
External Evaluation of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Special Fund 2008-2014

Report Prepared for

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACO	Afghanistan Country Office (of UN Women)
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
ANP	Afghan National Police
AREU	Afghanistan Research Evaluation Unit
AWN	Afghan Women's Network
AWSDC	Afghan Women Skills Development Centre
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CCA	Cooperation Center for Afghanistan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRF	Development Results Framework
ECW	Empowerment Center for Women
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
FGC	Family Guidance Centre
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HAWCA	Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan
HR	Human Resources
HRD	Human Resource Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoHRA	Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRF	Management Results Framework
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
PEEP	Political and Economic Empowerment Pillar
PR	Public Relations
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
ToR	Terms of Reference
TRC	Technical Review Committee
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization
WPC	Women Protection Centre

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an external evaluation of the multi-donor initiative entitled, “Strengthening EAW Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund” (herein referred to as the EAW Special Fund). Since the launch of the EAW Special Fund in 2008, the Fund has been administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), with financial support from multiple donors, including the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The EAW Special Fund essentially provides small grants to CSOs that are implementing community-based initiatives prioritizing innovative projects that address the social realities of communities and supports sustainable grassroots approaches to EAW, including protection of women at-risk of and survivors of VAW, and prevention of VAW, including multi-stakeholder involvement from the government and civil society.

Background

Women’s Rights in Afghanistan

The struggle for women’s rights in Afghanistan has been a long and difficult process. Decades of internal conflict and gender discrimination have perpetuated women’s economic and social disenfranchisement in Afghanistan. Despite a myriad of challenges facing Afghanistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA), in cooperation with the international community and civil society, has played a critical role in supporting women’s rights and helping Afghan women gain back the rights they lost during the Taliban regime.

Although progress has been gradual, it includes establishing the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) in 2002, passing the 2002 Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women, and ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2003. The 2004 Afghanistan Constitution codified women’s and men’s equal status as citizens, and women’s equality before the law. In 2008, the MoWA-led 2007-2017 National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) was signed by the president and inter-ministerial meetings took place to decide how best to implement UN Security Council Resolutions (SCR) 1325 and 1820 that mandate the protection of women’s human rights in conflict setting, especially in terms of sexual violence, and their participation in all aspects of peace processes. In 2009, a national law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EAW) was enacted, which criminalizes acts of violence against women, and specifies punishment for perpetrators. Also, Women’s Protection Centres (WPC’s) were established in 2003.

Despite the fact that new laws and policies exist to protect Afghan women and their rights, women and girls continue to experience discrimination and limited access to opportunities, resources, civil liberties, and power. The GoIRA also continues to face challenges to fully implement legislation and policies aimed at gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to translate policies into projects and services that would improve conditions for women.

Violence Against Women in Afghanistan

Afghan society is heavily patriarchal and deeply rooted in tribal structures, ethnic cultures, and traditions of strict customary practices and religious interpretations about gender roles, adherence to an honour-and-shame system, widespread use of arranged marriages and dowry (*walwar*, *pashcash*), and deep-seated customs of intergenerational family control over women and girls. These factors contribute to the high rates of VAW in Afghanistan, alongside the fact that Afghanistan has experienced 30 years of conflict during which VAW has been used as a weapon of war.

Women experience different forms of VAW in the home and family, schools, workplace, and communities; however, there is a lack of data on the nature and extent of VAW in Afghanistan. However, in 2006 a Global Rights' study on domestic violence against women in Afghanistan revealed that 87.2% of women experienced at least one form of physical, sexual, or psychological violence or forced marriage, and 62.0% of women experienced multiple forms of violence. In addition, 58.8% of women were in forced marriages, distinct from arranged marriages. This study also found regional variations in rates of VAW, with some of the highest rates, other than sexual violence, occurring in rural areas and in the South and East of the country, and border regions with Pakistan.

Despite the lack of data on VAW, human rights and media reports, and international organizations and CSOs have played an important role in drawing attention to VAW in Afghanistan, including harmful traditional practices against women and girls. Most recently, VAW has reportedly become more frequent as tensions grow following the withdrawal of foreign troops and with aid organizations scaling back operations.

[EVAW Special Fund Overview](#)

Since 2002, UN Women (then UNIFEM) has been providing assistance to the GoIRA and its partners to promote a coordinated response to VAW. In 2008, to reinforce, expand, institutionalize, and sustain efforts to promote a coordinated response to VAW, UN Women launched a multi-donor initiative entitled, "Strengthening EVAW Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EVAW Special Fund" (herein referred to as the EVAW Special Fund). The concept of a Special Fund to support EVAW interventions in Afghanistan arose out of a series of consultations with donors, women's organizations, and government institutions. The EVAW Special Fund was developed to respond to the immediate needs for more coordinated action to address VAW in Afghanistan, to address difficulties cited by donors of funding a number of small organizations, and to consolidate and harmonize a range of ongoing EVAW initiatives at the national level under an umbrella programme. This includes, pooling resources, strengthening monitoring and accountability, committing resources to grants for CSO EVAW-related initiatives, and building capacities of CSOs to implement EVAW in Afghanistan). This approach was designed to ensure sustainability.

The EVAW Special Fund is aligned with the UN Women Global Strategic Plan Development Results Framework (DRF, 2012-2013) Goal 3, to "prevent VAW and expand access to victim/survivor services," and the UN Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF, 2010-2013) priority area 2.3.1 to support cross-cutting issues of gender in governance, peace and stability. In addition, the EVAW Special Fund is aligned with the UN Women ACO DRF (2014-2017) Goal 3 that "women and girls live a life free from violence," and Outcome 3.1 that "the GoIRA consistently implements legal frameworks combatting and prevention VAW in coordination with civil society."

At the country level, the EVAW Special Fund is aligned with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, 2008-2013) to strengthen practice and institutions, human rights, the rule of law, delivery of public services, and government accountability, and to ensure cross-cutting issues of gender equality in governance, rule of law, and human rights. In addition, the EVAW Special Fund is aligned with Pillar 2 of the NAPWA 2008-2013, which focuses on governance, rule of law and human rights, including legal protection and human rights for women, and the National Priority Program (NPPS) which supports law and justice for all.

Since 2008, the EVAW Special Fund has had multiple donors, including the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

[Evaluation Purpose and Scope](#)

Given the evolving nature of the implementation of the EVAW Special Fund and the resources allocated since the inception of the EVAW Special Fund in 2008, UN Women Afghanistan decided to carry out an external evaluation of the EVAW Special Fund. In keeping with the TOR, the purpose of this external evaluation was to provide an independent and in-depth assessment of the current approach and progress made towards the achievements of the planned results of EVAW Special Fund during the period of 2008 to 2014 (see Annex A).

In accordance, the evaluation scope is summative and focused on overall EAW Special Fund approaches and the work that has been delivered since the Special Fund's inception in 2008; this includes an assessment of the results achieved thus far by the EAW Special Fund, along with challenges and opportunities encountered, the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme approach and strategies applied and the partnerships developed, including adjustments made during the implementation of the programme. The aim is that this evaluation will identify lessons learned and lead to practical and implementable recommendations that would further improve future planning, management, and direction of the Special Fund, including strategic priorities for the EAW Special Fund that can serve to promote effective VAW prevention and EAW in Afghanistan.

Evaluation Objectives

The objectives of this evaluation are threefold, including to: 1) assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of EAW Special Fund to EAW in Afghanistan; 2) identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, lessons learned, and trends in EAW Special Fund activities that have implications for strengthening its future managerial, programmatic, and funding directions; and 3) document good practices, lessons learned, and recommendations for strengthening programming in the area of VAW in Afghanistan.

Evaluation Methods and Processes

This formative evaluation was divided into three phases: 1) desk review of EAW Special Fund and project-related materials and other relevant national documents, along with inception report preparation (off-site); 2) field consultations and interviews (on-site); and 3) report preparation and final consultations on recommendations and action planning (on-site and off-site).

The evaluation began with a desk review of VAW in Afghanistan and the EAW Special Fund documents, including project and operational documents, grant-related documents and reports, monitoring reports, GoIRA policy documents, and donor documents and reports. Following the development of the inception report and evaluation approach by the field evaluators, interviews, focus groups, and workshops were conducted with EAW Special Fund stakeholders and implementing partners in Kabul, Parwan, and Balkh (i.e., 3 of the 17 provinces in which EAW Special Fund activities have been implemented). The sample included 68 EAW Special Fund stakeholders, including: 30 UN agencies, 7 GoIRA representatives, 15 CSO representatives, 2 research institutes, 11 diplomats at foreign embassies, and 2 members of an international consultancy company. The prevailing security situation in Afghanistan restricted the ability of the field evaluators to conduct field visits and collect data from EAW Special Fund stakeholders in other provinces where activities are funded by the EAW Special Fund.

In July 2014, separate consultations were held with UN Women, the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board, and a broader group of EAW Special Fund stakeholders to present and discuss preliminary findings and recommendations. The drafts of the report were prepared by the two field evaluators in August – December 2014, after which finalization of the report was carried out by the senior consultant following an extensive desk review and evaluation documents and materials.

Key Findings

This evaluation focused on reviewing the EAW Special Fund's focus and implementation processes, and considering whether changes are needed to enhance the likelihood of achieving desired outputs, outcomes, and contributions towards intended impacts. Fortunately, this evaluation was conducted at a point in time when lessons learned from earlier phases (2008-2014) of the EAW Special Fund's implementation process had already been documented, and impacts from changes made over the years could be evaluated. The findings from this evaluation are presented in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.

Relevance

Evaluation findings suggest the EAW Special Fund is relevant to EAW in Afghanistan; in particular, the EAW Special Fund is aligned with international conventions, protocols, and best practices related to promoting gender equality and human rights, as well as guiding documents for the UN in Afghanistan. The EAW Special Fund has identified five broad categories that should be supported, including: 1) access to justice and protective measures; 2) lobbying and advocacy; 3) research; 4) awareness-raising; and 5) strengthening knowledge and learning networks. In accordance, the EAW Special Fund has been able to support an increase in the number of protection and prevention EAW projects, and has focused on geographical outreach of the EAW Special Fund. The EAW Special Fund has also successfully contributed to a harmonization of donor efforts to address VAW in line with Government initiatives, and has fostered and supported increased cooperation between the GoIRA and CSOs.

One particular challenge facing initiatives such as the EAW Special Fund is that when you target support to CSOs, you end up dealing with both their weaknesses and their strengths; thus, from a strategic point of view, the focus on overcoming the weaknesses of CSOs that receive grants would appear to be an effective option. Despite this challenge, findings from this external evaluation revealed the EAW Special Fund has played a crucial role in building local capacity to respond to VAW and to support EAW, and has influenced government EAW policies and legislation.

Efficiency

This external evaluation found that UN Women is well positioned to administer the EAW Special Fund given its involvement and support for EAW in Afghanistan, its local and international partnerships and expertise, and its ability to provide close technical support to a broad cross-section of grantees, with particular focus and support directed to grassroots CSOs. Since inception, the EAW Special Fund has been governed by a multi-stakeholder management mechanism which has proven successful and played an important role in terms of advising on strategic priorities and relevant processes for the EAW Special Fund, and providing oversight of UN Women's management and administration EAW Special Funds. Changes made to the EAW Special Fund since 2012 have strengthened and improved its cost effectiveness of operations. This includes improved call for proposals and proposal vetting processes that has led to a reduction in risk, along with support and capacity building to CSOs and the GoIRA which has led to improved grant applications and project proposals, as well as project activities and results. In late 2014, a simplified call for proposals was implemented, which is likely to improve efficiency by reducing the proposal vetting processing time.

From 2012, the UN Women has been taking steps to further strengthen the EAW Pillar team by bringing additional professional staff to assist with strategic, programmatic, and technical oversight, with an emphasis on improved grant recipient performance and substantial strengthening of results-based monitoring. In 2014, third-party monitoring of services delivered by the WPCs began. The expanded focus on M&E has been important in helping grant recipients to consider whether what they are doing in their projects is yielding the desired results in as efficient a manner as possible.

Effectiveness

Significant changes made in 2012 to the administration of the EAW Special Fund have resulted in improved effectiveness of the Fund. This includes: changes have been made to the management and administration of the EAW Special Fund, including: improvements made to the Call for Proposals and vetting processes; improved support for development of the capacities of CSOs; improvements to the M&E approach; and improved reporting on programming and results. From the perspective of effectiveness, far more has been gained than lost from the changes made since 2012, but more changes in the administration of the EAW Special Fund are needed to improve its effectiveness. Since inception, the EAW Special Fund has proven effective in the areas of lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising, access to justice and protective measures; and results-based monitoring.

Despite progress made in the areas of efficiency and effectiveness, it is well documented that performance of the EAW Special Fund has faced various challenges, including in regard to funding, staffing, and management, as well as due to conditions of conflict and insecurity in Afghanistan. These challenges have hampered at times the efficiency and effectiveness of the EAW Special Fund.

Sustainability

It remains too early to identify tangible results in terms of sustainability of the EAW Special Fund; nevertheless, based upon the number of proposals received by the EAW Special Fund since 2008, as well as a review of Advisory Board minutes, partner and donor progress reports, and M&E findings, it is evident that the EAW Special Fund is a promising and important initiative for combating VAW in Afghanistan. The EAW Special Fund is well-focused on one of its long-term goals of receiving more substantial proposals from strengthened CSOs for projects that will produce measurable positive change towards EAW in Afghanistan.

Conclusions

This external evaluation resulted in seven key conclusions, each of which are briefly presented below:

1. A major strength of the EAW Special Fund is that it was created in a participatory manner and endorsed by its many stakeholders, many of whom have been involved since the concept development stage in 2007. The EAW Special Fund provides not only an excellent opportunity for coordinated and predictable funding for EAW activities in Afghanistan, but also enhances the ability to document lessons learned, identify best practices, and serve as a vital forum for contributing to a national strategy for EAW.
2. Alongside restructuring and reprogramming changes made in UN Women ACO since 2012, changes made to the EAW Special Fund have moved the Special Fund in the right direction. This finding is important because it reveals that the EAW Special Fund has succeeded in putting in place systems for efficient and effective functioning. This includes Call for Proposals and proposal vetting processes that ensures the EAW Special Fund focuses on CSOs with the ability to grow and improve their operations, capacities, and activities, as well as results-based monitoring systems.
3. Demand for EAW support services is very high in Afghanistan and has grown in recent years. The demand for EAW support services includes the need for financing and capacity building, as well as broader support to advance the EAW agenda. The growing links between the EAW Special Fund and EAW activities in Afghanistan, which are of relevance to UN Women and donors offers important opportunities for the EAW Special Fund, allowing it to both achieve its own objectives and advance national EAW responses in provinces throughout Afghanistan.
4. Since 2012, improvements made in results-based monitoring and evaluation will go a long way towards properly measuring the results of the EAW Special Fund's activities and progress towards its objectives; however, a significant gap exists in information required to properly assess the EAW Special Fund's impact and effectiveness. Thus, high quality baseline and follow-up results monitoring and assessments are needed for the grants.
5. This external evaluation revealed there has been improvement in communication over the years; however, there is still room for strengthening EAW Special Fund communications, including within the EAW Special Fund and with its partners.
6. Systems of effective knowledge management related to the EAW Special Fund are lacking and should be strengthened in coming years. More can be done to strengthen and expand knowledge management related to the EAW Special Fund, including sharing knowledge by documenting, evaluating, and disseminating results. The EAW Special Fund is in a unique position to ensure quality knowledge products¹ are produced and shared, and that access to information and insights related to VAW and EAW are made available to a wide range of actors across Afghanistan.
7. Over the past few years the EAW Special Fund has committed to strengthening gender responsive and human rights-based approaches at the stakeholder and grant recipient levels. This has included attention

¹ Within UN Women, a knowledge document is defined as "a product which extracts information from prior knowledge and experience (knowledge base), and transforms it into a tangible artefact in order to present, communicate and teach new audiences."

to the rights of target groups or beneficiaries; however, there is still room for improvement, especially in terms of the rights of participation of target groups or beneficiaries of EAW activities.

Recommendations

The recommendations that follow are guided by each of the aforementioned seven key conclusions which are grounded in the findings presented in the previous section. The recommendations that follow only cover areas of additional need; if no change is required, no recommendations are offered.

Recommendation 1: The EAW Special Fund should carefully consider what it is needed to operate at an optimal level.

Recommendation 2: Content of the SOP should be revised and updated to take into account the current operation of the EAW Special Fund.

Recommendation 3: Changes made to the EAW Special Fund since 2012 should continue and focus should be on capacity building for grant recipients to strengthen the M&E system.

Recommendation 4: UN Women, as Fund Administrator, should plan for and secure technical assistance and additional financing for conducting high-quality baseline assessments for a subset of 2015 grant recipients.

Recommendation 5: Additional Calls for Proposals should be issued in 2015, but changes to the Calls for Proposals process initiated in 2014 should continue.

Recommendation 6: The EAW Special Fund should consider how it can help grant recipients implement their projects in a manner that strengthens the right of participation among target groups as agents of change, informed participants, and valuable rights-holders.

Recommendations 7: There should be improved communications within the EAW Special Fund and with its partners, as well as between EAW Special Fund projects and other projects and agencies involved in the EAW response.

Recommendation 8: Effective knowledge management should be significantly strengthened and expanded related to the EAW Special Fund.

Recommendation 9: The EAW Special Fund should plan for and secure technical assistance and additional financing to support capacity building of grant recipients to EAW.

Recommendation 10: UN Women should consider planning for and securing technical assistance to develop a Theory of Change (TOC) for the EAW Special Fund.

Recommendation 11: UN Women and the EAW Special Fund should explore new partnerships to strengthen EAW efforts.

Recommendation 12: UN Women should work with all EAW Special Fund donors to accept a single reported to donors report prepared against the DRF.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

1.1.1. Women's Rights in Afghanistan

The struggle for women's rights in Afghanistan has been a long and difficult process. Decades of internal conflict and gender discrimination have perpetuated women's economic and social disenfranchisement in Afghanistan.² Despite a myriad of challenges facing Afghanistan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA), in cooperation with the international community and civil society, has played a critical role in supporting women's rights and helping Afghan women gain back the rights they lost during the Taliban regime. Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, Afghanistan has made considerable progress in establishing a coherent framework for development that incorporates measures to eliminate gender inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion.³

Progress has been gradual, but includes establishing the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) in 2002, passing the 2002 Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women, and ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2003. The 2004 Afghanistan Constitution codified women's and men's equal status as citizens (Article 22), as well as women's equality before the law, and their equal rights to education and the right to work. Later that same year, women actively participated in the country's first direct presidential election. In 2008, the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) was used to help the MoWA-led 2007-2017 National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) was signed by the president and inter-ministerial meetings took place to decide how best to implement UN Security Council Resolutions (SCR) 1325 and 1820 that mandate the protection of women's human rights in conflict setting, especially in terms of sexual violence, and their participation in all aspects of peace processes.⁴ In 2009, a national law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) was enacted, which criminalizes acts of violence against women, and specifies punishment for perpetrators. Also, Women's Protection Centres (WPC's) were established in 2003. Other significant improvements have included an increase in the number of girls getting an education, and women, particularly in urban areas, working as politicians, police officers, pilots, judges and governors.⁵ Still, however, only 16 percent of women are literate (half the rate for men), and women in the labour force have wages that are almost three times lower than they are for men.⁶

Despite the fact that new laws and policies exist to protect Afghan women and their rights, "women and girls continue to experience discrimination and limited access to opportunities, resources, civil liberties and power."⁷ Like other post-conflict societies, Afghanistan is characterized by limited capacity in government departments and among some of civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as lack of interface between local and national governments and among executive, legislative and judicial bodies.⁸ The GoIRA continues to face challenges to fully implement legislation and policies aimed at gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to translate policies into projects and services that would improve conditions for women.⁹ In addition, escalating violence and insecurity – as well as increased attacks on

² UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.1.

³ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.1.

⁴ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.1.

⁵ Behind Closed Doors, Oxfam, 2014

⁶ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.1.

⁷ DW, UN Women chief 'seriously concerned' Afghan women's gains may be reversed. Retrieved from:

<http://www.dw.de/un-women-chief-seriously-concerned-afghan-womens-gains-may-be-reversed/a-18100806>

⁸ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.1-2.

⁹ DW, UN Women chief 'seriously concerned' Afghan women's gains may be reversed. Retrieved from:

<http://www.dw.de/un-women-chief-seriously-concerned-afghan-womens-gains-may-be-reversed/a-18100806>

women in particular – pose considerable challenges to women’s rights and gender equality.¹⁰

1.1.2. Violence Against Women in Afghanistan

Afghan society is heavily patriarchal and deeply rooted in tribal structures, ethnic cultures, and traditions of strict customary practices and religious interpretations about gender roles, adherence to an honour-and-shame system, widespread use of arranged marriages and dowry (*walwar*, *pashcash*), and deep-seated customs of intergenerational family control over women and girls. These factors contribute to the high rates of violence against women (VAW) in Afghanistan, alongside the fact that Afghanistan has experienced 30 years of conflict during which VAW has been used as a weapon of war.

VAW has long been endemic in Afghanistan; however, data on the nature and extent of VAW is lacking. Despite the lack of data, human rights and media reports, and international organizations and CSOs have played an important role in drawing attention to VAW in Afghanistan, including harmful traditional practices against women and girls. Women experience different forms of VAW in the home and family, schools, workplace, and communities; some of which are described below.

In the home and family, the forms of violence endured by women and girls include physical violence, sexual violence and rape, psychological violence, economic violence, and neglect. The societal preference for males has contributed significantly to discrimination and violence against girls and women in the home and family. In fact, girls are at increased risk of neglect and maltreatment from birth, placing them at increased risk of infant and child mortality; neglect has been identified as the leading cause of sickness-related deaths among girls’ aged two to five years.¹¹ From a young age, girls learn through personal experience and seeing violence used against their sisters, mothers, and aunts that they must tolerate violence and abuse in the context of marriage and family; they also learn others are not eager to intervene or protect women.¹² Ultimately, they learn they are valued for their role as reproducers and domestic servants, but are devalued because they are “female.” Within the context of marriage, a woman’s in-laws are also partners in the husband’s abuse through their silence and/or active involvement in the abuse.

In 2006, Global Rights’ undertook the first study of domestic violence against women in Afghanistan. Based upon a survey of women in 4,700 households in 16 provinces this study revealed 87.2% of women experienced at least one form of physical, sexual, or psychological violence or forced marriage, and 62.0% of women experienced multiple forms of violence. This study also found 58.8% of women were in forced marriages, distinct from arranged marriages.¹³ This study also found regional variations in rates of VAW, with some of the highest rates, other than sexual violence, occurring in rural areas and in the South and East of the country, and border regions with Pakistan.

More recently, UNAMA field-based monitoring for the period of October 2011 to September 2013 found that among the violations criminalized under the EAW law, battery and lacerations were the cases more frequently reported to the Afghan National Police (ANP) and prosecutors, with 896 complaints registered with prosecutors.¹⁴ From 2012 to 2013, UNAMA observed a 62% increase in the number of incidents of VAW registered with police, compared to the previous year; 581 VAW cases registered to the police in

¹⁰ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.2.

¹¹ UN Women Afghanistan Country Office Development Results Narrative, 2014-2017.

¹² Men are also raised to demonstrate their power, control and authority in the family by controlling the womenfolk. Often men use violence to obtain obedience, administer discipline, and maintain power and control in the family. Men generally receive support from their family and the community for their use of violence to “chastise” their wives and sisters, particularly if it is for “just” causes. Failure of a man to control his womenfolk means a loss of standing in the family and community.

¹³ Nijhowne, D & L. Oates (2008). Living with Violence: A National Report on Domestic Abuse in Afghanistan. Global Rights: Partners for Justice. Washington, DC: USA.

¹⁴ Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan, UNAMA: Kabul Afghanistan, 2012.

2013, compared to 363 in 2012. The registration of incidents by prosecution and courts increase as well, although less significantly. The application of the EVAW Law by the prosecution showed only a 2% increase from 2012 to 2013. These findings reveal that while more women have come forward to report VAW and that authorities registered more incidents, the number of cases applying the EVAW Law resolved through the judicial process changed little from 2012 to 2013.¹⁵

In the context of the home and family, Afghan women and girls are often victims of negative harmful traditional practices, including: honour killings, forced and underage marriages, and *ba'ad* and exchange marriages. Despite the lack of data on honour killings or murder of women by their husbands and other family members it is well known that honour killings are widespread in Afghanistan. In 2012, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) recorded 60 reported incidents of honour killings between March and August 2012, representing a sharp increase in reporting and possibly the occurrence of honour killings; up from 20 during the same period in 2011. UNAMA also revealed for the period of October 2011 to September 2012 that there were 29 registered incidents of honour killings to the ANP, 39 registered cases with prosecution offices, and 27 cases with the courts.¹⁶

It is also documented in the UN Women Afghanistan Country Development Strategy for 2014-2017 that some families sell their pre-pubescent daughters to older men, either as a way to boost family income or reduce the number of persons in the household that need to be fed, and/or to reduce (family) disputes or, in some areas of Afghanistan (particularly the South and Eastern parts) as *ba'ad* and exchange marriage. Despite the prohibition of *ba'ad* and exchange marriages in the EVAW law, UNAMA continues to document the occurrence of *ba'ad* and exchange marriages in communities throughout Afghanistan.¹⁷ UN Women has also documented trafficking of women and girls for economic gain by the family, and forced prostitution for reasons of poverty and/or drug consumption.¹⁸

UNAMA also documented the continued practice of arresting and prosecuting women and girls who leave their homes without permission from their *mahram*¹⁹, or without providing information to their families about their whereabouts, they are arrested and charged with "running away from home." In many cases, women leave home escape domestic violence or harmful traditional practices. Despite the fact that "running away" or "*zina*" is not a distinct or codified crime in the Afghan Penal Code, nor is it proscribed under *Shari'a* Law, Afghan authorities arrest, prosecute, and convict women for "attempted *zina*."²⁰ During the period of October 2011 to September 2012, the ANP registered 62 "run-away" cases and there were 31 prosecutions and 9 court cases related to "running away" or "home escape."²¹

Schools are another place where girls also experience violence. Despite the ban on violence in Afghan schools, violence is prevalent as corporal punishment is permitted. UNICEF and Save the Children have documented Afghan girl's experiences with physical violence and harassment from teachers and other students in schools, as well as the risk girl's face of sexual abuse and rape in schools. It is also well documented that girls from minority groups, rural areas, and conflict zones often do not attend schools because it is not considered safe for them to walk to/from school.

¹⁵ A Way to Go: An Update on Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan. UNAMA: Kabul, Afghanistan, 2013.

¹⁶ Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan, UNAMA: Kabul Afghanistan, 2012.

¹⁷ Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan, UNAMA: Kabul Afghanistan, 2012.

¹⁸ UN Women Afghanistan Country Office Development Results Narrative for 2014-2017.

¹⁹ A women's husband, or an immediate male relative (i.e., father, brother, paternal and maternal uncles and her nephews) with whom marriage is proscribed for her under *Shari'a law*.

²⁰ A Way to Go: An Update on Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan. UNAMA: Kabul, Afghanistan, 2013.

²¹ Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan, UNAMA: Kabul Afghanistan, 2012.

In the context of the community, rates of VAW by non-family members is high, including physical violence, sexual violence and rape, forced prostitution, and harassment. Systematic data collection on sexual violence and rape of women and girls in Afghan communities is lacking and the majority of sexual violence and rape cases go unreported. In recent years, some of acts of sexual violence against Afghan women and girls have received national and international media attention, and as a result, the perpetrators were prosecuted.²² UNAMA maintains the majority of sexual violence and rape cases are either not investigated or the investigation and prosecution are dropped for different reasons. During the period of October 2011 to September 2012, the ANP and prosecution offices from 22 provinces registered 63 and 93 cases of rape, respectively; while the courts filed 64 rape cases. A number of these rape cases were reportedly turned into adultery cases, particularly at the court level.²³

Finally, while VAW and issues of insecurity are problems across all of Afghanistan, women in rural areas and provinces in the South and East of the country are at increased risk of violence in communities and for working outside the home. It has also been reported that VAW is becoming more frequent as tensions grow following the withdrawal of foreign troops and with aid organizations scaling back operations.²⁴

1.2. UN Women Programme Evolution in Afghanistan

Since 2002, UN Women (then UNIFEM) has been providing assistance to the GoIRA and its partners to promote a coordinated response to VAW. In 2002 and 2003, UN Women supported the MoWA, women's groups, and professional organizations to develop their understanding of women's human rights and to take advantage of critical opportunities that existed in the reconstruction process to make women's human rights central to the process of nation-building and the transition from conflict. These efforts contributed to ensuring women's participation in *Loya Jirga* (Grand Assembly) processes and to the development of a national agenda for reform that would ensure gender mainstreaming.²⁵ From 2003 to 2005, women's organizations were trained to advocate for legal and policy reform, and to provide legal aid and raise legal awareness among women. In the second phase, MoWA established a Legal Department that could provide training on legal matters to women and serve as an advocate within the GoIRA for legislation reform.²⁶

From 2005 to 2007, the focus of the programme was particularly on gender justice and targeted women members of Parliament, provincial council members, MoWA, the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the Inter-Ministerial Commission on EAW, women's CSOs, and other key stakeholders and institutions at both the national and provincial levels to develop their capacities to advance women's human rights and gender justice in Afghanistan, including EAW, based on the Afghan constitution and international human rights conventions.²⁷ It included a focus on ensuring a gender perspective is integrated into all aspects of Afghanistan's legal and judicial reform; thus, transforming laws, policies, programmes, and resource allocations to promote women's rights and to protect women, and to ensure women's access to the judicial system and to legal redress for violations of their rights, particularly for cases involving VAW.²⁸

1.2.1. EAW Special Fund Overview

In 2008, to reinforce, expand, institutionalize, and sustain efforts to promote a coordinated response to VAW, UN Women launched a multi-donor initiative entitled, "Strengthening EAW Policies, Programmes,

²² Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan, UNAMA: Kabul Afghanistan, 2012.

²³ Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan, UNAMA: Kabul Afghanistan, 2012.

²⁴ Actionaid, p.1

²⁵ UNIFEM. Gender Justice Programme: First Progress Report to the Government of Denmark. May 2006-April 2007.

²⁶ UNIFEM. Gender Justice Programme: First Progress Report to the Government of Denmark. May 2006-April 2007.

²⁷ UNIFEM. Gender Justice Programme: First Progress Report to the Government of Denmark. May 2006-April 2007.

²⁸ UNIFEM. Gender Justice Programme: First Progress Report to the Government of Denmark. May 2006-April 2007.

and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EVAW Special Fund” (herein referred to as the EVAW Special Fund).²⁹ The concept of a Special Fund to support EVAW interventions in Afghanistan arose out of a series of discussions based upon a 2007 report issued by UN Women and the UNHCR, in cooperation with several CSOs, that outlined existing initiatives for protection of women and preventing VAW. During a series of consultations with donors, women’s organizations, and government institutions, concerns about capacity and funding gaps were discussed and the EVAW Special Fund was created to respond to the immediate needs for more coordinated action to address VAW in Afghanistan, and to address difficulties cited by donors of funding a number of small organizations. The EVAW Special Fund was developed to consolidate and harmonize a range of ongoing EVAW initiatives at the national level under an umbrella programme; this included pooling resources, strengthen monitoring and accountability, committing resources to grants for CSO EVAW-related initiatives, and building capacities of CSOs to implement EVAW in Afghanistan. This approach was designed to ensure sustainability.³⁰

Ultimately, the EVAW Special Fund was developed to support an increase in the number of protection and prevention EVAW projects and geographical outreach of the EVAW Special Fund, as well as the capacity of national partners to eventually manage the EVAW Special Fund. Between 2011 and 2012, the EVAW Special Fund developed two strategic approaches to achieve outcome; specifically, strategic approaches for prevention of and protection from VAW. Accordingly, these two strategic approaches aim to “catalyse significant growth in prevention and response mechanisms to VAW, and to develop capacities for building bridges between CSOs and the GoIRA in the implement of EVAW laws at the community level and in providing support services to VAW survivors.”³¹

In 2013, the UN Women ACO programme underwent a restructuring as part of its transition from a project-focused approach to one which is more holistic and long-term to ensure greater cohesion between programme areas. UN Women ACO’s new approach to programming is aligned with the national and UN frameworks related to gender equality and women’s empowerment in Afghanistan, as well as supports mid- to long-term strategic planning and programmes.³² As part of the restructuring process, UN Women synthesized their projects into three thematic programme priorities (referred to as Pillars), including: 1) EVAW; 2) Political and Economic Empowerment; and 3) Coordination and Advocacy. The EVAW Pillar includes the EVAW Special Fund and Gender and Justice Component.³³ The EVAW Special Fund continues to provide the mechanism to financially support and mobilize CSOs that are working on EVAW and to expand EVAW initiatives in Afghanistan.

The EVAW Special Fund essentially provides small grants to CSOs that are implementing community-based initiatives prioritizing innovative projects that address the social realities of communities and supports grassroots approaches to EVAW, including protection of women at-risk of and survivors of VAW, and prevention of VAW, including multi-stakeholder involvement from the government and civil society.³⁴ The granting process is overseen by an Advisory Board comprising representatives of donors contributing to the fund, MoWA, and UN partners. Between 2008 and 2014, a total of 16 Calls for Proposals were announced and 76 grants were approved for funding.³⁵

²⁹ The EVAW Special Fund was established in August 2007, became operational in October 2007, and was formally launched by UNIFEM and EVAW Special Fund donors on International Women’s Day, 8 March 2008.

³⁰ UNIFEM. Strengthening EVAW Policies, Programmes and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EVAW Special Fund, First Progress Report to the Government of Denmark. October 2007-March 2009, p. 4

³¹ UN Women. Strengthening EVAW Policies, Programmes and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EVAW Special Fund, Fourth Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, April 2011-December 2012.

³² UN Women. Strengthening EVAW Policies, Programmes and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EVAW Special Fund, Fifth Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, January-December 2013, p.6.

³³ UN Women. Strengthening EVAW Policies, Programmes and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EVAW Special Fund, Fifth Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, January-December 2013, p. 6.

³⁴ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.2.

³⁵ Some grantees received more than one grant.

The EAW Special Fund is aligned with the UN Women Global Strategic Plan Development Results Framework (DRF, 2012-2013) Goal 3, to “prevent VAW and expand access to victim/survivor services,” and the UN Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF, 2010-2013) priority area 2.3.1 to support cross-cutting issues of gender in governance, peace and stability. In addition, the EAW Special Fund is aligned with the UN Women ACO DRF (2014-2017) Goal 3 that “women and girls live a life free from violence,” and Outcome 3.1 that “the GoIRA consistently implements legal frameworks combatting and prevention VAW in coordination with civil society.”

At the country level, the EAW Special Fund is aligned with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, 2008-2013) to strengthen practice and institutions, human rights, the rule of law, delivery of public services, and government accountability, and to ensure cross-cutting issues of gender equality in governance, rule of law, and human rights. In addition, the EAW Special Fund is aligned with Pillar 2 of the NAPWA 2008-2013, which focuses on governance, rule of law and human rights, including legal protection and human rights for women, and the National Priority Program (NPPS) which supports law and justice for all.

Since 2008, the EAW Special Fund has had multiple donors, including the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

1.3. Evaluation Purpose and Scope

Given the evolving nature of the implementation of the EAW Special Fund and the resources allocated since the inception of the EAW Special Fund in 2008, UN Women Afghanistan decided to carry out an external evaluation of the EAW Special Fund. In keeping with the TOR, the purpose of this external evaluation was to provide an independent and in-depth assessment of the current approach and progress made towards the achievements of the planned results of EAW Special Fund during the period of 2008 to 2014 (see Annex A). In accordance, the evaluation scope is summative and focused on overall EAW Special Fund approaches and the work that has been delivered since the Special Fund’s inception in 2008, this includes an assessment of the results achieved thus far by the EAW Special Fund, along with challenges and opportunities encountered, the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme approach and strategies applied and the partnerships developed, including adjustments made during the implementation of the programme. The aim is that this evaluation will identify lessons learned and lead to practical and implementable recommendations that would further improve future planning, management, and direction of the Special Fund, including strategic priorities for the EAW Special Fund that can serve to promote effective VAW prevention and EAW in Afghanistan. The focus is also on identifying lessons learned.

1.3. Evaluation Objectives

The objectives of this evaluation are threefold, to:

- Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of EAW Special Fund to EAW in Afghanistan.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, lessons learned, and trends in EAW Special Fund activities that have implications for strengthening its future managerial, programmatic, and funding directions.
- Document good practices, lessons learned, and recommendations for strengthening programming in the area of VAW in Afghanistan.

In keeping with the main objectives, the methods applied in this evaluation were applied to assess questions related to relevance, efficiency, effectiveness of the EAW Special Fund, and early signs of sustainability of EAW Special Fund and of strengthening national capacities for sustained results.

- **Relevance:** Are the EAW Special Fund objectives and strategies addressing the needs and priorities in the national/provincial context? Was the EAW Special Fund strategy and design articulated in a coherent manner? What measures have been taken during planning and implementation to ensure resources are efficiently used? How beneficial have the linkages and alignment between EAW Special Fund, and other UN Women projects been to maximize complementarity and synergy of efforts and impact?
- **Efficiency:** What measures have been taken during the implementation period to ensure that the EAW Special Fund resources are used efficiently? How did the EAW Special Fund management; organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms support the efficiency of the implemented initiatives? Is the managerial and staff structure in place cost-effective? Is it adequate to current context and demand? Is the governance structure of the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board suitable to respond to the expectation and mandate of EAW Special Fund? How has the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board mechanism supported EAW Special Fund implementation efficiently? How is the EAW Special Fund addressing external and internal risk?
- **Effectiveness:** To what extent did EAW Special Fund achieve its programmatic objectives and targets? What aspects of the EAW Special Fund approaches and managerial/operational process facilitated achieving the desired results? Are the various activities undertaken by EAW Special Fund to end VAW reinforcing one another? If so, how? What, if any, were the unexpected outcomes of this EAW Special Fund?
- **Sustainability:** Is the EAW Special Fund leading to sustainable changes and results? How has the EAW Special Fund influenced the policy framework in Afghanistan so far? Were the partnership choices with GoIRA and implementing partners³⁶ appropriate for greater sustainability of the EAW Special Fund activities? What would be needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the EAW Special Fund in order to EAW? Have the EAW Special Fund initiatives contributed to creating national capacities for sustained results?

1.4. Evaluation Methods and Processes

To ensure the evaluation approach was as thorough and reliable as possible, different analytical tools and data collection methods were employed. The evaluation methods employed were in keeping with the TOR (see Annex A). These include (each of these described in more detailed in the sections that follow):

- Desk review of VAW in Afghanistan and the EAW Special Fund documents and reports
- Consultations with UN Women and the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board
- Interviews, workshops and focus groups with EAW Special Fund stakeholders, including implementing partners
- Mini-survey of grant recipients of implementing partners
- Consultation on preliminary findings, conclusions, and recommendations

Throughout the evaluation, steps were taken to use a participatory approach to ensure EAW Special Fund stakeholders and implementing partners were recognized as important and active participants in the production of knowledge and informing the field evaluators understanding of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the EAW Special Fund. Triangulation was also an important part of the evaluation approach to ensure not only the credibility of information and data collected, but also to allow diverse perspectives and experiences to be captured.

In addition, in keeping with the 2011 United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) guiding document for *Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations*, this evaluation applied principles of human rights and gender equality. This included recognizing target groups, particularly women, as rights-holders,

as well as the responsibility of the State and other actors to act as 'duty-bearers' to support protection of these human rights, and particularly women's human rights. These principles are applied to this evaluation.

1.4.1. Desk Review

The evaluation began with a desk review of VAW in Afghanistan and the EAW Special Fund documents, including a series of project documents, operational documents, grant-related documents and reports, monitoring reports, GoIRA policy documents, and donor documents and reports. UN Women provided digital copies of all of these documents for the desk review. Consultations were also undertaken with UN Women during the course of the desk review to ensure all EAW Special Fund documents were properly organized and understood, both in terms of their merit and use in the report.

The desk review helped to inform both the evaluation approach and identification of issues related to relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability when writing the findings, drawing conclusions, and making recommendations. Documents consulted during the desk review are listed at the end of this report in a reference section, and are footnoted throughout the report.

1.4.2. Consultations with UN Women and the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board

Evaluations are typically characterized by extensive team engagement throughout the evaluation period, coupled with independent field assessments by the evaluation team to ensure independence and open discussion. Thus, UN Women Afghanistan and the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board were extensively involved in this evaluation, including the planning for the evaluation and finalization of the report.

At the start of the evaluation process a small consultation workshop was conducted early June 2014 in Kabul with the UN Women EAW Pillar team members, during which the focus and evaluation approaches were discussed. Discussions also related to the performance of the EAW Special Fund, including funding, staff, and organizational issues and difficulties that have arisen since the inception of the EAW Special Fund in 2008. In particular, in 2009, the 28th October attack on UN severely impacted the work of the UN and UN Women in Afghanistan, and UN Women enacted an evacuation plan which included temporary relocation of international staff out of Afghanistan; having two teams, one in-country and one out-of-country. In April 2010, the United Nations (UN) mission in Kabul was shut down and international staff evacuated due to the deteriorating security situation. The security situation remained an issue throughout much of 2011, which had contributed to delayed implementation of UN Women programmes,

The consultations with UN Women and the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board helped to inform the development of the inception report which was presented for approval to UN Women Afghanistan Management (see Annex B).

1.4.3. Interviews, Focus Groups, and Workshops with Implementing Partners and Key Stakeholders

Following the development of the inception report and evaluation method by the field evaluators, the field evaluators set out to conduct interviews, workshops, and focus groups with EAW Special Fund stakeholders and implementing partners, including those directly involved in the implementation of VAW prevention and protection activities. EAW Special Fund stakeholders include UN agencies, donors, government ministries, Afghan Women's Network, and CSOs (implementing partners).

The field evaluators conducted interviews, focus groups, and workshops with EAW Special Fund stakeholders and implementing partners in Kabul, Parwan, and Balkh (i.e., 3 of the 17 provinces in which EAW Special Fund activities have been implemented). Focus groups and workshops were guided by a dialogue framework. Although interviews were unstructured, they were guided by a set of common issues identified for discussion, including: planned activities and their implementation; available capacities and

Table 1. Sample of EAW Stakeholders				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Kabul Province</u>	<u>Parwan Province</u>	<u>Balkh Province</u>
Total	58	55	3	10
<u>UN Agencies</u>	30	26	0	4
UN Women	13	13	0	0
UNAMA	3	1	0	2
UNFPA	2	2	0	0
UNDP	4	3	0	1
UN-Habitat	2	2	0	0
UNHCR	2	1	0	1
WFP	1	1	0	0
WHO	2	2	0	0
FAO	1	1	0	0
<u>GoIRA</u>	7	5	1	1
AIHRC	1	1	0	0
MoHRA	1	1	0	0
MoI	1	1	0	0
MoWA (DoWA)	3	1	1	1
National Assembly	1	1	0	0
<u>CSO/NGO's</u>	15	9	2	4
AWSDC	2	2	2	0
AWN	2	2	0	0
Asia Foundation	1	1	0	0
BAO	1	0	0	1
CCA	4	0	0	4
ECW	2	2	0	0
HAWCA	1	1	0	0
Medica Afghanistan	1	1	0	0
<u>Research Institutes</u>	2	2	0	0
AREU	2	2	0	0
<u>Governmental Development Agencies</u>	2	2	0	0
GIZ in Afghanistan	2	2	0	0
<u>Foreign Embassies</u>	11	11	0	0
Australian Embassy	1	1	0	0
Embassy of Canada	1	1	0	0
Embassy of Denmark	2	2	0	0
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	1	1	0	0
Royal Norwegian Embassy	2	2	0	0
Embassy of the United States	3	3	0	0
European Union	1	1	0	0

strengths of the organization/agency; possible weaknesses and obstacles related to activity implementation; and how grant recipients look at the future of the EAW Special Fund projects. One of the limitations of this approach was the limited structure of interviews questionnaires; it would have been best if interviews questionnaires were focused more clearly on each of the objectives outlined in the TOR. This includes assuring the collection of qualitative and quantitative data during interviews.

The interviews, workshops, and focus groups also focused on obtaining specific historical perspective related to the EAW Special Fund design, structure, management, governance, implementation, and activities. Focus was placed on obtaining perspectives related to relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of

EVAW Special Fund, including challenges and barriers to fund elimination implementation, and where warranted, to propose changes to EVAW Special Fund that would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the fund. Focus was also placed on issues of sustainability, including insights as to the future implementation and sustainability of the EVAW Special Fund.

Table 1 reveals the sample included 68 EVAW Special Fund stakeholders, including: 30 UN agencies, 7 GoIRA representatives, 15 CSO representatives, 2 research institutes, 11 diplomats at foreign embassies, and 2 members of an international consultancy company. Table 2.1 also shows that 55 EVAW Special Fund stakeholders were sampled in 3 provinces, including 55 in Kabul Province, 10 in Balkh Province, and 3 in Parwan Province. These three provinces were selected because travel to other provinces was complicated with security restrictions; in addition, it was election year. And furthermore, the 3 selected provinces represented 15.8% of the 19 provinces – Kabul Parwan, Kapisa, Paktia Kandahar, Logar, Samangan, Mazar, Jawzjan, Sarepul, Faryab, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Bamyán, Herat, Kunar and Nangarhar – in which EVAW Special Fund activities have been implemented. The 3 provinces included in the sample were determined during the inception phase of the evaluation by the two field evaluators in consultation with UN Women.

It is important to note that the prevailing security situation in Afghanistan restricted the ability of the field evaluators to conduct field visits and to collect data from EVAW Special Fund stakeholders in other provinces where activities are funded by the EVAW Special Fund.

1.4.4. Self-Report Survey of Implementing Partners

A self-report survey was developed by the two field evaluators and administered to implementing partners operating Women Protection Centres (WPC's), and those working on EVAW activities (see Annexes D and E). The survey was administered to those EVAW Special Fund grant recipients the field evaluators were unable to visit due to travel restrictions related to security issues and time constraints. The survey included both close- and open-ended questions developed to collect information related to:

- Background of the organization/programme
- Staffing of the organization/programme
- VAW prevention and EVAW activities
- Funding and application to the EVAW Special Fund
- EVAW Special Fund call for proposals and application process
- Organizational assessment by UN Women prior to receiving funding
- Grant agreement and payment processes
- Grant reporting and monitoring issues
- Grant development support
- VAW causes
- Type, location, audience, and time period for prevention activities
- Future of EVAW Special Fund and recommendation for reform

There were limitations with the self-report survey in terms of its design and administration; as a result, very few implementing partners completed and returned the surveys. In the end, the two field evaluators were unable to collect quantitative data via self-report surveys. In the future, it will be important that more effective methods are to survey implementing partners and grant recipients throughout Afghanistan.

1.4.5. Consultations on Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

In July 2014, separate consultations were held with UN Women (July 1), the EVAW Special Fund Advisory Board (July 3), and a broader group of EVAW Special Fund stakeholders (July 8) to present and discuss preliminary findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The broader group of EVAW Special Fund stakeholders included UN agencies, MoWA, CSO implementing partners, donor agencies, and research institutes. These consultations have been in keeping with the 2011 United Nations Evaluation Group

(UNEG) guiding document for *Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations*; this includes the principles of inclusion and participation of duty-bearers.

These consultations provided a forum to openly discuss ERAW Special Fund policies and strategies, as well as modalities of working on VAW prevention and the roles played by CSOs, UN agencies, and the GoIRA in ERAW, as well as opportunities and challenges to become more effective at ERAW. CSOs were especially appreciative of this sharing meeting with UN Women and MoWA, as it provided a forum to openly discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the ERAW Special Fund, its operational procedures and management, and the roles of different stakeholders in ERAW.

1.5. Evaluation Team

This evaluation was conducted by three consultants, including: Dr. Robin Haarr, Senior Consultant from the United States; Jan Reynders, Lead Field Evaluator from The Netherlands; and Abdul Moien Jawhary, Co-evaluator from Afghanistan. The field evaluation was developed and conducted solely by the two field evaluators, Jan Reynders and Abdul Jawhary, between May 27th and July 8th, 2014; during which time field visits occurred in Kabul, Parwan, and Balkh Provinces. The field evaluators were focused on evaluating the ERAW Special Fund for the period of 2008 to 2013. The drafts of the evaluation report were prepared by the two field evaluators in August – December 2014. Finalization of the evaluation and report was carried out by the senior consultant, Dr. Robin Haarr, following an extensive desk review and review of evaluation documents and materials for the period of 2008 to 2014. Finalization of the evaluation report occurred in February and March 2015.

2. EVALUATION FINDINGS

This evaluation focused on reviewing the EAW Special Fund's focus and implementation processes, and considering whether changes are needed to enhance the likelihood of achieving desired outputs, outcomes, and contributions towards intended impacts. Fortunately, this evaluation was conducted at a point in time when lessons learned from earlier phases (2008-2014) of the EAW Special Fund's implementation process had already been documented, and impacts from changes made over the years could be evaluated. The findings from this evaluation are presented in two ways. First, findings by evaluation criteria are presented, including relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability (with a focus on early signs of sustainability and challenges to sustainability). Second, findings related to key issues that arose during the evaluation are presented.

2.1. Relevance

In general, relevance is the extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders in the country. This evaluation focused on several questions related to relevance, including: Are the EAW Special Fund objectives and strategies addressing the needs and priorities in the national/provincial context? Was the EAW Special Fund strategy and design articulated in a coherent manner? What measures have been taken during planning and implementation to ensure resources are efficiently used? How beneficial have the linkages and alignment between EAW Special Fund, and other UN Women projects been to maximize complementarity and synergy of efforts and impact?

It is well documented that VAW is endemic in all spheres of public and private life in Afghanistan, and with more than 87% of women experiencing domestic abuse, Afghanistan is considered to be "one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman."³⁷ The EAW Special Fund was established in 2007 and officially launched on 8 March 2008, to harness the much needed resources to mobilize and strengthen CSOs and the GoIRA around issues of VAW and EAW, and women's human rights.³⁸ Ultimately, the EAW Special Fund was developed to support an increase in the number of protection and prevention EAW projects and geographical outreach of the EAW Special Fund, as well as the capacity of national partners to eventually manage the EAW Special Fund. During the planning stage, in an effort to ensure resources are linked to and aligned with need, the EAW Special Fund identified five broad categories that should be supported, including: 1) access to justice and protective measures; 2) lobbying and advocacy; 3) research; 4) awareness-raising; and 5) strengthening knowledge and learning networks.

Over the years, the focus has been on how best to ensure the EAW Special Fund remains a flexible funding mechanism in a changing environment. In 2012, a majority of the year was spent on reprogramming and expanding the protection component of the EAW Special Fund; in accordance, support was provided for Women's Protection Centres (WPCs, formerly known as shelters) which were identified as priorities.³⁹ WPCs provide protection and services for women victims, including legal counsel, medical care, psychological counselling, education, vocational training, food and clothing.⁴⁰ VAW has been an ongoing social problem, but tends to escalate during times of increased insecurity in Afghanistan, and WPCs have been lacking in number and funds, and those that exist have had to improve their security systems during times of insecurity. With respect to funding WPCs, the EAW Special Fund found that its

³⁷ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.1

³⁸ The EAW Special Fund for Afghanistan was modelled after the UN Women's Global Trust Fund in Support of Actions to EAW.

³⁹ A decade ago, WPCs for abused women did not exist in Afghanistan; however, as of 2013 there were 22 WPCs, of which 12 were supported by UN Women, and in 2014 there were 23 WPCs, of which 13 were supported by UN Women.

⁴⁰ Samuel Hall Consulting (2013). In the Spotlight: Implementing the EAW Law at a Critical Juncture, External Evaluation of the EAW Commission Project. UN Women: Kabul, Afghanistan

one-year funding cycle was leaving the WPCs in a financially vulnerable situation, particularly in the absence of alternative funding. UN Women and the Advisory Board were aware of this limitation and changed the contract period for 'protection grants' from one to two years for WPCs that have shown satisfactory performance and reporting after the first year of funding; two year funding of WPCs is contingent upon the availability of funds. Thus, a Shelter Call for Proposals 2012-2014 was put out to support the establishment, operation, and continuation of WPCs in provinces across Afghanistan.

By 2013, UN Women focused on strengthening its efforts to support the MoWA, CSOs, and the UN system to prevent VAW, mainly through advocacy, sensitization, and increased engagement of youth, men, and boys at the community level. In 2014, discussion of the need to intensify efforts to prevent VAW, which is a key priority outlined in the UN Women's Strategic Plan for Afghanistan 2014-2017, led to the 2014 Call for Proposals which encouraged proposals with innovative strategies and methods that could best contribute to effective implementation of activities to prevent and advocate to EVAW in Afghanistan.

During planning and through implementation of the EVAW Special Fund, UN Women and the Advisory Board have taken steps to ensure Special Fund resources are used to support activities and initiatives that are aligned with national policy frameworks in Afghanistan, namely the Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ANDS, and NAPWA, as well as international conventions to which the GoIRA is a signatory to, namely CEDAW, the UN Declaration on EVAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights. In recent years, UN Women has also taken steps to align the EVAW Special Fund with its UN Women's Strategic Plan for Afghanistan 2014-2017.

This evaluation revealed that over the past seven years (2008-2014) of implementation, the EVAW Special Fund has successfully contributed to a harmonization of donor efforts to address VAW in line with Government initiatives, and has fostered and supported increased cooperation between the Government and CSOs. The EVAW Special Fund has also succeeded at avoiding duplication of efforts and spending, and promoting a rational for division of work. In fact, after the 1st Call for Proposals, the Fund's Advisory Board reinforced its initial intent that Special Fund monies should be used to provide seed money to fund Afghan CSOs, particularly those with locally driven, country-led programming to combat VAW and to support EVAW. Thus, the Fund's Advisory Board decided the Government was not eligible to apply for funds and should not be direct recipients of the EVAW Special Fund, but collaborations between the Government and CSOs should be encouraged and supported with funds channelled through CSOs. The Fund's Advisory Board also agreed that a geographic focus should be kept in mind when funding proposals.

The EVAW Special Fund's focus on strengthening civil society is consistent with the expected role of CSOs in EVAW, as outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In fact, engagement with CSOs which are often weak and operate in difficult circumstances is especially important to development, including developing broader responses to VAW and mainstreaming EVAW in Afghanistan. While some CSOs are relatively important players in their areas of specialization and in these respects can have a significant influence; many CSOs reach is often limited and their role has been constrained, albeit to varied extents, due to a variety of factors, including violence and security issues in some regions where CSOs are operating and implementing projects. Thus, the Advisory Board agreed that creative ways of monitoring projects need to be considered (e.g., through partners), and if there was no way to monitor projects then careful consideration should be given to funding the projects.

The EVAW Special Fund has found is that when you target support to CSOs, you end up dealing with both their weaknesses and their strengths. However, in provinces where the role of CSOs in strengthening local responses to development needs is recognized and valued, this is an important competitive edge. In terms of relevance, from a strategic point of view, the focus on overcoming the weaknesses of CSOs that receive grants would appear to be an effective option. Furthermore, linking grant recipients with a broader EVAW response helps give them greater influence than might otherwise be the case. For instance, in 2009, the Fund's Advisory Board agreed the EVAW Special Fund is well placed to push for the implementation of CEDAW and support CSOs in this regard. As a result, the fourth Call for Proposals included a statement

that encouraged partners to use CEDAW in planning their projects and to encourage CEDAW implementation and reporting. The goal was to build the capacity of CSOs to support and prepare them for CEDAW implementation.

Over the past seven years, the EAW Special Fund has proven relevant as a mechanism that enables government, civil society, and donor partnerships that attract additional support for EAW and women's human rights. In terms of relevance, this evaluation revealed the EAW Special Fund has been able to:

- Promote and facilitate a flexible, predictable, sustainable, coordinated, and participatory funding mechanism for national CSOs, and in comparison a smaller proportion of international NGOs, involved in the protection of women at-risk of and survivors of violence
- Support the creation, expansion, and continuation of direct services to women at-risk of survivors of violence (allowing for the predictability of continuation of such services)
- Provide local CSOs with an avenue to access resources through a participatory and flexible funding mechanism
- Develop, strengthen, and build much needed capacity among CSOs and the GoIRA to EAW
- Establish crucial networks and links among CSOs and between Government and CSOs
- Contribute to development of a national and multi-sector approach to EAW in Afghanistan, through the establishment and promotion of crucial networking and links among CSOs and between Government and CSOs
- Provide training and promote public awareness, knowledge-sharing, and fostering collaborations

The EAW Special Fund has played a crucial role in building local capacity to respond to VAW and to support EAW, and has influenced government EAW policies and legislation. In fact, EAW Special Fund activities were two years ahead of the enactment of the 2009 EAW Law. As early as 2009, the Fund's Advisory Board recognized they need to think about how the EAW Special Fund is influencing and changing EAW policies in Afghanistan, and what steps need to be taken to ensure institutional development and sustainability. As a grant project, the EAW Special Fund responds to demand and focuses on women at-risk of and survivors of VAW, along with primary prevention within the context of advancing EAW objectives. Although the EAW Special Fund cannot extend its sphere of influence beyond successful applications, it is sometimes criticised for what it is *not* doing.

There are several guiding principles of the EAW Special Fund, but at the core have been human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches that place paramount priority on promoting, protecting, and fulfilling women's human rights, as well as strengthening institutional capacities at local and national levels to EAW. This includes addressing inequitable gender norms and power disparities as the root cause of VAW, and as a violation of human rights and an impediment to development.⁴¹ Another guiding principle has been to focus on excluded or disadvantaged groups of women living in rural and remote areas and regions of Afghanistan with few CSO activities, limited services, and/or few EAW activities, as well as greater insecurity and VAW, to ensure responsiveness to diversity and the tailoring of interventions to particular target groups/beneficiaries.

Since 2013, it has been envisioned the EAW Special Fund would contribute to the development of a long-term strategy on EAW in Afghanistan, and that there would be multiplier effects, including the replication of good practices through sharing of information among CSOs and the GoIRA, and recording of lessons learned which together should lead to more informed and innovative solutions. Thus, the EAW Special Fund has taken steps to promote evidence-based programming and document best practices and lessons learned in 17 provinces, as well as to build upon lessons learned to ensure optimal results and use of resources. For instance, the EAW Special Fund has supported provision of a full package of EAW activities in 12 provinces, including WPCs and/or Family Guidance Centres (FGCs)⁴², technical support to improve the capacities of the EAW Provincial Commissions, and engagement of men, boys, and youth in

⁴¹ UNIFEM. *Operational Guidelines* for the UNIFEM Afghanistan EAW Special Fund, 2008, pp. 2-3.

⁴² The FGC is a relatively new module introduced in Afghanistan, with an overall objective to support VAW victims and their families at an early stage, as part of an early intervention system to respond to VAW.

EVAW. The EVAW Special Fund has also supported third party monitoring of WPCs to ensure the quality of service delivery to clients.

More long-term effects of the EVAW Special Fund are expected to be improvements in women's legal and socio-economic status and achievements of gender equality and peace in the public and private spheres, along with a reduction of women's vulnerabilities to violence. It was also envisioned that in the long-term there could be national ownership and control over EVAW Special Fund in Afghanistan; however, as outlined in the recommendations this long-term objective should be reconsidered as this evaluation revealed national ownership and control over EVAW Special Fund is not viable in the foreseeable future. The relevance of the EVAW Special Fund is reflected in its proven ability to strengthen country-owned processes and institutional capacities to EVAW by enhancing the capacities of local CSOs and government structures to address EVAW.

2.2. Efficiency

For this evaluation, efficiency is largely focused on whether EVAW Special Fund resources are used efficiently, and whether the Fund's management and coordination mechanisms support the efficiency of the implemented initiatives, and are cost effective. More specifically, this evaluation focused on several questions related to efficiency, including: What measures have been taken during the implementation period to ensure that EVAW Special Fund resources are used efficiently? How did the EVAW Special Fund management, organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms support the efficiency of the implemented initiatives? Is the managerial and staff structure in place cost effective? Is it adequate to current context and demand? Is the governance structure of the EVAW Special Fund Advisory Board suitable to respond to the expectation and mandate of EVAW Special Fund? How has the EVAW Special Fund Advisory Board mechanism supported the Fund's implementation efficiently? How is the EVAW Special Fund addressing external and internal risk?

Findings related to efficiency are grouped into three categories, including EVAW Special Fund administration and consultative mechanisms, Special Fund operations, and Special Fund management.

2.2.1. EVAW Special Fund Administration and Consultative Mechanisms

Since the establishment of the EVAW Special Fund in 2007, it was defined in the *Operational Guidelines for the UN Women Afghanistan EVAW Special Fund* (from herein referred to as the *Operational Guidelines*)⁴³ that the UN Women ACO would be the Administrator of the Special Fund, responsible for the overall management and administration of the Special Fund, in cooperation with a multi-stakeholder management board. Since inception, the EVAW Special Fund has also been governed by two consultative mechanisms, the Advisory Board and the Technical Review Committee (TRC). Given UN Women's involvement and support to EVAW in Afghanistan, as well as its local and international partnerships and expertise, UN Women is well positioned to administer the EVAW Special Fund and provide close technical support to a broad cross-section of grantees, with particular focus and support directed to grassroots CSOs.

Initially, the Advisory Board was made up of donors, UN agencies, the GoIRA (i.e., MoWA), international and national NGOs, other CSOs, and the Fund's Administrator (UN Women). The Advisory Board has played an important role in terms of advising on strategic priorities and relevant processes for the EVAW Special Fund, approves and appraises twice a year EVAW Special Fund Calls for Proposals, and recommends to the Fund Administrator (UN Women) the final projects for funding approval. From time-to-time, the Advisory Board has met with security challenges and personnel turnover in donor agencies, UN agencies, and governmental bodies; however, the Advisory Board has taken steps to overcome and remedy these challenges. Since 2014, the Advisory Board has been meeting on a quarterly basis to review proposals, as well as to discuss other emerging issues and coordination.

⁴³ The *Operational Guidelines* ensure the EVAW Special Fund is managed on the basis of shared understanding, in line with UN Women rules and regulations.

Over the years, the make-up of the Advisory Board has changed as donors have changed and conflicts of interest have been identified and addressed. In 2008, with the 1st Call for Proposals it became evident that there was a conflict of interest when CSOs sitting on the Advisory Board applied to the call for proposals. This led to a revision to the *Operational Guidelines* to reflect that the Advisory Board would be made up of 12 permanent seats and 5 rotating seats (i.e., permanent seats hold indefinite terms, and rotating seats hold a two-year term), and a clause was included that no member of the Advisory Board, regardless of the type of seat they hold is eligible to apply to the EAW Special Fund. At the time it was believed that allowing CSOs to participate on the Advisory Board was important, although it was agreed that their number should be limited and modalities should be put in place for greater inclusion, such as annually rotating seats for CSOs, during which they could vote, but not apply for funds.

In 2013, the make-up of the Advisory Board was again re-visited and it was determined that CSOs should not serve on the Advisory Board. This decision was grounded in the fact that it was determined that having CSOs on the Advisory Board created a conflict of interest, and the established rule that CSO Advisory Board members cannot apply to the call for proposals during membership deprives them of their right to apply for the call for proposals. It was also determined that it would be difficult to choose one or two members from CSOs to serve on the Advisory Board.

The TRC was essentially established to ensure transparency, fairness, objectivity, and quality standards in the grant process. The TRC has consisted of UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA, and WHO representatives. The TRC supports the Advisory Board by carrying out the following tasks: create and revise the annual Technical Evaluation Criteria; review the initial submission of proposals to create a shortlist of proposals to be presented to the Advisory Board; and, contribute technical and other resources. Upon recommendation of the TRC, short-listed proposals are forwarded to the Advisory Board for final review and approval.

Following the 1st Call for Proposals in 2008, there was concern expressed by both the TRC and the Advisory Board as to the quality of proposals submitted and the role quality will play in the assessment and evaluation of proposals. Thus, it was decided that TRC reviews be preceded by an administrative review by UN Women to screen out grant applications that do not meet minimal compliance. The process has proven resource intensive and takes time to implement, but was felt to be cost effective given the administrative support prior to proposal submission to ensure basic compliance with submission requirements and system checks that screen out non-compliant submissions. Screening at this stage is essential to reducing risk.

Over the years, the multi-stakeholder management of the EAW Special Fund has proven successful and has played an important role in terms of advising on strategic priorities and relevant processes for the EAW Special Fund, and has had the added benefit of providing oversight of UN Women's management and administration EAW Special Funds.

2.2.2. EAW Special Fund Operations

Since the establishment of the EAW Special Fund, the annual work planning processes have been strengthened. In 2012, a major part of the year was spent reprogramming, closing pending Calls for Proposals, engaged in an audit exercise and conducting necessary research for future programme direction and new recruitment. In 2013, the UN Women ACO programme underwent a restructuring as part of its transition from a project-focused approach to one which is more holistic to ensure greater cohesion between programme areas. This restructuring ushered in a new approach to UN Women's programming which significantly strengthened the annual work planning processes for the EAW Special Fund, and aligned the annual work plan more closely with Afghanistan's MDGs, ANDS, and NAPWA, as well as UN Women's Strategic Plan for Afghanistan 2014-2017. In keeping with UN Women's Strategic Plan for Afghanistan 2014-2017, it is an overall aim for UN Women to ensure that innovative strategies and methods are given priority to best contribute to effective implementation of activities to prevent and advocate to EAW in Afghanistan. This external evaluation will help to further inform the development of UN Women's annual work plan for 2015 and 2016.

Since the 1st Call for Proposals in 2008, the EAW Special Fund's system of solicitation and review of proposals has been significantly strengthened. *Operational Guidelines* established in 2008 were modified and improved in 2010; then again revised and renamed in 2012, as the *Standard Operational Guidelines* (SOPs). The SOPs provide clear guidelines as it relates to the EAW Special Fund Operations, including the processes for issuing Calls for Proposals and disseminating information about the Calls, as well as eligibility and application processes, processes for receiving proposals, technical review and short-listing of proposals, the criteria for pre-selection and final selection, and issuing grants. Over the years, these SOPs have been developed and modified to align with the UN Women Global EAW Trust Fund Guidelines.

Overtime, the Calls for Proposals have also been strengthened and improved to be more concrete and directed toward the aim of the EAW Special Fund. Other issues and concerns that were encountered and addressed along the way by the Advisory Board included, but were not limited to placing a ceiling on the amount of funding an organization can apply for. The Advisory Board was in consensus that there should be a maximum amount of funding of 250,000 USD per year and 500,000 USD for a two-year project; but no minimum amount of funding. Given the EAW Special Fund exists primarily as seed monies and for capacity building, all projects, no matter how small should be considered. The Advisory Board also established that there would be no cap on the number of applications the EAW Special Fund would accept, but organizations can only submit one proposal per call.

Calls for Proposals have been coupled with capacity building to support CSOs in the development of their proposals; as a result, the quality of proposals has improved. Calls for Proposals are typically circulated to eight regional centres in Afghanistan through a series of orientation workshops/sessions; however, at different points in time over the years, orientation sessions were conducted in fewer regions due to security concerns and some prospective grant applicants were asked to attend orientation workshops/sessions in safer regional centers.⁴⁴ Overtime, based upon feedback from CSOs and other participants these orientation workshops/sessions have come to include a capacity development component on EAW programming and programme management, as well as clarification as to the application process and forms, and a question and answer forum for prospective grants applicants.

Although the majority of proposals come from Kabul, mainly because the majority of CSOs are based in Kabul with branches in provinces, the EAW Special Fund has prioritized selection and funding grant according to geographic need and type of activity. By 2009, the EAW Special Fund was able to widen its geographic coverage to include 20 provinces. And, at various points in time, priority has been given to provinces that are not covered by the Special Fund and CSOs in such provinces have been encouraged to develop EAW interventions.

Ultimately, the EAW Special Fund is focused on funding grants based upon quality, innovative merit, partnerships, effective programming, and efficient resource utilization, as well as grants that demonstrate potential for scaling up at the local and/or national levels. From time-to-time the Advisory Board and the TRC have been concerned about the quality of proposals and the role quality plays in the assessment and evaluation of proposals; thus, it was agreed the EAW Special Fund should take into consideration not the writing skills, but the initiative behind the proposal. Given the preference for supporting CSOs, there should be different criteria for the revision of proposals according to the capacity of organizations and the funds requested. It was also decided the number of revisions for proposals should not be limited, but a time limit should be defined and requests for revisions should be incorporated into a full and comprehensive request for revisions, incorporating all comments from the Advisory Board, the TRC, and the Fund Administrator. Grant applicants are provided the opportunity to revise their proposals to bring them into compliance with requirements.

Since inception of the EAW Special Fund, in accordance with the UN Women Programme and Operations Manual (POM), it was determined that UN Women, the Fund Administrator, will conduct capacity

⁴⁴ Security has remained a challenge for the EAW Special Fund, including security in the field and occasional threats that have come to the EAW Special Fund and its grant recipients.

assessments of CSOs recommended for funding, and will work with the organizations to ensure the organizations have the required knowledge of the provinces to effectively carry out activities. UN Women has also worked with selected CSOs to ensure compliance with UN Women's rules and regulations for programme implementation for responsible parties, as per UN Women POM, and to ensure that EAW initiatives are implemented according to the needs in the provinces based on available data on VAW in provinces. UN Women has also been involved in conducting capacity buildings to support sustainability and exit strategies for grant recipients, particularly those organizations operating WPCs.

Although the solicitation and review processes have steadily improved over the years, a simplified call for proposals was implemented in late 2014, which substantially reduced the proposal vetting processing time. This process includes a concept note (pre-qualification phase) that ensures only organizations that meet basic standards are invited to submit a full-fledged project proposal; such a call process should be reviewed in the future for efficiency.

In addition to strengthening the vetting process, considerable attention has been focused on capacity building and expanded implementation support, improving grant recipient project operations, and enhancing accountability. In 2013, this included bringing on to the EAW Pillar team additional professional and support staff focused on programmatic activities at the country level and to assist with strategic, programmatic, and technical oversight, with an emphasis on improved grant recipient performance and substantial strengthening of results-based monitoring. For instance, in 2014, regular monitoring of the services delivered by the WPCs through a third party monitoring partner began. Some initial gaps identified through monitoring were guidance on mediation of VAW cases⁴⁵, reintegration of VAW victims into their families, registration and reporting of VAW cases by the WPCs, and sustainability of WPC operations. Third party monitoring has revealed sustainable solutions for VAW victims is still a challenge in Afghanistan, as most victims either become long-term residents of WPCs or they go back to live with their families. There is clearly a need to improve and further invest in systematic mechanisms to ensure responsible reintegration of VAW victims into their families; however, WPCs lack the resources to systematically follow-up on cases of reintegration. The expanded focus on monitoring results has been especially important in helping grant recipients to consider whether what they are doing in their projects is yielding the desired results in as efficient a manner as possible.

Since inception, UN Women has focused on how best to ensure the EAW Special Fund remains a flexible funding mechanisms in a changing environment; as a result, focus areas supported by the EAW Special Fund have shifted based upon priority over the years (see Charts 1 and 2). Chart 1 shows that from 2008 to 2014, the EAW Special Fund has provided financial support through 16 Calls for Proposals. The 16 Calls for Proposals have generated 701 grant applications, of which 181 (25.8%) have been short-listed, and 76 (10.8%) have been funded. It is important to note that many grant applicants submitted more than one grant application over the past seven years (2008-2014), and some grant recipients have received more than one grant.

Over the years, many grant applicants and their applications did not meet the eligibility and criteria for funding by the EAW Special Fund, and in some cases, especially early on, the grant applications were not focused on EAW. The EAW Special Fund has also not been able to fund eligible grant applications due to lack of funds in the EAW Special Fund.

⁴⁵ There is however no national policy on how to conduct mediation of VAW cases, and the knowledge and capacity of the WPCs to carry out these services varies.

Chart 1. Number of proposals submitted, shortlisted and funded by Calls for Proposals by year

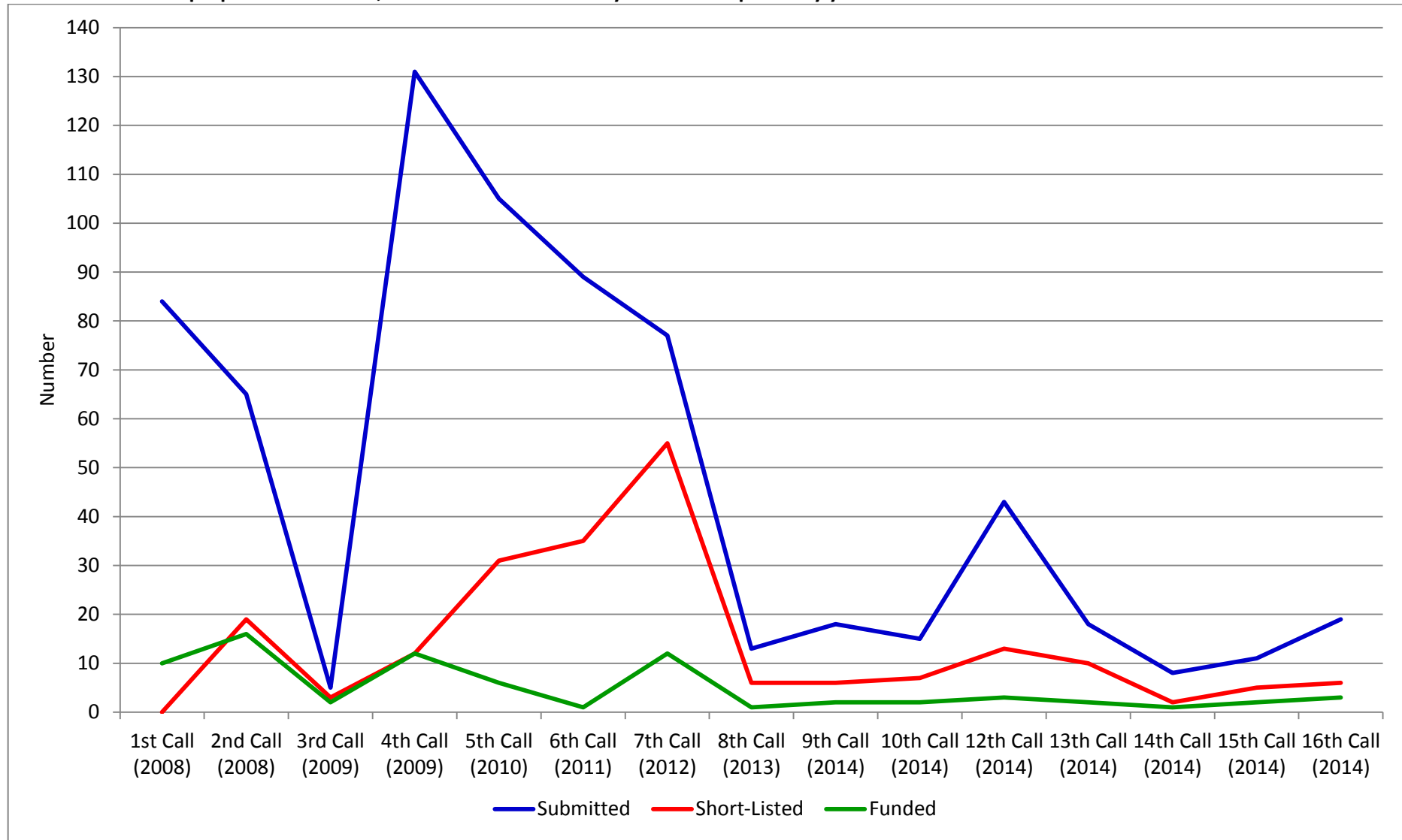
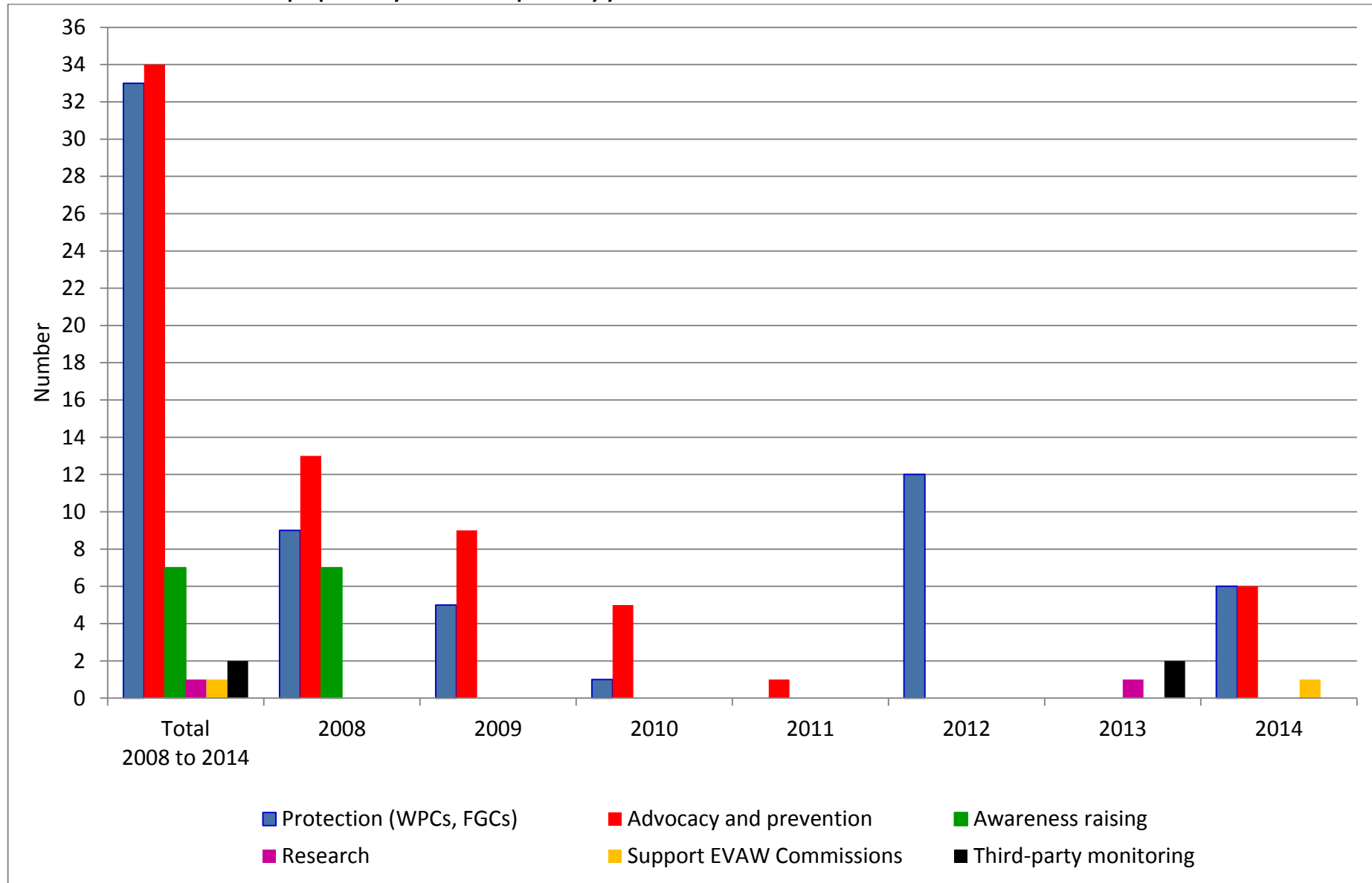


Chart 2. Focus areas of funded proposals by Calls for Proposals by year



UN Women Programmes Activities Map 2014

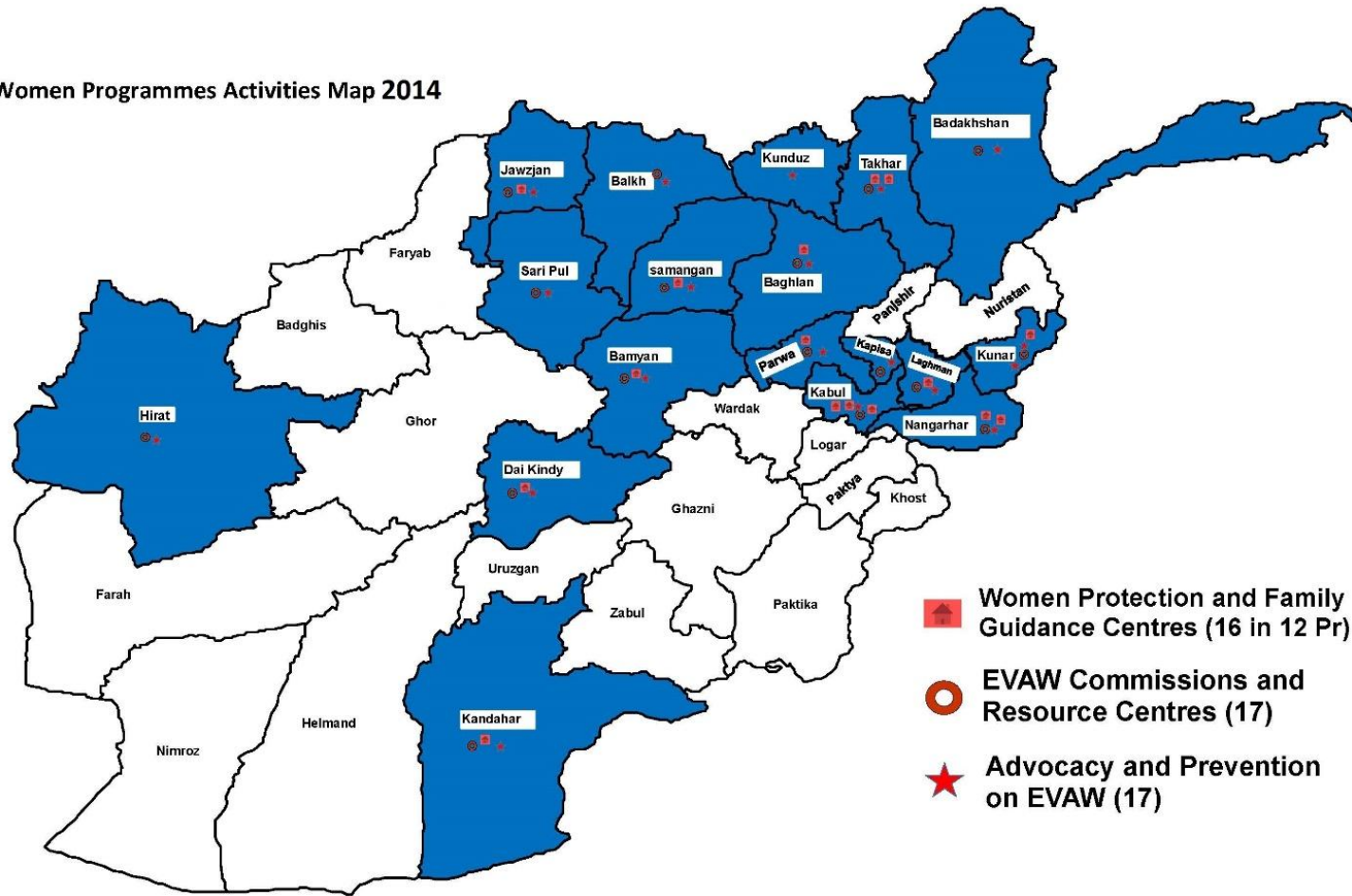


Chart 3. EAW Special Fund budget and donor funding/expenditures by year

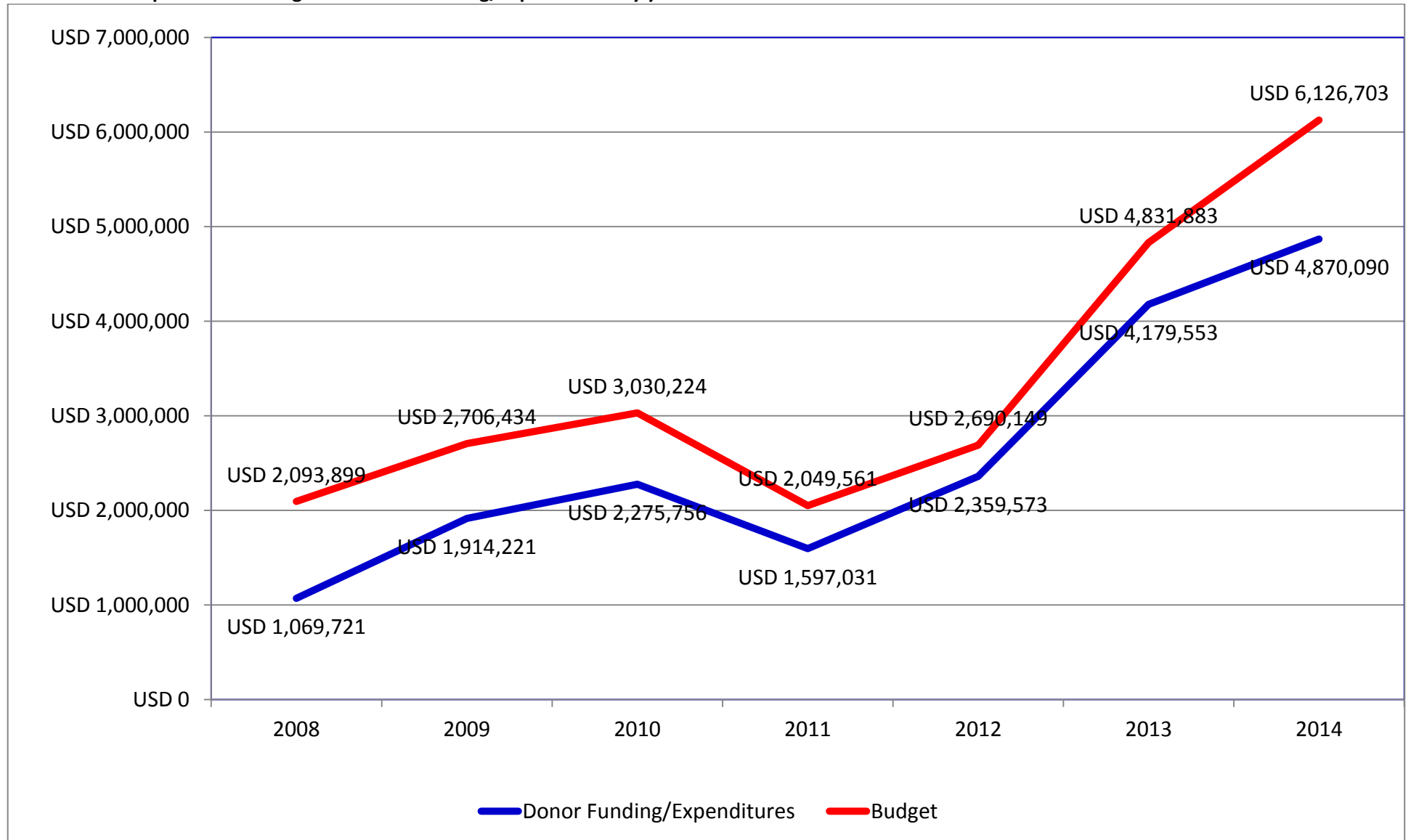


Chart 2 shows the focus areas of grants that received funding from 2008 to 2014, including overall and from year-to-year. Overall from 2008 to 2014, among the 76 funded grants, 34 (44.7%) funded grants supported advocacy and prevention initiatives, including psychosocial counselling and legal advocacy to women at-risk of and survivors of violence, as well as rule-of-law training for law enforcement official and judiciary. In addition, 33 (43.4%) of funded grants supported protection of women at-risk of and survivors of violence, including the WPCs and FGCs. Finally, 7 (9.2%) funded grants supported awareness-raising, 2 (2.6%) supported third-party monitoring, 1 (1.3%) supported research, particularly among health care workers, and 1 (1.3%) supported EAW Commissions.⁴⁶ The data in Chart 2 further reveals that from year-to-year the focus areas of funded areas have varied; this is a reflection, in part, of the efforts of the EAW Special Fund to remain a flexible funding mechanism in a changing environment and the fact that the focus areas included in Calls for Proposals differed from time-to-time.

In the early years, the EAW Special Fund supported EAW initiatives in 19 provinces; however, more systematic funding has supported activities in 17 provinces. The Map of 2014 UN Women Programme Activities shows that UN Women, including the EAW Special Fund, has supported EAW activities in 18 provinces in Afghanistan.

Finally, Chart 3 reveals the EAW Special Fund budget and donor funding and expenditures for each year from 2008 to 2014. It is important to note that donor funding has been steadily increasing despite a dip in donor funding and expenditures in 2011. In 2013 and 2014, donor funding and expenditures has significantly increased surpassing donor funding seen in the previous. The increased funding is likely a reflection of the increased budget, combined with perception among donors that the EAW Special Fund is not only relevant, but also functioning efficiently and effectively, and will have a sustainable impact on EAW in Afghanistan. This increased funding means a great deal to UN Women and those CSO implementing EAW projects and activities with funding from the EAW Special Fund. Moreover, the increased funding means a great deal to women and girls at-risk of and victims/survivors of VAW who can access justice and protective services as a result of the EAW Special Fund, and families, communities, and provincial authorities and CSOs which all benefit from lobbying, advocacy, and awareness raising activities funded by the EAW Special Fund. It is hopeful that this external evaluation and implementation of recommendations outlined in this report will lead to increased understanding among existing donors and other potential donors that the EAW Special Fund is a wise investment of their financial resources.

2.2.3. EAW Special Fund Management

It is well documented that performance of the EAW Special Fund has faced various challenges, including in regard to funding, staffing, and management, as well as due to conditions of conflict and insecurity in Afghanistan. In particular, the 28 October 2009, attack on UN severely impacted the work of the UN and UN Women in Afghanistan as the UN enacted an evacuation plan which included temporary relocation of international staff out of Afghanistan. At this time, UN Women did not close programmes; however, some programmes were implemented more slowly. At the same time, the EAW Special Fund activities were growing; however, the Fund was being depleted. The EAW Special Fund recognized the need for urgent fund raising; attracting new donors, while maintaining continuing partnerships with current donors.

The security situation in Afghanistan remained an issue throughout much of 2011, and continued to have a negative impact on the UN's mission, in general. At the same time, the EAW Special Fund faced other challenges, such as funding EAW activities in some regions of Afghanistan, particularly the South and East where issues of insecurity hamper CSOs from operating and implementing EAW programming. In 2011, there was consensus among Advisory Board members that was too early to attempt nationalization of the EAW Special Fund, as there is no entity within Afghan civil society capable of running the EAW Special

⁴⁶ From 2011 to 2013, the Government of Japan allocated funds to UN Women for a project designed to support the Afghan government to implement the EAW Law. This project has helped the EAW High Commission in Kabul establish and operationalise 9 commissions at the provincial level, and to build the capacities of the EAW Commissions.

Fund. Despite the numerous challenges faced during times of increased conflict and insecurity in Afghanistan, the presence and support of UN Women and the EAW Special Fund, along with its donors, has significantly contributed to the capacity building of the Government and CSOs to address VAW and to implement EAW programming, such as WPCs.

Since 2012, UN Women has taken steps to improve the cost effectiveness of operations as part of their restructuring and reprogramming. This includes an improved proposal vetting process that has led to a reduction in risk, and upfront and on-going support and capacity building to CSOs and the GoIRA which has led to improved grant applications and project proposals, as well as project activities and results. However, the significant strengthening of the grant award process, which has improved cost effectiveness, does mean that the time between proposal solicitation and grant award can be considerable given the complexities of the proposal review process and the need to confirm organizational capacity, as well as due to factors outside the EAW Special Fund's control. In this respect, the efficiency of getting grant monies to grant recipients is challenged, but overall cost effectiveness has improved.⁴⁷

In addition, UN Women has taken steps to support and build the capacity of CSOs and the GoIRA with expectations that it will contribute to strengthening and improving the EAW response in Afghanistan. There is some evidence that the strengthening of the proposal vetting and grant award processes, and increased attention to strengthening organizations capacities has improved cost effectiveness and implementation of EAW activities; however, at the same, such efforts have not always translated into improving the capacities of CSOs or the Government to effectively implement EAW activities, which is due to factors outside the EAW Special Fund's control.

In early 2012, the results-based monitoring system for the EAW Special Fund was improved with the hiring of an EAW Pillar M&E Officer. In turn, the M&E process has improved, along with the clarity of M&E and the approach to (and resources required for) M&E; nevertheless, additional attention needs to be focused on M&E to strengthen the grant application and funding processes, as well as to improve the cost effectiveness of projects and actual service delivery to EAW. Despite improvements to the M&E process, UN Women and the EAW Special Fund has faced restriction and difficulties in conducting M&E in some areas and regions of Afghanistan due to deteriorating security conditions. UN Women and the EAW Special Fund recognized the need to find alternative ways to monitor the project in provinces where UN Women is not able to access due to insecurity. Therefore, in 2013, the EAW Special Fund announced a Call for Proposals for third-party monitoring. Two third-party monitoring teams were funded and have helped to improve the M&E process; however, the third-party monitoring teams also required capacity building to their approach to M&E and reporting.

In conclusion, one of the lessons learned over the past seven years (2008-2014) is that in Afghanistan's context, implementing and managing the EAW Special Fund has not been easy as it may seem.

2.2.4. EAW Special Fund Donors and Reporting

Apart from a few funding agencies that have allowed their contributions to be used as part of a common pool, much of the funding was earmarked for specific activities, especially the establishment of WPCs. Also, in terms of reporting to funding agencies, individual donor agencies have insisted on their own reporting profiles, rather than accepting a common report covering all activities funded and financial contributions received under the EAW Special Fund as a pool, in which individual financial contributions are visible as entries. To respond to these individual donor demands have required a considerable amount of staff time, quite contradictory to the principles and efficiency of a pool. This situation is now being addressed with the

⁴⁷ Communication between UN Women and CSOs has been frustrating for some grant recipients. For UN Women the frustration relates to the slowness of CSOs to get them necessary narratives and financial reports that would meet the quality standards of the funding agencies. UN Women reports that in 2014, the process of the Call for Proposals has been streamlined and effort is being made to have more frequent meetings with grant applicants and recipients to avoid bottlenecks.

revision of the donor agreement process under which a single report will be prepared for some donors against the DRF.

2.3. Effectiveness

Effectiveness covers a broad range of issues; this evaluation focused on several questions related to effectiveness, including: To what extent did ERAW Special Fund achieve its programmatic objectives and targets? What aspects of the ERAW Special Fund approaches and managerial/operational process facilitated achieving the desired results? Are the various activities undertaken by ERAW Special Fund to end VAW reinforcing one another? What, if any, were the unexpected outcomes of this ERAW Special Fund?

Effectiveness includes considering whether the changes that have been made to the ERAW Special Fund since its inception in 2008 have improved the Special Fund's ability to deliver support to CSOs and ERAW initiatives that contribute to national and community-led responses to VAW. In 2012, changes have been made to the management and administration of the ERAW Special Fund, including: improvements made to the Call for Proposals and vetting processes; improved support for development of the capacities of CSOs; improvements to the M&E approach; and improved reporting on programming and results. From the perspective of effectiveness, far more has been gained than lost from the changes made since 2012, but more changes in the administration of the ERAW Special Fund are needed to improve its effectiveness.

Findings related to effectiveness are grouped into three categories, including: lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising; access to justice and protective measures; and results-based monitoring.

2.3.1. Lobbying, Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

Over the years, the ERAW Special Fund has supported CSOs to undertake lobbying, advocacy, and awareness initiatives. These activities are crucial to ERAW; however, this evaluation revealed they have not always been reinforced or linked to a broader VAW response and, as a result, may not have had the desired results or sustained impacts anticipated or expected. The issue of effectiveness in lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising was recognised as a challenge early on by UN Women and the ERAW Special Fund, and led to some of the changes made in the grant application and vetting processes, capacity building of CSOs, and results-based monitoring and evaluation processes, among others, which focused on shifting from ineffective initiatives to supporting the development of more effective lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising. In 2013 and 2014, steps have been taken to strengthen VAW lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising by funding activities, including awareness-raising involving men, boys, and youth to enable better prevention of VAW.

In many respects, problems experienced in building strong lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising interventions have been related to the weak overall response to VAW in Afghanistan, including weaknesses in CSOs and limited capacities of the Government. It is especially important when undertaking lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising initiatives to ensure that VAW protection and response services exist in the locations where these initiatives are taking place so that women who come forward can access protection and support services. This is a real challenge in Afghanistan where VAW response services are very limited (few and far between).

There are examples of what appear to be effective lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising activities funded by the ERAW Special Fund, which CSOs and local government want to expand; however, there is little qualitative or quantitative evidence of the results of such initiatives. For instance, over the past 4 years, ERAW Special Fund funding and technical support provided to provincial ERAW Commissions has improved Commissions understanding of their roles and responsibilities to ERAW. In fact, provincial ERAW Commissions are becoming the main hub for addressing issues of VAW in local communities, which has had a positive impact on women's access to justice for VAW. In addition, provincial ERAW Commissions are now developing annual work plans and taking steps to ensure their initiatives are reaching local

communities, even in remote districts. During monthly meetings of provincial EVAW Commissions, at least three to five cases of VAW are reviewed and relevant officials are expected to report on the progress of the cases, mainly in the judiciary. Beyond anecdotal reports, such as the aforementioned, documentation of results has been an issue for the EVAW Special Fund given the lack of qualitative or quantitative evidence of the results of such initiatives; although, in recent years there have been some improvements to the results-based monitoring processes and documentation of results. For instance, in 2013, follow-up sessions were conducted to assess the effectiveness of legal trainings on implementing the EVAW Law provided to provincial EVAW Commissions in nine provinces.⁴⁸ Follow-up sessions and roundtables meetings in the provinces confirmed the legal trainings were helpful to the provincial EVAW Commissions in understanding the content of the EVAW Law in order to monitor its enforcement by relevant provincial institutions, such as the police department, prosecution offices and courts.

Although significant progress has been made over the past seven years to lobby, advocate, and raise-awareness to issues of VAW and EVAW approaches, there are things that are *not* being done in the areas of lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising that should be done, such as better links to local authorities, instituting systems to engage target groups in programme design, and feedback systems to learn from target groups or beneficiaries about the impact of awareness-raising and prevention programmes. In part, this is due to a lack of consideration of the right to participate by target groups or beneficiaries, and that they can be helpful when it comes to shaping projects to ensure they are more relevant to local needs. In such cases, they are more likely to have more of a lasting impact.

This evaluation further revealed there has been increased reporting of VAW over the past seven years (2008-2014), which does not necessarily mean that incidences of VAW have increased, but that VAW is being reported and victims of VAW are reaching out for assistance. This could be understood to indicate an increased level of awareness about VAW and the need to end VAW, and hint at a slow, but evolving change of attitudes toward VAW among women, and by authorities. For instance, field evaluators found a decision was made by elders in a southern Afghan village that *ba'ad* and exchange marriages (i.e., giving a girl to settle a tribal/clan feud) would no longer be permitted and that payment of bride price should be reduced to a reasonable amount.

In recent years, the EVAW Special Fund has supported initiatives to increase awareness among government authorities, including the police and justice officials, as well as the media to issues of VAW and EVAW, particularly following the passing of the EVAW Law. The EVAW Special Fund has also supported initiatives to increase awareness and advocacy among government authorities, including the police and justice officials, to understand the EVAW Law, and to provide legal advocacy to women.

It will be important in the future to attempt to measure and monitor the results of lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising initiatives supported by the EVAW Special Fund; however, CSOs will likely need much more technical support and capacity building to strengthen their abilities to undertake qualitative and quantitative baseline data collection, and subsequent results-based monitoring and reporting skills. After all, CSOs engaged in programme implementation typically do not possess the skills needed to effectively conduct baselines and carry out systematic results-based monitoring and reporting.

2.3.2. Access to Justice and Protective Measures

UN Women's efforts to respond to VAW, including with EVAW Special Fund, includes advancing women's rights, addressing VAW, supporting protective services for women and girls at-risk of and survivors of VAW, and supporting gender-responsive and human rights approaches to EVAW. The nature of the EVAW Special Fund approach, as a grant mechanism that focuses on supporting CSOs has yielded important results. Moreover, the EVAW Special Fund has a particular competitive edge in targeting women at-risk of and survivors of VAW and supporting EVAW with grants to CSOs operating in as many as 17 provinces

⁴⁸ The provinces included Badakhshan, Bamyan, Nangarhar, Laghman, Parwan, Kapisa, Herat, Balkh and Sari Pul.

throughout Afghanistan. In particular, EAW Special Fund grants have supported access to justice and protective services for survivors of VAW.

UN Women and the EAW Special Fund have supported CSOs and the MoWA to implement protective services for women at-risk of and survivors of VAW, particularly WPCs, in 13 provinces, including Kabul. Protection services are a crucial response to VAW and important to EAW; however, new to Afghanistan. Ensuring the effectiveness of protective services for women at-risk of and survivors of VAW has been a challenge for UN Women and the EAW Special Fund, which has led to some of the changes made in the grant application and vetting processes, capacity building of CSOs, and results-based monitoring and evaluation processes, among others, which focused on shifting from ineffective protection initiatives to supporting the development of more effective protective services. Thus, since 2012, the EAW Special Fund has supported efforts to protect women and girls from violence by strengthening the WPCs and FGCs, including improving the skills of WPC and FGC staff to provide counselling and advocacy support services to victims of VAW, and to improve mediation skills to facilitate reunification of survivors of VAW with their family and community, as well as to advocate for and pursue cases of VAW in the judiciary. In many respects, problems experienced in building a system of protective services for women at-risk of and survivors of VAW is related to the weak overall response to VAW in Afghanistan, including weaknesses in CSOs and limited capacities of the GoIRA, and lack of documentation in terms of results.⁴⁹

This evaluation reveals that WPCs, although new to providing protective services, have demonstrated they are effective at EAW, particularly during the period of time that women and girls remain in the shelter facilities (WPCs); however, WPCs face challenges ensuring the safety and security of women and girls after they leave the center. In some cases, women and girls have no alternative, but to return to their family home, placing them at increased risk of VAW. Also, women's inability to live independently in Afghanistan remains a significant barrier for survivors of VAW; as a result, some women and girls have had to remain in WPCs for long periods of time (in a very few cases more than 10 years). These are serious challenges that exist to EAW in Afghanistan; nevertheless, WPCs and FGCs and other EAW initiatives supported by the EAW Special Fund are crucial, and have proven effective at responding to VAW.

Although the concept of VAW protective services, such as WPCs and FGCs, are still new in Afghanistan, they are now much more accepted, including at the highest levels of the government. The Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA) indicated that such protection is required when women cannot be safe in their homes. In addition, the general public's attitude toward VAW shelters is more positive today as a result of lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising by CSOs, WPCs, FGCs, and the MoWA. This has also led to more and early referrals to the WPCs and FGCs. In the past women coming to a police station for security ran serious risks of being re-victimised; now authorities at police stations are more likely to refer women and girls at-risk of and victims of VAW to a WPC.

UN Women and the EAW Special Fund, along with the MoWA, have contributed to a more elaborated set of shelter regulations, based on the official government Shelter Protocol, which has led to more and better collaboration among CSOs operating WPCs. Nevertheless, WPCs still struggle with managing shelters and using victim-centred and human-rights approaches to victim support, as well as staff attitudes toward women and girls in the shelters. In addition, the quality and availability of specialist staff and support services varies across WPCs; some WPCs were lacking much needed quality psycho-social support services and/or education and economic empowerment programmes. Food and other commodities provided by WPCs were not always the quality and/or quantity officially agreed upon and budgeted. Given the newness of VAW shelters, such as the WPCs, more capacity building and support are needed for these facilities from the MoWA, as well as the EAW Special Fund. In recent years, the EAW Special Fund has supported initiatives and interventions that have helped to improve lobbying, advocacy, and awareness-raising to support WPCs, but more is needed.

⁴⁹ WPCs supported by the EAW Special Fund have been able to collect some results-based data, including the number of women who entered and were protected by the WPCs, and length of stay, as well as data on court cases related to divorce, and more.

In addition to supporting WPCs, UN Women strengthened its efforts to prevent VAW, mainly through the establishment of two FGCs in Afghanistan. FGCs offer counselling, mediation, and legal representation to men, women, or children who suffer human rights violations; however, the majority of clients are women and girls who are at-risk of and victims of VAW. Some women and girls walk in to the FGCs on their own, but the majority are referred by government ministries, the police, and other CSOs to the FGCs. The FGCs provide counselling, mediation, and legal aid to ensure that women and girls who have suffered human rights violations have a fair chance to getting the justice they deserve. FGCs often involve the woman or girl and their (potential) violators (i.e., their husband, uncle, brother, and other members of the family) in mediation in an effort to come to a mutual settlement and acceptable solution. The EAW Special Fund has provided FGCs with funding to support the establishment and operations of the FGCs.

One of the aims of FGCs is to reduce the number of women and girls entering WPCs by providing early interventions, including mediation and consultation with the client and her family members. In 2014, it was reported that FGCs seems to be effective in reducing the number of women entering WPCs; in particular, in provinces where both WPCs and FGCs are functioning, the number of women entering into WPCs was reduced by 40%.

To improve effectiveness of access to justice and protective service for women and girls at-risk of and survivors of VAW, it is important that the EAW Special Fund improve pre-funding assessments and M&E processes to ensure quality of services provided and adherence to shelter standards. Formally, the MoWA and DoWAs are responsible for monitoring the WPCs in their area, but they require technical assistance to strengthen their monitoring approach and reporting skills.

Efforts to expand access to justice and protective services, and to ensure quality services are delivered in a manner consistent with gender-responsive approaches and human rights principles is both challenging and time-consuming. Efforts to improve access to justice and protective services, for example means a long process of training and support to grant recipients. UN Women is currently working with grant recipients to standardize procedures and guidelines for WPCs and to develop mechanisms that will enable WPCs to undertake improved data collection on their clients' needs and services they provide; nevertheless, much more training and support is needed to improve CSOs to provide better access to justice and protective services to women and girls at-risk of and survivors of VAW.

2.3.3. Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation

One of the consequences of a grant programme is that you end up dealing with grant recipient's strengths and weaknesses, and despite efforts to ensure positive programme activities and outputs there is only so much the EAW Special Fund can do. In considering grant recipient's reporting up until 2013, it was evident that project monitoring has been problematic and results-based monitoring largely non-existent. Yet, it was evident from discussions with grant recipients that much more has gone on than what was included in their reports to the EAW Special Fund, and while some CSOs recognise the importance of managing results, but are essentially not tracking them, others have not. The result has been a reporting system that includes broad descriptions of activities (sometimes with numbers, and sometimes without), followed by leaps to outcomes arising from these activities. The essential details that would establish whether the leaps from activities to outcomes are reasonable are sometimes there; however, this information rarely made it into the reports.

The EAW Special Fund has devoted considerable attention to improving the EAW Special Fund's M&E systems, this includes additional attention to results-based monitoring and documenting lessons learned, as well as considering how best to proceed with evaluations. Improvement made to the M&E system have been coupled with the hiring of a UN Women EAW Pillar M&E Officer in 2012, and issuing a Call for Proposals in 2013 for third-party monitoring; these changes coincided with the reprogramming and restructuring activities of UN Women.

UN Women's approach to M&E reflects growing recognition that evaluations need to be useful for direct programme improvement, and useful for lessons learned for other programmes. While evaluation has always been one element of the EAW Special Fund, in the early years it was very vaguely defined. Since 2012, increased attention to results-based monitoring has resulted in new agreements on the way forward for M&E. Because of major changes in operations of the EAW Special Fund in 2012, it was felt that an external evaluation would be relevant to consider how these M&E changes were working out and what additional changes might be required.

One challenge of the external evaluation was trying to establish effective baselines for grant projects. Security is a key challenge for the EAW Special Fund and its donor and implementing partners. Currently, grants are being implemented mainly in the northern and central provinces of Afghanistan. The diminished ability to adequately monitor implementation of projects in other regions of Afghanistan is limited due to the insecurity and conflict. Thus, third party monitors are being utilized to enhance the M&E system for the EAW Special Fund.

It is evident from a review of grant proposals, third-party monitoring reports, and donor reports that attention needs to be focused on proper baselines and stronger M&E systems. Unfortunately, evaluation results suggest that with few exceptions, these problems remain, although progress has been made in terms of project M&E, including to a limited extent results-based monitoring. Discussions were held with UN Women during this evaluation about whether project-level baselines and impact assessments could be undertaken, and the recommendations were that there needs to be support for grant recipients to carry out baseline and impact assessments that would serve to inform project implementation, along with mid-term reviews and final assessments. Efforts to improve results-based monitoring, for example, will mean a long process of training and support to grant recipients, including building the skills and capacities to do results-based monitoring and to understand M&E as a participatory and supportive process, rather than be considered as an inspection.

In summary, this external evaluation revealed that significant changes made in 2012 to the administration of the EAW Special Fund have resulted in improved effectiveness of the Special Fund, gaps still remain in terms of field support to grant recipients during project implementation to support improved baseline data collection and systematic results-based monitoring, as well as reporting skills. Additional attention should also be given to identifying opportunities for creating useful knowledge management products that can be used to strengthen knowledge and share information about lessons learned and what works.

2.4. Sustainability

It remains too early to identify tangible results in terms of sustainability of the EAW Special Fund; nevertheless, this evaluation focused on several questions related to sustainability, including: Is the EAW Special Fund leading to sustainable changes and results? How has the EAW Special Fund influenced the policy framework in Afghanistan so far? Were the partnership choices with GoIRA and implementing partners appropriate for greater sustainability of the EAW Special Fund activities? What would be needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the EAW SF in order to EAW? Have the EAW SF initiatives contributed to creating national capacities for sustained results?

Based upon the number of proposals received by the EAW Special Fund since 2008, as well as a review of Advisory Board minutes, partner and donor progress reports, and M&E findings, it is evident that the EAW Special Fund is a promising and important initiative for combating VAW in Afghanistan. The EAW Special Fund is well-focused on one of its long-term goals of receiving more substantial proposals from strengthened CSOs for projects that will produce measurable positive change towards EAW in Afghanistan.

Over the years, the issue of sustainability of funded projects has been raised, as Advisory Board members were concerned about the long-term viability of the EAW Special Fund and how to ensure the MoWA and

CSOs, particularly those operating WPCs, think about exit strategies and ways of funding projects through their own means, instead of being perpetually dependent upon funding from the ERAW Special Fund.

It is also important to note that sustainability of interventions supported through the ERAW Special Fund depends to a large extent on the impact of ongoing conflict and political instability, as well as linking what emerges from local-level experience to national-level policy development and implementation.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ UNIFEM (2008). Afghanistan - Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Global Messages and Country Experiences, p.2

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Conclusions

This external evaluation resulted in seven key conclusions, each of which are briefly presented below:

1. A major strength of the ERAW Special Fund is that it was created in a participatory manner and endorsed by its many stakeholders, many of whom have been involved since the concept development stage in 2007. The ERAW Special Fund provides not only an excellent opportunity for coordinated and predictable funding for ERAW activities in Afghanistan, but it enhances the ability to systematically document lessons learned, identify best practices, and serve as a vital forum for contributing to a national strategy for ERAW.
2. Alongside restructuring and reprogramming changes made in UN Women ACO since 2012, changes made to the ERAW Special Fund have moved the Special Fund in the right direction. This finding is important because it reveals that the ERAW Special Fund has succeeded in putting in place systems for efficient and effective functioning. This includes Call for Proposals and proposal vetting processes that ensures the ERAW Special Fund focuses on CSOs with the ability to grow and improve their operations, capacities, and activities, as well as results-based monitoring systems.
3. Demand for ERAW support services is very high in Afghanistan and has grown in recent years. The demand for ERAW support services includes the need for financing and capacity building, as well as broader support to advance the ERAW agenda. The growing links between the ERAW Special Fund and ERAW activities in Afghanistan, which are of relevance to UN Women and donors offers important opportunities for the ERAW Special Fund, allowing it to both achieve its own objectives and advance national ERAW responses in provinces throughout Afghanistan.
4. Since 2012, improvements made in results-based monitoring and evaluation will go a long way towards properly measuring the results of the ERAW Special Fund's activities and progress towards its objectives; however, a significant gap exists in information required to properly assess the ERAW Special Fund's impact and effectiveness. Thus, high quality baseline and follow-up results-based monitoring and assessments are needed for the grants.
5. This external evaluation revealed there has been improvement in communication over the years; however, there is still room for strengthening ERAW Special Fund communications, including within the ERAW Special Fund and with its partners.
6. Systems of effective knowledge management related to the ERAW Special Fund are lacking and should be strengthened in coming years. More can be done to strengthen and expand knowledge management related to the ERAW Special Fund, including sharing knowledge by documenting, evaluating, and disseminating results. The ERAW Special Fund is in a unique position to ensure quality knowledge products⁵¹ are produced and shared, and that access to information and insights related to VAW and ERAW are made available to a wide range of actors across Afghanistan.
7. Over the past few years the ERAW Special Fund has committed to strengthening gender responsive and human rights-based approaches at the stakeholder and grant recipient levels. This has included attention to the rights of target groups or beneficiaries; however, there is still room for improvement, especially in terms of the rights of participation of target groups or beneficiaries of ERAW activities.

3.2. Recommendations

The strategic recommendations that follow are guided by each of the aforementioned seven key conclusions which are grounded in the findings presented in the previous section. These recommendations were developed specifically to support UN Women ACO and the ERAW Special Fund Advisory Board in the management response. It is important to note that the recommendations that follow only cover areas of additional need. So, for example, if no change is required, no recommendations are offered.

⁵¹ Within UN Women, a knowledge document is defined as "a product which extracts information from prior knowledge and experience (knowledge base), and transforms it into a tangible artefact in order to present, communicate and teach new audiences."

3.2.1. Recommendation 1 – The EAW Special Fund should carefully consider what it is needed to operate at an optimal level

This external evaluation revealed that changes made to the EAW Special Fund since 2012 have moved the Special Fund in the right direction; therefore, it is recommended that the EAW Special Fund carefully consider what it would take to operate at an optimal level. This includes consideration of the nature and composition of the UN Women EAW Pillar team and the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board and Technical Review Committee, including: skill profiles of team members and orientation of the EAW Special Fund team, with a recommendation to enhance focus on support grant recipients in the field; need for short-term technical assistance to fill gaps among team members and to meet specific needs; and resource requirements. If the EAW Special Fund were able to establish an optimal level of operation with necessary and stable financing, it would be able to operate in as cost effective a manner as possible. This means that ‘right-sizing’ and ‘right-focusing’ of the EAW Special Fund will offer a high return on investment, which will contribute to sustainability.

Now is the right time to consider optimal operations because over the past two years (2012-2014) the EAW Special Fund has put into place systems for efficient and effective functioning, including improved Call of Proposals and proposal vetting processes that ensures the Special Fund focuses on agencies with the capacities to grow and improve their operations, and improved results-based monitoring and evaluation systems. With some adjustments and further development, the systems that are now in place can be the basis for effective implementation of the EAW Special Fund. To support the EAW Special Fund’s operation at the optimal level, short-term technical assistance is required for baseline and impact assessments that rely upon mixed method approaches which are able to generate meaningful qualitative and quantitative data. In addition, more focus needs to be paid to capacity building of CSOs and enhanced communication and knowledge management, including the production of quality knowledge products.

While the actual size of EAW Special Fund operations can only be established when resources are allocated and staffing needs have been met, it is likely that the return will be positive and significant.

3.2.2. Recommendation 2 – Content of the SOP should be revised and updated to take into account the current operation of the EAW Special Fund

At inception, it was envisioned that in the long-term there could be national ownership and control over EAW strategies and programmes in Afghanistan; however, this long-term objective should be reconsidered as this evaluation revealed national ownership and control over EAW strategies and programmes is not viable in the foreseeable future. Given this finding, content of the SOP should be revised and updated to take into account that there is no possibility in the near future of a handover of the EAW Special Fund to another agency, including the GoIRA. There are several other issues related to membership and decision-making in the SOP that the Advisory Board should review, revise, and update.

Demand for financial resources and capacity building services to EAW as provided by the EAW Special Fund are very high and expected to grow in the future; clearly, the demand will continue to exceed supply in the future and should be properly managed. The EAW Special Fund offers important funding and services which administered through UN Women, and under the watchful eye of the EAW Special Fund Advisory Board, offers important competitive edges, including: UN Women’s mandate to EAW; independence and neutrality from local political pressures; an ability to adapt to national circumstances; engagement with stakeholders; and effective knowledge management capacities. At this time, there is no real possibility to transition the EAW Special Fund to another agency which would be able to offer similar competitive advantages.

However, it is recommended that the content of the SOP is revisited, revised, and updated to ensure it is aligned with the current practices and operations of the EAW Special Fund.

3.2.3. Recommendation 3 – Changes made to the EVAW Special Fund since 2012 should continue and focus should be on capacity building for grant recipients to strengthen the M&E system

This external evaluation revealed the demand for EVAW support services is very high in Afghanistan, and has grown in recent years with the establishment of WPCs and FGCs. The demand for EVAW support services includes the need for financing and capacity building, as well as broader support to advance the EVAW agenda. The links between the EVAW Special Fund and broader EVAW activities which are of relevance to UN Women programming offers important opportunities for the EVAW Special Fund, allowing it to both achieve its own objectives and advance national EVAW responses across the country; this work and support should continue. Overall, the EVAW Special Fund has funded a number of projects that have improved operations and are starting to show results; yet, the Special Fund needs to consider how to effectively respond to the growing demand for EVAW support services and need for financing and capacity building throughout Afghanistan to support EVAW.

M&E functions are now recognised as a vital element of EVAW Special Fund operations; however, mere recording of facts and figures will not suffice. In 2012, UN Women's EVAW Pillar established a special post for that purpose; however, there is still significant need for capacity building of grant recipients to carry out results-based monitoring.

The various changes made to the EVAW Special Fund since 2012 should continue, and more attention should be paid to capacity building for grant recipients, and strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems, especially results-based monitoring. This external evaluation revealed the use of third-party monitoring has contributed to improved results-based monitoring; however, the monitoring capacities and report writing skills of third-party monitors should be further supported and enhanced. Capacity building should also be provided to grant recipients to be able to regular result-based monitoring and reporting of their activities and data collection of indicators and sub-indicators related to their project outputs, outcomes, and goals.

Grant recipients and third-party monitor's need capacity building to improve recording keeping and documentation that would serve to strengthen baseline assessments, results-based monitoring, and M&E frameworks and systems. A short-term technical consultant should be recruited to tailor capacity building trainings to the specific needs of grant recipients and third-party monitors' and to offer follow-up technical support for field implementation.

3.2.4. Recommendation 4 – The EVAW Special Fund should plan for and secure technical assistance and additional financing for conducting high-quality baseline assessments for a subset of 2015 grant recipients.

This external evaluation revealed that progress is slowly being made in results-based monitoring and evaluation; however, making significant improvement to M&E will go a long way towards properly measuring the results of the EVAW Special Fund's activities and progress towards its objectives. A significant gap exists in information required to properly assess the Special Fund's impact and effectiveness. Therefore, high quality baseline and follow-up results assessments are needed.

It is recommended that the EVAW Special Fund plan for and secure technical assistance and additional financing to conduct high-quality baseline assessments for a subset of 2015 grant recipients. These baselines should ideally be conducted in the second half of 2015, with follow-up results monitoring and end-line assessment conducted during the funding period with the same grant recipients. High quality baselines that utilize mix method approaches that allow for the collection of *quantitative and qualitative* data, and continued results monitoring and end-line assessment can provide important information and evidence of impact at a level of detail and insights that are needed to understand VAW and what works and what does not in EVAW. In addition, such data and findings would provide a more in-depth analysis and understanding of the results of the EVAW Special Fund's activities, impact of the Special Fund, and

progress toward its objectives. Data and findings from such mixed methods baselines and assessments can also be used to further evaluate the EVAW Special Fund and a number of UN Women interventions, as well as help test the efficacy of grant mechanisms in the EVAW response overall.

This recommendation will require external technical expertise and working with the grant recipient agencies. Both qualitative and quantitative baselines and assessments provide important opportunities for developing the capacities of EVAW Special Fund grant recipients and their personnel.

3.2.5. Recommendation 5 – Additional Calls for Proposals should be issued in 2015, but changes to the Calls for Proposals process should be considered.

It is recommended that one change be made to the Call for Proposals process for 2015. This is to issue a call for pre-qualification proposals, where interested CSOs can provide a concise concept note together with evidence of organizational competence and capacities, demonstrating whether the organization meets the basic administrative and financial requirements for grant implementation, and has a ‘good idea’ in responding to VAW and EVAW. Those CSOs that meet these criteria would then be invited to submit full proposals for vetting by processes already in place.

3.2.6. Recommendation 6 – The EVAW Special Fund should consider how it can help grant recipients implement their projects in a manner that strengthens the right of participation among target groups.

This external evaluation revealed that since inception, the EVAW Special Fund has committed to strengthening gender responsive and human rights-based approaches at the stakeholder and grant recipient levels; however, has paid little attention to strengthening strategies that consider the rights of participation of target groups, rather target groups are often treated as relatively passive ‘audiences’ to reach and ‘beneficiaries’ that receive services. This is especially problematic in awareness-raising and/or protection projects, where project approaches are typically fully pre-defined and extended to target groups, rather than engaging target groups in defining the content and direction of the projects. For instance, awareness-raising programmes for youth should be developed with input from the youth the project is designed to target to ensure the message is relevant and meaningful to the target audience. In addition, protective services for women at-risk of and survivors of VAW are often established and offered with little input from the women that access these protective services, including their input into the quality of psycho-social support services and type of economic empowerment needed. This alignment with gender responsive and human rights-based approaches needs further attention.

Based upon these findings, it is recommended that the EVAW Special Fund consider how it can help grant recipients implement their projects in a manner that strengthens the right of participation of target groups as agents of change, informed participants, and valuable rights-holders. This recommendation is also based on the hypothesis that ownership is key to sustainability, and the right of participation of target groups is widely agreed upon and accepted as a “best practice.”

While it sounds straightforward to ensure that rights to participation be respected, it requires skills that are not common. Grant recipients themselves will need training to improve their capabilities to engage with target groups in project design, so as to strengthen the relevance of project approaches to the needs of affected persons and communities and to ensure proper ethical protocols are followed, especially when involving survivors of VAW. In addition, approaches to ensure the right to participation of target groups in project design and implementation will need to be tested to learn what works.

3.2.7. Recommendations 7 – There should be improved communications within the ERAW Special Fund and with its partners, as well as between ERAW Special Fund projects and other projects and agencies involved in the ERAW response.

This external evaluation revealed there is significant room for improvement in ERAW Special Fund communications. As with any project, there is room for improvement in communications at all levels within the Special Fund and with its partners, as well as between the ERAW Special Fund and other projects and agencies involved in the ERAW response. There has been a justifiable tendency in the ERAW Special Fund to focus on formal communications.

These efforts to improve communications should focus on going after good stories and ‘translate’ these into useful knowledge products that can be shared with donors and to solicit new donors, as well as with the government and other projects and agencies involved in the ERAW response. UN Women should work closely with grant recipients and their target groups to capture numerous success stories of ERAW that are not necessarily being captured or linked to the ERAW Special Fund. Ultimately, a communication strategy should be developed which should align ERAW Special Fund communication activities with those of the UN Women ACO, and the communications strategy of UN Women.

3.2.8. Recommendation 8 - Effective knowledge management should be significantly strengthened and expanded related to the ERAW Special Fund.

Findings from this external evaluation revealed systems of effective knowledge management have been strengthened since 2008; but, considerably more can be done to strengthen and expand knowledge management related to the ERAW Special Fund. The ERAW Special Fund is in a unique position to access information and insights from a wide range of actors and activities across numerous, diverse provinces in Afghanistan. Every visit to grant recipients and their target communities is an opportunity to hear and capture stories in a coherent fashion to create insightful knowledge products. The importance of sharing these stories cannot be understated; in particular, donor agencies require evidence of impact and individual’s stories are quite powerful. As with communications, the ERAW Special Fund should focus attention on building strong knowledge management systems, including review processes that ensure quality knowledge products are produced and shared with donors and potential new donors, as well as with the government and other projects and agencies involved in the ERAW response.

3.2.9. Recommendation 9 – The ERAW Special Fund should plan for and secure technical assistance and additional financing to support capacity building of grant recipients to ERAW

Although there is a high degree of commitment from CSOs to work for women’s human rights and equality, the limited capacity of some CSOs is a major issue. UN Women and the ERAW Special Fund have been working with selected and short-listed NGOs to develop their capacity to understand VAW in Afghanistan and to effectively manage and implement projects. In fact, there is a high expectation for the ERAW Special Fund to provide capacity building opportunities for CSOs; however mechanisms to do so on a regular basis are not yet in place. Thus, it is important that UN Women focus on securing donor funds to support capacity building of grant recipients to understand VAW and ERAW by means of: lobbying, advocacy and awareness-raising; primary prevention; and access to justice and protective services. The intention should be to build the capacities of ERAW grantees with regard to their engagement in lobbying and advocacy, and helping to move beyond direct service provision to strategic actions aimed at a broader ERAW response.

The capacity building training programme should be tailored to the specific needs of the ERAW Special Fund, and participants should have examples of how the training was applied in the work of the grant recipients (e.g., using the training to focused on responding to violence and offering high quality survivor services).

3.2.10. Recommendation 10 – UN Women should consider planning for and securing technical assistance to develop a Theory of Change (TOC) for the ERAW Special Fund

When the ERAW Special Fund was established in 2007 and officially launched in 2008, there were no requirements that it be guided by a TOC; this is still the case today. As a result, no TOC was developed or used over the years for programme planning or evaluation. The benefits of having a TOC approach is that it would provide a clear, specific, and measurable description of the social change initiative that forms the basis of the ERAW Special Fund. This would include long-term goals, measurable indicators of success, and actions to achieve goals. A well developed TOC would serve to guide strategic planning, on-going decision-making, and evaluation. Given the benefits of having a TOC for the ERAW Special Fund, it is recommended that UN Women plan for and secure technical assistance to develop a TOC for the ERAW Special Fund.

3.2.11. Recommendation 11 – UN Women and the ERAW Special Fund should explore new partnerships to strengthen ERAW efforts


In Afghanistan, there is a high degree of commitment from a limited numbers of CSOs to work on VAW and to implement ERAW initiatives; however, UN Women and the ERAW Special Fund would benefit from exploring new partnerships to strengthen ERAW efforts. This includes exploring partnerships with community elders/leaders and religious leaders, as well as outreach programmes also engaging community-based organizations (but not CSOs) that are not currently addressing VAW or involved in ERAW. There would be significant benefit from establishing new partnerships to develop their capacities to understand VAW and lobby and advocate for ERAW, as well as to refer women at-risk and survivors of VAW and their families to local victim support services, such as WPCs and FGCs.

3.2.12. Recommendation 12 – UN Women should work with all ERAW Special Fund donors to accept a single report of donors prepared against the DRF

This evaluation revealed that in terms of reporting to funding agencies, individual donor agencies have insisted on their own reporting profiles, rather than accepting a common report covering all activities funded and financial contributions received under the ERAW Special Fund as a pool, in which individual financial contributions are visible as entries. Responding to these individual donor demands has required a considerable amount of staff time, quite contradictory to the principles and efficiency of a pool of funding. In addition, evaluation of the ERAW Special Fund has been made more difficult by the separate donor reports, as information and data is fragmented and disaggregated across some six different donor reports each year.

Over the past year, UN Women has revised some donor agreements and some donors have agreed to accept a single annual report of donors prepared against the DRF; it is strongly encouraged that all donors follow suit. A single report to donors will have the benefit of contributing to improved knowledge management and production, and monitoring and reporting on financial contributions and projects, including demonstrating links between financial contributions and project activities, and project activities and outputs and outcomes. A single report to donors would enable UN Women, the ERAW Special Fund, and donors to clearly see and understand areas in which progress is being made on all projects and ERAW, in general, challenges faced, and gaps that exist. A single report to donors will also have the added benefit of contributing to improved evaluation of the ERAW Special Fund from year-to-year, and can be used to inform funding decisions.

ANNEX A

 UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN TERM OF REFERENCES	
Position Information:	
Job Code Title:	Evaluation Team Leader - International
Organizational Unit:	UN Women Afghanistan Country Office
Type of Appointment:	SSA (International)
Duration:	Eight weeks
Number of Post	One
Duty Station:	Six weeks in Kabul with travel to provinces and 2 weeks from home
UN WOMEN Mission Statement	
<p>Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, UN Women will work for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women will lead and coordinate United Nations System efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It will provide strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors</p>	
Organizational Context	
<p>UN Women is dedicated to advancing gender equality and women's human rights in Afghanistan. Staff and consultants of UN Women are expected to contribute to a professional working environment in which the strengthening of national capacities and human potential is prioritized. Respect for diversity and human dignity is required, as is the active pursuit of a collaborative and inclusive approach to both internal and external stakeholders, including colleagues and partners.</p> <p>Since 2002, the UN Women Afghanistan Country Office has been assisting the government of Afghanistan and its partners in the area of Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW). UN Women is further expanding its EVAW Program in view of building capacities and providing more coherent and specialized support in the work pertaining to EVAW carried out by both government and civil society organizations. In this regard, UN Women Afghanistan's Elimination of Violence against Women Special Fund (EVAW SF) was established in 2008. The Fund addresses the inadequate mechanism to financially support and mobilize community-based and non-governmental organizations that are working on EVAW and expand EVAW initiatives throughout Afghanistan in a coordinated, strategic and sustainable manner. The work of the EVAW SF is inter-linked with all other EVAW initiatives of UN Women Afghanistan to ensure a coordinated and collaborative approach and their sustainability.</p> <p>The UN Women EVAW SF was established in 2008 as a multi-donor initiative that works to strengthen resource efficiency by pooling resources and expertise through multiple stakeholders, in order to provide effective responses to violence against women and girls (VAW/G). Since then, the EVAW SF has been supporting the government and civil society organizations to eliminate violence against women through prevention and response mechanisms and had processed eight calls for proposals. Its interventions have been implemented by more than 80 NGOs in more than 25 provinces with approximately USD 5.5 million invested since its establishment, educating over 100,000 service providers and community leaders on</p>	

EVAW, and broadcasting advocacy messages on the EVAW Law to a potential audience of over 11 million via BBC radio programs. The EVAW SF also has supported nine WPCs in as many provinces, to provide safe refuge for over 3,000 survivors of violence and 6,579 women and family members who received counselling for reintegration and access to justice.

The EVAW SF continues to promote a consolidated, harmonized approach to addressing VAW/G, pools resources and strengthens monitoring and accountability and commits expertise and resources into grants for NGO initiatives on EVAW. The EVAW SF also continues to build capacity of NGOs to implement EVAW in Afghanistan.

Objective and Purpose of the Evaluation:

Considering the resources allocated since the inception of the EVAW SF in 2008, UN Women Afghanistan seeks to undertake an external evaluation of the EVAW SF. The purpose of this evaluation is to provide an independent and in-depth assessment of the current approaches and the progress made towards the achievement of the planned results. It is expected that the evaluation findings are based on an assessment of the results achieved so far, the challenges and opportunities encountered, the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme approach and strategies applied and the partnerships developed, including adjustments made during the implementation of the programme. Based on these findings, recommendations will be provided that will inform EVAW SF strategic priorities in the future for promoting effective VAW/G prevention in Afghanistan. This is a summative evaluation of the EVAW SF that focus on the implementation of UN Women Afghanistan in order to identify lessons learned as well as practical recommendations that can improve the future planning, management and fund direction.

The specific objectives of this evaluation are:

1. To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of EVAW SF to Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan.
2. To identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, lessons learnt and trends in the EVAW SF activities that have implications for strengthening its future managerial, programmatic and funding directions.
3. To document good practices, lessons learned and recommendation's for strengthening programming in the area of Violence against Women in Afghanistan

Scope and Methodology of the Evaluation

Programmatic scope

The evaluation will focus on the overall aspect of EVAW SF approaches and the work that has been delivered between its inceptions in year 2008 till end 2013 in line with the above stated purpose and objectives.

Geographical Coverage

The EVAW SF activities have been implemented at central and provincial levels. At central level mainly with Ministry of Women Affairs and at provincial level through CSO/NGO in 19 provinces (Kabul Parwan, Kapisa, Paktia Kandahar, Logar, Samangan, Mazar, Jawzjan, Sarepul, Faryab, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Bamyan, Herat, Kunar and Nangarhar to varying degrees. However the selected provinces and sub-areas will be determined during the inception phase of the evaluation.

Stakeholders

The EVAW SF stakeholders include UN Agencies, Donors, Government Ministries Afghan Women's Network, and CSOs/NGOs (implementing partners).

Approach and Methodology

The evaluation team will determine the specific design and methodologies to be applied during the inception period and presented for approval to the UN Women Afghanistan Management. However,

during the evaluation, the evaluation team is expected to use both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods as appropriate. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Desk review of relevant documents (project documents, IP reports, annual reports, donor-specific reports, etc.)
 2. Discussions with relevant Special Fund program staff
 3. Interviews with partners and stakeholders
 4. Field visits to selected locations and/or telephone interviews with partners and stakeholders
 5. Consultation meetings and/or focus group discussions
 6. Administration and analysis of questionnaires/surveys
- Case Studies of relationships and results achieved with selected partners

Evaluation Outputs and Questions

Evaluation outputs:

1. An evaluation design that builds on the above detailed scope, objectives and questions, specifying the approach to address the evaluation objectives and questions, including an evaluation matrix.
2. A detailed workplan indicating timing of activities, responsibilities, and use of resources.
3. The instruments and tools to be used for gathering relevant information and data, including identification of the variety of key informants to be interviewed;
4. The approaches for the analysis and the interpretation of data (e.g. types of data analysis used, data collection instruments, the level of precision, sampling approaches);
5. The selection process and criteria of the sampling and list of information sources gathered, and making them available to UN Women;
6. Expected measures that will be put in place to ensure that the evaluation process is ethical and that the participants in the evaluation – e.g. interviewees, sources – will be protected (according to the UNEG norms and standards and UNEG Ethical Guidelines for reference – see <http://www.unevaluation.org/ethicalguidelines>)

Evaluation Question

The evaluation assesses all aspects of EVAW SF implementation against the following criteria and seeks to answer the following questions:

Relevance

1. Are the EVAW SF objectives and strategies addressing the needs and priorities in national/provincial context?
2. Was the EVAW SF strategy and design articulated in a coherent manner?
3. What measures have been taken during planning and implementation to ensure resources are efficiently used?
4. How beneficial have the linkages and alignment between EVAW SF, and other UN Women projects been to maximize complementarity and synergy of efforts and impact?

Efficiency

1. What measures have been taken during the implementation period to ensure that the EVAW SF resources are used efficiently?
2. How did the EVAW SF management; organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms support the efficiency of the implemented initiatives?
3. Is the managerial and staff structure in place cost-effective? Is it adequate to current context and demand?
4. Is the governance structure of Advisory Board suitable to respond to the expectation and mandate of EVAW SF?
5. How has the EVAW SF Advisory Board mechanism supported EVAW SF implementation efficiently?
6. How is the EVAW SF addressing external and internal risk?

Effectiveness

1. To what extent did EVAW SF achieve its programmatic objectives and targets?
2. What aspects of the EVAW SF approaches and managerial/operational process facilitated achieving the desired results?
3. Are the various activities undertaken by EVAW SF to end VAW reinforcing one another? If so, how?
4. What, if any, were the unexpected outcomes of this EVAW SF?

Sustainability

1. Is the EVAW SF leading to sustainable changes and results?
2. How has the SF influenced the policy framework in Afghanistan so far?
3. Were the partnership choices with GoIRA and IPs appropriate for greater sustainability of the EVAW SF activities?
4. What would be needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the SF in order to end Violence against Women? Have the EVAW SF initiatives contributed to creating national capacities for sustained results?

Timeframe: The evaluation is divided into three stages with a total duration of 8 weeks.

Evaluation Stages	Milestones/Deliverables	
Inception	a. Development of detailed workplan b. Development of Evaluation methodology, design and matrix c. Development of data collection tools d. Interview with UN Women management and program staff e. Conduct desk review f. Inception report	2 Weeks
Field work	a. Conduct field visits/interviews b. Collect data	4 Weeks
Final analysis and reporting	a. Final data analysis b. Draft final evaluation report c. Conduct presentation to key partners and stakeholders, including UN Women, Advisory Board members, Government and Implementing partners	2 Weeks

Competencies:Core Values and Ethics

- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and able to work in a multi-national environment
- Support the Organization's corporate goal
- Comply with UN WOMEN rules, regulations and code of conduct
- Demonstrate integrity

Corporate Competencies

- Demonstrates commitment to UN Women's mission, vision and values;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude;
- Focuses on result for the client and responds positively to feedback.

Teamwork

- Build effective client relationships and partnerships
- Interact with all levels of staff in the organization
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Build and share knowledge
- Provide guidance and support to others

- Apply existing knowledge to work
- Make valuable practice contributions

Communication

- Excellent oral and written skills
- Listen actively and respond effectively

Management and Leadership:

- Builds strong relationships with clients, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to feedback;
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities;
- Ability to lead effectively, mentoring as well as conflict resolution skills;
- Demonstrates strong oral and written communication skills;
- Remains calm, in control and good humoured even under pressure;
- Proven networking, team-building, organizational and communication skills;
- Good analytical and strategic thinking skills.

Qualifications:

Under the direct supervision of EAW Pillar Manager and with support from M&E Officer The Team Leader will be responsible for coordinating the evaluation, and overseeing the evaluation team, the work-plan, delivery of the expected evaluation outputs, final report and all presentations outlined. The selected evaluation team leader is accepted to work with the national evaluation specialist as a team.

Evaluation Team Leader – International

- At least Master’s degree in the social sciences
- At least 10 years of working experience in evaluation, of which at least 5 years is in evaluation of international development programmes and knowledge of evaluation of funding mechanisms;
- Experience in evaluation of large programmes involving multiple locations and multiple stakeholders;
- Previous experience in leading and managing an evaluation team
- Thorough understanding of gender equality, human rights and development issues, specifically knowledge and experience on issues of Violence against Women and Women’s Human Rights in conflict settings
- Facilitation skills and ability to manage diversity of views in different cultural contexts; specific experience in Afghanistan is an asset;
- Familiarity with the UNEG standards and norms for evaluations;
- Excellent teamwork and strategic thinking skills
- Excellent communication skills: both writing and verbal skills. Demonstrated ability to produce high quality evaluation reports, including recommendations for future work
- Ability to ensure that a high quality product is delivered on a timely basis;
- Fluency in written and spoken English is required; and working knowledge of Dari is desirable for international applicants; fluency in written and spoken Dari and/or Pashto is required for national applicants.

Language Requirements:

- (i) Fluent in English language. Strong, confident command of both written and oral English.
- (ii) Knowledge of local languages, Dari and/or Pashto, an asset.

Computer Skills:

- (iii) High level of proficiency in computer systems, internet navigation and various office applications.

Ethical Code of Conduct for the Evaluation

It is expected that the evaluation team will respect the ethical code of conduct of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). For reference please see <http://www.unevaluation.org/unevaluationcodeofconduct>

ANNEX B

Evaluation of the Special Fund for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW SF), 2008-2014 administered by UN Women.

Concept Note and Evaluation Outline

Prepared by

Jan Reynders and Abdul Moien Jawhary
Field evaluators

Introduction, evaluation coverage and interpretation of the TOR

In line with the TOR provided for the evaluation of the UN Women EVAW SP, the evaluation will cover the programme fund period from its start in 2008 to 2013, covering the activities undertaken by the Implementing Partners, selected under eight calls for proposals, as well as by UN Women itself in terms of administrating the fund usage and providing capacity support to implementing partners.

While assessing different aspects of the activities, as well as the funding procedures and modalities of the past period, the evaluation will have a forward looking approach, as was requested. This means that performance, outputs, outcomes and experiences of funded activities, as well as activity selection criteria; implementing partner capacity assessments; and procedures and funding protocols of the programme period under review will be assessed against available⁵² (original and updated) programme documents, plans, objectives and strategies. The assessment will also inform the recommendations for future fund usage and programme development, building on the strengths and addressing the weaknesses of the past performance.

Given the fund's objectives of EVAW and the long term nature of any change processes that will contribute to and possibly result in EVAW, no attempt will be made to assess and show actual and sustainable impact of the activities on reaching this objective. The activities implemented through the money made available, and the fund and its management as such, will however be assessed for the direct, indirect and likely contribution to sustainable elimination of violence against women and GBV in general.

Funding strategies and protocols, activity selection processes and procedures as well as implementing partner capacity assessments, critically influence the results of programme activities' outputs and outcomes, and hence the results of the programme at large. Within the limitations of time and access to/availability of implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders and programme clients the evaluation will assess the programme content as well as the administrative procedures, rules, protocols and regulations governing the programme.

1. Evaluation approach and rationale

Though proposed as a summative assessment in the ToR, the evaluation will be undertaken as much as possible as a participatory process, in which the evaluators act as facilitators of a structured reflection process with all relevant stakeholders as active participants in the process, reviewing and learning from the processes and from each other. This process is chosen to guarantee maximum buy-in and acceptance of

⁵²So far no original, updated or revised programme documents covering the EVAW Special Fund have been made available and hence no documents covering formally established objectives and strategies of the fund, or data on planned outputs and expected outcomes have been provided. Hence no basis or baseline exists against which the assessment at the overall programme level can be measured. For the period under review only the year 2012-2013 was covered by a MRF/AWP for the overall UN Women programme.

the evaluation results, but also on the principle that the stakeholders are best placed to provide, as well as cross-check, a great part of the data and other information to be collected. It is in the interest of the stakeholders to honestly share and reflect on the processes and data collected with respect to strengths and weaknesses of the fund usage programme and procedures. An evaluation report that reflects the realities on the ground, including strengths and weaknesses will be addressed.

The evaluation will critically analyse the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the chosen strategies, approaches, types of activities and the procedures guiding the implementation of the fund usage programme in contributing to EVAW in a sustainable way. The need to address the issue will not be questioned, but the strategies and modalities will be examined and evaluated.

Given data that can help to differentiate the gravity of VAW incidences in different parts of Afghanistan, no attempt will be made to rationalise prioritising of activities geographically. The present distribution of activities, based on a combination of handling and supervisory capacities of UN Women; security issues for relevant stakeholders and the availability of capable implementing partners are taken at face value.

2. Evaluation constraints and limitations

The EVAW SF programme has been initiated and undertaken during the transition phase of UNIFEM (as a daughter programme of UNDP, running projects) to the present independent, but still minimally (core) resourced UN Women, intended to manage development support programmes. This transition process coincided with serious changes in the security situation in Afghanistan, directly impacting the staffing of the office and availability of qualified personnel. As a result, this programme reportedly has suffered in terms of management, administrative and content quality during periods of time, which has yet to be fully overcome. The resulting absence of a clear strategic and programmatic approach to EVAW in the early phases of the programme has reportedly contributed to funding agencies presenting their own priorities, rather than following the original idea of a *“multi-donor initiative that works to strengthen resource efficiency by pooling resources and expertise...in order to provide effective responses to violence against women and girls (VAW/G)”*.

The prevailing security situation in Afghanistan will to a great extent determine the movements of the evaluation team in the field and access to implementing partners. Given the limited exposure, experience and capacities of many of the recently established civil society organizations (CSOs) that have been accepted as implementing partners of the EVAW SF, alternative forms of data collection, through telephone interviews, surveys, and assessing available progress reports is likely to have considerable limitations as well.

3. Evaluation stages

- Start-up workshop with UN Women. EVAW Pillar Team (plus sr. ICD coordinator at MoWA)
- Review of documents and visits planning
- Meetings with relevant (non-implementing partners) stakeholders in Kabul: UN agencies; GoIRA ministries; funding agencies (embassies); research institutes/University of Kabul
- Implementing partner visits in- and day-visits out of Kabul
- Implementing partner visits in- and day visits out of Herat (or first Mazar-e-Sharif)
- Implementing partner visits in- and day visits out of Mazar-e-Sharif
- Further meetings in Kabul with stakeholders
- Analysis of interview data and surveys
- Participatory debriefing meeting with UN Women team (representatives of 3 pillars and MSU): findings, lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations
- Participatory presentation workshop with available stakeholders: MoWA, key funding agencies, available implementing partners, UN agencies, research institutes. Findings, lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations

- Further analysis of interviews' data and surveys (home-based)
- Drafting of the evaluation report (including case studies if considered relevant and feasible (home-based))
- Draft report to UN Women for comments
- Comments review and processing (home-based)
- Final report UN Women

4. Methodology and process for data collection

The evaluation will be conducted following as much as possible a participatory and stakeholders empowering approach. A Mixed Methods Approach (MMA) will be used: multiple methods and a mix of quantitative (figures, 'facts') and qualitative (perceptions, views, impressions) data collection techniques to assess the fund usage merit and worth. This will include: 1) desk study of available reports, documents, meetings minutes, procedures; 2) workshops, group meetings/Focus Group Discussions (FGD), individual open enquiry/associative reflection interviews; 3) Field visits to selected implementing partners, interviews, FGD and observations in the field.

The use of multiple methods allowed for some triangulation of data. The participation of a wide range of stakeholders - either directly involved in the implementation of activities or benefiting from services and educational activities, or indirectly in funding, administering, supervising, capacity building will enable the inclusion of different perspectives on the design, implementation and effective usage of the EAW Special Fund programme as well as on options for the future.

Apart from data collection through a desk review of available documents and records; Advisory Board meeting minutes; technical review committee minutes; UN Women and GoIRA policy documents; policy and project documents of implementing partners and other (non-governmental) institutions; and implementing partner activity visits; a mini-survey will be conducted among all implementing partners running/managing shelters.

Those implementing partners that cannot be visited and from which inadequate information is available through their own or UN Women reporting (but which are likely to have useful information not yet covered), will be contacted through telephone by the evaluation team. If, based on the (un-) availability of reports more data need to be collected a second mini survey may be conducted among implementing partners.

Whereas, the proposed mini-survey for implementing partners running shelters will have fixed questions, no fixed lists of questions will be used for interviews with implementing partners and other stakeholders, as open enquiry/associative reflection interviews are more productive.

Based on the data collection as described above the evaluation team will respond to the questions as formulated in the TOR to the extent feasible and relevant and will clarify what issues cannot adequately be responded to and why.

5. Stakeholders interviews

Interviews will be conducted with:

- UN Women EAW pillar Special Fund programme staff
- UN Women staff of other pillars and the MSU
- UN agencies having a direct or indirect link to EAW; gender justice promotion and related educational activities: UNDP (gender unit and GEP); UNFPA; WHO; UNICEF; UNESCO
- MoWA; MoJ; Mol; Molsa; MoHRA
- Judiciary institutions
- Independent Human Rights Commission

- National and Provincial ERAW committees
- Relevant funding agencies: NORAD; DANIDA; EKN; DFAT
- Parliamentarian Women Network
- AREU; University of Kabul; Asian Foundation; other research/policy institutions
- Selected implementing partners in Kabul
- Selected implementing partners in Kabul and in provinces on day trips close to Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif
- In the above provinces: DoWAs; DoJ; Regional Human Rights Commission; non-implementing partners women activist/ civil society groups, university departments involved in GBV/VAW research (if available)

Categories and criteria for selection of implementing partners and activities to be visited and assessed

The Special Fund has been supporting two broad categories of activities:

- 1) Service delivery
- 2) Advocacy and prevention

Activities under category 1, service delivery, are primarily the construction/arranging, setting up and running/managing of safe houses/shelters, often requested by MoWA and implemented in line with arrangements and protocols as prescribed by the GoIRA. Available figures indicate that financing the shelters have absorbed over 50% of the total ERAW Special Fund.

Given on one hand the nature of the shelters - exclusively for women and the rather negative image many shelters carry in the public opinion - and on the other, the composition of the evaluation team of two men, the evaluation team will not visit any of the shelters financed under this programme. The team will however meet with selected implementing partners managing the shelters in locations where other activities related to advocacy and prevention are undertaken by the same or other implementing partners. To guarantee adequate data collection with respect to the investment made into the shelters, all implementing partners running such shelters will be requested to complete a questionnaire, specifically catering to this format of service delivery. The evaluation team will prepare the questionnaire.

Under category 2, Advocacy and prevention a variety of activities have been undertaken, with different objectives, audiences, users, stakeholders.

Given the limitations of time and security and the need to be efficient and effective, only a limited number of implementing partners under this category can be visited. Based on the geographically highest concentrations of activities undertaken and further analysis of the different types of advocacy and prevention activities and responsible implementing partners, implementing partners/activities will be prioritised for visits in view of the widest possible coverage of both concentration areas and variation in activities.

In close cooperation with the ERAW pillar M&E officer, and after reviewing the documentation available about the implementing partners/activities undertaken, a final selection will be made of implementing partners and activities to be visited.

6. Selection of geographical areas to be visited

Selection of geographical areas to be visited will not be random, but rather based on practicalities on the ground with respect to travel security, time, and transportation feasibility and costs.

7. Non-visit forms of data collection

Apart from the survey among all implementing partners running shelters, there may be a need to conduct a second survey among category 2 implementing partners (covering advocacy and prevention), if the available documentation does not provide adequate data and telephone interviews are not considered to substitute adequately for not visiting. Based on the desk study of available reports in the first three weeks of the evaluation covering the implementing partners that will not be visited, and a few phone interviews conducted a decision will be taken whether or not a questionnaire survey needs to be administered to implementing partners not visited.

8. Evaluation ethics

The evaluation team will respect the ethical code of conduct of UNEG with respect to confidentiality, integrity, etc.

ANNEX C

Field Visits and Meetings with EVAW Special Fund Key Stakeholders and Implementing Partners

No.	Name	Title	Organization
Kabul Province			
1	Pamela F. Husain	Deputy Country Representative Afghanistan Country Office	UN Women
2	Hangama Anwari	EVAW Pillar Manager	UN Women
3	Fazal Rahim Monib	M&E Officer, and acting deputy Manager EVAW Pillar	UN Women
4	Homa Sabri	Senior ICD Coordinator	UN Women
5	Sarah Coleman	Programme Specialist Gender and Justice, EVAW	UN Women
6	Guro Iren Wiik	Program Specialist EVAW	UN Women
7	Mohd. Ishaq Poya	National Technical Advisor, EVAW	UN Women
8	Ghazal Shaheen	Protection Officer, EVAW	UN Women
9	Durukhshan Esmati	Pillar Manager, PEEP	UN Women
10	Ali Hassan Fahimi	Deputy Pillar Manager, PEEP	UN Women
11	Edith Kabui	Capacity Development Specialist	UN Women
12	Delawaiz Hashimi	Pillar Manager, CAP	UN Women
13	Najia Munira Akhunzada	Deputy Pillar Manager, CAP	UN Women
14	Huma Khan	Human Rights/EVAW	UNAMA
15	Luce Agnes S. Bulosan	M&E Specialist Gender Equality Project (GEP II at MoWA)	UNDP
16	Sadananda Mitra	Database Monitoring Consultant Gender Equality Project (GEP II at MoWA)	UNDP
17	Noorullah Ahmadzai	Acting Unit Head, Cross Practice & Gender	UNDP
18	Abdul Basit Hassanzai	Program Officer, GDCG Focal Point	UNFPA
19	Lachin Hasanova	Gender Specialist	UNFPA
20	Hosai	Program Assistant, GWG Focal Point	UN-Habitat
21	Pakiza Sarfiraz	Gender Advisor	UN-Habitat
22	Tahira Basharat	Gender Officer	UNHCR
23	Shafiq Yari	Program Officer/GWG Focal Point	WFP
24	Sini Famo	Technical Officer	WHO
25	Shafiqullah Haqmal	Gender Manager	WHO
26	Suraya Khawaja	Gender Focal Point	FAO
27	Sima Samar	Chairperson	AIHRC
28	Daiulhaq Abid	Deputy Minister, Admin./Finance	MoHRA
29	BG Hekmat Shahi Rasooli	Director of Gender Human Rights & Child Rights Department	MoI
30	Sayeda Mojgan Mostafavi	Deputy Minister, Technical and Policy	MoWA
31	Nafisa Azizmi	MP	National Assembly
32	Mary Akrami	Executive Director	AWSDC
33	Khorshid Noori	In-charge of Monitoring/Shelters	AWSDC
34	Haseena Safi	Director	AWN
35	Lida Yaqobi	Deputy Director	AWN
36	Sandy Feinzig	Programme Director Women Empowerment Programme	Asia Foundation
37	Arezo Qani	Deputy Director	ECW
38	Rafatullah Rahmati	Program Manager	ECW

39	Nijia Karimi	Executive Director	HAWCA
40	Humaira Ameer Rasuli	Executive Director	Medica Afghanistan
41	Mir Ahmad Joyenda	Deputy Director, Communication and Advocacy	AREU
42	Chona R. Echavez	Deputy Director	AREU
43	Semin Qasmi	Senior Program Manager, Development	Australian Embassy
44	Mirwaise Sadaat	Development Officer	Embassy of Canada
45	Sem Ulver Dupont Birkler	First Secretary	Embassy of Denmark
46	Nazar Ahmad Shah	Development Officer	Embassy of Denmark
47	Karin M. Boven	Head Development Cooperation	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
48	Zabihullah Shinwari	Program Officer, GDCG Focal Point	Royal Norwegian Embassy
49	Nina Hal Schjelderup	Counsellor (Head of Development)	Royal Norwegian Embassy
50	Kerry O'Brien	Legal Grants Programs Manager	Embassy of the United States
51	Shirzai Meena	Gender Advisor, GDCG Focal Point	Embassy of the United States
52	Hillary Forden	Justice/Gender Advisor, GDCG Focal Point	Embassy of the United States
53	Hassena Akseer	Program Manager, GDCG Focal Point	EU
54	Farah Nassimi	Program Officer, GDCG Focal Point	GIZ
55	Marion Pfennigs	Head of Kabul Office Promotion of the Rule of Law	GIZ
Balkh Province			
56	Madiha Delawari	Human Rights Assistant	UNAMA
57	Benjamin Matthew Clarke	Human Rights Officer	UNAMA
58	Kamaludeen Amini	Regional Coordinator (north)	GEP/UNDP
59	Rehma Kauma	Associate Protection Officer	UNHCR
60	Tahmiia Gawhary	EVAW Sub-Commission Coordinator	DoWA
61	Mobina Nasrati	In-charge of Samangan Shelter	CCA-MZR
62	Masooma	Trainer of Rights/Legal Affairs in shelters of Jawzjan, Samangan, & Baghlan	CCA-MZR
63	S.A. Hamid Safwat	Regional Manager	CCA-MZR
64	Sabira Jafari	In-charge of Balkh Shelter	CCA
65	Khalil Hekmati	Director	BAO
Parwan Province			
66	Diba Khoroshan	Head of <i>Hoqooq</i> Department	DoWA
67	Aziza Ahmadi	In-charge of Shelter	AWSDC
68	Noorullhaq Khaybar Ahmadi	Project Manager	AWSDC

ANNEX D

Self-Report Survey for Implementing Partners

**UN Women EAW Special Fund
External forward looking evaluation covering 2008 – 2013
Questionnaire for partners engaged in activities for the
Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women/GBV**

This Questionnaire is for the EAW SF Implementing Partners, who have been or are engaged in awareness raising, training, campaigns and other activities for the prevention and elimination of violence against women/GBV with financial support from the EAW SF, administered by UN Women.

As a result of limitations in time, funds available and travel security issues, the evaluation team is not in a position to visit each present and former Implementing Partner of the EAW SF. Because we want to capture and include the experiences of as many Implementing Partners of the EAW SF as possible, we invite you fill out this questionnaire and provide your feedback on the EAW SF.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to understand the opportunities, obstacles, sensitivities, strengths, weaknesses, challenges and results of setting up, undertaking and managing activities that contribute to the prevention and elimination of violence against women/ gender based violence. We are also asking for numbers and other factual data as that will help to show what has been done and achieved with the funding received.

If you wish to address issues regarding the functioning of the EAW Special Fund and/or GBV prevention activities, which have not been asked for in this questionnaire, but which you consider of added value for the evaluation and the learning process, please feel free to provide additional comments between questions or at the end of the form. This is your opportunity to get your voices and opinions and suggestions heard towards the future of the EAW Special Fund.

Providing the information as requested in this questionnaire will help to reflect on the past performance and results of the Special Fund, but will also inform the recommendations to improve the EAW Special Fund in the future, with respect to the funding mechanisms and conditions, the chosen project periods, the selection and approval procedures, the reporting requirements as well as the choice and prioritising of activities that can be funded for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

We invite you to respond to the questions in the most open and critical way as that will maximise the value of the evaluation as a learning opportunity for all involved to perform better in the future. As part of the ethics of this evaluation, all the responses that you send will be anonymised, and we guarantee that none of the information you provide can be traced back to individuals or organizations. The reason we ask you to provide the name of your organization and the province where the safe house is located is only for the evaluation team to know which areas have been covered and who of the implementing partners have responded.

Thank you for taking time to answer the questions below. Please send your filled out forms as email attachment to the team leader of the evaluation: Jan Reynders.

Kindly return the filled out questionnaire by July 6th, if at all possible. That will facilitate the maximum influence of your inputs in the evaluation process, both the reflections on the past as well as the recommendations for the future.

Questions

A General information

1. Province and town where your activities are undertaken:

Note: if your organization undertakes activities in different locations, for example in different provinces, please forward this questionnaire to the appropriate manager or coordinator in each of those locations, so that we cover as many different experiences with individual, locally relevant responses as possible.

2. Name of your organization:

(Note: to assure anonymity in the survey the name of your organization will not be visible when the data from this survey are processed)

3. History, motivation, types of activities

- **History of the organization/programme and reasons to start:**

(Please provide a brief description of the start of your organization and programme to date, covering amongst others who took the initiative, objectives, major changes over time, key activities undertaken by your organization etc.)

- **Type activities**

(Please describe the type of activities that you undertake/have undertaken for prevention/elimination of VAW/GBV)

4. Staff availability for your prevention/elimination of VAW/GBV activities

- Full-time staff available:
Please provide figures and job titles:
- Part-time staff available
Please provide figures and job titles:
- Staff available 'on call' (as and when required)
Please provide figures and job titles:
- Volunteers available
Please provide figures and job titles:

5. Were data collected /was a baseline prepared on VAW/GBV (nature/ numbers) in your area of work before designing and undertaking your prevention activities?

YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

Please provide your reasons for your 'YES' or 'NO'

6. Funding

- **Was your organization funded by another donor agency for prevention/elimination of VAW/GBV or for other activities before you applied to/received funding from UN Women?**
YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

- **Are you presently also funded by other donor agencies for prevention or other activities**
YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

If 'YES', please indicate which other donor agency/agencies:

7. Why did you choose UN Women to apply for funding?

Please explain:

8. Did you get UN Women funding after sending an application in response to a Call For Proposals?

YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

If 'NO', please explain the funding arrangement you have with UN Women

9. Have you re-applied to UN women for continuation of your activities with their funding?

YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

If 'YES', was that a direct application or through a new Call For Proposals?

10. Did the funding opportunity in the UN Women Call For Proposal exactly fit your organization's needs?

YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

If 'NO', please describe how your needs were different.

B. Call For Proposals and application process

11. Was the application process clear, easy and transparent?

- **The places and way the Call For Proposals was advertised?**
YES NO (please tick)
Comments:

- **Clear description of the activities (in Call For Proposals) that can be funded?**
YES NO (please tick)
Comments:

- **Was the time provided to prepare your proposal adequate?**
YES NO (please tick)
Comments:

- **Was there an opportunity to ask questions for clarification (to UN Women) prior to sending in your application?**
YES NO (please tick)
Comments:

- **Were prerequisites and conditions for applying clear?**
YES NO (please tick)
Comments:
- **Was the system of shortlisting, selecting, approving/rejecting and the timeline of the approval process clear and transparently communicated?**
YES NO (please tick)
Comments:

12. Processing your application

- **Did you get a confirmation that your application was received by UN Women?**
YES NO (please tick)
Comments:

13. How long did it take to get either an approval or rejection of your application

- Please specify the number of weeks after final date of application:

14. In case of rejection (non-approval) of your application, did you get information why your application was rejected?

- **YES NO** (please tick)
Comments:

C. Organization assessment by UN Women

15. Did UN Women visit your organization prior to signing the funding contract?

- **YES NO** (please tick)
Comments:

- **Did they assess your organization's registration, assets, history?**
Describe process please:

- **Did they assess your organization's capacity and number of staff to design, run and manage prevention activities?**
Describe process please:

- **Did they assess staff skills for their ability to run and provide the trainings, awareness raising activities, campaigns, M&E, follow-up, etc.?**
Describe process please:

16. Were additional conditions given to you prior to signing the agreement?

- **With respect to staffing/available skills?**
Comments:
- **With respect to the choice/selection and volume of your client groups/specific groups addressed by your prevention programmes?**
Comments:

- **With respect to the nature and volume of activities to be undertaken?**

Comments:

- **With respect to your record keeping, monitoring and reporting on results?**

Comments:

D. Agreement and payment process

17. How long did it take to receive the formal approval and contract/agreement to be signed?

- Please specify the number of weeks after final date of application?

18. Were there details/conditions/instructions in the agreement that you were not happy about?

- Please describe:

19. Were there suggestions/recommendations/conditions in the agreement that you considered helpful?

- Please describe:

20. How long did it take to receive the first payment after the contract/agreement was signed?

- Please specify the number of weeks after signing the contract/agreement?

E. Reporting and monitoring issues

21. Did you have your own record keeping and progress/financial reporting system before getting funding from the EVAW SF?

- **YES** **NO** (please tick)

Comments:

22. Is the record keeping and reporting system prescribed by UN Women:

- **EASY** **DIFFICULT** **BETTER THAN YOUR OWN** (if you had one already) (please tick)

Please explain your answer:

23. Are you satisfied with the reporting requirements by UN Women?

- **YES** **NO** (please tick)

Please explain your answer

24. Did you get feedback/comments on the reports you sent to UN Women?

- **Yes** **No** (please tick)

25. Are you satisfied with the feedback/comments received from UN Women

- **Yes** **No** (please tick)

Please explain your answer

26. Has UN Women or an organization on their behalf visited your organization or activities for monitoring?

- If **YES**, describe the frequency/ number of visits:

Comments:

- If **YES**, describe issues discussed during visits:

Issues:

27. Are you satisfied with the monitoring visits by UN Women?

- YES NO (please tick)

Please explain your answer

28. If not fully satisfied, how could monitoring visits be improved to help you better?

- Please explain

29. Did you get verbal or written comments/feedback from UN Women after their monitoring visit?

F. Capacity development support

One of the objectives of the UN Women EAW Special Fund is the support for knowledge/capacity development of civil society organizations working on EAW.

30. Did you receive/participate in capacity development provided by, or facilitated by UN Women with respect to EAW (e.g. the law, prevention activities, campaigns, media training)

- YES NO (please tick)

- If 'YES': please describe

- If 'NO': what capacity development support do you need to function better?

Describe:

31. Does UN Women facilitate 'linking and learning' with other NGOs engaged in VAW/GBV prevention/elimination activities?

- YES NO (please tick)

- If 'YES' describe (participant selection, frequency/location/content, etc.)

- If 'NO' explain whether you feel a need for 'linking and learning' and if so who should participate? Frequency? Location? Content? Facilitating organization? etc.)

32. Are you part of one or more (coordinating) networks engaged in VAW/GBV prevention activities?

- YES NO (please tick)

- If 'YES' describe (participants, functions/added value, frequency of meetings/location/content, etc.)

G. VAW/GBV problems to be addressed

33. Please describe the most common types VAW/GBV and its causes/triggers in your locality of work

Type of VAW/GBV Incidence

Cause/trigger for VAW/GBV

- a)
b)
c)
d)
e)
f)

Others (please add as needed)

H. Type, location, audience, time period and strategy for prevention activities

34 This question covers:

- 1) **Type of prevention activities** undertaken (for example: training, lecture, newspaper articles, radio/TV, posters, banners, leaflets)
- 2) **Primary location** where the activity took place (for example: big urban centres; provincial capital cities; district towns; villages in rural areas; rural markets)
- 3) **Audience addressed, m/f numbers** (for example secondary school students; university students; teachers; journalists/media; legal professionals; clergy; elders, general public, literate people/newspaper readers;
- 4) **Activity period** (days/weeks/months/frequency)

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Audience # Female/ # Male</u>	<u>Activity period</u>
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- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)
- Others (please add as needed)

35 Why do you think (assume) that the chosen activity will contribute to prevention/elimination of VAW/GBV (use the same list as in 34)

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Assumed result of activity</u>	<u>Why assume this result?</u>
-----------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)
- Others (please add as needed)

36 What follow-up activities do you provide/organise after an activity?

- o Please describe the nature of your follow-up:

37 How do you measure changes in attitudes and behaviour of the audiences addressed by your prevention activities?

- o Please describe

I. Future of the EAW SP, your recommendations

38 Think of yourself as the Head of UN Women Afghanistan with full powers and backing of funders: what suggestions do you have to improve the usefulness, effectiveness and efficiency of the UN Women EAW Special Fund to contribute to actual and sustainable Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan?

Be as innovative and creative as you can be, and don't limit yourself to the activities supported so far by the EAW Special Fund.

39 Feel free to add any other feedback or comments you may have.

40 If you are available and willing to be contacted over the phone/skype for additional information if so required, please provide your name and contact number here:

Name:

Phone number:

Skype name:

Thank you very much for your feedback, comments, data and suggestions. Your responses will be used to assess the past experiences of the EAW Special Fund (mechanism and results) and to formulate the recommendation for the future.

Kindly attach your questionnaire to a return mail to the team leader of the independent evaluation team.

Kindly return the filled out questionnaire by July 6th, if at all possible. That will facilitate the maximum influence of your inputs in the evaluation process, both the reflections on the past as well as the recommendations for the future.

ANNEX E

Self-Report Survey for WPCs

**UN Women EAW Special Fund
External forward looking evaluation covering 2008 – 2013
Questionnaire for partners running Safe Houses**

This Questionnaire is for the EAW SF Implementing Partners, who run or have run Safe Houses (shelters) and other forms of protective housing (Half-Way house, etc.) with financial support from the EAW SF, administered by UN Women.

As a result of limitations in time, funds available and travel security issues, the evaluation team is not in a position to visit each and every Implementing Partner of the EAW SF. Because we want to capture and include the experiences of as many Implementing Partners of the EAW SF as possible, we invite you fill out this questionnaire and provide your feedback on the EAW SF.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to understand the ins and outs, opportunities, obstacles, sensitivities, challenges and dangers of setting up, running and managing Safe Houses (shelters), Half-way houses etc. for women, who have escaped from, or need protection against (further) gender based violence.

We are also asking for numbers and other factual data as that will help to show what has been done and achieved with the funding received.

If you wish to address issues regarding the functioning of the EAW Special Fund and/or the Safe Houses, which have not been asked for in this questionnaire, but which you consider of added value for the evaluation and the learning process, please feel free to provide additional comments between questions or at the end of the form. This is your opportunity to get your voices, opinions and suggestions heard towards the future of the EAW Special Fund.

Providing the information as requested in this questionnaire will help to reflect on the past performance and results of the Special Fund, but will also inform the recommendations to improve the EAW Special Fund in the future, with respect to the funding mechanisms and conditions, the chosen project periods, the selection and approval procedures, the reporting requirements as well as the choice and prioritising of activities that can be funded for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

We invite you to respond to the questions in the most open and critical way as that will maximise the value of the evaluation as a learning opportunity for all involved to perform better in the future. As part of the ethics of this evaluation, all the responses that you send will be anonymised, and we guarantee that none of the information you provide can be traced back to individuals or organizations. The reason we ask you to provide the name of your organization and the province where the safe house is located is only for the evaluation team to know which areas have been covered and who of the implementing partners have responded.

Thank you for taking time to answer the questions below. Please send your filled out forms as email attachment to the team leader of the evaluation.

Questions

A General information

1. Province and town where your Safe House/shelter is located:

Note: if your organization runs more than one safe house, for example in different provinces, please forward this questionnaire to the appropriate manager or coordinator in each of the Safe Houses, so that we cover as many Safe Houses with individual, locally relevant responses as possible.

2. Name of your organization:

(Note: to assure anonymity in the survey the name of your organization will not be visible when the data from this survey are processed)

3. History, motivation, type and building ownership

○ **History of the Safe House/shelter and reason to set it up:**

(Please provide a brief description of the start of the safe house(s) to date, covering amongst others who took the initiative, objectives, changes over time, other activities undertaken by your organization etc.)

○ **Type of Safe House**

(Please describe the type of Safe House that you run, for example Safe House for clients with a case in court, Half-Way House, etc.)

○ **Building in use for the Safe House**

Does your organization **own** the building used as Safe House? **YES** **NO** (please tick)

Does your organization **rent** the building used as Safe House? **YES** **NO** (please tick)

4. Staff availability for the Safe House

a. Full-time staff available:

Please provide figures and job titles:

b. Part-time staff available

Please provide figures and job titles:

c. Staff available 'on call' (as and when required)

Please provide figures and job titles:

d. Volunteers available

Please provide figures and job titles:

5. Were data collected /was a baseline prepared on VAW/GBV in your area of work before setting up the Safe House?

YES **NO** (please tick appropriate answer)

Please provide your reasons for your 'YES' or 'NO'

6. Funding

- **Was your organization funded by another donor agency for running a Safe House/shelter or for other activities before you applied to/received funding from UN Women?**
YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

- **Are you presently also funded by other donor agencies for the shelter or other activities**
YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)
If 'YES', please indicate which other donor agency/agencies:

7. Why did you choose UN Women to apply for funding?

Please explain:

8. Did you get UN Women funding after sending an application in response to a Call For Proposals?

YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

If 'NO', please explain the funding arrangement you have with UN Women

9. Have you re-applied to UN women for continuation of their funding?

YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

If 'YES', was that a direct application or through a new Call For Proposals?

10. Did the funding opportunity in the UN Women Call For Proposal exactly fit your organization's needs?

YES NO (please tick appropriate answer)

If 'NO', please describe how your needs were different.

B. Call For Proposals and application process

11. Was the application process clear, easy and transparent?

a. The places and way the Call For Proposals was advertised?

YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

b. Clear description of the activities (in Call For Proposals) that can be funded?

YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

c. Was the time provided to prepare your proposal adequate?

YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

d. Was there an opportunity to ask questions for clarification (to UN Women) prior to sending in your application?

YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

e. Were prerequisites and conditions for applying clear?

YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

- f. **Was the system of shortlisting, selecting, approving/rejecting and the timeline of the approval process clear and transparently communicated?**
YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

12. Processing your application

- a. **Did you get a confirmation that your application was received by UN Women?**
YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

13. How long did it take to get either an approval or rejection of your application

- a. Please specify the number of weeks after final date of application:

14. In case of rejection (non-approval) of your application, did you get information why your application was rejected?

- a. YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

C. Organization assessment by UN Women

15. Did UN Women visit your organization prior to signing the funding contract?

- a. YES NO (please tick)

Comments:

- b. **Did they assess your organization's registration, assets, history?**

Describe process please:

- c. **Did they assess your organization's capacity and number of staff to set-up, run and manage a safe house?**

Describe process please:

- d. **Did they assess staff skills for their ability to provide the required psychological, medical, legal support and security support?**

Describe process please:

16. Were additional conditions given to you prior to signing the agreement?

- a. **With respect to staffing/available skills?**

Comments:

- b. **With respect to facilities and security?**

Comments:

- c. **With respect to activities and services to be provided?**

Comments:

- d. **With respect to record keeping, monitoring and reporting?**

Comments:

D. Agreement and payment process

17. How long did it take to receive the formal approval and contract/agreement to be signed?

- a. Please specify the number of weeks after final date of application?

18. Were there details/conditions/instructions in the agreement that you were not happy about?

a. Please describe:

19. Were there suggestions/recommendations/conditions in the agreement that you considered helpful?

a. Please describe:

20. How long did it take to receive the first payment after the contract/agreement was signed?

a. Please specify the number of weeks after signing the contract/agreement?

E. Reporting and monitoring issues

21. Did you have your own record keeping and progress/financial reporting system before getting funding from the EVAW SF?

a. **YES** **NO** (please tick)

Comments:

22. Is the record keeping and reporting system prescribed by UN Women:

a. **EASY** **DIFFICULT** **BETTER THAN YOUR OWN** (if you had one already) (please tick)

Please explain your answer:

23. Are you satisfied with the reporting requirements by UN Women?

a. **YES** **NO** (please tick)

Please explain your answer

24. Did you get feedback/comments on the reports you sent to UN Women?

a. **Yes** **No** (please tick)

25. Are you satisfied with the feedback/comments received from UN Women

a. **Yes** **No** (please tick)

Please explain your answer

26. Has UN Women or an organization on their behalf visited your organization for monitoring?

a. If **YES**, describe the frequency/ number of visits:

Comments:

b. If **yes**, describe issues discussed during visits:

Issues:

27. Are you satisfied with the monitoring visits by UN Women?

a. **YES** **NO** (please tick)

Please explain your answer

28. If not fully satisfied, how could monitoring visits be improved to help you better?

a. Please explain

29. Did you get verbal or written comments/feedback from UN Women after their monitoring visit?

F. Capacity development support

One of the objectives of the UN Women EAW Special Fund is the support for knowledge/capacity development of civil society organizations working on EAW.

30. Did you receive/participate in capacity development provided by, or facilitated by UN Women with respect to EAW

- a. YES NO (please tick)
- b. If 'YES': please describe
- c. If 'NO': what capacity development support do you need to function better?
Describe:

31. Does UN Women facilitate 'linking and learning' with other NGOs running safe houses/shelters?

- a. YES NO (please tick)
- b. If 'YES' describe (participant selection, frequency/location/content, etc.)
- c. If 'NO' explain whether you feel a need for 'linking and learning' and if so who should participate? Frequency? Location? Content? Facilitating organization? etc.)

32. Are you part of one or more (coordinating) networks providing Safe House services?

- a. YES NO (please tick)
- b. If 'YES' describe (participants, functions/added value, frequency of meetings/location/content, etc.)

G. Women/girls (clients) staying in your Safe House/Shelter

33. Maximum Capacity and Actual total number of women/girls staying in your Safe House/Shelter

In 2008: C= A= in 2009: C= A= in 2010: C= A=
in 2011: C= A= In 2012: C= A= in 2013: C= A=

34. Of the total number of women/girls staying in your Safe House/Shelter/Half-way House how many were referred to you after release from prison?

In 2008= in 2009= in 2010=
in 2011= in 2012= in 2013=

35. Average number of days/months released prisoners stayed in the Safe House/Half-way House?

- a. Please provide figure/describe
- b. Briefly describe services provided to released prisoners

36. Averages of the age groups of the women/girls in your Safe House/Shelter (in percentages):

10-18= 18-30= 30-40= Over 40=

Describe any changes in age groups of the women/girls over the years:

37. Average of the marital status of the women/girls in your Safe House/Shelter (in percentages):

Married= Un-married=
Describe any changes in marital status of the women/girls over the years:

46. Think of yourself as the Head of UN Women Afghanistan with full powers and backing of funders: what suggestions do you have to improve the usefulness, effectiveness and efficiency of the UN Women EAW Special Fund to contribute to actual and sustainable Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan?

Be as innovative and creative as you can be, and don't limit yourself to the activities supported so far by the EAW Special Fund.

47. Feel free to add any other feedback or comments you may have.

48. If you are available and willing to be contacted over the phone/skype for additional information if so required, please provide your name and contact number here:

Name:

Phone number:

Skype name:

Thank you very much for your feedback, comments, data and suggestions. Your responses will be used to assess the past experiences of the EAW Special Fund (mechanism and results) and to formulate the recommendation for the future.

Kindly attach your questionnaire to a return mail to the team leader of the independent evaluation team.

ANNEX F

Documents Consulted

1. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 17 September 2007
2. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 05 December 2007
3. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 13 August 2007
4. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 30 January 2008
5. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 12 February 2008
6. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 23 March 2008
7. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 22 April 2008
8. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 12 June 2008
9. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Strategic Planning Retreat Report, 24-25 September 2008
10. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 11 November 2008
11. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 08 January 2009
12. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 01 April 2009
13. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 01 July 2009
14. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 22 November 2009
15. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 16 June 2010
16. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 30 September 2010
17. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 28 December 2010
18. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 26 April 2011
19. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 07 July 2011
20. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 07 March 2012
21. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 05 September 2012
22. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 07 March 2012
23. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 12 March 2013
24. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 03 September 2013
25. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 07 March 2012
26. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 16 January 2014
27. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 06 March 2014
28. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 23 September 2014
29. EAW Special Fund, Advisory Board Minutes, 18 December 2014
30. Call for Proposals 3rd Party Monitoring, 2013
31. Call No. 1, Call & Project Documents, 2008
32. Call No. 2, Call & Project Documents, 2008
33. Call No. 3, Call & Project Documents, 2009
34. Call No. 4, Call & Project Documents, 2009
35. Call No. 5, Call & Project Documents, 2010
36. Call No. 6, Call & Project Documents, 2011
37. Call for Proposals on the WPCs, 2012
38. Operational Guidelines for the UNIFEM Afghanistan Elimination of Violence Against Women Special Fund, June 2008
39. Operational Guidelines for the UNIFEM Afghanistan Elimination of Violence Against Women Special Fund, April 2010
40. UNIFEM. Gender Justice Programme, First Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, May 2006 April 2007
41. UNIFEM, Strengthening EAW Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund, First Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, October 2007 – March 2009
42. UNIFEM, Strengthening Elimination of Violence Against Women Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund, Second Progress Report to the Governments of Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland and the UNHCR, April 2009 – March 2010.

43. UN Women, Strengthening Elimination of Violence Against Women Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund, Third Progress Report to the Governments of Denmark and Italy, April 2010 – March 2011
44. UN Women, Strengthening Elimination of Violence Against Women Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund, Fourth Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, April 2010 – December 2012
45. UN Women, Strengthening Elimination of Violence Against Women Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund, Fifth Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, January – December 2013
46. UN Women, Strengthening Elimination of Violence Against Women Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund, Sixth Progress Report to the Government of Denmark, January – March 2014
47. UN Women, Support for Women's Protection Programme in Afghanistan, First Annual Progress Report to the Australian Agency for International Development (DFAT), July 2013 – June 2014
48. UN Women, Strengthening Elimination of Violence Against Women Policies, Programmes, and Mechanisms in Afghanistan: EAW Special Fund, Fourth Progress Report to the Government of Italy, October 2007 – March 2009
49. UN Women, Support to the GoIRA through the EAW Commission to Implement the EAW Law and Assistance to Women Victims, First Quarterly Progress Report to the Government of Japan, January – April 2011
50. UN Women, Support to the GoIRA through the EAW Commission to Implement the EAW Law and Assistance to Women Victims, Second Quarterly Progress Report to the Government of Japan, April – June 2011
51. UN Women, Support to the GoIRA through the EAW Commission to Implement the EAW Law and Assistance to Women Victims, Third Quarterly Progress Report to the Government of Japan, July – September 2011
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