



## **AFGHANISTAN 21 YOUNG LEADERS FORUM** **Kabul, Afghanistan – October 19-21, 2011**

### **2011-2012 CLASS PROFILES**

**Rohullah Ahmadzai** is the Director of the Investment Promotion Department at the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA). Prior to joining AISA, Dr. Ahmadzai worked for a number of public and private sector organizations such as the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA), Afghanistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), and in the Economic & Political units of Tolo and Ariana Televisions, where he played a vital role in private sector development and in advocating for an investment and trade-friendly environment. He has extensive experience in the fields of Communications, Event Management, Public Relations and Investment Promotion, Marketing & Stakeholders' Engagement and Private Sector development. Dr. Ahmadzai received his medical degree from Kabul Medical University, Afghanistan.

**Tamim Asey** is the Director and Senior Policy Advisor (Private Sector Development) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan (MAIL). He is a development economist with double Masters in Economics and International Business with more than 5 years of national and international experience in foreign aid management, international business, central banking and empirical economics. His previous assignments include working at senior management positions with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Afghanistan, ACBAR and other renowned national and international agencies. He has written extensively on foreign aid management and aid effectiveness and its contribution to the economic growth and development of Afghanistan. Tamim also has a keen interest in national security analysis, international relations and international policy and program management. He is an avid reader, writer and has a keen interest in learning foreign languages.

**Sadiqullah Fahim** is the Director of the Organisation for Health and Welfare (OHW). Sadiqullah is one of the founding members of the OHW, an Afghan NGO, which aims to alleviate poverty through the provision of basic services, including health and education, and supporting agricultural livelihoods. He is responsible for overall management of the OHW donor liaison and reporting. Sadiqullah has increased the revenue of the organization to \$210,000 within one year and expanded OHW's operations to 4 provinces in Southern Afghanistan. He has been working in development and humanitarian aid for the last 17 years. He specializes in managing service sector related projects, including health, education, water and sanitation and agriculture. Previously, he worked for Oxfam GB, Afghanistan, starting as an Office Manager in June 2000 and was gradually promoted to Deputy Program Coordinator, Program Coordinator of the Kandahar program, and finally to Program Development Coordinator for Afghanistan. Sadiqullah received an MBA with specialization in General Management from Preston University's Pakistan branch in 2005.

**Ahmad Fawad Farzad** is a Professor in the Public Health Department at Kabul Medical University. He is also affiliated with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's (FES) Afghanistan Office, where he is a Project Coordinator. Additionally, Farzad serves as an Advisor, Coordinator, Trainer, or an Officer to several other large non-profit organizations, such as DAI/ASMED, USAID/ ASAP, MOE, Altai, and STEP. His interest in politics as well as social and volunteer activities has led him to attend the YLF-Young Leaders Forum activities beginning in 2008 and acquired membership in 2009. He is an active member of the YLF-Young Leaders Forum and has been involved with its field projects in Ghazni, Balkh, Bamian, Parwan, Kabul and Kapisa. He has worked as a YLF Training Coordinator since 2009, which has put him in close contact with youths from different generations and diverse professional backgrounds.

**Sayed Zaman Hashemi** is currently working as Legal Services Director for the Afghan Ministry of Mines. Previously, he has worked as an assistant at a UNDP/ANBP/DDR (Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration) project in Kunduz, Afghanistan and later assumed a post of Director of International Relations at the Afghan Parliament. This provided Sayed with a unique perspective on political and economic development in a combat zone through the lens of an international organization and a state legislative body. A strong expertise in public management and law has allowed Sayed to build close relationships between the Afghan Parliament, foreign missions and international organizations headquartered in Kabul. As a JJ/WBGSP scholar studying at Syracuse University, he initiated and implemented a capstone project on corruption and poppy

supply in Afghanistan and presented solid policy recommendations for the Afghan government. He received a Bachelor in Law from the Law School of Kabul University in 2002.

**Ahmad Sulieman Hedayat** currently works with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) as Change Management Director working towards institutionalizing change in MAIL and improving capacity as well as performance at the organizational level. He has also worked for the development of the education sector helping the efforts made in rout to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on quality education for all in Afghanistan in his capacity as a Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Education. Ahmad has been active in the civil society as well. He is one of the founders of Sela [[www.sela-foundation.org](http://www.sela-foundation.org)], a social volunteer group which carries out activities to help those in need during emergencies as well as help in causes such as education, health and development at the grass root levels. Ahmad has also been advocating for the cause of women's rights and gender equality and has been actively involved in activities ranging from leading initiatives, to facilitating and helping in developing publications. A national level chess player and the Secretary General of the National Chess Federation, he has represented Afghanistan in international competitions, notably the 2006 Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy.

**Mohammad Rahim Jami** is the Deputy Director of Cooperation for Peace and Development (CPD). He has a rich background in advocacy, organizing campaigns, developing training curricula and facilitating materials for national campaigns (Peace for All, Justice for All, Child Abuse prevention movement and education for All Campaigns), and coordinating media campaigns. He graduated with a BA from the Economics Faculty (National Economic and Planning) Department at Kabul University. Mohammad has held several important positions including Founder and Media in-charge of the Afghanistan Human Rights Volunteers Foundation (AHRVF); Program Manager, Consultant & News Publisher with Kabul Group Consulting (KGC); Editorials Chief, ZAR Monthly Magazine and ASHTAR Economical Monthly Magazine; CEO, Higher Education Institute of KARWAN; Local Consultant, Pioneers Consulting (PC); Campaigns Manager, Saba Media Organization (SMO); and Public Relations & Campaigns Manager, Watch on Basic Rights Afghanistan Organization (WBRAO). Mohammad has also been hosting the daily news and political programs on Saba TV and NAWA radio for more than 4 years.

**Abida Najeeb Kakar** is currently working as a Human Resource Analyst for the UNDP in Afghanistan. She has worked for a number of national and international NGOs in various capacities including Program, Gender, Admin and Human Resources Officer. Abida considers getting selected the first female "National Professional Officer" by UNDP Afghanistan as her biggest professional achievement till date. She returned to Afghanistan with her family in 2010, after having been forced to migrate to Pakistan two decades earlier in 1990. Abida completed her undergraduate studies and received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (BBA) from Iqra University, in Quetta Pakistan. She also obtained a BA from the University of Baluchistan, in Pakistan.

**Mohammad Shakir Majeedi** is a Senior Strategic Planning Advisor in the General Directorate of Planning & Policy Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock of Afghanistan. He has worked on the formulation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) from 2005 to 2008, and also was a key member in the Ministry of Finance for coordination of implementation of ANDS during 2008-2011. Shakir has undertaken a number of workshops in results-based management and is an activist in introducing results-based planning, budgeting and reporting in the public sector. He is also keen to undertake structural reforms within government organizations to increase output and the quality of services for the public. Shakir received his bachelor degree in Business Administration, and Masters in Development Economics from Williams College, Massachusetts.

**Lotfullah Najafizada** is the Head of Current Affairs at Afghanistan's first 24 hour news channel, ToloNews. In this capacity, Lotfullah oversees a team of 35 reporters, editors, presenters, producers and researchers who produce 7 hours of live and pre-recorded content a day in the sphere of politics, economy and culture under his supervision. Lotfullah began his journalistic activities in mid 2004 for a local newspaper in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif. Among his previous employments in the last eight years, Lotfullah has worked for the NATO mission in Afghanistan, providing strategic communications services. As a World Press Institute fellow, Lotfullah conducted research on the US mid-term elections in 2010.

**Mohammad Hashim Samim** is Deputy Chief Electoral Officer (Operations) for the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC). He started his career in the field of elections in 2003 and since then has been working in different capacities for elections in Afghanistan. Before being appointed as DCEO (Operations), Mohammad was working for the UNICEF Afghanistan Country Office, as a program officer, the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB), as a legal advisor, the Electoral Complaints Commission, as a senior legal advisor and the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan as head of legal department. He is a lawyer by trade but during the course of work with different UN agencies and government of Afghanistan,

Mohammad has developed skills in operations and management. As Deputy CEO in Operations, he is responsible for managing the operations side of elections, which mainly covers planning and management of logistics, training, information technology and communication services, public outreach activities, field coordination, security and staffing of the election process.

**Najib Sharifi** a medical doctor by training is currently Director of Afghanistan's New Generation Organization. For almost ten years, Najib has worked for different foreign news organizations such as the New York Times, CNN, and National Public Radio (NPR), among others. Additionally, he has worked as a researcher for Afghanistan's Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) and Human Rights Watch. Najib has also worked as senior political officer for the Office of the Special Representative of the EU for Afghanistan. In 2009, he received a Humphrey/Fulbright scholarship and studied public policy and leadership at the University of Maryland. During his scholarship in the United States, he served as a researcher at the Middle East Institute as part of his internship.

**Omaid Sharifi**, a social and human rights activist, is the founder of White Ribbon Movement. He is also the Country Representative of the International Center for Democratic Transition; Co-Founder of Sela Foundation; Co-Founder of South Asian Good News Channel; and a member of the Paywand Afghanan Association. In addition, Omaid has worked in several national and international organizations such as USAID, the World Bank, and the Afghan government in different managerial and decision making positions. He has been working voluntarily for the rights of women, children and youth in Afghanistan since 2004. He has been involved in establishing youth and social networks and organized workshops, seminars, conferences, radio broadcasts and TV shows around the country to enhance awareness. Omaid received his bachelor's degree with a major in Political Science and Public Administration from the American University of Afghanistan. He also has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Kardan Institute of Higher Education.

**Zakia Soleiman** graduated from the American University of Afghanistan in December 2010. She has been working since 2005 with different organizations in management positions. Zakia's past experiences were working with different projects such as civil society, education and gender equality. A key similarity for the projects she worked on is to develop a systematic way to develop Afghan women's capacity and empower them to raise their voice when their rights are violated and develop their capacity to become self-sufficient. In addition, she has been an active member of AUAF students and she took part in the event entitled "Afghan NATO Students Forum" in Bayonne, France, representing Afghanistan.

**Wahidullah Waissi** is a Senior Advisor to Minister of Finance. He has served as director and formulation manager of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDG), where he was also involved in the coordination of several international events and conferences that secured over USD 30 billion in financial pledges for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. His professional work has focused on development since 1998, when he started working with an Afghan NGO followed by a few years of work in an international development organization in remote areas of Afghanistan. Later he joined the Government of Afghanistan, undertaking socio-economic development policy level work. As practitioners, Wahid and his team have introduced a Results Based Management (RBM) mechanism into the national policy framework and budget of Afghanistan. He is member of the Asia-Pacific Community of Practice (AP-CoP) on Managing for Development Results (MfDR). Wahid is now working on the upcoming Bonn Conference on Afghanistan and its content and process together with the International Contact Group, and as member of the AP-CoP, he is contributing to the 4th global High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which will be held in November this year in Busan, Korean Republic. He is the founder and chairperson of the Green Club of Afghanistan. It is a voluntary based association initiated for green activities. Green Club's main focus is raising awareness and promoting voluntary participation and advocacy for a green environment in Afghanistan and in the world. Wahid received a Master's degree in development economics from the Williams College of Massachusetts. He has also written several essays on development and social issues of Afghanistan and his articles are published in national and international journals.

**Hossai Wardak** has a strong background in program development and has worked extensively with the United Nations, both inside and outside Afghanistan. She was recently based in Baku, Azerbaijan as UNICEF's Social Policy Planning and M&E Specialist. Hossai has several unique program achievements including design and implementation of a program under the title of Healthy Family Relations from Islamic Perspectives, Gender and Ethics in Policing, Inclusion of Psycho Social and Trauma Counseling in a Basic Package of Health Services and Health Through Literacy. She also developed the Country Program Action Plan for UNICEF, a policy document with the government of the Azerbaijan. Hossai is a certified trainer of Culturally Sensitive Approaches from the University of Costa Rica in collaboration with UNFPA. She also received an award from the Minister of Women Affairs of Afghanistan for her unique efforts on Women Rights and Empowerment. Hossai obtained her Bachelors in Business Administration and Masters in International Management with a

specialization in Program Development from the University of Leicester in UK. She also has a diploma in Population Issues from the University of Costa Rica, and is a Peace Building and Peace Keeping Associate with the Hiroshima Peace Center, Japan. She is active in a variety of organizations including UNICEF Social Policy Specialists' Network; Gender and Human Rights Global Task Force UNFPA; Hiroshima Peace Center; and UNOCHA Gender Based Violence Task Force. She is also active in writing on women trafficking in Asia and the Middle East under the title of "Vanished Identity."

**Mohammad Nader Yama** is Director for Strategic Coordination at the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG). In this capacity, his responsibilities include managing effective implementation of the IDLG 5 Year Strategy to improve local governance; coordination, implementation, M&E and reporting on results of the IDLG 6 Priority Programs; leading the Sub-national Governance component of Governance Cluster and post Kabul Conference efforts; supporting Transition, Peace and Reintegration; and representing IDLG in senior management meetings across the government and engaging with partners in the International Community. Previously, Mohammad has worked for the United Nations, Afghanistan National Development Strategy, Human Rights Commission and the Afghan Government.

**Assadullah Zamir** is an active member of civil society in Afghanistan. In 2008, he established the Humanitarian Organization for Local Development (HOLD). He has served on the Board of Director of a number of NGOs. Assadullah has been the President of the Fulbright Alumni Association in Afghanistan since its establishment in 2007. He has worked as Finance Advisor to the Minister of Rural Development from 2003 to 2004 and as the Economic Development Consultant to the Minister in 2005. He has also served as Senior Advisor to the Minister of Education from 2007 to 2009. He has worked as Chief Program Coordinator and General Director of Programs to the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. He has received accreditation by the Institute of Management and Leadership as a "Certified Strategic Planner". Assadullah received BBA, MBA, and M.A in Economics from the California State University East Bay as a Fulbright Scholar in 2006.