

TERMS OF REFERENCE
ARTF Gender Working Group

February 2014

THE ROLE OF THE GENDER WORKING GROUP

Background: In response to an ARTF Steering Committee decision, it was agreed to establish a Gender Working Group (GWG). Recognizing that other gender working groups exist in Afghanistan, the ARTF GWG will focus its discussions entirely on issues relevant to the ARTF portfolio.

The GWG is chaired by the World Bank and will consist of interested donors with necessary technical capacity on the ground in Kabul to participate in and provide input to ongoing discussions. It will draw on the knowledge and expertise of donors to strengthen the ARTF's gender focus. The GWG meets in Kabul at the technical level and reports to the Strategy Group.

The ARTF Results Management Framework identifies gender as a *special theme*, which will be subject to more detailed and disaggregated reporting on performance. The WB has recently undertaken a gender stocktaking of gender progress in Afghanistan, the findings of which have been discussed in the GWG with a view to determine how these may impact the ARTF portfolio and its priorities, and also chart the future direction.

Scope of Work: The GWG will: (i) review gender aspects of ARTF-financed activities; (ii) share knowledge and expertise on innovations in gender as they relate to the ARTF; (iii) propose recommendations on how gender aspects can be better captured in the ARTF Results Management Framework; and (iv) provide support for gender mainstreaming in ARTF portfolio management, pipeline development and new initiatives like the proposed Research and Analysis Facility. Interested donors will be invited to participate in project review and decision meetings to provide input on gender-related aspects where relevant.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Administrator:

- The GWG will be chaired by the Administrator;
- The Administrator gender team, including a new gender specialist, will take the lead on meeting agendas and provide the necessary input for the GWG discussions and generally lead the interactions with the GWG for the Administrator.

Donors:

- The GWG consists of one representative nominated by each interested Strategy Group member. To allow for continuity in technical discussions at the working level, GWG members will aim at consistent participation of nominated representatives;

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- Donors will provide input and assume responsibility for work to be shared in the GWG in accordance with their specific interests, availability and capacity;
- A Lead Donor, appointed every year (or more/less frequently as agreed by the GWG) on a rotating basis, will support the Administrator to frame the quarterly agenda, link discussions at the GWG level up to the Strategy Group level, and support ARTF donor engagement to ensure a high degree of buy-in to the GWG.

Government:

- Government will be represented by Ministry of Finance (MoF). MoF can invite representatives from line ministries to participate as they find relevant;
- MoF will provide input and assume responsibility for work to be shared in the GWG in accordance with their specific interests, availability and capacity;
- MoF will advise the GWG on Government priorities on gender aspects in the ARTF portfolio.

Process:

- The GWG convenes at least once quarterly or when relevant;
- Meeting invites are sent out by email;
- Documentation will be made available in a timely manner, at least 7 work days in advance of meeting, to allow for preparation. When possible the Administrator will advise the GWG members of upcoming meetings and agenda items two weeks in advance of a planned meeting. Meetings will also be announced in the online ARTF meeting calendar.