



AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION TRUST FUND (ARTF)

Gender Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Summary of Discussions

The ARTF Gender Working Group (GWG) held its monthly meeting on September 11, 2018. Representatives of nine donor partners¹, the Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the ARTF Administrator (the World Bank, or Bank) attended. The Bank and the UK co-chaired the meeting.

The agenda items were: (i) discussion of the draft 2017 ARTF Scorecard Gender Results (scorecard “pillar 3”); and (ii) gender disaggregated data in the 2017 Scorecard (scorecard “pillar 2”). Participants also briefly discussed the working group’s agenda for the coming months and updates for the ARTF Strategy Group.

Discussion

Members welcomed the UK as the new co-chair of the ARTF Gender Working Group.

1. 2017 ARTF Scorecard Gender Results

- The ARTF Scorecard was introduced in 2013. It reports on selected indicators for all projects in the ARTF portfolio (Pillar II, drawn from project data and emphasizing “Core Sector Indicators” that promote consolidated reporting across projects where possible), as well as the operational effectiveness/quality of the portfolio (Pillar III, drawn largely from internal Bank management data) and effectiveness of the trust fund mechanism (Pillar IV, again drawn from Bank data). It also includes data on national-level development indicators (Pillar I, drawn largely from the Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey, previously the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment). Detailed project-specific data are made available separately, through publicly disclosed Implementation Status and Results (ISR) reports prepared twice a year and available on the World Bank/ARTF websites.
- An advanced draft of the 2017 Scorecard has been prepared, and copies of the draft “Pillar II” (“ARTF Results”) and “Pillar III” (“ARTF Operational Effectiveness/Quality of Portfolio”) matrices were distributed to GWG members ahead of the meeting to facilitate discussion of the gender indicators in the draft.
- Discussion began with “Pillar III”, focusing on the indicators of ARTF portfolio-wide effectiveness on gender.² When the Scorecard was introduced in 2013, Pillar III included only one gender-specific indicator (number of projects reporting gender-disaggregated data). The GWG was established in 2014, and through its work expanded the scope of this monitoring, agreeing on the five gender-related indicators that are currently under the broad category of “gender mainstreaming in results monitoring”, as follows:

¹ Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.

² Selected project-specific indicators are included in Pillar II of the Scorecard, also called the Results Matrix, and in further detail in Implementation Status and Results reports, discussed below.



- % of projects that include gender-specific objectives/outcome/output with targets;
- % of portfolio fully collecting required gender-disaggregated data;
- % of projects with Gender Focal Point staff in client project teams;
- % of projects that include technical assistance on gender issues and gender supervision in implementation support missions; and
- % of projects that produce gender-related knowledge in knowledge products.

The indicators demonstrate a positive trend in the gender engagement of the ARTF portfolio. A comment observed that in some cases baseline data in the draft of Scorecard Pillar III exceed targets. The Bank acknowledged this issue, which is in part a function of how targets have historically been calculated, and will consider how to better present the data.

- The World Bank Group's 2016-2023 global gender strategy has helped overall portfolio performance, in particular by requiring intensive engagement at the concept stage of project preparation to assess if a project can be "gender-tagged". (The Bank team can repeat its earlier briefing on gender tagging methodology for interested donors.) In the last two years, 100 percent of new projects have been gender tagged, a significant achievement. Specific gender interventions vary by project (the Bank offered examples from Citizens' Charter and Sehatmandi) and can involve both men and women, for example in cases of community mobilization, when elders and mullahs are usually the first entry points for communities.
- Gender tagging should be substantive rather than bureaucratic. Some projects (for example, in the infrastructure or financial sectors) may not qualify, simply because their development objectives do not fit with the tagging criteria. Similarly, there is some marginal variability in the percent of projects tracking gender related data, which is a natural product of project initiation/closure and the fact that gender-specific indicators may not be suitable for all projects (for example, in the financial or infrastructure sectors).
- The presence of Gender Focal Points in ARTF-financed projects has likewise contributed to the portfolio's gender responsiveness. The Bank Gender Advisor works with the Focal Points to convene monthly meetings, hosted on a rotating basis in each Focal Point's ministry, which has proven useful in sharing experiences, good practices, and lessons learned. Partners interested in joining a Focal Point meeting are welcome to contact the Gender Advisor.
 - In response to a question about whether Gender Focal Points are specific to ARTF-financed projects, or if the function is more general to the ministry, the Bank explained that the practice varies somewhat between ministries/projects. Where the ARTF-financed project has a PMU/PIU integrated in the ministry, the Gender Focal Point is hired and assigned for the project, but is also encouraged to work closely with the ministry's gender unit. In a project without an integrated PMU/PIU, where implementation is performed by ministry departments, the ministry is expected to assign a focal point from existing staff, or to supplement staffing with project support to include a focal point.
- Scorecard Pillar II, the Results Matrix, includes project-specific data and illustrates where ARTF-financed projects track gender-disaggregated indicators. (Task team leaders and M&E focal points monitor data quality, and receive support in this process from third party monitors)



that can help to cross-check/cross-validate data.) There has been significant effort to incorporate gender considerations throughout the ARTF portfolio with support from the GWG.

- A comment observed that Scorecard data are helpful to donors that prioritize gender as a global/strategic theme, and asked what the action points would be where projects are underperforming against gender targets. When a project encounters challenges, Bank technical teams work with the implementing agency and project team to identify the problems and appropriate solutions. Gender issues are regularly included within the scope of implementation support missions, including discussion of targets that may be lagging or requiring additional attention. Issues that cannot be resolved at the project level can be escalated to ministry or other Government leadership, and the Bank's Country Management Unit will conduct outreach or engagement as the situation requires. The Scorecard captures historical project data, however. More current information on implementation status, including project-specific gender indicators, is available through Implementation Status and Results Reports posted on the Bank website. With permission of GoIRA, the Bank also shares Aide Memoires that offer current information on implementation-related discussions.
- A member reiterated the appreciation for the detailed work on the Scorecard, and expressed a particular interest in whether a gender analysis had been conducted of beneficiary feedback results across projects. If not, the commenter suggested, perhaps the ASIST window could be used to support such an analysis. Beneficiary feedback is gender-disaggregated at the project level, and the new Environmental and Social Framework, which will guide project preparation for new projects after October 1, requires additional clarity from project teams on labor working conditions, community health and safety, and social inclusion.
- The Bank recognizes that individual donors have requirements for reporting on gender. While not all requests can be met, the co-chairs invited discussion of individual donors' reporting priorities, which would be useful both in refining ARTF reporting and in helping members support reporting on GoIRA priorities. MOF emphasized the value of understanding donors' reporting needs. The European Union offered a brief overview of some reporting requirements relevant to itself and its Member States, and committed to send additional details in writing.

2. Forward meeting topics

- The schedule of meeting topics has been disseminated. It aims to balance GWG focus between newer/pipeline projects that may be less familiar and those that are large and require substantial briefing (e.g., CCAP, etc.). GWG members are welcome at the project-specific briefing organized by mission teams. The Taghir concept note has been distributed and may be a topic for focus in a future GWG meeting, owing to donor interest in the challenges of finding placement for female trainees in open Government positions.

3. Updates to ARTF Strategy Group

- GWG suggested a special joint SG-GWG meeting be convened to review the final Scorecard.

4. AOB

- The next GWG meeting will be held on Tuesday October 2, 2018.