



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
for the Women of Afghanistan

(NAPWA)

2008 - 2018



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2008 - 2018

**The government's main vehicle
for implementing policies and commitments
on women's empowerment and gender equality**



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of Allah,
the Merciful, the Compassionate*



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ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Afghanistan Compact
ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
AIDS	Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome
AIHRC	Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANCB	Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ANP	Afghan National Police
AREU	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit
AWBA	Afghan Women Business Association
AWN	Afghan Women's Network
BCC	Behavioral Change Communication
BHC	Basic Health Center
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
BPHS	Basic Package of Health Services
CDC	Community Development Council
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CEVAW	Commission on the Elimination of Violence against Women
CG	Consultative Groups
CHC	Comprehensive Health Center
CHW	Community Health Worker
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DDR	Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration
DH	District Hospital
DOWAS	Departments of Women's Affairs
EPI	Expanded Programme of Immunization
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FP/BSS	Family Planning/Birth Spacing Strategy
FRUs	Family Response Units
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GWG	Gender Working Group
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPI	Human Poverty Index
I-ANDS	Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy
IAR-CSC	Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission
IDLG	Independent Directorate for Local Governance

OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Network
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOHUD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOICT	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
MOLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MOWE	Ministry of Water and Energy
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NCC	NGO Coordination Council
NDB	National Development Budget
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
NRVA	National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
NSDP	National Skills Development Programme
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
OB/GYN	Obstetrician/Gynecologist
UN-OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSC-A	Office of Strategic Cooperation of America
PDC	Provincial Development Committee
PHC	Primary Health Care
PRR	Priority Reform and Restructuring Programme
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Development Fund for Children
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

The advancement of women has always been central to our pursuit of national peace and reconstruction. From the Bonn Agreement to the Constitution, Afghanistan Compact (AC) and Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), we have remained steadfast in our commitment to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life. As articulated in the ANDS, it is our goal ***to eliminate discrimination against women, develop their human capital, and promote their leadership in order to guarantee their full and equal participation in all aspects of life.***

It is time to work for the realization of this goal. The National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) is the main vehicle of government for implementing its gender commitments in the Constitution, Millennium Development Goals, Afghanistan Compact, ANDS and other national and international policy instruments on women. All ministries and instrumentalities of government, including provincial governments are directed to begin the implementation of this plan by including NAPWA in their ministry/provincial plans and budgets. All government instrumentalities are directed to report their performance on the implementation of this plan to the Office of the President through the Ministry of Women's Affairs. All sectors of society and international partners are enjoined to help make the vision of this plan a reality.

Let it not be said that the status of women did not improve considerably under the reign of peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan.



Message from the MINISTRY of WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

The full implementation of the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan is a high level benchmark under the Afghanistan Compact and the ANDS.

With NAPWA, we are taking ANDS one step forward by translating its gender commitments and strategies into operational terms. This is also our vehicle for implementing the gender provisions of the Constitution, Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that was ratified by our government in March 2003, and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) that is the global framework for promoting the advancement of women. The National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan has benefited from over two years of consultations with all ministries, non-governmental organizations, the international community, and other sectors of society.

All of our society shapes and is shaped by the lives of women. We appeal to all sectors of society to do their share in identifying measures that they could implement over the short and long term to realize the vision set forth in the NAPWA.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs will assist ministries and local governments in implementing the actions agreed upon during the NAPWA ministerial planning workshops in 2005. Every action taken to implement this plan constitutes a step forward to a better life for all because what is good for women is good for the nation.

