

Economic Empowerment is Improving Women and Girls Status at Homes, and the Communities.

Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC) with support from the UNDP Promote Women's Role in Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Surobi District of Kabul province

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“Surobi is a relatively underdeveloped and marginalized district. Women and girls were not usually allowed to attend schools, or any learning program. Several restrictions haunt women and girls and they are almost completely dependent on their male relatives for income and livelihood. The situation was exacerbated by the prevalence of notorious norms and customs, further marginalizing women and girls” Fouzia, a local women leader from Surobi District. She continued that the other principal reason of women and girl's marginalization is widespread poverty and the lack of awareness among the communities. They preferred to employ their children to work in fields with them so they can help their families in earning bread and livelihood.

If it were not about HRRAC awareness raising programs, we would not have been aware about our community rights.

“By participating in HRRAC’s awareness raising, and economic empowerment sessions, funded by UNDP through its LVGs, we now know that the children are not meant to work in fields, but rather go to school. The economic empowerment initiative has built my capacity and by sewing clothes to other women in the area, I can support the costs of education of my children and other family needs. I am grateful to HRRAC for raising our awareness and I also thank UNDP for supporting the activities” she added.

Through the LVG project, HRRAC arranged vocational training to 120 women and girls. The participating girls were provided with the necessary tools, materials, and sewing machines. The provision of these equipment has helped them access to income generating activities and greater financial independence, as a result, enhanced dignity and participation. The communities have reported fewer cases of domestic violence since. The local authorities, community members, and women and girls appreciated the initiative to build the resilience of vulnerable women and girls through vocational trainings and income generating support.

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