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Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Project II

2014 Second Quarterly Project Progress Report



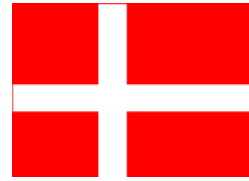
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PROJECT INFORMATION

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 Component:	Increased opportunities for income generation through promotion of diversified livelihoods
UNDP Strategic Plan Component:	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
Total Budget:	30 Million USD
Annual Budget 2014:	7,172,105 USD
Un-Funded Amount 2014:	Fully Funded
Implementing Partner:	UNDP
Key Responsible Party:	MOWA
Project Manager:	Gulistan Ibadat (OIC)
Responsible Assistant:	Noorullah Ahmadzai
Country Director	

COVER PAGE PHOTO: Students from Public Administration Faculty of Kabul University during the handing of certificates for Gender Awareness Training.

ACRONYMS

AWP	Annual Work Plan
APRP	Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme
BC	Budget Circulars
BDS	Business Development Services
DoWA	Department of Women Affairs
GEP II	Gender Equality Project II
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GSI	Gender Studies Institute
KU	Kabul University
LHC	Legal Help Center
LM	Line Ministries
METU	Middle East Technical University
MoCN	Ministry of Counter Narcotics
MoICT	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MORE	Ministry of Women's Affairs Organizational Reform Project
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NGO	Non-Govt. Organization
PWDC	Provincial Development Council
WPDD	Women Policy Development Directorate

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Project II (GEP II) is a three-year project implemented by United Nations Development Programme from 2013 - 2015. This report covers achievements in the second quarter, from April - June 2014.

In the previous reporting period, the project had a slow start while waiting for the approval of the Annual Work Plan. During this quarter, GEP II faced disruptions due to restrictions imposed during the first and second round of elections. Despite these challenges GEP II managed to catch up with its targets and much has been achieved in a span of three months from April to June.

In the first pillar, where the main objective is to provide technical support for strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) to review policies of line ministries from a gender perspective, GEP II worked closely with the Women's Policy and Planning Directorate (WPDD) through one-on-one sessions with the newly appointed WPDD staff to orient them with the policy review process using the policy review toolkit. In close partnership with MoWA, the inter-ministerial task force for policy review was also pilot-tested with the Ministry of Counter Narcotics. Before coming up with a full-blown inter-ministerial task force involving other line ministries, piloting was the technique identified to test and learn lessons that can be expanded for the five sectors.

Also within the first pillar, the project supported MoWA in drafting a harmonized framework for monitoring and evaluation of National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) indicators. In close coordination with the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of MoWA, the existing M&E framework is improved with clearly defined indicators aligned to the national goals and international commitments on gender equality and elimination of violence against women. This framework forms groundwork for developing the NAPWA database in which MoWA has committed to take the lead in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MoICT).

Within Pillar II, achievements in this quarter are significant. As a result, targets which were delayed in the first quarter were met in this reporting period. Two income generation activities are on-going (Saffron Project in Dehadi and Khulm Districts in Balkh Province) and 7 others are in the pipeline. Meanwhile, the Business Development Service (BDS) trainings to enhance skills of women entrepreneurs' were completed including exposure visits in Balkh, Bamyán, Herat and Nangarhar. This activity benefitted 110 businesswomen and resulted to increase in business income for the beneficiaries. This reflected the immediate impact of GEP II's economic empowerment interventions. One of the beneficiaries said: *"There were no such programs designed and implemented as this one. It helped us to gain professional skills in managing our business, learn from experiences of other entrepreneurs and then use these skills to improve our own business. I have never been to other provinces. This is the first time for me to leave my province and this experience opened my eyes to how women in other provinces lived."*

In the third pillar, which is improving access to justice and human rights, especially for women, GEP II made significant strides. GEP II signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UMEF granting two-year full scholarships for sixteen cadres from government agencies namely: Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, Parliament, Afghanistan Science Academy and Afghanistan Investment Support Agency. They are enrolled for a two-year in-country scholarship grant for a Master Degree in Legislative Law-Public Law and Gender. In the long term, this initiative contributes to the increasing number of gender specialists in the government, which at the present is still very limited in number.

GEP II also continues to support MoWA's advocacy efforts on women's empowerment and gender equality. Foremost of which is the support given to MoWA for a TV spot message on the occasion of Mother's Day, which also coincided with Afghanistan's run-off presidential election. In her brief message, the Minister of Women's Affairs congratulated all mothers and encouraged women to participate in the elections. The TV spot was aired on prime time in three major television stations and reaching over a million viewers. Although the 38% women's participation in the election may not be directly attributed the project alone, still, it was timely and reassuring for all the women who had a chance to view this message.

Women's participation in election is a vote for peace and GEP II also supports women's participation in peace dialogues. Towards this objective, the project supported the awards ceremony for the 2013 Afghan N-PEACE awardee in collaboration with UNDP's Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme. During this occasion, UNDP received a signature campaign for peace by 250,000 Afghan women and girls.

In a nutshell, April to June 2014 was a very productive quarter for the project. The Annual Work Plan was approved on the last day of April and yet in a short span of two months. Challenges remain such as partner NGOs' heavy reliance on timely release of funding to be able to deliver activities such as assessments of provincial women's development councils and legal help centers, trainings on business development service, cooperative management, gender responsive budgeting. The project mitigates this issue by coordinating closely with its partners in adjusting timelines. Meanwhile, the project also continues to engage top-level management in MoWA to ensure continuity of activities should there be a change in leadership resulting from the Presidential elections. While this is a recognized risk, thus far, there is stability in MoWA leadership and GEP II continues to enjoy MoWA's confidence and support.

II. RESULTS

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

The first pillar of Gender Equality Project II aims to provide support in building the capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) to effectively manage the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA). To achieve this objective, GEP II's activities are designed to improve the ability of MoWA officials to conduct and lead policy reviews of line ministries from gender perspective. The project also supports activities that strengthen MoWA's capacity to monitor, evaluate and report performance of line ministries in regard to the NAPWA indicators.

Besides the support to policy reviews, GEP II assists the Ministry of Finance in implementing Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). GRB entails incorporating a gender perspective in the budget cycle process.

From a broader perspective, achieving gender equality requires a critical mass of women and men who are aware and can advocate for gender equality. To this end, GEP II continues its support to the Gender Studies Institute in providing training on various gender related topics and issues. It is also envisioned that in long term developing a Master's degree program on Gender and Development Studies will build a sustainable cadre of gender specialists in Afghanistan.

For Pillar 1, following presents the results achieved during the second quarter of 2014:

1.1: Number of gender policies and strategies reviewed by the inter-ministerial task force and gender components included

Three major activities were planned for this period. First was to work in close coordination with the Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MoCN) as a pilot ministry to review its policies through an inter-ministerial task force. Such endeavour gained the clearance and support from the high-level management of the ministry. Second set of activities were the two rounds of meetings of key officials for this undertaking and discussions were made on the possibility of bringing the work up to the inter-ministerial level. Each policy drafted by MoCN involves a number of ministries as well as NGOs/CSO with their respective representatives. Thus, a pilot test on how the inter-ministerial task force works was a big plus. This was a gauge that senior management of MoCN was cooperative and more than willing to participate on a gender-mainstreaming effort led by the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). The third was the follow-up meetings on the results of the workshop for line ministries that was conducted in the previous quarter. These meetings resulted to a collection of information on how the ministries made use of the lessons learned on the approach for the hands-on review of policies using the policy review toolkit.

GEP II, through its partner NGO worked closely with the Women's Policy and Planning Directorate on the above activities holding one-on-one mentoring sessions as necessary especially for newly appointed staff. This resulted to MoWA's staff gaining more confidence in leading inter-ministerial task force thus ensuring sustainability even after the accompaniment of its partner NGO and beyond the life of GEP II support.

1.2. Number of line ministries piloted for M&E of NAPWA implementation that have functional M&E systems

GEP II's target is to identify pilot ministries whose M&E systems could be strengthened and aligned to NAPWA indicators, and also to develop measurable indicators that will translate the strategies of National Priority Programs (NPP). These pilot ministries will be selected from those that GEP II already works with in the policy review process.¹In order to achieve this, it is first important to establish the foundation for a functional monitoring and evaluation system of NAPWA. To this end, GEP II supported Ministry of Women Affairs in hiring a database expert to improve the system of data collection, analysis and reporting the progress of NAPWA indicators which will lead to evidence based policy review and policy making to ensure promotion of women's rights and gender equality in national and provincial development processes. In short term - the establishment of the Monitoring Database will strengthen the existing M&E system in six dimensions/sectors (Security, Governance and Human Rights, Leadership and Political Participation, Health, Economy and Poverty, and Education). It will ensure improved quality of data/information collection on NAPWA implementation. The centralized system of data collection will also enable more structured and systematic involvement of 24 sectorial ministries and agencies and provincial departments in tracking the progress of NAPWA implementation.

During this reporting period, the consultant conducted initial and introductory meetings with the relevant stakeholders, government counterparts, UN and non-UN agencies to work on the harmonized system of M&E for the implementation of NAPWA indicators, and also to understand the existing issues on the databases with the stakeholders and how to link these databases with the proposed monitoring databases in MoWA. Resulting from these meetings, a conceptual framework for harmonizing NAPWA indicators was drafted which contained the stakeholders analysis, in particular the strengths and weaknesses of MoWA M&E unit, issues relating to the existing monitoring system of NAPWA indicators, proposed set of harmonized NAPWA indicators and a draft design of the monitoring database and the required actions to be taken were also included in the framework. The proposed set of harmonized NAPWA indicators will be finalized in stakeholders' workshop and will finally be endorsed by MoWA for monitoring gender equality in Afghanistan. Draft modality of establishing monitoring database in MoWA website, with the assistance of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, has already been drafted and shared with the MCIT.

1.3. Number of line ministries that have functional Gender Units

The target under this activity is to strengthen Gender Units in 7 line ministries and enable them to be functional. In the second quarter, GEP II caught up with its target of developing capacity development plan for the pilot line ministries. Instead of targeting only 7 ministries, GEP II managed to complete interviews with heads of gender units in 9 line ministries in order to gather information on areas in which the project could support and prepare a capacity development plan. In the ministries visited, the gender units exist but with varying levels of capacity. Three of the ministries have low-level capacity and barely functional because all they have a staff of three and an office but no equipment at

¹ Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs, and Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

all except a desk. The Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs particularly has a Gender Unit with only one desk shared by all three staff. The other six ministries visited are somewhat operational in a sense that they have a designated office, have the basic equipment such as computers and printers and have implemented gender awareness trainings in their respective ministries. Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Rural, Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) are ahead of the other ministries in this regard as they also have a gender strategy.

Interestingly, despite the fact that these are the pilot ministries supported by MoWA for gender policy reviews, the Gender Units themselves, with the exception of Ministry of Counter Narcotics and MRRD are not aware and not involved in the ministry level gender responsive policy reviews. GEP II will address this gap by ensuring that Gender Units take part in the policy review processes through the support it provides to MoWA on the policy review process. For the Gender Units that are in need of basic equipment to be functional, it will provide equipment such as computers, printers and furniture.

Table 1: Summary of Capacity Building Needs of 9 Line Ministries

MINISTRY	FINDINGS	FUNCTIONAL LEVEL
1. Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender unit is composed of 3 staff The unit is severely ill-equipped as they only have one regular desk shared by all 3 individuals It has no budget to implement activities and staff is not allowed to travel to provinces to monitor Gender unit is not at all involved in the policy reviews 	LOW
2. Ministry of Information and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit has 4 staff including the Director Does not have any equipment at all and no access to internet facility Gender unit exists but does not have any logistical support Unit does not receive support from the senior management and therefore no operational budget even though it has a work plan Gender unit is not involved and even aware of the policy reviews from the gender perspective 	LOW
3. Ministry of Counter Narcotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an established Gender Unit composed of 3 staff which includes the Gender Director Has support from the Minister but no budget to implement its activities Conducted a gender awareness training at the ministry but could not continue due to lack of budget Have been involved in the policy review process Unit is equipped with one computer and a printer Has a work plan but no budget 	LOW
4. Ministry of Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a 6 staff members including the Gender Director First ministry to have a Gender Unit The unit developed Gender and Reproductive Rights Strategy Is not aware or involved in the ministry's policy reviews Has developed four training modules on gender namely: Gender Based Violence; Treatment Protocol for GBV; 	MEDIUM

	Interpersonal Communications from a Gender Perspective; Health and Human Rights	
5. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well established unit with 3 staff including the Director Office at national level is equipped Provided gender awareness training to 70 staff of MRRD including managers of all units of the ministry Has a 3-million Afs. proposal for capacity building and trainings but no budget to implement The gender unit has identified gender focal points in all 34 regions Its priority is to implement gender awareness trainings in 7 regions 	MEDIUM
6. Ministry of Irrigation, Agriculture and Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender unit is well equipped Has 4 staff including the Gender Director Is part of the Tashkeel under the jurisdiction of Deputy Minister (Admin/Finance) Provided trainings on gender and leadership with the support of GIZ 	MEDIUM
7. Ministry of Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit is composed of 3 staff and a well-equipped office Has a strategic plan for Gender Has a 3-year work plan prepared according to NAPWA No specific budget and have no easy access to senior management in order to request for budget 	MEDIUM
8. Ministry of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Except for staff salary, there is no budget for the Gender Unit Establishment and activities were supported by GIZ mainly production of posters and workshops on EVAW Has proposals for computer and English training and scholarships for 10 women to pursue higher education in diplomacy but no budget was granted 	MEDIUM
9. Independent Directorate of Local Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the first Directorate with Anti-Harassment Policy but implementation of the policy needs to be monitored. Has a proposal for providing gender equality trainings in 7 provinces but no budget is available. Gender Unit is part of the Administration Department and not engaged in policy reviews from the gender perspective Has an equipped office 	MEDIUM

1.4. Number of ministries where GRB strategic plan is approved and implemented

The target for previous quarter was the GRB strategy to be approved and implemented. However, this was not achieved due to the fact that the strategy had to be translated into local languages (Dari and Pashto). The Ministry of Finance was unable complete the translation, thus during this quarter, GEP II was requested to support the translation. The translation was recently completed; thereby the strategy will be launched by Ministry of Finance in the beginning of third quarter and rolled out to the pilot ministries.

Meanwhile, through GEP II's implementing partner, the desk review on the current policy, guidelines

and GRB schemes of the pilot ministries is on-going. The ministries included are: (1) Public Health, (2) Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, (3) Rural Rehabilitation and Development, (4) Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, (5) Education, (6) Higher Education, and (7) Finance. The result of the desk review will form part of the capacity assessment of targeted pilot ministries. The capacity assessment will lead towards a more structured and targeted training curricula on GRB. In the third quarter, GRB training modules will be developed followed by training for MoF and 6 line ministries.

At the subnational level, GEP II is cooperating with the UNDP's Afghanistan Subnational Governance Programme to conduct a joint training on gender responsive budgeting in Balkh province. The discussions are at preliminary level and developments will be reported in the next quarter.

1.5a. Number of gender trainings delivered to university/faculties in target regions

June 2-9, Kabul University, in partnership with the Training and Advocacy Department of MoWA, provided Gender Awareness Training to 25 male and 22 female students of the Public Administration Faculty. The training was delivered through interactive and participatory teaching methods. Some of the topics covered during the five day training included definition of gender from religious, social, cultural, environment perspective, gender-based violence, gender analysis,



Photos from Gender Awareness Training for Public Administration Students at Kabul University

Photo credit: Farima Naderi

introduction to Law on Elimination of Violence against Women, and introduction to NAPWA. At the end of the training one of the students expressed the value of the training and said: "I have gained a lot of knowledge regarding gender equality which I could apply in my daily life especially that the gender concepts were introduced in the light of religion, culture, values and norms."

The target for this quarter was to complete 4 gender awareness trainings in Kabul and regional universities but only 3 trainings were conducted. The fourth training that scheduled towards the end of June was postponed due to a review of the GSI training process and its impact. In addition, a symposium is planned for the next quarter. The symposium is envisaged to reach a wider audience in the university as well as an opportunity to reflect on the past 8 years of GSI existence and plan for more sustainable efforts.

1.5b. Percentage of work completed on policy paper and curriculum for Master's Degree on Gender and Development Studies

Percentage of work completed for the establishment of a Master Degree programme at Kabul University remains unchanged at around an estimate of 10% of work done. There is no progress on

the MoU as GEP II sought ways to address Middle Eastern Technical University's (METU) request for UNDP-GEP II to fund a full-time project assistant based in Turkey. Several options were explored such as south-south cooperation with UNDP-Turkey, soliciting funds from Turkish Embassy in Kabul, as well as developing a separate project using UNDP Afghanistan core funds. All these possibilities were explored but not operationally feasible unless UNDP Turkey is able to raise the counterpart funds on its own to support METU. Towards the end of the quarter, GEP II came to a conclusion that a partnership with METU under the current circumstances cannot materialize. GEP II will explore a different track by tapping the support offered by the Korean Embassy in linking GEP II to gender studies institutions and scholars in South Korea who may be able to provide individual consultant for curriculum development to Kabul University.

Besides preparing for the master's degree programme on gender and development, GEP II is also supporting the establishment of a Gender Studies Resource Center (GSRC) at Kabul University. GSRC will be a dedicated library containing academic books and materials that will be useful for the students of the programme and for those who are conducting gender related literature research. During the second quarter, GEP II initiated the procurement of bookshelves, computers, tables, chairs and other furniture as well as refurbishing of the library room. The project also began soliciting book donations from various local and international agencies individual patrons to be part of the library collection. The project has received some library material. This campaign will continue until the resource center is inaugurated in the third quarter.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of USD 453,213 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 Q2

Table 2 Progress towards Output 1

2014 Baseline	2014 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
1.1. Review of the policies of 8 Line Ministries have been completed in 2013. No inter-ministerial structure exists. No gender policy strategies developed.	1.1a. Inter-ministerial task force established and operationalized. 1b. Gender policies/strategies implementation plan reviewed by inter-ministerial task force in four sectors (health, education, economy, information and communication) 1c. Formulation of 2 policy strategies	1.1. Inter-ministerial task force functional and has a schedule to review national & sub-national strategies and implementation plans	Conducted discussions with the relevant LM and directorates to establish the inter-ministerial task force.	1.1. Inter-ministerial task force functional and have a schedule to review national & sub-national strategies and implementation plans	Inter-ministerial task force piloted on the policy review for Ministry of Counter Narcotics	On track
1.2. No pilot line ministries have established M&E system. 70 staff from line ministries and 30 PC members have been trained on NAPWA implementation	1.2. Ministries from 5 sectors (Education, Health, Economy, Security, Information, Communication and Technology) are piloted to ensure MoWA has structured mechanisms for the M&E of NAPWA implementation	1.2 To develop database on the NAPWA indicators to MoWA	An international database consultant was hired to develop a harmonized system for the gender equality and NAPWA indicators.	1.2 Two line ministries are systematically collecting, analyzing, and reporting NAPWA indicators to MoWA	Completed draft framework for harmonizing NAPWA indicators	Behind schedule due to delay in approval of work plan and recruitment of consultant

1.3. In 2013 No technical assistance have been provided to line ministries' Gender Units	1.3. Seven line ministries will have functional Gender Units	1.3. Prepare Capacity Development Plan including gender mainstreaming and monitoring in selected line ministries	No directly responsible staff still appointed to carry out the planned activity but will be recruited in the upcoming quarter.	1.3. Prepare Capacity Development Plan including gender mainstreaming and monitoring in selected line ministries	Completed needs assessment of Gender Units of 9 line ministries and capacity development plan	On track
1.4. GEP II supported MoF for 6 ministries to apply GRB principles and government officials have been trained	1.4. GRB Strategic Plan is approved and implemented/ incorporated in 6 pilot ministries (MOE, MoHE, MoLSAMD, MoPH, MAIL, MRRD)	1.4. Develop 3 year action plan for GRB strategic plan to be Implemented at the GRB piloted ministries and at the sub-national level	Strategic Plan is finalized and will be launched in the next quarter where an action plan will also be developed.	1.3. Prepare Capacity Development Plan including gender mainstreaming and monitoring in selected line ministries	Completed desk review of guidelines, policies and GRB schemes of 6 pilot ministries	Delayed due to delay in release of funds for implementing partner to begin activities

<p>1.5 (a) Initial meeting held between Kabul University and Middle Eastern University in Ankara, Turkey for the establishment of Master degree program. MoU is in progress</p>	<p>1.5. Policy Paper and Action Plan for implementation of Master Degree completed</p>	<p>1.5. MoU has been signed to initiate the work on the Master degree program</p>	<p>Received the comments on MoU from KU, MoHE and MoWA and waiting for the response from METU to finalize the MoU</p>	<p>1.5a. Delivered gender awareness trainings for 4 faculties of KU and Regional Universities at the target regions of the project</p>	<p>Conducted four virtual meetings with METU and UNDP-Turkey address partnership issues</p>	<p>Behind schedule due to difficulty in finding a funding scheme for METU's request for a Turkey-based project assistant</p>
<p>1.5 (b). Twelve GSI trainings have been conducted for Kabul University</p>	<p>1.6. GSI activities and gender trainings expanded to 10 faculties in KU and in 10 GSI trainings delivered in target regions of the project</p>	<p>1.6. Delivered gender awareness trainings for 4 faculties of KU and Regional Universities at the target regions of the project</p>	<p>Successfully conducted training at Balkh University for 50 students while the preparatory work is on-going to conduct the training in the rest of the universities.</p>	<p>1.5b Policy paper accepted by MoWA and framework for the initiation of Master Degree Program</p>	<p>Completed training for 47 students (25 male and 22 female) students of Public Administration Faculty of Kabul University</p>	<p>On- track on the GSI trainings but behind schedule on development of policy paper due to the fact that MoU with METU has not materialized.</p>

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

In Afghanistan, women's mobility is severely limited due to cultural constraints. While an estimated 47% of women participate in the labor force, according to a study by UN Women only 5% of businesses in Afghanistan are owned by women. This is especially true for rural women whose economic activities are confined to their homes such as carpet weaving, tailoring and sewing. Thus, the second component of GEP II focuses on women in the business sector. It aims to enhance the entrepreneurship skills of women and facilitate the increase of women's participation in income generation activities. The economic empowerment pillar engages rural women in the targeted provinces in farm and non-farm enterprises strengthen women managed cooperatives and provide local and international opportunities for businesswomen to expand their market base.

Besides strengthening cooperatives, within this component, GEP II supports the establishment of Provincial Women's Development Councils (PWDC). PWDC's play a significant role in supporting the socio-economic empowerment of women. The PWDC serves as a platform at the provincial and district levels for identifying women's issues, challenges, and propose solutions.

The following are the achievements in the second quarter of 2014 under GEP II's economic empowerment pillar:

2.1. Number of Income Generation Activities (IGAs) implemented in target provinces

The target for the quarter, under this indicator was to initiate at least three new income generation activities in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and Nangarhar. However, the baseline assessment of the economic situation in the target provinces did not begin until end of March 2014 due to delay in AWP approval as well as the election campaigns disrupting the fieldwork. The baseline report is yet to be completed but initial findings reveal that in Bamyan, there is acceptance and support for women's economic activities and women entrepreneurs are well-connected locally and internationally and relatively successful in marketing their products whereas in Nangarhar there is strong cultural bias against income-generating activities for women and women are discouraged in entering the market or investing in business. Thus, businesswomen in Nangarhar are mostly confined to selling their products within the province only. In Herat, women's business activities are more diverse and established as compared to the other provinces. High quality saffron and silk scarves produced by some women entrepreneurs are known to be the best and even imported abroad. But they also face challenges such as limited access to domestic and international market and access to financial and technical resources. The women entrepreneurs of Balkh share similar sentiments as their counterparts in Herat.

The results of complete baseline report will be available and reported in the third quarter. Meanwhile, table below summarizes the potential and on-going income generation activities (IGA) supported by GEP II. These IGAs are based on proposals submitted by the GEP II's Regional Coordinators.

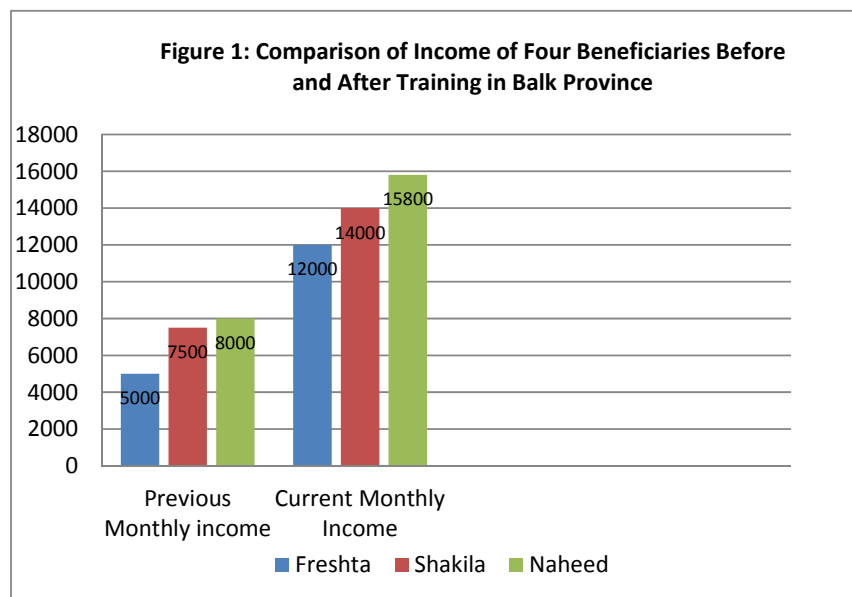
Table 3: Proposed and On-going Income Generation Activities

PROVINCE	INCOME-GENERATION ACTIVITY	STATUS
Balkh	Saffron project	On-going in Dehdadi and Khulm Districts
	Silk production	Coordinating with DAIL on applicability of silk production among rural women
	Poultry	Regional office conducted market viability of the business and met with DAIL
	Soap production	Concept note submitted to Kabul office for review
	Wool spinning	Balkh regional office in discussion with DAIL to discuss the project for 5 cooperatives in Dehdadi District
Bamyan	No IGA	
Nangarhar	Poultry	Concept note reviewed and approved for implementation
Herat	Silk garment production	Machinery needed for silk production training identified and activity will be launched once equipment needed for training are procured Recruitment of trainer is in progress
	Jewelry making project	Supported in previous quarters, concept note for extension of support submitted to Kabul office and under review

2. 2a. Number of Business Development Services (BDS) packages provided to women entrepreneurs.

This quarter, GEP II met its target of providing two business development service packages to women entrepreneurs. A total of 110 businesswomen received intensive classroom training on the essentials of business development such as market analysis, sales effectiveness, customer service, human resource, inventory control, management of income, banking for small and business enterprises, entrepreneurship in Islam, and national laws affecting business such as registration of

business. Pre and post-test assessments were conducted to gauge the level of knowledge gained from the trainings. Analysis of the test revealed that prior to the training; the beneficiaries have limited knowledge on various aspects of business management. Feedback from the participants of



business. Pre and post-test assessments were conducted to gauge the level of knowledge gained from the trainings. Analysis of the test revealed that prior to the training; the beneficiaries have limited knowledge on various aspects of business management. Feedback from the participants of

the training illustrates the immediate impact of the training. Najiba Sadat, from Herat said: *“I see a lot of changes in my economic life as a result of this training. I now know more things about managing my business professionally. Whereas before I could not expand my business because I didn’t know where and how to get loans, now I understand how the banking system works to support small enterprises and I also learned the importance of packaging my products and marketing these. In addition I also learned about women’s right to work”*. Figure 1 above shows an illustrative example that income of some participants’ increased monthly income after the training when they applied the managerial techniques which they learned during the training such as better packaging and marketing of their products.

To complement the trainings, an exposure visit was arranged for the participants where they had a chance to observe and interact with successful and established businesses. Participants from Nangarhar visited Bamyan and vice versa and participants from Balkh visited Herat and vice versa. These exposure visits offered an opportunity for cross-fertilization of business ideas as well as establishing networks among women entrepreneurs. Interestingly, the exposure visit also opened the minds of the women to a culture other than their own although still within the confines of Afghanistan. For many of these women, it was their first time to travel out for their province. Below is an expressive quote of what one beneficiary from Nangarhar learned during her group’s trip to Bamyan.

The Unintended Result of Business Exposure Visit

“I was surprised to learn that women in Bamyan lived a more liberal life than women in Nangarhar, and they did not have to fully cover their face. The exposure visit helped me learn about gender issues and that women can also participate in a society’s development more actively. The conservative culture in our provinces can be changed and we need to be at front of this change”.

*Quote from Ms. Sharifa Ahmadzai
Beneficiary of Entrepreneurship Skills Training in Nangarhar*

A Tale of Two Women Entrepreneurs Inspired to Think Big

Masooma Ibrahimi from Yakawlang District in Bamyan is a mother of 3 children and the owner of Pushak-e Jawan garments. She runs a women association producing women clothes and has more than 25 trainees who earn daily wage from the business. She also owns a shop in Bamyan City, which is the outlet store for the clothes produced by the women's association. She expressed that the entrepreneurship training improved her knowledge and skills in business management. She said: "I believe that women who have their own business, builds their confidence to stand on their own feet".



Maliha Ahmadi is from Bamyan City and has two children. She runs a beauty parlor and believes that with her business, she can be economically independent and provide a brighter future for her children. She has been running her business since 2008 but she did not have the technical know-how to tap resources to expand her business. She said: "Now that I understand how to professionally run a business, I want to expand my parlor, train more women, and thereby increase my income at the same time helping other women".



*Photos credit and story submitted by Ashraf Parvez,
Regional Coordinator, Bamyan*

2. 2 b. Number of institutional capacity building programmes provided to women entrepreneurs

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) through the ICT Centers in Kabul and in the four regions is one of the skills enhancement support provided by GEP II to women and girls. In June, MoWA, together with MOICT, inaugurated the newly renovated CISCO Networking Academy in Kabul. The ICT programme provided by the CISCO Networking Academy includes significant hands-on learning and skill-set development and a direct route to industry-standard certification. Graduates of the programme qualify to pursue a number of industry-standard certifications, including the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) and Network+ certification. Since 2003, more than a thousand students have graduated from this academy and at present 120 students are continuing their studies at the newly renovated classroom.



Before and After Photos of CISCO Networking Academy at MoWA, Kabul

Photo credit: Anusha Ahmadi

At the regional level, ICT Centers will be established in Bamyan and Herat Universities. Although, procurement process of equipment to set up these centers is gradually progressing, the project is still within target as the ICT centers are planned to be operational by the end of third quarter of 2014.

2.3. Number of functional women managed cooperatives in targeted areas.

During the 2nd quarter, GEP II worked with the implementing partner to select women managed cooperatives in the four provinces to be supported by the project through institutional capacity development trainings. A capacity needs assessment was conducted for a total of 20 cooperatives in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and Nangarhar. This needs assessment forms the baseline for developing training packages for the members of the cooperatives. The target for this quarter is that three existing cooperatives have already received training. This was not achieved because clearance from Ministry of Economy was needed before the implementing partner can access information about the selected cooperatives. This requirement delayed the activity but was eventually through letter from MoWA.

2.4. Number of new PWDCs functional in targeted areas

The Provincial Women's Development Councils were designed to serve as a multi-stakeholder platform for identifying and supporting provincial activities on women economic empowerment. Since GEP's support has been sporadic during the first phase of the project, GEP II supported MoWA in commissioning an assessment to evaluate to strengths and weaknesses of PWDCs. The assessment is intended to provide GEP II with a solid evidence for re-structuring support to these entities. The assessment report is not yet complete but preliminary findings point to the direction that indeed PWDCs are lose units with no clear and standardized guidelines for membership. Across the four regions, a pattern emerges and findings are the following:

- PWDCs are highly dependent on GEP II's funding to conduct their activities and have been semi-active since 2011
- Members range from 30-50 with some members as permanent and others temporary but no clear criteria for selection of members
- They do not have a permanent office
- The role of PWDCs are unclear especially the members have low capacity and described as incapable of carrying out their responsibilities
- PWDCs have limited achievements beyond conducting meetings

For this quarter, the support for PWDCs is demand-driven. Most of PWDC's from the four provinces requested logistical support for their quarterly meetings. GEP II supported these efforts since the PWDC's provide platform for discussion and dialogue about issues facing women in the community especially those related to economic empowerment. In Nangarhar, besides logistical support, the PWDC members received training on management, communication and community development. This training enabled the members to better articulate and communicate their vision and plans as well as address the development proposals that they receive from various women organizations in the community.

In the third quarter, the project's target is to establish 6 new PWDCs; however, this will be based on findings of the assessment. The assessment report will be finalized by end of July 2014.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of USD 417,597 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 Q2

Table 4 Progress towards Output 2

2014 Baseline	2014 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
2.1 One Income generation activity has been provided in Herat province benefiting 20 women and their households	2.1 Two IGAs per province (10 target provinces) benefitting 500 women and their households. Baseline survey will be conducted on the existing economic situation of women	2.1. Conduct baseline survey in four targeted provinces	Finalized inception report from the contracted NGO and payment will be released to conduct the baseline survey after approval of AWP-2014	2.1 Three IGAs implemented in target provinces	Two income generation activities on-going in Balkh	On- track Other income generation activity proposals are under review by GEP II management
2.2. Two BDS Packages provided to women entrepreneurs	2.2 Ten BDS package including new clean technologies as well as capacity building trainings in six target provinces	2.2. Demand-driven Business Development Services (BDS) package identified and developed	Finalized inception report from the contracted NGO and payment will be released to provide BDS packages after approval of AWP-2014	2.2. Provided BDS support to two women-owned enterprises and build their capacity on BDS	BDS training provided to 110 women entrepreneurs and two women-owned enterprises provides support	On- track

2.3. Five functional women managed cooperatives in targeted areas.	2.3 Institutional capacity development programs benefitting one women managed coop in 6 target provinces (240 women beneficiaries)	2.3.Complete capacity assessment of existing coops and develop plans based on the assessment and conduct one exposure visit for the women entrepreneurs and women coop. members	Finalized the inception report of the contracted NGOs responsible for the capacity building of women managed coop. The actual implementation will be initiated after the release of first installment after the approval of AWP-2014.	2.3. Strengthened the capacity of three existing coops through increased technical training on coops management for improved institutional and individual capacity development through UNITAR and other organizations	Completed capacity assessment but could not deliver trainings to cooperatives due to problem in accessing information from Ministry of Economy	Not achieved due problem in accessing information from Ministry of Economy
2.4. Provincial Women's Development Councils created and approved in 4 provinces by GEP II	2.4. PWDC created and approved in 6 new provinces	2.4. Carry out a capacity assessment of PWDC members and prepare CD plans for implementation (four PWDCs)	Conducted regional coordinators meeting to work towards the extension of the project activities including PWDCs in new provinces	2.4. Strengthened existing PWDCs through capacity building program	Provided limited support to PWDCs in 3 regions except Balkh	Delayed. GEP II is providing limited assistance to PWDC's until the capacity needs assessment report is completed

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

Gender related violence, especially to women; continue to be a major challenge in Afghanistan. Cases of violence against women are under-reported due to the cultural and social norms that prevent women from seeking for help. GEP II's third pillar is geared towards improving women's access to justice. Availing of venues for women to seek redress of abuse and grievances begins with awareness of women's rights, not just by women themselves but of men as well. To achieve this output, GEP II actively supports national and local events that would increase the visibility and awareness of women's rights. The project also designed activities that support religious leaders. This will potentially increase awareness among a large constituency because religious leaders have strong influence, wide reach and credibility in the communities. In addition, the youth, who comprise more than half of the Afghan population, will be encouraged to participate through conferences and works at universities.

In GEP II target provinces, Legal Help Centers that provide referral support, counseling and mediation for victims of gender violence will continue and will be further strengthened through an independent assessment and evaluation recommendations. GEP II is working to resume the activities of the Legal Help Centers based on its internal assessment of the LHCs conducted in late 2013. It is planning to incorporate the recommendations and improvements from the on-going external and assessment in the next quarter. Likewise, a hotline service where victims or their relatives can report cases also receives a significant technical and financial support and guidance from GEP II where this service is planned to be connected with the LHCs to be able to provide support for women in need of legal help or counseling or mediation

During this reporting period, the following are the achievements of the project under the third output:

3. 1. Number of national and community based events organized (campaigns, trainings, conferences, seminars, TV spots) for advocacy about the rights of women and girls

In the second quarter, GEP II has been active in supporting the activities of MoWA in its advocacy campaigns for gender equality and women's empowerment at national and subnational levels and has met the target of at least three awareness raising events each quarter. At the national level, the project supported the Minister's Awards Programme that honored 150 pioneering women, men and organizations that have supported the cause for women's empowerment and implementation of NAPWA.

The project also supported a TV spot for the Minister of Women's Affairs to commemorate Mother's Day which was broadcasted on primetime in three major television channels – Aryana, Shamshad, and TOLO TV networks in both Dari and Pashto languages. As Mother's Day coincided with the second round of presidential elections, the Minister's message conveyed her best wishes to all mothers and she encourages Afghan women to participate in the elections. She emphasized that it is every citizen's duty to cast his or her vote to select Afghanistan's next president. Viewers of these television channels reach to a million during the prime time. It is worth mentioning that the run-off elections recorded 38% women's participation.

At the subnational level, GEP II supported the publication of DoWA magazine in celebration of mother’s day in Herat. A total of 1000 magazines were printed and circulated. The purpose of this edition was to raise people’s awareness about DoWA activities, advocate for mother’s role and rights, and sensitize the public on gender issues and promote gender equity.

3.2. Number of cases resolved by LHCs through institutionalized Referral Mechanism

While the number of cases resolved by LHCs through referral mechanism is worth reporting, it is also important to assess the structure and current state of the LHCs. In the previous quarter, GEP II reported the results of the internal assessment. This quarter, fieldwork for the external assessment of LHCs concluded. A total of 24 LHCs were evaluated in the 4 target regions of GEP II. Preliminary findings presented by the NGO partner that conducted the assessment corroborate GEP’s internal assessment. The findings are as follows:

- The assessment reveals that LHCs, despite the very limited and sporadic support continue to receive and resolve gender-based violence cases.
- The LHCs are semi-active and receiving cases from women seeking mediation and resolution of disputes. These are mostly family related disputes. In some cases which are criminal in nature, these are referred to the courts of Department of Interior
- LHCs are often the first point of contact by women with disputes
- Most of the LHC’s staff do not have the relevant professional background although some are volunteers who have background in Sharia law and want to gain experience
- Method and procedure for handling disputes are informal and there is no standard structure

Similar to the PWDC assessment, these findings are important in shaping GEP II’s interventions to strengthen the LHCs and ensure that these entities are viable and sustainable. Some of the major interventions and recommendations that the assessment introduced are the following:

- The LHCs as well as the personnel who work within these centers need to be legalized to be able to professionally follow up the cases;
- Referral mechanism of these centers needs to be improved to be able to involve the judiciary more actively in resolving GBV cases;
- It was also found that MOWA can play a constructive role in unifying similar supports being provided by different national and international stakeholders.

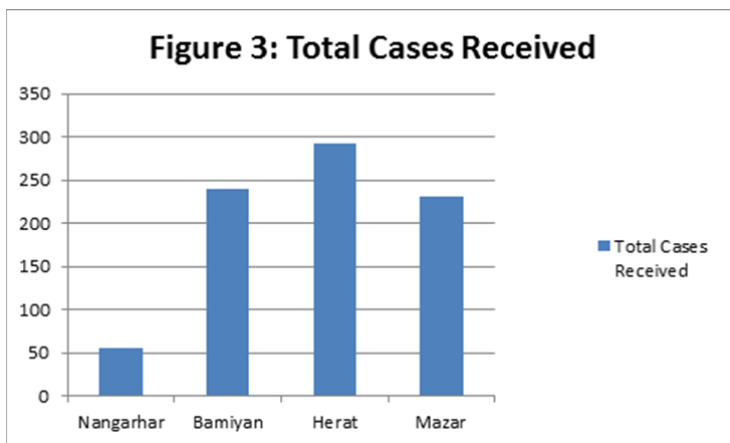
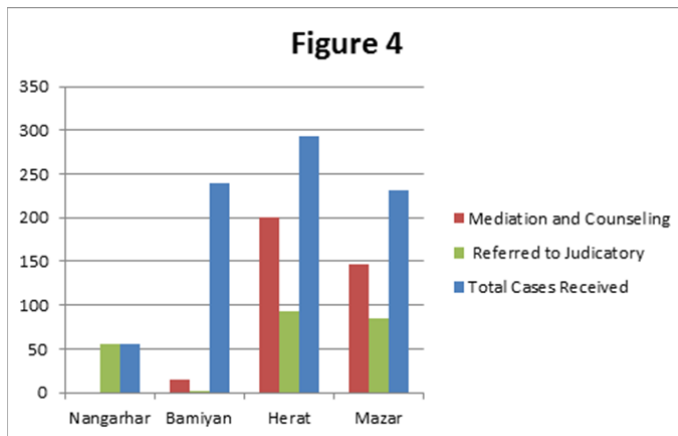


Figure 3 shows the number of cases each region has received by region with Herat receiving the most cases and Nangarhar the least. Figure 4 reflects the number of cases that have been resolved by these centers and/or referred to judiciary.



Meanwhile GEP II has engaged a local NGO to continue the hotline service 3434. The ministry has now approved the activation.

3.3. Number of religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights in public

A significant event on June 1st, 2014 was the signing of Memorandum of Agreement between MoWA, UNDP, Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA), and Swiss UMAF for scholarship grant for a Master's Degree on Legislative Law-Public Law and Gender. GEP II committed a total of USD 180,000 to support a cadre of 16 scholars from MoWA, MoHRA, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Attorney General's Office of Afghanistan and Parliament. The programme will be taught in Dari and will be accomplished in



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between MoWA, UNDP, MoHRA and UMAF on scholarship grant for master's degree programme

Photo credit: Anusha Ahmadi

two years. In the government ministries, there are only a handful of senior level officials who possess higher-level academic training on gender. Thus, this programme will directly contribute to the number of professionally trained specialists on gender equality. To ensure sustainability of this project, each candidate of this programme signed a commitment letter to ensure that they will carry out the work on gender and human rights at least for two years after graduating from this programme.

3.4. Number of regional Peace and Security dialogues to enhance women and youth participation in policy formulation and consensus building for peace dialogue

This quarter, GEP II supported the activities of N-PEACE – Engage for Peace, Equality, access, Community and Empowerment. N-PEACE is an international award programme that recognizes the outstanding peace-building efforts of women and men in conflict countries in Asia namely:

Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. On June 2, 2014, in partnership with the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, GEP II supported the awards ceremony for 2013 N-PEACE Awardee Ms. Masood Karokhi.

During the event, Women’s Committee for High Peace Council also presented a signature campaign of 250,000 Afghan women and girls calling for peace to UNDP senior management. They requested UNDP’s senior management to deliver the petition to UNDP’s Administrator and UN’s Secretary-General. In his acceptance of the petition, UNDP Country Director said: “We at UNDP encourage the participation of women at all levels of decision making and in support of peace efforts.”

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q2, a total of USD 132,132 was spent on this output. For more details please refer to Annex 2.

Below is a snapshot of where GEP II is in relation to its annual targets after Q2

Table 5 Progress towards Output 3

2014 Baseline	2014 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Comments
3.1. Two events Advocacy campaigns have been conducted at sub-national level 3 events at two target provinces and at national level	3.1. Ten main national and Community Based events organized to observe UN-International days for women and girls and nation-wide campaign on the rights of the girl child	3.1. Organized one training and awareness raising sessions at national level and in each target province for women groups to increase demand for rights and justice	International Women’s Day was supported in seven provinces using this occasion as a platform for the elimination of violence against of women.	3.1. Organized 3 training and awareness raising sessions in each target province for women groups to increase demand for rights and justice	Completed 3 awareness raising events – 2 at the national level and 1 at the regional level	On- track
3.2. LHCs supported by GEP II resolved over 1,200 cases.	3.2. Institutionalize four LHCs in existing provinces and establishment LHC in 6 new provinces	3.2. Completed assessment of existing LHCs establish LHC models based on international standards	Completed assessment of existing LHCs and recommendations were made to establish LHCs models based on int. standards.	3.2. Cumulative total of 1,200 cases resolved by LHCs	Assessment completed and preliminary report submitted by NGO partner	Not on track because LHCs were just assessed in Q1 and recommendations for improvement will only be implement in Q3

			Overall 362 cases were resolved through mediation and consultation and 234 cases were referred to judiciary			and Q4
3.3. Number of religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights in public	3.3. Approximately 2,500 religious leaders trained by GEP II to advocate for women's rights	3.3. 500 religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights	No religious leaders trained in this quarter but trained 1500 students of religious education/Madrass as on the women's rights and gender equality by organizing quiz competition.	3.3. 500 religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights	16 cadres from various line ministries were granted scholarships to pursue Master in Legislative Law, Public Law and Gender	On-track Note: No religious leaders were trained this quarter but potential leaders – the students participating in the inter-school competition on Islam and Women’s Rights were trained.

<p>3.4. Number of regional Peace and Security dialogues to enhance women and youth participation in policy formulation and consensus building for peace dialogue</p>	<p>3.4. Twelve National and sub-national dialogues organized with the lead of DoWAs to involve women and youth at the community level and women at the provincial Councils</p>	<p>3.4. Two Regional dialogues organized with the lead of DoWAs to involve women and youth at the community level and women at the provincial Councils</p>	<p>Not Achieved – However, next quarter this will be implemented.</p>	<p>3.4. Three Regional dialogues organized with the lead of DoWAs to involve women and youth at the community level and women at the provincial Councils</p>	<p>Supported the N-PEACE award ceremony</p>	<p>Not Achieved – However, this will be implemented in next quarter.</p>
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III. GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS

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

IV. PARTNERSHIPS

GEP II engages government and non-government organizations in its activities. In all three pillars of the project, NGOs are partners in implementing activities through partnership with MoWA. This approach results to building the capacity of MoWA in engaging and managing local organizations that assist them in promoting gender equality and women empowerment. Through the NGO partners, the project also engages with various government agencies particularly the Ministry of Economy, Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock at the provincial level, Afghanistan Investment Support Agency and Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These agencies support the project activities by serving as resource speakers in trainings given to women entrepreneurs and women-led cooperatives.

GEP II also actively engages other donor-funded projects whenever synergy of efforts is possible. For instance, because of similar objectives, GEP II conducts regular meetings with the USAID funded Ministry of Women's Affairs Organizational Reform Project (MORE)

Within UNDP, GEP II implements joint activities with other projects such with APRP, Afghanistan Sub-National Governance Programme and National Area-Based Development Project (NABDP). Within UN system, GEPP II also coordinates its efforts with UN Women on its support for gender responsive budgeting with the Ministry of Finance. These coordination efforts minimize duplication of efforts and maximize the efficiency of technical support provided to Ministry of Women's Affairs.

V. ISSUES

- Duplication of some activities by other agencies such as UN-Women's initiative on GRB and The Asia Foundation's Ministry of Women's Affairs Organizational Reform Project. To address the issue, GEP II team leaders hold coordination meetings to clarify roles and identify areas of synergy.

VI. RISKS

- **Security restrictions due to run-off elections**

Security restrictions were faced in the quarter due to presidential campaigns for the June 14 run-off elections. This caused movement restrictions and delay in implementing project activities (to conduct meetings and workshops).

- **Change in leadership in MoWA**

The result of the recently concluded Presidential elections could have an effect on the project, should there be a change in the top level management of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. GEP II's activities are currently endorsed by the present Minister and the management body. If there will be a new minister, GEP II will need to orient the new minister and establish strong ties to ensure continuity of commitments made by MoWA.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED

Programmatic:

- GEP II is not just a women's empowerment project. It is also a gender equality project. Therefore, it should consciously be aware of the impact of its activities on women and girls, men and boys. Development of activities and its implementation have to be reviewed from a gender perspective and that men and their roles in the household, community, society, government and non-government sphere are not systematically silenced or ignored in the quest for empowering women. Cognizant of this fact, GEP II's monitoring and evaluation team will conduct rapid assessments of its activities to document and analyze the project's impact on gender.
- The project also needs to develop various communications and advocacy materials in order to capture and share best practices to various types of audience using a variety of communication tools such as brochures, pamphlets, posters etc.
- Capacity development is needed not just for the project partners but for GEP II staff as well. The quality of proposals and reports received both at the national and regional offices are indicative of the need for internal trainings.

Operational:

- The programmatic activities that are directly implemented by GEP II at the provincial level are running slow due to process of approval at Kabul office. An approval process flow was developed but has not been communicated and strictly adhered too. The system for approval of proposals and timeframe must be institutionalized to avoid backlogs.
- Delay in payment of vendors and partners affects productive partnerships. The project needs to identify bottlenecks and address these issues to accelerate the process.

VIII. FUTURE PLANS

- Joint policy review with line ministries will continue and an inter-ministerial task force will be established
- Conduct a workshop to be led by MoWA's M&E unit regarding the harmonized framework for monitoring and evaluation of NAPWA

- A 5-delegation mission to Seoul, South Korea composed of GEP II, Programme Unit, MoWA, MoHE and Kabul University to establish linkages and partnerships for the Master's Degree Programme of Gender and Development Studies
- To conduct the GSI Symposium reflecting on 8 years of the programme
- To launch the Policy Review Toolkit and GRB handbook
- Economic empowerment interventions will be accelerated at the sub-national level particularly in the new provinces
- To ensure the access to justice and human rights through hotline services for the vulnerable and rural women will be strengthened by the implementing partner responsible (Afghan Women Network).
- Launch GEP II's monitoring, evaluation and communication strategy and orientation training of project staff on gender-sensitive, results-based M&E and communication tools and technique.

IX. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL TABLE

Donor Iterim Report Jan- June 2014

Annex 1. Financial Table

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PREVIOUS YEARS RECORD				CURRENT YEAR - 2014					FUTURE EXPENSES		TOTAL RECEIVABLE		
	Commitment (a)	Revenue Collected 31/12/2013 (b)	Expenses 31/12/2013 (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	(32,045)	-	256,511	-	-	135,035	121,476	8,321	-	-	-	113,155
CIDA	2,337,108	2,337,108	1,034,551	-	1,302,557	-	-	397,829	904,727	31,873	1,400	-	-	871,455
Italy	813,898	813,898	186,699	-	627,199	-	-	92,469	534,730	65,545	-	-	-	469,185
Korea	11,000,000	3,800,000	-	-	3,800,000	-	-	765,254	3,034,746	92,437	-	7,200,000	-	2,942,309
Denmark	106,000	106,000	-	-	106,000	-	-	1,877	104,123	-	-	-	-	104,123
UNDP Core	3,219,294	2,019,294	2,019,294	-	-	1,200,000	-	599,546	600,454	31,318	490,045	-	-	79,091
Grand Total	17,700,766	9,300,766	3,208,499	-	6,092,267	1,200,000	-	1,992,010	5,300,257	229,495	491,445	7,200,000	-	4,579,317

Note:

- i) Data contained in this report is an extract of UNDP financial records. The accounting period (Apr-Jun 2014) for the report is an open period and data from some accounting processes may not have been processed. Financial data provided above may not be complete, and it is provisional.
- 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

Donor Iterim Report Jan- June 2014

Annex 2. Expenses by Output

Project Output ID and Description	2014 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-Mar-2014)	Expenses (April-June 2014)	Total Expenses	Delivery Rate
Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	2,431,716	194,958	453,213	648,171	
Sub-total Output 1	2,431,716	194,958	453,213	648,171	27%
Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	1,796,075	38,204	417,597	455,800	
Sub-total Output 2	1,796,075	38,204	417,597	455,800	25%
Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	1,335,223	62,315	132,132	194,446	
Sub-total Output 3	1,335,223	62,315	132,132	194,446	15%
Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	1,609,092	513,262	180,331	693,593	
Sub-total Output 4	1,609,092	513,262	180,331	693,593	43%
Grand Total	7,172,105	808,738	1,183,272	1,992,010	28%

ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR

Donor Iterim Report Jan- June 2014

Annex 3. Expenses by Donor

Donor Name	Project Output ID and Description	2014 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-Mar-2014)	Expenses (April-June 2014)	Total Expenses	Delivery Rates
Afghanistan (MOF)	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	154,529	99,652	35,383	135,035	
	Sub-Total	154,529	99,652	35,383	135,035	87%
CIDA	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	379,850	6,184	145,466	151,650	
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	506,110	(28,005)	238,817	210,813	
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	352,662	(16,990)	52,357	35,367	
	Sub-Total	1,238,622	(38,811)	436,641	397,829	32%
Italy	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	635,513	3,767	88,702	92,469	
	Sub-Total	635,513	3,767	88,702	92,469	15%
Korea	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	1,245,240	-	269,016	269,016	
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	1,279,800	-	244,988	244,988	
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	956,880	-	151,301	151,301	
	Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	318,080	225,145	(125,196)	99,949	**
	Sub-Total	3,800,000	225,145	540,109	765,254	20%
UNDP	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	-	85,355	(85,355)	-	
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	-	66,208	(66,208)	-	
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	-	79,305	(71,527)	7,778	***
	Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	1,237,442	288,117	303,651	591,768	
	Sub-Total	1,237,442	518,985	80,561	599,546	48%
Denmark	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	16,585	-	-	-	
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	10,165	-	-	-	
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	25,680	-	-	-	
	Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	53,570	-	1,877	1,877	
	Sub-Total	106,000	-	1,877	1,877	2%
	Grand Total	7,172,105	808,738	1,183,272	1,992,010	28%

*The minus expenses under CIDA in the above period (Jan-Mar 2014) accounting period, is because of post facto correcting the omission has been incurred in 2013 accounting date.

** The minus expenses in the above column under Korean funds are the reversed amount of expenses that had been temporarily charged to Korea under interim project budget.

*** The minus expenses in the above column under UNDP core fund are the reversed amount of expenses that had been temporarily charged to UNDP core fund under interim project budget.

ANNEX 4: ISSUE LOG

#	DESCRIPTION	DATE IDENTIFIED	IMPACT/PRIORITY	COUNTERMEASURE/MNGT RESPONSE	OWNER	STATUS
1	Annual Work Plan for the year 2014 has not been approved till the end of the first quarter which poses problems for the implementation of project planned activities.	01/01/14 to 30/03/14	I=5 P=5	GEP II continues to implement its activities despite severe constraints since funds are tied to the approval of the AWP.	Project Management	Resolved
2	Implementing partners are heavily reliant on funding from the project to carry out their activities causing delay in implementation of activities when funds are not transferred on time.	15/01/14 30/03/14	I= 4 P=4	GEP II will release their first installment to facilitate implementation of activities.	M&E/Communication unit of the project	Continue
3	Communication protocols between GEP II and MoWA have caused delays in supporting MoWA in their activities.	01/03/14 30/03/14	I=4 P=4	Issue is mitigated by assigning focal points to MoWA and developing clear communication strategy within GEP II	Project Management	Solved

ANNEX 4: RISK LOG

#	DESCRIPTION	DATE IDENTIFIED	TYPE	IMPACT & PROBABILITY	COUNTERMEASURES/MNGT. RESPONSE	OWNER	SUBMITTED/UPDATED BY	LAST UPDATE	STATUS
1	Security restrictions due to upcoming elections	20 th Feb-30 th March	Political	P = 4 I = 4	The security focal point was assigned to keep track record and headcount of the staff during white and grey city.	Security Focal Point	M&E Specialist and M&E and Reporting Officer	30/03/14	The elections ended without any significant risk to the security of any staff (resolved)
2	Change in the leadership of MoWA	15 th March-30 th March	Political	P = 4 I = 4	Though it is beyond the control of the project management, however, the project will be clearly explained and introduced to the coming mgt. of MoWA	Project Management	M&E Specialist and M&E and Reporting Officer	30/03/14	Continue