Partnering for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Afghanistan

UN Women
Executive Board
June – July 2015
## Context Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>30.55 million</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of ♀ Population</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita</td>
<td>$664.8</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seats held by ♀ in national parliaments</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of ♀ employed in nonagricultural sector</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of ♀ employed in agricultural sector</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of ♀ in labor force</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of ♀ aged 20-24 married by age 18</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of ♀ experienced some form of violence</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State is party to human rights international treaties

Constitution provides equal rights to citizens

Several national and international frameworks support gender equality and empowerment

Data Source: UN Gender Stats, World Bank, OECD-SIGI, UNFPA and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

Photo: UNAMA
Context Analysis (contd.)

"The Government's implementation of the law, in particular by police and prosecutors, was limited and that much greater efforts were needed to improve enforcement"

UNAMA & OCHA 2010/11

Overall literacy 25% (2013)
♀13% vs. ♂32%

Voter turnout (2nd rnd)
♀36% but ♂64%

Account at a formal financial institution (2012)
♀2.62% but ♂15.42%

NAPWA 2008-2018 commits to 30% ♀ representation in civil service by 2018 (20% in 2013)

Representation quota for provincial councils was reduced to 20% in 2013

Data Source: World Bank, OECD-SIGI, UNAMA and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
Women’s Rights Activists march to stop street harassment in the cities of Afghanistan
Guiding Frameworks

- Social Equity, Investment in Human Capital
- Capacity Development for the implementation of NAPWA
- Citizens' Development Rights
- Realising Self Reliance

UNDAF

National Priority Plans
High ranking officials celebrate International Women’s Day, March 2015
In the context of Afghanistan
Robabak Na-ebi, a candidate for elections of provincial council – 2014 Balkh
Support Normative Processes

- UNSCR 1325 NAP
- CEDAW
- CSW
- Beijing +20
- EVAW Nat’l Strategy
- NAPWA 2008-18
Engaging Partners & Reaching Beneficiaries

- Collaboration with 5 Ministries, Parliament, Central Statistics Organization, EVAW Commissions, more than 37 NGOs, Media, 2 Associations, Gawharshad and Kabul Universities

- Programme activities carried out in collaboration with public sector and civil society
  - 17 EVAW Commissions
  - 11 Women Protection Cntr
  - 5 Family Guidance Cntr
  - 1558 survivors of violence and 329 accompanying children gained access to protection, legal & health services in 2014
Trainings for Institutional and Individual Benefits

At institutional level trainings are aimed to improve:

• knowledge on gender equality and women’s empowerment
• knowledge on national commitments to the normative standards for gender equality
• capacity to ensure gender integration in all programmes and gender responsive processes
Trainings for Institutional and Individual Benefits

Exposure Visit for the Parliament - Malaysia

Exposure to International Trade Fair India

656 female graduates from 4 ICT centers in 2014

Afghan women gain skills on how to produce sanitary napkins at home from Indian entrepreneurs – Jayasherri Industries
Knowledge Products

In consideration of the local context

Break Language Barrier (English, Dari and Pashtu)

Widely disseminated

Standardize tools among stakeholders and implementers
ADVOCACY: Need for Paradigm Shift

Population aged 15-24 years is estimated at 22.2%
Population aged 0-14 years is estimated at 42%

Tip the scales of rising extremism toward reception of gender equality values among youth

Need a conducive environment where young men and boys can openly acknowledge their support to gender equality

Redefine “honor” and “courage” to mean standing up for justice rather than male chauvinism

Arash Barez, popular young Afghan singer pledged his commitment for the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women by signing up with HEforShe Campaign
I am a mother, a wife and a doctor. I understand the responsibilities of life and I am living a successful life.

Do YOU know that women should be given equal rights in the decision making processes of a household? Call 6464 for further information.

I am supporting my daughter to go to university and make her dreams come true.

Do YOU know that forced marriage is a form of domestic violence? Call 6464 for further information and assistance.

I am glad my father is against child marriage and is supportive of me going to school.

Do YOU know someone who has faced child marriage and needs help? Call 6464 for assistance.
Results from Advocacy efforts

Article 26 of Criminal Procedural Code approved by Parliament was amended through strong advocacy from CSOs, UN and International Community

Advocacy for gender responsive law reform and enforcement resulted in saving EVAW Law from abolishment and developing national EVAW strategy

Advocacy for greater women’s participation and their political rights to choose and be chosen as political leaders during elections
Women queued in rain to cast their votes for the 2014 Presidential Elections

39% of the 5.9 million turnout for the 2009 Presidential Elections
36% of the 7 million turnout for the 1st round of 2014 Presidential Elections
38% of the 8 million turnout for the 2nd round of 2014 Presidential Elections
Coordination

GWG (UN) & GDCG

Convening Role

MOUs with sister Agencies
New Initiatives

High Peace Council

- Mapping of best practices
- Gender Sensitization
- Leadership & technical Peace Building
- Inclusive Peace Building

Supreme Court

- Technical Support & Training for Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA)
  - Support female graduates as future judges

Scholarships

- Scholarship and internship programs to improve employability of women in non-conventional fields
Thank you