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SUCCESS STORY

Provincial Governors *Face the Nation*



AWAZ team on location in Southern Afghanistan.



Paktika Governor Akhram Ekhpelwak on location in his province.



Khost Governor, Arsala Jamal, faces the nation in the AWAZ Kabul Studio.

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On television screens across Afghanistan, provincial governors *Face The Nation* showcasing their achievements and being held accountable for their decisions. Limited exposure to government communications and public relations campaigns has meant most Afghan citizens remain unaware of the work local governments do.

Each episode of *Facing the Nation*, a political talk-back show designed by Awaz Productions, an LGCD subcontractor, and broadcast each week on Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA), features a day in the life of a provincial governor. The show aims to demonstrate the commitment and hard work of Afghan political leaders. *Facing the Nation* allows provincial Afghan leaders to increase their visibility and correct the perception that they never leave their offices. Reporters follow local governors through a regular workday, highlighting both their challenges and successes. The program also features a pre-recorded question-and-answer session moderated by an RTA journalist who presents questions to the governor on behalf of local residents.

In one episode, a local Paktika resident held the Paktika governor to account for perceived lack of interest in electrical development projects. "In the time of Daoud Khan, [a former Afghan President] there were plans to build an electrical dam in Paktika," he said. "Since then, nothing has happened....Have you discussed the construction of a dam with the Ministry of Water and Power?"

The governor assured his constituent that development was coming soon, "*The Ministry of Water and Power has agreed to survey a number of dams in Paktika province. One of these dams is Park Dam. The budget for this survey has already been approved...and the Minister of Water and Power expects to start practical work on the dam soon.*"

The program also enables many viewers to see their country for the first time. "They have shops in Paktika!" exclaimed one regular viewer after seeing the Paktika governor's broadcast. "We all thought Paktika was only mountains, but there were parks, roads and even shops!"

Facing the Nation airs on Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) 7:00pm every Friday night.