits.

Eastern Afghanistan's Customs operation has five wings – central office in Jalalaabad, goods reviewing point at Torkham, mobile customs team, check posts in different bordering areas, and a branch at the Jalalabad airfield.

"Unfortunately, the branch in the airport is not functioning now, and needs to be rehabilitated," said Abdul Samad, press officer at the Jalalabad Customs House.

Mr Kamawal, who oversees the Customs operation in eastern Afghanistan, is upbeat about the rise in revenue collection. Nangarhar Customs House plays a very vital role in the increase of national income and economic growth," he said.

Technological upgrading aside, the main reasons behind the rise are "strict enforcement of Customs procedures, deployment of professional staff members, prevention of corruption, simplification of complicated Customs procedures and transparency," said Mr Ehsanullah.

Customs houses in Jalalabad and Torkham have been built "in accordance with the international standard" with financial assistance from the European Union.

In the past, before the new system was introduced, it used to take two to three days for a goods-laden truck in Pakistan to get approval to enter Afghanistan, as all the request letters and approvals had to be hand-delivered.

"Now, it can be done in 15 minutes," said Mr Samad.

Mukhlis Ahmad, a trader who is involved in the trading business between Afghanistan and Pakistan, said a new machine for scanning of lorries and trucks has played a key role in identifying goods without unloading them.

"It has made our work much easier," said Mr Ahmad. He, however, complained that the authorities slap double taxation – two per cent by the Customs Department and another two per cent by the Revenues Department in advance.

Customs Director Kamawal said the revenues continue to swell despite the deterioration in the security situation on the other side of the border.

The President of Afghanistan has issued a decree allocating 300 hectares of land in the Amanullah Khan township, 15 kilometres from Jalalabad towards Torkham, for the construction of more Customs points, including a proposed railway station.

"This station will be a connecting bridge between Afghanistan and Pakistan," said Mr Kamawal.

By Shafiqullah Waak and Tilak Pokharel, UNAMA

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Fifty thousand refugees return this year

23 May 2010 - Two months after the UN Refugee Agency resumed its 2010 voluntary repatriation programme in Pakistan and five months since return started from Iran, 50,000 Afghan refugees have returned home with UNHCR's assistance, with 48,000 from Pakistan and some 2,000 from Iran recorded, marking a quicker start to this year's return season in comparison to 2009.

Each Afghan returning with UNHCR assistance receives a cash grant averaging about US \$100, depending on the distance to their area of origin.

The grant is given out to returning refugees at one of five UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan.

Throughout the repatriation operation since 2002, the months of May, June and July have always been the highest repatriation periods as refugee families decide to come back to work on their land after the end of the harsh winter season.

The return operation in Pakistan resumed on 22 March 2010 following the usual winter recess, through the voluntary repatriation centres of Chamkani in Peshawar, and Belali in Balochistan.

Nearly 70 per cent of Afghans having returned in the last two months were from the Khyber Pashtun Khwa area (formerly the North West Frontier Province), while 13.7 per cent were from in Balochistan. A small number returned from Sindh, Punjab and Islamabad.

Over 35 per cent of the total returnee so far this year went home to the country's eastern provinces namely, Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar while over 32 per cent returned to the central region of Kabul, Logar, Parwan, 16 per cent to the northern and north-eastern provinces such as Kunduz, Jawzjan, Balkh and Baghlan. Only 7 per cent returned to the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand.

Over the past two months, returning refugees cited rising living costs, fewer jobs and the difficult security situation in Pakistan as key reasons for deciding to return to Afghanistan. Some Afghans also say they are encouraged by improved opportunities at home.

There are still some 2.7 million registered Afghans in Pakistan and Iran many of whom have lived there for over two decades. Their voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration is subject to many variables including political, economic, and social factors.

Earlier this month, UNHCR and the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed to extend the tripartite agreement governing the voluntary repatriation of registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan until 31 December 2012. Under the agreement, the three parties once again reaffirmed their commitment to the voluntary, gradual and dignified return of Afghan refugees.

Afghanistan has absorbed a 5th of its population in returning refugees over the past nine years and many still face shortages of housing, jobs, schools, and medical services as well as security problems.

Now in its ninth year, UNHCR's voluntary return programme to Afghanistan is the largest return operation around the world. Since it began in 2002, more than 3.6 million Afghans have returned home from Pakistan and 865,000 from Iran with UNHCR's help.



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Paktya province celebrates Pashto poetry

24 May 2010 - "Come, let us flee together, my love – let us leave the problems for the old greybeard to solve."

Though the residents of Paktya, known as Paktyawal, are men of swords and guns, their history is also full of romance, traditions and glorious adventures.

In spite of the seemingly tough exterior of the people in this highly conservative and rigid society, Paktyawal have inherited a culture rich in romance and beauty.

The various Paktya clans and tribes possess rich treasures of the arts – including folk songs, dances, literature and poetry – such as the above example of the "tappas" which are the Afghans' "sighs of the heart."

Tribal customs and traditions – like holding colourful fairs and festivals – are an inseparable part of their society.

Currently, numerous cultural and literary societies, newspapers and magazines are actively dedicated in the promotion and preservation of this rich history, and in the improvement of their culture and literature.

In this connection, the Paktya Cultural and Literary Society recently held the annual "Nashtar" poetry symposium in Gardez city, the capital of Paktya province.

Participating in this splendid festival were hundreds of people – including poets, writers, intellectuals, scholars, parliamentarians, provincial government authorities, representatives of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and devotees of Pashto literature and poetry from the provinces of Kabul, Nangarhar, Khost, Ghazni, Kandahar, Zabul, Kunar, Laghman, Maidan Wardak and Paktika.

This annual event provides an opportunity for the youth, especially budding and promising poets, to express themselves by reciting their poems which carry messages of love, peace, stability and unity in the country.

The performances by the poets were rewarded with thunderous applause from the audience; and the poets were given various gifts, including turbans (known as "longye") and the book Gulabona, a collection of poems and biographies of Paktya-based poets which were compiled and printed as a special anniversary edition for this festival.

Apart from the speeches and the reading of poems and other presentations, various literature (books, magazines and pamphlets) from several associations were also distributed to the participants.

Such events not only contribute to encouraging the young generation to actively participate in the rebuilding of the country. The messages of the presentations and the poems also help in directing the mindset of the youngsters towards peace and tolerance.

Paktya Governor Juma Khan Hamdard expressed his pleasure over the Pashto poetry celebration and asked the participants to also recite poems calling on people to embrace brotherhood and national solidarity.

"The powerful man's water flows uphill," goes a well-known Paktya proverb.

As Paktya is also the land of Jirghas, proverbs are heard in conflict solutions, gatherings and political speeches not only as a clever form of verbal art, but also as a potent tool of verbal combat.

By Dilawar Khan Dilawar, UNAMA



UN backs training on harmful use of narcotics in Afghanistan

24 May 2010 - The United Nations is supporting a series of training programmes in Afghanistan for educators so they can then impart knowledge on the harmful effects of drug use, including the risk of HIV/AIDS infection, to their peers, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported today.

The "harm reduction" training, organized by the non-governmental organization Médecins du Monde and supported by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the Afghan National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), is an important component of an effective drug control strategy.

It seeks to minimise the harmful effects of problematic drug use. Peer educators are being trained on outreach, safe injection, condom provision, the needle syringe programme (NSP) – a strategy for disinfecting needles and syringes where they are reused or shared – and overdose management.

Drug abuse in Afghanistan was traditionally limited. However, due to internal and external displacement caused by more than 30 years of conflict, crisis-coping mechanisms have broken down and addiction rates have soared, according to UNAMA.

Recent data from John Hopkins University and NACP have confirmed fears that Afghanistan has evolved towards a HIV epidemic, concentrated among narcotics abusers.

Meanwhile, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has partnered with the international media development organization, Internews, to launch a 30-minute radio series to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) within Afghanistan.

The Child's Home Radio Magazine is being broadcast in Dari and Pashto languages via Salam Watandar, a network of 42 community radios nationwide.

The first programme, broadcast on Friday in Dari and today in Pashto, was dedicated to girls' education to mark the 10th anniversary of the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). The programme aims to entertain, teach and trigger discussion among children, parents and teachers, on children's rights. In a related development, more than two million rural families in Afghanistan are expected to benefit from projects being undertaken by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the country's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

So far, 1,269 rural development projects have been completed, while 632 projects are under way in various districts across the country. The projects include the construction of health clinics and schools, road building and rehabilitation, clearing of irrigation canals, sinking of wells and the construction of water supply infrastructure.

The projects are estimated to cost more than US\$ 125 million and are funded by Japan, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United States, Canada and the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNDP, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

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UN peacekeepers exemplify dedication and professionalism

25 May 2010 - More than 124,000 peacekeepers are now deployed in 15 operations worldwide, clear evidence of global respect for, dependence on and confidence in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The international community counts on its Blue Helmets to protect the vulnerable in some of the world's most dangerous places, but their service comes at a high cost — throughout UN peacekeeping's more than 60-year history, violence, accidents and disease have cost the lives of more than 2,700 individuals working in hot spots around the world, from the Middle East to the Balkans, Africa and beyond.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was working with the Haitian authorities to support political stability, promote human rights and bolster security when a massive earthquake struck the country on 12 January 2010.

More than 230,000 Haitians lost their lives in one of that nation's darkest days. Additionally, 101 UN personnel, including 96 peacekeepers, were killed. It was the deadliest natural disaster to ever strike Haiti and the biggest single loss of life in the history of UN peacekeeping.

For the peacekeepers, the tragedy was colossal. The collapse of MINUSTAH's Headquarters took the lives of the mission's chief, Hédi Annabi, and his deputy, Luiz Carlos Da Costa, as well as its police commissioner, Douglas Coates, who were then attending a meeting with a visiting Chinese delegation.

Nearly 100 more UN military, police and civilian personnel from around the world and Haiti itself also perished at the Headquarters and other UN facilities in the capital.

A total of 29 UN Member States lost uniformed or civilian personnel in the disaster. Brazil – which has played a strong leading role in the peacekeeping mission since its inception in 2004 – lost 20 of its nationals, more than any other troop or police contributing country.

Despite these tremendous losses, the UN peacekeepers knew that their vital work to restore stability was even more urgent amid the chaos. The mission adjusted and recalibrated. The peacekeepers immediately started the somber work of looking for survivors and recovering the remains of those who perished, while at the same time reconstructing the mission and planning and implementing a strategic response to the disaster.

Since the quake, MINUSTAH has continued to work hard to help stabilize Haiti and the professionalism, dedication and courage shown by the 'blue helmets' in Haiti since then is just one of many examples of UN peacekeeping helping countries overcome conflict and tragedy.

The peacekeepers in Haiti, and their colleagues serving worldwide, are the personification of one of the most important functions of the United Nations – maintaining international peace and security.

On a more human level, their work gives people from conflict-torn countries hope for a better, safer and more secure future.

For this, they rightly deserve the recognition they will receive come 29 May 2010 – the eighth annual International Day of UN Peacekeepers.



IOM is to build assembly hall in northwestern Afghanistan

21 May 2010 - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced on Friday that it is going to build a major assembly hall in northwestern Afghanistan with funding from the Norwegian government.

The public building in Maimana, the provincial capital of Faryab province, with a capacity to seat 600 people, is the first of its kind in Maimana and will provide a venue for public meetings, conferences, lectures and debates.

IOM says the construction is expected to begin in July 2010 and will help local government to interact with the community on issues of public importance and to facilitate greater public participation in cultural, social and political events.

Faryab, which borders Turkmenistan and has a population of over 800,000, is one of the 10 largest provinces in Afghanistan.

According to IOM, it is currently enjoying relative stability and economic growth, especially in the areas of agriculture and trade.

UN Special Representative visits Iran

23 May 2010 - The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Staffan de Mistura, today concluded a two-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran where he met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Office of the Supreme Leader, Drug Control Headquarters, and Parliament.

The purpose of the visit was to brief the Iranian authorities on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which Mr de Mistura heads, and to encourage further regional cooperation.

In this connection, the Special Representative noted with appreciation the positive steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in tackling drug-trafficking issues, concurring with the Iranian wish to revitalize the Triangular Initiative, which has shown potential for further cooperation.

Following his constructive meetings, the UN top envoy in Afghanistan noted: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is an important neighbour and the UN will continue to facilitate constructive engagement with Afghan counterparts on issues of mutual concern towards furthering stability in Afghanistan which is in the interest of both countries and the international community at large."

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Insurgents from Farah and Herat join reconciliation process

25 May 2010 - Some 27 former members of the Taliban from the western provinces of Farah and Herat have surrendered their weapons and joined the reconciliation process.

Twenty anti-government elements from the Khaki Safeid district of Farah province surrendered their weapons to the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PRC) of Herat on Saturday, 22 May.

The day after on Sunday, 23 May, seven others from the Pashtun Zargun district of Herat province joined the mediation effort conducted by the National Directorate of Security (NDS).

These two recent events are a clear sign of the will of the provincial authorities to increase their reconciliation efforts with midlevel and low-level insurgents. However, the participants declared that reconciliation must be followed by reconstruction and security efforts in order to be sustainable.

Hazrat Sharif Modjadeddi, chairman of the PRC, explains the process that leads to such demobilization: "It depends on the groups, but it usually takes between three weeks to three months to convince our interlocutors to lay down their weapons and return under the authority of the state."

To do so, the Commission uses various mediators, including tribal elders, religious leaders and former combatants who had already joined the process. If the former are necessary to contact and convince the insurgents, the latter play an important role in reassuring the men that they will be neither arrested nor prosecuted for their past activities.

But some anti-governmental elements contact other official channels to return under Government authority. An NDS official explains: "Some insurgents come to us for reconciliation. Usually, we take over their weapons and send them to the Peace and Reconciliation Commission to go through the official process."

The Commission then issues a loyalty letter which guarantees the safety of the candidates. Some security organs have, however, been accused by former rebels of not respecting the official act. To remedy this situation, it has been mentioned that the governor, who has authority over the security organs in the province, may head the reconciliation initiative.

Mr Modjadeddi strongly opposes this solution: "The government is fighting with the Talibans. It can't fight and negotiate at the same time. There is a need for a third party, an independent process, to tell both parties to join together." He prides himself on the cooperation he obtained from the security forces: "We drove those men back in Herat with the help of the police."

While much talk has been going on about a national reconciliation strategy, there has been little said about the ongoing process under the PRC, and no new mechanism has been put in place. Mr Modjadeddi mentions that he hopes to be able to submit his request for significant support from the Government and the international community at the Loya Jirga (grand council), scheduled to be held in Kabul in the coming weeks.

He insists: "We need full support by the Government and the international community. When insurgents recognize the Government authority, it must be reflected in a change in their lives."

This sentiment is shared by Taza Gul, who explains how he came to join the insurgency at 50: "We were civilians but when our homes were destroyed by the international forces, we joined the Talibans."

Now, after nearly three years, he decided to come back under Government authority, weary of fighting Afghan brothers in the national army or police. He has high expectations: "We want reconstruction in our area (Khusk Obeh village of Khaki Safeid district). We need clinics, schools, and security."

He and his men have been threatened by their former allies, and request the setting up of a checkpoint manned by the national police or army.

The capacity of the Government and its international partners to follow up on the expectations of the newly reconciled will be crucial to the sustainability of peace in the areas formerly held by anti-Governmental elements.

By Fraidoon Poya and Henri Burgard, UNAMA

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Journalism centre for women in Heart

 $26\,\mathrm{May}\,2010$ - Given a chance, each graduate from a journalism faculty would surely want to practice journalism.

But, this is not the case in the western Herat province of Afghanistan, where female journalism graduates from Herat University – about 20 women a year – end up teaching in schools for lack of positions in local media or because of social pressure.

This situation may soon alter as a passionate female journalist, Fawzia Fakhri, along with two of her friends, started a Women Journalism Centre two months ago with the aim of training female journalism graduates and helping them find media-related jobs.

"We are trying to help these women find a (media) job so that they can practice their work in an environment they feel comfortable with," said Ms Fakhri, the director of the recently established centre.

Ms Fakhri established the centre with support from two of her journalist friends, Masume Hasan, who is working for a newspaper published by the International Security Assistance Force, and Parwana Alizade, working for the Deutsche Welle radio.

"There are other journalism centres in Herat, but men would not inform us, so we decided to create our own," she added.

The new centre, which currently hosts trainings and meetings among its 10 members, is just the beginning.

A journalist by choice, Ms Fakhri, a single woman in her early 30s, is past countless upheavals to where she stands now.

In a country like Afghanistan, it isn't always easy for a woman like her to get exposed to the public as her profession demands.

As a young and successful student, she graduated from Grade 12 in 1996.

She immediately found herself in the faculty of dentistry in Kabul, with the hope of becoming a doctor, only to be interrupted two months later as the Taliban seized power and banned women from holding jobs, attending universities and going outside their homes unescorted.

She then joined a nurses' school, the only option opened for a medical career at the time, but never practiced it.

All along, she listened to radios such as BBC and Voice of America, which actually inspired her and ultimately dragged her to journalism.

She vowed to report the turmoil of her country: "Hearing those women, journalists, reporting from war zones, I wanted to be the voice on air, covering stories by myself. I wanted to hold the microphone and get interviews."

After the Taliban's fall, Ms Fakhri went back to university to pursue her dream, but she didn't dare to share it with her family at the time.

"I told my father I was studying English, since it was also a part of the literature faculty," she said, adding, "One month after, I informed him of my field of study, and he agreed."

However, not all in her family support her way of life.

Her younger brother is critical of his sister because he believes that what Ms Fakhri is doing goes against Afghan social and traditional practices.

Today, after four years as a newscaster for radio Sahar – an all-women radio – and contributing to radio Watandar and a few local magazines, Ms Fakhri decided to help other women who made the same choice as hers.

After resigning from the radio, she has now been devoting her time as a trainer for an international non-Governmental organization (INGO) specializing in media, besides spending her time and energy at the newly founded centre.

At this stage, the journalism centre, which has already received four computers from the Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team, will require more support to implement all its projects.

Ms Fakhri's dreams are boundless: "I would like to create an internet café for women. Right now, none has a proper connection, and women must sit with men, which is not appropriate. We also look forward to exhibiting photographs by women, and publish a booklet which can be sold to visitors."

By Fraidoon Poya and Henri Burgard, UNAMA

