



# YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY SERVICES DELIVERY

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Youth Interventions that involve, support, or encourage youth participation in all three CLINS. This Report address youth initiatives in Municipal Governance engagement and address this critical cross-cutting issues



Youth Cleanup campaign in district 12



## BACKGROUND

Kabul City Initiative Project of USAID (KCI) is designed to provide municipal officials with the expertise, technology and revenue resources needed to manage a 21st century city. It focuses on providing assistance to USAID in: (1) increasing the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) officials in the Kabul Municipality, (2) improving the equitable delivery of municipal services to citizens in Kabul, and (3) increasing the municipal capacity to generate and account for revenue.

Both Kabul Municipality and KCI believe that Urban Management and community engagement is only possible when its citizens are engaged with the efforts Kabul municipality puts into practice to rehabilitate Kabul city. This way we believe that Kabul citizens will receive notably improved services and effective access to their local government when they participate and provide assistance to Kabul Municipality. In particular investment on youth as the future change agents and partners to Kabul Municipality will help to induce Kabul's citizens to interact more effectively with Kabul Municipality and include the needs of all the citizens in order to perceive their government as legitimate and to actively support the development of democratic governance. According to the national census taken a few years ago, Afghanistan's population is very young. More than 65 percent of the population is younger than 25. Kabul city is considered by many to be a city full of people and trash. Only through the mobilization and education of the youth of Afghanistan will Kabul begin to become a cleaner and greener city. Due to the volatile security situation and the shrinking economies in Kabul and other provinces that have more youth than jobs, there is a pressing need to provide youth with education and skills for work and life. In addition, the exclusion of females from educational and economic opportunities deprives young women of the chance for personal and professional development, eliminates an important source of income for the family, and excludes their contributions to their communities.

Addressing the needs of youth for increased access to better education and employment opportunities is crucial to the development of Afghanistan. Additional factors such as youths' social isolation leading to lack of self-esteem, financial dependence on their family and not being able to speak in front of elders require an integrated and comprehensive program of formal and non-formal education, life skills development, job skills training, work readiness skills, employment accompaniment, and youth community engagement activities. Many community elders, sadly, look at youth as a threat (EDC, 2010 Assessment Report). As a result, youth are not involved in decision-making, governance process and out-of-school youth generally do not even participate in community youth groups. For young illiterate females, social and cultural isolation results in extremely low quality of life. There are few economic opportunities for young women, and those that do exist are usually restricted to the home. Because of culturally mandated gender separation, there are few opportunities for female youth mentoring.



## **Rationale for Kabul Municipality to engage youth**

The need for Kabul Municipality youth engagement in city services delivery and support governance activities is to make apparent by two major factors: first, the sheer number of youth, which in itself merits careful consideration; and second, that the youth are a cross-cutting constituency, vital in the achievement of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, Afghanistan Compact and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In 2004, H.E. Hamid Karzai became the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan. While announcing his cabinet in 2005, Karzai established the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MYA). However, the MYA lacked a coherent vision and had low capacity and a bare minimum operational budget (with no development budget assigned to it). In 2006, following a cabinet reshuffling, youth, culture, information and tourism were merged into one agency, designated as the Ministry of Culture and Youth (MCY) with Youth Affairs as a department in charge of a Deputy Minister.

Therefore, it is essential KCI to have an appropriate framework for KM in place to develop multiple programs for youths working for Kabul Municipality and Youths involved and working on volunteer basis for youth organization operating in Kabul to harness their resources for civic education, social, economic and political development. All agencies managing the youth's programs in Kabul shall also devise their youth program keeping the features of Kabul Municipality framework in mind.

## **Preamble**

The KM youth activities covers key sectors, which have been identified through Deputy Ministry youth affairs as well as based on critical reviews of past studies and assessments conducted by the international donors. These key areas of youth activities are aligned with Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), Afghanistan Compact and MDGs which indicate Economic and Social Development, and provide employment opportunities for youth to accomplish national goal.

1. Education
2. Promotion of Good Governance
3. Youth civic participation and empowerment
4. Social environment
5. Recreation and sports
6. Health and well being
7. Employment and training
8. Socio-Economic development

## **Objectives of the Youth engagement with KM**



To sustain and strengthen the spirit of volunteerism amongst the youth in order to build up individual capacities and generate a sense of commitment to the city services delivery and community engagement, youth cleanup campaigns and other capacity development programs; and recognizing contributions and unique assets of youths in Kabul city in civic and socio-economic development; To strengthen the acquaintance of the values of national culture and the history of Afghanistan and dedication to Community Service amongst all sections of the youth in Kabul city;

### **1. Youth Precipitation in the City Services Delivery Conference.**

The purpose of this conference was to present an overview of the youth participation in city services while it was held in October 7, 2013. This gathering provided the youth with the opportunity to articulate their issues of city services and youth participation among themselves and with Kabul Municipality in order to make meaningful contribution to the future youth council of Kabul Municipality.

### **2. Participants**

The youth conference brought together 160 youth from public & private universities, youth organization, youth networks, and youth council operating in Kabul city. The primary consideration was to ensure representation of a broad spectrum of youth and youth groups on the basis of profession. These participants will include individual youths, youth associations, students, NGO and other relevant organizations working for youth participation and empowerment.

### **3. Conference Organizing Committee**

Conference organization was a collaborative arrangement between Kabul City Initiative Project and Kabul Municipality. Kabul Municipality has identified its staff assigned to coordinate the issue with KCI assigned staff.

### **4. Processes**

The conference was held for one day; the main focus was to develop a mandate and activities of Kabul Municipality and highlight the youth participation mechanisms. The Director General presentation presented in the conference were; The Greenery efforts in Kabul, The Sanitation efforts, greenery efforts and women participation in city services. Each Presenter has identified a two panel members to accompany the presenter for reaching out the audience's questions and also to support the presenter here necessary. In the afternoon session the working groups focused on bringing up the ideas and initiatives to support KM and also identified their needs and requirements as citizens and as the youth of Kabul City.

During the conference in order to assess the satisfaction of the audience with KM's service delivery, some questions were asked where the participants had two different kinds of cards to



show their agreement or disagreement with the way services are provided as the beneficiary of those services.

### **Kabul City Youth Come Together to Clean Up Districts 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 19.**

The campaigns in all ten districts were organized by the Kabul City Initiative (KCI) project, the Kabul Municipality and volunteer “youth councils” from throughout Kabul. The USAID-funded “*Youth Cleaning and Greening Campaign*” was inaugurated by Kabul’s Deputy Mayor for City Services Uloomi this year. His Excellency Deputy Mayor introduced the youths’ cleanup campaigns at districts and distributed promotional materials for youths to raise awareness at campaign, T. Shirts, Gloves plastic bag for trash disposal and how to contribute to a cleaner and greener city through these campaigns. To follow onto this campaign, KCI and KM has begun engaging with youth in the governance and decision making process so that they can provide their diverse set of ideas and strategies for making Kabul City a better place to live.

On September 2, 2013 300 youth volunteers from throughout Kabul came together to be part of a cleanup campaign in district 12 of Kabul City. Their message was to raise awareness about the need for the youth to take responsibility for their personal health and surrounding environment by cleaning up their neighborhood. This cleanup campaign was covered on two local TV stations Shamshad and Noorin TV.



Figure 02: Deputy Mayor for City Services at Youth Clean and Green Campaign



Figure 03: Youth waiting at District 12 to start cleanup campaign



Figure 03: Youth Cleanup Campaign in District 13



Figure 04: Youth Cleanup Campaign in District 07



In addition, Kabul City Initiative project together with AIESEC Afghanistan (an international organization for young student to develop and discover their potential) organized the *Afghanistan Youth to Business Forum 2013* convened on October 31, 2013. This event was solely sponsored by KCI at Istiqlal high school Kabul, where more than 450 young people gathered to discuss entrepreneurship and leadership with business, society and academic leaders.



Figure 05: *the Afghanistan Youth to Business forum*



Figure 06: Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai in *the Afghanistan Youth to Business forum*

The Afghanistan Y2B was an enabling platform for dialogue and an exchange of ideas between young people from all over the country and great minds among leaders and entrepreneurs. This event was the national edition of more than 160 forums realized in 124 countries and territories. Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, Mr. Khalilullah Sediq, CEO of Afghanistan International Bank, Dr. Habibullah Habib, Chancellor of Kabul University, Mrs. Seema Ghani, Businesswomen: President of Bawar Consulting Group, Sayed Ikram Afzali, President of Youth in Action Association were the Keynote Speeches and Debaters of Youth to Business Forum which was a unique platform which connects the youth and the business world.