



USAID
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AFGHANISTAN

Stabilization Unit
PROJECT GENDER PORTFOLIO
September 2011

Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP)

Implementer: International Organization for Migration

Duration: April 2007 – September 2011

Regional Focus: nationwide

Description of Gender component

The Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP) provides assistance to Afghan families who have suffered losses due to the presence of the international military in the country. The project provides assistance to civilians harmed either as a direct consequence of actions by international military forces or because of insurgents targeting international military forces. Losses include death, bodily injury, and substantial damage to property. The project is not designed to specifically target women beyond the needs of other affected civilians. However, particular attention and care is given to ensure that the needs of women are considered, especially in circumstances when the primary family breadwinner is killed or injured. Assistance packages include small business support, vocational training, literacy classes, repair to damaged homes, plus a range of kits containing useful home, educational, tailoring, or agricultural items.

Afghanistan Stabilization Initiative (ASI)

Implementer: Chemonics International and Development Alternatives Inc.

Duration: June 2009 – June 2012

Regional Focus: East, South, Southwest

Description of Gender component

The Afghanistan Stabilization Initiative (ASI), implemented by USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), promotes conditions for stability and long-term development in east and south Afghanistan. The regions in which ASI works are among the most unstable and conflict-prone areas of Afghanistan, and women and girls living there often face particularly daunting challenges to leading healthy and productive lives. ASI's overall strategy for fostering stabilization efforts is to bolster the capacity and legitimacy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) at the community level, identifying sources of instability and implementing projects that address them. Since 2009, ASI has delivered supplies and rehabilitated or improved more than 15 primary, secondary, and high schools for girls and 15 coeducational schools. In some cases, the project has repaired schools that were attacked by extremist groups and has built boundary walls to prevent the threat of such attacks. ASI activities have improved the opportunities and learning environment for more than 60,000 female students. In southern Afghanistan, USAID has funded activities aimed at celebrating women's contribution to their communities and supported increasing women's access to GIROA services. For instance, USAID has provided a waiting room and security screening facility for women at a district governor's office to improve their safety and increase their confidence in voicing their needs and accessing GIROA services.

Community Based Stability Grants (CBSG)

Implementer: Creative Associates International, Inc (Creative)

Duration: March 2010 – March 2012

Regional Focus: East, North, West

Description of Gender Activities

Launched in March 2010, the Community-Based Stabilization Grants (CBSG) project is designed to “hold” communities after military operations and insulate unstable communities from further insurgent intrusion. USAID is working to apply community development, mobilization principles and peaceful community discussion to enable unstable communities, which are predominantly a focus of counterinsurgency activities, to directly implement small-scale community-level projects. Under CBSG, USAID enables eligible community-based organizations to work with the Afghan government to identify sources of instability and address community grievances through small-scale community level projects. At a grass roots level, USAID works in 14 provinces in the northern, western, and central regions of Afghanistan. As a critically underserved group, USAID encourages communities to prioritize projects targeted at women and girls as a means of linking a disconnected population with local government services and representation. To date, USAID has completed 16 projects focused on improving the education and empowerment of women and girls in targeted communities. Additionally, USAID projects have directly benefited over 160,000 women and girls. Examples of community-selected, USAID funded projects, targeted at women and girls include; tailoring training, furniture procurements for girl’s high schools, mentoring/capacity building programs, and agriculture support projects.

Community Development Program (CDP) – South, East, & West

Implementer: Central Asia Development Group

Duration: March 2009 – September

Regional Focus: East, South, Southwest, West

Description of Gender component

The program focus of CDP-SEW is to provide short-term local employment building community infrastructure projects in support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) in areas contested by anti-government elements. One of the activity selection criteria of CDP-SEW is “whether the activity strengthens GIROA. In this context CDP-SEW has implemented projects that are managed by and employ almost exclusively women, as well as projects that have women working in specific components of the projects. Women laborers have refurbished schools and other public buildings in Farah and Nangarhar provinces, and have participated in a number of other projects in culturally acceptable components designed for women. CDP-SEW is pioneering the employment of women in non-traditional roles such as construction.

Community Development Program (CDP) – Kabul

Implementer: CARE International

Duration: March 2009 – November 2011

Regional Focus: 12 Rural and 16 urban Districts of Kabul

Description of Gender component

The primary objective of CDP-Kabul is to promote employment combined with income generation and livelihood skill building activities with a focus on infrastructure investments that have long-term economic and social benefits with the intended effects of reducing the impact of poverty and economic vulnerability. Specific project activities include side ditch construction, culvert construction, big canal construction, road graveling, irrigation structure, park rehabilitation, canal cleaning, vineyard planting, tree planting, vineyard plowing, orchard plowing, side ditch excavation, and garbage collection. All of

these activities include cash-for-work employment for women. Specific gender focused programming included in CDP-Kabul includes income generation activities and disaster risk reduction (DRR) training and sensitization activities.

Community Development Program (CDP) – North

Implementer: *Mercy Corps*

Duration: *March 2009 – November 2011*

Regional Focus: *Balkh, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Kapisa, Samangan, Bamyan, Faryab, and Sar e Pul*

Description of Gender component

The primary objective of CDP-North is to promote employment combined with income generation and livelihood skill building activities with a focus on infrastructure investments that have long-term economic and social benefits with the intended effects of reducing the impact of poverty and economic vulnerability. These activities include specifically engaging women in community outreach activities to share hygiene and nutrition information; home-based production activities that benefit vulnerable households (such as quilt making and gabion weaving), and income generation projects with a sustainability concept (such as carpet or cloth weaving, household items production and clothing production). Income generation projects incorporate technical training for particular skills such as sewing or weaving, and business skills training. In addition, CDP-N provides training for women on literacy, hygiene promotion, basic health training, and infant, and young child feeding.