

ORCD's expertise in ending VAWG:

Established in 2011 as an Afghan national NGO registered with the Ministry of Economy, ORCD has developed a strong history in addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) through focused interventions in health, protection, advocacy, and empowerment. Guided by its mission to empower communities with evidence-based practices, ORCD has completed over 140 projects, emphasizing gender-based violence (GBV) amid Afghanistan's context of conflict, displacement, and shrinking civic space.

ORCD's expertise arises from collaborations with UN agencies like UN Women, UNFPA, Colombo Plan, and Counterpart International/USAID, covering advocacy, service provision, and psychosocial support. Notable achievements include running Women's Protection Centers (WPCs) and Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in Baghlan (2021–2023, UN Women-funded, budgets around \$111,472 and \$97,587), offering shelters, counseling, and referrals for GBV survivors. This was expanded with Health-Based Centers in Baghlan (2023–2024, \$487,887), blending health, livelihood and protection in crisis environments.

Advocacy initiatives have advanced the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law, with campaigns in Kunar (2015, \$2,376), Nangarhar, Baghlan, and Ghazni (2016, \$38,591) funded by Counterpart International (CPI). ORCD also led prevention programs in Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar (2014–2015, \$74,026, UN Women), raising awareness of women's rights under law and Islam, and public rights awareness in Daikundi (2013, \$100,000, CPI). Via UNOCHA, psychosocial services were provided for GBV survivors in Baghlan (2016–2017, \$134,356).

By embedding VAWG responses in wider efforts, ORCD delivered psychosocial support (PSS) in RMNCH services across 27 provinces (2022–2024, \$22,212,452, UNFPA), reaching 1.1 million, including survivors. Colombo Plan projects improved justice access for GBV survivors in Laghman (2017–2018, \$429,177). ORCD's research includes 16 studies, such as EVAW advocacy qualitative work and a 2025 self-funded study on widowed women, shaping policies.

With 100% success rates, transparent audits, and AICS/AKF accreditations, ORCD focuses on resilient, community-led methods, training locals and fostering sustainable systems.

b) Focus on specific groups of marginalized women and girls

ORCD prioritizes structurally marginalized women and girls, such as refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, widows, rural and impoverished women, and those in

conflict or remote zones. Interventions tackle overlapping vulnerabilities like displacement, poverty, and service gaps, intensified by Afghanistan's ongoing crises.

For refugees /returnees and IDPs, GBV protection was integrated into reintegration in Balkh and Baghlan (2019–2021, IOM, ~\$278,836), with PSS and community aid. Baghlan WPCs supported displaced women at high VAWG risk. The UNFPA RMNCH/PSS project targeted forcibly displaced women in 27 provinces, including Nuristan, Nangarhar, and Helmand, providing safe, trauma-informed spaces.

Widows and older women feature in the 2025 research on their socio-economic and violence risks, extending 2024 self-funded equity studies. Rural women in Daikundi, Paktika, and Zabul gain from rights and EAW advocacy, countering harmful practices and isolation. Services for widowed and disabled women are customized via inclusive health centers for crisis accessibility.

ORCD's expertise involves culturally sensitive, trauma-responsive programs, using its 31-province presence to serve underserved populations. Using male-lead women empowerment initiatives, Partnerships with community leaders aid prevention, with economic empowerment like Baghlan vocational training (2013, \$25,000, AKF) reducing dependency and VAWG exposure.

c) Staff with technical expertise on EAW/G

ORCD has over 1,355 staff in 27 provinces, with about 150 focused on gender and EAW/G, scaled by projects. This comprises 40 psychosocial counselors (mostly female, psychology/social work qualified), 30 protection officers (GBV case management trained), and 20 advocacy specialists (human rights experts).

Key roles include: Program Coordinator (Dr. Ali Shah Momand, MD, since 2011), overseeing EAW/G in health projects for evidence-based approaches; Senior Program Manager (Shafiqullah Mateen, MSc, since 2015), leading GBV teams and coordinating WPCs/advocacy; Country Director, Programs (Dr. Aseya Temori, MD, MPH, since 2021), directing strategies for marginalized protection. Field staff include 60 community mobilizers (local women, GBV-trained) for awareness and remote referrals.

Staff receive annual EAW/G protocol training per UN standards, enabling resilient, inclusive delivery in challenging contexts.