



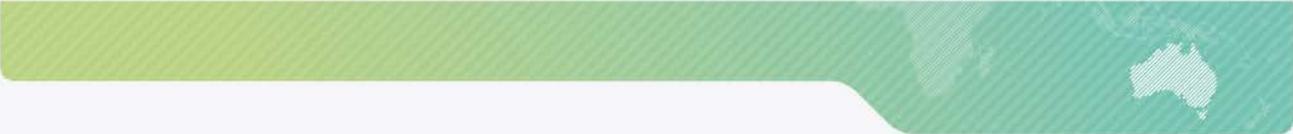
Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015-16

Afghanistan

September 2016



KEY MESSAGES

In 2015-16 Afghanistan was Australia's fourth largest bilateral aid program. The program focussed on the three strategic objectives established in the *Afghanistan Aid Investment Plan (AIP) 2015-16 to 2017-18*:

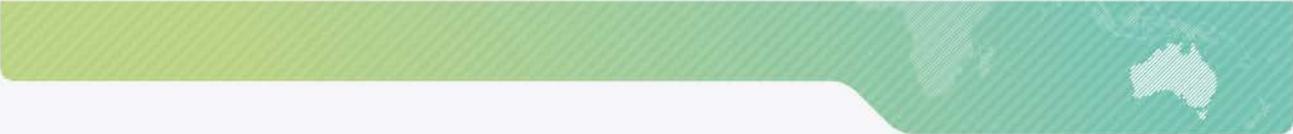
- i. Supporting the Afghan Government to achieve economic growth and institute more effective and accountable governance;
- ii. Empowering women and girls by addressing barriers to their social, political and economic participation; and
- iii. Building resilience and supporting at-risk populations.

Overall, Australia achieved steady progress towards its objectives through investments targeting gender equality, governance reform, humanitarian needs and security sustainment. Critically, the program achieved this progress against a backdrop of deteriorating security and poor economic growth. Australia's funding commitments in Afghanistan remain relevant despite the difficult security environment, and reinforce our role as a constructive partner in broader international efforts. This Aid Program Performance Report (APPR) finds:

- Longstanding security, development, humanitarian and fiduciary challenges, and a high-risk operating environment meant that Afghanistan continued to be one of the most difficult environments for Australian aid delivery over the past 12 months and inevitably this has affected performance.
- Despite these challenges important gains were achieved. Investments in education and women's empowerment activities delivered strong results. Programs in the agricultural sector met key objectives. The remaining two programs in Uruzgan Province concluded, with progress over the past 12 months delayed due to ongoing insecurity. The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) continues to perform well and remains a viable on-budget mechanism to deliver our aid funds¹.
- Humanitarian needs remain high, and in 2015-16 Australia was a key donor in this area.
- We continued to streamline and consolidate investments in 2015-16 to ensure that Australia's aid program is targeted, efficient and achieves results.
- Our active engagement with the Afghan Government and the international community on reform issues continues to enhance the effectiveness of our development assistance.

Some activities, which were approved in 2012 and concluded in 2015-16, were not aligned with the current AIP's objectives. Over the past three years, Uruzgan-based activities have concluded progressively and a new AIP has provided a stronger focus for the program at the national level. Residual Uruzgan-based activities were aligned as closely as possible with relevant objectives in the current AIP through to the conclusion of these activities in 2015-16.

¹ Investments that are delivered "on-budget" are implemented by partner government line ministries and agencies, e.g. ARTF is implemented largely by the Afghan Ministry of Finance.



CONTEXT

Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world where conflict severely limits provision of services, and gender inequality and violence against women is endemic. Ongoing development assistance from the international community remains critical to prospects for steady progress and preserving fragile gains. The Afghan National Unity Government (NUG) continued to facilitate a program of comprehensive transition across the country. This transition was focussed on three areas – political, security and economic.

President Ashraf Ghani's power-sharing NUG entered its second year, following its formation in 2014 as a result of tightly contested presidential elections. The NUG held together and continued its program of reform and policy initiatives, focussed on delivering basic yet sustainable Afghan institutions capable of providing rudimentary security and services to the Afghan people. Australian development assistance is aligned with the NUG's National Priority Programs to strengthen community-based institutions that aim progressively to deliver universal access to clean water, electricity, roads, education and healthcare. Afghanistan remains heavily reliant on international donors to finance its budget, including for its security. This enduring fiscal-gap is a defining challenge for Afghanistan's 'transition decade'.

The security situation in Afghanistan deteriorated during the reporting period. Security responsibility for the country has transitioned from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to the Afghan Government; however international support remains critical to the ongoing sustainment of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF). In 2015, more than 80 per cent of Afghans surveyed agreed that the ANDSF need foreign support to do their job effectively².

In 2015, the conflict in Afghanistan witnessed the highest number of civilian casualties since 2009. The number of civilians killed declined four per cent but the overall number of civilians injured was up by nine per cent. Attacks by the Taliban and other insurgent groups contributed to over 3,000 civilian deaths and more than 7,000 injured³. Helping to stabilise Afghanistan remains a crucial priority for Australia as a partner in the strategic coalition against global terrorism, as mitigation against the push factors behind illegal people movement, and in the promotion of regional stability. During the reporting period, more than three million Afghans were refugees, most living in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran⁴. Another one million Afghans were internally displaced in Afghanistan⁵. Afghans comprised 20 per cent of the estimated one million migrants into Europe in 2015, second only in number to those from Syria fleeing civil war⁶. Humanitarian support continues to be a key focus of our development assistance program to Afghanistan – providing basic lifesaving support to those most in need.

Providing security for all Afghans remains a fundamental priority for the NUG. Despite considerable gains, Afghanistan remains an extremely challenging environment for gender equality. Violence against women is severe, systemic and deeply ingrained in Afghan society and occurs within the context of historical and pervasive gender inequality. Afghanistan continues to rank near the bottom of the UNDP's Gender Inequality Index⁷. Girls attend school for less than half the number of years of Afghan boys, and despite improvements in recent years, the maternal death rate is one of the highest in the world⁸. In July at the NATO Leaders Summit in Warsaw, Australia announced it will continue to support the security of Afghanistan by extending its USD100 million annual commitment to the Afghan National Army and National Police until 2020⁹.

² The Asia Foundation, 'A Survey of the Afghan People, Afghanistan in 2015'.

³ United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), 'UNAMA Annual Report 2015: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict', February 2016. UNAMA documented 11,002 civilian casualties (3,545 civilian deaths and 7,457 injured).

⁴ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 'Afghanistan Factsheet, August 2015'

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 'Quarterly Report to the United States Congress', 30 January 2016.

⁷ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 'Table 5, Gender Inequality Index 2015'.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 'Australia extends assistance to Afghanistan', 8 July 2016.



Australia has realistic expectations for development sustainability in the fragile Afghan context and this will continue to shift as the political and security context evolves. Donors expect that the Afghan Government will continue to be dependent on international support which currently totals around two-thirds of the Afghan national budget. The drawdown of international security forces and continuing political uncertainties resulted in a significant deceleration to economic growth¹⁰. In 2015, Afghanistan recorded an estimated economic growth rate of 1.5 per cent, a marginal increase from the previous year but well below the ten year average (2004-14) of 10.2 per cent¹¹. The government's fiscal position improved as a result of the NUG's taxation policy reforms that witnessed increases in tax revenues, customs duties, and non-tax revenues by 11, 14 and 46 per cent respectively¹². Despite revenue gains, weak economic growth and the deteriorating security situation resulted in increases to poverty, with the poverty rate increasing from 35.8 per cent in 2011-12 to 39.1 per cent in 2013-14¹³. Limited employment opportunities saw the unemployment rate reach over 22 per cent of the labour force in 2014¹⁴.

Afghanistan is estimated to be experiencing one of the fastest population growth rates in the world, growing at three per cent annually¹⁵. Nearly two thirds of the country's 34 million people are aged 25 or under¹⁶ and life expectancy at birth is 60.4 years¹⁷. Literacy rates in Afghanistan remain amongst the lowest in the world, estimated at 31 per cent of the adult population¹⁸. Female literacy rates average only 17 per cent, but have been reported as low as 1.6 per cent in rural southern provinces¹⁹. Despite these statistics, progress has been made against key development indicators. Youth literacy rates have increased from 30 per cent in 2005 to 46 per cent in 2012²⁰. Nearly nine million students now attend primary school, with girls comprising one third of the total²¹, compared to just one million students in 2002, all of who were boys. The number of grade 12 school graduates is expected to double from 225,000 in 2014 to 451,000 in 2019²².

Humanitarian needs in Afghanistan remained substantial during the reporting period. Widespread vulnerability to poverty, natural disasters and protracted conflict fuelled instability and hindered development and economic growth. Afghanistan is a food-deficit country and remains highly vulnerable to market shocks. The latest Afghanistan Living Condition Survey found that 33 per cent (11 million) of the total population are currently food insecure²³. Low emergency response capabilities pose an additional challenge and in 2014, Afghanistan was ranked the most vulnerable country in terms of natural disaster coping capacities²⁴. The Afghan Government remains heavily reliant in the medium term (5-10 years) on donor funding to help meet the needs of an estimated 8-11 million beneficiaries in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.

¹⁰ The World Bank, 'Afghanistan Development Update, April 2016'.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ United Nations Development Programme, '2015 Human Development Report', Percentage of the population living below the national poverty line, which is the poverty line deemed appropriate for a country by its authorities.

¹⁴ The World Bank, 'Afghanistan Development Update, April 2016'.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Afghanistan Ministry of Information and Culture, Office of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs, 'Afghanistan National Youth Policy', 25 August 2014.

¹⁷ The World Bank, 'Afghanistan Development Update, April 2016'.

¹⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), 'Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan (ELA)' program.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UNESCO, 'Afghanistan Education for All 2015 National Review Report'.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Central Statistics Organisation, 'Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2013-14'.

²⁴ Ibid.

EXPENDITURE

In 2015-16 Australia provided \$89.9 million in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Afghanistan, a reduction of approximately 30 per cent from the previous year. Notwithstanding this reduction, Australia continued to deliver a substantial development program to Afghanistan – making it Australia’s fourth largest bilateral aid program after Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the Solomon Islands. Australia remains a medium sized donor in the country, with the United States, Germany, European Union, United Kingdom, and Japan among the leading contributors (see **Table 1** below).

Table 1: Top ten donor expenditure in Afghanistan 2014²⁵



To maximise value for money, Australia’s funding is either delivered through pooled funding mechanisms, in line with the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* and aid effectiveness principles, or in niche areas where we can add the most value. Over the reporting period, Australia continued to align its development assistance program with the *Afghanistan-Australia Aid investment Plan (AIP) 2015-18*. The AIP was drafted in accordance with Australia’s 2014 aid policy, *Australia Aid: Promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability²⁶*, and the Afghan Government’s national development priorities.

Table 2: Total ODA Expenditure in FY 2015-16

Objective	AUD\$ million	% of total ODA
<i>Bilateral</i>		
Objective 1: supporting the Afghan Government to achieve economic growth and institute more effective and accountable governance	51.1	56.8
Objective 2: empowering women and girls by addressing barriers to their social, political and economic participation	8.0	8.9
Objective 3: building resilience and supporting at-risk populations	26.2	29.1
Other	0.5	0.6
Sub-Total Bilateral*	85.8	95.4
Regional and Global	4.1	4.6
Other Government Departments	0.0	0.0
Total ODA Expenditure	89.9	100.0

*Additional bilateral expenditure breakdown is provided in **Annex D**.

²⁵ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), ‘Aid at a glance’. All amounts are in USD.

²⁶ Australian Government, ‘Australian Aid: Promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability’, 2014, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES

The 2015-16 APPR covers a period of heightened security challenges affecting Australia’s development assistance program to Afghanistan. This is the second year that we have assessed progress against objectives outlined in the AIP. Ratings are based on assessments against the Afghanistan development program’s Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) as detailed at **Annex F**. Objectives One and Two received ‘amber’ ratings as the performance of associated investments has been mixed due to ongoing security challenges and operational changes. Objective three was rated ‘green’ as most activities met their performance targets.

Table 3: Rating of the Program's Progress towards Australia’s Aid Objectives

Objective	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Objective 1: supporting the Afghan Government to achieve economic growth and institute more effective and accountable governance	Green	Amber
Objective 2: empowering women and girls by addressing barriers to their social, political and economic participation	Green	Amber
Objective 3: building resilience and supporting at-risk populations	Amber	Green

Ratings definitions:

- **Green.** Progress is as expected at this stage of implementation and it is likely that the objective will be achieved. Standard program management practices are sufficient.
- **Amber.** Progress is somewhat less than expected at this stage of implementation and restorative action will be necessary if the objective is to be achieved. Close performance monitoring is recommended.
- **Red.** Progress is significantly less than expected at this stage of implementation and the objective is not likely to be met given available resources and priorities. Recasting the objective may be required.



OBJECTIVE 1

Supporting the Afghan Government to achieve economic growth and institute more effective and accountable governance

This objective is rated ■ Amber. The *Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund* (ARTF) maintained its performance in support of the Afghan Government's capacity to deliver services, but Australia did not continue its *Public Financial Management for Afghanistan* (PFM) investment. Ongoing support to the Afghan National Police through the *Afghanistan National Security Forces Sustainment* (ANSFS) investment was critical in maintaining security in the face of an escalating insurgency. Despite this, the LOTFA program did not meet its performance targets relating to electronic payments and police biometric identification cards.

Outcome one: Key Ministries in the Afghan Government have improved capacity and incentives to deliver targeted government services

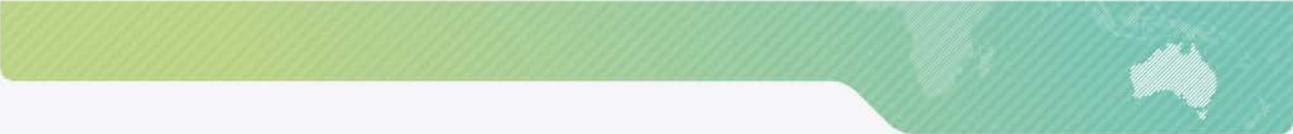
The World Bank-administered ARTF is the key mechanism through which Australia achieves the AIP objective of economic growth and more effective and accountable governance. It provides on-budget financing to the Afghan Government to deliver NUG development priorities and service delivery; and provides incentives to encourage economic reforms. Thirty-four donors have contributed USD9.08 billion to the ARTF since its establishment in 2002. Australia provided \$25 million in 2015-16, two per cent of the total donor funding in that financial year.

The ARTF met Australia's expectations as a relevant and effective mechanism for development assistance. The trust fund mechanism enhances donor harmonisation and provides greater leverage for Australia's funds than we can achieve bilaterally. The ARTF remained the largest single source of support for the Afghan Government's development and operating budget.

The ARTF maintained performance against indicators in the 2015 performance scorecard. Sixteen indicators were assessed as on-track, three with slight delays, and four off-track. As scorecard indicators are changed slightly from year to year, the total number of on and off track indicators are not directly comparable. Indicators of key interest to Australia including education, roads, employment and agriculture remained on-track compared to the previous year. While progress has been made, gender mainstreaming remained delayed and government capacity to execute the development budget and the share of assistance via incentive mechanisms both slipped in performance.

Under ARTF's Incentive Program, a results-based performance program, Afghanistan made significant progress against economic reform targets agreed with the donor community. Progress on revenue collection was particularly positive, increasing by 22 per cent over last year's revenue. Progress was also made against structural reform targets. Technical reviews in November 2015 and March 2016 found that reforms had been achieved in customs enforcement, provincial budgeting policy and external audit. Some headway was also made on private sector reforms including streamlining business registration and a new land acquisition law that will include provision for community land to improve tenure security for the most vulnerable. And the Afghan Government has increased spending on operations and maintenance – an important safeguarding measure for the sustainability of public assets.

Australia actively participated in the redesign process of the Incentive Program, with the new program being approved by the ARTF in September 2015. The new Incentive Program improved flexibility for the Afghan Government to access discretionary funding, better reflecting the fiscal and economic constraints felt in a conflict-affected state.



Australia's bilateral PFM program, completed in December 2015, contributed to the Afghan Government improving capacity to deliver services. The program aimed to improve budget execution in five line ministries: Agriculture; Economy; Education; Public Health; and Public Works. Over the course of three years, the program trained 3,837 people (550 female) in procurement, financial administration, reporting and planning across all 34 Afghan provinces. The program resulted in the increased functional capacity of civil servants and improvements to PFM systems and processes. Procurement plans are more realistic compared to prior years, allowing ministries to more effectively manage and implement budget execution. The program addressed the need to increase women's participation in the civil service by incorporating computer and English training, and developing an internship for women.

Faced with increasing security costs and declining footprint in Kabul, Australia decided that it was not practical or cost-effective to continue a stand-alone PFM program. To support ongoing sustainability of the program's achievements, Australia advocated the program's successful approach and tools to other donors. As a result, USAID confirmed its new PFM program would build on the successes of Australia's program.

Australia also provided funding to the Institute of State Effectiveness to support President Ghani's PFM Advisory Team, which was well-received by the Afghan Government as a flexible and responsive mechanism. The team was instrumental in supporting the Ministry of Finance to develop its Five Year Plan to implement the PFM Roadmap II.

Outcome two: The Afghan Government is better able to deliver government services through its National Priority Programs (NPPs)

Australia supported the Afghan Government to deliver services through our contributions to the ARTF and the UNDP-managed *Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan* (LOTFA). In 2015-16, Australia continued to meet its international commitment to deliver at least 50 per cent of development assistance to Afghanistan in on-budget support, and align 80 per cent of assistance with Afghanistan's NPPs. Australia's \$25 million funding to ARTF and USD20 million²⁷ contribution to LOTFA enabled us to provide 59 per cent of our bilateral funding on-budget. The ARTF financed 41 per cent of the civilian development budget and 23 per cent of the civilian operating budget.

ARTF

The ARTF enabled the Afghan Government to deliver better services in line with its NPPs. The annual scorecard reported program and project results were maintained from the previous year. Education, electricity, roads, water and sanitation, and short-term employment were rated on-track, with employment outcomes delayed and savings and enterprise support off-track. Eighty eight per cent of the 20 projects were found to be performing at satisfactory levels. Despite the prolonged political transition period, the Afghan Government and World Bank continued to implement projects, although disbursement levels decreased.

Key achievements reported in 2015-16 include:

- ARTF benefited approximately 8.7 million people for all projects (excluding the *National Solidarity Program*), with 38 per cent female²⁸;
- In community-based development under the *National Solidarity Program*, 27 million people (48.5 per cent female) benefited from improved access to health, education, roads and utility services (exceeding the target of 25 million in 2015);
- In agriculture, 1.8 million people were provided access to irrigation (exceeding the target of 1.7 million by 2017);
- In health, the *System Enhancement for Health in Transition* project increased number of births by skilled attendance to 39 per cent (target of 58 per cent by 2018); and

²⁷ AUD25,693,731 in the 2015-16 financial year. All donor contributions to LOTFA are made in US dollars.

²⁸ The World Bank, 'ARTF Scorecard 2015'.

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- Under the *Second Education Quality Improvement Program*, 190,936 new teachers were qualified to improve learning outcomes.

LOTFA

LOTFA is the key mechanism for funding the Afghanistan National Police (ANP), and sits within Australia's USD100 million annual commitments to sustainment of the ANDSF²⁹. Annual LOTFA contribution of USD20 million constitute 30 per cent of Australia's bilateral program to Afghanistan, and are vital in the development of a professional police force that is capable of providing security to all Afghans. LOTFA support contributes to the enabling environment for police and defends against a deterioration of conditions in Afghanistan. The ANP remains a key institution for Afghanistan's stability and the viability of the Afghan state. In conjunction with the Afghan Ministries of Finance (MoF) and Internal Affairs (MoIA), LOTFA administers the payments of police salaries under a broader program of police professionalisation and institutional reform. LOTFA expended USD300 million in 2015 and Australia was the eighth largest donor.

Australia contributes to the *Support for Payroll Management (SPM)* project under LOTFA. SPM focusses on developing capacity within MoIA to independently manage payroll related operations and functions. SPM is developing capacity for independent payroll management within MoIA, which intends to enable the full transition of all existing LOTFA payroll capabilities to the MoIA by December 2016. Results over the reporting period indicate that the SPM project has made progress but it is doubtful if this goal can be achieved within this timeframe.

Key achievements in 2015-16 include:

- 90,651 biometric identification records (57 per cent) have been verified within the Web-based Electronic Payroll System (WEPS) database;
- SPM has expanded WEPS to all 34 provinces in Afghanistan;
- Capacity building for payroll management, systems integration, and funds transfer to MoF for police pay outputs remain on-track; and
- A gender mapping exercise was successfully carried out to strengthen gender mainstreaming efforts within the work of LOTFA's SPM project.

While Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) of police salaries coverage increased to 87 per cent by March 2016, this was below the performance benchmark target of 95 per cent (see **Annex F**). Lack of access to banking services in remote areas remained a key obstacle to achieving this target.

Ensuring sustainability for the SPM project relates to ensuring the MoIA has the capacity to independently manage payroll functions, meet performance targets and ensure the budget is executed in a transparent and accountable way. The appointment of the Deputy Minister for Strategy and Policy at MoIA is an example of how the Afghan Government has taken ownership and acted responsively to donor requests. Ongoing leadership will be required to make progress sustainable and DFAT will monitor this throughout 2016-17.

Gender equality in LOTFA is principally focused on a complementary police development project, and is not a core focus of SPM due to its limited scope. Under SPM, the UNDP is working with the MoIA to strengthen the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data and is seeking opportunities to encourage more training for women in capacity building training for payroll management. Gender disaggregated data under SPM was not available in the most recent annual report and more evidence will be sought from UNDP and MoIA reports in future years. DFAT will make representations to this effect as without this information, it was not possible to provide this investment a 'satisfactory' Aid Quality Check (AQC) rating for gender equality.

²⁹ USD80 million per year is managed by the Department of Defence through the NATO Afghan National Army Trust Fund. LOTFA is managed in DFAT under the Afghanistan National Security Forces Sustainment (ANSFS) investment.

OBJECTIVE 2

Empowering women and girls by addressing barriers to their social, political and economic participation

This objective is rated ■ Amber. Overall performance on gender equality for the program was lower in 2015-16 when compared to the previous reporting period. Approximately 67 per cent of investments in the Afghanistan program effectively addressed gender issues in their implementation – below the 80 per cent strategic target³⁰. Despite this, positive program results contributed towards meeting a number of benchmarks under this objective. CARE's *Empowerment through Education* program continued its strong community engagement through community based education programs. The *Ending Violence against Women* (EVAW) investment far exceeded a number of its performance benchmarks during the reporting period; however EVAW's benchmark target number of service recipients was not met. The AQC gender rating for the ACIAR Afghanistan Agricultural Research Portfolio was not maintained from 2014-15.

Outcome one: Women and girls in target districts access social services specific to their needs

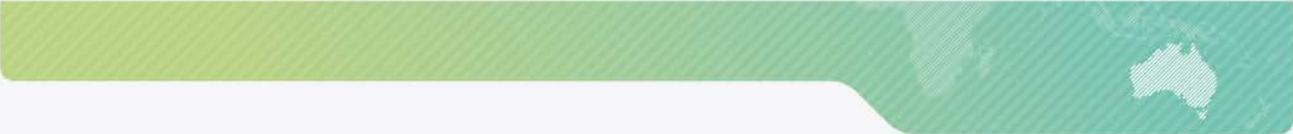
Australia's EVAW program aims to support national efforts to reduce the number of women who experience violence and better meet the needs of survivors. The program is delivered through five key partners: the Afghan Women's Network; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC); United Nations Women (UN Women); and The Asia Foundation (TAF). An independent review of the program was conducted in early 2016 to assess progress to date and to inform future decision making. The review found that the program was highly effective and making considerable progress towards the overall goal of a sustained reduction in violence against women (VAW) in Afghanistan. It observed, however, that the gains made are extremely fragile and sustained support is required to see the actualisation of EVAW in Afghanistan.

The program met its targets in 2015-16 training 1,665 police and justice officials on gender based violence case management and the application of the EVAW law (exceeding the target of 900). Over 5,760 (2,880 women) community members, 720 school teachers, and 240 religious leaders participated in training and awareness raising activities on Women's Rights in Islam (well exceeding the target of 1,000). The program also provided shelter and support services to over 935 women and children falling short of our target of 1,500 women due to a reduction in the number of Australian funded shelters under the program from ten to four in 2015-16. The performance assessment targets will be revised in 2016-17 to reflect this operational change.

The program supported and helped build the capacity of two local organisations: AWN and AIHRC. With Australia's support AWN was able to strengthen its national and international advocacy efforts on EVAW, peace and security issues; pilot a Young Women's Leadership Program to help build a cohort of new, young women leaders in Afghanistan; and expand and strengthen women's networks across the country to increase the opportunities for Afghan women in both rural and urban areas to influence and contribute to decision-making. Complementing this Australia also supports the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) to monitor, promote and protect human rights. The AIHRC is a strong advocate for eliminating VAW, there is a dedicated Commissioner for Women's Rights, and in 2015 the AIHRC trained 195 people (111 men, 84 women) on the EVAW law.

In 2015-16 Australia's support to CARE's *Empowerment through Education* program helped improve the quality, access and demand for basic education services in Afghanistan. The program met its targets in 2015-16 and continues to fill a critical gap providing education, predominately to girls, beyond the reach of the Afghan Government. During the reporting period it supported 5,387 students (3,919 female and 1,468

³⁰ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 'Making Performance Count: enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of Australian Aid', June 2014.



male) to attend community based education classes (well above the targeted 2,000), and on average student retention rate was high at around 99 per cent. Notably, all lower secondary students successfully passed their exams with an average score of 85 out of 100, which is significant given that the pass rate set by the Ministry of Education is 40 out of 100.

The *Australia-Afghanistan Community Resilience Program*, *Save the Children's Children of Uruzgan Program* and the *Australia-Afghanistan Red Cross Health Initiative* also contributed to positive outcomes for women and girls (see analysis of **Objective 3** for further detail).

Outcome two: Improved gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment across Australia's aid program

A strong advocate for gender issues in Afghanistan, Australia is recognised as a leader in the ERAW sector. As a member of the Gender Donor Coordination Group, Australia works closely with other donors to form common policy positions and coordinate on gender programming. For example, through our membership on the 5+3 group³¹, Australia in partnership with other donors advocated for the inclusion of reforms on empowering Afghan women and girls in the new Self-Reliance for Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF), which was finalised by the Afghan Government and donors in September 2015.

Australia aims to address gender inequality across all investments. In 2015-16, only 67 per cent of investments met their gender targets compared to 100 per cent of investments the previous year (see analysis of Aid Quality Checks (AQC) for further detail). Australia remains a strong advocate for gender mainstreaming in our multilateral investments, however efforts to address gender equality need to be improved in order to meet investment quality targets. The ARTF Gender Working Group (GWG), established to discuss progress of gender mainstreaming and to coordinate activities, only met three times in 2015 and donor attendance varied. The GWG also struggled to influence the broader ARTF on gender issues.

The Scorecard reports progress under the ARTF gender mainstreaming results monitoring in 2015: 66 per cent of portfolio projects now have Gender Focal points, up from 63 per cent in 2014; projects collecting gender data have increased from 38 per cent in 2014 to 47 per cent in 2015; and projects with gender-related knowledge products have increased from 38 per cent in 2014 to 47 per cent in 2015. There has also been some success in mainstreaming gender within existing projects. For example, economic empowerment of women under the livestock and horticulture projects has exceeded targets. Australia will continue to advocate for the World Bank to increase efforts to mainstream gender in 2015-16.

³¹ The 5+3 donor group is composed of the European Union, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States (the "5") and Australia, Canada and the Nordics sub-group (the "3"). The Nordics sub-group is composed of Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

OBJECTIVE 3

Building resilience and supporting at-risk populations

This objective is rated ■ Green. This objective's rating improvement from last year is a reflection of its satisfactory performance over the reporting period. 2015 was the first full year of implementation for the Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme (AACRS) investment, and strong evidence of positive results has already emerged from early stages of the project cycle. Despite the deteriorating security situation, our partnership with United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) ensured that humanitarian assistance was delivered to those in critical need, often beyond the reach of government support systems.

Australian funded activities in Uruzgan province concluded in 2015-16. In line with DFAT policy, these investments were subject to final aid quality checks (see **Annex E**) which assessed their overall performance from beginning to end. As a result, the performance of these completed investments has been addressed separately below, and did not contribute to the rating of Objective Three which relates only to ongoing activities under the current AIP.

Outcome one: Afghan citizens, particularly women and girls in vulnerable communities receive basic services and assistance to build their resilience

Humanitarian need in Afghanistan increased significantly in 2015-16 with civilian populations continuing to bear the brunt of the conflict which led to wide spread displacement (a 64 per cent increase from 2014-15). Australia is a leading donor to the UNOCHA-managed Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF). The AHF provides a coordinated, timely and efficient response mechanism to high-priority humanitarian needs in country. Australia's support helped AHF reach 3.4 million beneficiaries (just short of the targeted 3.8 million beneficiaries) most in need of assistance, including through the provision of basic shelter, food and health care services to thousands of displaced persons following the fall of Kunduz in late 2015. Through our membership on the AHF Advisory Board Australia continued to advocate for the timely and effective response to critical humanitarian needs; strong coordination across humanitarian activities; and for support to the most vulnerable groups, particularly displaced persons.

Australia's funding successfully helped WFP mobilise support to a targeted 3.5 million beneficiaries in food insecure and hard-to-reach areas in 2015-16. Our funding helped provide emergency food assistance to people affected by disasters, reduce the number of children aged six months to five years with acute malnutrition, as well as support targeted supplementary feeding programs for women and children. In addition, WFP provided asset skills training to help build community resilience with 87 per cent of communities recording an increased community asset score as a result of WFPs interventions (well above the targeted 80 per cent).

In 2015-16 the *Afghanistan Health Care Program*³², delivered in partnership with the Australian Red Cross and Afghanistan Red Crescent, reached vulnerable people, particularly women and children, through the delivery of 2,631,818 health interventions beyond the reach of national health care services. Notably, 200,810 children under five years of age received polio vaccinations; 199,900 children received measles vaccinations; and 32,310 youth and teachers received training and basic education on HIV AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. An additional 423,306 people were trained through the *Community Based Health and First Aid* project, where they learnt first aid techniques, among other topics.

³² DFAT's contribution to this program represents 31 per cent of the total program value.

Outcome two: Rural households in target districts, including women's headed households, have increased income through improvements in agricultural productivity

Over 76 per cent of the Afghan population live in rural areas, where agriculture is the main income generator. Australia's aid focuses on increasing poor people's incomes by training farmers in new technologies and farming practices, promoting solutions that increase resilience, strengthening livelihoods and improving market linkages. These activities directly align with the NPP 2, *Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development*.

The AACRS brings together the Australian Government, the Government of Afghanistan, and five non-government organisations (ActionAid, the Aga Khan Foundation, CARE, Oxfam, and World Vision). All delivery partners have identified community members with disabilities and have taken active steps to include them in the AACRS interventions.

AACRS commenced in June 2014 and will conclude in mid-2018. In the second year the non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners facilitated training for 9,299 farmers on improved agricultural practices including 4,237 women, exceeding the target of 8,100. By the end of the year, 4,379 farmers, of which 54 per cent were female, were practising new or adapted technologies in agriculture and livestock, achieving the set target of 4,000 farmers. The AACRS has made 931 hectares of land available for irrigated production, and 335 families gained access to an additional income source in 2015-16, as 93 per cent of the 437 vocational training participants found employment or started a micro-business.

In 2015, Australia signed four Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the Afghan Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, Rural Development, and Finance. These ministries participate in the Oversight Committee of the AACRS. At provincial level, all NGOs coordinated with the authorities, worked together on planning, provided capacity building for government staff and engaged them in implementation. AACRS has advocated and engaged in policy dialogue in the provinces (e.g. for availability of certified wheat seeds). Security concerns, low capacity of the government partners and some communities slowed progress. Despite this the program is on track and in a good position to meet its 2016 targets.

Photo 1: Livestock distribution to a vulnerable family



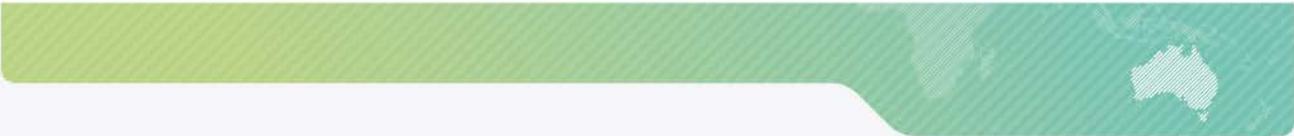
Credit: Action AID

Photo 2: Vegetable cultivation greenhouse project



Credit: Oxfam Australia

Through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia supports applied agricultural research aimed to improve the livelihoods of small farmers living in water scarce regions. The ACIAR program partners are testing cereal varieties adapted for Afghanistan; research and facilitate community-based watershed management; and develop alternatives in forage production for smallholders. In 2015 two new wheat varieties and three new maize varieties were approved by the Afghan Government for use by farmers. The project has now exceeded the targets set for new variety release over the program's



lifespan. The introduced wheat varieties have improved production by almost one per cent annually. During 2015, program partners identified and mapped five new watersheds and established common water harvesting models. As per plan, 102 improved annual and perennial forage legumes and cereal species and 18 shrub species were under evaluation. Adoption of the new technologies will be a priority for the remaining two years of implementation of the program.

Australian Aid in Uruzgan Province

In 2013 the Uruzgan Provincial Reconstruction Team closed, Australian and international troops withdrew from Uruzgan and responsibility for security within the province transferred to Afghan authorities. All Australian-funded activities in Uruzgan at that time have since concluded progressively over the last three and a half years. In 2015-16, only two activities were operating in Uruzgan with both due to end in December 2015 – the *National Area Based Development Program* (NABDP) and the *Uruzgan Rural Access Program* (URAP). NABDP ended as planned. Due to security-related delays throughout 2015, URAP was extended but finally terminated in June 2016 as a result of deteriorating security. All Australian bilateral-funded programs in Uruzgan have now concluded having reached the end of their contract timeframes.

Assessment of Progress

Uruzgan is an extremely challenging environment and its development needs are immense. It is one of the least developed provinces in Afghanistan. After two decades of civil war, Uruzgan's rural infrastructure and road network had deteriorated significantly and continued to suffer from inadequate budget allocation by successive Afghan Governments. The province is isolated, has poor infrastructure, widespread illiteracy and low capacity in private and government sectors. Parts of the province remains subject to ongoing insurgency, inter-tribal/inter-ethnic violence and lawlessness.

Over the past four and a half years (January 2012 to June 2016), Australia has supported rehabilitation of rural infrastructure in Uruzgan through the bilateral-funded NABDP and URAP activities. In this difficult environment, these activities have contributed to some substantial achievements. However, their overall effectiveness throughout 2015-16, as reflected in AQC ratings, has continued to be mixed.

Australia's \$6 million funding to NABDP in Uruzgan constructed bridges to improve access to arable land and markets; constructed substantial retaining walls to reduce flooding and increase areas for farming. The project's activities were all in Uruzgan's three outermost districts which have always been the most insecure. Poor contractor performance, continuing insecurity and flood damage³³ slowed progress significantly throughout the project's life. However, since mid-2013, the project constructed over nine kilometres of flood-protection retaining walls (at 17 different sites), one suspension bridge (126 metres long across the Helmand River) and a reinforced-concrete bridge (26 metres long). Ten activities were completed throughout 2015 with seven partially-completed activities terminated as a result of: poor contractor performance; insecurity; or project delays. Of the 26 originally planned activities, 19 were completed providing flood protection for over 700 hectares of agriculture land, protection for irrigation canals and benefitting over 1,800 families. Heavy flooding in March 2016 damaged over 700 metres of retaining walls at eight sites while ongoing insecurity has prevented damage assessments at the other 18 sites.

³³ Heavy floods in early 2014 damaged 11 construction sites including six that had been completed and were in their defect liability period.

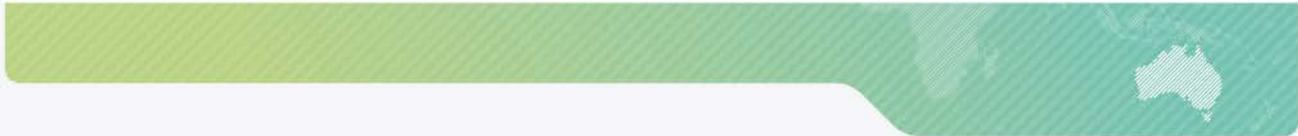


Photo 3: Bridge over the Helmand River



Credit: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Photo 4: Irrigation canal protection wall



Credit: UNDP

URAP (\$21 million) aimed to improve access to basic services such as markets, health clinics, and schools, encourage greater social interaction and provide economic opportunities by maintaining, rehabilitating and constructing gravel rural roads and bridges. In 2015-16, URAP constructed 21 kilometres of roads and maintained a further 71 kilometres. URAP's overall outcomes (73 kilometres of road constructed and 151 kilometres of road maintained) are less than the project aimed to achieve over its three year life-span as progress was hindered considerably by on-going insecurity. The project provided over 240,000 labour days and formal training for 63 people on technical issues such as survey and design (including computer-assisted design activities); bridge, culvert and basic construction techniques, and contract management – a ten day training course for ten engineers in New Delhi.

Photo 5: Example of URAP activities (before view)



Credit: United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Photo 6: Example of URAP activities (after view)



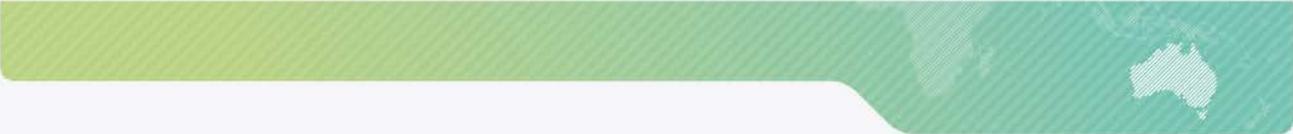
Credit: UNOPS

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

Most investments achieved or partly achieved the performance benchmarks identified in last year's APPR (see **Annex B**). Key achievements include: education support to 5,387 students, of which 3,919 (or 73 per cent) were girls; shelter and support services to over 935 women and children; training for 1,665 police and justice officials on gender based violence case management; successful engagement in the 5+3 donor coordination group; and AACRS facilitated training for 9,299 farmers on improved agricultural practices, including 4,237 women, exceeding the benchmark target of 8,100. By the end of the year 4,379 farmers, of who 54 per cent were female, were practising new or adapted technologies in agriculture and livestock.

Table 4: Performance Benchmarks 2016-17 to 2018-19

		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Aid objective	<i>Supporting the Afghan Government to maintain economic growth and institute more effective and accountable governance</i>			
Performance benchmark	<i>Australia will engage through the 5+3 group to finalise and commence implementation of a new Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF), through which donors and the Afghan Government hold one another accountable for progress against mutual commitments and agreed reforms</i>	<i>The effectiveness of MAF mechanisms in monitoring progress against mutual commitments, supporting the Afghan Government's reform efforts, and coordinating donor efforts is strengthened from Australia's participation in the 5+3 group.</i>	<i>The effectiveness of MAF mechanisms in monitoring progress against mutual commitments, supporting the Afghan Government's reform efforts, and coordinating donor efforts is strengthened from Australia's participation in the 5+3 group.</i>	TBC
Performance benchmark	<i>Scorecard indicators for the ARTF improve or are maintained from 2014 ratings</i>	<i>Maintain or increase all ratings for Pillar II</i>	<i>Maintain or increase all ratings for Pillar II</i>	TBC
Aid objective	<i>Empowering women and girls by addressing barriers to their social, political and economic participation</i>			
Performance benchmark	<i>Maintain 2,000 students (80 per cent of which are girls) enrolled in primary-level community education classes</i>	<i>Maintain 2,000 students (80 per cent girls) enrolled in primary-level community education</i>	TBC	TBC
Performance benchmark	<i>1,300 women and girls receive services</i>	<i>1,300 women and girls receive services</i>	TBC	TBC
Performance benchmark	<i>900 police, law and justice, and government officials trained</i>	<i>An additional 640 police, law and justice and government officials trained</i>	TBC	TBC
Aid objective	<i>Building resilience and supporting at-risk populations</i>			
Performance benchmark	<i>8,100 persons trained in strategies to improve livelihoods and 4,000 farmers using better agricultural technologies, 30 per cent of which are women</i>	<i>Increase in average income from non-farm and farm livelihoods for rural households in project areas</i>	TBC	TBC



MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Australia and Afghanistan's mutual obligations are set out in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on development³⁴. The MoU is based on the principles of mutual trust, mutual responsibility and mutual accountability and emphasises the Afghan Government's leadership and ownership in line with the principles of the New Deal for Fragile and Conflict-affected States. The partnership is reviewed annually through a Development Cooperation Dialogue meeting between the Australian and Afghan government, last held in February 2016.

In September 2015, the Afghan Government and international community endorsed SMAF, the successor to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. The new framework is a compact between the Afghan Government and international community to guide development commitments over the next four years. Indicators are agreed on annual basis. Australia participated in negotiations to agree the new framework, and successfully advocated for the inclusion of women's empowerment. Donors, including Australia, agreed to continue providing at least 50 per cent of their annual aid budget through the Afghan Government budget, and align at least 80 per cent of the budget with the National Priority Programs. In 2015-16, Australia delivered 59 per cent of the bilateral aid program through on-budget mechanisms (ARTF and LOTFA) and 90 per cent was aligned with NPPs.

The Afghan Government committed in return to a range reforms across five areas: improving security and political stability; anti-corruption, governance, rule of law, and human rights; fiscal sustainability and integrity of public finance and commercial banking; reforming development planning and management and citizen's development rights; private sector development and inclusive growth.

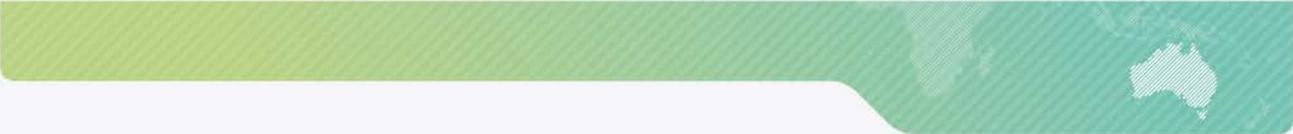
The Afghan Government and international community continued previous mechanisms to monitor performance against the accountability framework, including:

- the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) structure to review progress on a regular basis;
- a Senior Officials Meeting to be held every second year to review progress; and
- a Ministerial-level Meeting to be held in 2016, and every second year subsequently. Australia was active in all agendas and delivered well-received interventions on gender and human rights and security sector reform at the Senior Officials Meeting in 2015 and JCMB in April 2016.

The Afghan MoF reported progress against development commitments at the JCMB meeting in April 2016. Progress has included an increase in revenue collection, establishment of a National Procurement Council, justice sector reforms involving the removal of 20 judges and a new Attorney General appointed, and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was launched.

Australia continued to be an active player in the international community's policy dialogue with the Afghan Government, through UN-led mechanisms and engagement in the 5+3 grouping. To support the Afghan Government to maintain economic growth and more effective governance, Australia participates in the oversight forums relating to our on-budget assistance. For the ARTF, we actively engage in the ARTF Steering Committee, Strategy Group and Incentive Program Working Group (IPWG). Australia is supporting the process to develop the Afghan Government's new National Peace and Development Framework. Our comments on the first draft were considered comprehensive and useful.

³⁴ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 'Comprehensive Long-term Partnership between Australia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan', 20 May 2012.



PROGRAM QUALITY AND PARTNER PERFORMANCE

Overview

The bilateral aid program to Afghanistan continues on a trend of consolidation towards fewer, large value investments. To maximise effectiveness, we have moved towards a smaller portfolio of strongly performing investments centred on the AIP's three strategic objectives. The selection of investments takes into account Australia's areas of expertise, historical programming and the spread of other donor investments to ensure we are focussing on areas where we can most effectively deliver our development objectives and meet Afghanistan's needs.

ANALYSIS OF AID QUALITY CHECKS (AQCS)

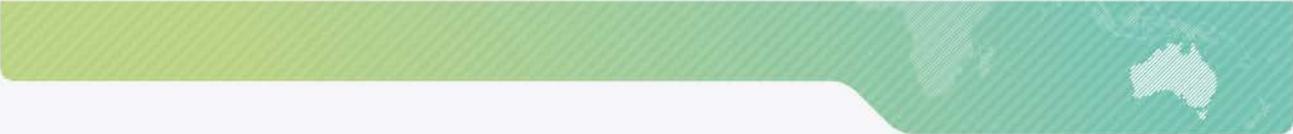
In 2015-16, the Afghanistan Program completed AQCs for 12 investments: seven annual assessments of ongoing investments; one humanitarian program assessment; and four final program completion reports. The results (at **Annex E**) are slightly less positive when compared to the previous year, reflecting operational realities of a worsening security environment in-country.

Two investments based in Uruzgan: *Infrastructure*; and *UNDP NABDP*, received lower scores against most criteria, including 'less than satisfactory' scores against effectiveness and efficiency criterion. This caused the Afghanistan aid program to underperform against the value-for-money strategic target³⁵ in 2015-16. These AQC results reflected the reality of an extremely challenging environment primarily due to a resurgent Taliban. The province is isolated, has poor infrastructure, widespread illiteracy and low capacity in private and government sectors. With the last project having concluded in June 2016, there is no intent for the Australian Government to engage further in this sector either in Uruzgan or nationally, other than through ongoing contributions to the ARTF.

Advancing women's economic empowerment and promoting gender equality remains a high priority for the aid program. Four of the 12 investments in Afghanistan did not make an adequate contribution to improving gender equality in Afghanistan during the reporting period. The two investments that rated most poorly against this criterion relate to abovementioned infrastructure programs in Uruzgan province, where ultra-conservative attitudes disallow women from participating in manual labour outside the home. DFAT worked with both initiatives to maximise the limited opportunities that exist, including ensuring that women were involved in determining infrastructure priorities through their participation in Community Development Councils.

The *ACIAR Afghanistan Agricultural Research Portfolio* investment was also assessed as underperforming against the gender equality criterion. While Afghan women contribute to a relatively greater extent in rural areas, there are cultural sensitivities that can pose a challenge when implementing projects and reaching out to women. Despite this, this investment now aims to better understand gender roles in farming activities, and will ensure sex disaggregated data is monitored until it ends in 2017. Taking into consideration the limited time left in the project's implementation, it is unlikely there will be any sustainable outcomes related to gender equality for this investment.

³⁵ The "ensuring value-for-money" strategic performance target requires that at least 85 per cent of aid investments receive an AQC rating of 4 or above. Of 12 AQCs conducted in 2015-16 for the Afghanistan aid program, only 10 received scores of 4 or above. Consequently, only 84 per cent of investments met this strategic performance target.



PERFORMANCE OF KEY DELIVERY PARTNERS

To maximise the effectiveness of our aid expenditure, Australia selects delivery partners with proven experience in Afghanistan, as well as a track record of delivering results in the relevant field. Partner Performance Assessments (PPAs) are used to assess how well implementing partners, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), managing contractors and multilateral partners, are delivering the outputs required in aid agreements. In 2015-16, the program completed 19 PPAs³⁶ for ten Australian and international NGOs, five multilateral organisations, and one commercial supplier. Overwhelmingly, the 2015-16 PPAs indicate that all delivery partner types are performing above an adequate level across all assessment criteria.

Over 98 per cent of Australia's ODA to Afghanistan in 2015-16 was delivered by multilateral partners or NGOs. This skewed partner delivery profile is the result of a deliberate programming effort to maximise value for money in a difficult operating environment which commands steep security, contracting and high overhead costs. Key advantages to the program of using multilateral and NGO delivery partners are: lower-administrative costs achieved by avoiding duplication and combining resources with likeminded donors; ready access to excellent thematic expertise; and enhanced engagement with partner government.

Multilateral Organisations

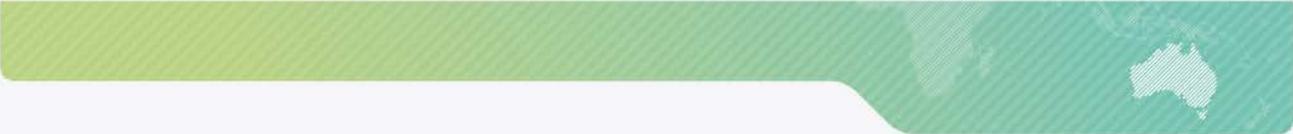
In 2015-16, Australia delivered over 81 per cent of our development assistance through multilateral partners, with the majority being delivered through the UNDP-delivered *Afghanistan National Security Forces Sustainment* (LOTFA sits within this investment), World Bank ARTF, and WFP humanitarian investments. The performance of these agencies met expectations in 2015-16. Multilateral agencies remain important partners for us in Afghanistan, delivering value for money while minimising duplication and donor fragmentation, and enabling access to areas of Afghanistan beyond Australia's capability. Multilateral organisations offer technical expertise and ability to engage frankly at senior levels of government. These attributes are critical to the policy reform agenda. Australia will continue to work with our multilateral partners and other donors to ensure we continue to receive performance information that is useful for management and learning. For example, over the past two years we have worked successfully with UNDP to improve gender reporting under the ANSFS.

Multi-donor Trust Funds (managed by multilateral organisations)

The aid program in Afghanistan delivered 59 per cent of its bilateral program through on-budget Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTF) in 2015-16. Partner performance assessments conducted in the reporting period found that these mechanisms:

- i. aligned with partner government national priority programs, and provide significant efficiencies and value for money for Australia; and
- ii. have well-established systems and fiduciary controls that provide a relatively lower risk mechanism for directing funds to the Afghan Government. The ARTF has higher administrative fees (four per cent as from 2017) due to increasing security costs – but this still constituted low administrative costs for Australia. Disbursement rates remained well above target levels (25 per cent);
- iii. provided comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks;
- iv. operated consistently in-line with DFAT policies;
- v. managed risk appropriately on a continual basis; and
- vi. were responsive and collaborative in their service delivery.

³⁶ More than one PPA was undertaken on some delivery partners.



Non-Governmental Organisations

Australia delivered over 17 per cent of our development assistance in the reporting period through NGOs, with the majority being delivered through CARE Australia, World Vision Australia, The Asia Foundation, and the Aga Khan Foundation through various AACRS and EAW activities. DFAT works with NGOs to deliver rural livelihoods, education and health programs across Afghanistan. NGOs were effective in targeting the most vulnerable members of the population where the Afghan Government currently lacks the presence to deliver adequate services. This enabled us to extend the reach of Australian assistance and, because of its flexible nature, adapt and respond to changing conditions and priorities. Ensuring sustainability of these activities remains a challenge due to the often limited ability of the Afghan Government to take on these investments when programs end. Recognising these limitations, NGO delivery partners have placed a strong emphasis on community ownership in an effort to increase program sustainability.

Managing Contractors

Less than one per cent of Australia's ODA to Afghanistan was delivered by Managing Contractors in 2015-16. The *Public Financial Management for Afghanistan* investment managed by International Relief and Development (IRD) ended in December 2015 after a three month no-cost extension to accommodate the transition of activities to other donor programs. Another commercial delivery partner operating during the reporting period was Scope Global, who manages small-value Australia Award alumni engagement activities in Afghanistan.

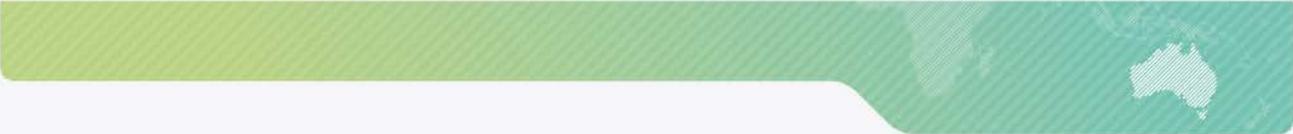
Australian Government Agencies

DFAT co-ordinates Whole of Government policy on Afghanistan through a range of meetings and regular exchanges at several levels within the Australian Government. DFAT also works closely with Department of Immigration and Border Protection which contributes government capacity building as well as humanitarian and stabilisation activities, in line with the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding on Migration and Humanitarian Cooperation between Australia, Afghanistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In addition, DFAT is working with ACIAR as lead on the program developing agricultural research capacity in Afghanistan, to ensure the program delivers impact via uptake of improved technology.

RISKS

Table 5: Management of Key Risks to Achieving Objectives

Key risks	What actions were taken to manage the risks over the past year?	What further actions will be taken to manage the risks in the coming year?	For emerging / ongoing risks provide a Risk Rating (low, medium, high, very high)
Deteriorating security increasingly restricts Embassy operations to the point that Australian officials and/or major implementing partners withdraw from Afghanistan, further compromising program delivery, effective monitoring and reporting quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Prioritised safety of Australians and Australian Government employees and contractors. › Reviewed and strengthened security settings. › Reduced need to travel outside Embassy through program consolidation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Continue to monitor the security situation and update security protocols if needed. › Re-design programs and further consolidate if necessary should the security situation deteriorate. 	High
The UNDP-managed LOTFA fails to meet fiduciary risk requirements. ANP are reported committing human rights abuses. Mol fails to implement effective anti-corruption measures. All risks would question Australia's ongoing financial support of ANDSF sustainment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Worked closely with UNDP and other LOTFA contributors to ensure the Afghan Government is aware of Australia's concerns in the lead-up to a decision in December 2016 to renew implementation arrangements through a third party. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Continue current actions. › Undertake a review of LOTFA to ensure it is the most suitable option for Australia's ODA-eligible commitment to ANDSF sustainment from 2018-20. 	High
Afghan Government capacity constraints result in weak performance of ARTF-funded development projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Reviewed ARTF performance reports and played an active role in the ARTF's governance arrangements, including in regard to performance monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Continue to actively engage in ARTF governance; monitor ARTF performance reporting; and seek World Bank and Afghan Government advice on government capacity to implement ARTF projects and adequacy of technical support provided. › Advocate for increased technical support through the ARTF as needed. 	Medium
Increased incidence of corruption or fraud (directly or indirectly related to aid funds/programs including LOTFA) resulting in the loss of public funds, impacting partners' ability to implement activities and adversely impacting development outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Upheld a zero-tolerance approach to fraud. › Investigated all allegations and secured the recovery of funds. › Complied with DFAT and Commonwealth anti-corruption requirements in contracts. › Monitored Afghanistan's progress on anti-corruption and governance reforms including through the SMAF. › Improved monitoring and evaluation to mitigate against corruption. › Worked through trusted partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Continue current actions 	Medium



MANAGEMENT RESPONSES

The overwhelming majority of the management responses identified in the Afghanistan 2014-15 APPR were either fully or partially achieved. Only one management response was not achieved (see **Annex A** for a description of progress against each management response).

To support the delivery of Australia's aid program in Afghanistan in 2016-17, DFAT will:

- provide incentives for increased Afghan government accountability by continuing to deliver more than 50 per cent of Australia's bilateral aid program through on-budget mechanisms;
- continue to strengthen program performance on gender equality by prioritising women's empowerment across all development and reform agendas through advocacy and policy discussions, including by taking a leadership role in improving the effectiveness of the ARTF GWG and working towards improved gender outcomes from LOTFA;
- continue to use our engagement in the 5+3 donor group to advocate for greater consideration of gender equality by other donors, and actively contribute to the finalisation, implementation and assessment of the SMAF;
- ensure the humanitarian program remains responsive to emerging needs and priorities; and
- maintain the relevance of our aid investments to Afghanistan's development priorities by ensuring key strategy documents are subject to regular review and enhancement (in 2017 conclude a mid-term review of AIP/PAF and a new MOU/Development Framework Agreement), and by affirming Australia's continued assistance at the *Brussels Development Conference on Afghanistan* in October 2016.

ANNEX A - PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING MANAGEMENT RESPONSES

Management responses identified in 2014-15 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2015-16
Continue to engage in the 5+3 donor group and actively contribute to the finalisation, implementation and assessment of the refreshed Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, and preparations for the next Ministerial meeting on Afghanistan's development, scheduled for late 2016.	Achieved	Australia continued to be an active member of key donor forums in Afghanistan. We continued to engage strongly with the 5+3 donor group, and in June 2016 we participated in the Warsaw NATO Summit. Officers also participated in donor coordination teleconferences between capitals, which focus on coordinating policy direction and program messaging.
Maintain program flexibility and provide strategic and targeted support in response to emerging needs and opportunities in Afghanistan.	Achieved	Australia remains committed to providing flexible, responsive and coordinated humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, providing \$18.9 million in humanitarian assistance in 2015-16.
Prioritise women's empowerment across all development and reform agendas through advocacy and policy discussions.	Partly achieved	Advancing women's empowerment and promoting gender equality remains a high priority for the aid program in Afghanistan. In 2015-16, four of the 12 investments did not make an adequate contribution to improving gender equality through advocacy and policy discussions in Afghanistan during the reporting period.
Commence implementation of the next phase of Australia's PFM reform assistance to Afghanistan that, to the extent possible, protects and expands on the gains achieved through Australia's PFM Program for Afghanistan 2012-15, while supporting the directions set out in the Afghan Government's 2015 PFM Road Map.	Not achieved	Australia's PFM program was strongly supported by the Afghan Government. Faced with increasing security costs and declining footprint in Kabul, Australia decided that it was not practical or cost-effective to continue a stand-alone PFM program.
Influence policy dialogue on humanitarian issues through our engagement on the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) Advisory Board.	Achieved	Australia is a proactive member of the AHF Advisory Board, which sets the strategic directions and approves funding criteria and has a good relationship with the in-country team. DFAT staff located in Kabul successfully advocated for AHF to strengthen its needs assessment process in 2015-16, a recommendation UNOCHA adopted.
Engage in the development and implementation of LOTFA's transition plan in particular to ensure its benchmarks are realistic, there is broad-based institutional buy-in, and that progress can be assessed transparently and constructively.	Achieved	DFAT engages constructively with the development and implementation of LOTFA through its attendance at weekly donor meetings. The SPM project continues to develop capacity for independent payroll management within the MoIA, which aims to ensure the full transition of LOTFA payroll capabilities to the MoIA by December 2016.
Continue to work with our partners, including the World Bank and NGOs, to continuously improve monitoring and evaluation of our activities.	Partly achieved	Most aid investments continued to receive satisfactory monitoring and evaluation ratings in 2015-16. Due to the security situation not all project sites have been visited and it is likely that security will remain a constraint in 2016-17.
The Independent Evaluation of the ACIAR program is successfully completed and key recommendations are taken on board.	Achieved	The ACIAR mid-term review was completed in January 2016. Seven program recommendations were made and adopted, including the integration into all projects of sex-disaggregated data collection.

Note:

- Achieved: significant progress has been made in addressing the issue
- Partly achieved: some progress has been made in addressing the issue, but the issue has not been resolved
- Not achieved: progress in addressing the issue has been significantly below expectations

ANNEX B - PROGRESS TOWARDS PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS IN 2015-16

Aid objective	2014-15 benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2015-16
Supporting the Afghan Government to maintain economic growth and institute more effective and accountable governance	Scorecard indicators for the ARTF improve or are maintained from 2014 ratings	Achieved	ARTF maintained performance against indicators in the 2015 performance scorecard. Australia's contribution to: the number of additional qualified teachers as a result of EQUIP financing was 4,410 teachers (female = 1,880; male = 2,530); the total length of rural roads maintained was 108.7km; and the increase in girls'/boys' enrolment (basic education) was 19,403 students (girls = 7,685; boys = 11,718).
	Commence implementation of new activity for PFM support	Not achieved	Australia's PFM program was strongly supported by the Afghan Government. Faced with increasing security costs and declining footprint in Kabul, Australia decided that it was not practical or cost-effective to continue a stand-alone PFM program. Technical assistance to Afghanistan was provided by Australia, including in PFM, through our work with ISE.
	The new 2015 Mutual Accountability Framework in monitoring progress against mutual commitments, supporting the Afghan Government's reform efforts, and coordinating donor efforts is strengthened from Australia's participation in the 5+3 group	Achieved	In September 2015, the Afghan Government and international community endorsed the SMAF. Australia participated in negotiations to agree the new framework, and successfully advocated for the inclusion of women's empowerment. Donors, including Australia, agreed to continue providing at least 50 per cent of their annual aid budget through the Afghan Government budget, and align at least 80 per cent of the budget with the National Priority Programs.
Empowering women and girls by addressing barriers to their social, political and economic participation	Maintain 2,000 students (80 per cent or 1,600 of which are girls) enrolled in primary-level community education classes	Achieved	Australia's support to CARE's Empowerment through Education program helped improve the quality, access and demand for basic education services in Afghanistan. The program met most of its targets in 2015-16, and continues to fill a critical gap providing education, predominately to girls, beyond the reach of the Afghan Government. During the reporting period it supported 5,387 students, of which 3,919 (73 per cent) were girls.
	1,300 women and girl survivors of violence receive services	Partly achieved	The EVAW program provided shelter and support services to over 935 women and children, falling short of our target of 1,500 women due to a reduction in the number of Australian funded shelters under the program from ten to four in 2015-16. The performance assessment targets will be revised in 2016-17 to reflect this operational change.
	An additional 900 police, law and justice, and government officials trained	Achieved	The program exceeded its targets in 2015-16 training 1,665 police and justice officials on gender based violence case management and the application of the EVAW law.
Building resilience and supporting at-risk populations	8,100 persons trained in strategies to improve livelihoods and 4,000 farmers using better agricultural technologies (30 per cent women).	Achieved	The AACRS facilitated training for 9,299 farmers on improved agricultural practices, including 4,237 women, exceeding the target of 8,100. By the end of the year, 4,379 farmers, of which 54 per cent were female, were practising new or adapted technologies in agriculture and livestock, achieving the set target of 4,000 farmers.

Note:

- Achieved: significant progress has been made and the performance benchmark was achieved
- Partly achieved: some progress has been made towards achieving the performance benchmark, but progress was less than anticipated
- Not achieved: progress towards the performance benchmark has been significantly below expectations

ANNEX C - EVALUATION PLANNING

List of evaluations completed in the reporting period

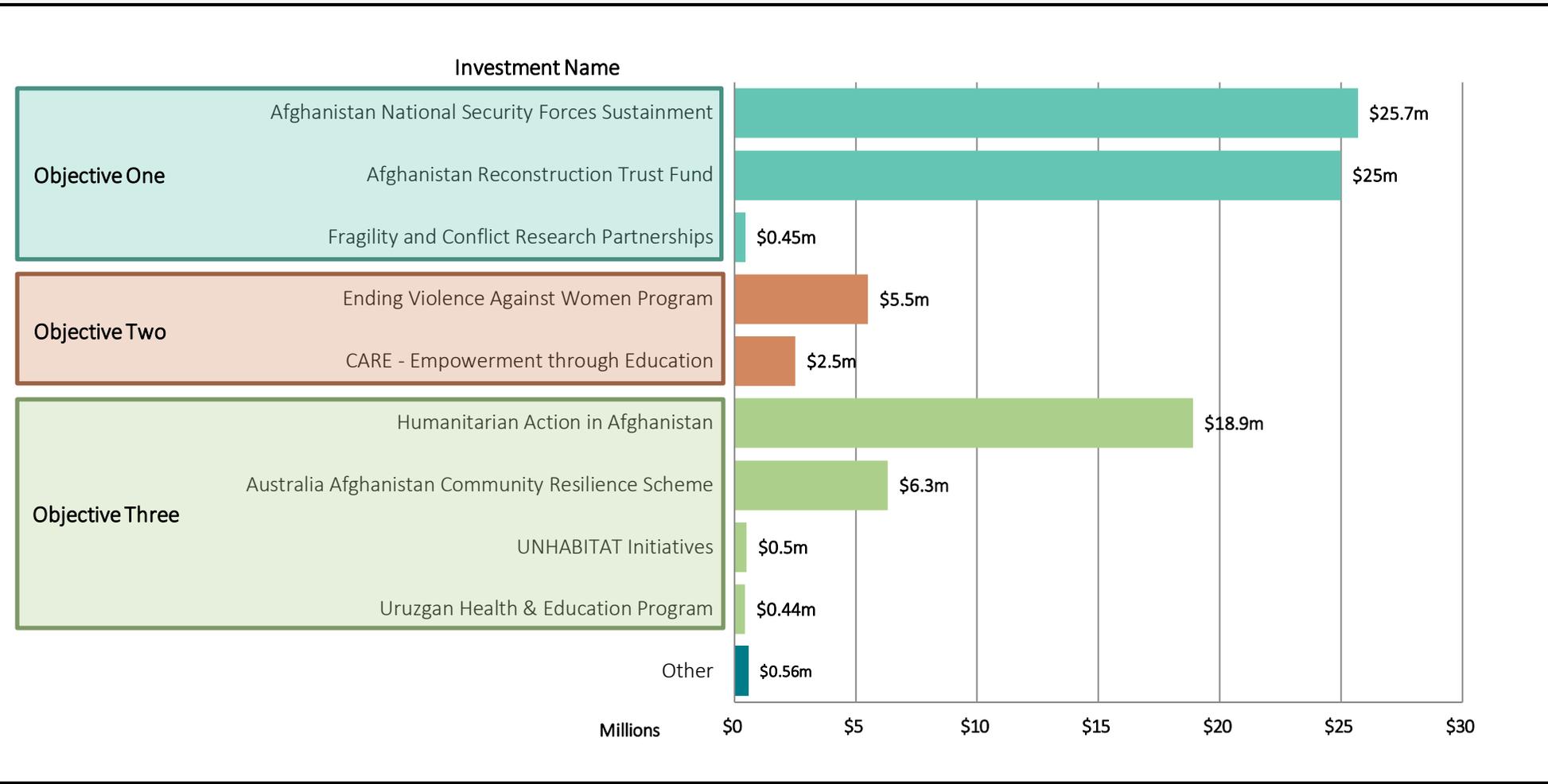
Investment number and name (if applicable)	Name of evaluation	Date completed	Date Evaluation report Uploaded into AidWorks	Date Management response uploaded into AidWorks	Published on website
INK459 ACIAR Afghanistan Agricultural Research Portfolio	Mid-term Review	January 2016	August 2016	September 2016	November 2016
INK880 Afghanistan - Ending Violence Against Women Program (EVAW)	Mid-term Review	May 2016	September 2016	October 2016	November 2016

List of program prioritised evaluations planned for the next 12 months

Evaluation title	Investment number and name (if applicable)	Date – planned commencement (month/year)	Date – planned completion (month/year)	Purpose of evaluation	Evaluation type
TBC	INI510 Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)	July 2016	November 2016	To demonstrate results, verify performance, inform a revised/ new AIP, improve existing investment, and examine value for money.	DFAT led
Completion Report	INJ857 Uruzgan Health and Education Program	July 2016	November 2016	To demonstrate results, verify performance, inform revised/ new AIP, and examine a sector or theme.	DFAT led
Scheme-level Independent Mid-term Review	INK227 Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme (AACRS)	January 2017	June 2017	To demonstrate results, verify performance, improve existing investment, and examine value for money.	DFAT led
Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) Mid-term Review	INK702 Afghanistan National Security Forces Sustainment (ANSFS)	November 2016	March 2017	To demonstrate results, verify performance, improve existing investment, and examine value for money.	DFAT led

ANNEX D - BILATERAL EXPENDITURE

Bilateral Investment Expenditure in FY 2015-16 (total = \$85.8 million)



ANNEX E - AID QUALITY CHECK RATINGS

AQC RATINGS

AQC investment performance over the previous 12 months and where available last year's AQC ratings* are included.

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Year on year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and safeguards
Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund	\$366.6m 2009-17	2016 AQC	5	4	4	5	4	4	5
		2015 AQC	6	4	6	4	5	4	5
Afghanistan National Security Forces Sustainment	\$53.2m 2015-17	2016 AQC	5	4	4	5	4	3	4
		2015 AQC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ending Violence Against Women Program	\$30.1m 2012-17	2016 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	6	4
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	6	4
Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme	\$24.9m 2011-17	2016 AQC	5	5	4	4	4	4	5
		2015 AQC	5	5	4	4	5	4	5
Infrastructure	\$21.1m 2011-17	2016 AQC	5	3	3	3	3	2	4
		2015 AQC	5	4	4	5	4	2	5
ACIAR Afghanistan Agricultural Research Portfolio	\$17.7m 2012-17	2016 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	3	4
		2015 AQC	5	3	4	4	3	4	5
CARE – Empowerment through Education	\$10.6m 2011-17	2016 AQC	4	5	5	5	4	5	5
		2015 AQC	6	5	5	6	4	5	5

*Ratings definitions provided on next page.

HAQC RATINGS

Humanitarian response AQC's assess performance over the previous 12 months.

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Year on year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and evaluation	Connectedness	Protection	Gender equality	Risks and safeguards
Humanitarian Action in Afghanistan	\$44.4m	2016 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	4
	2014-18	2015 AQC	6	5	6	5	5	5	5	5

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.

FAQC RATINGS

Final AQC's assess performance over the lifetime of the investment (ratings are not compared to previous years).

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Overall rating	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and safeguards
Uruzgan Health and Education Program	\$35.7m 2011-16	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	4
Public Financial Management for Afghanistan	\$11.3m 2014-16	5	6	5	4	5	4	4	6
Afghanistan Health Services Program	\$6.7m 2011-16	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	5
UNDP NABDP for Uruzgan Province	\$6.0m 2011-15	5	3	3	3	3	2	3	5

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.

ANNEX F – PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Objective 1: Supporting the Afghan Government to achieve economic stability and institute more effective and accountable governance								
Afghanistan's TMAF commitment	End-of-AIP outcome	Ownership	Indicators	Data source & baseline	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Government Revenues, Budget Execution & Sub-national Governance Improve the Afghan Government's revenue collection and capacity of line Ministries' to develop and execute budgets accountable to, and incorporating, local needs and preferences.	Key Ministries in the Afghan Government have improved capacity and incentives to deliver targeted government services	Shared outcomes	1. The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) performs effectively across indicators for program and operational effectiveness, alignment with the Afghan Government's National Priority Programs, and linkages to donor and Afghan Government mutual accountability commitments. [NB. Australia's ARTF support comprised 6.8% of total contributions for 2013. This benchmark reflects the effectiveness of all donor contributions. Assessment of Australia's impact on the ARTF's performance and accountability for results must be proportionate to the scale of our contribution.]	Baseline: In 2013, of the 24 ARTF Scorecard indicators for which data are collected, the ARTF was rated 'on-track' for 17 indicators; 'slight delays' for 5 indicators; and 'off-track' for two indicators. Data Source: ARTF Scorecard ratings	Scorecard indicators for the ARTF improve or are maintained from 2013 ratings.	Scorecard indicators for the ARTF improve or are maintained from 2014 ratings.	Scorecard indicators for the ARTF improve or are maintained from 2015 ratings.	Scorecard indicators for the ARTF improve or are maintained from 2016 ratings.
			2. Development and implementation of Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and hard deliverables	N/A	Revise and agree TMAF and hard deliverables	Monitor and assess progress towards Mutual Accountability Framework deliverables with the Government of Afghanistan (to be finalised in Sept 2015)	Monitor and assess progress towards Mutual Accountability Framework deliverables with the Government of Afghanistan	Monitor and assess progress towards Mutual Accountability Framework deliverables with the Government of Afghanistan
		Australian aid outcomes	3. Budget execution rates and budget processing times (numerous indicators used) in the Ministries of Agriculture, Public Health, Education and Public Works.	Baseline: Budget execution (57 per cent) and budget processing times (numerous). Data source: PFM program	PFM programme has achieved end of program targets for improving budget execution, budget processing times, and efficiency of service delivery.	Commence implementation of new activity for PFM support	TBC upon commencement of new PFM activity	TBC upon commencement of new PFM activity
		4. % of civil servants trained in key service delivery line ministries (Agriculture, Education, Public Health, Public Works) who have improved their work practices	Baseline: not assessed (1294 civil servants trained in 2013-14 (164 women)) Data source: PFM program	70 per cent of civil servants trained in public sector management have improved their work practices and ability to perform their job.	Commence implementation of new activity for PFM support	TBC upon commencement of new PFM activity	TBC upon commencement of new PFM activity	
		5. Evidence that Australia has supported development and implementation of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) and deliverables	N/A	The effectiveness of TMAF mechanisms in monitoring progress against mutual commitments, supporting the Afghan Government's reform efforts, and coordinating donor efforts is strengthened from Australia's participation in the 5+3 group.	The new 2015 Mutual Accountability Framework in monitoring progress against mutual commitments, supporting the Afghan Government's reform efforts, and coordinating donor efforts is strengthened from Australia's participation in the 5+3 group	The effectiveness of Mutual Accountability Framework mechanisms in monitoring progress against mutual commitments, supporting the Afghan Government's reform efforts, and coordinating donor efforts is strengthened from Australia's participation in the 5+3 group.	The effectiveness of Mutual Accountability Framework mechanisms in monitoring progress against mutual commitments, supporting the Afghan Government's reform efforts, and coordinating donor efforts is strengthened from Australia's participation in the 5+3 group.	
	The Afghan Government has increased resources to deliver government services through its NPPs	Shared outcomes	6. Results of aid delivered on-budget under Pillar II: project & program level results	Baseline: 2013 Scorecard rating for Pillar II: 6 Green, 1 Yellow, 1 Red Data Source: ARTF Scorecard	Maintain or increase all ratings for Pillar II	Maintain or increase all ratings for Pillar II	Maintain or increase all ratings for Pillar II	Maintain or increase all ratings for Pillar II
			7. Evidence that Australia has effectively supported National Security Forces sustainment	Baseline: 85 per cent (2014-15) Data Source: UNDP Law and Order Trust Fund for	LOTFA Phase VII design is completed	95 per cent of Ministry of Interior Affairs personnel paid electronically	100 per cent of Ministry of Interior Affairs personnel paid electronically [subject to financial approval]	TBC

				Afghanistan (LOTFA) Results Framework				
		Australian aid milestone	8. Proportion of Australian funding delivered on-budget to strengthen Afghan systems	Baseline: 50% in 2013-14 Data source: ARTF contributions data	50 per cent of funding delivered on-budget			

Objective 2: Empowering women and girls by addressing barriers to their social, political and economic participation

TMAF commitment	End-of-AIP outcome	Ownership	Indicators	Data source & baseline	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights Improve access to justice for all, in particular women, by ensuring that the Constitution and other fundamental laws are enforced expeditiously, fairly and transparently; ensure that women can fully enjoy their economic, social, civil, political and cultural rights; fight against corruption, including strengthening counter-narcotics efforts; and improve the capacity of state institutions.	Women and girls in target districts access social services specific to their needs	Australian aid milestones	9. # of students enrolled in primary level community education classes (disaggregated by gender)	Baseline: 2,754 students in 2013-14 Data source: Empowerment through Education	Maintain 2,000 students enrolled (80 per cent girls) enrolled in primary-level community education	Maintain 2,000 students enrolled (80 per cent girls) enrolled in primary-level community education	Maintain 2,000 students enrolled (80 per cent girls) enrolled in primary-level community education	TBC
			10. # of women and girl survivors of violence receiving services	Data source: UN Women, TAF progress reports (quarterly/bi-annual).	1,500 women and girls receive services	1,300 women and girls receive services	1,300 women and girls receive services [assumes funding maintained at 2015-16 levels]	TBC
			11. # of women and men directly participating in training and awareness raising activities	Data source: UN Women, TAF, AWN, UNFPA, AIHRC progress reports (quarterly/bi-annual).	1,000 women and men participate in training and awareness raising activities	1,000 women and men participate in training and awareness raising activities	1,000 women and men participate in training and awareness raising activities	TBC
			12. Police, law and justice, and government officials are trained in gender-based violence case management and national legislation	Data source: UNFPA and TAF progress reports (quarterly/bi-annual)	n/a	An additional 900 police, law and justice and government officials trained	An additional 640 police, law and justice and government officials trained	TBC
	Improved gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment across Australia's aid program	Shared outcomes	13. ARTF Corporate Scorecard rating for Gender Mainstreaming in Results Monitoring	Baseline: Yellow (slight delays) – 53 per cent Data source: ARTF Corporate Scorecard	Improve % from baseline	Improve % from 2014-15	Improve % from 2015-16	Improve % from 2016-17
			14. Evidence that Australia has supported women's empowerment and addressing gender issues through policy dialogue and advocacy on women's empowerment and gender issues.	N/A	Member of ARTF Gender Working Group Progress Gender reporting through ARTF Steering Committee membership; Advocate for revision of TMAF Component 2 hard deliverables through membership of TMAF Component 2 Working Group	Member of ARTF Gender Working Group Progress Gender reporting through ARTF Steering Committee membership; Advocate for clear and measurable gender equality outcomes through the Mutual Accountability Framework (to be finalised September 2015)	Member of ARTF Gender Working Group Advocate for progress against gender equality outcomes through the Mutual Accountability Framework	Member of ARTF Gender Working Group Advocate for progress against gender equality outcomes through the Mutual Accountability Framework
		Australian aid milestone	15. Aid Quality Check gender ratings for target bilateral investments (AACRS, ACIAR, PFM, Empowerment through Education, Children of Uruzgan, EVAW)	Baseline (2013-14 ratings): AACRS (N/A); ACIAR (4); PFM (2); Empowerment through Education (5); Children of Uruzgan (5); EVAW (N/A) Data source: Aid Quality Check gender ratings	Improve or maintain ratings from 2013-14	Improve or maintain ratings from 2014-15	Improve or maintain ratings from 2015-16	Improve or maintain ratings from 2016-17

Objective 3: Building resilience and supporting at-risk populations

TMAF commitment	End-of-AIP outcome	Ownership	Indicators	Data source & baseline	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Inclusive and Sustained Growth & Development Achieve inclusive and sustained growth through a focus on human development, food security, private investment, and decent work and employment opportunities and the improvement of ranking in the human development index.	Afghan citizens, particularly women and girls, in vulnerable communities receive basic services and assistance to build their resilience	Australian aid milestones	16. At least 80 per cent of target communities are better able to restore and rebuild their livelihoods, measured through an increased Community Asset Score (a resilience indicator).	Baseline: 79 per cent of targeted communities reported an increased Community Asset Score Data source: WFP	N/A	At least 80 per cent of targeted communities with an increased Community Asset Score	At least 80 per cent of targeted communities with an increased Community Asset Score	At least 80 per cent of targeted communities with an increased Community Asset Score
			17. 4,000 children screened for malnutrition; and nutrition education sessions provided to at least 1,000 caregivers.	24 schools supported through the school health and nutrition program and 5,228 children participating Data source: Children of Uruzgan	Maintain or exceed 2013-14 results	Project completed	Project completed	Project completed
	Rural households in target districts, including women's households, have increased income through improvements in agricultural productivity	Australian aid milestones	18. Average income from non-farm and farm livelihoods for rural households in target districts	Baseline: 500 persons (400 women) trained in 2013-14 Data source: AACRS	1,300 persons trained in strategies to improve livelihoods & 1,000 farmers using better agricultural technologies (to be disaggregated by gender).	8,100 persons trained in strategies to improve livelihoods & 4,000 farmers using better agricultural technologies (30 per cent women).	Increase in average income from non-farm and farm livelihoods for rural households in project areas. Baseline: To be determined in September 2015, including for women	TBC
			19. Evidence of increased government support for agricultural productivity improvements	Baseline: New program, no results in 2013-14 Data source: AACRS	Formally engage with more than 100 government officials on improving dryland farming practice and supporting rural livelihoods	Qualitative assessment of changes in government support for productivity based on the indicators listed in AACRS M&E framework	Qualitative assessment of changes in government support for productivity based on the indicators listed in AACRS M&E framework	TBC
			20. Number of households and area of land growing improved varieties of crops	Baseline: Nil. Data source: ACIAR	Annual increases from baseline, and progress towards end of program targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60,000 farm households incorporating new varieties in their annual planting 15,000 hectares planted with new varieties 1,000 new households growing promoted forage species and improved wheat and legume lines Improved wheat and legume lines introduced in five provinces 			

NOTE: Performance benchmarks highlighted in bold.