

## **Reducing Violence in Schools Program**

The Afghan Government has achieved wonderful milestones in spreading education across the country, as millions of children go to school now. Despite the accomplishments, yet it remains a priority for the government and relevant organizations working to promote quality education in Afghanistan since there are so many problems that the government needs to address as the current education system inherits structural and capacity limitations of many forms. Chief, yet, unnoticed is a strange absence of attention and capacity building programs to address violence teachers' use against students in schools.

Thus, to play a role in bringing attention or raising awareness about issue of violence students' face in schools, AYEPO designed a project entitled "Reducing Violence at Schools" to transform current relationships to a healthy and better relationship that can empower students and help those with problems do better in their studies and social skills. This initiative which was supported by The United Networks of Young Peace-builders (UNOY) aimed to empower school teachers with the skills to solve conflicts via non-violent communications and change the culture of violence in schools to the culture of peace and understanding.

### **Outcomes**

The program overall aims to help build awareness about violence present at schools, its types, causes and impacts on students. There is also expected a shift in prospective particularly for those teachers who viewed using violence as a mean to punish/discipline students.

### **Specific outputs:**

- Increased understanding of violence, causes, impacts and harms
- Learning to reduce violence through proper class management
- Providing solutions to reduce and eliminate violence

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:**

We carried an impact evaluation on the first and the last of the training to assess the behavioral change of participants and improvements and measure whether participants demonstrated an increased level of understanding of topics covered or not. We will complement this with a follow up behavioral evaluation 3 months after completion of the training. Behavior evaluation on this level measures whether the knowledge and skills that the training participants have learned in the training are applied to their work. We will use a questionnaire with specific indicators to conduct this evaluation.

## **Training Report:**

Training Program "Reducing Violence and Creating a Safe Educational Environment in Schools"

Afghanistan Youth Empowerment and Peace-building Organization (AYEPO), in collaboration with the United Networks of Young Peace-builders (UNOY), organized an intensive training program in which 45 teachers from 8 public and private schools in districts 6 and 13 of Kabul participated.

The program began in early September and ended on November 6, 2020.

In this program, several topics and things were discussed as follows but not limited to:

1. Presenting a research report on "Violence against Students in Kabul based schools" conducted by AYEPO
2. The causes of violence and solutions to reduce and eliminate violence against students
3. How to reduce violence through effective classroom management

The interactive training program had teachers lead workshops, where they shared their insights and experiences about violence, what causes teachers to engage in violent means in their context, and how to reduce the capacity for violence through programs facilitated by the Ministry of Education and related institutions.

In the closing ceremony, all participating teachers came together to communicate professionally, to comment on teaching, to interact ideas, and to discover ways to help create a much safer and more inspiring environment, as well as use their suggestions to create a safe learning space and reduce violence through class management.