

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)



RECOVERY
MONTH
CELEBRATION

RECOVERY-
IS POSSIBLE.

RECOVERY-
IS A JOURNEY OF HOPE,
DIGNITY, SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT AND
REINTEGRATION

INTERNATIONAL -

RECOVERY MONTH CELEBRATION AND AWARENESS EVENT REPORT – 2026

RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE, *Recovery is a journey of hope*

01. Background:

September is internationally recognized as Recovery Month, providing an opportunity to recognize the achievements and progress of people in recovery from substance use disorders, promote awareness of treatment and recovery, and reinforce the message that **Recovery Is Possible**.

Recovery Month also highlights that recovery is a continuous process that extends beyond treatment. Sustainable recovery requires ongoing support, opportunities for vocational skills development and livelihoods, relapse prevention, family and community engagement, and meaningful social reintegration.

In 2026, the Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN) commemorated International Recovery Month through awareness, educational, recreational, vocational, and community-focused activities across five programme provinces: **Kabul, Helmand, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, and Kandahar**.

The activities brought together individuals receiving treatment, people in recovery, DTC/VSTP participants, family members, community representatives, health professionals, treatment center staff, WADAN staff, and other relevant stakeholders. Across the programme locations, the activities promoted the common message

- **Recovery Is Possible: Treatment, Skills and Reintegration**

The events emphasized that recovery does not end with the completion of treatment. Rather, it is an ongoing journey that requires continued support,

practical skills, livelihood opportunities, relapse prevention, dignity, and acceptance within families and communities to enable sustainable recovery and successful social reintegration.

02. WADAN Objectives

The 2026 International Recovery Month activities were designed to:

1. **Promote awareness** about substance use disorder, treatment, recovery, relapse prevention, and the availability of continued support.
2. **Recognize and encourage people in recovery** by highlighting their progress, resilience, achievements, and positive contributions to their families and communities.
3. **Promote family and community support** and encourage understanding, acceptance, dignity, and respect for people affected by substance use disorders.
4. **Highlight skills, livelihoods, and reintegration** as important components of sustainable recovery beyond treatment, including vocational training, employment, self-employment, economic empowerment, and meaningful participation in community life.

03. Executive Summary

In September 2026, WADAN commemorated International Recovery Month through a series of awareness, educational, recreational, vocational, and recognition activities across **Kabul, Helmand, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, and Kandahar**.

The activities brought together individuals receiving treatment, people in recovery, DTC/VSTP trainees, health professionals, treatment center staff, WADAN staff, family members, community representatives, and other stakeholders. The programme included awareness sessions, presentations, opening and closing remarks, personal recovery stories, vocational skills discussions, recreational activities, recognition of participants' achievements, family and community support discussions, and a cricket match in Nangarhar.

In **Kabul**, the event focused on recovery guidance, relapse prevention, vocational skills, market linkages, livelihood opportunities, and social reintegration. VSTP participants also demonstrated their practical skills through the presentation of a handmade traditional Afghan embroidery artwork featuring the WADAN logo.

In **Helmand**, the activity focused on treatment, recovery, vocational and life skills, employment and self-employment, and reintegration into family and community life.

In **Badakhshan**, 100 women who had completed treatment at the Badakhshan Women's Drug Treatment Centers and subsequently completed a three-month apprenticeship-based vocational skills programme participated in the celebration. The activity demonstrated the importance of linking treatment with skills development, confidence building, and reintegration.

In **Nangarhar**, an awareness and recreational event was organized at the 170-Bed Drug Addiction Treatment Center. The event emphasized treatment, family and community support, vocational skills, healthy activities, and reintegration. A cricket match was organized to promote teamwork, discipline, physical well-being, and positive social interaction.

In **Kandahar**, a Recovery Is Possible awareness session was conducted at the 100-Bed Adult Male Drug Treatment Center and OAMT Center. The session included patients, family members, community elders, health-care providers, vocational training participants, treatment center staff, and WADAN representatives. The discussion covered treatment, recovery, family and community support, personal recovery experiences, vocational skills, and social and economic reintegration.

Overall, the 2026 Recovery Month activities reinforced a common message across all five provinces: recovery is possible, but sustainable recovery requires more than treatment alone. Continued professional and family support, vocational skills, livelihood opportunities, relapse prevention, dignity, and meaningful reintegration are essential elements of the recovery journey.

04. Results at a Glance

Province	Site / Center	Date	Main Activity	Key Highlight
Kabul	Kabul VSTP / Center	26 Sep 2026	Awareness and recognition event	Recovery guidance, vocational skills, market linkages and presentation of handmade artwork
Helmand	Helmand 100-Bed Drug Treatment Center	29 Sep 2026	Awareness and recreational event	Treatment, skills development, livelihood and reintegration
Badakhshan	Women's Drug Treatment Centers / Vocational Skills Programme	29 Sep 2026	Awareness and recognition event	Three-month apprenticeship-based vocational skills training and recovery experiences
Nangarhar	170-Bed Drug Addiction Treatment Center	30 Sep 2026	Awareness, recreational activity and cricket match	Treatment, family/community support, VSTP and healthy recreational activity
Kandahar	100-Bed Adult Male DTC and OAMT Center	29 Sep 2026	Recovery Is Possible awareness session	Family involvement, recovery experiences, vocational skills and reintegration

05. Provincial Activities and Highlights

5.1 Kabul Province

Event Information

Item	Details
Province	Kabul
Date	26 September 2026
Time	10:30 AM
Main Activity	International Recovery Month Awareness and Recognition Event
Key Message	Recovery Is Possible – Recovery Is a Journey of Hope, Dignity, Skills Development and Reintegration

Participants

The event was attended by:

- Individuals in recovery and VSTP participants
- Haji Nasib Ahmadi – WADAN Founder and Chairman
- Mr. Khan Mohammad Momand – Managing Director
- Mr. Fazel Rabi Wardak – VSTP National Coordinator
- Dr. Wiar Ahmadzai – Health and Nutrition Manager
- Amin Jan Mohammadi – MEAL Officer
- Ms. Tania Aimaq – Kabul VSTP Supervisor
- Ms. Tamana Hazrati – Kabul VSTP Project Master Trainer
- Ms. Palwasha – Kabul VSTP Reintegration Officer
- Kabul VSTP trainers and students
- Health and treatment professionals

Main Activities

Awareness and Key Messages from Speakers

The event opened with welcoming remarks and messages of encouragement for people in recovery and VSTP participants.

Speakers emphasized that recovery is a continuous and holistic process that goes beyond stopping substance use. It includes restoring health and well-being, rebuilding relationships, developing vocational skills, strengthening confidence and dignity, and preparing for a stable and productive life.

The discussion also emphasized the importance of treatment, counselling, relapse prevention, positive behavior, continued support, family involvement, and community acceptance.

Vocational Skills and Market Linkages

Participants were encouraged to make effective use of the vocational skills acquired through VSTP and explore employment, self-employment, and other sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Key guidance included:

- Understanding local market demand;
- Improving the quality of products and services;
- Building professional networks;
- Sharing market information;
- Exploring income-generation opportunities;
- Using vocational skills to support long-term reintegration.

Recognition of Participants' Skills

Kabul VSTP students presented a handmade traditional Afghan embroidery artwork (**Mari Dozi**) featuring the WADAN logo to Mr. Khan Mohammad Momand, Managing Director of WADAN.

The artwork demonstrated the creativity, practical skills, dedication, and progress of VSTP participants.

Key Messages/Highlights

- **Recovery Is Possible.**
- Treatment is not the end; it is the beginning of a new life.
- Recovery requires continued support and commitment.
- Vocational skills can build confidence, hope, and livelihood opportunities.
- Family support is important for sustained recovery.
- Communities have an important role in successful reintegration.
- Relapse prevention and continued counselling remain important after treatment.
- Skills development can support sustainable livelihoods and social reintegration.
- People in recovery should be treated with dignity and respect.
- Individuals in recovery can make positive contributions to their families and communities.

Key Results

- Key messages on treatment, recovery, relapse prevention, skills, and reintegration were reinforced.
- Participants were encouraged to continue their recovery journey and make use of available support.
- The importance of vocational skills and market linkages was highlighted.
- Progress and achievements of VSTP participants were recognized.
- Family and community support was emphasized.
- Practical vocational skills were demonstrated through the handmade commemorative artwork.

5.2 Helmand Province

Event Information

Item	Details
Province	Helmand
Date	29 September 2026
Location	Helmand 100-Bed Drug Treatment Center
Main Activity	Recovery Month Awareness and Recreational Event
Key Focus	Treatment, recovery, skills development, employment/self-employment, and reintegration

Participants

The activity brought together:

- Patients receiving treatment at the Helmand 100-Bed Drug Treatment Center
- VSTP students
- DTC staff
- Health and psychosocial professionals; and
- Other relevant programme personnel.

Main Activities

Awareness Session

A psychosocial awareness session was conducted focusing on the meaning and importance of recovery.

The session emphasized three major areas:

Treatment:

Participants were encouraged to actively participate in treatment, follow professional guidance, attend counselling sessions, and maintain positive behaviors.

Skills Development:

Participants were encouraged to develop practical, vocational, and life skills that can support employment, self-employment, independence, and future livelihood opportunities.

Reintegration:

The importance of rebuilding positive family relationships, avoiding negative influences, taking responsibility, and participating positively in community life was discussed.

Participants were also encouraged to use their acquired skills to seek employment or establish small businesses where possible.

Key Messages/Highlights

- Recovery is possible with appropriate treatment and continued support.
- Treatment is an important foundation for recovery but does not represent the end of the recovery journey.
- Vocational and life skills can support independence and productive participation.
- Family and community relationships are important for successful reintegration.
- Employment and self-employment can contribute to economic independence.
- Positive behavior, discipline, confidence, and responsibility support sustainable recovery.

Key Results

- Recovery and treatment messages were reinforced among patients and VSTP students.
- The importance of vocational and life skills was highlighted.
- Participants were encouraged to remain committed to treatment and recovery.
- Reintegration into family and community life was emphasized.
- The connection between skills development and future livelihood opportunities was reinforced.

5.3 Badakhshan Province

Event Information

Item	Details
Province	Badakhshan
Date	29 September 2026
Location	Badakhshan Women's Drug Treatment Centers / Vocational Skills Programme
Main Activity	Recovery Month Awareness and Recognition Event
Vocational Component	Three-month apprenticeship-based vocational skills training
Supporting Organization	WADAN
Funding Support	People of Japan through UNODC
Key Partners	ISSUP Afghanistan National Chapter; Badakhshan Public Health Directorate

Participants

The event brought together **100 women** who had completed treatment at the Badakhshan Women's Drug Treatment Centers. Following treatment, the participants completed a three-month apprenticeship-based vocational skills programme implemented by Yalda Amini Handcraft Company with WADAN support.

Supporting stakeholders included:

- Dr. Shafiqullah Sharifi WADAN
- Dr. Najibullah Head of Pharmacy Department, Badakhshan Public Health Directorate
- Yalda Amini Handcraft Company
- ISSUP Afghanistan National Chapter
- UNODC, through funding from the People of Japan.

Main Activities

Recovery Awareness and Recognition

The central message of the event was - **Recovery Is Possible** - Participants were encouraged to view recovery as a process of rebuilding their lives, developing confidence, learning new skills, and moving toward greater independence.

Personal Recovery Experiences

Recovering women shared personal experiences and reflected on their recovery journeys. Their stories highlighted resilience, determination, learning, hope, and the importance of meaningful opportunities following treatment.

Vocational Skills Development

The three-month apprenticeship-based vocational skills programme was highlighted as an important step after treatment.

The programme supported participants to:

- Develop practical skills;
- Build confidence;
- Strengthen independence;
- Explore future livelihood opportunities; and
- Prepare for greater participation in family and community life.

Family and Community Reintegration

The event emphasized that recovery becomes more sustainable when individuals have opportunities to reconnect with their families and communities and participate positively in social and economic life.

Partnership and Collective Support

The participation of WADAN, ISSUP Afghanistan National Chapter, Yalda Amini Handcraft Company, Badakhshan Public Health Directorate, and the People of Japan through UNODC demonstrated the value of coordinated support for people in recovery.

Key Messages/Highlights

- **Recovery Is Possible.**
- Treatment provides an important foundation for recovery.
- Continued support and meaningful opportunities are important after treatment.
- Vocational skills can strengthen confidence and independence.
- Skills can create pathways toward livelihoods and reintegration.
- Personal recovery stories can promote hope and positive understanding.
- People in recovery should be supported with dignity, respect, and acceptance.
- Partnership among service providers and stakeholders strengthens recovery support.

Key Results

- 100 recovering women participated in the activity.
- Participants' progress and achievements following treatment were recognized.
- The link between treatment and vocational skills development was demonstrated.
- Personal recovery experiences provided positive examples of resilience and hope.
- The importance of skills, livelihoods, family support, and reintegration was reinforced.
- Partnership and coordinated support among stakeholders were highlighted.

5.4 Nangarhar Province

Event Information

Item	Details
Province	Nangarhar
Date	30 September 2026
Location	170-Bed Drug Addiction Treatment Center
Main Activity	Recovery Month Awareness and Recreational Event
Key Focus	Recovery Is Possible: Treatment, Skills and Reintegration

Participants

The activity brought together.

- Mr. Matiullah Nayel Head of Doctors
- Mr. Fazlullah Asifi Head of Nursing
- Patients
- Individuals in recovery
- VSTP trainees.
- Doctors.
- Nurses.
- Treatment center staff.

Main Activities

Awareness Session

The event commenced with recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by opening remarks and awareness messages from treatment center representatives.

The discussion focused on treatment, recovery, healthy recreational activities, family support, community acceptance, vocational skills, and reintegration.

Treatment and Recovery

Participants were encouraged to remain committed to their treatment and recovery plans and to maintain positive behaviors.

The speakers emphasized that recovery is possible when individuals receive appropriate treatment and continued support from families and communities.

Family and Community Support

Families were encouraged to support people in recovery with patience, understanding, respect, and dignity.

The importance of community acceptance in supporting successful reintegration was also emphasized.

Vocational Skills and Self-Reliance

VSTP was highlighted as an important component of recovery and reintegration. Participants were encouraged to use vocational skills to:

- Seek employment;
- Establish small businesses;
- Become more self-reliant;
- Support their families; and
- Contribute positively to their communities.

Recreational Activity – Cricket Match

A cricket match was organized as part of the Recovery Month activities.

The activity provided an opportunity for patients and people in recovery to participate in a healthy and constructive recreational activity while promoting teamwork, discipline, self-confidence, physical well-being, and positive social interaction.

At the conclusion of the match, a trophy was presented to the winning team captain, while medals were awarded to participants who demonstrated outstanding performance.

Key Messages/Highlights

- Recovery is possible with treatment, commitment, and continued support.
- Family support is essential throughout and after treatment.
- Community acceptance supports successful reintegration.
- Vocational skills can strengthen self-reliance and livelihood opportunities.
- Sports and other healthy activities can contribute to positive recovery.
- Recovery involves physical, psychological, social, and economic well-being.
- People in recovery should be treated with dignity, respect, and understanding.

Key Results

- Recovery Month messages were reinforced among patients, people in recovery, VSTP trainees, and staff.
- The role of family and community support was highlighted.
- VSTP was promoted as a pathway toward self-reliance and reintegration.
- Participants engaged in a healthy and constructive cricket activity.
- Teamwork, discipline, social interaction, and positive use of free time were encouraged.

5.5 Kandahar Province

Event Information

Item	Details
Province	Kandahar
Date	29 September 2026
Location	100-Bed Adult Male Drug Treatment Center and OAMT Center
Main Activity	Recovery Is Possible Awareness Session
Participants	135
Key Focus	Treatment, continued support, family and community involvement, vocational skills, and social/economic reintegration

Participants

A total of **135 participants** attended the activity, including:

- 80 patients;
- 14 family members;
- 5 community elders;
- 26 DTC staff;
- 6 OAMT Center staff; and
- 4 WADAN representatives.

The session also included contributions from:

- Dr. Rahmatullah – Physician, 100-Bed Drug Treatment Hospital
- Dr. Wiar Ahmadzai – WADAN Representative
- Dr. Abdul Qadeem Shyam – OAMT Coordinator
- A religious scholar
- Patients who shared personal recovery experiences.

Main Activities

Awareness and Technical Presentation

The session commenced with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by an introduction to the purpose and objectives of the event.

Dr. Rahmatullah discussed the treatment and rehabilitation process and emphasized the need for a comprehensive and long-term approach that includes treatment, rehabilitation, behavioral change, psychosocial support, family involvement, reintegration, and relapse prevention.

Comprehensive Recovery and Reintegration

Dr. Wiar Ahmadzai presented on sustainable recovery under the message:

Recovery Is Possible – Treatment Is Not the End of Recovery; It Is the Beginning.

The presentation highlighted the importance of:

- Quality treatment and rehabilitation;
- Family and community reintegration;
- Vocational skills development;
- Economic empowerment;
- Market linkages;
- Relapse prevention;
- Continued counselling
- Peer support; and
- Continued family and community support.

Family and Community Support

Dr. Abdul Qadeem Shyam, emphasized the important role of families throughout treatment and recovery.

Family members were encouraged to provide emotional and social support and help individuals maintain positive changes after treatment.

The importance of community acceptance, understanding, and support was also discussed.

Personal Recovery Experiences

Several patients shared their personal recovery experiences and life stories. Their testimonies highlighted the challenges associated with substance use, treatment difficulties, determination, family support, and professional assistance.

Role-Play and Interactive Participation

Patients participated in a role-play activity related to substance use and recovery. The activity provided an interactive method for reinforcing the key messages of the awareness session.

Key Messages/Highlights

- **Recovery Is Possible.**
- Recovery requires commitment, patience, and continued support.
- Treatment is the beginning of a longer recovery process.
- Family involvement is an important component of successful recovery.
- Recovery should address physical, psychological, social, economic, and spiritual well-being.
- Vocational skills and livelihoods can support sustainable reintegration.
- Communities have an important role in supporting people in recovery.
- Personal recovery stories can provide hope and encouragement.
- Religious and spiritual guidance can provide additional support.
- People affected by substance use disorders should be encouraged to seek appropriate treatment and professional support.

Key Results

- 135 participants took part in the awareness session.
- Family involvement and community support were emphasized.
- Personal recovery experiences provided opportunities for peer learning and encouragement.
- Vocational skills and economic reintegration were highlighted.
- Patients actively participated through discussion, questions, and role-play.

- The central message that **Recovery Is Possible** was reinforced.

06. Overall Key Results and Messages Reinforced

The International Recovery Month 2026 activities across the five provinces reinforced the following key results and messages:

- The message - **Recovery Is Possible**- was consistently promoted across programme locations.
- The progress and achievements of people in recovery were recognized and encouraged.
- Participants were provided opportunities to share personal recovery experiences and positive stories.
- The importance of continued treatment, counselling, relapse prevention, and professional support was reinforced.
- Family and community support were highlighted as important elements of sustained recovery.
- Vocational skills were presented as a pathway toward self-reliance, livelihood opportunities, and reintegration.
- Healthy and productive recreational activities were promoted, including sports activities in Nangarhar.
- The importance of dignity, respect, acceptance, and positive attitudes toward people in recovery was emphasized.
- The connection between treatment, skills development, livelihoods, and social and economic reintegration was reinforced.
- Collaboration among WADAN, treatment centers, health authorities, vocational training providers, communities, ISSUP Afghanistan National Chapter, UNODC-supported initiatives, and other stakeholders was highlighted.
- The activities demonstrated that recovery support extends beyond treatment and requires continued individual, family, community, and institutional support.

07. Real-Life Recovery Experiences

One of the most meaningful parts of the programme was the sharing of real-life recovery stories by people in recovery who had successfully progressed through their recovery journeys. With courage and openness, they shared their personal experiences, explaining how they started using drugs during difficult periods in their lives, the challenges and consequences they experienced as a result of substance dependence, and how, by acknowledging their problems, receiving appropriate support, and remaining committed to recovery, they were able to stop using substances and begin a new chapter in their lives.

08. Current Life and Community Reintegration

The participants also spoke about their current lives and explained how, after recovery, they had regained their ability to play positive and active roles in their families and communities. Their stories demonstrated that addiction does not have to be the end of a person's life. With appropriate treatment, continued support, personal determination, and meaningful opportunities, individuals can rebuild their lives, regain their confidence, and contribute positively to their families and communities.

09. Way Forward

To build on the 2026 Recovery Month activities, WADAN and relevant partners should continue to:

1. Promote regular awareness activities on treatment, recovery, and relapse prevention.
2. Strengthen family and community engagement in supporting people in recovery.
3. Expand vocational skills, livelihood, and economic empowerment opportunities after treatment.
4. Strengthen follow-up, counselling, peer support, and referral mechanisms.
5. Promote dignity, acceptance, and positive community support for people in recovery.
6. Continue linking treatment with skills development and sustainable social and economic reintegration.

10. Conclusion

The International Recovery Month 2026 activities were conducted across Kabul, Helmand, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, and Kandahar in a positive and supportive environment.

The activities provided opportunities to recognize people in recovery, reinforce messages on treatment and continued support, share recovery experiences, promote vocational skills and healthy activities, and highlight the importance of family, community, and social reintegration.

Across all five provinces, the central message remained:

RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE

Recovery is a journey that requires hope, dignity, continued support, skills development, livelihood opportunities, and meaningful participation in family and community life.

The central message of the event was:

(RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE)

Recovery is a journey of hope, dignity, skills development, and reintegration.

Photo 1: Participants during the International Recovery Month awareness and recognition event in Kabul.



Photo 2: Participants during the Recovery Month activity in Badakhshan.



Photo 3: Participants during the Recovery Month awareness and recreational event in Helmand.



Photo 4: Participants during the Recovery Month awareness and cricket activity in Nangarhar.



Photo 5: Participants during the Recovery Is Possible awareness session in Kandahar.

