

ARTF Gender Working Group Meeting

June 30, 2016

Meeting Minutes

An ARTF Gender Working Group (GWG) Meeting was held on June 30th, 2016¹. The meeting was co-chaired by Wezi Msisha (Senior Operations Officer, World Bank) and Will Lewis (US Embassy).

Discussion Highlights

- The ToR for the GWG and the draft meeting plan for the next 6 months were reviewed and discussed.
- The Bank shared some thematic areas that will be their main area of focus in their new fiscal year (July 2016-June 2017), and for which the GWG could contribute ideas related to gender. These include literacy; nutrition; migration; and economic empowerment.
- During the discussion on the GWG Terms of Reference, the UK mentioned some changes had been proposed in late 2015. It was agreed the co-chairs would look for the document with these changes and share with the GWG for additional input before the next meeting.
- It was agreed that a one-week deadline for provision of comments on technical documents shared within the GWG should be added to the TOR. In addition, Finland requested that minutes of GWG meetings be prepared and circulated within a week of the meeting.
- It was also agreed that the proposed revisions to the GWG ToR would have to be endorsed by the ARTF Strategy Group.
- All participants agreed that a presentation by the Ministry of Finance would be very beneficial. The Bank will reach out to the MoF to confirm their attendance at the next GWG meeting and also if they could make a presentation on gender responsive budgeting. The Bank would also follow up with the MoF on the government's regular participation in the GWG meetings with representation from the MoF gender unit if possible.
- It was agreed that GWG members would keep their representatives to the ARTF SG informed of meeting discussions, and vice-versa.
- The World Bank mentioned that the pre-appraisal mission of the Citizen's Charter had just ended, and an update on the main design elements of the program would be shared with the GWG at the next meeting.
- The Bank presented its Gender Strategy and Approaches and an overview of the ARTF Results Scorecard, focusing on the gender data from the 2015 report.
- It was noted that some of the older projects in the ARTF portfolio did not all include gender aspects or indicators as there was not a systematic approach on gender mainstreaming at the time, unlike with newer projects which all have to include gender as part of the Bank's enhanced approach to gender mainstreaming.
- The point was made that the next ARTF Results Scorecard could include more narrative information on actions being taken related to gender informedness in addition to the indicator data.
- The Bank explained that all its projects go through a comprehensive progress review at least once every six months during implementation support missions. This includes review of social safeguards issues including gender mainstreaming, and results monitoring indicators.

¹ Member attendance: Finland, EU, US, Sweden, Denmark, DFID, Australia, World Bank.

- There is a possibility of an evaluation of the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Project in the near future. The GWG will be informed if it materializes.
- The Bank informed the GWG of the ongoing work to prepare a new World Bank Group 2017-2021 Country Partnership Framework for Afghanistan.
- All members of the GWG were encouraged to attend the Introduction to ARTF (ARTF 101) sessions that are offered regularly to provide new donors with an overview of the ARTF. The next session would be tentatively scheduled for early August.

Action Items

- 1) The Bank and/ or GWG members will share the last changes made to the ARTF GWG ToR to update it. The proposed changes will be agreed in the GWG, and then brought to the ARTF SG for endorsement.
- 2) The Bank will share with the GWG the World Bank’s Gender Action Brief for Afghanistan, once finalized.
- 3) The United States will draft the meeting notes and share with the GWG for review and comment. It will also be shared with the ARTF SG.
- 4) Finalized comments and revision of the 2016 work plan (see below)

2016 Work-Plan

July	Gender Responsive Budgeting, with MoF/ Citizens’ Charter
August	NAP-Women’s Economic Empowerment/MoWA and MoLSAMD
September	Preliminary Results of Mapping/ Jobs
October	Read out and discussion from Brussels/ Effect on ARTF
November	Health Update/ SEHAT mid-term/ Nutrition/ MoPH
December	Stock-taking Exercise/ Lessons and Achievements/ Work-Plan Updated/ New Donor Co-Chair Selected