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Four Musharikat coalition member and allies named deputy provincial governors



Maryam Rahmani gives speech on the importance of women's participation in the peace process in Zabul, November 2020.

Find out more about Musharikat here:
<https://www.musharikat.com>

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In July 2020, a new decree from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani stated that all of the country's 34 provinces will appoint women as deputy governors based on their merit and competence.

This move was initiated by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and approved by President Ghani's ministerial cabinet in the same month; and it is seen to be part of structural reforms being taken by Afghanistan to further empower women.

By the end of the year, three Musharikat coalition members had been named deputy provincial governors: Zahida Faizan for Nuristan, Breshna Sherzai for Kunar, and Maryam Rahmani for Zabul. Brishna Safi, an involved Musharikat stakeholder was also named as deputy provincial governor to Laghman province. The appointments were made by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and approved by presidential decree.

All four women are considered leaders not only among their peers, but also within their coalitions.

Maryam Rahmani has been a coalition member for over four years and even served as Chairperson for the Access to Healthcare coalition before it was absorbed into the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) coalition. Mrs. Rahmani had already been working as an activist before joining Musharikat in 2016, with positions in a USAID projects and with other development partners. As an active coalition member, Mrs. Rahmani has helped to design and implement projects with other coalition members, including community gatherings in remote and underserved districts of Zabul, awareness raising activities for maternal and child health and coordination with local leaders, tribal elders, and provincial government partners like the Department of Women's Affairs. And not only that, Mrs. Rahmani has inspired many women and girls to join coalitions too.

Mrs. Zahida Faizan has also been involved with Musharikat since 2016 as a member of the Access to Economic Opportunities coalition while also serving as director of the Nuristan Midwives Association, a Musharikat partner. Her work also crossed many of Musharikat's coalitions. She helped to establish Anti-Harassment Committees with the Nuristan Provincial Council and Department of Education and supported regional advocacy campaign planning for Musharikat's, and even attended persuasion trainings and peace conferences supported by Musharikat.

Breshna Sherzai has been a member of the GBV and women in the peace process (WIP) coalitions since 2018. In fact, it was her prior work as a member of the Kunar Provincial Peace Committee that first introduced her to Musharikat. Mrs. Sherzai has also been a frequent panel member for the WIP coalition's radio roundtables to improve women's awareness and participation in the peace process. She has already begun meetings to coordinate activities with coalition members in Kunar province, even advocating to coalition members for activities to address the lack of employment opportunities for women in Kunar.

Brishna Safi, while not a registered coalition member, has been involved with Musharikat activities as a dedicated government stakeholder. As a Musharikat ally with experience working in journalism and human rights, she has taken part in coalitions' radio roundtables and was even part of the regional focus group discussions to prioritize issues when the coalitions were first established.

Telling Our Story

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