

## ARTF Strategy Group Meeting

February 6, 2014

### Summary of Discussion

---

An ARTF Strategy Group Meeting was held in the World Bank office in Kabul on January 6<sup>th</sup> with participation from the Ministry of Finance, 13 donor countries, and the World Bank to discuss the following agenda items:

- The ARTF Human Development Profile: Education, Health, Social Protection.
- Nutrition

**Human Development Profile:** A presentation by the World Bank HD team was delivered to highlight achievements, challenges, and opportunities for strategic engagement. Following the presentation, the discussion underscored three main points.

- Focus on Jobs:** Concerns regarding the employment component of social protection were raised and an inquiry of action was put to the World Bank. The Bank informed the Committee that a Study of a Public Works Program has been commissioned and the Bank will produce recommendations resulting from the study, to be presented to Donors after the election period. The Bank also highlighted that the TVET program had produced positive results with a 75% employment rate for graduates.
- Operations and Maintenance:** The Bank brought to Committee's attention, the large reliance of line ministries on the development budget and inability to maintain achievements with receding aid envelopes and lack of discretion over use of funds. The Bank emphasized the need to identify O&M priorities with the Government.
- Nutrition:** USAID representatives introduced an initiative for a multi donor mechanism to ensure cross-sectoral coordination and address nutrition deficiencies in Afghanistan. It was agreed that the Human Resource Development Board (HRDB) should be used as a cross-sectoral platform to discuss nutrition, but that the Strategy Group could also continue engaging on this issue. USAID agreed to develop a paper on nutrition and the Bank will facilitate discussion on nutrition on HRDB.
- SWAP:** The Bank's education team relayed that EQUIP III will be a move towards a sector wide approach. This was welcomed by donors and the Ministry of Finance.

The Bank concluded the meeting by reiterating the agreed next steps.

#### Next Steps:

- USAID to submit a one page concept paper on the inclusion of nutrition in the Strategy Group meetings;
- HD team will facilitate the nutrition discussion within HRDB;
- The World Bank will share results from the Public Works survey post-elections;
- Future ARTF Strategy Group meetings will include discussions on thematic issues such as the one on HD.