

**United Nations Development Programme Afghanistan
Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality Project (GEP)
[Third Quarter Project Progress Report – 2011]
July 1 to September 30, 2011**



Gender Equality Project (GEP) builds on a successful first phase and expands towards a broader interaction with religious leaders, as well as women in development and protection activities.

Project ID: 00054320

Duration: January 2011 – 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: US\$ 2,139,206.56

Responsible Agency: **UNDP**

GEP Donors



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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

During the third quarter, UNDP's Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality Project (UNDP-GEP) consolidated its new initiatives and prepared the ground for relevant context-specific initiatives to be implemented during the reporting period. With the opening of the new provincial office and the establishment of the Provincial Women's Development Council in Bamyan, the project now has presence in four provinces as targeted – Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar and Bamyan. The establishment of Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC) at the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) has also been completed and the preliminary activities are under process targeting to commence from the next quarter. In view of the holy month of Ramadan during August, some field operations had to be scaled down as well as training programs such as awareness rising, gender sensitization and religious training for the government partners.

In the context of the project's primary functions relating to Objective 1 - strengthening the capacity of MOWA to facilitate its role and functions as a policy maker on gender issues as well as to provide oversight services for the implementation of the policies and programs of other line ministries, some of the highlights of the quarter are as follows:

Result 1: Implementation of the first training program of the Capacity Development Plan for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit of MOWA for 17 officials of MOWA to enhance their capacity to undertake monitoring of the line ministries regarding the indicators of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) according to MOWA's National Priority Program (NPP). The course materials included diverse aspects of M&E for gender scan of policies such as the different tools for undertaking gender assessment, the different methodologies to implement them and the different gender related indexes which are contextualized for an efficient implementation of gender sensitive policies/programs. As a result of this programme, MOWA officials have been equipped with skills to undertake gender analysis of the policies and programs of line ministries.

Result 2: Provision of technical support to the M&E Unit of MOWA for implementing the milestones of the 5th set of 100 days of its NPP and preparation of the regular progress report for submission to the Ministry of Finance.

Result 3: Obtaining approval of MOWA's Board of Directors for the establishment of the Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC); obtaining the agreement of other UN partners to collaborate in the implementation of the major activities of the Centre.

Result 4: Publication of the first article on "Women and Education in Islam" prepared by the working group established in the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MOHRA) in the mainstream journal of the Ministry; an additional 1,500 were printed for dissemination in the provinces in cooperation with the Provincial Coordinators of GEP.

Result 5: Completion of the needs assessment survey of 39 women-owned cooperatives in collaboration with the Home Economics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the USAID's Agricultural Credit Enhancement Program.

Result 6: Launch of the second research study in collaboration with Kabul University and UNESCO on "The Role of Women in Agriculture and the Economy" -

consultant was selected by UNESCO and UNDP-GEP provided technical support in the preparation of the Terms of Reference.

With respect to the activities of Objective 2 for enhancing the capacity of provincial government and traditional institutions and strengthening the political and socio-economic empowerment of women, some of the key achievements are as follows:

Result 7: Opening of the new provincial office at Bamyan with a woman staff member as the Provincial Coordinator and the establishment of the Provincial Women's Development Council (PWDC); organization of a peace rally with approximate 700-800 participants in collaboration with the Department of Women's Affairs, Bamyan and other development partners to mobilize communities and raise their awareness about their responsibility and contribution to identify and implement local development projects.

Result 8: Organization of capacity development program on English and computer skills and for PWDC members and organization of training program based on the new training materials on religion and gender for religious clerics in Balkh; launch of two new Legal Help Centres (LHC) in rural districts of Balkh and Dehdadi,

Result 9: Organization of capacity development program for PWDC members and training program for religious clerics based on the new training materials developed by CSOs in Herat; launch of economic activity including income generation and business development of existing women-owned businesses for 30 women for silk production,

Result 10: Organization of the first PWDC meeting in Nangarhar and meeting with other development partners to resolve cases of gender-based violence.

Some of the key **challenges** of this quarter are: late commencement of implementation caused by the delayed obtaining of the formal approval of MOWA's Board of Directors for the establishment of the WPDC and sharing of the concept paper of the Centre with other UN partners such as UN Women and UNAMA for their concurrence to collaborate in the implementation of some of the major activities of the WPDC.

The second major challenge was the preparation and getting the approval of the revised Annual Work Plan (AWP) that became necessary on receiving the official no-cost extension from Italian Cooperation.

The final challenge of the quarter was completing the procedures for recruiting the outstanding vacant professional positions of the project which is causing some concern as with the increase in the implementation of technical activities at the national and sub-national levels, the lack of adequate technical staff in the project office is increasingly becoming a matter of concern.

I. Context

The Initiation Phase of UNDP's Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality (GEP) is addressing key structural gender imbalances in Afghan society in partnership with government and other stakeholders. According to the National Risks and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) of 2007/8, there is a consistent pattern of relative deprivation for women across almost all dimensions of individual and social development in Afghanistan. Moreover, the gender gaps are large. This is also the case regarding decision-making power at different levels and women are generally dependent on their male relatives - husbands, sons or fathers to take the major decisions affecting their lives. Women's position in the labour market is also particularly weak. They participate less in economic activities, for fewer hours and predominantly in vulnerable employment.¹

Women in Afghanistan, however, are not an isolated category. Their fate is deeply entwined with and determined by historical, political, social, economic and religious forces. As a result, women's agenda has always been associated with other state reforms. The contemporary situation of Afghan women is shaped by traditional practices that have served to suppress women, restrict their movements outside the home, leave them vulnerable in the face of violence, and violate their basic human rights. To understand the concept of women's empowerment in post-war reconstruction process in Afghanistan, it is important to analyze the socio-political and historical context of the state and the conflict, which is intertwined with the history of women's emancipation². As such, the project is designed and the progress has been made during the reporting period to address the socio-economic needs of Afghan women in a manner that has never been witnessed before.

Nearly a decade after Bonn Conference, a critical question which still remains to be answered is: whether the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan have changed for the better?

A combination of factors is endangering the progress that has been achieved for the development of women. This is particularly worrying in a setting where 6.6 million people do not meet their minimum food requirements and where almost half of the population is living below the poverty line.

At the *social level*, women have a limited existence outside the family and community. For Afghan women, at least three layers of these power hierarchies exist, starting from home, community/tribe to state. Women not only carry the burden of symbolizing the honor of the family, but often are seen as embodying the national honor as well. Two important social factors which define women's position in society are: a) the definition of gender roles is so central in Afghan society and culture that **any perceived or planned changes require consultations, not only with the individual household but rather with the larger local community**, b) the relative

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

² Hassan. Palwashan, (2007), "Women's Empowerment in Post Conflict Afghanistan," Bennett, Jennifer (2007), "Scratching the Surface: Democracy, Tradition, Gender", Henrich Boll Foundation, Lahore, Pakistan.

roles of women and men in Afghanistan rest on a **notion of complementarity** rather than equality in the western sense which makes it imperative to adopt not only a **community-based approach but also a true gender approach** (as opposed to a 'women' approach). Thus community backing for reform is essential in all areas, and in the arena of gender relations it is almost imperative.

On the *economic front* too, women face numerous constraints. Their economic roles and contributions are often invisible and undervalued. While surveys and case studies have indicated that women contribute in a significant manner to the family income, the same social constraints that make women's working an anomaly also create conditions in which women are less able to monetize their economic activity than men which further entrenches their poverty. Women earn less than men do for work of similar value and they face a number of structural challenges in their efforts to provide for their families.³

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 with an aim to improve 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, Bamyan 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 such as the capacity development of female officials of District Governor's office in Balkh as well as Provincial Governor's Office in Herat. 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 in various areas such as educational, vocational and technical training, other skills development and political participation 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

³ World Bank, (2005), "Afghanistan National Reconstruction and Poverty Reduction – The Role of Women in Afghanistan's Future," World Bank, Washington D.C.

of support institutions such as the Provincial Women's Development Council (PWDC).

The project's activities are targeted towards a wide range of beneficiaries ranging from officials of government to women at the grassroots level.

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. Selection of consultants/personnel for the functioning of the WPDC ,
2. Identification of needs for capacity development in the different departments of MOWA.

Target 2011:

1. Implementation of the first major activities of WPDC - assessing the policies/programs of line ministries from the perspective of the 3 pillars of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), developing capacity of ministries on gender mainstreaming, etc,
2. Preparation of tools and guidelines for developing the capacity of MOWA officials and mainstreaming gender in ministries for the implementation of NAPWA targets.
3. Capacity development of girls and young women in IT through MOWA's CISCO IT Networking Academy.

Cisco Academy being run by UNDP GEP, successfully completed Cisco Basics, Microsoft Office Packages and English Language short course. H.E. the Minister of Women's Affairs distributed graduation certificates to 63 graduated students.



Result matrix:

Activity Result	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
<p>1.1 <i>Enhance policy development capacity of MOWA to ensure other line ministries implement gender sensitive policies/programs</i></p>		<p>70%</p>
<p>1.1.1 Capacity of MOWA enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Technical capacity of different departments of MOWA • Initial actions completed for operationalization of the WPDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized Focus Group Discussions with the Training and Advocacy Department (TAD) of MOWA, Department of Economic Empowerment and Provincial Affairs Department to identify the specific needs of the officials from these departments and design training programs for improving their capacity. Specific interventions such as capacity development of officials engaged in women’s entrepreneurship development, proposal writing and other related topics have been designed for implementation in the next quarter. - Discussed and facilitated the preparation of the paper by the Deputy Minister (Technical) on the strategic policy interventions needed for the empowerment of Afghan women entrepreneurs for the United Nations Conference on Women’s Entrepreneurship Development in Central Asia in Geneva. - Reviewed the draft for integrating gender sensitive components into the National TVET Strategy Paper for Afghanistan for the Director of the Department of Social and Cultural Affairs, MOWA. - Held discussions with representatives of Women’s Commission of the Parliament and officials of MOWA for the preparation of a Strategy Paper for the Gender Studies Institute (GSI) of UNDP-GEP on building the capacity of women from different backgrounds. - On the completion of three different IT and English courses, organized the certificate distribution ceremony for the 62 successful students by the Minister, MOWA. - Preparation of TORs for the international and national consultants of the WPDC, establishment of the office in the Ministry and consultations with the international consultant’s organization for finalizing the agreement to begin operations for the Centre. 	

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. (Ministry of Economy)

Indicators:

1. *Integration of gender specific issues into the policies/programs of ministries,*
2. *Number of specific activities undertaken for addressing needs of women especially in the rural areas*

Target 2011:

1. Selection of priority sectors and corresponding ministries for assessing their present level of gender sensitivity,
2. Development of gender inclusive interventions for implementation by these ministries.

Matrix:

Activity Result	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>		70%
1.2.1 Integrated gender into economic planning development initiatives of the Ministry of Economy	- Arranged a study tour for the Deputy Minister (Technical) & senior officials of the Ministry of Economy to meet with women decision-makers of the Planning Commission, Government of India to understand the need for mainstreaming gender into economic planning for replication.	
1.2.2 Identified entry points to include gender equitable information into primary and secondary level academic curricula	- Held meetings with officials of Ministry of Education and UNESCO officials to assess the specific areas in the academic curricula at the primary and secondary levels to integrate gender sensitive materials - the goals of the different levels of education, from the nursery level to post secondary education classes covering a wide range of topics like the development of other educational skills (which could include gender), building self-confidence, self-determination, history and culture of the country, learning of moral values, etc.	
1.2.3 Held meetings with officials of MOHRA for developing their capacity	- Discussed with focal point of MOHRA on the specific areas of capacity development necessary for mainstreaming gender into the Ministry and proposal prepared for implementation in the next quarter – topics included strengthening the Gender Unit of the Ministry, organizing a session on basic and commonly used gender terms, etc.	

<p>1.2.4 Preparation of a strategy in collaboration with CSC for capacity development of line ministries on gender mainstreaming</p>	<p>- Held meetings with Civil Service Commission officials to identify a strategy for developing the capacity of officials of line ministries with emphasis on gender mainstreaming; proposal being drafted and finalized after discussions with MOWA representatives</p>
<p>1.2.5 Strengthening of the GRB cell in the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>- Recruitment of an international consultant to assess the existing capacity of the Budget Directorate to develop their capacity for building the GRB cell into an effective unit to gender sensitize all relevant budget documents and monitor the expenditures and impact on women and men, girls and boys.</p>
<p>1.2.6 Provision of technical support to the General Secretariat of the High Peace Council for the preparation of the Gender Policy</p>	<p>- Assisted the preparation of the Gender Policy for the General Secretariat of the High Peace Council and facilitated a feedback workshop of decision-makers on the draft gender policy. Incorporated the comments and finalized the document.</p>

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. *Finalization of the indicator matrices of NAPWA for the priority areas in consultation with representatives of line ministries*
2. *Implementation of milestones of the 6th Component on M&E for the 5th set of 100 days of MOWA NPP*
3. *Recruitment of international consultant for strengthening the M&E Unit.*

Target:

1. Finalization of questionnaire to assess the existing capacity of line ministries and collection of relevant information
2. Completion of the M&E training program,
3. Submission of key deliverables by the international M&E consultant.



GEP successfully completed two months Monitoring and Evaluation training programme for MoWA officials

Result Matrix:

Activity Result	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
1.3 <i>Establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring mechanism at MOWA</i>		75%
1.3.1 Completion of matrices for the 8 priority areas	- All the matrices of the 8 key areas for the NAPWA indicators have been prepared and being reviewed for finalization	
1.3.2 Completion of the M&E training program for 17 officials of MOWA	- As per the training calendar of M&E Unit, the first training program was completed for 17 officials of MOWA and evaluation of the program obtained for future improvement.	
1.3.3 Implementation of key activities of the 5 th set of 100 days of MOWA NPP	- The major activities identified as milestones for the 5 th set of 100 days: preparation of capacity development plan for M&E Unit, organization of training program, collection of information on the existing capacity of line ministries for coaching and mentoring, etc have been implemented.	
1.3.4 Preparation of relevant deliverables by international M&E consultant on strengthening the capacity of the M&E Unit	- Preparation of first draft of M&E Handbook, finalization of the matrices of NAPWA indicators, preparation of an Action Plan and other relevant documents.	

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 all the four provincial offices of the project
2. Organization of regular meetings of PWDCs in the four provinces
3. Number of activities approved and implemented by the PWDCs for the socio-economic empowerment of women.

Targets for 2011:

1. Specific activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women implemented
2. Capacity of PWDC members enhanced to identify the needs of the women in their respective provinces and design need-based programs.



GEP Provincial Coordination Office at Balkh province successfully conducted training program on Socio-economic empowerment of women for the PWDC members



UNDP Gender Equality Project, after successful launch of Provincial Development Center (PWDC) conducted the first meeting of PWDC under supervision of its Eastern Coordination Office at Nangarhar Province

Result 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 for empowering women		75%
2.1.1 Establishment of PWDCs in Nangarhar and Bamyan provinces	- The two recently established provincial offices in Bamyan and Nangarhar selected key partners – representatives from the Provincial and District Governors’ offices, officials from international and national NGOs, representatives of community based organizations, etc to establish the PWDCs in these provinces for the identification of context-specific programs to promote the socio-economic empowerment of women.	
2.1.2 Organization of training program for rural members of PWDC of Balkh	- PWDC members of Balkh from 14 rural districts were given in the second week of July a 7 days training course on “Gender and Socio-economic empowerment of women in post conflict situation” to develop their capacity as members of this important body for the selection of relevant activities to meet the needs of target groups.	

<p>2.1.3 Organization of training program for religious leaders from the rural districts of Balkh on new topics of Islam and gender</p>	<p>- As a continuation to the previous training programs organized for the religious community, 42 clerics were selected on the basis of their fundamental approach towards the position of women in society for the training program which focused on new topics – the veil, women’s access to legal and cultural justice, socio-economic rights of women, and engagement and marriage. They were from the following districts: Charkint, Shurtippa, Balkh, Chimtal, Shulgarah, Marmul, Dehdadi, Khulm, Charbulak, Nahr-eshahi, Dawlatabad, Kaldar, and Kishindeh. A follow-up mechanism was developed to assess the sustainability of impact of this intervention.</p>
<p>2.1.4 Establishment of 2 new LHCs in Dehdadi and Balkh districts to meet the increasing demand for this service</p>	<p>- After the successful launch of the first batch of 4 LHCs in Balkh province, the quality and range of services were acknowledged in the Provincial Board meeting of May and there was a request for the establishment of new LHCs based on local demand. This was implemented in August 2011 and the 2 new Centres have been established in the rural districts to address the needs of vulnerable rural women.</p>
<p>2.1.5 Organization of the first capacity development training program for PWDC members of Herat province</p>	<p>- The training program was organized for 25 key members of the PWDC who needed to enhance their capacity to function effectively as PWDC members and address the needs of the provincial women.</p>
<p>2.1.6 Organization of training program for religious leaders on new topics of Islam and Gender in new districts of Herat</p>	<p>- Nearly 145 mullahs and other religious clerics were selected from 3 districts – Kohsan, Pashtun Zarun and Zindajan and given training on some of the newly identified topics such as: socio-economic rights of women, marriage and other related issues in order to include some of the ideas gained in this program in their sermons and preaching.</p>
<p>2.1.7 Establishment of PWDC in Nangarhar and organization of the first meeting of its members</p>	<p>- The recently established PWDC in Nangarhar province held its first meeting in September to discuss the Action Plan for the selection and implementation of specific activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women.</p>
<p>2.1.8 UNDP-GEP participated in different provincial platforms – GBV Cluster headed by IMC, DOWA-UNAMA joint action group among others</p>	<p>- Active involvement in all these inter-agency platforms by the Provincial Coordinator to follow-up on cases of gender-based violence – out of the 5 cases sent to the court by DOWA, and being followed up by DOWA-UNAMA and UNDP-GEP, 3 have been resolved and others are being closely followed; cases of violence against young girls are also being reviewed by the GBV Cluster in which UNDP-GEP is involved.</p>

<p>2.1.9 The official launching of the provincial office in Bamyan as well as of the PWDC which will provide a coordinated network of assistance for the women and men of the province especially those residing in the rural communities.</p>	<p>- The project opened its first provincial level office in Bamyan in July which was followed by intensive interaction by the Provincial Coordinator with representatives of other stakeholders from the Government, international agencies and international and national NGOs. The establishment of the PWDC with members from different backgrounds will assist in the implementation of demand-driven activities.</p>
<p>2.1.10 Organization of peace-day celebrations in collaboration with DOWA & other development partners</p>	<p>- The peace day campaigns organized in 3 districts of Bamyan: Yakawlank, in collaboration with DOWA and other development partners helped in mobilizing women and men of the communities to join together for the development of their local areas through programs that addressed their individual and communal needs.</p>



GEP opened Provincial Women's Development Council and conducted its first meeting with the members.



GEP commence operations in Bamvan province

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.

III. Implementation Arrangements

Activity Result	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>		70%
2.2.1 Promotion of socio-economic empowerment of women in collaboration with DOWA and DAIL in sericulture and silk processing in Herat	- The PWDC approved the two projects based on local demand of women and implemented with the support of DOWA and DAIL comprised training of the selected women, provision of technical support and inputs for the production of silk followed by assistance to process/package the products for sale in the local markets.	
2.2.2 Evaluation of the dairy processing and value chain addition activity of the previous quarter in Balkh	- As a follow-up to the previous quarter's activity for supporting women dairy producers in Balkh with value chain addition and access to market, an evaluation was undertaken and necessary amendments in some stages of the activity for improving the performance and results	

During this quarter, the establishment of the four PWDCs located in the four provinces of the project was completed. At the project level, the WPDC was set up and logistical arrangements for the functioning of the Centre's office at MOWA were completed. The technical personnel for implementing the first key activities have been identified and the formalities are being finalized before the implementation of the activities can take place.

At the provincial level, the PWDC is being utilized by the Provincial Coordinators as a platform for the identification and implementation of location-specific projects for the socio-economic empowerment of local women. This channel of implementation is being developed cautiously but effectively to ensure sustainability and ownership of the schemes by the beneficiaries.

The technical support for the implementation of the main inputs to achieve the targets for MOWA NPP continued during this quarter or the 5th set of 100 days continued and the compliance report for the 4th set of 100 days were submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

The recruitment of an international consultant for strengthening the GRB cell in the Ministry of Finance led to the preparation of relevant working papers and analytical

reports which are necessary for the integration of gender issues into the main budget documents. The consultant also prepared an Action Plan for the GRB cell and the Budget Directorate's officials are currently implementing the key recommendations.

The partnership with Home Economic Department of MAIL for assessing the needs of women – owned cooperatives in 14 provinces of the north, east, west and central highlands facilitated a good understanding of their emerging needs and preparation of the needs assessment report has provided relevant information for designing the capacity development inputs and implementing them during the next quarter. Regular interactions with other partner ministries – Economy, Education and Rehabilitation and Rural Development were maintained and discussions focused on the identification of appropriate issues for the preparation of advocacy materials and their dissemination for raising awareness about gender equality and women's empowerment.



GEP organized a professional training of “Cotton Production” for the 25 women of Injil district of Hirat province. This is a vigorous step towards economic empowerment of afghan women through cotton production in Hirat.

IV.Challenges /Risks/Issues

The establishment of two new entities – PWDC at the provincial level and WPDC at the national level has positioned the project in new territories with new challenges to face for their efficient delivery. During this quarter, the alliance of stakeholders on which the PWDCs have been founded in the four provinces needed considerable nurturing and careful planning to make this arrangement work on a sustainable basis. Similarly, for the WPDC, the balancing of interests between the different stakeholders can become a potential arena of conflict which would require understanding and patience to tide over the initial problems.

The identification of appropriate technical expertise matched by a good grasp of the prevailing cultural and religious knowledge is a sine qua non that could pose a challenge for undertaking the major activities of the centre especially the establishment of a close partnership with the civil society sector for a comprehensive approach towards capacity development, research and advocacy on pertinent gender sensitive issues.

Other program related challenges include – provision of sustained support to the LHCs in the provinces, continuing with the training of religious leaders despite some key issues hindering the expected progress, and the identification of need-based economic activities that would contribute to a sustainable economic empowerment of women.

Risks

During this quarter, a few major security incidents in Kabul marred the smooth flow of the activities of the project. This was due to the imposition of movement restrictions and postponement/cancellation of some workshops and meetings which had been scheduled to be held around this time. There was also the risk that the funds of the Italian Cooperation will not be utilized before the completion of the no-cost extension period – 30th September, however, this was averted with an increased number of field level activities at the provincial level.

Issues

The key operational issue of this quarter was to revise and finalize formalities for the recruitment of the balance staff based on the HR Plan and consultation with the Senior Management regarding the inclusion of additional international staff. The second issue was to adjust and finalize the Italian Cooperation's funds before the expiry of the no-cost extension period. The third operational issue was the finalization of Terms of References which was required to recruit international and national consultants for the WPDC. Finally, the amended Letter of Agreement (LOA) with MOWA for the services of technical advisors was approved based upon the result of subsequent consultations between the Ministries to continue with the initiatives for strengthening the capacity of the Ministry for another year.

On the programmatic, at the national level, necessary steps for the operationalization of the WPDC were taken and the first technical outputs of the Centre are expected towards the beginning of the next quarter. At the provincial level, the establishment of PWDCs in all four provinces has been completed and location-specific activities were identified and the programme implementation of the socio-economic empowerment of women has started. Some of the PWDCs (Herat and Balkh) implemented programs for the capacity development of the PWDC members which had an impact on the quality of delivery of their services. A new mechanism for supervising and evaluating the activities of the provincial offices has been developed and discussed with the Provincial Coordinators for immediate implementation.

V. Lessons Learnt

During this quarter some of the experiences gained provided major lessons to be learned for the future and these are as follows:

1. The establishment of the PWDCs provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen the strategic alliances with other stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds for deepening the impact of the project's activities. Partnerships with the community based organizations, national civil society organizations at the provincial level as well as international agencies such as UN Women and UNESCO at the project level for implementing specific programs such as the joint research programme with UNESCO on "Gender Based Violence in 3 Universities" and a new research study on

“Women in the Economy and Agriculture”, joint initiatives with national NGOs in organizing training programme for para-legal volunteers to improve the service delivery of LHCs, collaboration with community-based organization for the strengthening of women-owned cooperatives, among others proved that joint initiatives can have a deeper impact on the quality of project intervention.

2. The significance of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan in designing any activity of the project and the need to develop the capacity of the implementing officials to collect relevant data and information are critical for an effective M&E to ensure the quality of project.
3. The need to focus on M&E at the provincial level for assessing the impact of the programs that are approved and implemented by the PWDCs are crucial; this would also facilitate the compilation of results-based information and reports.
4. The importance to provide continued support to the Legal Help Centres (LHC) has been recognized for them to start functioning independently.
5. The importance of continuing with the training of religious leaders to bring about a change in the mindset of the communities about the role and contribution of women.

VI. Future Plan

So far, the project has laid the foundation of two new structures – PWDC and WPDC for reinforcing the program related activities of the project. In the case of the PWDCs, they have become fully operational while the WPDC is expected to launch its first activities by the next quarter. Against this backdrop and in the context of the two major objectives of the project, the key activities to be implemented in the next quarter are as follows:

- Establishment of partnership with UN Women to facilitate the operationalization of the WPDC,
- Finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN Women to undertake specific activities for the empowerment of women,
- Establishment of LHCs and launch of the first phase of the mullahs training programme in Nangarhar and Bamyan,
- Finalization of the M&E mechanism of MOWA’s NPP for collection of information on NAPWA indicators from the line ministries,
- Strengthening the capacity of the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance,
- Preparing and publishing more advocacy materials on Islam and gender issues building on the partnership established with the MOHRA.

The major activities planned for launching key initiatives of the Initiation Phase have been successfully completed and the implementation of the rest is planned during

the next quarter (or longer). The direction of the project in the second phase needs to be designed with innovative inputs to ensure that the project's delivery will reach to the new heights in the next two years. To achieve this efficient and careful planning of the resources available matched by the needs on the ground is vital as well as the identification of creative measures that would meet the demands of the beneficiaries more effectively. The consultations with partner organizations in this regard have begun and major lessons learned have been documented to provide the technical support required in this preparatory stage. The recurring theme in all these initiatives is to ensure the project remains focused on the quality of delivery for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment based on the goals of the major policy documents.

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 Sep 2011 (e)	Total Expenditures f= d+e	Total Received minus Total Expenditures g=(b-f)	Remarks
DFID	100,716	100,716	-	68,757	31,958	100,715	0	
ITALY	3,262,411	3,262,411	-	2,769,098	297,590	3,066,689	195,723	***
UNDP	2,469,815	2,469,815	-	1,372,115	745,817	2,117,932	351,883	
Total	5,832,942	5,832,942	-	4,209,970	1,075,366	5,285,336	547,606	

i) Expenditure reported for 2011 accounting period is provisional

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

iii)*** the remaining balance of Italy USD 195,723 has been disbursed, and the actual expenditure not reported yet.

Table 2. Expenditure by Major Outputs (2011)

Project Output	Budget (AWP 2011)	Total Expenditure from Jan to Sep 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.	764,671	409,421		
GMS	7,229	2,404		
Sub-total Output 1.	771,900	411,826	53%	
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)	288,500	140,555		
GMS	23,973	10,027		
Sub-total Output 2:	312,473	150,582	48%	
Output 3: Project Management Cost	1,045,068	499,501		
GMS	9,766	13,457		
Sub-total Output 3	1,054,833	512,958	49%	
Grand Total	2,139,207	1,075,366	50%	

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 Sep 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.	732,714	379,868	52%
	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)	70,000	7,342	10%
	Output 03: Project Management Cost	815,324	355,955	44%
	GMS	7,229	2,652	37%
		1,625,267	745,817	46%
ITALY	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)	208,734	133,213	64%
	Output 03: Project Management Cost	239,509	143,546	60%
	GMS	33,739	20,831	62%
Total		481,982	297,590	62%

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.	29,553	29,553	100%
	GMS	2,404	2,405.00	100%
Total		31,957	31,958	100%
Grand Total		2,139,207	1,075,366	50%

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

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:

3. Selection of consultants/personnel for the functioning of the WPDC ,
4. Identification of needs of capacity development in the different departments of MOWA.

Target 2011:

4. Implementation of the first major activities of WPDC - assessing the policies/programs of line ministries from the perspective of the 3 pillars of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), developing capacity of ministries on gender mainstreaming, etc,
5. Preparation of tools and guidelines for developing the capacity of MOWA officials and mainstreaming gender in ministries for the implementation of NAPWA indicators.
6. Capacity development of girls and young women in IT through MOWA's CISCO IT Networking Academy.

Gender Rating of the Output: 3

Activity Result	Baseline information	Performance Target	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
<p>1.1 <i>Enhance policy development capacity of MOWA to ensure other line ministries implement gender sensitive policies/programs</i></p>				65%
<p>1.1.1 : Capacity of MOWA Enhanced</p> <p>Identification of needs of MOWA officials to enhance their technical capability</p> <p>Provision of technical support for different</p>	<p>Lack of technical capacity among MOWA officials to promote gender sensitive initiatives in the provinces and for other line ministries</p>	<p>Organized Focus Group Discussions with the Training and Advocacy Department (TAD) of MOWA, Department of Economic Empowerment and Provincial Affairs Department to identify the specific needs of the officials from these departments and design training programs for improving their capacity. Specific interventions designed for implementation in the next quarter.</p>	<p>Action Plan prepared for undertaking different capacity development training programs for different categories of officials</p> <p>Finalized paper to be presented</p>	

<p>girls and young women to development their technical skills</p> <p>Initial actions completed for the operationalization of WPDC in MOWA</p>		<p>different backgrounds.</p> <p>On the completion of three different IT and English courses, organized the certificate distribution ceremony for the 62 successful students by the Minister, MOWA.</p> <p>Preparation of TORs for the international and national consultants of the WPDC, establishment of the office in the Ministry and consultations with the international consultant's organization for finalizing the agreement to begin operations for the Centre.</p>	<p>Certificates distributed on completion of this course</p> <p>The first activities to be implemented identified to begin as soon as the agreement is finalized</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:

3. Integration of gender specific issues into the policies/programs of ministries,
4. Number of specific activities undertaken for addressing needs of women especially in the rural areas

Target 2011:

3. Selection of priority sectors and corresponding ministries for assessing their present level of gender sensitivity,
4. Development of gender inclusive interventions for implementation by these 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>				70%
1.2.1 Integrated gender into economic planning development initiatives of the Ministry of Economy	Decision-makers of the Ministry of Economy were not aware of the significance of gender mainstreaming into economic development planning	Organized feedback workshop to outline the strategy to integrate gender-balanced components into the Ministry's planning documents	Establishment of close partnership between Ministry of Economy and Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance to develop a coordinated strategy for focusing on the economic significance of mainstreaming gender in relevant documents	

1.2.2 Identified entry points to include gender equitable information into primary and secondary level academic curricula	Absence of sustained efforts to mainstream gender into academic materials at the primary and secondary levels	Selection of specific areas of focus to be finalized and actions taken for inclusion of gender in the relevant texts	Consultations with officials of Ministry of Education and UNESCO going on to finalize a few specific areas to integrate gender sensitive materials into the curricula	
1.2.3 Held meetings with officials of MOHRA for developing their capacity	Lack of clear understanding about gender mainstreaming among MOHRA officials	Training calendar developed for the implementation of capacity development programs from a gender perspective	Discussed with focal point of MOHRA on the specific areas of capacity development necessary for mainstreaming gender into the Ministry and proposal prepared for implementation in the next quarter	
1.2.4 Preparation of a strategy in collaboration with CSC for capacity development of line ministries on gender mainstreaming	Absence of previous initiative to develop the human capital of officials from a gender perspective	Organization of few targeted training programs for the decision-makers of line ministries	Held meetings with Civil Service Commission officials to identify a strategy for developing the capacity of officials of line ministries with emphasis on gender mainstreaming; proposal being drafted and finalized after discussions with MOWA representatives	
1.2.5 Strengthening of the GRB cell in the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Absence of GRB understanding among the key officials of the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Inclusion of GRB into key documents by all line ministries	Preparation of the relevant documents by the International Consultant to meet the requirements of next year's budget. Laid the foundation for the capacity development of the GRB cell and also prepared a monitoring tool to evaluate the expenditures and impact on women and men, girls and boys.	

1.2.6 Provision of technical support to the General Secretariat of the High Peace Council for the preparation of the Gender Policy	Non inclusion of gender focused issues into the High Peace Council's different activities	Have a gender policy document for informing decision-makers of the High Peace Council	Assisted the preparation of the Gender Policy for the General Secretariat of the High Peace Council and facilitated a feedback workshop of decision-makers on the draft gender policy. Incorporated the comments and finalized the document.	
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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:

4. Finalization of the indicator matrices of NAPWA for the selected areas in consultation with representatives of line ministries
5. Implementation of milestones of the 6th Component on M&E for the 5th set of 100 days of MOWA NPP
6. Recruitment of international consultant for strengthening the M&E Unit.

Target:

4. Finalization of questionnaire to assess the existing capacity of line ministries and collection of relevant information

5. Completion of the M&E training program,
6. Submission of key deliverables by the international M&E consultant .

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>				70%
1.3.1 Completion of matrices for the 8 priority areas	Lack of information on the prioritization of key areas of NAPWA and/or relevant information on them	Rolling out of the final matrices to line ministries for collection of relevant data	Finalization of the matrices in consultation with the concerning stakeholders	
1.3.2 Completion of the M&E training program for 17 officials of MOWA	No specialized training program on M&E organized in MOWA with reference to NAPWA's implementation	Form a core group of master trainers to be able to replicate the training program in line ministries	This was the first of the training events organized as per the training calendar of TAD, MOWA; assessment of participants and their evaluation of the program is being evaluated for future action	
1.3.3 Implementation of key activities of the 5 th set of 100 days of MOWA NPP	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	The major activities identified as milestones for the 5 th set of 100 days: preparation of capacity development plan for M&E Unit, organization of training program, collection of information on the existing capacity of line ministries for coaching and mentoring, etc have been implemented.	
1.3.4 Preparation of	Absence of technical	Availability of resource	Preparation of first draft of M&E	

relevant deliverables by international M&E consultant on strengthening the capacity of the M&E Unit	expertise to prepare and implement relevant M&E training programs	materials on M&E which can be used for the effective implementation of NAPWA	Handbook, finalization of the matrices of NAPWA indicators, preparation of an Action Plan and other relevant documents.	
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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 all the four provincial offices of the project
2. Organization of regular meetings of PWDCs in the four provinces
3. Number of activities approved and implemented by the PWDCs for the socio-economic empowerment of women.

Targets for 2011:

1. Specific activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women implemented
2. Capacity of PWDC members enhanced to identify the needs of the women in their respective provinces and design need-based programs
3. Close coordination among the different stakeholders of PWDC members

Gender Rating of the Output: 3

Activity Result	Baseline information	Performance Target	Description of results/achievement	% of progress rate/delivery
2.1 <i>Strengthening of sub-national</i>				75%

<i>government as well as traditional & women-led institutions empowering women</i>				
2.1.1 Launching of provincial office in Bamyan and establishment of PWDCs in Bamyan and Nangarhar	No provincial level project office in Bamyan and absence of a coordinating body like the PWDC in both the provinces	Organization of regular meetings for the PWDC members to develop action plans and prioritize activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women	The two recently established provincial offices in Bamyan and Nangarhar selected key partners to establish the PWDCs in these provinces for the identification of context-specific programs to promote the socio-economic empowerment of women.	
2.1.2 Organization of training program for rural members of PWDC of Balkh	No capacity development programs for officials/representatives of different organizations had received specific capacity development programs before	Enhanced capacity of the PWDC members to ensure high quality in service delivery for gender equitable outcomes	PWDC members (25 females and 10 males) of Balkh from 14 rural districts were given in the second week of July a 7 day training course on “ <i>Gender and Socio-economic empowerment of women in post conflict situation</i> ” to develop their capacity as members of this important body for the selection of relevant activities to meet the needs of target groups.	
2.1.3 Organization of training program for religious leaders from the rural districts of Balkh on new topics of Islam and gender	No training program for religious clerics from these districts has been organized previously	Formation of a group of clerics who have been trained on topics relating to Islam and gender and able to change the perceptions of community members about the role of women in society	As a continuation to the previous training programs organized for the religious community, 42 clerics were selected on the basis of their fundamental approach towards the position of women in society for the training program which focused on new topics –	

			the veil, women's access to legal and cultural justice, socio-economic rights of women, and engagement and marriage. They were from the following districts: Charkint, Shurtippa, Balkh, Chimtal, Shulgarah, Marmul, Dehdadi, Khulm, Charbulak, Nahr-e-shahi, Dawlatabad, Kaldar, and Kishindeh. A follow-up mechanism was developed to assess the sustainability of impact of this intervention.	
2.1.4 Establishment of 2 new LHCs in Dehdadi and Balkh districts to meet the increasing demand for this service	Absence of appropriate legal services for vulnerable rural women of the 2 districts	Easy and quick access of women in the 2 rural districts to legal support and counseling to help them protect their rights	After the successful launch of the first batch of 4 LHCs in Balkh province, the quality and range of services were acknowledged in the Provincial Board meeting of May and there was a request for the establishment of new LHCs based on local demand. This was implemented in August 2011 and the 2 new Centres have been established in the rural districts to address the needs of vulnerable rural women.	
2.1.5 Organization of the first capacity development training program for PWDC members of Herat province	Lack of a coordinated support body to assist rural women's economic empowerment	Identification of location specific economic activities to enable the rural women increase their productivity and incomes	The training program was organized for 25 key members (female) of the PWDC who needed to enhance their capacity to function effectively as PWDC members and address the needs of the provincial women	

<p>2.1.6 Organization of training program for religious leaders on new topics of Islam and Gender in new districts of Herat</p>	<p>Absence of training courses for religious community members</p>	<p>Formation of a core group of religious leaders who would lead other clerics as master trainers to change their approach towards women and Islamic values and also assist through their sermons influence community members on this topic</p>	<p>Nearly 145 mullahs and other religious clerics were selected from 3 districts – Kohsan, Pashtun Zarun and Zindajan and given training on some of the newly identified topics such as: socio-economic rights of women, marriage and other related issues in order to include some of the ideas gained in this program in their sermons and preaching</p>	
<p>2.1.7 Establishment of PWDC in Nangarhar and organization of the first meeting of its members</p>	<p>No similar organization existed before to provide a coordinated package of support for rural women</p>	<p>Implementation of efficient and effective programs for the economic empowerment of provincial women in the rural areas</p>	<p>The recently established PWDC in Nangarhar province held its first meeting in September to discuss the Action Plan for the selection and implementation of specific activities for the socio-economic empowerment of women.</p>	
<p>2.1.8 UNDP-GEP, Jalalabad participated in different provincial platforms – GBV Cluster headed by IMC, DOWA-UNAMA joint action group among others</p>	<p>In the absence of a provincial office, this kind of interaction never existed</p>	<p>Implementation of concrete remedial as well proactive actions for addressing the needs of victims of domestic violence especially in the rural areas of Nangarhar province</p>	<p>Active involvement in all these inter-agency platforms by the Provincial Coordinator to follow-up on cases of gender-based violence – out of the 5 cases sent to the court by DOWA, and being followed up by DOWA-UNAMA and UNDP-GEP, 3 have been resolved and others are being closely followed; cases of violence against young girls are also being reviewed by the GBV Cluster in which UNDP-GEP is</p>	

			involved	
2.1.9 Organization of peace-day celebrations in collaboration with DOWA & other development partners	There were similar initiatives prevalent in the province before	Mobilization of women and men to contribute to local development	The peace day campaigns organized in 3 districts of Bamyan: Yakawlank, in collaboration with ...DOWA and other development partners helped in mobilizing women and men of the communities to join together for the development of their local areas through programs that addressed their individual and communal needs.	

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:

- 4. Establishment of mechanism for addressing the socio-economic needs of women
- 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
<p>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.</p>				70%
<p>2.2.1 Promotion of socio-economic empowerment of women in collaboration with DOWA and DAIL in sericulture and silk processing</p>	<p>This kind of community activity with technical support from DAIL did not exist in the district</p>	<p>Acquisition of technically sound techniques of silk processing by the women's groups and qualitative improvement in their standard of living</p>	<p>The PWDC approved the this project based on local demand of women and men (20 women and 10 men) and implemented with the support of DOWA and DAIL comprised training of the selected women, provision of technical support and inputs for the production of silk followed by assistance to process/package the products for sale in the local markets.</p>	
<p>2.2.2 Evaluation of the dairy processing and value chain addition activity of the previous quarter in Balkh</p>	<p>Absence of evaluation of previously undertaken economic activities in the district</p>	<p>Elimination of the weak sections of the program and consolidating the strengths</p>	<p>As a follow-up to the previous quarter's activity for supporting women dairy producers in Balkh with value chain addition and access to market, an evaluation was undertaken and necessary amendments in some stages of the activity for improving the</p>	

			performance and results	
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Annex 2

Policy and Knowledge Products

Name of Project:

Year:

SN.	Policy/Knowledge Products	Authors	Stakeholders Consultations	Date of Completion	Total Budget or Cost in USD
1	Preparation of handbook on M&E for MOWA	International Consultant	Department of International Relations, MOWA and M&E Unit, MOWA	Started in September – end November 2011	US\$ 2, 800 approx.

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

Training and Capacity Building Outputs

Project:

Year:

SN	Training or Capacity Development Outputs/Event	Date and Location	Beneficiary Organizations	Number Trained	Impact	Total Cost or Budget in USD
1	Training of 17 officials of MOWA involved in the collection and compilation of M&E reports at the national and sub-national levels	24 th July – for one week and September 5 th – 27 th , MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs	17	The participants were familiarized with the key concepts of NAPWA and its indicators, the major stakeholders involved and their implementation by line ministries	US \$ 2,000 approx
2	Focus group discussions and brainstorming sessions with planning and budget department officials of the Ministries of Economy and Finance	Weekly sessions spread over July – September 2011, conference	Ministries of Economy and Finance	10 officials of the Ministry of Economy and 8 budget sector	The main topics discussed on the economic dimension of mainstreaming gender and including	Facilitation provided by international consultants recruited for the GRB cell and M&E Unit of

		rooms in the Ministries of Economy and Finance		heads of the Ministry of Finance	gender focused components in planning and budget documents that would enabled the participants to understand the significance of economic investment aspect of empowering women rather than considering this as a welfare intervention	MOWA as well as by project staff – no additional costs involved
3.	Study tour by Deputy Minister (Technical) & Director, International Division, Ministry of Economy	Planning Commission of India, New Delhi, 1 st week of July 2011	Ministry of Economy	2 officials	Meetings were organized with decision-makers in the Indian Planning Commission	US \$ US\$ 3,5000 approx.

						especially with women members of the Commission to familiarize them with the gender sensitization of the process of economic planning and development	
4.	Training of religious leaders from 14 rural districts of Balkh	Balkh, 2 nd week of July 2011	DOHA, and NGOs	DOWA national	42	Raising awareness of religious clerics with conservative views on the role and contribution of women in society about the correct interpretation of Islamic principles on these topics for using their influence to change the mindset of communities towards women	US\$ 14,000

5.	Training of PWDC members from rural districts of Balkh	Balkh,	PWDC members	35 (25 females and 10 males)	Participants were equipped with the skills to undertake gender analysis and other gender mainstreaming tools to become trainers for other stakeholders	US\$ 15,000
6.	Training of PWDC members of Herat	1 st -2 nd week of July, Herat	PWDC members from different organizations	25 (females)	The PWDC members gained knowledge about the different aspects of gender mainstreaming and the economic empowerment of women and also about the link between national development and gender equality	US \$10,500
7.	Training of religious clerics on	Herat, 2 nd and	DOHRA, DOWA	145	Improved	US\$ 32,000

	Islam and gender issues	3 rd weeks of September	and national NGOs.		understanding of the clerics about the correct interpretations of Islamic values and gender issues that impact women's contribution to society	
8.	Training on sericulture for women and men	1 st three weeks of September 2011, Zindajan district, Herat	DOWA, DAIL and community-based organizations	30 (20 females and 10 males)	Technical training on silk production	US\$17,083

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 September 2011
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#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Occurrence of security incidents in August and September with movement restrictions	Different dates in August and September 2011	Security	The incident at the British Council, Kabul, simultaneous explosions on 13 th September in Kabul in 6 different locations and the assassination of the Chairman of the High Peace Council on 20 th September as well as other individual incidents spread over this quarter resulted in the cancellation of previously arranged meetings related to project's activities	Informing partner organizations about the change of schedule and arranging the same events at a later date and time	Project Office, Kabul	Project Manager, GEP	June 2011	Overcome
2	Lack of coordination					Herat			

ISSUES LOG

Date: June 2011

	<p>between Director, DOWA, Herat and PWDC members in Herat</p>	<p>August – September 2011</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>Delay in the organization of the PWDC meeting to identify projects for the socio-economic empowerment of women</p>	<p>Negotiating with concerning officials, involving the officials from the Provincial Governor's office and also informing concerning officials in MOWA</p>	<p>Provincial Coordinator</p>	<p>Herat Provincial Coordinator</p>	<p>June 2011</p>	<p>Overcome</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Delay in finalizing the international consultant which has been identified for implementing the initial activities of the WPDC at MOWA</p>	<p>August 2011</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>Delay in the implementation of the activities planned for the WPDC</p>	<p>Efforts are on to get the implementing partners (MOWA, AREU and UNDP-GEP) to finalize the agreement soon</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>	<p>September 2011</p>	<p>Continuing</p>

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	July and September 2011	With the launching of the Bamyán Provincial Coordinator's office by the Deputy Provincial Governor in September and the establishment of the PWDCs in Nangarhar and Bamyán provinces the process for strengthening decision-making and ownership of local development initiatives has been completed in the four provinces of the project. The first meeting of the PWDC of Nangarhar has taken place in September and the members have drawn up a plan of action for their priority activities. The first meeting of the PWDC at Bamyán is scheduled to be held in October.	High	Bamyán in October and Nangarhar in September	Project Manager
2.	Programmatic	May 2011	The Concept Note and TORs for the international and national consultants for the WODC at MOWA were approved by the Board of Directors of MOWA as well as by UNAMA and UN Women officials. Once the international consultant has been finalized, the priority activities will be implemented and this is expected to happen soon	High	October 2011	Project Manager

3.	Operational	July 2011	Strengthening of the Gender Responsive Budgeting cell in Ministry of Finance, Budget Directorate with the recruitment of an international consultant.	High	July 2011	Project Manager
4.	Operational	September 2011	The recruitment of the M&E consultant (international) on LOA for enhancing the capacity of the officials of MOWA's M&E Unit to improve MOWA's oversight role for the line ministries in the implementation of NAPWA indicators	High	September 2011	Project Manager
5.	Operational	September 2011	Participation in the Regional Community of Practice (COP) workshop on gender by the Project Manager which provided a good opportunity share experiences and lessons learned with the other participant and enabled to bring back the new line of action being adopted to revitalize the COP and the different channels for strengthening the implementation of UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy for an effective mainstreaming of gender in the different UNPD projects and CO.	High	September 2011	Project Manager