AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION TRUST FUND (ARTF)

Gender Working Group Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, April 12th, 2021

Summary of Discussions

The ARTF Gender Working Group (GWG) held its virtual monthly meeting on April 12, 2021. The meeting was co-chaired by the World Bank (WB/the Bank) and the USAID, and attended by eight donor partners[1], WB Operations Manager, WB social development manager for Afghanistan, WB core and extended regional teams[2] for gender and the ARTF Administrator. The meeting was for 45 minutes only, because the Bank's portfolio review was still on-going and donors have been participating in review discussions of the portfolio and pipeline projects on daily basis.

The planned agenda for the April meeting was: (i) a presentation on WB gender program and staffing; (ii) discussions on CPPR (due to the time constraint, this was topic was not covered).

The Bank provided a few updates from a meeting held between the ARTF donors representative sand the Bank's leadership in early March and the ongoing CPPR meetings.

The donor co-chair gave a brief background about the meeting held on March 10 where donors requested to enhance the Bank's staffing for gender, conflict-sensitivity, and M&E with global experiences and local understanding and put in place a strong technical leadership in these important cross-cutting areas.

On CPPR, an update was made for the review meetings that have been ongoing since March 30th, co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Finance, MoF and WB Operations Manager. Twenty-three meetings have been held so far, and a few have been rescheduled.

WB Gender Program and staffing: Sarah Haddock, Social Development Specialist, provided an overview of the WB-Afghanistan's gender/GBV program/interventions and staffing. She explained the WB's gender strategy and its implementation in Afghanistan, referring to a number of projects in various sectors contributing to filling the gap in human endowments, jobs, assets and voice and agency for women in the country. She discussed analytical work (project/sector specific studies, GBV assessments and impact evaluations), capacity building (training to PIUs and Gender and GBV partnerships) and provision of technical assistance and support to the WB and ARTF-financed projects. Gender tagging process, as the WB's approach to mainstream gender, was briefly explained and the Bank team offered a workshop in the coming weeks to refresh donors on

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[1] Australia, Canada, UK, EU, US, Italy, Germany, and Finland

[2] Kevin A Tomlinson (Practice Manager), Maria Beatrize Orlando (Lead Social Development Specialist), Sarah Elizabeth Haddock (International Social Development Specialist), Ifeyinwa Udo (GBV Consultant), Leora Sarah Ward (SAR Senior GBV Specialist), Najla Sabri (Social Development Specialist), Sama Khan (Gender and Social Inclusion Consultant), Sara Lenehan (Gender and Social Inclusion Consultant), Mursal Hamraz (Gender and Social Inclusion Consultant), Sharara Afzali (Gender and Social Inclusion Consultant)

the approach. The gender team pays close attention to ensure all projects are gender tagged and that in all their operations, response to GBV incidents is within a 24-hour notification.

On capacity building and partnerships, the World Bank has been actively engaged with the PMU and PIU for training activities, including conducting a training of 42 PIU members largely on SEA/SH and risk mitigation under REACH and CCAP projects in particular. Currently, the Bank is engaged in George Washington GenderPro Program to train members of the PIUs. On partnerships, the World Bank has engaged with other partners such as UNFPA and recently with UNICEF under their spotlight initiative.

The donor co-chair appreciated the information shared by the Bank and emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong focus on gender in the ARTF portfolio.

Agreed Actions:

- WB to share the WB gender program and staffing presentation.
- May GWG meeting to include CPPR findings (gender-focused ones)
- A refresher course on WB's gender tagging practice to be offered to the donors