

Progress in Afghanistan country in 2022

Data as of:
3 May 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— from all walks of life— 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

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_O_1

Drive more effective and efficient UN system coordination and strategic partnerships

UN Women continued to convene and facilitate various platforms in driving effective and efficient UN system coordination and strategic partnerships, In specific terms UN Women ACO: § Co-chairs Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) coordination/clusters and WGs coordination: UN Women co-leads with IRC the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group. GiHA WG continues to actively participate in Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) to strengthen joint analysis and planning on the Humanitarian Cycle Planning process. GiHA WG provide inputs into two assessments that are core planning documents for the Humanitarian Response Plan, including the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) and the Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA). GiHA WG continues to provide technical support to humanitarian clusters in placing women and girls at the center of their response, including in the context of the earthquake in Paktika and Khost that happened on 22 June 2022 through producing gender updates to inform the humanitarian response. § Provided Strategic and Technical Support to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT): o Women Advisory Group : UN Women spearheaded the formation of a nine-member Afghan women advisory group to advise the HCT on how to better respond to the needs of women and girls and provide advice to improve the humanitarian community's engagement with the Taliban at the central (Kabul) and local/provincial levels. WAG provide technical support to the Afghan WAG to the UN Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). § Chairs Gender Theme Group (GTG) : UN Women as the Chair of the Gender Working Group (renamed to Gender Theme Group in 2022) , in close collaboration with RCO and UNAMA, played a pivotal role reviving the UNCT Gender coordination mechanism since the Taliban siege of power in mid-August 2021. The Terms of Reference was updated, and gender action plan developed. § Co-chair of newly established Gender and Human Rights Strategic Thematic Working Group (G&HR STWG) in 2022. The G&HR STWG is a multi-stakeholder platform that aims to enhance coordination across the women's rights programming and advocacy in Afghanistan and subsequently define sectorial work around the Joint Strategic Framework for Afghanistan Coordination Group. It brings together key donors and partners, elevates Afghan women's voices, and represents an opportunity to position UN Women as

the first partner on women's rights in the country. This working group has replaced the Gender Donors Coordination Group to which UN Women was also co-chairing. In partnership with UNHCR, co-led the Protection and Social Cohesion Technical Coordination Group established in the development of TEF. UN Women active participation and engagement contributed to the inclusion of a standalone result on gender equality in the UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF) for 2022. In collaboration with UN Women Headquarters, strategically leveraged its participation in the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) to foster effective and efficient UN system coordination on gender equality and women's empowerment. The STFA is a Multi-Partner Trust Fund bringing together 17 participating UN agencies and funds, that enables donors to channel their funding towards the implementation of the Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives Strategy. Through UN Women's advocacy, the STFA integrated Gender Equality Marker targets, currently set at the minimum of 15 per cent of funds going to interventions with gender equality/women's empowerment as their primary purpose, within the fund's core document. UN Women's representation in Fund meetings – both at technical working level, and in high-level Steering Committee and Advisory Board meetings – furthermore drives a collaborative engagement on gender equality and women's empowerment programming principles across participating UN agencies.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_O_2

Institutionalize a strong culture of results-based management, reporting, knowledge management and evaluation

UN Women has continued to build a strong practice on results-based management, reporting, knowledge management and evaluation. In this reporting year, ACO organized and coordinated a series of capacity building trainings on results-based reporting, strategic planning, gender-based evaluation and effective use of internal monitoring systems including RMS, Atlas, DAMs. This has been pertinent to strategic level planning alongside timely submission and approval of the 2023-24 Afghanistan Country Office Biennial Workplan and reports for 2022. Furthermore, In the second half of 2022, 6 UN Women staff members attended a programme and project management workshop organized by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). The workshop equipped personnel with project management tools, including on principles of results-based management.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_O_3

Mobilize and leverage adequate resources

In 2022, and despite an unprecedented Humanitarian, political, economic and women's rights crisis, UN Women ACO succeeded in both strengthening its existing partnerships and expanding its donors portfolio. Over 110 million USD in commitments and contributions were raised from 18 donors, including 10 new donors (confirmed and prospective). UN Women ACO has also explored non-funding and technical partnerships opportunities with non-traditional donors (mainly International Finance Institutions), including with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This success results from a threefold approach: Effective leverage of UN's coordination mandate and key role in several UN mechanisms, including its co-leadership of the Gender & Human Rights Strategic and Working Group (STWG), which is the UN's main platform for human and women rights in Afghanistan comprised of over 20 different UN, Member States and International Finance Institutions (IFIs); Clear and results oriented Resource Mobilization and partnerships approach, inclusive of an evidence-based mapping, targeted outreach plan, and prioritized engagement approach. The 2022 Resource Mobilization and Partnerships plan have guided the ACO's outreach and engagement efforts and driven a targeted and therefore efficient partnerships approach; Strong internal coordination and leverage

of UNW internal partnerships expertise at country, regional and HQ levels. The ACO partnerships team has closely coordinated with partnerships focal points in RO and HQ to provide regular update on the partnerships needs, discuss potential engagement opportunities to leverage (e.g. annual consultations with major donors at HQ), and align on best practices

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-AFG_O_4

Improved management of financial and human resources in pursuit of results

Scaling up of ACO operations by recruiting the Head of office for each of the five provinces and key national positions in Kabul office. Ensured all required donor financial reports are submitted in a timely manner ACO has overall continued to improve the management of financial and human resources. In specific terms, UN Women continued to provide capacity building opportunities for all the staff and implementing partner to be able to support UN Women deliver on its mandate on gender equality in Afghanistan. These opportunities were accessed by both Operations and Programmes staff covering a range of topics online. Given the increased number of new staff in the office, UN Women ACO conducted a standalone training on RBM for all the new recruits, to strengthen understanding of UN Women's programming and operational principles and guidelines.