

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Project

2013 THIRD QUARTERLY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT



DONORS



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PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
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| Project ID: | 00071928 |
| Duration: | January 2013- December 2015 |
| ANDS Component: | Good Governance (Gender Equality as one of the six cross-cutting themes) |
| Contributing to NPP: | Component 6 of MoWA's NPP |
| CPAP Outcome: | Increased opportunities for income generation through the promotion of diversified livelihoods, private sector development and public-private partnerships |
| UNDP Strategic Plan Component: | Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women |
| Total Budget: | 30 Million USD |
| Implementing Partner: | Ministry of Women Affairs |
| Key Responsible Parties: | United Nations Development Program |
| Project Manager: | Fulya Vekiloglu |
| Responsible Assistant Country Director | Noorullah Ahmadzai |

ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| ANDS | Afghanistan National Development Strategy |
| ASGP | Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Project |
| BDS | Business Development Packages |
| CFP | Call for Proposals |
| DoWA | Directorate of Women Affairs |
| DAIL | Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| GSI | Gender Studies Institute |
| GRB | Gender Responsive Budgeting |
| GEP-II | Gender Equality Project –II |
| KU | Kabul University |
| LHC | Legal Help Center |
| LM | Line Ministries |
| METU | Middle East Technical University |
| MoHE | Ministry of Higher Education |
| MoHRA | Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs |
| MoF | Ministry of Finance |
| MoJ | Ministry of Justice |
| MoPH | Ministry of Public Health |
| MoWA | Ministry of Women Affairs |
| NAPWA | National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan |
| NGO | Non-Government Organization |
| PWDC | Provincial Women Development Council |
| PC | Provincial Council |
| WPDC | Women Policy Development Centre |

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender Equality Project-II (GEP-II) is aimed at establishing, in cooperation and coordination with key selected government and non-government partners, models for effective gender mainstreaming and gender promotion. In order to accomplish this, GEP-II project geared its efforts towards three outputs i.e. policy support to the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), access to legal justice and economic empowerment of women at sub-national level.

Women Policy Development Center (WPDC) completed a second review of policies of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA) and initiated the preparation for the introduction of the policy toolkit. Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) Cell conducted two workshops for the staff of MoWA and Line Ministries (LM¹) with the support of international GRB consultant. It resulted in the introduction of the GRB tools and guidelines and the understanding of the basic concepts of GRB for the planning staff of MoWA and LM. Gender Studies Institute (GSI) successfully completed gender awareness training for the staff of Kabul University from different faculties. A working group has been formed consisting of staff from different faculties of KU and Ministry of Higher Education to initiate the process of partnership with Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey on the establishment of Gender Studies Institute at Kabul University.

The process of contracting implementing partners, national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) through Call for Proposal (CFP) has been completed, to carry out the baseline survey on the existing socio-economic status of women; assessment of Legal Help Centers (LHCs) and implementation of economic empowerment projects at four regions of the project (Herat, Balkh, Bamyan and Nangarhar). A joint national workshop by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and GEP-II in collaboration with MAIL was conducted to identify the national priorities for women in agriculture in order to improve household income, food and nutrition security. Income Generation Activity (IGA); Jewelry Production workshop has been conducted for 20 rural women of Injil District of Herat which will result in the socio-economic empowerment of target beneficiaries.

A joint workshop was conducted with Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Project (ASGP) on the promotion of gender issues, as well as to identify challenges towards

¹ Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Communications (MoC), Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of the Interior (MoI), Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry Haj and Islamic Affairs (MoHRA), Ministry of Economy (MoEc.), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSAMD), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation, and Development (MRRD),

effective implementation and monitoring of National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA). To support greater demand for and access to justice and human rights, the project supported MoWA to contract NGO (Afghan Women Network) to provide free hotline services particularly at the sub-national level. Proposals have been finalized with MoHRA to conduct religious leaders' trainings on the Women Rights as enshrined in Islam and to spread the gender equality message. In order to further extend the functioning of Legal Help Centers in the target regions (Herat, Balkh, Bamyan and Nangarhar); an assessment will be conducted in the fourth quarter.

To ensure the effective implementation of the project activities at sub-national level, project developed partnership with 8 NGOs/CSOs, UN entities (such as FAO) and UNDP projects (ASGP and NABDP).

Project space and understaffing were the two major issues which were solved in this quarter while security as a continuous risk resulted in the temporary delay of the project activities.

II. RESULTS

A. OUTPUT 1: MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.

The Women's Policy Development Centre (WPDC) at MOWA, with major goals to address the prevailing lack of gender focused strategies in the policies of the different sectorial ministries of the Government, completed the review of the policies of 3LM (MoPH, MoJ and MoHRA). At the same time, WPDC geared its efforts towards the organization of workshop to introduce the policy toolkit for different departments of MoWA.

Indicator 1.1 Number of gender policies and strategies reviewed/formulated and gender components included

The main objective of the WPDC is to undertake gender analysis of strategies of other ministries and to facilitate the development of innovative gender-focused policies that are recognized nationally. This would pave the way for a comprehensive gender-fair formulation of governmental policies in all sectorial ministries which would then be translated into concrete programs and activities that would impact women and men, girls and boys equally.

In order to undertake the gender analysis of the policies, WPDC completed the review of Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) HIV and AIDS National Policy and Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy – English version and also 2nd round of review of MoPH's Health Care Financing Policy. WPDC also completed the second review of the policies of Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA). It was found after the

review of the policy of the MoJ that the policy contained the strategy for access to justice for all, particularly women and level of legal awareness among them but the actual mechanism of achieving this was not clear. Despite the emphasis on the importance of the role of religious sector and its strategies as indicated in the NAPWA, there is not enough consideration to gender issues in the strategy reviewed. There is a need to make the MoHRA policy and strategy gender sensitive. One on one feed backing of the review made on the policy of MoHRA will be conducted and further trainings will be organized to address the gender gaps in the policies of MoHRA and other LM.

During the end of this quarter, preparation for the two-day policy review toolkit introduction and application workshop was made. WPDC drafted this toolkit based on its experience of reviewing the first batch of policies of line ministries. The workshop is not a one-shot deal; follow-up activities will be undertaken among the participants from various directorates of MoWA. Several coordination meetings were conducted with the Deputy Minister of MoWA to introduce the purpose and objective of the workshop. After the approval from MoWA, WPDC finalized the preparations for the workshop.

The approach WPDC adopts will hopefully first and foremost ensure sustainability and ownership of the toolkit within MoWA, which will facilitate "buy-in" among line ministries to adapt it as they internally review their policies on the basis of gender-sensitivity ultimately ensuring that gender is mainstreamed.

1.2 Number of gender trainings/ certificate courses and exposure visit conducted to institutionalize the GSI (Gender Studies Institute)

The Gender Studies Institute (GSI) at the Kabul University has been actively operational producing research products and organizing training programmes on "Gender, Conflict and Development". Based on the capacity of GSI built, the GEP-II was also supportive in obtaining the approval for the launch of regular Master's course on Gender and Development.

During this quarter GSI successfully completed a two days training programme under the heading of "Gender Awareness" for the 35 Professors from different departments of Kabul University. The programme was organized to support gender promotion and to enable the participants play an important role in mainstreaming gender within the different disciplines of Kabul University. The participants were selected from different faculties including Journalism, Science, Pharmacy, Psychology, Shari law, Arts, Public Administration, Engineering, Veterinary, and Social Science.

A working group has been formed consisting of staff from different faculties of KU to initiate the process of partnership with Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey. An exposure and consultation visit has been arranged for 19 senior officials of MoWA, MoHE, Parliament and Kabul University in November to METU, Turkey. As a result consultation meetings will be conducted between MoHE and METU academic Faculty, to establish a joint secretariat to further work on the Master degree program on gender studies.



Ms. Javeeda Ahmadi Deputy of Journalism faculty during distribution of Certificate to the participant

In order to expand awareness rising and to promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, efforts have been geared up to establishing and strengthening the gender units at the provincial universities. A proposal has been developed by MoHE, in collaboration with GEP, to establish and strengthen the gender units at four regional universities (Balkh, Herat, Bamyan and Nangarhar); which will pave the way for the gender awareness in the educational institutions. In this regard, 250 beneficiaries including lecturers of the universities at four regions and students from different department and academia will be trained and gender sensitized.

1.3 Number of ministries in which (Gender Responsive Budgeting) GRB principles introduced

GRB as a powerful tool involves a gender sensitive analysis of budget priorities; and is therefore an ongoing process of engagement to ensure that gender gaps are addressed. Gender Budgeting is thus a process that entails incorporating a gender perspective at all levels and stages of the budgetary process - planning/ policy/ programme formulation,



GRB workshop for MoWA and line ministries

assessment of needs of target groups, allocation of resources, implementation, impact assessment, reprioritization of resources. In order to support the GRB reforms introduced by the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance (MoF) and to suggest strategies to ensure

implementation of the GRB initiative in pilot ministries at the national level, an international GRB consultant was recruited. A strategic plan was prepared to integrate GRB in the national budget with the support of international consultant with aim of establishing enabling processes to move forward in implementing GRB, to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the national development priorities for the next three years. The plan was developed, based on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), NAPWA and an analysis of key opportunities and challenges for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the selected sectors. The strategic plan will result in providing innovative programming and financial support to pilot ministries to achieve gender equality in line with the national priorities. This will also strengthen partnerships and coordination between MoF and line ministries recognizing that a key function of the MoF is to support and promote gender equality and women's empowerment through the process of Gender Responsive Budgeting. Two workshops were organized by GRB unit for the officials of MoWA and line ministries with aim of providing an opportunity to the Central Government officials to develop a common understanding of the GRB process beginning with policy formulation and leading to following gender outcomes.

- Active membership of MoWA on the budget hearing committee
- Full authority to MoWA in revising Budget Circular I and II from gender perspective
- Empower MoWA for monitoring the line ministries so that their analysis of programs & recommendations are taken seriously.

30 Finance officers from 9 line ministries and 25 officials of MoWA were trained in two different workshops to provide them with the basic concepts of GRB and introduction of the GRB tools and guidelines

Indicator 1.4 Number of functional gender units in the line ministries which are equipped with gender specific technical skills.

A major study undertaken by AREU (Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit)² shows that, policy statements notwithstanding, mechanisms currently existing in ministries to support the implementation of gender as a cross-cutting issue are not functioning effectively. Structural and financial factors, limited human resources, and political will are affecting the capacity of these mechanisms, which include gender units, working groups, focal points and women's Shuras, from achieving the gender goals stated in the various national policies.

In order to address these weaknesses and to strengthen the gender units, Gender and Capacity Development Specialist has been recruited in 3rd quarter. In the fourth quarter the gender and capacity building unit of GEP will organize trainings and workshops for the representatives of the gender units of line ministries. These training sessions will include

² Op.citation

the introduction of NAPWA and sensitize the staff of gender units to work for the NAPWA implementation and promotion of gender issues. These trainings will also cover the basic administration and managerial skills for the gender units which will support them to work more effectively.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q3, a total of USD 331,782 was spent for this output. For more details, please look at Annex 2.

Below is a snapshot of where GEP is in relation to its annual targets after Q3

Table 1: Progress towards annual targets for Output 1

| 2013 Baseline | 2013 Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| 1. One gender policy and two strategies formulated and 10 national policies/strategies reviewed by the WPDC and gender components in 2 national policies included | 1. Eight national and 1 sub-national policies and strategies reviewed and two gender policies/ strategies formulated and gender components included | Review of the policies of Line Ministries Conduct workshop for MoWA staff for the introduction of the policy review toolkit | Second round of the Policy Review of the MoPH, MoJ and MoHRA is completed Preparations are completed to conduct workshop | Policies of 6 LM were reviewed and the remaining 2 will be completed till the end of the year. The workshop will be conducted in the first week of October |
| 2. 5 trainings/certificate course have been conducted for KU and 2 for provincial universities | 2. GSI trainings conducted for 12 faculties of KU and 4 provincial universities | GSI trainings arranged for the faculty members of KU and 4 regional universities Establish gender units in four provincial universities (Balkh University , Herat University , Bamyán University and Nangarhar University) | A training for the faculty members of KU is conducted A proposal received from MoHE to establish and strengthen the gender units in the four regional | Proposals from 2 regional universities have been finalized and training at Nangarhar university will be conducted at the end of October. The proposal has been |

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | universities | finalized and its implementation will be started in the next quarter. |
| 3. GEP-I supported MoF for 4 pilot ministries to apply GRB principles. | 3. GRB piloted in 3 new Ministries | Recruitment of GRB consultant to develop GRB strategy and to institutionalize the GRB cell in the MoF | GRB consultant is recruited and 2 GRB workshops for MoWA and LM have been conducted. Draft of GRB strategy is submitted to MoWA for their review and comments. | |
| 4. No gender units in line ministries with gender specific technical skills | 4. Functional gender units which are equipped with gender specific technical skills in 2 line ministries established | Recruitment of Gender and Capacity Development Specialist and Gender and Capacity Development Officer to work for the capacity building of the gender unit of LM | The Gender and Capacity Development Staff recruited in September 2013 | Capacity building trainings will be conducted to strengthen the gender units |

B. OUTPUT 2: Women’s entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.

A strong partnership with civil society organizations ensures effective implementation of some of the components of the Project (particularly “Economic Empowerment of Women”) and simultaneously serves as a bridge between government agencies and communities thereby enabling government-nongovernmental organizations, cooperation and synergy for the sustainable development of the country. Keeping this scenario, project geared its efforts to support MoWA to contract the NGOs/CSOs for the project implementation at sub-national level. As a result eight NGOs were selected by MoWA to be contracted for the following project activities;

- Assessment of Provincial Women Development Council (PWDC)
- Capacity building of women managed cooperatives and Women entrepreneurs
- Provision of Business Development Packages (BDS)
- Baseline Survey for the socio-economic empowerment of women

Indicator 2.1 Number of Business Development Services (BDS) packages provided to women

One of the primary objectives of the project is to empower the most vulnerable women by strengthening their capacity to achieve secure livelihoods. This is proposed to be undertaken by identifying the constraints which prevent the realization of their economic rights and improve their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. As such, the primary aim of the Economic Empowerment Pillar

Shukria Jan, 17 Years from Sanyan village of Injil cannot hide her happiness at having some work to do, at long last. “I am uneducated and my parents did not allow me to go to school and I usually spent my days taking care of my home chores and parents. I always had this dream to help my father to generate more income so that all of us have a good life. This dream of mine came true when I was selected for the jewelry training for 6 months under the supervision of expert trainers from the Jewelry Association trained at the international level. I was very happy that day and tell my father about my plans after the training and he and my entire family supported and encouraged me for this.”

Shukria plans to use a part of the income from selling the jewelry to send her younger sisters to school “so that they are not deprived of a bright future”.

is to enhance the human capital of women, especially rural women through technology diffusion and skills development that would also revive the agricultural economy of the rural areas of Afghanistan.

GEP-II planned to support women entrepreneurs to better develop businesses by the provision of BDS packages to them. In this regard a proposal from Herat Regional Office

approved by PWD and Directorate of Women Affairs (DoWA) has been developed and approved for the establishment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) centers (2 BDS Packages) at Herat University and Herat Women Market. With the establishment of ICT center at Herat Women Business Center, at least 300 women and girls will have the opportunity to learn the MS Office Packages, use of internet and email and gain access to thousands of online libraries and resources. It will provide female students and women entrepreneurs with hands-on business and ICT skills to inculcate entrepreneurial mindset to transform them from being job seekers into job creators and enable them to become agents of change among women of Herat.

Indicator 2.2 Number of women led new clean technologies introduced

New clean technologies will be provided to women to improve their lives. In this regard, the process for Call for Proposal (CFP) which was initiated last quarter has been finalized in this quarter. Seventy five proposals were received from different national and international NGOs and one of them was selected for the introduction of new clean technologies. The NGO will develop its action plan in close consultation with GEP and will be approved by MoWA to implement starting from 4th quarter onwards depending upon their performance.

The clean and green technologies will be provided depending on the scope of the target regions (Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar and Bamyan). The NGO/CSO will work closely with DoWA and Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) and MoWA will be responsible for the monitoring and verification of the project intervention.

The initially received proposals were evaluated by an evaluation committee consisting of staff from Program Unit, MoWA and UNDP projects. As a result eight NGOs /CSOs were selected as fulfilling the criteria of working experience in the target regions of the project (Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar and Bamyan). GEP provided necessary support to MoWA in contracting the NGOs/CSOs by recruiting a short term international consultant.

Indicator 2.3 Number of functional women coops in targeted areas

GEP-II supports women to form and or develop women organizations/cooperatives with the collaboration of DoWA and Department of Agriculture to undertake collective actions for economic empowerment through women's identified needs. Building Women's social capital through cooperatives at local level provides a supportive environment for enlarging economic assets for Afghan women to generate income.

After successful completion and evaluation, Afghan Women Education Centre (NGO) has been contracted by MoWA. This NGO will work towards the establishment of the new cooperatives in the target provinces and will provide support to the existing women coop based on need assessment. It will contribute towards the economic development of women especially the targeted provinces by building institutional capacity, management systems, and human development in the enterprise development sector with special focus

on the needs of women entrepreneurs. A field visit was arranged for the Kabul staff of the project to Balkh Province to participate in a joint workshop (GEP-II and ASGP). During this visit several meetings were arranged with the project beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries including women cooperatives and LHCs staff.

Indicator 2.4 Percentage of increase in women income in the targeted population

An NGO, QARA consulting Group has been selected to carry out the baseline survey on the existing socio-economic status of women. The baseline survey provide the project with the % age of income of



women in the target regions (Balkh, Herat, Bamyan and Nangarhar) and then project will be able to achieve the set target increase in income of rural women. The results of the survey will be used in identifying relevant interventions to address women's economic needs and also measuring change in socio-economic status among the target beneficiaries in the short, medium and long term.

FAO and GEP-II jointly conducted a workshop on the "Role of Women in Agriculture" in collaboration with MAIL. The aim of this workshop was to identify the national priorities for women in agriculture in order to improve household income, food and nutrition security. 60

participants from MAIL, DAIL (Badakhshan, Balkh, Badghis Bamyan and Panjshir, Parwan, Nimroz Herat and Kabul), MoWA, MoE, MoPH, MRRD, UN Agencies, National and International NGOs attended the workshop.



**Joint Workshop with FAO at MAIL, Photo Credit Anusha Ahmadi
Communciation officer**

The two day workshop resulted in understanding the major issues, constraints and potential for women in agriculture.

With support of the UNDP Gender Equality Project and under the direct supervision of the Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA), 20 women from six villages of Enjil District were enabled to produce jewelry. For this income-generation activity, the participants were provided with a toolkit of equipment and materials for jewelry production. The toolkit will enable the beneficiaries to start their own production as soon as they learn the skill.

Indicator 2.5 Number of new Provincial Development Council (PWDC) created and approved.

The overall objective of the PWDC is to strengthen the capacity of the officials of provincial and district governments as well as other traditional institutions from a gender perspective to enable them to design and implement activities for promoting the political and socio-economic empowerment of women for the delivery of key services. The PWDC shall be a platform for the women to assume a leadership role to ensure that women's issues, concerns, priorities and needs are identified and addressed within the area under their jurisdiction, and with special focus on economic, justice, social and environment sectors.

To carry out the capacity assessment of the existing PWDC, an international organization, Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS) has been contracted by MoWA. The assessment will result in identifying other actors that work in the same field and potential for collaboration, reduction of duplication of efforts and to identify appropriate niches or sectors for GEP-II operations. The NGO will also develop recommendations for further operations that will take place based on the present information, extent, nature and the impact of the project efforts. Thus it will pave the way for the project decision to establish new PWDC in new provinces till the end of this year.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q3, a total of USD 324,672 was spent for this output. For more details, please look at Annex 2.

Below is a snapshot of where GEP-II is in relation to its annual targets after Q3

Table 2: Progress towards annual targets for Output 2

| 2013 Baseline | 2013 Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No integrated package of technical support available for promoting the economic empowerment of women | Eight Business Development Services (BDS) packages provided to women | Provision of four BDS Packages to four target regions of the project. | 2 BDS packages will be provided in Herat | NGOs have been contracted to provide BDS packages in the target regions based on the need assessment |
| No emphasis on developing new technologies for processing of locally available raw materials | Two women led new clean technologies introduced (through establishing production cum-demonstration centers) | To finalize the contracting NGO to introduce new clean technologies | The NGO has been contracted | |
| Nearly 41 women-led co-operatives in the agricultural sector evaluated to assess existing capacity and identify points for future interventions | Eight functional women coop in targeted areas. | To finalize the contracting NGO to establish women coop in Herat, Balkh, Bamyan and Nangarhar | The NGO has been contracted and will start establishing women coop in the coming quarter. | Afghan Women Education Centre (AWEC) has been recruited to build the capacity of the existing coop and to establish new cooperatives in the target areas of the project. MoWA and DOWAs at four |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | regions (Balkh, Herat, Bamyan and Nangarhar) will supervise and monitor the NGOs activities. |
| No formal survey of women entrepreneurs undertaken | Five percent increase in women's income in the targeted population. | To finalize contracting NGO to carry out the baseline survey | The contract has been finalized and the NGO is on board from end of third quarter onwards to carry out the baseline survey | QARA consulting group has been contracted to carry out the baseline survey |
| Provincial Women's Development Councils created and approved in 4 provinces by GEP-I | PWDC created and approved in 6 new provinces. | To finalize contracting NGO to carry out the capacity assessment of the existing PWDCs and to establish new PWDCs in the new provinces | The NGOs have been to carry out the capacity assessment of the existing PWDCs | PWDCs will be established based on the capacity assessment of the existing PWDCs |

C. OUTPUT 3: Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.

The overall goal for this output is to improve demand for and access to justice and human rights for women and girls and to improve the quality of delivery both in the availability and accessibility of need-based services for vulnerable women.

Indicator 3.1 Number of events organized (trainings, conferences, seminars, media events, TV spots) for advocacy about gender awareness

Gender equality goals can be pursued more effectively when practical and beneficial considerations, such as tangible social and economic projects are blended with awareness and sensitization programmes, based on local needs and priorities. GEP-II, therefore has put its efforts on raising awareness about gender equality.

A joint workshop was conducted with Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Project (ASGP), UNDP. This two-day workshop covered 20 Provincial Council (PC) members and 10 members of DoWA from 5 North provinces to provide them with an opportunity to carry out useful discussion on the promotion of gender issues particularly gender awareness and gender and development as well as to identify challenges towards effective implementation and monitoring of NAPWA objectives application in governmental entities in north provinces. At the end of the workshop a joint action plan was prepared both by DoWA and PC members which will provide a guide for both the project to work for the promotion of gender issues particularity in Northern region.

The Public Relations Department of MoWA submitted a proposal to GEP-II, requesting to organize a nationwide advocacy campaign by MoWA. The Main objective of this campaign is to bring awareness about women right and gender equality throughout the country.

Indicator 3.2 Percentage of reported gender based violence cases resolved by LHCs.

In order to strengthen LHCs capacity to receive and resolve the cases and issues effectively and to establish a strong referral system project finalized the contracting Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The NGOs will carry out the capacity assessment of LHCs. This capacity assessment will help the project to make necessary adjustments on the provision of logistical support to LHCs in these four regions.

GEP II will be organizing an assessment workshop with LHCs and stakeholders before the end of this year. The results of the assessment will be used to effectively design the organizational structure as well as the partnership requirements to establish effective referral network. Assessment of the abilities and resources available for the LHCs,

connecting with national and international governmental and non-governmental institutions, therefore, is necessary to be planned for better LHCs in the future.

Indicator 3.3 Number of paralegal network newly established

Afghan women in principle have Constitutional equality but face legal inequality. There are also great discrepancies between customary law, civil law and Islamic Law – as well as the informal justice system, which tend to grant women even fewer rights³. Years of conflict and violence have further eroded the protection of women's (limited) rights, and a culture of impunity reigns as far as violence is concerned, including violence against women inside and outside the household. These factors constitute the most serious obstacles to promoting rule of law, respect for human rights and introduction of legal reform, which would benefit women immensely.

In order to address this, need assessment will be conducted internally by the project office through the development of an assessment tool which will guide the regional coordinators to carry out the process. This assessment will be conducted through the organization of 2 days workshops at 4 regions (Herat, Nangarhar and Balkh and Bamyan). These workshops will bring together the LHC representatives and paralegals to establish a consensus and better coordination in relation to the challenges they face and the opportunities that are available. It will contribute towards the establishment of networks among the paralegals.

Indicator 3.4 Number of religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights

Religious leaders can play a vital role in Afghan society and experience shows that progressive religious leaders have played a significant role in bringing about improvement in the lives of Afghan women to access their rights. Keeping this scenario in front, GEP-II is working closely with Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA). During third quarter, three proposals from MoHRA have been received for the training and advocacy of 300 religious leaders both at the national and regional level.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q3, a total of USD 219,586 was spent for this output. For more details, please look at Annex 2.

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

Below is a snapshot of where GEP-II is in relation to its annual targets after Q3

Table 3: Progress towards annual targets for Output 3

| 2013 Baseline | 2013 Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Advocacy campaigns have been conducted at sub-national level at four target provinces and at national level | 2 nationwide advocacy campaigns organized for the gender awareness of different target groups | Organization of the nationwide advocacy campaign with the support of MoWA and other line ministries | Proposal from MoWA to organize nationwide advocacy and awareness raising campaign has been developed | Actual implementation will be carried out in the coming quarter |
| LHCs supported by GEP-I resolved over 1,200 cases. | 35% reported gender based violence cases are resolved by LHCs. | Capacity assessment of the existing LHCs by contracting NGO | The contracting has been finalized and Centre for Conflict and Peace studies (CAPS) has been contracted to carry out the capacity assessment of LHCs | After the assessment LHCs will be supported logistically and the registered cases will be reported accordingly |
| No paralegal network established. | 1 paralegal network newly established. | Organization of workshops for the paralegals at target regions of the project to establish the networking among paralegals. | Assessment tool has been finalized to carry out the assessment. The assessment will be carried out with the organization of workshops at four regions of the project (Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and | Due to understaffing and non-availability of relevant professional program staff, project could not achieve the exact targets. But from the end of third quarter the relevant staff are on board who will work |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | Nangarhar) | towards the accomplishment of target indicator. The workshops will be organized at the start of fourth quarter |
| Approximately 3,000 religious leaders trained by GEP-I who advocated for women's rights. | 1,000 religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights | Organization of religious leaders trainings at national and sub-national level | 3 proposals have been received to organize trainings for 300 religious leaders | Due to understaffing and non-availability of relevant professional program staff, project could not achieve the exact targets. But from the end of third quarter the relevant staff are on board who will work towards the accomplishment of target indicator. The trainings will be organized at the start of fourth quarter. |

III. GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS

The project's three pillars aimed at improving the status of Afghan women across the key sectors, policy review and support, sustainable livelihoods, access to clean energy, justice and human rights and to mobilize emerging civil society in support of the women's empowerment and gender equality.

IV. PARTNERSHIPS

During this quarter, implementing partners have been selected for the implementation of the project activities. Project partners include NGOs (National and International) that have been contracted by MoWA. These partners will be responsible for carrying out the following activities

- Baseline Survey to measure the socio-economic status of the women in target regions
- Capacity Assessment of LHCs and PWDC established by GEP-I
- Capacity development of the women cooperatives
- Capacity development of women entrepreneurs

This partnership will contribute towards capacity building support for the promotion of entrepreneurship development for women entrepreneurs and women cooperatives.

Partnership has been established in the quarter with FAO for the economic empowerment of women. This partnership will be continued with FAO through MAIL in future for further activities of the project.

To promote and contribute to the coordination of gender-related activities, partnership has been developed with UNDP project ASGP through the organization of a joint workshop for both DoWA and PC staff. The main objective of the joint workshop was the promotion of gender issues, as well as to identify challenges towards effective implementation and monitoring of NAPWA. The workshop also supported ASGP towards the gender sensitization of PCs member's particularly female members.

GEP-II also collaborated with NABDP project, during quarter 3 GEP-II provided information on relevant activities for women's empowerment in a Gender Officers training course conducted by NABDP in Kabul from 17-21 August 2013. To foster broad-based local level collaboration and partnerships for the promotion of gender equality among UNDP projects, GEP is closely working with the Gender Units of NABDP. This partnership will also support GEP in the economic empowerment of women in collaboration with women Shuras and Community Development Councils (CDCs) which are the major stakeholders of NABDP.

V. ISSUES

- Contracting issues: It was immensely difficult to find competent NGOs and thus it took long time to identify competent local NGOs together with MoWA to carry out some of the activities, which delayed the process of activities execution.
Low and non-conducive space for office work:
- Due to increase in the number of the project staff, the project space was not enough and conducive to work properly. In this regard, project management geared their efforts to renovate the project office so that it will have a positive effect on their working abilities.

Understaffing

- Project suffered from the non-availability of the project professional program staff at national and sub-national level. The actual process of recruitment started in May and remained till the end of October. This resulted in the delay of the project activities and implementation at national and regional level.
- The financial issues from the previous phase of GEP still pending and the project finance and operation staff dealt with pending payments. It took more time and energy to solve these issues but these have been finally resolved at the end of the third quarter. This will further open ways for the mutual collaboration for both the projects for the awareness rising about gender issues.

VI. RISKS

Security

Project activities were delayed in some regions (Nangarhar and Kabul) due to security incidents. GSI trainings were delayed and staff movements were effected for short period of time but these were resumed later on.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED

There should be greater effort to learn from and improve upon past experiences and achievements. In this regard, project contracted an NGO by the name of CAPS (Center for Conflict and Peace Studies) to carry out the assessment of LHCs and PWDC. Based upon the findings of the assessment, project management will decide to further expand functioning of LHCs and PWDCs.

VIII. FUTURE PLAN

- Project contracted NGOs as partners for the implementation of the project activities particularly for the economic empowerment of women at sub-national level. These NGOs will start the implementation in the last quarter and most of the project's target per Annual Work Plan (AWP) will be achieved.
- WPDC will conduct workshop for the relevant staff of MoWA to introduce the policy toolkit.
- GSI trainings for the regional universities (Balkh, Nangarhar, Bamyan and Herat) will be conducted. Trainings for the capacity building of the gender units of LM and religious leaders will be conducted in the upcoming quarter.
- Project will also start working on the preparation of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2014 and will be submitted by the end of this year.

IX. ANNEXES

Interim Donor Report Jan - Sep 2013 for the GEP project

Annex 1. Financial Table

| Donor Name | COMMITMENT/ PREVIOUS YEARS RECORD | | | | CURRENT YEAR - 2013 | | | | | FUTURE EXPENSES | | TOTAL RECEIVABLE | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Commitment (a) | Revenue Collected 31/12/2012 (b) | Expenses 31/12/2012 (c) | IPSAS Adjustment (d) | Opening Balance E=(b-c+d) | Contribution Revenue (f) | Other Revenue (g) | Expenses (h) | Closing Balance I=(e+f+g - h) | Commitments (Unliquidated Obligations) (j) | Undepreciated of fixed Assets and Inventory (k) | (Future Due) L=(a-b-f) | (Past Due) (m) | Available Resources N=(i - j - k-m) |
| Afghanistan (MOF) | 224,466 | - | - | - | - | 224,466 | - | 4,944 | 219,522 | 3,440 | - | - | - | 216,082 |
| CIDA | 2,312,076 | - | - | - | - | 2,312,076 | - | 259,602 | 2,052,474 | 181,510 | - | - | - | 1,870,964 |
| Italy | 813,898 | - | - | - | - | 813,898 | - | 139,270 | 674,628 | 30,978 | - | - | - | 643,650 |
| UNDP Core Fund | 3,324,080 | - | - | - | - | 3,324,080 | - | 1,448,106 | 1,875,974 | 567,269 | - | - | - | 1,308,705 |
| Grand Total | 6,674,520 | - | - | - | - | 6,674,520 | - | 1,851,922 | 4,822,598 | 783,197 | - | - | - | 4,039,401 |

Note:

- i) The figures provided in the above statement are provisional; the final figures will be known once the 2013 the 3rd quarter closure exercise has been completed by mid November 2013.
- ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of Exchange applied.

ANNEX 2: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

Interim Donor Report Jan - Sep 2013 for the GEP project

Annex 2. Expenses by Output

| Project Output ID and Description | 2013 Budget (AWP) | Expenses (Jan-Jun-2013) | Expenses (July-Sep-2013) | Total Expenses | Delivery Rate |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved. | 2,416,577 | 70,841 | 331,782 | 402,623 | |
| Sub-total Output 1 | 2,416,577 | 70,841 | 331,782 | 402,623 | 17% |
| Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces. | 1,152,926 | 128,278 | 324,672 | 452,949.57 | |
| Sub-total Output 2 | 1,152,926 | 128,278 | 324,672 | 452,950 | 39% |
| Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased. | 1,607,027 | 53,653 | 219,586 | 273,239 | |
| Sub-total Output 3 | 1,607,027 | 53,653 | 219,586 | 273,239 | 17% |
| Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost | 1,457,858 | 467,225 | 255,885 | 723,110 | |
| Sub-total Output 4 | 1,457,858 | 467,225 | 255,885 | 723,110 | 50% |
| Grand Total | 6,634,388 | 719,997 | 1,131,925 | 1,851,922 | 28% |

ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR

Interim Donor Report Jan - Sep 2013 for the GEP project

Annex 3. Expenses by Donor

| Donor Name | Project Output ID and Description | 2013 Budget (AWP) | Expenses (Jan-Jun-2013) | Expenses (July-Sep-2013) | Total Expenses | Delivery Rates |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Afghanistan (MOF) | Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved. | 224,465 | - | 4,944 | 4,944 | 2% |
| Sub-Total | | 224,465 | - | 4,944 | 4,944 | 2% |
| CIDA | Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved. | 696,436 | - | 5,075 | 5,075 | 1% |
| | Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces. | 660,619 | - | 148,474 | 148,474 | 22% |
| | Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased. | 914,890 | - | 106,053 | 106,053 | 12% |
| Sub-Total | | 2,271,945 | - | 259,602 | 259,602 | 11% |
| Italy | Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved. | 813,898 | 66,950 | 72,320 | 139,270 | 17% |
| Sub-Total | | 813,898 | 66,950 | 72,320 | 139,270 | 17% |
| UNDP | Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved. | 681,779 | 3,891 | 249,443 | 253,334 | 37% |
| | Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces. | 492,306 | 128,278 | 176,198 | 304,476 | 62% |
| | Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased. | 692,137 | 53,654 | 113,533 | 167,187 | 24% |
| | Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost | 1,457,858 | 467,225 | 255,885 | 723,110 | 50% |
| Sub-Total | | 3,324,080 | 653,047 | 795,059 | 1,448,106 | 44% |
| Grand Total | | 6,634,388 | 719,997 | 1,131,925 | 1,851,922 | 28% |

ANNEX 5: ISSUE LOG

| # | DESCRIPTION | DATE IDENTIFIED | IMPACT/PRIORITY | COUNTERMEASURE/MNGT RESPONSE | OWNER | STATUS |
|---|--|-----------------|--------------------------|---|---|----------|
| 1 | Lengthy selection process of contracting NGOs by MoWA. | July-Sep | Impact= 3 Priority= 5 | MoWA was provided technical support to develop the contract | Economic Empowerment Specialist, Project Manger | Resolved |
| 2 | Low and ineffective office space | July-Sep | Impact= 2 Priority= 3 | Project has been renovated | Project Manger Operations Specialist | Resolved |
| 3 | Pending issues from previous phase of GEP | July-Sep | Impact= 3 Priority= 3 | Operations and finance staff communicate with the relevant staff to carry out the release of pending payments | Project Manger Operations Staff | Resolved |
| 4 | Understaffing for the programmatic activities | July-Sep | Impact= 4 Priority= 5 | Most of the project staff are on board form the end of third quarter | Project Manager | Resolved |

ANNEX 4: RISK LOG

| # | DESCRIPTION | DATE IDENTIFIED | TYPE | IMPACT & PROBABILITY | COUNTERMEASURES/MNGT . RESPONSE | OWNER | SUBMITTED/UPDATED BY | LAST UPDATE | STATUS |
|---|---|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|---|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 1 | Security incidents at Kabul and Jalalabad | 15 th July | Environmental | P= 4 I=4 | The project activities have been postponed for later date | GSI assistant Security Focal Point | GSI Assistant | 20 th July | Resolved |