

UNDP AFGHANISTAN ICSPA

Duration: 01/2014 to 01/2019

Budget: US\$ 7,850,000

Donors: EU, Germany, UK

Implemented By: UNDP

Key Partners: Secretariats of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament



Photo: Canada in Afghanistan.



THE ISSUE

PARLIAMENT

is the core institution of a democratic Afghanistan, but:

- 1 A lack of staffing and financial autonomy
- 2 Insufficient internal technical expertise to support MPs in fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities
- 3 High staff turnover due to inadequate conditions of service
- 4 Insufficient transparency and information sharing

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UNDP IN ACTION

Parliamentary institutions that properly serve and represent the people

We assist the secretariats of the Upper and Lower Houses on:



Reforms

Assessing performance against international benchmarks and norms



Institutional autonomy

Supporting development of legislation that will enshrine parliament's staffing autonomy



Functioning Secretariats

Introducing more efficient and effective legislative services, archives and public relations systems



Transparency

Supporting efforts to make more information available to the public

UNDP experience in Afghanistan

ICSPA builds on 11 years of experience in supporting the National Assembly of Afghanistan :

Establishing Parliament

Support to set up rules of procedure, secretariat structure and internal policies

Supporting MPs to carry out their work

Technical and capacity support to the Speakers, commissions and MPs

Strengthening institutions

Multi-year strategic and action plans, self-assessments and assistance to implement international best practices

The difference we have made



Reform

Supported drafting of legislation to ensure constitutional autonomy and a sustainable human resource base in the National Assembly

Citizen involvement

Ensured all parliamentary bills and papers are available for public comment before ratification through a new Legislative Tracking System

Transparency

Enabled online public access to plenary agendas; MP attendance records; debate transcripts; committee reports, work plans, agendas and membership; and MP contact details

Women's participation

Trained around 250 female journalists and CSO staff on the work of Parliament

Media access

Set up media pool and digital feeds of plenary sessions in the Meshrano Jirga and on YouTube

ICT and institutional memory

Established systems to manage ICT services and assets, ensure sustainable and confidential use of technology and share/archive documents and information on a local area network