



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Afghanistan

**Duration:** December 2002 to December 2005

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNIFEM

**Other Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Women's Affairs; Women Judges' Association; national and regional women's NGOs and CSOs

**Budget:** \$1,030,000

**Key Words:** Refugees; post-conflict peacebuilding; women's empowerment

## BACKGROUND

Afghanistan's population is overwhelmingly rural. The country's rugged landscape isolates towns and villages and inhibits access to fundamental services such as education, healthcare, electricity and telecommunications. By 2001 and the downfall of the Taliban Government, Afghanistan had been in a state of armed conflict for more than two decades. As a result, the lives of its citizens, particularly the lives of its women, had been disrupted by lawlessness,

disintegration of communities and abject poverty. Afghan women faced systematic exclusion from public life, lacked access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities, and were victims of increasing violence. Meanwhile, the change in Government resulted in large movements of refugees and IDPs – 1.2 million refugees and 400,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin placing additional stresses on already scarce resources.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to improve the lives of women in Afghanistan through the establishment of women's community centers to facilitate services to women at the local level and to provide a forum for women who have lived in seclusion. These centers aimed to strengthen the capacity of women's groups at the community level, increase the availability of

counseling for women and girls affected by war and gender-based violence, as well as provide access to legal services, encourage greater understanding of women's rights and their potential for social and economic progress, and increase resources to support women's leadership in community-based governance.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project established 6 community centers where over 10,000 women benefited from the activities provided over the course of the project.