



**United Nations Development Programme**  
**Afghanistan**  
**Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality (GEP)**  
**April – June Second Quarter Project Progress Report 2010**



[Certificate course on "gender, conflict and development" for Herat University Teachers]

**Project ID:** 00054320

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**Strategic Plan Component:** Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

**CPAP Component:** Deepening Democracy (CPAP Outcome #2)

**ANDS Component:** Good Governance (Pillar 2) & Gender Equality (cross-cutting theme)

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## Executive Summary

The primary focus of the second quarter of the project witnessed the fine-tuning of the project document for Phase II of GEP. With the present project already running on extended time, the significance of finalizing the new project document cannot be overemphasized. Nevertheless, the project simultaneously continued with implementation of the remaining key activities which were vital to round-off the first phase effectively and ensure an efficient transition to the next.

With the extension of the project coming to a close on 31<sup>st</sup> May, UNDP procedures for the project's closure were followed and necessary paper work was completed. At the same time the project continued with its provision of support to its key government partners in accordance with *Component 1* for enhancing their gender mainstreaming capacity. Notable among them were facilitation of meetings for the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) in conjunction with other stakeholders – line ministries, bilateral agencies and civil society organizations to finalize the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) indicators which were reduced from the initial set of 92 to 58 and work is still going to arrive at a manageable number that is accepted by all the concerning stakeholders. In addition, discussions were held with the Ministry of Economy (MoEc) for enhancing its capacity to assess budget submissions prepared by different line ministries from a gender perspective. A workshop on developing local economic plans is also being planned with external resource persons.

After an introductory meeting with the Minister of Haj and Religious Affairs (MOHRA), it was decided to constitute a working group comprising representatives from MOHRA, MOWA, UNDP and other organizations to identify vital areas to develop and implement activities for cementing the bond between religious community members and UNDP's initiatives to disseminate a clear picture about the role of religious leaders in promoting gender sensitivity in Afghan social life. Considerable progress was also achieved in establishing the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) cell at the Budget Directorate of Ministry of Finance - the GRB cell was officially established on 1<sup>st</sup> June and regular meetings were held with the Director-General of Budget Directorate and GTZ representatives. At the behest of the Director-General, Budget Directorate, UNDP prepared the Strategy Paper for the GRB cell to follow while implementing its different activities. Also on his advice, UNDP started the preparations for organizing a GRB workshop with external resource persons for the sector heads of the Directorate as well as other key officials from the Ministry of Finance and representatives from the Gender Units of different ministries.

In the context of Component 2 on *sustainable knowledge building and management on gender*, regular meetings at an interval of two months was begun with the Deans and faculty members of Kabul University to identify the next research topic and also select two or three department where gender mainstreaming initiatives could be initiated. In addition, discussions with the Dean of Fine Arts were begun to select a topic for the preparation of a documentary film relating to women and promotion of women's rights as well as explore the possibility of organizing a film festival from South Asian countries at Kabul University on pertinent social issues centred on women's contribution to the development process. The Gender Studies Institute (GSI) also began intensive networking with similar institutes in the region and the first steps to invite guest speakers who are renowned in the field of gender and promotion of women's development were taken to have them over once the examinations at Kabul University were over. Another remarkable development under this Component was the replication of the professional certificate course on "Gender, Conflict and Development" at Herat University for 17 faculty members and the organization of a two-day gender mainstreaming workshop-cum-training programme for 20 faculty members of Education University at Kabul.

A number of activities were undertaken for achieving the targets set for Component 3: *women's empowerment* through different activities relating to justice, peace and security. Notable among

them were the establishment of 4 Legal Help Centres (LHC) in Herat province, ii) launch of the media centre in the Directorate of Women's Affairs (DOWA) in Herat, iii) the organization of the second phase of the mullahs training programme in this province and iv) a pilot training programme in collaboration with MOWA for sensitizing potential women candidates for the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Mazar-e-Sharif with participants attending from 9 northern provinces. In addition, the Provincial Coordinators at Herat and Balkh provinces undertook several interventions to reinforce the functioning of the LHCs – training of paralegal volunteers, provision of training for the managers of the Centres, establishing linkages with Shura Council members, networking with provincial level development partners among others.

A task-force was formed in partnership with the Division of Human Rights and Women's Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), UNAMA and other international organizations as well as the civil society to monitor the progress achieved regarding the implementing of UNSC Resolution 1325 for empowering women to participate at the decision-making level in negotiations and activities during the peace and reintegration phase. A concept note has been drafted which will be finalized in the next meeting scheduled to be held towards the beginning of August.

The main challenge that the project staff including those at the provinces faced during the second quarter was the constant anxiety about the future of the next phase of the project as the draft document was being revised several times. Despite this uncertainty, neither the productivity nor the quality of performance was compromised at any point in time by the staff.

The LPAC meeting to appraise the project document of the next phase was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and the stakeholders' reaction to the draft project document provided not only a sense of relief but also a feeling of satisfaction due to the interest generated among several organizations whose representatives attended the meeting about the activities of the next phase of the project. This was a very encouraging development.

## Context

Since 2001, there has been a systematic chain of efforts to mainstream the needs of women into development in Afghanistan. On its part, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has simultaneously achieved significant progress in terms of strengthening its state machinery and in developing instruments to promote and support the development and wellbeing of its citizens – both women and men. Gender equality and the advancement of women have been given ample consideration in the nation building strategies. Ratification of the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW) in 2003, endorsement of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are some of the major steps taken by the government to this end. Rights and empowerment of women have been defended and emphasized upon in the Bonn Agreement, Berlin Plan of Action, the Constitution, Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). All these documents include provisions that promote women's empowerment and equality of women with men.

Against this backdrop, UNDP had always provided support to the Government in implementing its key national policies on gender equality, especially through its launching of the Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality Project (GEP). The focus of this project was to provide the necessary technical and financial support necessary to translate Government's emphasis on equitable development into practical action by improving women's access to opportunities in order to be considered as equal partners in the development process.

The **overall goal** of UNDP-GEP is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment within the overarching gender mainstreaming goals of Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) as well as the NAPWA. This emphasis also contributes to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) outcome on governance, rule of law and human rights as well as

the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2006-2009 for mainstreaming a gender perspective on policy-making and development planning. The ultimate objective is to ensure institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming is established for contributing towards women's empowerment.

The primary partners for spearheading GEP's emphasis on institutional strengthening from a gender perspective are selected ministries and the strategy was to identify key officials in these ministries for promoting their intellectual capability, analytical skills, practical tools as well as establishing demonstrated examples and workable examples to model after. In addition, the focus of GEP has also been on strengthening partnerships (horizontal) and collaboration between government institutions both at the national and sub-national levels to ensure increased and sustained capacity. The **objectives** of the project are:

1. Enhance the institutional capacity of partners from the government and at the sub-national level for improving their quality of service delivery ,
2. Promotion of gender in the sphere of developing knowledge-based products including training and strengthening of educational institutions' capacity for mainstreaming gender,
3. Mobilize influential community leaders for a better understanding of gender issues and laying the foundation of sustainable structures and capacities that would continue with this process.

The project's activities are targeted towards the following **beneficiaries**:

- Officials of key partner ministries at the national level and corresponding departmental heads at the provincial level,
- Faculty members of Kabul University and other academic institutions,
- Community leaders and members in Balkh and Herat provinces involved in improving women's access to opportunities.
- Women and men as the community level who are the recipients of the targeted interventions.

The main project **stakeholders** are line ministries (details given below), Kabul University, officials of different Government Departments at Provincial level, civil society organizations, and community-based organizations.

UNDP-GEP's key **implementing partners** include: Ministry of Women's Affair (MoWA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Economy (MoEc), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Central Statistics Office (CSO), Kabul University (KU) and Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat. The project is being implemented in close collaboration with UNAMA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNESCO and different civil society organizations (CSO).

## Implementation Progress

### Output 1 – Modelling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries (MoWA, MoEc, MoHRA, MoF)

#### [Output 1.2: Capacity of Ministry of Women's Affair \(MoWA\) and selected ministries enhanced](#)

**1.2.1. Meetings were organized and attended to review NAPWA indicators jointly with concerning stakeholders for implementing them through M&E unit at MOWA in order to enhance its capacity for an effective supervision of the implementation of NAPWA and ANDS by line ministries.**

UNDP-GEP held several meetings and attended group discussions with representatives from the different ministries, NGOs and other bilateral and multilateral institutions to review the set of indicators prepared for an effective implementation of NAPWA. The indicators were closely reviewed and the number of indicators that could be applied was reduced from the existing set of 92 to 58. The representative from the ANDS Secretariat at the Ministry of Finance chaired the meetings and a consensus decision was arrived at to further fine tune the 58 indicators and make them effective for practical application. The operational needs of the M&E unit established at the Planning Department of MOWA were assessed and it was decided to provide a Technical Adviser to head the unit for providing technical guidance and support. The Terms of Reference for the position was prepared and discussed with the Director of Planning Department, MOWA and necessary action for processing the Letter of Agreement between MOWA and UNDP are being completed for expeditiously beginning the functioning of the position as well as the activities of the M&E unit.

The selected trainers of the Training and Advocacy Development (TAD) of MOWA were also supported in undertaking special training at the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to implement the pilot training programme for potential women candidates at the three-day programme at Mazar-e-Sharif.

Three officials from the Ministries of Women Affairs and Finance attended a 12 day training programme on Gender and Macroeconomics at Manila, Philippines organized by the Regional Office of UNDP, Colombo.

**1.2.2. Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs (MOHRA) – establishment of working group to promote better understanding between religious community leaders and the community members about Islamic values and the role and contribution of women in Afghan society**

After a number of meetings with the Minister, Haj and Religious Affairs (MOHRA) and other senior officials of the Ministry, it was decided to build its capacity to engage in advocacy work with the religious community relating to Islam and promotion of women's rights through training of the selected officials. A working group was established with a list of activities to be undertaken with a focus on the identification of topics that would facilitate the dissemination of information about the relationship between Islamic tenets and gender issues and the publication of knowledge-based products for an effective impact. The meeting is due to be held in the first week of August.

**1.2.3. Ministry of Economy – meeting with concerning officials for raising the gender awareness of officials while assessing budget submissions and preparation of a workshop on developing guidelines for local economic development**

The officials of the Ministry of Economy who assess the budget submissions from line ministries by assessing Budget Circulars 1 and 2 were addressed through an informal meeting and their needs assessed to ensure their existing capacity for reviewing budget submissions from line ministries from a gender perspective. A meeting to sensitize them about GRB principles is being arranged for August. Also discussions with the Deputy Minister was held to identify the specific topics to be dealt with during a workshop with external resource persons on the major issues involved in the preparation of local economic development plans. This workshop which could not be held for security reasons is now being planned to be held towards the middle of September.

#### 1.2.4 Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) – meetings held with heads of technical departments to identify and prioritize specific projects for implementation to raise rural women’s productivity and income

After the presentation about GEP’s major activities to the Director-General, Planning of MAIL towards the end of March, it was decided to have focus-group discussions with technical heads of different departments to identify and prioritize the specific activities for enhancing the economic empowerment of rural women. After a number of meetings, a list of specific activities was selected for implementation during the next phase of the project.

#### Output 1.3 – Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) cell established at Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Strategy Paper prepared; preparation for a GRB workshop undertaken for sector heads of Directorate and other key officials of Ministry of Finance and representatives of Gender Units from line ministries

1.3.1. Established the GRB cell in June 2010 and prepared the Strategy paper for providing guidance to the implementation of activities that are necessary for the cell. Also preparations were started for organizing a GRB work with external resource persons to introduce key GRB principles necessary to be included while preparing budgets for sector heads and senior officials of the Ministry of Finance as well as representatives from Gender Units located in different line ministries.

The project officials also attended several training workshop and meetings at the Budget Directorate on the finalization of different documents needed for gathering budget related data such as gender-disaggregated information which is a core ingredient for preparing gender responsive budgets. Suggestions made to this effect were accepted with minor changes and will be included in the 1390 budget.

### Output 2 – Sustainable knowledge building and management on gender:

#### Output 2.1 – A gender studies institute is made fully operational

##### 2.1.1. Organized at Herat University first professional certificate course on “Gender, Conflict and Development”

After the successful completion of the pilot professional certificate course in January – February 2010 on “**Gender, Conflict and Development**” at Kabul University, the same was replicated at Herat University for 17 faculty members. The course which was held from 31<sup>st</sup> May till 27<sup>th</sup> June was conducted at the premises of the Law Department of Herat University and most of the modules taught in the Kabul University’s course were followed: Gender Concepts, Gender and Peace-building, Mainstreaming Gender at the Policy-making Level, among others. Similar to Kabul University course’s timings, the programme was held four times a week from 12.30 till 3.30 p.m. keeping in mind the teaching commitments of the participants. The resource persons included local experts on the specific topics that were taught as well as experts from research and other organizations in Kabul.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> after successfully completing the course and taking part in the end-of-course examination, the qualified participants were awarded certificates by the Chancellor of the Prof. Hussein and the Programme Officer from UNDP, Ms. Razia Fazl. In his speech, the Chancellor highlighted the significance of gender in the context of Herat University and charged the first group of trained participants with the responsibility of performing the tasks and responsibilities of master trainers not only for the University but for the whole province.

The system of organizing regular two-monthly meetings with Deans and faculty members was launched and the first meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May. The topic for undertaking the next research was discussed and a selection was made of the most relevant topics: Role of women from an Islamic perspective, role of Afghan women in economic development and women's role in the family from an Islamic dimension. These topics will be further scrutinized for arriving at a consensus decision to select the most relevant topic and thereafter an action plan will be prepared outlining the activities necessary for completing the research study.

Another unique development during this quarter was the pilot initiative undertaken to test the level of acceptance for integrating gender mainstreaming into the different academic institutions in and around Kabul. For the first time a two-day training work for 20 faculty members of Education University was organized on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of May in collaboration with BRAC, an international NGO who have qualified trainers in gender mainstreaming topics. This is part of the initiative underpinned in the project document and also in the work plan to replicate the key principles of mainstreaming gender developed at Kabul University for dissemination in other academic institutions for a more comprehensive impact.

#### *2.1.2. CISCO Women's ICT Training Academy at MOWA*

During this quarter, the second batch of students who completed successfully the Basic Course received their certificates. There were over 30 students who were handed over certificates at a ceremony held on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Another new development during this quarter for the CISCO Academy was the launching of English learning classes side by side with the IT classes for which there has been an increasing demand. With the appointment of an IT trainer to take the IT classes while the substantive trainer is on maternity leave and who is proficient in English, this activity was possible to be implemented. At the same time, the prospect of sending the outstanding students for short IT courses to other regional countries has been also discussed with concerning organizations.

### **Output 3: Towards women's empowerment: conflict resolution, justice, security and peace at the sub-national level enhanced:**

#### Output 3.1: Communities sensitised/equipped for the promotion of women's rights

##### *3.1.1 Workshop on Women's Political Participation and their Rights to Practice Election:*

A three-day training workshop was jointly organized by MOWA and UNDP-GEP at Mazar from 29<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July as a pilot initiative to familiarize potential female candidates about the political process of elections and related activities. This was the first initiative of its kind to be held in Afghanistan and attracted considerable interest from the candidates as well as other service providers engaged in preparing candidates for the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Over seventy female candidates for the parliamentary election from nine Northern provinces ( Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Saripul and Faryab) attended the training program on women's political participation and their rights to practice parliamentary election campaign. This program was formally launched on 29th June by Mr. Zahir Wahdat, Balkh Deputy Governor. The primary aim of the training workshop was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the women candidates of the parliamentary elections on election preparation and campaigning of potential Afghan women leaders. The participants



learned the details of campaign functions, particularly on building a campaign team, developing a clear message and techniques for delivering a message to the public in their provinces. There were also educational sessions on the laws and regulations that promote women's participation in the elections, as an example of the political participation of women in general.

### *3.1.2: Second phase of mullahs training for 250 Herat Mullahs on Islam and gender issues*

The 2nd phase of training programme for the selected 250 mullahs was organized jointly by the UNDP-GEP, Directorate of Women's affairs (DOWA) and Directorate of Haj & Religious Affairs ( DOHRA) including some community leaders from 5 districts ( Karokh, Ghuzara, Ghorya, Robot Sangi, and Ghulran). They were trained and actively engaged in promoting awareness in the community about women's participation in the socio-economic development process, eliminating violence against



women and increasing their access to information, education and justice. The training methodology comprised a participatory approach and included visual presentations, lectures and activities of working groups and the emphasis throughout was highlighting examples of sacred verses from the Qu'ran, Hadiths' of Prophet Mohammad and correct interpretation of the rights, values and position of women as stated in Islam. Some of the key areas of focus were:

- 1- Islamic teachings and women's rights
- 2- The Afghan government development goals and gender equality
- 3- Elimination of violence against women's Law

- 4- Gender Equality definitions
- 5- Feedback on exposure visit of Mullahs to Malaysia

An immediate impact of this programme has been the building up of knowledge among the selected religious leaders about gender equality and women's equal participation in society. They have now become active spokespersons for disseminating this new knowledge that they have gained especially during the Friday prayer sermons. This is a positive outcome which needs to be consolidated for future replications in the other districts of the province.

### ***3.1.3: One month's professional certificate course on "Gender, Conflict and Development" for 17 Herat University lecturers***

A one-month professional certificate course on "Gender, conflict and development" was held at the premises of the Law Department, Herat University from 31st May till 26th of June for 17 faculty members (details under Component 2). The feedback received from the participants indicated the course was useful for them and they also recommended that similar courses should be organized for school teachers so that the information is disseminated to a larger audience at an early age.

## **Output 3.2 Communities and local institutions capacitated to promote women friendly local level justice system and facilitate women's access to justice in selected provinces**

### ***3.2.1 Training of Paralegals in rural areas of Balkh Province***

In the first quarter of 2010, the provincial team of UNDP-GEP along with the provincial Directorates of Justice and Women Affairs had established four Legal Help Centers (LHC) in different districts of northern Balkh. The aim was to provide free legal consultation to the victims of gender based violence. To strengthen the functioning of the LHCs as per the implementation plan of the project, during the 2nd quarter of 2010, UNDP-GEP undertook a paralegal training program in Balkh province. Nearly 120 women who are to function as paralegals from four rural districts attended this training program and they were trained to perform a number of relevant functions to enhance the quality of services that are currently being provided by the LHCs.

The long-term objective of this activity is to equip women with adequate legal knowledge to empower them for overcoming Gender-based Violence and other forms of abuse that women are subjected to in the rural areas of Balkh province. In addition, the effort was directed towards the creation of a network of paralegals with improved knowledge about the different options available for the victims of domestic violence to seek address which could be transmitted to the rural women. The training programme was implemented with two specific objectives:



- a) To impart practical knowledge about the basic legal rights and remedies provided under various women related laws in Afghanistan, thereby making the participants well equipped to face the challenges in real life situations in rural areas of Balkh province.
- b) To make them aware of: the various machineries/organs of the justice delivery system available for redress of their problems/grievances and the role of local authorities at district level

### *3.2.2: Establishment of 4 women legal help centres (LHC) in Herat province & paralegal training workshop*

Due to the departure of the previous Provincial Coordinator in February and the recruitment of the present incumbent in April, there was a brief stalling of activities at the provincial level in Herat. However, as soon as the new official joined, the backlog of each identified activity was implemented in quick succession.

In collaboration with the Directorate of Women affairs (DOWA), Legal aid unit of Justice department (DoJ), Herat Women Shura ( HWS) and Afghan Women Foundation (AWF), 4 LHCs were established for improving women's access to the justice system and ensuring the protection of their rights. With the help of the LHC staff comprising a non registered lawyer and a paralegal, in the first 3 months, 20 villages in 2 districts were targeted and training for sensitizing community leaders /women Shura were undertaken. As a result of the publicity campaigns and awareness raising activities of the 4 LHCs a total of 135 women who have been victims of domestic violence and family conflicts have benefited from the legal consultations offered through the LHCs and these cases are being followed up by the staff of the LHCs.

A three-day training programme for 20 paralegal volunteers was also organized at Herat on the following issues:

- Definitions of legal terms
- Justice system in Afghanistan
- Gender based violence and conflict
- Access of Women to legal consultation and protections: role of paralegal volunteers.

The participants evaluated the training workshop as very useful and after the training; the paralegal volunteers started a 2 weeks awareness campaign in targeted villages to sensitize community members about gender based violence and the need for easy access of women to legal support. In 38 awareness sessions a total of 2080 community members (1350 women and 730 men) participated and received detailed information on women rights in access to legal services and the negative impacts of violence towards women.

In coming months, it is being proposed to continue with the LHCs and extend their services at the district level (legal help sub-centre) which can be managed by district women Shura members and paralegal volunteers under the supervision of main LHCs. Also it is recommended that the DoJ's legal help department could facilitate and coordinate the activities between the LHCs and other governmental authorities such as courts, police and attorney general office. Another suggestion is to establish a legal training centre at the provincial level with the support of the DoJ's legal help department in order to build the capacity of paralegal volunteers and legal help centres' staff on a regular basis.

### Output 3.3 Gender Sensitive Media Established

#### *3.3.1 Gender Sensitive Training Program for the Local media in Balkh Province*

UNDP-GEP completed a four-day gender sensitive program for the local media organizations from the 24th – 27th May 2010 in Mazar-e-sharif. This program was based on a participatory approach and a wide range of different learning techniques. The key objectives of this programme were to:



- a) Increase women's exercise of right to freedom of expression of ideas and participation at the decision-making level through widespread media advocacy and use of new communication technologies,
- b) Promote a balanced portrayal of women and girls in the media,
- c) Encourage gender-sensitive training for media professionals;
- d) Take effective measures against pornography that portray a prejudiced image about women status in society.

The targeted audience for this training program were local journalists working for both electronic and print media. An important output of this event was that assisted local journalists and editors to understand the attitudes, prejudices, and biases of society from a gender perspective which are publicized through media messages and facilitated the development of their analytical capacity to assess the imbalance between women's and men's agency in order to ensure women's voice is heard by all through an effective use of gender sensitive media advocacy.

#### *3.3.2 Establishment of media centre in Herat DOWA office*

UNDP-GEP supported the establishment of a new media centre at DoWA to enhance its capacity to promote gender sensitive media. At the launching ceremony in which several noted local media personnel were present, the Director of DOWA explained how the establishment of the media centre will strengthen its capacity to launch more gender sensitive programmes in addition to the weekly TV programme entitled "Woman and Society."

#### *3.3.3. Gender sensitive media workshop for Herat media managers and journalists*

A two-day workshop on gender and media was organized by UNDP-GEP for over 20 media managers, staff from the media unit of DOWA, and representatives from the Departments of Haj and Religious Affairs and Justice. The primary objective of the workshop was to identify and discuss about the gaps and challenges of gender and media. The workshop also focused on exploring the ways in which journalists can incorporate a gender perspective in their work and promote a non-biased as well as gender-balanced reporting system through the application of constructive dialogue and trying to understand the point of view of those being reported upon. Some of the key issues during the workshop included:

- Gender equality: definition and concepts
- DoWA media centre and gender unit
- Issues and challenges in achieving gender equality in mass media
- Gaps and challenges of gender sensitive media reporting in the context of Herat
- Common violence and discrimination against women in Herat : Role of Media in elimination of GBV
- Gender sensitive reporting: good and bad reports on women issues
- Collaboration between Media and DoWA: challenges and way forward

In the workshop, the media representatives repeatedly complained the lack of information coming from the Government body, while the women's department (DOWA) pointed at the need for the Herat-based media outlets to hire more female journalists and cover more of gender related subjects, such as successful women in the community or women's rights.

The journalists indicated that the media needed more information on the activities of the women organizations, and stressed the lack of resources that most media outlets face to follow up in the community. Despite having diverging points of views, participants agreed on the importance of a gender perspective in media coverage of Afghan society. The workshop's participants also acknowledged the necessity of a closer cooperation between DOWA and the media representatives.

## Challenges

One of the major challenges that UNDP-GEP faced during this quarter was to complete the finalization of the project document for the next phase. However, the other programme activities continued unabated and barring one or two interventions, most of them were completed as per schedule. In achieving this, the support from partner ministries and other stakeholders at the provincial level was exemplary.

The other challenges included proceeding with the recruitment process for the next phase of the project. Advertisement for the different positions were placed on the UNDP website in the second week of June and all out efforts are on to get the formalities completed in time but it was a herculean task with the limited human resources available at the project office. Mobilization of adequate resources to fund the specific activities of the next phase is another major challenge without which it would be difficult to meet the targets of the project's objectives.

## Risks

The major risk experienced during this quarter was the tense security situation which resulted in the withdrawal of soft skin project vehicles. This impacted the mobility of project staff for completing the identified activities of the AWP. Above all, at the provincial level, this had a disproportionately impact as most of the outreach activities had to be undertaken at the community level which requires movement into the interior parts of the provinces in vehicles. Nevertheless, the Provincial Coordinators carried on with their responsibilities through alternative arrangements.

## Issues

On the operational side, till such time the project document for the next phase was completed, all recruitment was put on hold despite the existing inadequate staff strength to carry on with the

project's activities. Although most of the scheduled activities of the project were implemented without any delay, it placed considerable pressure on the few staff working at the project office. In addition, the unexpected departure of the Finance & Administrative Specialist in April created a setback for the management of the finance portfolio. The position is yet to be filled. A Deputy Project/Operations Manager was recruited on SSA contract to facilitate the activities once the project document for the next phase was approved. However, the official left after a month as her resignation was not accepted by the office where she worked before joining the project. On the programme side, some of the activities such as the launching of income-generating activity in Balkh province with local civil society partners could not be undertaken due to logistical reasons. This input has been included into the Annual Work Plan (AWP) of the project in its next phase. Another issue is the expeditious establishment of the 2 new Provincial Coordinators' offices in Bamyán and Nangarhar to start the implementation of the project's activities during the next phase.

## Lessons Learned

Working under the overhanging cloud of uncertainty regarding the outcome of the next phase of project, the second quarter has taught a few lessons for the future. Some of them are as follows:

1. While recruiting staff, it is worthwhile to spend more time in checking about the availability of the selected candidates in order to avoid losing them after joining,
2. The closure of a project's phase requires patience, understanding and tremendous sacrifice from the project staff to tide over the difficult period,
3. The identification of activities for the next phase of the project needs to be based on lessons learned from the experiences of the previous phase,
4. The need to develop a good understanding and networking partnership with a selected range of development partners from different backgrounds,
5. It is important to value the relationship with MOHRA and other religious community leaders who have extended their helping hand to promote women's role and contribution towards society and which is vital to bring about any change in the mindset of the people pertaining to the role of women in Afghan society.

## Future Plans

The first major activity to be undertaken is the official approval of the project document for the next phase and launching of relevant activities. This would involve the following actions:

- Preparation of the operational manual for the project,
- Establishment of 2 new Provincial Coordinators' offices in Bamyán and Nangarhar,
- Completion of inventory list of assets of the project,
- Identification and prioritization of the main activities to be undertaken in 2010
- Continuation of some of the key recently introduced activities: GRB cell's functioning, capacity-building of M&E unit of MOWA and other similar inputs.

The objective of the next phase of the project would focus on ensuring activities related to the 3 key objectives are implemented with proper planning and after taking into consideration factors contributing towards extending the outreach and deepening the impact among the major target

groups from different backgrounds. This would require a careful mapping of the details of each activity along with the necessary financial components and following the logical steps of project implementation to prevent any avoidable mishaps. At the same time, contingency plans must be prepared to take over in the event of any mishap. The recurring theme underpinning the implementation of the activities of the next phase would be reaching the project's targets, despite impediments cropping up from time to time so as to focus on improved impact, sustainability and extensive outreach for promoting gender equality.

## Financial Section

**Table 1. Total Income and Expenditure**

Donor	INCOME			EXPENDITURES			BALANCE	Remarks
	Total Commitment (approx US\$)	Total Received (approx US\$)	Total Receivable (approx US\$)	Total Cumulative Expenditures as of Dec 2009	Current Year 2010 (Cumulative) as of the current Quarter	Total Expenditures	Total Received minus Total Expenditures	
<b>00137 - ITALY</b>	3,262,411	3,262,411	-	1,667,068	335,176	2,002,244	1,260,167	
<b>00550 - CIDA</b>	2,824,778	2,824,778	-	1,825,086	323,918	2,149,004	675,774	
<b>00012 - UNDP Core</b>	1,293,233	1,293,233	-	1,196,980	10,511	1,207,491	85,742	
<b>00551 - DFID</b>	100,716	100,716	-	56,393	12,365	68,757	31,959	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,481,137</b>	<b>7,481,138</b>		<b>4,745,527</b>	<b>681,970</b>	<b>5,427,496</b>	<b>2,053,641</b>	

**Table 2. Expenditure by Major Outputs (2010)**

Project Output	Budget (AWP 2010)	Cumulative Expenditure as of the current Quarter	Delivery Rate	Remarks
Output 1 - Modelling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries (MoWA, MoEC, MoA, MoF)		19,064		
<b>Sub-total Output 1 - Modelling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries (MoWA, MoEC, MoA, MoF)</b>	-	<b>19,064</b>		
Output 2 - Sustainable knowledge building and management on gender	39,000	38,891		
<i>GMS (7%)</i>	<i>2,935.48</i>	<i>2,927</i>		
<b>Sub-total Output 2 - Sustainable knowledge building and management on gender</b>	<b>41,935</b>	<b>41,818</b>	100%	
Output 3 - Towards women empowerment: conflict resolution, justice, security, and peace at the sub-national level	391,000	163,570		
<i>GMS (7%)</i>	<i>29,430</i>	<i>12,342</i>		
<b>Sub-total Output 3 - Towards women empowerment: conflict resolution, justice, security, and peace at the sub-national level</b>	<b>420,430</b>	<b>175,912</b>	42%	
Project Management Cost	496,100	413,443		
<i>GMS (7%)</i>	<i>37,340.86</i>	<i>31,733</i>		
<b>Sub-total Project Management Cost</b>	<b>533,441</b>	<b>445,176</b>	83%	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>995,806</b>	<b>681,970</b>	<b>68%</b>	

**Table 3. Expenditure by Donors (2010)**

Donor	Project Output	Budget (AWP 2010)	2010 Cumulative Expenditure as of the current Quarter	Delivery Rate
00012 - UNDP	Output 1 - Modelling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries (MoWA, MoEC, MoA, MoF)	-	19,064	
	Output 2 - Sustainable knowledge building and management on gender	-	-	
	Output 3 - Towards women empowerment: conflict resolution, justice, security, and peace at the sub-national level	-	(403)	
	Project Management Cost	-	(8,150)	
<b>Sub-total UNDP</b>		-	<b>10,511</b>	
00137 - Italy	Output 3 - Towards women empowerment: conflict resolution, justice, security, and peace at the sub-national level	391,000	163,972	42%
	Project Management Cost	218,800	147,741	68%
<i>GMS (7%)</i>		45,899	23,462	
<b>Sub-total Italy</b>		<b>655,699</b>	<b>335,176</b>	51%
00550 - CIDA	Output 2 - Sustainable knowledge building and management on gender	39,000	38,891	100%
	Project Management Cost			99%

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		263,800	262,353	
<i>GMS (7%)</i>		22,791.40	22,674	
<b>00550 - CIDA Total</b>		<b>325,591</b>	<b>323,918</b>	99%
00551 - DFID	Project Management Cost	13,500	11,499	85%
<i>GMS (7%)</i>		1,016	866	
<b>00551 - DFID Total</b>		<b>14,516</b>	<b>12,365</b>	85%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>995,806</b>	<b>681,970</b>	<b>68%</b>

Note: the financial report is based on preliminary figures.

## Annexes

### Annex I: Performance Tracking Matrix

Result/Goals	Performance Indicators	Baseline Info	Performance Benchmark and Targets	Implementation Progress in reporting quarter
1. Modelling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries (MoWA, MRRD, MoHRA, MoI, MoJ, MoF)				
1.2.1 : Capacity of MOWA enhanced	Established foundation of a robust M&E system to supervise functioning of line ministries for implementing NAPWA indicators	Absence of assessing functioning of line ministries from a gender perspective; weak capacity of MOWA to monitor.	Preparation of TOR & selection of Technical Adviser to head the M&E unit	Operationalization of M&E unit
1.2.2 MOHRA capacity increased to undertake advocacy on Islam & Gender	Established working group at MOHRA to develop and disseminate advocacy materials on Islam & Gender issues	No linkage between religious community leaders & development institutions to project correct information on this topic	Preparation of checklist of items on which knowledge-based products to be developed	First working group meeting to be held in August
1.2.3 Ministry of Economy capacity to be strengthened for gender sensitive assessment of budget submissions	Assessed capacity of officials to evaluate budget submissions of line ministries from a gender	No gender sensitization of budget evaluation officials undertaken	Programme for training of officials discussed and to be implemented in August	Training programme finalized & workshop planning discussed with officials of Ministry

<p>1.2.4 Technical capacity of MAIL increased</p>	<p>perspective &amp; made preparations for workshop</p> <p>Organized meetings with technical heads of departments to select specific activities for improving rural women's productivity &amp; income</p>	<p>No collaboration established with MAIL and project previously</p>	<p>Selected 3-4 activities to be implemented in the next phase of the project</p>	<p>Planning of the proposals are under progress</p>
<p>1.3 Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance capacity increased for Gender responsive</p>	<p>Established GRB cell at Budget Directorate for integrating gender components into budgetary process</p>	<p>No adequate integration of GRB elements included into the budget documents</p>	<p>GRB cell started functioning from June 2010</p>	<p>Strategy prepared to define activities to be implemented for the GRB cell</p>
<p>2. Sustainable knowledge building &amp; management on gender</p> <p>2.1 Close interaction with faculty members of KU</p> <p>2.2 Professional certificate course replicated and other pilot workshops held Certificate</p>	<p>Establishment of mechanism to interact regularly (every 2 months) with faculty members</p> <p>Held the professional certificate course on</p>	<p>No previous system available for exchange of views with faculty members</p> <p>No replication of courses held outside KU</p>	<p>First meeting held, topic for research discussed as well as other activities to be undertaken in the future</p> <p>17 faculty members of Herat University trained; 20 faculty members of Education</p>	<p>Selected topics for research which is to be discussed for a consensus decision of the final topic in the next meeting, other initiatives: documentary film, film festival to be discussed further for arriving at a final decision</p> <p>Faculty members trained will undertake become master trainers to organize TOTs for other academics</p>

<p>3. Towards women's empowerment: conflict resolution, justice &amp; security and peace at the sub-national level</p>	<p>"Gender, Conflict &amp; Development" at Heart University; two day workshop on gender mainstreaming at Education University</p>		<p>University attended workshop</p>	
<p>3.1 Communities &amp; local institutions capacitated for the promotion of women's rights</p>	<p>Training of potential female parliamentary candidates; second phase of mullahs training at Herat; first professional certificate course held at Herat University</p>	<p>No political sensitization of female candidates targeted before; absence of religious community training previously as also holding of certificate course outside KU</p>	<p>Trained 70 women from 9 Northern provinces; trained 250 mullahs and 17 faculty members of Herat University</p>	<p>More political training of women to be held in other provinces; more replication of mullahs training programmes and certificate courses in other academic institutions</p>
<p>3.2 Communities &amp; local institutions capacitated to promote women-friendly local-level gender justice system &amp; facilitate women's access to</p>	<p>Paralegal training programmes organized at Balkh &amp; Herat; established</p>	<p>No existing provision of support services through LHCs, No sensitization</p>	<p>130 rural women in Balkh and 20 in Herat trained as paralegal volunteers and 135 women in 4 LHCs of Herat provided legal support services</p>	<p>Extend the paralegal training services to different districts of the 2 provinces and establish more LHCs</p>

<p>justice in selected provinces</p> <p>3.3 Gender sensitive media established</p>	<p>LHCs at Herat</p> <p>Gender sensitive media established at Herat and training/worksh ops organized at Balkh &amp; Heart</p>	<p>of paralegal staff addressed before</p> <p>Non existence of gender sensitive media or support to media personnel to undertake gender advocacy through media</p>	<p>More than 20 media personnel trained in each province and systems established to undertake sustained gender sensitive media publicity &amp; advocacy</p>	<p>Long-term advocacy through gender sensitive media ensured</p>
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Annex II: Risk Log

RISK LOG

<b>Project Title:</b> Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equality	<b>Award ID:</b> 00045877	<b>Date:</b> 31 March, 2010
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#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mgt response	Owner	Submitted , updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Continuation of tense security situation particularly in view of Peace Jirga	January 2010	Security	<p>The threat and challenge of the security situation continues to pose major restrictions on project staffs' mobility and consequent impact on delivery and productivity of the project. This was followed by increasing concerns about the security situation both before and after the Kabul Conference.</p> <p>The attack on a soft skin vehicle towards the end of June resulted in a complete ban of soft skin vehicles by all UN staff and this had a</p>	Staff movements are restricted. Armoured vehicle was rented and use of CO armoured vehicles when available was used; necessary security measures for the office were taken.	Project Manager	Project Manager	July 2010	

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				catastrophic impact on the smooth functioning of the project.				
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**Annex III: Issue Log<sup>1</sup>**

ISSUES LOG						Date:
Award ID: 00045877- Institutional Capacity Building Project for Gender Equality					Project: 00054320	
ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/Priority	Status Change Date	Author
1.	Operational	May 2010	Once the LPAC meeting took place in June, the finalization of the project document along with the HR and Procurement Plans is necessary to proceed with the recruitment process for launching the new activities of the next phase of the project. .	High	June 2010	Project Manager

<sup>1</sup> Details on Issue log can be obtained from Issues log deliverable description.

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2.	Operational	April 2010	The new Provincial Coordinator at Herat was appointed and the pending activities: second phase of the mullahs programme, establishment of Legal Help Centres and a gender sensitive Media Centre were all undertaken in quick succession.	High	April 2010	Project Manager
3.	Operational	May 2010	A new Deputy Project/Operations Manager was recruited for an efficient delivery of the project. However, since her resignation was not accepted by the Government, she had to cease working for the project after the first month in May 2010.	High	June 2010	

