



**Small Grants (SG) Project assigned to TOLANA Members**  
**'To promote social cohesion among Women for peaceful coexistence'**  
**through Awareness raising.**

**SG-1**

**Group Members:** Alishba Aajiz ( Leader ) , Bisal and Fedia

**Project Duration:** 1st Jan-15th Feb, 2016

**Target Area :** Khyber Agency

**Beneficiaries:**

Direct -500 (Mothers/ Women , School Teachers, Nurses/Medical Staff, Students, NGOs /CBOs, Media, Govt. Officials)  
 In-direct 4000 ( Parents and family members in the communities )

**Background:**

Khyber Agency is one of the agencies most affected by violent extremism. The area became a hotbed for insurgents and over 90% of the agency came under their control in 2007. In spite of the fact that insurgency is controlled to a large extent, but incidents of violent extremism occur very frequently.

These activities disrupted the socio economic fabric of society. Once an abode of interfaith harmony, tolerance and hospitality, suddenly turned into hell for its own inhabitants where fear prevail and extremism reign.

In Tradition ridden Khyber Agency Women and girls are traditionally less likely than men and boys to exercise their fundamental rights and have access to basic amenities of life; healthcare, shelter, social rights and material resources.

PAIMAN announced the small grants project, which was part of project "Strengthening the Role of Youth

and Mothers/Women for Peace building and Social Cohesion" funded by ICAN. Old and new TOLANA were selected for advance training on project management and implementation. Current project "Promote social cohesion, tolerance and peaceful coexistence through awareness raising" is one of those small projects which were awarded to the TOLANA.

This particular project aimed to raise awareness among communities and develop their capacity to ensure peaceful coexistence and interfaith harmony through community mobilization and awareness sessions.

**Project Goal:**

"To promote social cohesion, tolerance and peaceful coexistence through awareness raising sessions with target communities".

**Project Objectives:**

- 1) To mobilize and engage target communities through social mobilization to promote enabling environment of peace for the empowerment of marginalized women and men.
- 2) To promote culture of tolerance, peace and social cohesion among communities

**Project Activities:**

Three main activities were planned under the said project:

- An orientation session for women who further arranged sessions in the community
- Stakeholders meeting (CBOs, NGOs workers, health practitioners, teachers, community members etc)
- Arranged 30 community sessions for women. The team members to reach out to 500 rural beneficiaries

## Details of Activities:

### Orientation Session

Social Mobilization-Khyber Agency (5<sup>th</sup> - January-2016)

**Venue:** PAIMAN Office, Jamrud Khyber Agency

**Participants:** 7

**Trainer:** Aftab Ahmad

### **Details:**

A project orientation meeting was organized on 5th Jan, 2016 at PAIMAN office Jamrud, Khyber Agency. During this orientation session the district coordinator of Khyber Agency brief project team about the project concept and the purpose for under taking the task and the implementation modality. The project was explained by giving local examples that suit the local environment and in tune with the understanding of the community. They were also given orientation on importance of mobilization and stages of social mobilization in their own socio-cultural environment. Participants were involved in a group activity to break down project into sub-activities. The Trainer helped the participants to understand social mobilization through visual aids. In an interactive manner the concept of peace was explained in the local, traditional and cultural context as well as the Islamic context of peace and brotherhood.



### Consultative Meeting with Stakeholders

**Venue:** Government Higher Secondary School-Female, Khyber Agency

**Date:** 06 January 2016

**Number of Participants:** 20 (Members of CBO's & NGO's, School Teachers, Nurses/Medical Staff, Students and HouseWives)

**Team Members:** Alishba, Bisal and Fedia

### **Agenda:**

- Coordination with all stakeholders
- Take recommendations from community for women engagement in community peace building

### **Proceedings of the Program:**

Consultative meeting with school teachers, Nurses/Medical Staff, Students and House Wives was conducted on 06<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2016.



After the introduction, MS Alishba, discussed about PAIMAN Alumni Trust and its work in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PAIMAN Peace Projects and TOLANA work was also shared in detail.

After short introduction of PAIMAN Alumni Trust and participants, the significance of small grants was explained. Participants were informed that during this project the team members will address the issue of intolerance. They were also made aware about the importance of the role of women in striving for sustainable peace in their communities by influencing the men in their households. They were also told that it is their social responsibility to convey whatever they learn to other women of the community too.

In this consultative meeting participants came up with many concrete suggestions.

One of the Mothers said that, **"Provision of education to women can bring improvement in society".**

Likewise a local councillor shared that, **"When women will think on positive note, they will definitely be instrumental in providing opportunities to their children to socialize with people of other religions and sects in a positive manner".**

A Teacher shared, **"A tolerant way of socialization will result in tolerant societies. Women should concentrate on environment of their children".**

A social worker shared, **"If we effectively utilize our skills of early warning and early response which we were taught by PAIMAN, we can surely ensure a socially cohesive society".**

Participants were involved in a group activity to break down project activities. The Trainer helped the participants to understand social mobilization through visual aids. In an interactive manner the concept of peace was explained in the local, traditional and cultural context as well as the Islamic context of peace and brotherhood.





### **Community Sessions with Female**

**Community Sessions : 30**

**Beneficiaries Accessed: 500**

**Locations: Tehsil Jamrud and Tehsil Landi Kotal (Khyber Agency)**

### **Details of Sessions:**

Under the project "Promote social cohesion, tolerance and peaceful coexistence through awareness raising" 30 community sessions were conducted in Khyber Agency.

The prime focus of this project was on the role of women in building peace by starting from their own households and villages.

During the orientation sessions, Project team planned their sessions for different villages and communities. TOLANA members conducted sessions with communities and accessed about 500 women in Khyber Agency, FATA.

During these sessions it was recorded that most of the women did not realize how important and instrumental they can be in addressing extremism?



Most women were of the view that their sole responsibility was to attend to their domestic chores and household work. During the community sessions the women were made aware of the important role they can play in building peace in their respective communities. Violence and extremism was perceived by them as man's creation and thus they believe that men should be held responsible for resolving the issue. The women during the sessions were informed how they can contribute to addressing this menace and what effective roles they can play.

It was explained that how extremist ideas lead a community to violence as well as social and economic destruction. It was discussed that how women can play a role in reduction of violent extremism through maintaining relations with people of other religion, sects and other ethnic backgrounds.

The women were trained on the concept of violent extremism, indicators of extremism in their children's or their male relatives. Further women were made to

S.N	Location	Date
1	T.D. Bazar Mulan	04-2-16
2	T.D. Bazar wali Baba	03-2-16
3	Nadar Khan Kalay	02-2-16
4	F.G High School Landi Kotal	12-2-16
5	New Abadi Ghundi Road	11-2-16
6	Guly Baba Kaly	09-2-16
7	New Abadi Ghundi Road	08-2-16
8	New Abadi Ghundi Road	09-2-16
9	New Abadi Ghundi Road	10-2-16
10	New Abadi Ghundi Road	10-2-16
11	New Abadi Ghundi Road	11-2-16
12	CIV hospital- Landi Kotal	22-1-16
13	Suragona	21-1-16
14	Zahir Shah Kalay	17-1-16
15	Ghwandi	07-1-16
16	T. D. Bazar Passkaly	08-1-16
17	T. D. Bazar Passkaly	09-1-16
18	New Abadi Ghundi Road	11-2-16
19	Noshad Kalay	09-1-16
20	Model School Landi Kotal	09-1-16
21	Education Hall Landi Kotal	10-1-16
22	T. D. Bazar Barajkaley	10-1-16
23	T. D. Bazar Talabghara	11-1-16
24	Hashamabad	16-1-16
25	T. D. Bazar Gulyshah kalay	15-1-16
26	Samar Gul Kalay	15-1-16
27	Hashamabad	18-1-16
28	Malik Israr Kalay	18-1-16
29	Shahzaman Kalay	20-1-16
30	Guly Baba Kaly	21-1-16

understand how they can keep an eye on children, their movements, their friends and their activities.

It was explained to them that a woman can play an important role in transforming the behaviour of her husband, brother, son and other family members by explaining to them the right way and by keeping a vigilant eye on their activities. It was also shared that women should actively participate in peacebuilding activities without any fear and hesitation.

At the end of the training women were really thankful to PAIMAN team for this social mobilization training. They told that they learnt a lot from the trainer.

### Challenges Faced:

- It was challenging to gather women for sessions in a highly risk prone area.
- Another problem the team faced during this project was that they were not allowed to take pictures as the area has a very conservative culture and resist to take pictures of females.
- In these meetings it was shared that people feel insecure as a result of blasts and killing and so they were reluctant to actively participate in peace building activities.

### Outcome:

The women shared that

*"they have been living under the shadow of violent extremism for years but had no idea that they can really do something to address the issue, they have for the first time heard that they as mothers, sisters, wives can keep an eye on their male relatives specially Sons".*

They had no clue as to what the early signs of extremism were. They thanked PAIMAN for giving not only the knowledge but also the skills to handle the issues of Violent Extremism within their household and communities.

The result of these sessions was that, **the women vowed to keep an eye on their surroundings. They admitted that that they had become more aware about the importance of the role women can play in countering violent extremism.**

One of the participants said that, **"people were unaware and justified extremist activities as part of Islam".**

They further commented that, **"now they have truly understood the Islam is a religion of peace and does not promote violent or extremism of any kind".**

According to the women present during the sessions, **"the extremist attitudes have affected women more as their lives become unbearably difficult to live and all their social activity comes to a standstill because they are restricted to their homes".**

### Conclusion:

The project was successfully completed as the team reached both its direct and indirect target beneficiaries. Through the stakeholders meeting, the team got support from all sections of the community and it led to a wider audience. It was a unique program in the sense that all the beneficiaries of the program were females from tribal areas. The women showed great interest in the program and gave a positive feedback in this regard. Majority of women perceived that since they were limited to their homes therefore it was not their responsibility to get involved in any such activities which contribute towards betterment of the community. The traditional tribal mind set had shaped their understanding that women should not get involved in activities of conflict resolution and social change in the society. Through these awareness sessions these women recognized that they can play an important role in reducing violence which will lead to sustainable peace and prosperity. The participants suggested that such sessions should be arranged from time to time. They also made a request to impart vocational skills trainings so that they can get an opportunity to support their families and solve their community and household conflicts.



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