

United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan

Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality Project (GEP)
Second Quarter Project Progress Report
April 1 to June 30, 2011



Provincial Governor of Balkh and other government officials from Balkh Province at the inauguration ceremony of Provincial Women Development Council (PWDC) on 22nd June 2011 launched by UNDP – Gender Equality Project in Balkh Province

Project ID: 00054320

Project Period: January 2011 to December 2011

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

CPAP Component: Increased opportunities for income generation through promotion of diversified livelihoods (CPAP Outcome 6)

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

Total Budget: USD 1,131,033.33

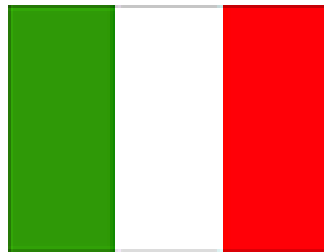
Responsible Agency: UNDP

GEP Project

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ACRONYMS

ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CDC	Community Development Council
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFID	Department for International Development
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOHRA	Department of Hajj and Religious Affairs
DOWA	Department of Women’s Affairs
GRB	Gender Responsive Budget
IC	Italian Cooperation
LHC	Legal Help Centres
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoEc	Ministry of Economy
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHRA	Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
MOWA	Ministry of Women’s Affairs
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NPP	National Priority Programme
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
PWDC	Provincial Women’s Development Council
TAD	Training and Advocacy Department
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP-GEP	Gender Equality Project
WPDC	Women’s Policy Development Centre

Executive Summary

The second quarter of 2011 marked a watershed in the implementation process of the UNDP's Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality Project's (UNDP-GEP). It witnessed the translation into reality of some of the major concepts of the project for enhancing the capacity of its partners at the national and sub-national levels: – establishment of two Provincial Women's Development Councils (PWDC) in Balkh and Herat and preparation for the establishment of the Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC) at the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) in July.

With reference to Objective 1 which focuses on enhancing the capacity of MOWA to function as an oversight body to supervise and evaluate the implementation of gender sensitivity into government's policies/programs as well as special efforts made to sensitize the key partner ministries, the following were the major achievements:

Result 1: The first training program as part of the implementation of the Capacity Development Plan for MOWA was implemented and the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) international consultant began translating the recommendations of the Gender Responsive Budget cell's Strategic Plan into practical inputs in the Ministry of Finance.

Result 2: Another significant input provided during this quarter was the technical support extended to MOWA for achieving the milestones of the third and fourth set of 100 days for MOWA's National Priority Programs (NPP).

Result 3: As the lead agency for Component 6, UNDP facilitated the development of an efficient monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism for enhancing the capacity of MOWA as an oversight body to monitor the implementation of indicators of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) through the concerning line ministries and independent organizations. This included preparation of a matrix of indicators homogenous with that of that of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), development of the Capacity Development for the M&E Unit of MOWA and the development of an Action Plan for the Unit.

Result 4: The partnership with the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MOHRA) was strengthened through the identification of selected topics on Islam and gender for publication through the mainstream journals of MOHRA.

Result 5: Another notable development in the sphere of sensitizing the religious leaders for bridging the gap between Islam and gender issues was the launching of a collaborative effort with USAID's project on training mullahs by the STRATCOM office in Kandahar.

Result 6: The initiative to strengthen women-owned cooperatives by the Women's Extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) was taken to the next level by developing a questionnaire for the needs assessment survey of the target groups and the selection of the provinces where it would be done.

Result 7: The Ministry of Higher Education was consulted for vetting the Masters Course curriculum in collaboration with representatives from Kabul University and necessary steps were taken with UNESCO officials for the launch of the next research study on women's contribution to the national economy.

With respect to Objective 2 which emphasizes the development of capacity of provincial government and traditional institutions for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women, the following are the key achievements:

Result 8: At the sub-national level, the second quarter was marked by two important developments: opening of the Provincial Coordinator's Office for Nangarhar province at Jalalabad and for the first time it was headed by a woman officer of GEP.

Result 9: The second event was the launching of the Provincial Women's Development Council (PWDC) in Balkh and Herat provinces in collaboration with the respective Directorates of Women's Affairs (DOWA), representatives from the Provincial and District Governors' Offices, women members of the Provincial Development Council and other stakeholders from different background.

Result 10: Other significant developments at the sub-national level included: gender-sensitive media training, training of the staff of district governor's office on gender mainstreaming and the promotion of income-generating activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women.

The major **challenges** experienced during this quarter were: obtaining the official approval of the no-cost extension from the Italian Cooperation to enable the project to proceed with its expanded interventions. Secondly, the identification and selection of a woman candidate for the position of the Bamyan Provincial Coordinator's Office and finally, completion of the recruitment of the remaining positions according to the Human Resource (HR) Plan. In the context of the last issue, the recent decision of the Senior Management to exercise utmost discretion for the appointment of additional staff has provided an additional challenge to meet the project's delivery with the minimal staff it has been operating with for the past several months.

I. Context

The Initiation Phase of UNDP's Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality (GEP) is being implemented at a momentous time in Afghanistan's development process. There were a number of significant developments in 2010 which underpinned the important contribution of women in the national development process: active participation of women in the Peace Jirga of June followed by the acknowledgement of the "centrality of gender issues" in the current development process at the Kabul Conference of July and finally the increasing presence of women in the parliamentary elections of September. On the other hand, there were increasing concerns for protecting women's rights during the negotiations process of the reintegration phase as representatives with a militant background and opposed to women's participation in development have been invited to sit at the negotiating table. As such, the project is designed to address the needs of Afghan women during a period and in a manner that has never been witnessed before.

Gender has also been one of the most politicized issues in Afghanistan over the past 100 years, and attempts at reform have been denounced by opponents as un-Islamic and a challenge to the sanctity of the faith and family. The National Risks and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007/8 confirmed that a consistent pattern of relative deprivation for women exists across almost all dimensions of individual and social development in Afghanistan. It is particularly pronounced in women's presence in governance especially at the decision-making level and in their participation in economic activities where they are predominantly in vulnerable employment¹. This is the main objective of GEP to address during this phase of implementation.

There has been some progress in advancing the rights of Afghan women since 2001. Noticeable improvements include the adoption of a new constitution with a specific provision on gender equality. Afghanistan is a party to a number of international human rights treaties, including accession, without reservation, in 2003, to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); this implies the responsibility of the State to protect and promote the human rights of all Afghan women and girls. Progress also includes the creation of a constitutionally-mandated Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission which has a women's rights unit and a presence throughout the country. In addition, a Ministry of Women's Affairs was created, and the government has adopted a National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) to oversee the integration of gender into the development process. There is also a constitutionally enshrined 25% quota for female members of parliament; one of the highest in the world. There have been significant achievements in the field of female literacy and education especially in the enrolment of girls at the primary level and their retention till the secondary level.

Another major achievement has been the commitment in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) for making gender as one of the 6 major cross cutting themes for achieving its main objectives: security, good governance including rule of law and human rights, and socio-economic growth with a focus on poverty reduction.

Despite these gains, recent surveys indicate that improvements in development opportunities have not impacted women and men alike. Comprising nearly half of the population, women in Afghanistan can and must play an effective role in the overall socio-economic development of the country. But their contribution has been always undermined by the traditional male-dominated society of Afghanistan which has imposed traditional and cultural restrictions on women and girls to access opportunities to improve their quality of life.

¹ NRVA, (2009), "National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment A Profile of Afghanistan," ICON-Institute, Kabul.

To address these challenges and fulfil its task effectively, the project has adopted a two-pronged strategy: promote women's agency and empowerment through strategic alliances within government stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels including traditional institutions and thereafter, implement demand-driven capacity development interventions in consultation with the selected partners for a deeper impact among its target group (women).

At the national level, the capacity development of government stakeholders is being targeted through specific interventions aimed at improving their capacity through needs-based inputs and focusing on the delivery of MOWA's NPPs as well as meeting the specific needs of other partner ministries. At the sub-national level, the offices of the Provincial Coordinators in Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar are replicating a similar initiative in extending technical support to the government partners at the provincial level for an effective delivery of gender sensitive services. These efforts include the establishment of the Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC) in MOWA and the Provincial Women's Development Council (PWDC) in the provinces.

The **overall objective** of the project is to support the achievement of Afghan women's human development as envisaged in the ANDS, NAPWA as well as in the Kabul Conference Communiqué and provide them with equal opportunities through engendering national policies and local capacity building initiatives.

The project has two major objectives:

- 1) Enhance policy development capacity of MOWA through the establishment of Women Policy Development Centre (WPDC) to ensure other line ministries that have an impact on improving women's quality of life develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and strategies,
- 2) Strengthen the capacity of provincial government and traditional institutions for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women through the establishment of support institutions such as the Provincial Women's Development Council (PWDC).

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,
- Officials of the Provincial and District Governors' offices; traditional institutions in the provinces,
- Community leaders and members in Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar and Bamyan provinces involved in improving women's access to opportunities.
- Women and men at the community level who are the recipients of the targeted interventions.
- UNDP-GEP's key **implementing partners** include: Ministry of Women's Affairs (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).

II. Results and Impact

Output 1: Capacity of MOWA built through the establishment of Women’s Policy Development Centre (WPDC) at MOWA for strengthening the capacity of selected line ministries to undertake a gender scan of their policies.

Indicators:

1. Preparation of concept note on WPDC, discussion with stakeholders and approval by MOWA for its establishment,
2. Capacity development of MOWA officials from different departments

Target 2011:

1. Operationalization of WPDC
2. Capacity development of officials of MOWA to function effectively as an oversight body to ensure gender is mainstreamed in other ministries and their policies/programs.

Matrix:

Activity Result	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
1.1 Enhance policy development capacity of MOWA to ensure other line ministries implement gender sensitive policies/programs		70%
1.1.1: Capacity of MOWA enhanced	<p>Concept note on WPDC prepared and discussed with Government partners for implementing in July</p> <p>Capacity of 30 senior officials of MOWA enhanced to scan policies/programs of line ministries from a gender perspective</p> <p>Supported Department of Economic Empowerment, MOWA to organize exhibition for women manufacturers and linked them with buyers for increasing their productivity and income</p> <p>Facilitated the presentation by the Department of Planning & International Relations, MOWA of a paper on improving the delivery of Gender Studies Institute (GSI) of UNDP-GEP for</p>	

	<p>addressing the needs of women development practitioners before the Women's Commission of the Parliament</p> <p>Indicators based on ANDS matrix prepared for distribution of line ministries, key training programs for Capacity Development Plan Unit finalized for implementation from July; draft Action Plan prepared for discussion and finalization</p>	
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Output 2: Gender sensitive policies developed by line ministries for gender equitable outcomes and service delivery including the integration of gender components in academic curriculum by the Ministry of Education.

Indicators:

1. Number of ministries identified for undertaking gender-scan of their policies/programs,
2. Number of specific interventions designed and implemented for addressing needs of women especially in the rural areas

Target 2011:

1. All 18 ministries as mentioned in NAPWA gender sensitized
2. Specific gender-focused interventions implemented to integrate gender inclusive components and outcomes in the programs of line ministries

Matrix:

Activity Result	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
1.2 Gender sensitive policies developed by line ministries & inclusion of gender into academic curriculum		75%
1.2.1 Integrating gender into the documents of the ministerial Clusters prepared during Kabul Conference	Assisted MOWA to review major program documents of line ministries prepared for the different Clusters launched during the Kabul Conference and integrated gender sensitive components	
	Developed needs-assessment questionnaire and	

1.2.2 Strengthening capacity of MAIL’s Women’s Extension and Cooperatives Departments	survey launched in 14 provinces in collaboration with MAIL and USAID project on agriculture development	
1.2.3 Finalization of the article on “Women and Education in Islam” for publication in the mainstream newsletters of MOHRA and distribution in the different provinces; establishment of networking with USAID project to train mullahs of Kandahar	Article to be published in July copies of MOHRA newsletters; other articles to follow; Exchange visits to Kandahar from Herat planned	
1.2.4 Review of training materials for religious leaders in collaboration with other stakeholders	Training materials revised and to be used in the next phase of training programs for religious leaders	
1.2.5 Establishment of network between Gender Units, CSC and MOWA to strengthen the development of gender sensitive policies and programs	Needs assessment of Gender Units undertaken; English classes for officials of Ministry of Economy organized	
1.2.6 Strengthening of GRB cell in Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Recruitment of international consultant for reviewing budget documents and making them gender sensitive, briefing sector heads of Budget Directorate about GRB and developing relevant documents for implementing key principles of GRB through line ministries	

Output 3: Establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring mechanism to assess the implementation of NAPWA indicators and the different identified activities by the selected line ministries and their impact on improving women’s access to opportunities and quality of life.

Indicators:

1. Preparation of M&E mechanism and getting it vetted by implementing stakeholders
2. Compliance with milestones of 3rd and 4th set of 100 days of the National Priority Programs(NPP) – development of Capacity Development for M&E Unit, organization of training for M&E staff of MOWA, drafting of Action Plan, coaching and mentoring of M&E

staff of implementing stakeholders and preparation of matrices of relevant sectors for line ministries for collection of information relating to NAPWA indicators,

3. Recruitment of international consultant for strengthening the M&E Unit.

Target:

1. Finalization of M& E mechanism and implementation for collection of data/information on NAPWA indicators,
2. Completion of activities relating to milestones fixed by Ministry of Finance,,
3. Use of services of international consultant to roll-out the M&E mechanism.

Matrix:

Activity Result	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
1.3: Establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring mechanism at MOWA		65%
1.3.1 Development of draft M&E mechanism and organization of workshop with implementing partners on its application	The draft M&E mechanism prepared for implementation was discussed in a brainstorming session to identify to obtain comments from implementing partners and finalize it for application	
1.3.2 Capacity Development Plan prepared for M&E Unit for organizing training programs	Training calendar prepared in consultation with tashkeel staff of MOWA and other members of the team of Component 6	
1.3.3 Activities related to milestones set by Ministry of Finance completed: preparation of Action Plan, coaching/mentoring strategy development, etc	All the activities to the milestones of the 3rd and 4th set of 100 days completed including the preparation of matrices for the NAPWA indicators according to the ANDS model.	

Objective 2

Output 1: Establishment of Provincial Women’s Development Council (PWDC) in cooperation with government and traditional institutions to promote the socio-economic empowerment of women.

Indicators:

1. Establishment of PWDCs in the provincial offices
2. Number of capacity development programs implemented for PWDC member

Targets for 2011:

1. PWDCs in all the four provincial offices made operational
2. Action Plan developed for implanting programs for the socio-economic empowerment of women
3. Mechanism developed for coordination among the different stakeholders which are represented in the working groups of PWDCs.

Matrix:

Activity Result	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
2.1 Strengthening of sub-national government as well as traditional & women-led institutions empowering women		70%
2.1.1 Selection of officials from different backgrounds for the establishment of Provincial Women's Development Councils (PWDC) in Balkh, Herat & Nangarhar provinces	Official inauguration of of PWDCs in Balkh and Herat and preparatory work being undertaken in Nangarhar; launch of new Provincial Coordinator's office in Jalalabad	
2.1.2 Organization of training program on gender issues for female staff of Nahr-e-Shahi District Governor's office	Enhancing the capacity of female staff of District Governor's office to raise awareness of male members and other in the district	
2.1.3 Organization of Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting to coordinate activities among the different stakeholders at the provincial level	Improved service delivery initiatives undertaken in a coordinated way by the development organizations as duplication of efforts and wastage of resources are avoided	
2.1.4 Institutional strengthening of Legal Help Centres (LHC) in collaboration with traditional institutions for improving women's access to justice systems	Provision of increased logistical support & capacity development programs to meet the increasing number of cases being registered	
2.1.5 Support to gender-sensitive media centre at DOWA, Balkh for publication of quarterly magazine		
2.1.6 Participation the UNDP	Major achievements of UND-GEP in Herat	

Provincial Board meeting by UNDP-GEP, Herat provincial office	presented	
2.1.7 Provision of support to media centre, DOWA, Herat through the organization of training workshop for local journalists and strengthening the functioning of DOWA's crèche to facilitate the efficient functioning of its officials	Strengthening of gender –sensitive media reporting in Herat through DOWA's media centre ; practical needs of DOWA female officials addressed	
2.1.8 Organization of training on the Elimination of Violence (EVAW) Law	Dissemination of information about EVAW LAW among community development council members to raise awareness about women's rights and easy access to justice system	
2.1.9 Preparatory work for the establishment of networking between DOHRA, Herat and DOHRA, Kandahar for the training of religious leaders in Southern Afghanistan	In an effort to extend the optimum results achieved through the training programs of religious leaders in Herat, this partnership is being discussed to extend the same results in Southern Afghanistan	
2.1.10 Consultations with provincial partners by newly appointed Provincial Coordinator, Jalalabad, Nangarhar province	Extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders from different backgrounds were undertaken by the Provincial Coordinator in an effort to publicize the opening of the new provincial office	

Output 2: Capacity built of traditional and women-led organizations for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women with an emphasis on social mobilization and its key components.

Indicators:

1. Mechanism developed for identifying the needs of women by PWDC
2. Number of economic activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women

Targets for 2011:

1. Establishment of mechanism for addressing the socio-economic needs of women
2. Improvement in the quality of life of women.

Activity Result	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
2.2 Capacity built of traditional and women-led organizations for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women with an emphasis on social mobilization and its key components.		75%
2.2.1 Promotion of socio-economic empowerment of women in collaboration with DOWA and DAIL in Herat and monitoring of the economic activities of dairy production in Balkh	Implemented new economic activities for rural women and also monitoring the previous Income-generating Activity (IGA); also following up on women entrepreneur's challenges with shops in the Herat Women's Markets and monitoring of IGA in Balkh	

III. Implementation Arrangements

During this quarter, the implementation arrangements underwent a change of direction. At the national level with the focus on the establishment of the WPDC, the project will now be addressing the specific needs of gender sensitizing the policies and programs of the different line ministries through this entity which will be located at MOWA. At present discussions are on-going for developing an Action Plan to address these issues effectively.

The second important issue relating to the implementation of the project is pertaining to the support being extended to MOWA for achieving the targets set out in 100 days milestones for the National Priority Programs (NPP) and this is directly linked to the first activity in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) which focuses on capacity development of MOWA. The initiatives of strengthening the GRB cell in the Ministry of Finance and linkages with MAIL for empowering women producers' and with MOHRA for narrowing the gap between Islamic principles and gender issues as well as with other line ministries: Economy and Higher Education continues but these efforts will now be linked to the activities of the WPDC to project a well coordinated strategy of developing the capacity of partner ministries through MOWA's WPDC.



The Opening Ceremony of PWDC at Hirat Province, High rank government officials participated



The opening ceremony of Gender Equality Project of UNDP in the Eastern Region (Nangarhar Province)

Based on the consultations with different stakeholders for the establishment of the PWDCs at the provincial level, the initiatives for strengthening the sub-national institutions including traditional entities will be channeled through this institution. The Provincial Coordinators in close consultation with PWDC members will develop a strategy for the development of capacity of PWDC members as well as for other implementing stakeholders to ensure an efficient delivery of services. The PWDCs will also be responsible for identifying need-specific economic activities for implementation by the offices of the Provincial Coordinators to project an integrated and well coordinated strategy for the socio-economic empowerment of women.



H.E. the Minister of Women Affairs in a group photo during the graduation ceremony of Cisco Academy run by UNDP - GEP

Apart from the emphasis on the two institutions: WPDC and PWDC, the project continued with its overall emphasis on a participatory approach towards the implementation of its core activities which involved consultations with other development partners as well as beneficiaries for designing the most cost effective as well as context-specific interventions. The key concepts which the project underpinned in all these initiatives were: national ownership and sustainability for ensuring a transfer of knowledge to national counterparts which is essential for a long-term impact. A such, both the two institutions are being developed with an emphasis on transferring knowledge and expertise to the national counterparts in order to enable them to continue with the initiatives once the project's duration is over.



Photo: Round-table meeting among the GEP staff, Asia Foundation, Medica Modiale and other partners to revise the training materials for religious leader.

IV. Challenges /Risks/Issues

The establishment of the PWDCs in the 3 provinces and the imminent establishment of the WPDC at MOWA will mark the translation of the government's focus on empowering women at the national and sub-national levels through concrete interventions. In this context, the primary challenge before the project is to ensure this is matched by substantial technical interventions that live up to the expectations that were raised and address the specific needs in the context of the prevailing local considerations.

The second challenge is to ensure the newly established provincial offices in Nangarhar and



Photo: Participants from 18 line ministries during a brainstorming workshop on the finalization of the Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism for MoWA National Priority Programs (NPPs)

Bamyan live up to the standard established by the existing provincial offices in Herat and Balkh.

This would require immense concentration of effort and time streamline to achieve the specific targets of the project. The establishment of the WPDC and developing an efficient Action Plan in coordination with concerning stakeholders is another considerable challenge which can either contribute to MOWA's capacity as an oversight body for mainstreaming gender into government's policies/programs or prove the reverse.

Finally, the filling up of the essential positions in the project and provincial offices, especially in those cases where suitable female candidates have been approved by the interview panels, need to be filled in to facilitate the delivery and productivity of the project's outputs. For this, obtaining the support from Senior Management is vital.



Photo: GEP Provincial Coordinators presenting their plan for establishment of Provincial Women Development Center (PWDC) to UNDP Senior Management Representative

Risks

This quarter was marked by some unfortunate security incidents which inflicted serious losses on the staff of the UN at Mazar-e-Sharif. This had a trickle down impact on the project's recruitment of professional staff. This incident along with declaration of White City movement restrictions in the beginning of May impacted the planned activities of the project in Kabul and also in the provincial offices.

A major risk being encountered in view of the prevailing security situation is the non-availability of armoured vehicles for the project which is affecting the implementation of specific activities of the project and also for participating in relevant meetings/seminars/workshops which are necessary for networking purposes.

Issues

Since the funding of the project was exclusively from UNDP core funds till now, obtaining the formal approval of the no-cost extension from Italian Cooperation was vital for continuing with the implementation of the key activities of the project. This was achieved towards the beginning of June which paved the way for preparing the revised Annual Work Plan (AWP).

In pursuance of the directive from Senior Management to identify and select women officials for the two new provincial offices, considerable effort and time was invested to disseminate the information about the vacancies and complete the recruitment procedures to fulfill this directive. A few professional positions of the project office were also processed with the final recommendation of female candidates and are waiting for the final decision of Senior Management.

The launching of the WPDC at MOWA is being pursued with the focal point's office for obtaining the clearance of MOWA's Board of Directors and also having an informal discussion with representatives from UN Women and UNAMA. These two initiatives are being closely followed after overcoming some initial logistical difficulties and the target is to launch the WPDC by the first half of August.

After the opening of the new provincial office at Jalalabad, the Provincial Coordinator has identified three major targets to be completed in quick succession: establishment of the PWDC, a gender sensitive media at DOWA and training of mullahs and religious leaders. The logistical details of Bamyan office are being finalized and once the office has been officially inaugurated, the main activities will be selected for implementation.

With the launch of the PWDCs in Balkh and Herat, the Action Plans for the respective PWDCs need to be developed for selection of the priority areas to implement the relevant activities as soon as possible. The establishment of the WPDC needs to be formally completed and an Action Plan for the implementation of the essential activities must be developed once this is done.

The revision of the training materials for religious leaders is presently being processed with close coordination between the stakeholders: MOHRA, Asia Foundation and Medica Mondiale. Since this involves a careful comparison of existing documents with the real needs of the communities, this may take some time to complete the revision in a professional manner.

The collaboration with USAID for training religious leaders from Southern Afghanistan needs to be planned carefully as this joint venture would involve trained mullahs from Balkh and Herat to go to Southern Afghanistan to train the local religious leaders which would call for a close coordination among the implementing partners of this program.

V. Lessons Learnt

Some of the major lessons learned during this quarter based on the activities undertaken during this period are as follows:

1. There is an immediate need to develop the capacity of MOWA officials in the sphere of interacting with other ministries to assess their policies and programs from a gender perspective,
2. A mechanism for a regular and continuous flow of information between the WPDC at MOWA and the other line ministries must be developed for implementing the NAPWA indicators.
3. There is an urgent need to establish close linkage between the Project Management Unit (PMU) of MOWA and the Ministry of Finance's unit which collects documents on MOWA NPP to ensure there is a close coordination in the implementation of the milestones of the NPPs,
4. The importance of having a balanced partnership between the DOWA representative and the Provincial Governor's office as well as the women members of the Provincial Development Councils to develop an efficient Action Plan and implement the specific activities for a successful launch of the PWDCs,
5. Linking the LHCs in the provinces with other stakeholders who are also involved in similar activities to provide an integrated package of services for the beneficiaries,

VI. Future Plan

The future plans of the project will be anchored in the activities which need to be implemented in order to achieve the core objectives of the project. Some of the relevant activities that need to be undertaken in this regard are:

- Establishment of the Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC) at MOWA that would place MOWA in a pivotal role to integrate and oversee gender specific measures among line ministries,
- Establishment of the Provincial Coordinator's office in Bamyan,
- Establishment of Provincial Women's Development Councils (PWDC) in Nangarhar and Bamyan,
- Finalization of the indicators according to the template of ANDS and circulating it to the implementing stakeholders for collection of data and information.
- Enhancing the strength of the MOWA M&E Unit for an efficient implementation of MOWA NPP especially those related to Component 6 on M&E related activities.

The project has now entered a phase in which the institutional support for the capacity development of government stakeholders is being translated into a reality and the corresponding structures are being put in place. This will require considerable mobilization of resources and support from all the major stakeholders to implement the specific activities that would have a direct impact on the development of policies and other instruments at the national level and their implementation which in turn would influence the livelihoods of rural communities especially women. From now on, the main focus of the project would be to design and implement these specific interventions that would demonstrate the commitment of UNDP-GEP for empowering women through an integrated approach of supporting the government and other stakeholders for achieving this common goal.

VII. Financial Information

Financial Section: GEP

Table 1. Total Income and Expenditure

Donor	INCOME			EXPENDITURES			BALANCE	Remarks
	Total Commitment (a)	Total Received (b)	Total Receivable c= (a-b)	Total Cumulative Expenditures Dec 2010 (d)	Total Expenditure from Jan to June 2011 (e)	Total Expenditures f= d+e	Total Received minus Total Expenditures g=(b-f)	
DFID	100,716	100,716	-	68,757	31,958	100,715	0	
ITALY	3,262,411	3,262,411	-	2,769,098	-	2,769,098	493,313	
UNDP	2,469,815	2,469,815	-	1,372,115	644,574	2,016,689	453,126	
Total	5,832,942	5,832,942	-	4,209,970	676,532	4,886,503	946,440	

i) Expenditure reported for 2011 is provisional

ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN exchange rate.

Table 2. Expenditure by Major Outputs (2011)

Project Output	Budget (AWP 2011)	Total Expenditure from Jan to June 2011	Delivery Rate*	Remarks
Output 1: Enhance Policy development capacity of MoWA through the establishment of Women Policy Development Center (WPDC), to ensure other line ministries that have an impact on improving women's quality of life, develop and implement gender sensitive policies and strategies.	501,700	261,190		
GMS	2,333	2,405		
Sub-total Output 1.	504,033	263,595	52%	
Output 2: Strengthen the capacity of provincial government and traditional institutions for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women through the establishment of support institutions such as the provincial women's development council (PWDC)	155,000	16,623		
Sub-total Output 2:	155,000	16,623	11%	
Output 3: Project Management Cost	472,000	396,314		
Sub-total Output 3	472,000	396,314	84%	
Grand Total	1,131,033	676,532	60%	

Note:

*Delivery Rate = $\frac{2011 \text{ expenditure}}{2011 \text{ AWP budget}}$

Table 3. Expenditure by Donors (2011)

Donor	Project Output	Budget (AWP 2011)	Total Expenditure from Jan to June 2011	Delivery Rate*
UNDP Core Fund	Output 01: Enhance Policy development capacity of MoWA through the establishment of Women Policy Development Center (WPDC), to ensure other line ministries that have an impact on improving women's quality of life, develop and implement gender sensitive policies and strategies.	470,700	231,637	49%
	Output 02: Strengthen the capacity of provincial government and traditional institutions for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women through the establishment of support institutions such as the provincial women's development council (PWDC)	155,000	16,623	11%
	Output 03: Project Management Cost	472,000	396,314	84%
		1,097,700	644,574	59%
DFID	Output 01: Enhance Policy development capacity of MoWA through the establishment of Women Policy Development Center (WPDC), to ensure other line ministries that have an impact on improving women's quality of life, develop and implement gender sensitive policies and strategies.	31,000	29,553	95%
	GMS	2,333	2,405	103%
Total		33,333	31,958	96%
Grand Total		1,131,033	676,532	60%

2011
*Delivery Rate = expenditure/2011 AWP budget

I. Detailed Reporting on Results and Impact (Reporting on each output)

Output 1: Capacity of MOWA built through the establishment of Women’s Policy Development Centre (WPDC) at MOWA for strengthening the capacity of selected line ministries to undertake a gender scan of their policies.

Indicators:

1. *Preparation of concept note on WPDC, discussion with stakeholders and approval by MOWA for its establishment,*
2. *Capacity development of MOWA officials from different departments*

Target 2011:

1. Operationalization of WPDC
2. Capacity development of officials of MOWA to function effectively as an oversight body to ensure gender is mainstreamed in other ministries and their policies/programs.

Gender Rating of the Output: 3

Activity Result	Baseline information	Performance Target	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
1.1 <i>Enhance policy development capacity of</i>				70%

<p><i>MOWA to ensure other line ministries implement gender sensitive policies/programs</i></p>				
<p>1.1.1: Capacity of MOWA Enhanced</p> <p>Establishment of Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC) to enhance MOWA's capacity for policy-making and serve as an oversight body for gender mainstreaming in line ministries</p> <p>Organization of capacity development training programs: training for decision-makers on gender mainstreaming and training on women's entrepreneurship development(WED)</p>	<p>Absence of a focal point to increase the policy-making and oversight capacity of MOWA to achieve the targets of national policy announcements</p> <p>Absence of training programs for officials of MOWA at decision-making level on gender mainstreaming issues especially for scanning policies/programs from a gender perspective and previously training program on this topic was not undertaken on WED</p>	<p>Make WPDC operational by August 2011</p> <p>Train officials of MOWA at different levels – about 75% on key issues on gender-scan of policies//programs by end of 2011[also training of 15 officials from the Department of Economic Empowerment and TAD on women's entrepreneurship development (WED) in collaboration with JICA</p>	<p>Preliminary groundwork completed for the establishment of Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC) at MOWA to enhance its capacity for serving as an oversight body on mainstreaming gender by line ministries; concept paper submitted to MOWA for approval by the Board of Directors, MOWA and other stakeholders informed about its launch</p> <p>Capacity of 30 senior officials of MOWA enhanced to scan policies/programs of line ministries from a gender perspective; Implementation of the training program was in collaboration with TAD, MOWA ; capacity of 15 officials increased to address business related challenges of women entrepreneurs and this training program is continuing</p> <p>Supported Department of Economic</p>	

<p>Organization of events for promoting MOWA's capacity in high quality service delivery to women entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Provision of technical and logistical support to Department of Economic Empowerment, MOWA for improving the quality of delivery to women entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Equip women entrepreneurs with necessary business skills and establish a mechanism for matching buyers-sellers for enhanced productivity and income</p>	<p>Empowerment, MOWA to organize exhibition for women manufacturers and linked them with buyers for increasing their productivity and income</p>	
<p>Provision of technical support to MOWA for continuing with the activities of the Gender Studies Institute (GSI)</p>	<p>No follow-up undertake on the services of the Gender Studies Institute (GSI) for addressing the needs of participants from different backgrounds to improve their knowledge about gender mainstreaming development activities</p>	<p>Develop a strategy for GSI – with different packages of training to cater to the needs of different stakeholders</p>	<p>Facilitated the presentation by the Department of Planning & International Relations, MOWA of a paper on improving the delivery of Gender Studies Institute (GSI) of UNDP-GEP for addressing the needs of women development practitioners before the Women's Commission of the Parliament</p>	

Output 2: Gender sensitive policies developed by line ministries for gender equitable outcomes and service delivery including the integration of gender components in academic curriculum by the Ministry of Education.

Indicators:

1. Number of ministries identified for undertaking gender-scan of their policies/program
2. Number of specific interventions designed and implemented for addressing needs of women

Target 2011:

1. All 18 ministries as mentioned in NAPWA gender sensitized
2. Specific gender-focused interventions implemented to integrate gender inclusive components and outcomes in the programs of line ministries

Gender Rating of the Output: 3

Activity Result	Baseline information	Performance Target	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
1 2 <i>Gender sensitive policies developed by line ministries & inclusion of gender into academic curriculum</i>				75%
1.2.1 Integration of gender into the documents of the ministerial Clusters prepared during Kabul Conference	No baseline survey available on the presence of gender sensitive components in the Cluster documents of different ministries	Integrate gender inclusive components into the documents of all the Clusters submitted to the Ministry of Finance	Integrated gender-specific components into the Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster of MAIL and MRRD; working on the documents of other Clusters	
1.2.2 Capacity strengthened of Mail's Women's Extension Department	No previous efforts undertaken to strengthen the capacity of women producers and their cooperatives nor any needs assessment of their organizations	Complete the needs-assessment survey and based on its findings identify priority interventions for immediate implementation with a close monitoring mechanism included into this strategy	Developed specific location and context specific questionnaire for women-led cooperatives in 14 provinces and contracted services of two BDS providers (by USAID) to collect the first-hand information; presently data and information gathered is being compiled to	

			define the subsequent interventions	
1.2.3 Regular publication of articles on Islam and gender issues in mainstream newsletters of MOHRA and distribution in the different provinces; establishment of networking with USAID project to train mullahs of Kandahar	Lack of close working partnership with MOHRA and replicate training programs of religious leaders in other parts of the country	Get the first article published in July and follow up with the publication of the remaining 3 articles in subsequent months; arrange the exchange visit to Kandahar by Director of DOHRA from Herat in August	Regular monthly meeting of MOHRA working group arranged; article selected and finalized for publication in July; facilitated the visit to Herat by the Senior Director, STRATCOM South Platform for a first-hand interaction with key persons engaged in the mullahs training of Herat provincial office of the project	
1.2.4 Training materials revised for improving quality of training programs for religious leaders in collaboration with other stakeholders	Absence of previous initiative to improve upon the training materials used in the first two phases of the training program	Revised the documents in close coordination with other development partners and ensured the materials are regularly being updated and improved upon to deliver high quality training support	Training materials revised and the new materials to be used in the next phase of training programs for religious leaders with the addition of new topics and addition of case studies and lessons learned	
1.2.5 Establishment of network between Gender Units, CSC and MOWA to strengthen the development of gender sensitive policies and programs	No initiative available for coordinating the functioning of Gender Units based in different ministries with the objectives of their policies/programs	Establishment of a mechanism to ensure smooth coordination among the Gender Units of line ministries	Needs assessment of Gender Units undertaken; English classes for officials of Ministry of Economy organized; an action plan drafted to implement priority activities	

<p>1.2.6 GRB cell in Ministry of Finance strengthened for mainstreaming gender into main budget making documents</p>	<p>Lack of technical support to GRB cell to start functioning effectively</p>	<p>Finalization of gender sensitive components in the main budget related documents: Budget Circulars 1 and 2, Budget Statement and others; follow-up mechanism to ensure these are being implemented</p>	<p>Recruitment of international consultant to integrate gender into key budget documents; screening of relevant budget circulars, Budget Statement, Budget Training Manual and other relevant documents; compilation of the recommendations for application in the next budget</p>	
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Output 3: Establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring mechanism to assess the implementation of NAPWA indicators and the different identified activities by the selected line ministries and their impact on improving women’s access to opportunities and quality of life.

Indicators:

1. Preparation of M&E mechanism and getting it vetted by implementing stakeholders
2. Compliance with milestones of 3rd and 4th set of 100 days of the National Priority Programs(NPP) – development of Capacity Development Plan for M&E Unit, organization of training for M&E staff of MOWA, drafting of Action Plan, coaching and mentoring of M&E staff of implementing stakeholders and preparation of matrices of relevant sectors for line ministries for collection of information relating to NAPWA indicators

3. Recruitment of international consultant for strengthening the M&E Unit.

Target:

1. Finalization of M& E mechanism and implementation for collection of data/information on NAPWA indicators,
2. Completion of activities relating to milestones fixed by Ministry of Finance,,
3. Use of services of international consultant to roll-out the M&E mechanism.

Gender Rating for the Output: 3

Activity Result	Baseline information	Performance Target	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
1.3 : <i>Establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring mechanism at MOWA</i>				65%
1.3.1 Development of draft M&E mechanism and organization of workshop with implementing partners on its application	No previous M&E mechanism available in MOWA	Establishment of a participatory and gender-sensitive M&E mechanism for collection of data and information on the implementation of NAPWA indicators by line ministries	The draft M&E mechanism prepared for implementation & was discussed in a brainstorming session to identify to obtain comments from implementing partners & finalize it for application	
1.3.2 Capacity Development Plan prepared for M&E Unit for organizing training programs	No such Plan available for M&E Unit	Development of a long-term calendar of training activities to enhance the capacity of M&E Unit and also of MOWA for undertaking M&E activities	Training calendar prepared in consultation with tashkeel staff of MOWA and other members of the team of Component 6	

1.3.3 Completed activities related to milestones set by Ministry of Finance for Component 6: preparation of Action Plan, coaching/mentoring strategy development, etc	Non-compliance or delayed implementation of the targets of 100 days set by Ministry of Finance	Timely and full-compliance with the targets of the Ministry of Finance	All the activities to the milestones of the 3 rd and 4 th set of 100 days completed for Component 6 including the preparation of matrices for the NAPWA indicators according to the ANDS model.	
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Objective 2

Output 1: Establishment of Provincial Women’s Development Council (PWDC) in cooperation with government and traditional institutions to promote the socio-economic empowerment of women.

Indicators:

1. Establishment of PWDCs in the provincial offices
2. Number of capacity development programs implemented for PWDC member

Targets for 2011:

4. PWDCs in all the four provincial offices made operational
5. Action Plan developed for implanting programs for the socio-economic empowerment of women

6. Mechanism developed for coordination among the different stakeholders which are represented in the working groups of PWDCs.

Gender Rating of the Output: (0 to 3)

Activity Result	Baseline information	Performance Target	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
<i>2.1 Strengthening of sub-national government as well as traditional & women-led institutions empowering women</i>				70%
2.1.1 Establishment of Provincial Women's Development Councils (PWDC) in Balkh and Herat & preparation for launching it in Nangarhar provinces	Absence of a coordinating organization like the PWDC at the sub-national level	Launching of PWDCs; development of Action Plans; implementation of key activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women	Official inauguration of PWDCs in Balkh and Herat and preparatory work being undertaken in Nangarhar; launch of new Provincial Coordinator's office in Jalalabad	
2.1.2 Organization of training program on gender issues for female staff of Nahr-e-Shahi District Governor's office	Officials from District Governor's office never participated in gender mainstreaming training programs	Development of capacity of officials at the sub-national level on gender mainstreaming issues	Enhancing the capacity of female staff of District Governor's office to raise awareness of male members and other in the district	
2.1.3 Organization of Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting to coordinate activities among the different	Absence of a coordination mechanism among the Gender Units of line ministries	Establishment of a well-planned mechanism to coordinate among the Gender Units for integrating their activities into	Improved service delivery initiatives undertaken in a coordinated way by the development organizations as duplication of efforts and wastage of resources are avoided	

stakeholders at the provincial level		mainstream activities of the line ministries		
2.1.4 Institutional strengthening of Legal Help Centres (LHC) in collaboration with traditional institutions for improving women's access to justice systems	Lack of continued support for the activities of LHCs	Well-supported LHCs reaching out to vulnerable women as it has never happened before	Provision of increased logistical support & capacity development programs to meet the increasing number of cases being registered	
2.1.5 Publication of quarterly magazine of gender-sensitive media centre at DOWA, Balkh	Ad-hoc support to DOWA media department	A strengthened media department of DOWA able to publish its own quarterly magazine	Collaborated with DOWA in the selection of key activities and events and assisted Director, DOWA in finalizing the articles and selection of photographs for the publication of the quarterly magazine	
2.1.6 Participation the UNDP Provincial Board meeting by UNDP-GEP, Herat provincial office	No precedence of GEP provincial official participating in Provincial Board meeting	A mechanism to ensure the recommendations made at the Provincial Board meeting is translated into practice	Major achievements of UND-GEP in Herat presented	
2.1.7 Provision of support to media centre, DOWA, Herat through the organization of training workshop for local journalists and strengthening the functioning of DOWA's crèche to facilitate the efficient functioning of its officials	Absence of gender – sensitization training programs for local journalists	Local journalists conversant with gender sensitive issues to capture them regularly in the local media – printed and electronic	Strengthening of gender –sensitive media reporting in Herat through DOWA's media centre ; practical needs of DOWA female officials addressed	
2.1.8 Raised awareness about Elimination of	No regular training programs available on this subject	Make all concerning stakeholders aware of the details about EVAW Law and	Dissemination of information about EVAW LAW among community development council members to	

Violence (EVAW) Law among different stakeholders especially Community Development Council members		its enforcement for the protection of women	raise awareness about women's rights and easy access to justice system	
2.1.9 Implementation of preparatory work for the establishment of networking between DOHRA, Herat and DOHRA, Kandahar for the training of religious leaders in Southern Afghanistan	No previous initiative existed in this direction	Establishment of collaboration with stakeholders for replicating the training of religious leaders in other parts of the country	In an effort to extend the optimum results achieved through the training programs of religious leaders in Herat, this partnership is being discussed to extend the same results in Southern Afghanistan	
2.1.10 Consultations with provincial partners by newly appointed Provincial Coordinator, Jalalabad, Nangarhar province	The provincial office was not existing before	Set up a networking mechanism with key stakeholders to implement activities identified in the project's AWP	Meetings arranged by Provincial Coordinator with representatives from government and other sectors; exchanged information and areas of priority activities for joint implementation	

Output 2: Capacity built of traditional and women-led organizations for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women with an emphasis on social mobilization and its key components.

Indicators:

3. Mechanism developed for identifying the needs of women by PWDC
4. Number of economic activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women

Targets for 2011:

3. Establishment of mechanism for addressing the socio-economic needs of women
4. Improvement in the quality of life of women.

Gender Rating of the Output: 3

Activity Result	Baseline information	Performance Target	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
2.2 <i>Capacity built of traditional and women-led organizations for the political and socio-economic empowerment of women with an emphasis on social mobilization and its key components.</i>				75%
2.2.1 Promotion of socio-economic empowerment of women in collaboration with DOWA and DAIL in Herat and monitoring of the economic activities of dairy production in Balkh	Sustained interventions for the economic empowerment of women were not implemented or followed up	Establishment of specific activities to address the socio-economic needs of women especially rural women to improve their quality of life and instill a sense of self-confidence	Implemented new economic activities for rural women and also monitoring the previous Income-generating Activity (IGA); also following up on women entrepreneur's challenges with shops in the Herat Women's Markets and monitoring of IGA in Balkh	
2.2.2 Specific economic activities launched and followed up with location-	No need-specific economic activities implemented before	Development of women as entrepreneurs with business skills to compete equally with	Identification of needs of rural women, mapping of resources available locally and implementing	

specific inputs: production of vegetables/fruits and selling them in the local markets, preparation of proposal for innovative activities completed		men in the market place	cost-effective interventions based on appropriate technology for a sustained empowerment of women	
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Policy and Knowledge Products

SN.	Policy/Knowledge Products	Authors	Stakeholders Consultations	Date of Completion	Total Budget or Cost in USD
1.	Advocacy paper on Gender Responsive budgeting	Budget Directorate officials and UNDP-GEP staff	Sector-heads of Budget Directorate	June 30	US\$ 2,500

Policy/Knowledge Products: these are in the form of legislations, regulations, strategies, policy papers, publications, workshop reports, manual etc.

Training and Capacity Building Outputs

SN	Training or Capacity Development Outputs/Event	Date and Location	Beneficiary Organizations	Number Trained	Impact	Total Cost or Budget in USD
1	Training of 30 senior officials of MOWA on gender scan of policies/programs	4 th May – 13 th July	Ministry of Women's Affairs	30 (22 females, 8 males)	The participants will be able to scan the policies/programs of line ministries from a gender perspective and undertake supervisory role in evaluating subsequent activities while implementing NAPWA indicators	US \$ 8,500 approx
2	Training of 15 officials from Department Economic Empowerment and TAD of MOWA	Began in February and is still continuing	Ministry of Women's Affairs	15 (12 females, 3 males)	Participants familiarized about key concepts of women's entrepreneurship development	In-house facilitation, no costs involved

					(WED) and business development services (BDS)	
3.	Training of office from the District Governor's Office, Nahre-e-Shahi district	28 th May – 1 st June 2011	District Governor's Office	30 (25 female, 5 male)	Participants were equipped with the skills to undertake gender analysis and other gender mainstreaming tools to become trainers for other stakeholders	US \$ 11,000
4.	Training of journalists from local media (electronic and print)	Last week of May till 1 st Week of June	Local media representatives	62 (25 female and 37 male)	Participants were familiarized with key principles of reporting from a gender perspective and be alert to capture gender r-related issues however sensitive they might be	US\$ 3,700
5.	Training of community leaders on EAW Law	1 st week and 3 rd week of June	Local community leaders (78 (20 females and 58 males)	Details on the EAW Law were introduced to the participants and	US\$ 9,250

					they were informed about the rights of women under this Law	
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Training/Capacity Building Outputs are trainings, workshops, study tours, on-the Job Training etc. Provide information disaggregated by gender as far as possible.

RISK LOG

Project Title: Gender Equality Project	Award ID: 0045877	Date: 30th June 2011
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#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Imposition of White City movement restrictions in the first week of April	April 2011	Security	As a result of the incidents which occurred in Mazar-e-Sharif followed by the movement restrictions impacted the organization of meetings with government partners to organize activities relating to mobilization of communities with the support of trained mullahs	Discussions with MOHRA officials over the 'phone and preparation of the materials	Balkh Provincial Coordinator	Balkh Provincial Coordinator	April 2011	Overcome
2	Imminent departure of Director of Directorate of	June 2011	Operational	Absence of an united approach for the	Taking up this matter with MOWA for	Herat	Herat Provincial	June 2011	Continuing

3	<p>Women's Affairs, Herat resulted in her absence from the preparatory meetings of the PWDC and absence during its inauguration.</p> <p>Difficulties in identifying qualified professional personnel for the establishment of the WPDC at MOWA</p>	June 2011	Operational	<p>implementation of the activities after the launch of PWDC</p> <p>Delay in the implementation of the activities planned for the WPDC</p>	<p>managing this situation in a way to stop any speculation</p> <p>Serious efforts are on by MOWA and GEP to select the personnel required for the operationalization of the WPDC</p>	<p>Provincial Coordinator</p> <p>Project Manager</p>	<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Project Manager</p>	<p>June 2011</p> <p>Continuing</p>
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ISSUES LOG					Date: June 2011	
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	April 2011	The appointment of women Provincial Coordinators for Nangarhar and Bamyan provincial offices completed. The Provincial Coordinator for Nangarhar reported for duty on April 11 and established the new office in the UN compound there. The office was inaugurated on 6 th June with support from the Director, DOWA and officials from Provincial Governor's office. Necessary arrangements for the establishment of the Bamyan office are on-going and hope to be finalized soon.	High	Nangarhar in June and Bamyan in July	Project Manager

2.	Programmatic	May 2011	The training materials for the religious leaders are presently being revised in collaboration with other stakeholders and MOHRA. The objective is to refine the contents in tune with the evolving needs of the participants and prepare a training package that is a step-up to the previous intervention.	High	July-August	Sayed Safiullah Ashna, Project Associate
3.	Operational	June 2011	On receiving the approval of the no-cost extension from Italian Cooperation, the revised Annual Work Plan (AWP) was prepared with new activities related to the WPDC, PWDC and women's economic empowerment incorporated into it.	High	Till end of Initiation Phase	Syed Haroon Ahmadi, Project Associate

4	Operational	June 2011	There has been a stalling of recruitment of the staff positions which are required for the project and provincial offices. This would require further discussions with the Senior Management to obtain the minimal staff essential for maintaining the delivery and quality of the project's interventions.	High	August-September	Project Manager
5	Programmatic	May-June 2011	UNDP has been contacted by the for undertaking training of religious leaders from Kandahar and other places in Southern Afghanistan through joint initiatives; a representative from visited UNDP-GEP's Herat to interact with representative from the Department of Hajj and Religious Affairs (DOHRA) and participants of the training program.	High	September-October	Project Manager