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MDG 5, NAPWA, SDG 5, NAP 1325... What Next?

About APPRO:

Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO) is an independent social research organization with a mandate to promote social and policy learning to benefit development and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and other less developed countries through conducting applied research, monitoring and evaluation, and training and mentoring. APPRO is registered with the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan as a non-profit, non-government organization. APPRO is headquartered in Kabul, Afghanistan, with offices in Mazar-e Shrif (north), Herat (west), Kandahar (south), Jalalabad (east), and Bamyan (center). APPRO is also the founding organization of APPRO-Europe, registered in Belgium.

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Background

The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The Future We Want", set out a mandate to establish an open working group to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly beyond 2015. SDG 5 on gender equality has a number of specific targets on eliminating discrimination and violence against women, trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced and early marriages, unpaid domestic and other work by women, access to basic services and equal rights in access to resources, protection and participation in all spheres, and legislative reform to protect and promote women's rights (Appendix 2).

There are no direct references to UNSCR 1325 in SDGs. However, a number of the specific targets under SDG Goal 5 also appear under UNSCR 1325 and Afghanistan's 2015 National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR (NAP 1325). The four pillars of UNSCR / NAP 1325 are Participation, Protection, Prevention, and Relief and Recovery (Appendix 2). The only pillar of UNSCR / NAP 1325 not covered explicitly under SDG 5 is Pillar 4, Relief and Recovery (see Appendix 1).

UNSCR 1325, adopted by the United Nations' member states on October 31, 2000, formally acknowledges women's

right to participate in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, and peace building, and to be included in decision making bodies at all levels of government. UNSCR 1325 was followed by six subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), creating a normative policy framework for UN Member States to adopt a gender perspective in their peace operations and provide guidance for translating high-level recommendations into concrete policies and action plans (Appendix 3). Given the currency of NAP 1325, it will be of strategic importance for Afghanistan to align key efforts such as programming for implementing SDG Goal 5 and program activity under PROMOTE (Promoting Gender Equity in National Priority Programs Project) with NAP 1325 as the key policy document.

Overview and Current Status

At a formal, regulatory level commitment to gender equality has been a major feature of post-2001 reconstruction and development programming in Afghanistan. This commitment was first made in the Bonn Agreement (December 2001), followed by similar commitments in the Constitution of Afghanistan (2003), Afghanistan Compact (2006), National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA 2008 – 2018), and Afghanistan National Development

Strategy (ANDS 2008 – 2013). In addition, Afghanistan is signatory to the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW 2003) and has made specific commitments to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including Goal 3, “Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women” and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Goal 5 on “Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls” and Goal 16 on “Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

Each of these commitments emphasizes gender mainstreaming as a crosscutting theme to be incorporated into all government policies and all manner of donor aid programming. Through its Recommendation Number 30, issued in October 2013, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) further renewed the focus on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 through adequately funded National and Regional Action Plans. Afghanistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has had the responsibility for developing and implementing Afghanistan’s National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325. NAP 1325 was released in June 2015.¹

In practice, Afghanistan has a higher percentage of women in its government than the United States, France, Australia, and the United Kingdom.² In 2013, women made up around 16 percent of total government officials. This is much lower when compared to the percentages for the regional neighbors in Central Asia such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan but comparable to Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan (around 20 percent). However, the reduction in 2013-2014 of the quota for female provincial council members in Afghanistan from 25 percent to 20 demonstrates the tenuousness of relatively high numbers of females in different structures of government. Indeed, many have argued that the rapid proliferation of measures soon after 2001 to bring Afghanistan in line with international conventions and charters on women’s rights has in fact created a backlash against such measures.

1 See Appendix 2 for a summary of Afghanistan’s NAP 1325.

2 See: <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/09/27/1137274/-The-Gender-Gap-Percentage-of-Women-in-Government-World-wide-We-re-Number-One-Right-re-Not-So-Much#>

The successful attempt by a sizable number of parliamentarians to reduce the quota for women in provincial councils, and attempts by others elsewhere against legal provisions for women’s rights, are manifestations of this backlash and polarization.³ In the meantime, the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW), signed into law through a presidential decree, has come under heavy debate in the Parliament since late 2013 with little or no prospect of being approved by the Parliament without major changes being demanded by the traditionalist / conservative factions. Similarly, since mid-2013, there have been increased pressures by the more conservative members of the Parliament to weaken sections of the Criminal Code deemed inappropriate or inconsistent with strict interpretations of Islam. Some parliamentarians have even asked for bringing back stoning as punishment for adultery.⁴ Afghanistan continues to be ranked as one of the most dangerous places for women in the world.⁵

Compounding these developments since 2015 have been reductions in the total amount of aid for Afghanistan and numerous programs which ceased to operate due largely to the security transition. The departure of international security forces in 2014 has resulted in the loss of the many auxiliary local businesses that emerged since 2001 to service the international security force bases and operations throughout the country. Many of the thousands of women who worked for the international security forces, auxiliary businesses, and numerous humanitarian and other NGOs have lost their jobs since 2014 due to the draw down of international forces. Higher rates of unemployment among men has been linked to increased tension within households and domestic violence against women.⁶

3 See Abirafeh, L. (2009), *Gender and International Aid in Afghanistan: The Politics and Effects of Intervention* (Jefferson: McFarland and Co.)

4 Afghanistan Watch (2014)

5 Deutsche Welle News Agency: *Afghanistan, the Most Dangerous Country for Women*. Available from: <http://www.dw.de>, cited in Afghanistan Watch (2014)

6 See “Monitoring Women in Security Transition” reports for Cycles 3-5 (2014-2014), available from: <http://appro.org.af/category/publications/> and AIHRC (2013), “Violence Against Women in Afghanistan: Biannual Report” (Kabul: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission).

Key Challenges

Overall Security: With some exceptions the overall security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated significantly since around 2011. The deterioration is due to the increase in the frequency and intensity of attacks by Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs), the economic downturn resulting in increased unemployment among men and women, and a general weakening or breaking down of the already weak rule of law resulting in widespread criminal activity including corruption, theft, killings and kidnappings. The outcome of these developments for women has been reduced or complete loss of access to key services and general social mobility.

Access to Work and Public Life: Women's access to work has continued to decline throughout the country since 2012. The main cause of the decline are the reductions in the number of women-centered projects and funding, compounded by post-election uncertainty resulting in a loss of confidence of private and public sector employers to invest or take on new employees. Governmental organizations continue their freeze on hiring new employees. The perception of women working outside the home remains positive in certain sectors such as health and education, particularly in urban areas, on the condition that they abide by the traditional dress code. There are major reservations about women working for NGOs, however. The opinions of religious leaders on working women vary significantly within and between provinces. Insecurity, harassment in public spaces, and traditional conservatism remain the main impeding factors to women's presence in public life. Many women fear leaving their homes even in provinces where the security situation is relatively stable or has remained unchanged.

Access to Health and Education: Access to health and education has been subject to fluctuations in overall security and changes in the availability of health centers and schools. Availability of education has been much more affected than health with many girl schools closing in the aftermath of the security transition at the end of 2014.

Access to Justice: Access to justice for women remains very limited throughout the country, but is higher in the major urban centers. The overwhelming majority

of the legal cases involving women concern domestic disputes, typically solved through mediation by the police, Family Response Units, Department of Women's Affairs, or community elders. The main impeding factors for women seeking formal justice are the unfair attitude of justice officials toward women, corruption, the disapproval of male family members of women using formal justice, and lack of rights awareness among women and the almost entirely male justice officials. The inauguration of the National Unity Government and its stated hard stance against corruption lessened bribe taking among formal justice officials initially. With the government becoming progressively consumed with political crisis toward the end of 2015 and failing to act on its stance against corruption, systematic and aggressive bribe taking by corrupt officials resumed in earnest.

Violence Against Women: There is a generally high level of violence against women. The main causes of the increase are the persistent poverty, increasing unemployment, drug addiction mostly among men but increasing also women, and lack of awareness on women's rights among men.

Women in Politics: Women's participation in politics remains unchanged since women entered the political arena following the 2004 Constitution. Female candidacy rates for provincial council elections has never been higher than 16 percent of total candidates despite the 20 percent representation quota in provincial councils. Women's participation in formal peace talks has also been limited. Women's role in the peace process is viewed by many as purely symbolic despite the strong sentiment within most communities that women could play a major role in effecting peace by encouraging their male family members to pursue peaceful means in resolving disagreements and conflicts.

Ways Forward

Despite the many challenges, numerous gains have been made by and for women in Afghanistan since 2001. The percentage of girls in schools, the numbers of schools and clinics and the numbers of teachers and medical personnel have risen steadily, albeit unevenly and with reservations about service quality, throughout the country.

At the formal policy level, the National Action

Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) of 2008 and the National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (NAP 1325) have committed the Government of Afghanistan to continue to make measurable steps to increase the number of women in the workforce and strengthen women's place in society.⁷ Similarly, there are upward trends for the number of male and female teachers, also with regional variations.⁸ There has also been a steady increase in the ratio of doctors to population.

The widespread participation of women in the presidential elections, especially during the first round in April 2014, was significant in many ways. At around 38 percent, the estimated percentage of female voters in the first round of 2014 presidential elections was lower than the first and second presidential elections in 2004 and 2009. But, in absolute terms the turnout by women to vote in the presidential elections of 2014 was the highest ever throughout Afghanistan's history. Even if this number is discounted for questionable or fraudulent votes, the number remains very significant.

Access to education, health, and justice by women has been negatively affected the security transition at the end of 2014, the uncertainty following the presidential elections in 2015, intensified AOG activity since the last quarter of 2015, and an sharp increase in criminal activity.⁹ Arguably, the deterioration in security conditions combined with weakened political stability, persistent poverty, and the rise in unemployment among men and women have contributed to the turn toward traditionalism, societal conservatism, corruption, and discrimination against women.

Future interventions in Afghanistan for meeting the specific targets for SDG Goal 5 or the realization of NAP 1325 will need to be cognizant of two key contextual considerations. First, particular attention needs to be paid to how the rights of the women of Afghanistan are presented in a society that remains, for the most part, socially conservative, female exclusionary, and unaccepting of women's rights-centered interventions. To avoid backlashes against the necessary

7 See: <http://mowa.gov.af/fa/page/6814>).

8 Central Statistical Office of Afghanistan, Statistical Yearbooks 2012 – 2015.

9 APPRO (2016), Security Transition and Women: A Synthesis, available from: <http://appro.org.af/women-in-transition-a-synthesis/>

but insufficient women's rights activism – characteristic of much of the women-centered interventions and advocacy work by women's rights organizations in Afghanistan – serious thought, and resources, need to be allocated to engaging men and boys, and young men and women. National and international entities with mandates on women's rights need to examine their approaches to ensure that there is a balance between women's rights activism and inclusive and constructive engagement and advocacy on women's rights.

Second, there are no serious shortages of policies, laws (including quotas), regulations, and physical structures in Afghanistan to attend to women's many fundamental issues (see the summary in the Introduction to this brief). There is a Ministry of Women's Affairs with provincial line ministries in most provinces, all key ministries have had a gender policy, gender unit, and a gender focal point, and there is a plethora of conventions and laws to establish and protect women's rights. The key issue has been weak or no implementation at all levels and a systemic failure to mainstream women through the legitimacy of the many formal provisions.

That little or nothing in practice has happened as a direct result of NAPWA since 2008 or NAP 1325 since June 2015 should not lead to the conclusion that these two crucial legal documents have no utility. Rather, the challenge for the government, the international donors, and civil society is to find ways of using these two key instruments as legitimacy for their proposed actions on improving the conditions of women in Afghanistan. A key step in this direction is to link the significant, albeit ad hoc, gains made for women through sectoral policies in such key sectors as education, health, and justice to the objectives of NAPWA and NAP 1325 – and consistent with SDG 5 and PROMOTE program activities – and to use this mix of policy instruments and resources to place legitimate demands on the government (and its international donors) to allocate adequate human and financial resources for ensuring basic and sustainable rights for women.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are adapted from a number of studies undertaken by APPRO on gender mainstreaming, assessing roles of women in different sectors, and monitoring changes in the conditions of women in Afghanistan since 2011.

Violence Against Women	Relevant Entities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain provision of awareness raising on violence against women and women’s rights for women and men. Continue integrating awareness raising with vocational and literacy training programs. • Sustain training on the Family Law at the community level and include local decision makers, traditional justice providers, and male and female members of communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • IDLG • MoJ • MoWA • International community • INGOs and NGOs • MoJ • MoWA • MoE • International community • INGOs and NGOs
Security Sector	Relevant Entities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold senior members of ANSF accountable for respecting gender equality by evaluating them for their ability to address cases of unfair treatment of women in the forces under their command. 2. Continue efforts to recruit more women for ANSF, increase female- friendly amenities and facilities in ANP and ANSF more generally, and ensure identical processes for promotion are applied to female and male ANSF officers. 3. Insure enhanced representation of women in leadership and decision-making position within ANSF at national and local levels 4. Provide adequate compensation and support to women whose family members have died or suffered severe injuries as a result of conflict-related violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • MoI • MoJ • MoWA • MoI • MoWA • UNDP/ LOTFA • International Donors • International Donors • Research Organizations • UNAMA • International Donors • Research Organizations
Access to Work and Public Life	Relevant Entities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustain development cooperation for income-generating projects for women at the community level. 2. Earmark project funds for recruitment of local female staff by national implementing partners. 3. Remove the freeze on recruitment in the civil service and meet recruitment quotas for women in civil service positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Afghanistan • International community • International Community • INGOs and NGOs • Government of Afghanistan

Access to Health and Education	Relevant Entities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop community monitoring mechanisms to ensure corruptive practices of health workers are reported and prosecuted. Cases of ill-treatment of female patients in health services, for example, need to be documented, prosecuted, and offenders brought to justice. 2. Increase female staffing of health services at the local level by continuing to train and recruit professional medical staff, from doctors to nurses and midwives. 3. Continue training and mentoring of health personnel on gender sensitivity at all levels. 4. Increase the protection of girls' schools, particularly at higher grades. At the same time, engage with parents on the virtue and value of education for their daughters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoPH • MoI • MoJ • INGOs and NGOs • International Community • MoPH • INGOs and NGOs • International Community • MoPH • INGOs and NGOs • International Community • MoI • MoE
Access to Justice	Relevant Entities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue training and mentoring of ANP personnel in dealing fairly and equitably with domestic violence. 2. Continue efforts to increase women's access to formal justice by increasing the availability of courts at the district level; sustain providing women-centered legal awareness programs for women and men; make special provisions in the formal justice system to fast track women's legal cases. 3. Ensure that prosecution resulting in conviction in reported cases of violence against women is followed up with correctional measures for the offenders. 4. Ensure effective prosecution of cases of violence against women in accordance with national and international legal frameworks, including through the adoption of measures to combat impunity when State actors perpetrate violence against women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoI • MoWA • UNDP/LOTFA • International community • INGOs and NGOs • MoJ • MoWA • International community • INGOs and NGOs • MoI • MoJ • MoWA • MoJ • International community • INGOs and NGOs • MoWA • UNAMA

Women in Politics	Relevant Entities
1. Strengthen active engagement of women in national and provincial High Peace Councils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Afghanistan • HPC • International Community
2. Increase involvement of CSOs and women’s rights organizations in the peace process, including engagement with the High Peace Council at national and provincial levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Afghanistan • International community • INGOs and NGOs
3. Raise awareness among female and male citizens about the High Peace Council, the peace process, and the rights of the citizens to participate in the peace process.	
4. Sustain existing position quotas for women, particularly in senior decision making positions, across all sectors (health, education, judiciary, sub-national governance structures, and Parliament).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Afghanistan
5. Strengthen measures for the security and protection of high ranking female government officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoI

Appendix 1: Linkages Between SDG Goal 5 Specific Targets and UNSCR / NAP 1325 Provisions

Sustainable Development Goal 5 Specific Target	Equivalency Under UNSCR / NAP 1325
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. • Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women. 	<p>Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase effective participation of women in the decision-making and executive levels of the civil service • Ensure women’s active and effective participation in leadership positions of security agencies • Ensure women’s effective participation in the peace process • Encourage women’s meaningful participation in the drafting of strategies and policies on peace and security • Strengthen women’s active participation in politics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate. • Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws. • Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. 	<p>Protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect women from all forms of violence and discrimination through the enforcement, monitoring and amendment of existing laws and development of new laws and policies. • Promote women’s human rights gender mainstreaming of laws, policies, and institutional reforms. • Create an enabling environment for women to have access to justice through women’s effective participation in the judiciary. • Protect women from all forms of violence through awareness raising and public outreach. • Provide health, psychological, and social services for women survivors of violence throughout Afghanistan. • Effect special measures to ensure women’s protection from sexual violence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. • Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. • Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. • Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. 	<p>Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent violence against women. • Eliminate culture of impunity in violence against women. • Strengthen the role of women in the security sector and judicial structures. • Effect gender-related reforms in the security and justice sectors. • Involve men and boys in the fight against all forms of violence against women. • Increase awareness among women of their rights and their role in preventing violence and resolving conflict.

<p>There are no direct equivalencies for UNSCR 1325 Pillar 4, Relief and Recovery, in SDG Goal 5 or other SDGs. This is due largely to UNSCR 1325's focus on women in conflict environments.</p>	<p>Relief and Recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide relief and recovery services for women affected by conflict, internal displacement and women survivors of violence.• Increase rural women's economic security through increased employment opportunities.• Consider women's social and economic needs in the design, implementation, and evaluation of relief and recovery programs.• Implement the policy provisions of UNSCR 1325 for the internally displaced persons (IDPs).
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Appendix 2: Sustainable Development Goal 5 Specific Targets

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

For additional detail, see: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality#sthash.FHqaSStm.dpuf>

Appendix 3: Summary of Afghanistan’s National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (NAP 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (2015-2022)

To implement UNSCR 1325, the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve the following:

- Participation of women in the decision making and executive levels of the Civil Service, Security and Peace and Reintegration;
- Women’s active participation in national and provincial elections;
- Women’s access to effective, active and accountable justice system;
- Health and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual and domestic violence throughout Afghanistan;
- Protection of women from all types of violence and discrimination;
- Provision of financial resources for activities related to women in emergency;
- Implementation of IDPs policy provisions related to UNSCR 1325;
- Put an end to impunity for violence against women (VAW) and related crimes;
- Engage boys and men in fighting Violence Against Women;
- Support and provide capacity building for civil society (particularly women’s organizations) on UNSCR 1325 and women, peace, and security;
- Increase economic security for vulnerable women through increased employment opportunities;
- Increase access to education and higher education for girls and women, particularly for the internally displaced persons and returnees;

Due to more than 3 decades of war, the following major areas require focused attention:

- Women are vulnerable to sexual violence, including: rape, sexual harassment, trafficking, forced prostitution, and forced marriages
- In remote areas, women lack access to justices
- As a result of the armed conflict and the marginalization of women in society at large, women lack proper access to healthcare services, education, and employment opportunities.
- As a result, illiteracy and unemployment rates are highest among women, and Afghanistan suffers from a significant maternal mortality rate. Internally displaced women and women living in conflict-affected communities are particularly vulnerable to insecurity.

Constitutional Provisions

According to Article 22 of the Afghan Constitution, “[a]ny kind of discrimination and distinction between citizens of Afghanistan shall be forbidden. The citizens of Afghanistan, man and woman, have equal rights and duties before the law.” This Article is the foundation for incorporating principles of gender equality and non-discrimination in government policies and initiatives. Women’s right to vote and representation in the National Assembly is enshrined in the 1964 Constitution. These rights were strengthened in 2004 with the new Constitution that set the 26 percent quota of seats for women in the Lower House (Wolesi Jirga) and 17 percent in the Upper House (Meshrano Jirga). Following the 2010 elections, Afghan women represented 27.7 percent of the Wolesi Jirga.

Articles No 43, 44, 53, and 54 of the Afghan Constitution articulate provisions on education, healthcare, welfare, and employment services for women. These articles ensure women’s access to education, healthcare, and employment in Afghanistan, which are pre-conditions for their meaningful political participation as well as an important component of the relief and recovery.

Legal Provisions

The laws of Afghanistan guarantee the protection of women’s right and freedom. The government is legally bound to protect women against violence. In 2009 the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law was adopted, which lists 22 offences including forced marriage and rape. In an attempt to strengthen the legal provisions and structures to eliminate violence against women and increase women’s participation, the government has taken the following significant steps:

- Adoption of the EVAW Law
- Amendment of some of the provisions in the Civil Servants Law to promote women’s rights
- Development of the Family Law
- Development of procedures to prevent discrimination

- Development of Shelter Regulations, and
- Presidential Decree No 45 (Paragraph 32) on Elimination of Violence against Women.

NAP 1325 Pillars

Participation:

- Increase effective participation of women in the decision-making and executive levels of the civil service
- Ensure women's active and effective participation in leadership positions of security agencies
- Ensure women's effective participation in the peace process
- Encourage women's meaningful participation in the drafting of strategies and policies on peace and security
- Strengthen women's active participation in politics

Protection:

- Protect women from all forms of violence and discrimination through the enforcement, monitoring and amendment of existing laws and development of new laws and policies.
- Promote women's human rights gender mainstreaming of laws, policies, and institutional reforms.
- Create an enabling environment for women to have access to justice through women's effective participation in the judiciary.
- Protect women from all forms of violence through awareness raising and public outreach.
- Provide health, psychological, and social services for women survivors of violence throughout Afghanistan.
- Effect special measures to ensure women's protection from sexual violence.

Prevention:

- Prevent violence against women.
- Eliminate culture of impunity in violence against women.
- Strengthen the role of women in the security sector and judicial structures.
- Effect gender-related reforms in the security and justice sectors.
- Involve men and boys in the fight against all forms of violence against women.
- Increase awareness among women of their rights and their role in preventing violence and resolving conflict.

Relief and Recovery:

- Provide relief and recovery services for women affected by conflict, internal displacement and women survivors of violence.
- Increase rural women's economic security through increased employment opportunities.
- Consider women's social and economic needs in the design, implementation, and evaluation of relief and recovery programs.
- Implement the policy provisions of UNSCR 1325 for the internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Implementation

The implementation occurs in two phases of four years each: 2015-2018 and 2018-2022.

The implementing agencies have been divided into two categories lead (governmental) and support (civil society). All lead and supporting implementing agencies will be responsible for reporting on their assigned activities on an annual basis to the DHRWIA-MoFA. The DHRWIA is responsible for compiling the reports and submitting them to the Steering Committee for approval and subsequent submission to the President Office, the National Assembly, and the international community. The annual reporting will address the extent of activities implemented and financing allocated, disbursed and spent, progress made, challenges encountered, and suggestions to improve the implementation.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee was established on April 14, 2012, under Presidential Order No 434, and is an overarching body to advise and direct the NAP development process. The Steering Committee is comprised of relevant government agencies as well as a representative from civil society. Following the adoption of the NAP, the Steering Committee will continue to have a central role in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NAP.

Steering Committee Members

Institution	NAP Role
1. Minister of Foreign Affairs	Chairperson Member
2. Deputy Minister (Policy) of MoD	Member
3. Deputy Minister (Security) of the MoIA	Member
4. Deputy Minister of Public Health (Healthcare Services)	Member
5. Deputy Minister (Admin and Finance) of MoRR	Member
6. Deputy Minister (Technical and Policy) of MoWA	Member
7. Senior Advisor of MoJ	Member
8. Director of DHRWIA of MoFA	Member
9. Deputy Director of NDS	Member
10. Women's Rights Commissioner of the AIHRC	Member
11. Representative of Civil Society	Member
12. Director of International Relations of the Office of Administrative Affairs and Secretariat of Ministers' Council	Member

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan consists of annual, mid-term (after two years) and final review in the fourth year. The Plan includes tracking and monitoring of financing for NAP 1325 to ensure transparent and effective implementation under the oversight and responsibility of the Steering Committee. The government recognizes the important role of civil society as an independent oversight body for the successful implementation of the NAP 1325.

Appendix 4: Subsequent Resolutions to UNSCR 1325

Resolution 2122 (2013) on women's leadership and empowerment as a central component for resolving conflicts and promoting peace through a number of specific calls for regular consultations, funding mechanisms to support women's civil society organization and changes in the Council's working methods in relation to WPS.

Resolution 2106 (2013) on the need to better operationalize existing obligations, particularly those related to sexual violence.

Resolution 1960 (2010) calls for refining institutional tools to combat impunity related to sexual violence, notably through the set up of a 'naming and shaming' list in annual reports.

Resolution 1889 (2009) focuses on women's participation in peace building and calls on United Nations Secretary General to develop a set of global indicator to measure impact of UNSCR 1325 at global and national levels. It further welcomes "the efforts of member states in implementing Resolution 1325 at the national level, including the development of national action plans".

Resolution 1888 (2009) calls for appointment of a Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the establishment Women's Protection Advisors within Peacekeeping missions.

UNSCR 1820 (2008) draws attention to sexual violence being used as a weapon of war and calls for the need for prosecution of gender-based war crimes.

For additional detail, see: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality#sthash.FHqaSStm.dpuf>