



AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION TRUST FUND (ARTF)

Gender Working Group Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2018

Summary of Discussions

An ARTF Gender Working Group (GWG) Meeting was held on January 8th, 2018. The meeting was chaired by Abdoulaye Seck (Operations Manager, World Bank) and Ms. Najla Sabri (Social Development Specialist, World Bank) with the participation of Ms. Sheela Samimy (Sr. Aid Coordination Specialist, MOF), Ms. Friba Quraishi (WEE_NPP Program Director, MoLSAMD) and representatives from ARTF partners¹.

Discussion Highlights

Participants discussed proposals for strengthening the role of the ARTF Gender Working Group, and the following were agreed upon:

1. The GWG will – as needed – brief, report to, and bring to the attention of the Strategy Group (SWG) policy level matters. The GWG is a technical platform to discuss important gender related issues which will leverage the SG and the Steering Committee to translate its proposals into policies and actions, when necessary. In that context, the regular GWG meetings will now be scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month, thus allowing to inform the agenda of the subsequent SG meeting. The World Bank, as co-chair of the GWG, will report to the SG in most cases, but the responsibility may be delegated to other GWG members on a case by case basis.
2. Stronger Government's ownership is critical, and it will be sought by facilitating constant participation and engagement. MOWA, MOF and WEE_NPP are already members of the GWG and will receive timely invitations to meetings, and will be encouraged to take on a co-chair role and shape the meeting's agenda. The government, especially MOF and WEE-NPP, may use the GWG as a platform to present achievements and progresses in their respective programs, and establish cohesiveness between the government agencies and GWG. This approach will help establish the interest from government's side and connect them with relevant donors and institutions.
3. The GWG will broaden the scope of topics it discusses, to include issues such as the Partnership Framework and Financing Program (formerly Financing Strategy), gender-

¹ Australia (Lisa Brown, Semin Qasmi); British (Juliet Walton, Lloyd Cameron); Finland (Niina Tenhio); USA (Feroz Ghafarzai, Nery Jubert-Rivera), Canada (S. Gheyasuddin Saddat); EU (Barbara Egger); and Switzerland/SDC (Melanie Buesch)



related benchmarks under the Incentives Program, gender mainstreaming in the Investment window projects, and any others relevant topics or questions of interest. To rationalize the coordination with projects preparation teams and minimize transaction costs, the GWG and its members will make the most of existing coordination platforms such as technical teams in respective agencies, while Bank co-chair will regularly brief² the GWG on gender aspects and design of portfolio and pipeline projects. Whenever relevant, a summary of the discussion/comments from the GWG will be shared with the technical teams of both Bank and donors.

4. The World Bank team shared the first issue of the newsletter by the Gender and Social Inclusion Platform. The platform is the operational arm of the World Bank on gender; and participants were informed of its implementation arrangements, ongoing work and achievements especially under key thematic areas such as Health, Education and WEE.

Proposed agenda for the next meeting:

- Continue the presentation on Gender Tagging and overall approach to mainstreaming gender mainstreaming in the World Bank
- Discuss the co-chairing and the TOR
- Incentive Program and Financing Strategy
- Present on Women's Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP) (send the necessary documents for everyone's review before the meeting)

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place on Tuesday Feb. 6, and will last 3 hours to allow a full discussion of all agenda items.

² This could be through the newsletter, summary of gender related outcome/issues in the projects/program, etc. ARTF partners are also encouraged to refer to public documents such as ISRs, Aide Memoirs, and PIDs for knowing more about the gender aspect of the projects and for providing timely inputs if any.