



## AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION TRUST FUND (ARTF)

### Gender Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

#### Summary of Discussions

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An ARTF Gender Working Group (GWG) Meeting was held on May 1, 2018, and was attended by 9 donor country representatives<sup>1</sup>, the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the MRRD and IDLG Citizens' Charter teams, and the ARTF Administrator (the World Bank). The meeting was co-chaired by the World Bank and Canada.

#### Discussion

##### 1. Gender Aspects of the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Program (CCAP).

The MRRD and IDLG's Citizens' Charter teams presented the gender aspects of the CCAP. An overview of the program was given, including the urban and rural areas of Afghanistan covered by the CCAP under the first phase which runs from 2017-2021. The Program aims to have at least 50% representation of both females and males, 2 out of four office bearer (OB) seats are reserved for women on the executive committee of the Community Development Councils (CDCs). If no woman is elected the seat remains vacant and cannot be taken over by men. CDC community development plans (CDPs) must have at least one priority put forward by females. There are separate CDC sub-committees for females and males. CCAP Facilitating Partners (FPs) include both female and male community organizers to work closely with the community members. Several tools are used to plan and implement CDC activities including: (i) community well-being analysis is done prior to development of CDPs to identify the most poor and vulnerable people/families including widows, female lead household and those with disabilities, returnees, refugees within the communities; (ii) community mapping to see where resources are located and how they are distributed within the community; (iii) Leaking Pot Analysis sensitizing communities on their incomes vs expenditures with the aim to cut down on unnecessary expenses/practices. An example of this was given from Panjsher province where there is significant cut down on the amount of dowry because of this exercise; (iv) Women's Mobility Mapping show where women in the community can go, so that elections and CDC meetings are held in locations that women can easily access. In cases where CDPs cannot be jointly developed with both men and women present, the draft CDP is shared with women in the communities for their feedback. Most of the female members and office bearers of the CDC's are young. To date over 5,017 CDC sub-committees are established with females comprising 48% of the committees.

Some of the key gender related achievements so far: (i) CCNP gender strategy has been finalised; (ii) complaints handling mechanism has been established; (iii) CCAP gender working group has been established, is active and meets monthly- comprised FPs, Implementing

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, Canada, Denmark, EU, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and US.



agencies and the World Bank gender specialist; (iv) female CDC members will participate in a national symposium in mid-May in Kabul; (v) CCAP internship program has been developed and is hiring batch of 20 interns (12 female and 8 male) ever 6 months in a competitive process. The CCAP team presented gender disaggregated data of the CDCs by geographic-with the exception of the southern provinces, representation is about equal. The CCAP Urban has CDCs in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar-e-Sharif- 408 have been established in these areas to date. In some cities female representation is slightly higher than that of males.

Several capacity building events related to gender aspects (e.g. gender mainstreaming, implementation of livelihood programs for females) have been held for government officials, and CCAP staff

10% of gozar grants are designated for women's livelihood projects focusing on improving women's livelihoods. The guideline for this is still being designed.

Some challenges faced during the start-up phase of the CCAP included: (i) FPs were not sure how to establish mixed CDCs; (ii) not all female CDC members had Tazkera (ID cards), however, so far around 300 women got Tazkera as they were motivated by the program and got some support from the FPs.

## Discussion

- Question of participation of women in gozars. Could more than 10% of the gozar grants be targeted for women's livelihood activities; and if any analysis on household gender dynamics were done; whether female education level affects participation of females in CDCs.
- The CCAP team noted that they will be doing further analysis into why the female gozar participation rate is 44, and that they are in the process of finalising the guidelines for the gozar livelihoods grant, and based on that and some additional analyses, it will be determined whether the final grant proportion would be revised. The CDC team have recently had some interviews/discussions with some gozar members to better understand issues that may impact female's ability to participate in CDCs. It was also clarified that the education level of the community members isn't a criterion for CDC election as this would limit the participation levels of both females and males.
- The CCAP team noted that the wellbeing analysis is done in a participatory manner with the support of facilitators, and that there are certain proxy indicators that are used to determine the household poverty levels (e.g. jeribs of land owned by a family, meals per day etc.) People with disabilities are categorised in the very poor/vulnerable group. Poor or vulnerable households benefit from community initiatives such as the grain banks and social inclusion grants. The CCAP team plans to soon give a presentation on the CCAP at the Chamber of Commerce to see if there are ways to involve business owners in supporting CDC initiatives such as the grain banks.
- About the rationale for 50% female participation and where it is realistic or not, the CCAP team clarified that it was based on the Citizens Charter NPP vision and building on NSP's experience. Also on approaches to ensure/monitor the activeness of the CDCs, the team said that the CDCs have meeting recording books, as well as regular visits by the social mobilizers and the M&E team of the CCAP monitoring and ensuring that the CDCs are active.



- In response to the question about the impact of the CCAP/CDCs on women and their stature and decision making at home, the team said that it would be interesting to do such assessment/evaluation, however at the moment it is too early.
2. **Points to be raised at the May ARTF Strategy Group Meeting.** The GWG had no points to raise at the May ARTF Strategy Group meeting.
3. **AOB**
- Status of the ARTF Partnership Framework and Financing Program (PFFP): The World Bank informed the GWG that the first draft of the PFFP was shared with the ARTF Strategy Group 2 weeks ago. The draft includes the Bank's approach to gender in the Afghanistan country program including the ARTF. A series of discussions would be held at the Strategy Group over the next week and a half to reach conclusion on key elements of the new PFFP. The agreements from the discussions would be reflected in the revised version of the PFFP, which would then be shared with the GWG.