



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment II

2014 Third Quarterly Project Progress Report



DONORS



Afghanistan



CIDA



Denmark



Italy



Republic of Korea



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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:	7,172,105 USD
2014 Un-Funded Amount	Fully Funded
Implementing Partner:	UNDP
Key Responsible Parties:	MOWA
Project Manager:	Cecilia Ncube
Responsible Assistant: Country Director	Noorullah Ahmadzai

ACRONYMS

AWP	Annual Work Plan
AISA	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency
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
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MICT	Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
II.	RESULTS	3
a.	OUTPUT 1: MOWA`s capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.....	3
	EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER	10
b.	OUTPUT 2: Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 province.....	14
	EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER	18
c.	OUTPUT 3: Access to justice for women including awareness on women`s rights among men & women increased.	21
	EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER	23
	GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS	26
III.	PARTNERSHIPS.....	26
IV.	ISSUES	27
V.	RISKS	27
VI.	LESSONS LEARNED.....	27
VII.	FUTURE PLANS.....	28
VIII.	ANNEXES.....	29
	ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL TABLE.....	29
	ANNEX 2: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT	30
	ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR	31
	ANNEX 4: ISSUE LOG	32
	ANNEX 4: RISK LOG	33

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Project II (GEP II) is a three-year project implemented by United Nations Development Programme in close collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs from 2013 - 2015. This report covers results achieved in the third quarter, from July - September 2014.

The first pillar of the project aims to improve the capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) for policy making and oversight of the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA). A significant milestone was achieved in this quarter. With GEP II support, MoWA produced a harmonized and refined set of indicators for monitoring NAPWA that is consistent with national and international commitments on gender equality as well as best practices in results-based management. This enables the ministry to systematically collect data on performance indicators related to security, governance, rule of law and human rights, economic and social development. This document lays the foundation for a stronger monitoring and evaluation system led by MoWA. The project also initiated a partnership between MoWA and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (MICT) for developing a database for NAPWA monitoring. The database will be hosted and maintained by MICT until MOWA builds its technical capacity and hires human resource to maintain the database on its own. Bringing government institutions to work together on this endeavour assures national ownership, institutionalization, cost effectiveness and sustainability of GEP II efforts.

GEP II has now established the Gender Studies Resource Center at Kabul University to support the university's effort at instituting a master's degree program in gender and development. The project has collected a total of 1,500 books from national government and international organizations as well as individuals who are keen to supporting this effort. The resource center is envisioned to house books and materials that students will use once the post-graduate degree programme on gender is fully launched.

The second pillar of GEP II focuses on developing the entrepreneurial skills of women. In order to extend the project intervention, GEP-II in coordination with the Department of Women Affairs, (DoWA) successfully established Provincial Women Development Council (PWDC) in three new provinces (Daikundi, Helmand and Laghman). Through the PWDC platform women are given an opportunity at the sub-national level to develop context specific and lucrative businesses for themselves. This resulted in the development and approval of 17 proposals for income generation activities for women, which will be implemented in the coming quarters. The saffron cultivation in Balkh, which was initiated in previous quarters, received a boost from the project in the form of farming equipment. These tools benefitted 34 women farmers to cultivate saffron more efficiently thereby increasing their income.

Furthermore, 50 women entrepreneurs had the opportunity to appreciate local businesses outside their provinces through exchange visits. This led to increased knowledge of the women in regard to practical strategies for expanding a business as well as tapping new markets for their products. In addition, the women became aware of local government policies supporting women entrepreneurs which they could advocate for in their respective provinces.

In the third pillar which is on increasing access to justice for women including awareness on human rights, GEP II's support in publication of Herat's Department of Women's Affairs magazine called *Aroj* contained articles on gender equality and gender related issues. 1,500 copies were disseminated at the provincial and district level and effectively used as an advocacy material through out the province.

Understanding of women's rights in Islam and gender equality is also exponentially increased through religious leaders who received training through the project. After the training, some *mullas* began advocating and teaching about women's rights and gender equality during Friday prayers and in the *madrassa* (religious schools).

The third quarter was a productive period for the project. GEP II expanded its geographical coverage to 10 provinces as targeted. Activities were initiated in Daikundi, Helmand, Laghman and Parwan in addition to the 6 provinces where GEP II already has considerable presence. Engagement with government agencies at national and sub-national level, civil society organizations and other donor-funded projects also played key role in the success of the project activities. In its efforts to advance the status of women and promote gender equality, GEP II delivered tangible results during this reporting period.

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 in 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 a 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 also 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 building a Master's degree program on Development and Gender Studies will build a sustainable cadre of gender specialists in Afghanistan in the long-term.

For Pillar 1, the following presents the results achieved for the third quarter of 2014.

Indicator 1: Number of gender policies or strategies reviewed by inter-ministerial task force and gender components included

GEP II continues to assist the Women's Policy Development Directorate (WPDD) of MoWA to support line ministries in reviewing their policies from a gender perspective. Short policy review and awareness sessions were held with the LM to help them assess and improve their respective policies in regard to the gender equality. As a result, MoWA developed recommendations for gendering the 12 policies that it has reviewed from 8 line ministries (For more details, please see Table 1). Next steps will focus on mainstreaming gender component into these 12 policies using the recommendations and gender issues identified.

The toolkit for policy review is developed through a participatory and ministry led approach to ensure institutionalization and sustainability of policy review and development from a gender perspective. This toolkit, is a work in progress and feedback was generated by WPDD from representatives of its various departments including MoWA's two Deputy Ministers to ensure development of an effective and context specific mechanism for policy reviews so that in the run the ministry can lead the process with less reliance on UNDP. As a result of the feedback exercise, a booklet of definitions for basic gender terms and concepts was developed by GEP II. The toolkit was also further simplified.

Worth noting that towards the middle of the year, is that a completely new staff in WPDD came on board. The new WPDD Director, national adviser and three gender trainers received intensive mentorship and coaching sessions almost on daily basis using the policy review toolkit. These sessions developed their capacity and confidence to lead policy reviews with

line ministries. With the support of AREU, orientation and hands on training were immediately provided to new staff.

WPPD’s new staffs were quick to learn so much so that directorates responsible for policy formulation in some Ministries ¹ requested for more intense interaction with WPDD staff as they wanted all of those involved in the policy development to be exposed, oriented and learn how to make policies gender-sensitive. This demonstrates the increasing confidence of line ministries in MoWA’s role as a leading government agency in policy reviews from a gender perspective.



Meeting with IDLG, explaining policy review toolkit
Photo Credit, WPDD, MoWA

Meanwhile, in the next quarter, MoWA is ready to launch the toolkit as well as hold a major policy review workshop with the line ministries. This event was on hold since the 2nd quarter due to the elections but the delay has allowed MoWA more time to prepare and familiarize itself in running the review process. Table 1 below presents the list of policies under review by WPDD:

Table 1: List of Policies being reviewed and recommendations by Women’s Policy Development Directorate

Ministry	Title of Policy Under Review	Gender issues identified	Recommendations
MoPH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health, National HIV and AIDS Policy. 2. MoPH, “National Infant and Young Child (IYCF) Policy and Strategy” (Kabul: MoPH, 2009) 3. Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Public Health, “National Policy and Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery Services (2011 - 2015).” 4. Ministry of Public Health, “National Public Nutrition Policy & Strategy 1388 – 1392 (2009-2013)” (Kabul: Ministry of Public Health, 2010). 5. National Policy and Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies have specific statements on support to gender equality and mainstreaming but data presented are not sex-disaggregated to inform specific activities that would translate the policies into actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though HIV/AIDS were found mostly in men, the potential needs of women on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention must be included in the policy • Strategies have to be defined and activities determined with gender indicators and sex-disaggregated data • The policy on infant and young child should always consider the condition of women and consider several aspects of women’s life like level of education, household resources available, mobility and participation in decision making

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

	on Healthcare Financing & Sustainability; Ministry of Public Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the policy for healthcare, sex-disaggregated data about nutrition situation of Afghan men, women, boys and girls should be included to determine who needs more attention in terms of nutrition
MRRD	6. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, "Draft Gender Policy," Kabul, Afghanistan: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRRD could pass a model in mainstreaming gender but the time frame for realization of gender indicators in the strategy are not clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy must specify how raising the number of interns to 50% can be realized given that very few women specialize in the fields of engineering, agriculture and economics, which the ministry demands Since the ministry's work is in the rural areas, programme level strategies on dealing with community dynamics and concerns towards women's movement and participation in community based reforms should have been developed
IDLG	7. Independent Directorate of Local Governance. <i>IDLG Policy Book</i> , Kabul: Independent Directorate of Local Governance, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The allocation of seats to women in the different levels of government is not clear and there must be specific procedures on selection and number of seats given to each party Specific roles of village leaders at the municipal and district levels in terms of ensuring gender equality between men and women in their specific area could be made more explicit in order to harness the influential role of village leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDLG must assess its contribution in attaining the NAPWA key indicators under Leadership and political participation Since IDLG recognizes leadership of non-formal leaders, it can discuss with them matters on gender equality and women empowerment
MoF	8. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Finance, Strategic Plan, 1399-1392 (2009 - 2013/2014) (Kabul, Ministry of Finance, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no specific mention on how aid is allocated especially for women There is no method or scheme upon which 30% of the aid has to be allocated for betterment of Afghan women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aid management and strategic plan needs to be explicit on how gender can be mainstreamed especially in budget allocation
MoHRA	9. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Religious Affairs Sector Strategy 1387 – 1391 (2007/08 – 2012/13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite all the emphasis on the importance of the role the religious sector in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy could be explicit on how it will tap the religious scholars in addressing gender

		Afghan Compact, ANDS and NAPWA, the ministry's strategy is gender blind	<p>inequalities for instance in creating a pool of clerics to address gender issues and influence a change in perspective by introducing positive social change in activities permitted in Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the inclusion of women in the expression of faith by allocating spaces that they could pray in mosques and takyas
MoCN	10. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Counter Narcotics, National Drug Demand Reduction Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No data was presented on the number of women and girls who are into drugs or use sleeping pills. For instance most mothers in the villages either working in their homes or businesses are inducing drugs to their babies and kids to sleep so as not to disturb them in their work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex-disaggregated data must be used and a clear strategy for precautionary measure or treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts
MAIL	11. Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), (Kabul, MAIL, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgets as presented in the strategy have no particular mention of women and men and ignored the role and responsibilities of women and men in agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender mainstreaming strategy is fully covered in all areas but a coordination of MAIL with other ministries for betterment of gender related issues could yield positive results
MoHE	12. National Higher Education Strategic Plan: 2010 -2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its vision and mission strongly emphasize equitable access to higher education but a closer look t the indicators revel the gaps between strategy and reality. For instance, MoHE is committed to making affirmative action plan in order to increase women faculty members but in 2008, only 16% were women and in 2012, this declined to only 14%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy has to have specific success indicators of its goals.

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

GEP II achieved a milestone this quarter in regard to strengthening the capacity of MoWA in monitoring the implementation of NAPWA indicators. It was reported in the previous quarter that in close collaboration with the MoWA's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, a comprehensive and harmonized NAPWA monitoring framework was developed. This harmonized framework was further refined during this quarter through internal consultations within the ministry and led by the M&E Unit themselves. In effect, MoWA's M&E framework now consists of indicators that are aligned and consistent not only with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), National Priority Programmes (NPP) and international commitments on gender but also is based on best practices on results based management. Moreover, the M&E Unit, though it is a small unit composed of 4 staff and a national advisor is now capacitated and is in the position to present the harmonized framework to MoWA's key stakeholders who are mainly the line ministries as well as MoWA's key implementing partners.

As the foundation for sound M&E is being built, GEP II is also supporting MoWA to work with the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (MICT) to establish a database for storing, analyzing and reporting data. Tri-partite meetings were held between MoWA, MICT and GEP II including the database developer identified by MICT to discuss the initial design of the database. A Letter of Agreement between the project and MICT will be finalized in October to facilitate the establishment of the monitoring database. The M&E Unit of MoWA will be responsible to collect, validate, analyze and draft the NAPWA implementation report while MICT will be responsible for maintaining and hosting the database. This would ensure the sustainability of the system.

GEP II will be working in the next quarter to finalize the Harmonized Framework for Monitoring NAPWA indicators in order to roll it out to line ministries. The project will also provide trainings to the gender units of line ministries on how to collect and report on their respective indicators.

While the goal of the activity is to pilot M&E of NAPWA, this is not possible to achieve as yet until the foundation for the system, which is finalization and endorsement of improved and harmonized NAPWA indicators by MoWA and key government stakeholders who report against these indicators. Admittedly, this process has been slow and may result to GEP not achieving its target for the year. However, the MoWA also agrees that is imperative to establish a solid monitoring framework first that is owned and understood by MoWA.

In the meantime, at the sub-national level, in the provinces of Herat, Laghman and Nangarhar, GEP II worked closely with the respective Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) to assist the ministry in monitoring NAPWA once the revised NAPWA indicators framework is ready to be implemented. The project designed trainings for DoWA staff to deliver their day-to-day functions effectively as well as support MoWA's oversight capacity on monitoring NAPWA indicators at the local level.

1.3. Number of line ministries that have functional Gender Units

In the previous quarter, the project conducted a rapid assessment of the most immediate and basic needs of the gender units of nine line ministries.² Particularly, the Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs and Ministry of Information and Culture do not have even the basic equipment such as computers and tables. These logistical needs are being addressed this quarter and needed equipment will be delivered by fourth quarter.

But the more important issue to address is the capacity of Gender Units in pushing for gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting. To this end, the project developed a Terms of Reference for an international consultant to provide extensive technical assistance to enable gender units to fulfil their functions in gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting. The process of recruitment of the consultant is underway as of this reporting period. The key results expected from this consultancy are the following: testimonial

- Build the capacity of Gender Units and Budget Units on gender mainstreaming.
- Strengthen the functionality of Gender Units
- Practical support to Gender Units to review their sector policies, plans, strategies, programmes, monitoring plans and budgets and mainstream gender
- Develop actionable annual work plan for gender units using participatory methodologies

In regard to this particular indicator, progress has been very slow and delayed due to the fact that the technical specialist supporting Pillar 1 departed and the annual work plan approval was also delayed. About half of the year was lost and the project was only able to initiate the rapid assessment of the needs of gender units towards the end of the second quarter. With the arrival of GEP II's new project manager in the third quarter, the much-needed technical direction for this component came but this will still mean that delivery or results will only come into fruition by early next year.

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

The Strategic Plan has been completely translated in the third quarter and is ready for final review and launch by MoF. However, due to the shortage of staff at MoF and the hectic budget hearing process they have not managed to review the document, hence the launch is postponed to 4th quarter.

It is expected that with the formal launch of the strategy by MoF during the fourth quarter, the pilot line ministries will immediately adopt the strategy since GEP II is already laying the groundwork in terms of implementation of the plan through the GRB Training of Trainers.

In this reporting period, GEP II through its partner civil society organization namely Equality for Peace and Development (EPD), completed the assessment of pilot ministries comprehension of Gender Responsive Budgeting.³ The assessment concluded the following:

² MoPH, MoHE, MoIC, MoJ, MRRD, MAIL, MoHRA, IDLG, MoCN

³ Besides MoWA and MOF, the following pilot ministries were assessed: 1) Ministry of Public Health, 2) Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, 3) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock 4) Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled 5) Ministry of Higher Education, and 6) Ministry of Education.

- Some Officers across pilot ministries have attended training programmes on gender sensitization and not necessarily on GRB. It has been observed that the definition of Gender has been memorized by some of the officers as an output of role learning. The concept in detail is not understood even by the Gender Units. It has been observed that the concept of gender equality cannot easily be applied to the work and attitudes of ministry staff.
- The Finance Department and the Planning and Policy units function in silos and believe that gender mainstreaming is taken care of. Budget Circular 2 is the only tool that is perceived also as a tool for GRB.
- As GRB has been adopted as a tool, Ministries agree that it is required to be strengthened. They requested for GRB trainings with focus on 'how to integrate gender concerns' in the budget. However, GRB trainings resulting in gendered plan and budgets will be realized if sector specific trainings based on research is imparted.
- Some ministries have prepared their sector specific Strategy Plans, but positioning of gender in such documents have consciously not been adopted. The phrase 'gender is a cross cutting issue' dominates the perception of the officers and the general understanding is that enough is being done for gender. The only constraint identified is the lack of funds from the Ministry of Finance under Development Projects.
- Gender units as they currently exist are not fully functioning units, and have weak coordination with other units. The composition, aims/objectives and TORs are still emerging and not clear in most of the Ministries. GRB Training for Gender unit is extremely crucial, but their responsibility in the budget cycle has to be fixed.
- Performance measurement of programs does not necessarily include gender indicators.
- GRB has to be pursued under the overall socio-cultural context of Afghanistan. Prior to GRB, gender has to be actually positioned in the Parliament and Cabinet Committee.

On the basis of these findings, a customized Training of Trainers will be conducted in October and will include an action planning component to ensure that GRB is applied in respective ministries. GEP II also initiated linkages with UNDP Morocco and UN Women Egypt where GRB is a best practice in order to bring Afghan delegation for a hands-on training either these countries. Thus far, UN Women in Egypt expressed its willingness to assist GEP II on this effort. In this regard, Terms of Reference for a learning exchange programme was developed this quarter as well as for an international GRB consultant to reinforce the formal GRB trainings by providing expert technical support to MoF and line ministries to apply GRB principles in the budgeting processes itself.

Meanwhile, GEP II also assisted the Ministry of Finance in the recruitment process for a national GRB Officer who will support the ministry full time particularly in assisting the ministry in conducting gender analysis of budgets submitted by line ministries.

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

Gender trainings have not been conducted this quarter as the project prepares for national symposium on the impact of the gender awareness raising trainings delivered by the Gender Studies Institute. The concept note for this event was developed and approved in September and the symposium will be held between October and November 2014. The event will bring

together representatives from the academia, student body, and representatives from government and civil society. This will result to an exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices and the impact of the trainings given by the Gender Studies Institute. This event is also expected to generate recommendations and expectations for the Master's Degree on Gender and Development Studies.

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

Since the beginning of the year, GEP II has been attempting to initiate partnerships with universities abroad to establish the master's degree on gender and development studies at Kabul University. Unfortunately the partnership with Middle Eastern Technical University in Ankara, Turkey did not materialize due to logistical issues. The project has since then explored other options and with the support of UNDP Cross-Practice Unit, partnership with Korean institutions is being considered. Kabul University is being supported to partner with three universities in South Korea: EWA Women's University, Korean Women's Development Institute and Korean Institute for Gender Equality.

Kabul University drafted the outline of a curriculum for the master's degree programme and GEP II initiated a process to recruit an international consultant to develop the curriculum on gender and development as well as the proposal to have the programme approved. It is expected that with this support, international best practices in gender and development studies will be brought to the fore and contextualized to Afghanistan's Islamic setting.

To support gender studies, Gender Resource Centre was established at Kabul University. Several authorities including International Development Law Organization (IDLO), MoWA, MoHRA, AREU, Asia Foundation- resource centre donated books to this center that will be inaugurated in the month of October. A total of 1,500 books were received so far. The project also allocated funds for purchase of more books.

In the coming quarter, GEP II will also support the provincial universities to establish Gender Studies Resource Centres.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During third quarter USD 562,701 were spent under this output. For more detail please see the Annex II.

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

Table 2: Progress towards Output 1

2014 Baseline	2014 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Q3 Planned	Q3 Actual	Comments
1.1. Review of the policies of 8 Line Ministries has been completed in 2013. No inter-ministerial structure exists. No gender policy strategies developed.	1.1a. Inter-ministerial task force established and operational. 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 have a schedule to review national & sub-national strategies and implementation plans	Initiated meetings 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	1.1 Inter-ministerial task force piloted on the policy review for Ministry of Counter Narcotics	1.1 Inter-ministerial task force reviews 2 policies (national or sub-national) and public platform created to ensure that women activists from provinces participate in different policy review discussion (roundtable discussions, conferences...)	1.1 Inter-ministerial task force remains at pilot level in only one ministry but MoWA continues to review policies bilaterally with respective ministries	Of f-Track This indicator will not be achieved in this year as MoWA's Women's and Planning and Policy Directorate had a change of leadership and current staff has the capacity to review policies from gender perspective but not to lead an inter-ministerial group

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 contracted 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	1.2 Completed draft framework for harmonizing NAPWA indicators	1.2 Three line ministries are systematically collecting, analyzing, and reporting NAPWA indicators to MoWA	1.2 Harmonized M&E Framework and NAPWA indicators now owned by MoWA's M&E Unit and it is in the position to engage line ministries for review and endorsement of the indicators	Off Track Supporting M&E systems in pilot ministries cannot be supported until the improved and harmonized M&E framework for NAPWA is approved and endorsed by MoWA
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	1.3 Completed needs assessment of Gender Units of 9 line ministries	1.3 Facilitate access to learning opportunities available in Kabul (Civil Service Commission, other UN Agencies) through organization of workshops, seminars and trainings	T1.3 Terms of references for international training for Gender Units staff has been prepared Recruitment of international consultant to support Gender Units is also in progress	On track On track for the target for the quarter but off track on the overall target of strengthening Gender Units due to delay in approval of AWP and departure of technical specialist supporting Pillar 1.

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	1.4 Strategic Plan is finalized and will be launched in the next quarter where an action plan will also be developed.	1.4. Prepare Capacity Development Plan including gender mainstreaming and monitoring in selected line ministries	1.4 Completed desk review of guidelines, policies and GRB schemes of 6 pilot ministries	1.4 Two ministries have implemented its strategic plan on gender responsive budgeting	1.4 Completed capacity assessment of 6 line ministries and design of GRB Training of Training in India completed	On track
1.5(a) Initial meeting held between Kabul University and Middle Eastern University in Ankara, Turkey for the establishment of Masters' degree program. MoU is in progress	1.5a. Policy Paper and Action Plan for implementation of Master's Degree completed	1.5a. MoU has been signed to initiate the work on the Master's degree program	1.5a. Received the comments on MoU from KU, MoHE and MoWA and waiting for the response from METU to finalize the MoU	1.5a. Delivered gender awareness trainings for 4 faculties of KU and Regional Universities at the target regions of the project	1.5a Conducted four virtual meetings with METU and UNDP-Turkey address partnership issues	1.5a. Delivered gender awareness trainings for 4 faculties of KU Regional Universities at the target regions of the project	1.5a Terms of Reference for international consultant to support development of institutional gender policy and review of Master's Degree curricula completed	On-track
1.5 (b). Twelve GSI trainings have been conducted for Kabul University	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	1.6. Delivered gender awareness trainings for 4 faculties of KU and Regional Universities at the target regions of the project	1.5b 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.	1.5b Policy paper accepted by MoWA and framework for the initiation of Master's Degree Program	1.5b Completed training for 47 students (25 male and 22 female) students of Public Administration Faculty of Kabul University	1.5b Organized four national and one international seminars, symposiums, workshops and meetings as part of technical assistance to GSI Working Group	1.5b Preparation for symposium on impact of GSI in progress	On- track

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 labour 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 province 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 also supports the establishment of Provincial Women's Development Councils (PWDC). PWDCs 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 solutions.

Meanwhile, within this pillar partnership is established with institutions like Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development (AREDP), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to upscale micro projects to small and medium scale enterprises. With AREDP particularly, GEP II is working towards formalizing the partnership through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) whereby AREDP will help GEP II identify and provide assistance to rural women enterprises that are eligible for further training and support to enable them to advance and expand their micro-enterprises into small or medium scale enterprises.

What follows are the achievements in the third quarter of 2014 under GEP II's economic empowerment pillar.

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

GEP II supports income generation activities contributing to women's economic empowerment. With support from the project, women have established small scale businesses in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and Nangarhar. In Balkh, women beneficiaries have started agricultural enterprises through saffron cultivation after receiving tools from GEP II. Farming equipment were distributed comprising of 15 shovels, 15 hoes, 15 pickaxes, 7 wheelbarrows, 15 forks, 15 weeding tools, 15 glass bottles, 15 pairs of gloves and 1 measuring tape. With this farming equipment, women saffron cultivators will be able to increase their farming efficiency and production levels.

GEP II also commissioned a baseline study on women's existing economic situation in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and Nangarhar with the aim of understanding the policies, programmes and projects on women's economic empowerment, assess the women's access to markets, mapping of institutions supporting women income generation activities

and undertaking a situation analysis of the challenges faced by women to access economic opportunities and assets.

Key findings of the study are the following:

- In all four provinces, an overwhelming majority (70%) of women run-small scale businesses in handicrafts, embroidery and carpet weaving
- Limited mobility of women outside of their home and limited access to capital and technology are the main reasons for the high ratio of home-based industries
- Most women-owned and managed business are unregistered with the exception of Bamyan
- Women entrepreneurs average income is AFN 20,000 – AFN 80,000
- Majority of the businesswomen believed that education and some basic computer and internet knowledge could help them reach out to new customers and update their designs
- Despite existence of multiple financial institutions in the four provinces, business women rarely obtain or apply for micro-credit
- Women's empowerment strategies emphasized supply side without clear understanding of product demand and market competition
- Regional competition from products of neighbouring countries poses a challenge to business women
- Poor business planning skills and dependence on donor support limits the potential of women to expand their business but community savings groups were an enabling factor

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the link between production and market. Business associations can be supported to conduct market demand
- Trainings on marketing, packaging and product quality should be tailor-made to women's literacy level
- National and international exhibitions are good opportunity for marketing business women's products but they should be given proper orientation for them to harness the full potential of this opportunity
- Increase women's access to property by providing incentives such as charging lower taxes on women-owned property
- Provide access to small interest free loans so that women entrepreneurs can expand and improve their products
- Invest on literacy programs to equip women to make the most of existing business opportunities
- Encourage learning from successful businesswomen who can be role models
- Advocate for implementation of all women related commitments
- Easing ID card registration for women to enable them to register their businesses

In regard to green technology based income generating activities, GEP II is collaborating with the Sustainable Development Unit of country office. By utilizing the expertise of the mentioned unit of the UNDP country office, the project will fund the green technology related interventions in the target provinces. The discussion this quarter is still around terms of

partnership between the project and SDU so that by next quarter at least one green technology project can be implemented.

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

During this reporting period, the project increased the knowledge of women entrepreneurs on better managing their businesses as well as expanded their market potential.

"I was surprised to see the huge support that the government agencies of Balkh Province are providing to business women. Such support have not been provided to such an extent to women in Herat"

Lila Samani

Businesswoman from Herat participating in the Exposure visit to Balkh

Training modules for business development were prepared with technical support of MoEc, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and Economic Directorate of Women's Affairs. 105 women were trained for two months using these training modules.

Exposure visits among the four provinces of Bamyan, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar arranged by GEP II, in collaboration with NGO partners, gave more than 50 women the opportunity to learn from each other and witness first-hand the differences and similarities in their local economic environment in terms of local government policy support to women, quality of products, and marketing strategies. GEP II is also linking businesswomen from Bamyan and Herat by assisting them to prepare an exhibit of their products in Kabul in October. The project helped identify buyers and select marketable products for exhibit such as jewellery, handicrafts, dried food, garments. This event has the potential of increasing income of women entrepreneurs by 30% to 50%. In Balkh, a one-day sharing event by 5 women who went to Kyrgyzstan (2 women), Pakistan (2 women) and Tajikistan (1 woman) proved to be very informative to more than 20 other women who did not participate in the learning events abroad. The main lessons that they imparted to their fellow women entrepreneurs are the following:



Balkh women entrepreneurs experience sharing event who attended exposure visits to Kyrgyzstan, photo credit Fatima Ahmadi, Project assistant, Balkh.

- Literacy plays an important role
- Long term vision for business is possible even with low capital and income at the start-up
- Government support to women economic activities through financial institutions and policies boosts business expansion
- Broad participation of women in economic growth and development was highly visible

One of the clear examples of the impact of the entrepreneurship trainings is Azima. She is one of the 25 women of Nangarhar province who received the entrepreneurship training in April 2014, to further develop their businesses. Since then, Azima applied what she has learned which made her gain new customers in her embroidery business in Jalalabad, Nangarhar. Currently she employs 45 women embroiders, 30 of whom work at her house and 15 work from their own homes. Azima revealed that her monthly income almost doubled from 25,000 Afghani to 40,000 Afghani, as a result of the training she received. She said, "GEP has helped me with experience sharing and with market analysis based on which I now work on different types of fabric and can sell more."

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

Establishment of ICT Centers at the regional level is one GEP II's approach to empower women economically because it increases their potential for employment. Women and girls have more limited access to technology than boys and men. These centers are designed to cater to women and girls as the center will either be located at DoWA offices or regional universities. Through GEP II's advocacy efforts with DoWA and regional universities, six ICT centers – 2 in Herat and one each in the provinces of Balkh, Bamyan, Helmand, and Nangarhar will be established. ICT centers were to be launched by this quarter but due to delays in procurement of computer equipment this is delayed until the 4th quarter. Using the MoWA-based CISCO Networking Academy curriculum as a model, the regional ICT centres stand to benefit thousands of women and girls in each province once these become functional. In Herat alone, an estimated 5,000 female students will be benefiting at the Herat University. Currently, there are 108 women enrolled in the CISCO Networking Academy in Kabul.

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

In the previous quarter, we have reported that cooperative management training benefited 110 women entrepreneurs and that inter-province exposure visits established market linkages among the participants as well as increased income of cooperative members. This quarter, resulting from training and mentoring provided by GEP II, Two cooperatives (Jewellery making and Silk production in Herat) and one cooperative (Saffron Cultivation) in Balkh province emerged as models for up-scaling support as production and demonstration centres. In the coming months, the project will be supporting the establishment of jewellery and silk garment production centres in Herat, confectionery centre in Bamyan, pickle making centre in Nangarhar and production of jam and vegetable pickle in Balkh. In Balkh for instance, GEP II established that women cooperatives make a net profit of at least 1,500 Afghanis weekly and if they receive additional support from GEP II in terms of business development packages, these centres are expected to increase income of women cooperative members by at least 50%.

In supporting women-managed cooperatives, GEP II at national and regional offices established active partnerships with several government institutions namely the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and

the Afghanistan Investment Service Agency (AISA). As a result, these organizations were tapped as resource institutions during the training for women entrepreneurs. For instance, AISA representatives came to speak about the process of registering businesses so that women can access loans from the bank in order to infuse capital into their business. Exhibit of products by cooperatives are planned for the 4th quarter in Kabul and in the regions and these will be conducted in partnership with these agencies.

2.4. Number of new PWDCs functional in targeted areas

Provincial Women's Development Councils are envisaged by GEP II as focal points for coordinating initiatives that address the needs of both women and men and to transcend institutional and societal barriers preventing women from fully exploring their development potential. With the support of GEP II, PWDCs are now operating in the provinces of Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and Nangarhar. The active participation of PWDC in identifying activities enhancing women's participation have helped the project develop concept notes identified in the earlier parts of this report. The PWDCs play a key role in identifying women and girls as project beneficiaries. Moreover, PWDCs have given women a chance to exercise leadership roles.



Establishment of PWDC in Diakundi
Photo credit Habibullah Matin, project Associate,
Bamyan Regional office.

In the third quarter, the project also initiated the establishment of PWDC in three additional provinces namely: Daikundi, Helmand and Laghman. This will bring the total of provinces receiving GEP II support to 11 provinces for this quarter, Kabul included.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During third quarter USD 392,643 were spent under this output. For more detail please see the Annex II,

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

Table 3: Progress towards Output 2

2014 Baseline	2014 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Q3 Planned	Q3 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	2.1 Finalized inception report from the contracted NGO and payment will be released to conduct the base-line survey after approval of AWP-2014	2.1 Three IGAs implemented in target provinces	2.1 Two income generation activities on-going in Balkh	2.1 Four IGAs implemented in target provinces	2.1 Income generation activities in Balkh continuing but	Off-track Concept notes for Income generation activities (15 proposals) are approved but implementation is delayed due to procurement issues
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	2.2 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	2.2 BDS training provided to 110 women entrepreneurs and two women-owned enterprises provides support	2.2. Provide trainings to girls on ICT/English language to increase employability skills through the CISCO Academy	2.2 Procurement of equipment and materials for ICT centres in progress	Off-track Target on launching ICT centres in provinces delayed due to procurement issues

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	2.3.Complete capacity assessment of existing coops and develop plans based on the assessment and conduct one exposure visit for the women	2.3 Finalized the inception report of the contracted NGOs responsible for the capacity building of women managed coop. The actual implementation	2.3. Strengthened the capacity of three existing coops through increased technical training on coops management for improved	2.3 Completed capacity assessment but delivering trainings to cooperatives due to problem in accessing information from	2.3. Strengthened the capacity of three existing coops through increased technical training on coops management for improved institutional and	2.3 Women's cooperatives that received training in cooperative management and demonstrated improvement in management have been identified for	On-track
	beneficiaries)	entrepreneurs and women coop. members	will be initiated after the release of first instalment after the approval of AWP-201	institutional and individual capacity development through UNITAR and other organisations	Ministry of Economy	individual capacity development through UNITAR and other organisations	further support in management of production centres	
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)	2.4 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	2.4 Provided limited support to PWDCs in 3 regions except Balkh	2.7. Established 6 new PWDCs in the selected new provinces of the project and conduct 2 meetings in each province	2.4 initiated the establishment of PWDCs in 3 provinces and introductory meetings held in expansion provinces	On-track

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 work at universities.

In GEP II target provinces, Legal Help Centres that provide referral support, counselling 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 Centres 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, hotline services where victims or their relatives can report cases also receive a significant technical and financial support and guidance from GEP II. The hotline service is planned to be connected with the LHCs to be able to provide support for women in need of legal help or counselling or mediation.



Interviewing LHCs employees in Bamyan
Photo Credit Habibullah Matin, Project Associate, Bamyan Regional Office

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

Knowledge of women and girls' rights and gender equality continue to spread through activities supported by GEP II. In Herat province, 1500 copies of DoWA magazine, *Aroj*, were published with the technical assistance from the project. *Aroj* is a powerful awareness-raising tool for DoWA and is one of its effective communication channels for sensitizing communities and other organizations on gender issues. Since the magazine was printed to commemorate Afghanistan's Independence Day, the publication highlighted the significant

role played by Afghan women for the country's independence. The publication was widely appreciated by the provincial government and reached up to the district level.

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

During this reporting period, GEP II worked to ensure sustainability of the Legal Help Centres by working to get MoWA's approval to include the LHC staff in the National Technical Advisors (NTA) positions funded by the project. It is envisaged that eventually, these positions will be transitioned as part of the government *tashkeel* (organizational structure). In each LHC, there will be a manager and 2 paralegals. GEP II worked collaboratively with DoWA at the regional level where they identified qualified individuals for these posts after which a merit based recruitment process will be initiated.

At present, LHC staff are all volunteers and service delivery is not standardized and of highest quality. With a regular paid staff, within the government salary structure will assure the institutionalization and sustainability of the LHCs.

Nonetheless, LHC continue to operate and deliver services despite the voluntary nature of the service providers.

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

In Afghanistan, *mullah* (religious leaders) play an influential role in advocating for women's rights and positively influencing perceptions about public and private roles of women in society and decreasing cases of gender based violence. In partnership with DoHRA and DoWA, a total of 100 religious leaders in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh and Jalalabad, Nangarhar received training on "Women's Rights in Islam and Civil Laws of Afghanistan". 10 Master Trainers for each province were subsequently identified where they will continue to spread what they have learned to the local community. In fact, one of the *mullah* trained in Bamyan already included women's rights in his Friday sermons and in the madrassa.

"I used to only allow for boys' education, but now allow my daughters to provide Islamic education to girls in the community"

*Mawlawi Mohammad Masoom,
One of the beneficiaries of mullah training programme in
Balkh*

In the following quarter, 350 more *mullahs* are expected to advocate for women's rights as more trainings will be delivered in Bamyan and Herat. A conference is also being planned in Kabul representing all 34 provinces to reflect on the impact of the trainings and review the curriculum.



Mullah's training in Balkh Province, photo credit Hadi Arghand, Project Associate, Balkh Regional Office

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

In line with UN security resolution 1325 and in consistency with priorities defined in the Global and UNDP Afghanistan Gender Equality Strategy focusing on support to women's leadership and participation in local governance, conflict mitigation, mediation and peace-building GEP II completed the process of developing a training programme to address problems and obstacles hindering women's engagement in decision making and their effectiveness to act as leaders. The programme is designed to equip women leaders with special knowledge and skills that would enable them to meaningfully participate in different decision making fora and influence the outcome documents/decisions of those meetings. This would enhance the decision making power of women leaders by strengthening their solidarity and cohesion, enabling them to promote and sustain the results gained through influence on decisions, and contributing to positive changes on the image of women leaders in the society.

This programme will commence in October 2014 in Kabul City where members of the N-PEACE network – comprising of 30 women leaders, representing Provincial Peace Councils, provincial government, and civil society organizations and representatives of Provincial Councils and Provincial Governments are the participants.

In addition, GEP II also began the preparatory work for supporting the participation of Afghan women peace leaders the annual regional meeting of N-PEACE. The delegation will be led by in N-Peace Awardee Ms. Masooda Karokhi. This program will take place on 23-24 of October in Bangkok, Thailand and Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs will send their representatives. This event supports women's leadership for conflict prevention, resolution and peace building and promotes implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During third quarter USD 237,591 were spent under this output. For more detail please see the Annex II.

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

Table 4: Progress towards Output 3

2014 Baseline	2014 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Q2 Planned	Q2 Actual	Q3 Planned	Q3 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	Women Int. 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	3.1 Completed 3 awareness raising events – 2 at the national level and 1 at the regional level	3.1. Organized 3 training and awareness raising sessions in each target province for women groups to increase demand for rights and justice	3.1 Supported various advocacy campaigns in the regions including publication of DoWA magazine in Herat where 1,500 were distributed	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. The actual implementation will be started with the approval of AWP to release the funds.	3.2. Cumulative total of 1,200 cases resolved by LHCs	3.1 Assessment completed and preliminary report submitted by NGO partner	3.2 Cumulative total of 1,500 cases resolved by LHCs	No available data	Off-track No data was collected during this period GEP II is working out a structure so that LHC volunteer staff could be paid and eventually be part of government tashkeel

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/Madrassas on the women's rights and gender equality by organizing quiz competition.	3.3. 500 religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights	3.3 16 cadres from various line ministries were granted scholarships to pursue Master in Legislative Law, Public Law and Gender	3.3. 1000 religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights	3.3 100 religious leaders (direct beneficiaries)were trained in this quarter	On track
3.4. Number of regional Peace and Security dialogues to enhance women and youth participation in policy formulation and consensus building for peace dialogue	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	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	No –Achieved – However, next quarter this will be implemented.	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	3.4 Supported the N-PEACE award ceremony	3.4. Five Regional dialogues organized with the lead of DoWAs to involve women and youth at the community level and women at the provincial Councils	3.4 Leadership training for women developed and to be conducted in the next quarter Women peace activists including N-PEACE awardee to be supported to attend Annual Peace Conference in Bangkok	On track

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 actively pursues partnership with international development agencies, key government and civil society organizations as well as UNDP projects.

In Pillar 1, AREU is a key partner in providing assistance to MoWA on the policy reviews while (Equality for Peace and Development (EPD) is a partner with MoF on gender responsive budgeting. GEP II also actively engages with Kabul University on the institutionalization of the Master's Degree Programme on Gender and Development Studies. Kabul University has taken ownership of the process and takes a leadership role with GEP II providing the technical support such as identifying international experts needed to help develop the programme.

In Pillar 2, partnership is present both at national and sub-national level. GEP II engages MRRD, MoEC, and MAIL in designing and implementing activities such as in product exhibits for women entrepreneurs and identification of areas where rural women enterprises could be supported. These ministries including the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and the Afghanistan Investment Service Agency are also tapped at the local level to provide their expertise during entrepreneurship trainings. Civil society organizations such as AFAD and SSSPO are the key implementing partners in delivering business development service packages to women owned and managed businesses.

In Pillar 3, besides the Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs being a major partner in many of GEP II activities, the project revived the Women's Rights Steering Committee, which was started in the first phase of the project. The committee is composed of GEP, MoWA, MOHRA and Association of Madrassas to create awareness on women human rights in the community

At the sub-national level GEP II collaborates not only with other UN agencies but also with UNDP projects namely, the Afghanistan Sub-National Governance Project and the National Area-Based Development Project. Departments of Economy, Agriculture and Economy also actively participate in project proposal development.

Cognizant of the fact that duplication of efforts is possible unless there is coordination. At the national level, the project coordinates its efforts with other UN agencies particularly with UN Women. In implementing its activities, GEP II also taps on the support of other UNDP projects namely JHRA, ASGP, and NABDP to fully maximize efforts.

V. ISSUES

Slow procurement process continues to hinder timely delivery of project activities. Some activities that have been planned and approved even as far back as 2013 such as the launch of ICT centres in Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat and Nangarhar are still pending. The project is mitigating this issue by proposing additional procurement staff to support the project's increasing demand for procurement services.

VI. RISKS

- **Security restrictions due to elections**

Security restrictions were faced since the first quarter continued until the third quarter due to the extended presidential election process. Several white city and grey city were declared both at national and sub-national levels during the election audit and inauguration of the new Afghan president. This caused movement restrictions and delay in implementing project activities (to conduct meetings and workshops).

VII. LESSONS LEARNED

GEP II is approaching its third and final year and guaranteeing sustainability entails a three-pronged approach. That is, building capacity of individual staff, systems and the institution as a whole. At the individual level, formal trainings have to be complemented with day-to-day interaction, mentoring and coaching by GEP II national and international staff to transfer knowledge and skills. GEP II assistance must begin to shift from staff training to developing systems and strengthening institutions by influencing policies that promote women's empowerment and gender equality. Knowledge products such as training manuals and practical handbooks and guidelines drawn from project best practices must now be developed.

From the international exposure visits for the women entrepreneurs, the main lessons learned are reiterated below as these are important points that GEP II will take into consideration in its support to income generating activities.

- Literacy plays an important role
- Long term vision for business is possible even with low capital and income at the start-up
- Government support to women economic activities through financial institutions and policies boosts business expansion
- Broad participation of women in economic growth and development was highly visible.

The masters' degree program for the relevant staff of MoWA and MoHRA is a basic long term awareness initiative and will result long lasting impact rather than conducting short term training programs.

VIII. FUTURE PLANS

Pillar 1:

- Partnership with MoWA M&E Unit and MoICT: Harmonized NAPWA indicators endorsed by MoWA and stakeholders; establishing database for NAPWA indicators
- Partnership with universities and women's institutions (Korea): Gender and Planning Units jointly trained in gender mainstreaming and GRB
- Implementation through NGO and partnership with UN Women Egypt: ToT on GRB; exchange program with Egypt's Ministry of Finance
- Partnership with Kabul University: Master's Degree curriculum fully developed; mainstreaming gender in university research; Gender Studies Resource Centre established in Kabul, Balkh, and Herat Universities

Pillar 2:

- Implementation through NGOs: Contract issued to 5 NGOs - baseline survey, establishment of enterprises, assessment of PWDC, and cooperatives capacity building
- Collaboration with DOWA and regional universities: Establish 6 ICT centres in 4 provinces and Kabul
- Collaboration with DOWA: Establish and strengthen PWDC in Daikundi and Laghman for the socio-economic empowerment of women
- Direct Implementation/payment with RC: Partnership with DOWA and Ministry of Agriculture Support to establish pilot production-cum demonstration Centres
- Collaboration with UNDP Sustainable Development Unit to establish clean and green technology in Bamyan

Pillar 3:

- Enhancing national and subnational awareness about rights of women and girls (legal capacity of MOWA is enhanced, campaign on ERAW is carried out)
- Establishing LHCs in five provinces including the new one in Helmand (access to justice is increased)
- Improving capacity of religious leaders to advocate for women's rights (women's right shall be advocated)
- Increasing women's participation in peace building (capacity of women to take part in peace formulation is increased)

IX. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL TABLE

Donor Iterim Report Jan- Sep 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	-	-	143,641	112,870	9,587	-	-	-	103,283
CIDA	2,337,108	2,337,108	1,034,551	(57,439)	1,245,118	-	-	758,048	487,070	5,169	1,400	-	-	480,501
Italy	813,898	813,898	186,699	-	627,199	-	-	138,718	488,481	73,394	-	-	-	415,087
Korea	11,000,000	3,800,000	-	-	3,800,000	4,000,000	-	1,820,163	5,979,838	69,187	-	3,200,000	-	5,910,651
Denmark	106,000	106,000	-	-	106,000	-	-	9,946	96,054	-	-	-	-	96,054
UNDP Core	3,219,294	2,019,294	2,019,294	-	(0)	1,200,000	-	968,374	231,626	29,079	324,004	-	-	(121,457)
Grand Total	17,700,766	9,300,766	3,208,499	(57,439)	6,034,828	5,200,000	-	3,838,889	7,395,939	186,416	325,404	3,200,000	-	6,884,119

Note:

i) The figures provided in the above statement are 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- Sep 2014

Annex 2. Expenses by Output

Project Output ID and Description	2014 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-June-2014)	Expenses (July-Sep 2014)	Total Expenses	Delivery Rate
Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA`s capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	2,431,716	687,145	562,701	1,249,846	
Sub-total Output 1	2,431,716	687,145	562,701	1,249,846	51%
Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women`s entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	1,796,075	492,117	392,643	884,760	
Sub-total Output 2	1,796,075	492,117	392,643	884,760	49%
Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women`s rights among men & women increased.	1,335,223	211,360	237,591	448,951	
Sub-total Output 3	1,335,223	211,360	237,591	448,951	34%
Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	1,609,092	713,129	542,204	1,255,332	
Sub-total Output 4	1,609,092	713,129	542,204	1,255,332	78%
Grand Total	7,172,105	2,103,751	1,735,139	3,838,889	54%

ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR

Donor Iterim Report Jan- Sep 2014

Annex 3. Expenses by Donor

Donor Name	Project Output ID and Description	2014 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-June -2014)	Expenses (July-Sep 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	136,096	7,545	143,641	
	Sub-Total	154,529	136,096	7,545	143,641	93%
CIDA	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA`s capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	379,850	161,833	79,258	241,091	
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women`s entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	506,110	227,530	54,944	282,474	
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women`s rights among men & women increased.	352,662	39,032	195,451	234,483	
	Sub-Total	1,238,622	428,394	329,653	758,047	61%
Italy	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA`s capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	635,513	98,679	40,039	138,718	
	Sub-Total	635,513	98,679	40,039	138,718	22%
Korea	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA`s capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	1,245,240	290,538	435,705	726,243	
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women`s entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	1,279,800	264,587	337,699	602,286	
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women`s rights among men & women increased.	956,880	163,406	39,850	203,256	
	Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	318,080	107,949	180,430	288,379	
	Sub-Total	3,800,000	826,479	993,684	1,820,163	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	8,070	9,947	
	Sub-Total	106,000	1,877	8,070	9,947	9%
UNDP	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA`s capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	-	-	154	154	
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women`s rights among men & women increased.	-	8,923	2,290	11,213	
	Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	1,237,442	603,303	353,704	957,007	
	Sub-Total	1,237,442	612,227	356,148	968,374	78%
	Grand Total	7,172,105	2,103,751	1,735,138	3,838,889	54%

ANNEX 4: ISSUE LOG

#	DESCRIPTION	DATE IDENTIFIED	IMPACT/PRIORITY	COUNTERMEASURE/MNGT RESPONSE	OWNER	STATUS
1	Slow procurement process continues to hinder timely delivery of project activities.	01/01/14 to 30/03/14	I = 5 P = 5	Bottlenecks have been identified and additional staff for operations unit will be recruited	Project Management	Continuing

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 presidential election results	July 1 st – September 30 th	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	30/09/14	The elections ended without any significant risk to the security of any staff (resolved)
2	Change in the leadership of MoWA	July 1 st – September 30 th	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	30/09/14	Continuing. It is not clear yet if there will be a change of leadership in MoWA now that a new government is installed.