Voice of Women Organization
Quick Facts

- Informally Active since 1998
- Formally Registered in 2002
- Head Office Located in Herat City
- Sub Offices in Provinces of Ghor & Badghis
- Recently Established in Farah Province
- Overseas Office in Australia
Mission Statement

Empowering Women To Actively Participate In Decision Making Process At All Levels Through Education, Awareness and Their Socio-Economic Uplift
Goals

- Protect women from domestic violence
- Provide legal aid to troubled women
- Enhance awareness of women’s rights
- Build capacity of women to contribute to the society
- Sensitize sections of community about gender equality
Challenges

• International Isolation
• Lack of Proper Interaction
• Lack of Security
• Unaware Communities
• Social Stigmas
• Centuries Old Traditions
• Lack of Sufficient Funds
Target groups

• Women/Girls at risk of violence
• Women/ Girls victims of violence
• Unaccompanied women/ girls in need of a temporary accommodation
• Women/girls victims of arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention
Our Natural Resource

- Scarce and ill-managed water resources
- Shortage of forests and vegetation due to lack of water
- There is no utilization of whatever deposits of fossil fuels are there
- The land-locked country is mostly comprised of barren mountains
- The arable land is negligible and does yield much to contribute to the national economy
- Extreme weathers do enhance the need of fire-wood that further affects forests
Women and Natural Resource

- Afghan women live a much more natural life in comparison to other countries
- Foods, clothing, medicines, household items and even travelling modes are natural
- There is a shortage of fuel not only in rural areas but in parts of urban areas as well
- Hundreds of people died of cold in Herat in the winter of 2008-9
- Women suffer the most as the provision of firewood is part of their job
- Women have to collect and bring the firewood from faraway places
- Clothes are washed in streams by women which is extremely laborious
- Lack of boiled water restricts the maintenance the physical hygiene of children
Impact of SARI Initiative

- The SARI Project will greatly enhance the capacity of Afghan women in energy utilization
- They will be able to give more time and attention to their children
- Their daily workload will be reduced and will make them healthier
- The use of solar energy will significantly improve the financial conditions of families
- The improved heating facilities in average household will directly benefit mother-child health
- Solar electricity will improve the living standards as more electrical appliances will be utilized by housewives
- Improved socio-economic and psycho-social relations among community members
Lessons Learnt

• Proper surveys were not conducted prior to project designing and implementation

• Technologies introduced were not fully developed and did not prove beneficial

• Projects were often one-time interaction and no long term follow-ups were carried out
Suggestions

- Project goals and activities should be designed specifically for Afghanistan
- Only proven equipment and methods must be introduced to the beneficiaries
- Local people should be provided training as a Technology Transfer approach
- Model villages should be established to inspire other areas
- Equipment and methodology should be launched on commercial basis
- Long term project follow-up procedures must be put in place