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AFGHANISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

An Emerging Leader Elected as President of a Regional Association

Youth are positively influenced by the Emerging Civil Society Leaders' Program through gaining knowledge for the future improvement and dialogue.



Mr. Wali Khan, during participation in the Public Speaking Skill training in Kabul on 2nd June 2015

USAID promote civil society and media engagement that enables Afghan citizens to influence policy, monitor government accountability, and serve as an advocate for political reform

The Emerging Civil Society Leaders 2015 Program is a project within the USAID supported ACEP which identified 34 young male and female leaders from across Afghanistan. The program provides a number of capacity building activities designed specifically for Afghan youth.

Preventing youth participation in decision making is underpinned by traditional barriers, faced by young women and men. Youth are often ignored by elders, community dignitaries and official authorities. There is a reluctance to listen to their perspectives or give them the right to interact in public.

Following a skill training delivered by ACEP's Gender and Youth Department on effective methodology of rhetoric and public speaking, Mr. Wali Khan, a 27 years old member of the 2015 Emerging Leaders felt increased confidence in expressing his views. He felt he had more courage and skills to influence others. Several days later a civil movement covering the south-eastern part of Afghanistan was established by civil society activists who came together to form an association to promote civic engagement and communities' participation in regional and national decision making processes. In order to democratically elect the first president of the association, members of the aforementioned held the first transparent election. Mr. Wali Khan was nominated as one of the five candidates for the association's presidential position.

Each candidate delivered a speech at the podium to addressing their goals and visions for the development of the association. The selection panel voted the best speaker based on the most articulate speech. Mr. Wali Khan received the most votes and became the first elected chairperson of the association.

"I can't express my happiness that how lucky I am? I am sure that the public speaking training I attended enabled me to use all the effective methods to influence people during my address about social and national issues. I cordially thank USAID for supporting such a unique program which enhances the capacity and improves the ability of the young Afghans in different field of their lives" Said Mr. Wali Khan.