

Progress in Afghanistan country in 2022

Data as of:
27 July 2024

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_1.2

Women have improved capacity, access to resources/knowledge and agency to participate, lead and engage in political processes, including running as elective officials in Afghanistan

Not Applicable in 2022

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_1.3

(Deactivated) National development strategies and other national sector plans have specific and costed commitments to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, Social and Structural constraints are tackled to advance equal opportunities and outcomes for women's economic participation

Not Applicable in 2022

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_2.1

Women in Afghanistan have increased access to income generation opportunities and income security

There has been a regression on this outcome in 2022 for Afghanistan given new restrictions on women's mobility and conditions on participation in the public sphere across different sectors. However, to strengthen women livelihoods, capacitate them, ensure their basic needs are met and empower them to build back better to become resilient to the humanitarian crisis affecting Afghans, women in particular and spare them from negative coping mechanisms: 41 women have received cash for business while under Cash based interventions. 862 women have benefited from non-conditional cash interventions that created immediate income stream for most vulnerable women in five provinces of Afghanistan (Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat, Kandahar and Nangahar). 100 more women have benefited short term job opportunities through cash for work (while receiving daily wages 8\$/ day for two months), whereby women got on job training opportunity in technical skills i.e., tailoring. 970 women in MPWCs in Herat and Nangarhar were provided with Multi Purpose Cash Assistance to cover their families' basic needs.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_2.2

(Deactivated) Women Business Associations and women entrepreneurs have strengthened capacities to benefit from the supply chain, investment and procurement

Not applicable in 2022

Favorable social norms, attitudes, and behaviors are promoted at individual, community and institutional levels to prevent VAW

There is no change to report in 2022 for Afghanistan. Due to the Taliban takeover, it has not been possible for UN Women Afghanistan to work with national stakeholders and duty bearers in the area of primary prevention. Overall, however, UN Women Afghanistan has observed a regression due to a complex context and a scenario in which women's rights are constantly violated whilst they are systematically excluded from public and political life. Women and girls in Afghanistan are experiencing and refers to what is happening as gender apartheid. And, considering the impossibility to talk about women's rights and the need to prioritize the safety and security of staff and partners, it was not possible to implement and measure progress on prevention interventions. Despite challenges since the Taliban take over, UN Women strategy during the reporting period was focused on advocating to reopen Family Resource Centers (FRC) and Women Protection Centers (WPC) with the aim of creating safe spaces for women and girl survivors and those at risk of violence to access essential services and awareness sessions, which have reached at least 1,673 people (f-860; m-813). Furthermore, UN Women continued to explore opportunities to progress capacity building of stakeholders on EAW prevention and response, including as part of the redesign of the EAW Services. UN Women continued developing and enriching the Capacity Development Plan on Gender, VAWG and Survivor-centered approach for the FRCs and the WPCs partners. The plan integrates prevention and service pillars to provide a holistic approach to VAWG. This component is critical to contribute to the shift in social norms to challenge the normalization of violence among women. Thus far the original strategy and ToC for this outcome is largely still applicable. However, the renewed risk to safety and security, movement restrictions and ban on NGO workers, will have extensive impacts on the feasibility of women and girl survivors and those at risk of violence to access quality, comprehensive services. This also comes with risks and anticipated regression on progress and operations. Therefore, the ToC and accompanying programme strategy is being reviewed for 2023 to allow for greater flexibility, innovation and focus on prevention.

Women survivors of VAWG have increased access to quality, comprehensive services

There has been some progress on this outcome. In the light of a constrained operating context women civil society organizations are operating, UN Women Afghanistan strategy and approach has been to provide support to CSOs to deliver coordinated, comprehensive support to women and girl survivors of violence, with some elements of awareness raising integrated in programming, which have reached at least 1,673 people (f-860; m-813). This was done primarily through funding support, institutional capacity development, as well as work to develop standard operation procedures (SOPs), guidelines, guidance for VAWG services, in line with international standards developed and/or updated with the support of UN Women. During the reporting year, a total of 21 civil society organizations (CSO) partners have received support to operate across 12 provinces of Afghanistan. Through the operations of Women Protection Centers (WPCs), 193 survivors of violence and 57 accompanied children accessed coordinated, quality, essential services during the year 2022. Through the operation of Family Recourse Centers (FRCs), 9,834 women accessed coordinated, quality, essential services during the year 2022. Furthermore, during the reporting period, UN Women Afghanistan provided technical assistance to the Essential Services Network (ESN) to find a consensus on governance structure and objectives of the network, which has been mobilized to ensure increased access to comprehensive and coordinated GBV services. Thus far the original strategy and ToC for this outcome is largely still applicable. However, the renewed risk to safety and security, movement restrictions and ban on NGO workers, will have extensive impacts on the feasibility of women and girl survivors and those at risk of

violence to access quality, comprehensive services. This also comes with risks and anticipated regression on progress and operations. Therefore, the ToC and accompanying programme strategy is being reviewed for 2023 to allow for greater flexibility, innovation and focus on prevention.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_3.4

(Deactivated) An enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on EVAW is in place and translated into action

Not Applicable in 2022

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_3.5

Civil society organizations are able to advocate on, and prevent and respond to VAWG through support from the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund & Spotlight Initiative Fund

There has been some progress on this outcome. Following the siege of power by the de facto authorities mid-August 2021, the gender equality architecture in Afghanistan was dismantled with the abolishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and the absence of any women in the de facto authority governing structure. Many women leaders—fled the country, fearing the consequences for dedicating their lives to gender equality. While women's civil society continues to exist in Afghanistan, their operations have been significantly controlled by the de facto authorities and curtailed. In this operating context, UN Women focus in 2022, was on strategic engagement with the Taliban to realize gender specific outcomes including on women needs and the need for shelters supporting survivors of violence which were closed to be re/opened. In the light of a constrained operating context women civil society organizations are operating, UN Women strategy and approach included support to CSOs to deliver coordinated, comprehensive support to women and girl survivors of violence, with some awareness raising integrated in programming, which have reached at least 1,673 people (f-860; m-813). This was done primarily through the provision of institutional and programming grants. In addition, overall, 21 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been funded and technically supported to advocate, respond, and prevent VAWG through the provision of capacity development. Trainings and awareness of staff on gender, prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse and child protection policies were conducted, which increased the capacity to comply with internal policies and ensure effective management of resources. This provided initial background for the development of essential risk and EVAW strategies and other tools that have strengthened organizations' accountability mechanisms towards local communities and are continued to use by staff in their efforts to protect and promote women and girls against GBV. For what concerns human resources, partner CSOs have adopted policies and different tools to protect women and girls' safety, physical and mental health, and security so they can ensure that women human rights are respected. Trainings were also provided to staff on how to work together for tackling family violence, gender concepts, different forms of violence against women, self-help group management, communication, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting, how to prioritize the GBV survivor's rights needs and empower women, and Psycho-Social Counselling. Thus far the original strategy and ToC for this outcome is largely still applicable. If as expected this strategy to engage partners via a capacity development model is successful, then continued support will ensure and continually increase advocacy efforts on as well as prevention and response to VAWG.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_3.6

National and sub-national institutions and organisations have the commitment, knowledge and capacities to legislate, advocate, plan, implement and monitor policies to prevent and respond to SGBV and HP

There has been some progress on this outcome in 2022 for Afghanistan. Following the siege of power by the de facto authorities mid-August 2021, the gender equality architecture in Afghanistan was dismantled with the abolishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and the absence of any women in the de facto authority governing structure. Many women leaders—fled the country, fearing the consequences for dedicating their lives to gender equality. While women's civil society continues to exist in Afghanistan, their operations have been significantly controlled by the de facto authorities and curtailed. In this operating context, UN Women focus in 2022, was on strategic engagement with the Taliban to realize gender specific outcomes including on women needs and the need for shelters supporting survivors of violence which were closed to be re/opened. In the light of a constrained operating context women civil society organizations are operating, UN Women Afghanistan made some progress on this outcome in 2022. UN Women strategy and approach included support to CSOs to deliver coordinated, comprehensive support to women and girl survivors of violence, with some awareness raising integrated in programming, which have reached at least 1,673 people (f-860; m-813). This was done primarily through the provision of institutional and programming grants as well as technical and advisory support to deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to SGBV and harmful practices. Furthermore, UN Women supported partners with the development of an EVAWG training manual, which is being finalized. A company was identified to conduct the media assessment. A prevention action plan is being developed and will inform of opportunities for agency collaboration. Thus far the original strategy and ToC for this outcome is largely still applicable. However, the new ban on women work will larger impact on organizations to work due to lack of female staff to provide essential services or engage on prevention.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_4.1

An enabling environment for the implementation of WPS commitments is fostered.

UN Women Afghanistan created an enabling environment for WPS by facilitating spaces for Afghan women to influence international decision-making on Afghanistan; as well as making gender analysis of themes related to peace and security available to support gender sensitive interventions and decision-making.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_4.2

Women are represented and meaningfully participate in all peace and security, peace-building, recovery and humanitarian processes, including formal and informal peace negotiations and forums

There has been an overall regression on this outcome in 2022 for Afghanistan given restrictions paused on women and shrinking space for CSOs and specifically women led CSOs to operate. Nonetheless, on the Humanitarian fronts, In 2022, UN Women stepped up initiatives to enhance the participation of women in the humanitarian coordination architecture both at national and provincial levels. At the national level UN Women supported the Afghan Women's Advisory Group to the HCT with technical support to provide guidance and information on the situation of women and girls as well as participate in both national and regional humanitarian coordination platforms led by OCHA. The Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group also consistently called on women led organizations to participate in the GiHA working group and other cluster meetings in order to contribute to the decisions, planning and analysis of the humanitarian response. In 2022, UN Women started decentralizing the GiHA working groups led by UN Women senior national staff stationed in the field. They maintained continued presence in five regions actively

participating in humanitarian coordination meetings and proactively encouraging other women led organizations to join in. As of December 2022 one local GiHA working group had been set up in Northern region and two were underway in Western and Southern Regions of Afghanistan. Going forward, these forums will be sustained and given gravitas to engage with the Inter Cluster Coordination teams (ICCTs) and Regional Humanitarian Teams (RHTs), while information will be shared with women organizations and their voices raised in these forums. Conscious of the language barriers, UN Women provides translation services to ensure messages are well received by women CSOs as well. On WPS, no national peace and security processes existed in 2022, as the peace process collapsed in 2021 after the Taliban takeover. In the absence of national platforms for women related to peace and security, UN Women, in partnership with UNAMA, undertook consultations with Afghan women across the country to feed their perspectives in UN decision-making in Afghanistan and HQ. This approach has ensured that the voices of Afghan women leaders are represented in fora related to peace, security and humanitarian issues, contributing to gender outcomes such as WPS language in the UNAMA mandate renewal.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_D_6.1

The capacity of the government and stakeholders is strengthened to assess the progress in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and other global normative and policy frameworks

Not Applicable in 2022