



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

# Partnering for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Afghanistan

UN Women  
Executive Board  
June – July 2015

# Context Analysis

Population 30.55 million (2013)

% of ♀ Population 49.3% (2013)

GDP per capita \$664.8 (2013)

Seats held by ♀ in national  
parliaments 27.7% (2014)

Share of ♀ employed in  
nonagricultural sector 18% (2008)

agricultural sector 65% (2008)

% of ♀ in labor force 16.4% (2013)

% of ♀ aged 20-24 married by  
age 18 40.4% (2011)

% of ♀ experienced some form of  
violence 87.2% (2011)



State is party to human rights international treaties  
Constitution provides equal rights to citizens  
Several national and international frameworks support  
gender equality and empowerment

# Context Analysis (contd.)



“The Government's implementation of the law, in particular by police and prosecutors, was limited and that much greater efforts were needed to improve enforcement”

UNAMA & OCHA 2010/11



Overall literacy 25% (2013)  
♀13% vs. ♂32%

Voter turnout (2<sup>nd</sup> rnd)  
♀36% but ♂64%

Account at a formal  
financial institution (2012)  
♀2.62% but ♂15.42%



NAPWA 2008-2018  
commits to 30% ♀  
representation in civil  
service by 2018  
(20% in 2013)

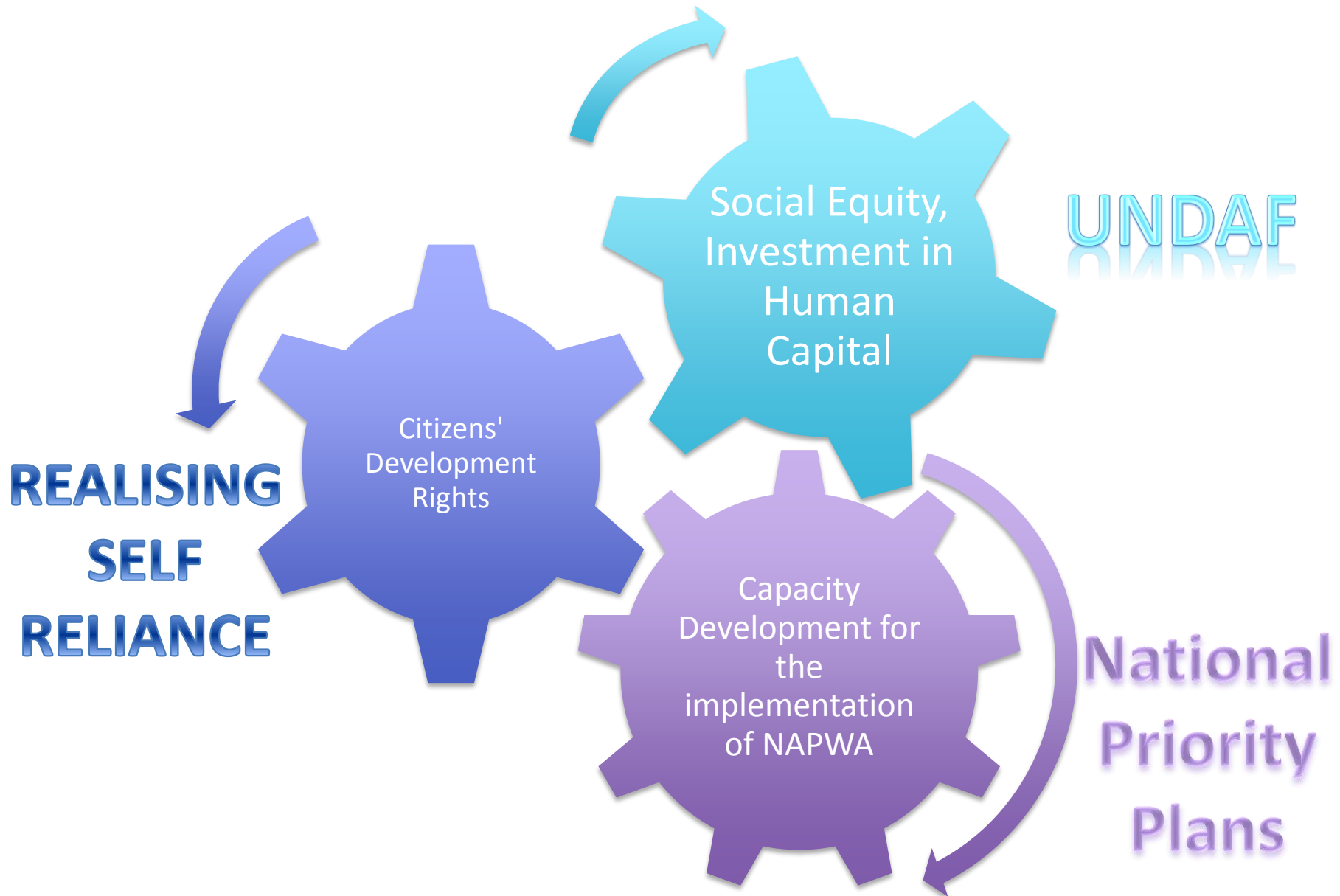
Representation quota  
for provincial councils  
was reduced to 20%  
in 2013

ادار و اذیت بسی است!

بیائید محلات عمومی را  
بیاد نیاوریم

Women's Rights Activists march to stop street harassment in the cities of Afghanistan

# Guiding Frameworks





High ranking officials celebrate International Women's Day, March 2015

# UN Women Programme

Ending  
Violence  
Against  
Women

Political &  
Economic  
Empowerment

Coordination  
& Advocacy

Support to Intergovernmental Normative Processes

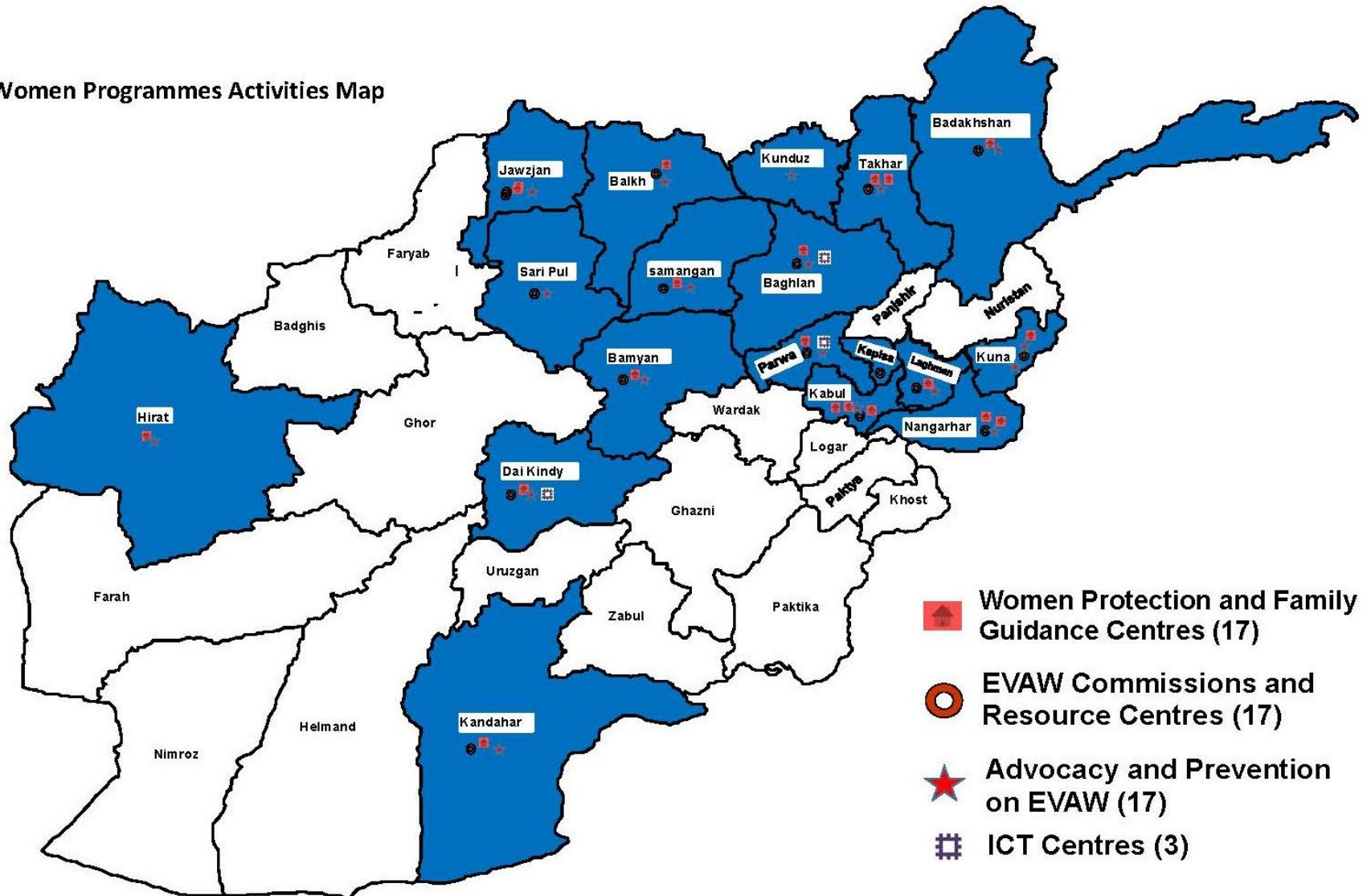
Fostering Partnerships & Engaging National Capacities

Developing Capacities & Knowledge Products and Resources

Monitoring & Evaluation

# In the context of Afghanistan

UN Women Programmes Activities Map

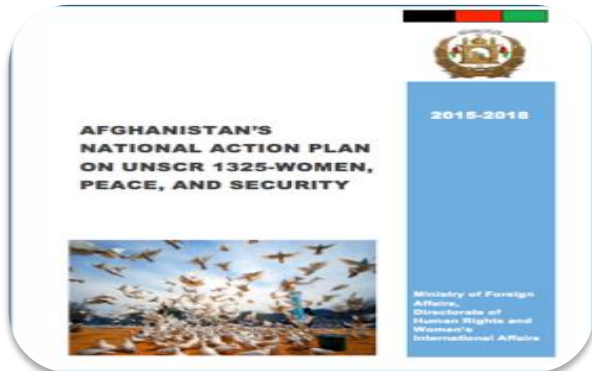




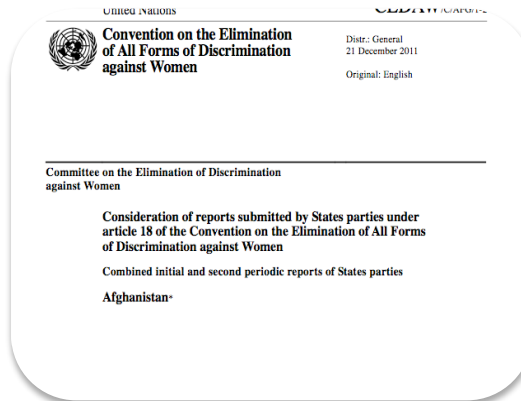


Robabek Na-ebi, a candidate for elections of provincial council – 2014 Balkh

# Support Normative Processes



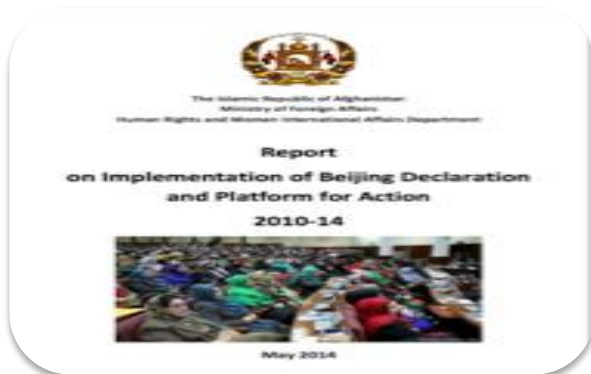
UNSCR 1325  
NAP



CEDAW



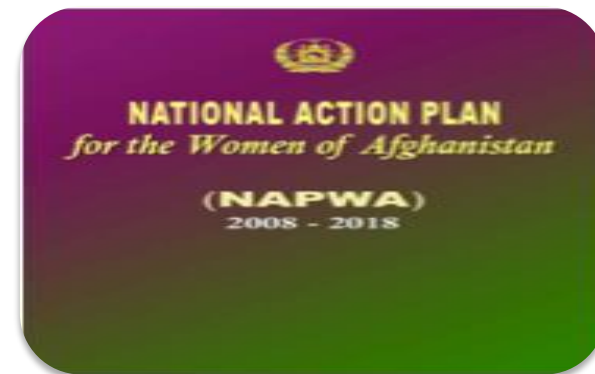
CSW



Beijing +20



EVAW Nat'l  
Strategy



NAPWA 2008-  
18

# Engaging Partners & Reaching Beneficiaries

- Collaboration with 5 Ministries, Parliament, Central Statistics Organization, EAW Commissions, more than 37 NGOs, Media, 2 Associations, Gawharshad and Kabul Universities
- Programme activities carried out in collaboration with public sector and civil society
  - 17 EAW Commissions
  - 11 Women Protection Cntr
  - 5 Family Guidance Cntr
  - 1558 survivors of violence and 329 accompanying children gained access to protection, legal & health services in 2014



# Trainings for Institutional and Individual Benefits

At institutional level trainings are aimed to improve:

- knowledge on gender equality and women's empowerment
- knowledge on national commitments to the normative standards for gender equality
- capacity to ensure gender integration in all programmes and gender responsive processes



Gender Focal Points at MRRD



Training for Improved Service Delivery to VAW survivors

# Trainings for Institutional and Individual Benefits

Exposure Visit for the Parliament - Malaysia



Exposure to International Trade Fair India



656 female graduates from 4 ICT centers in 2014



Afghan women gain skills on how to produce sanitary napkins at home from Indian entrepreneurs – Jayasherri Industries

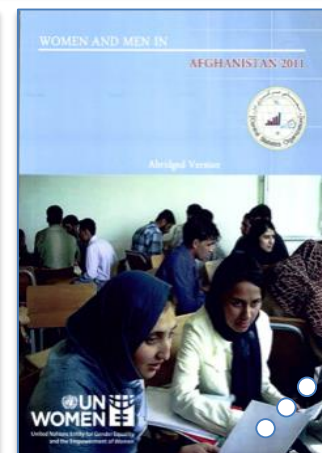
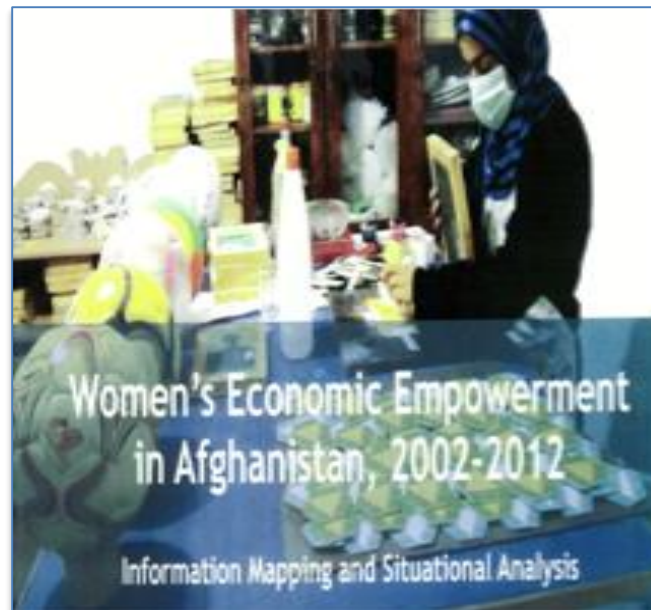
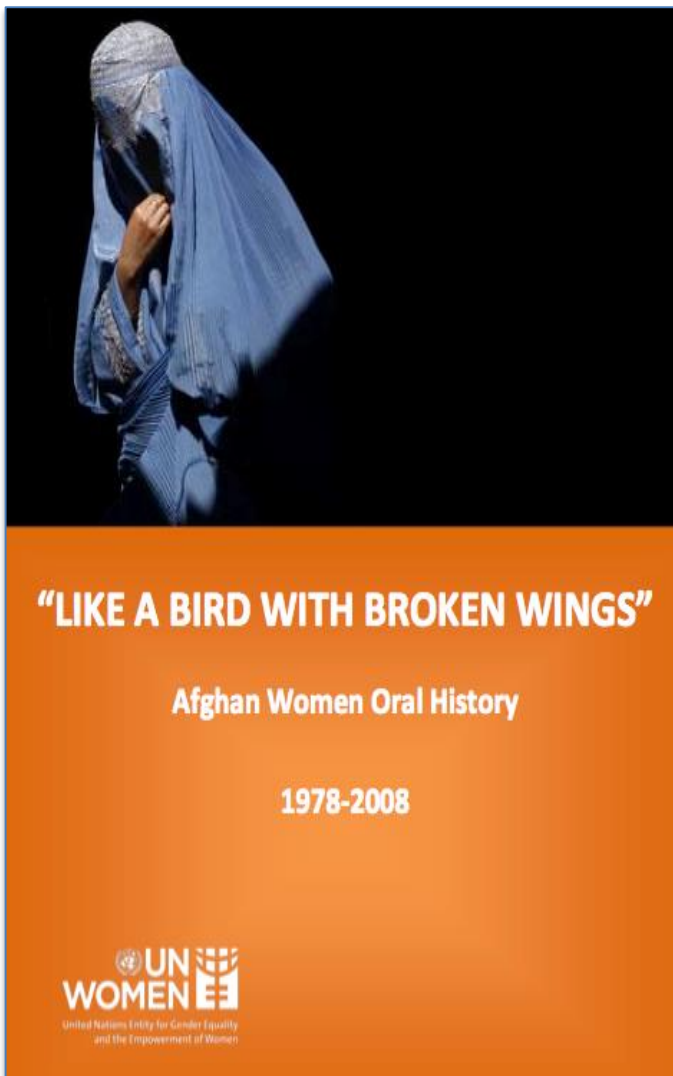
# Knowledge Products

In consideration  
of the local  
context

Break Language  
Barrier (English,  
Dari and Pashtu)

Widely  
disseminated

Standardize  
tools among  
stakeholders  
and  
implementers



# ADVOCACY:

## Need for Paradigm Shift

Population aged 15-24 years is estimated at 22.2%

Population aged 0-14 years is estimated at 42%

Tip the scales of rising extremism toward reception of gender equality values among youth

Need a conducive environment where young men and boys can openly acknowledge their support to gender equality

Redefine “honor” and “courage” to mean standing up for justice rather than male chauvinism



Arash Barez, popular young Afghan singer pledged his commitment for the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women by signing up with HEforShe Campaign

# Call 6464 for further information and assistance



I am a mother , a wife and a doctor. I understand the responsibilities of life and I am living a successful life.

Do YOU know that women should be given equal rights in the decision making processes of a household? Call 6464 for further information.



I am supporting my daughter to go to university and make her dreams come true.

Do YOU know that forced marriage is a form of domestic violence? Call 6464 for further information and assistance.



I am glad my father is against child marriage and is supportive of me going to school.

Do YOU know someone who has faced child marriage and needs help? Call 6464 for assistance.



# Results from Advocacy efforts



Article 26 of Criminal Procedural Code approved by Parliament was amended through strong advocacy from CSOs, UN and International Community



Advocacy for gender responsive law reform and enforcement resulted in saving ERAW Law from abolishment and developing national ERAW strategy



Advocacy for greater women's participation and their political rights to choose and be chosen as political leaders during elections



Women queued in rain to cast their votes for the 2014 Presidential Elections

39% of the 5.9million turnout for the 2009 Presidential Elections

36% of the 7 million turnout for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of 2014 Presidential Elections

38% of the 8 million turnout for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of 2014 Presidential Elections

# Coordination



GWG (UN) & GDCG



Convening Role



MOUs with sister Agencies

# New Initiatives

## High Peace Council



- Mapping of best practices
- Gender Sensitization
- Leadership & technical Peace Building
- Inclusive Peace Building

## Supreme Court



- Technical Support & Training for Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA)
- Support female graduates as future judges

## Scholarships



- Scholarship and internship programs to improve employability of women in non-conventional fields

# Thank you



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



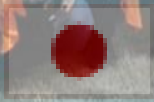
Farnesina  
Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



France  
Diplomatie

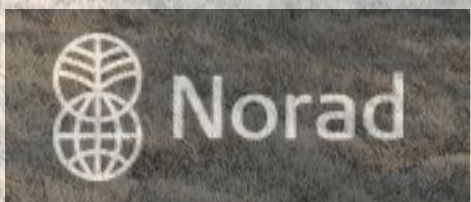


Government of  
the Netherlands



外務省

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation