



THE COLOMBO PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 / 2020



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FOREWORD

Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu, PhD.
Secretary-General
The Colombo Plan Secretariat



The Annual Report 2019/2020 presents the work progress of the Colombo Plan and the audited financial statements for the said period.

We are in the progressive year of the 68th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan. The financial year 2019/2020 had many programs and initiatives lined up to move forward in keeping with the Organization's concept of sharing prosperity together. The progress of our road map to sustainable development and the sustainability of the Organization, remained as important as ever and received the due priority.

This period also signifies the return of Mongolia to the Colombo Plan's membership after many long years of deliberations at Council level and finally reaching a consensus solution to accept Mongolia back into the Colombo Plan's Council. Australia's sudden intention to leave the Colombo Plan's membership during this period came as a setback to the Secretariat. Australia has been a great asset to the organization as a founding member. My personal intervention in the matter and the collective efforts of the Council in appealing to Australia to reconsider its decision brought a fruitful outcome. I am happy to state here that Australia remains and continues to be a member of the Colombo Plan.

It can be said that these are the significant achievements in the membership milestones of the Colombo Plan.

With the outbreak of the COVID 19 Pandemic towards the latter part of 2019 and lockdowns from time to time, the work progress of an Inter-Governmental Organization such as ours had to deal with an abrupt shift from office to remote work to adjust to a "new normal" way of work life. The staff safety was another priority area. Thus, maintaining satisfactory levels of employee performance under these circumstances remained pivotal. As a result, performance management approaches were duly adopted using technology.

The scheduled in-person training programs, Council Meetings, Standing Committee Meetings, and other work-related programs had to be piloted to new digital initiatives. I am happy to mention here that we have achieved them with greater success.

The Capacity Building Program (CBP), the Drug Advisory Program (DAP) and the Gender Affairs Program (GAP) had high performance in their digital efforts to keep the deliverables on track, bracing the challenges of the pandemic.

The Colombo Plan remains committed to face the current challenges and keeping our Vision in focus and moving forward to achieve our development goals.

We, at the Colombo Plan are hopeful that there will be better days coming, relieving the world of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu, PhD.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colombo Plan began the financial year 1st July, 2019 to 30th June 2020 with vigour and enthusiasm in pursuing the goals set out within the several programs of the Organization, harnessing the energies of a collective. However, the outbreak of the global pandemic brought some sudden and unanticipated changes to the working environment, impacting on the progress in fulfilling our global vision. It was a time of testing, and necessitated choices being made to chart the way forward for better management in such a crisis, and working through fresh initiatives for ensuring the sustainability of the Organization.

The need to adjust to working remotely or to work 'from home' became a pivotal issue and led to gearing-up for online training programs and meetings, which soon became a part of the strategy to move forward and maintain the organisational momentum.

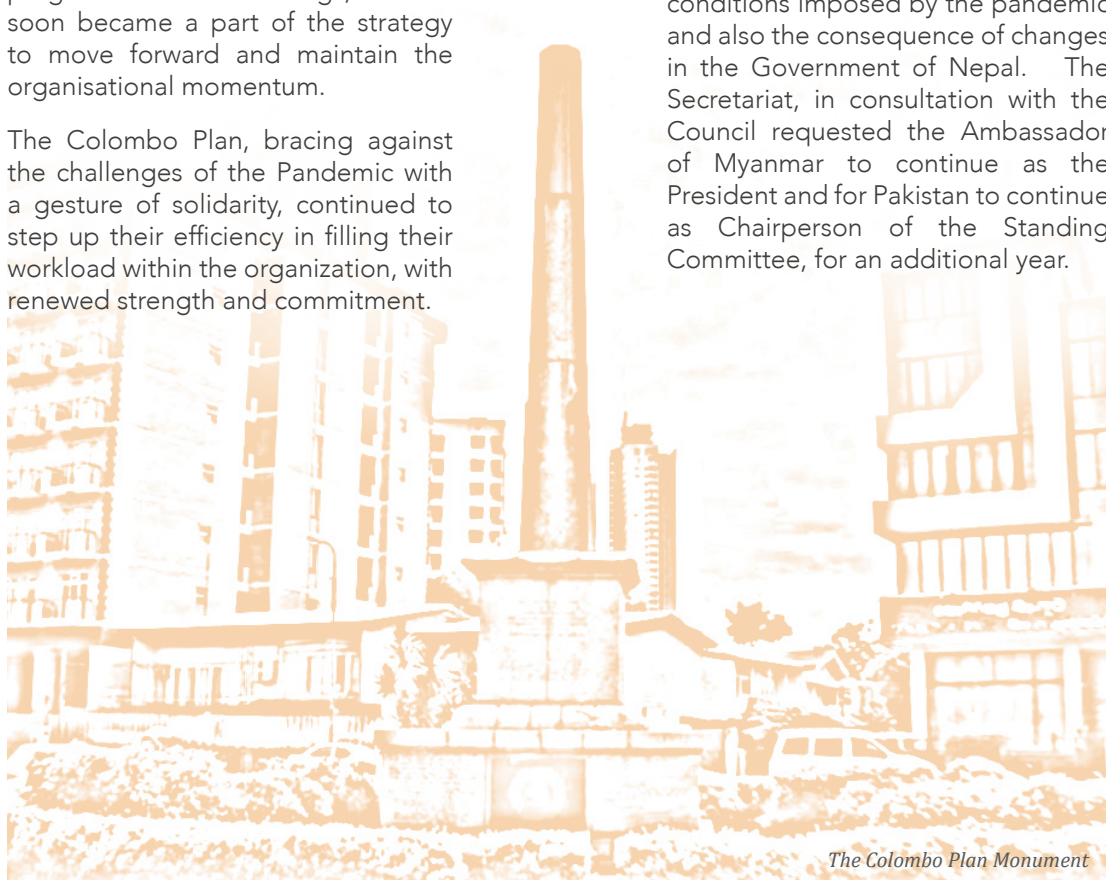
The Colombo Plan, bracing against the challenges of the Pandemic with a gesture of solidarity, continued to step up their efficiency in filling their workload within the organization, with renewed strength and commitment.

They lost no time and kept up with the scheduled programs and activities among member states, with a highly commendable networking strategy, successfully achieving the desired deliverables in their work.

This report presents the progress of each program in detail. However, the Secretariat would like to offer a synopsis of the total picture of its initiatives and programs in the following presentation.

The Secretariat ensured the conduct of the Standing Committee Meetings and Council Sessions, exerting considerable effort in the process.

The Council Presidency and Chairperson for the Standing Committee for the year 2020 remained unchanged, due to the conditions imposed by the pandemic and also the consequence of changes in the Government of Nepal. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Council requested the Ambassador of Myanmar to continue as the President and for Pakistan to continue as Chairperson of the Standing Committee, for an additional year.



The Colombo Plan Monument

The Capacity Building programs were postponed and were rescheduled for the latter part of the year. Our long-term scholars travelled to Korea for the one-year Masters' Program on Public Policy, and were able to return safely.

Drug Advisory program has expanded over the years from working in, and with 27 member countries, to benefit people in 70+ countries through its series of curricula focused on prevention and treatment, and devising specialized curricula tailored for women, children, including rural-based prevention and treatment, recovery and directed to youth.

During July 2019 to June 2020, DAP was able to mobilize its network and national focal points to implement various initiatives globally, backed by the dynamic science of prevention and treatment.

The challenge of the global Covid-19 fallout in 2020 has not dimmed DAP's vibrant spirit in recognising the needs of people, and addressing and maintaining the support provided for meeting international needs. Most of its initiatives were transformed to an online platform to allow our member countries and partners to conveniently access our services.

All of these are made possible through the generosity of its donors, the contribution from its focal points, the dedication of its partners and the unstinted commitment of our staff who guaranteed the smooth functioning of DAP.

DAP is committed to uphold the Colombo Plan's spirit that recognises the equality of people and working in cooperation with all stakeholders.

GAP continued with its projects in Afghanistan – Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF) and Afghanistan Children's Support Centre Fund (ACSCF). Through the years, GAP expanded its programming to other member states in the Asian and Pacific regions. The GAP in partnership

with the government of Indonesia jointly organized nine training events in gender affairs, focusing on best-practice models for approximately 200 beneficiaries among 20 Colombo Plan member countries.

The Colombo Plan, while combating the issues connected with COVID 19 and meeting the operational challenges, was successful in moving forward. It geared itself to avoid any crises in management, while coping with this situation that was outside of the ordinary. The central issue was to keep the staff safe, and this the organization has indubitably achieved. Decisive thinking and adopting a multidisciplinary approach in devising a workable action plan made it possible for the continuity of work-efficiency.

The global pandemic will continue to pose significant risks and challenges for the growth of the organization. We may consider that crises can also foster new and more opportunities to succeed better. We recognise that many organizations and companies were strained financially and hit hard due to lockdowns and other challenges with the pandemic.

In the midst of all these the Colombo Plan achieved its goals and secured its initiatives.

THE ISSUP CONFERENCE IN VIENNA 2019



The Secretary General delivering the opening remarks

The Secretary-General attended the ISSUP Conference at the UNODC Vienna International Conference Centre 1st -4th July 2019. In the midst of a large and distinguished

gathering with members from over 120 countries, the Secretary General presented her welcome remarks during which she placed emphasis on the work of the Colombo Plan, and in particular on the Drug Advisory program initiatives in the areas of Drug demand reduction and CP's collaboration with ISSUP. Expressing her gratitude to the partners, the Secretary-General mentioned that she feels that it is obligatory for us to offer the right direction to the next generation in what it means to lead a drug-free life. To be able to do this, she mentioned that the Colombo Plan is mobilizing resources and manpower to carry out programs mainly through education, raising awareness, training and establishing treatment facilities.

MEETING WITH OFID OFFICIALS



The Secretary General with OFID members

Meeting with OFID Officials attended by Dr. Walid Mehalaine Head, OFID's Grants and Technical Assistance Unit, Anajulia Taylhardat Cordero, Director Asia – Region-OFID, Ms. Shirin Hashemzadeh, Technical Assistance and Grants Officer, Department of Public Sector Operations, the OPEC Fund

for International Development (OFID) was held on 3rd July 2019 to discuss the objectives of both organizations and exchange their views on OFID and CP collaborations. In terms of areas of collaborations between OFID and CP, Dr Walid indicated that there are training initiatives on offer, relating to waste management, Private Sector SMEs, water sanitation and also women's economic empowerment. The Secretary General informed that she will delegate responsibility to the CP Director for Gender Affairs Program to pursue with OFID, a possible initiative on Women's economic empowerment. The meeting ended on a positive note with Dr. Walid assuring continued OFID co-operation with Colombo Plan.

MEETING WITH LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Secretary -General also had a meeting with Mr. Matthew Kiefer, Manager, Lions Quest Educational Programs, Lions Clubs International Foundation on 3rd July, 2019. From the Colombo Plan Dr. Josephine Choong Lean Keow, PhD, ICAP 1, Project Manager - Curriculum Development (Prevention), Drug Advisory Programme (DAP), joined the Secretary- General. The meeting took place at the Vienna International Centre. Mr. Matthew outlined all activities of the Lions Quest Educational programs, especially in schools, on drugs,

alcohol and tobacco abuse. In this regard the Colombo Plan is to research and study possible collaboration with them under DAP. No further Commitments for collaborations were made. The Secretary General informed Mr. Matthew that she needs time to conduct an in-depth study on their programs, and how they can be amalgamated with the CP-DAP as a future initiative.

COURTESY CALL ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNODC MR. YURY FEDOTOV



The Secretary General paid a courtesy call on the Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Yury Fedotov in his office on 3rd July, 2019. The Secretary General expressed her appreciation and sincere thanks to Mr. Fedotov and UNODC for the support and fruitful collaborations extended to the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory program. Many initiatives have been taken in collaboration with the UNODC, which are very beneficial for the progress and activities of DAP, she declared.

Mr. Yury Fedotov in turn, expressed his appreciation to the Colombo Plan for their good work. He said that the UNODC is happy to collaborate with the Colombo Plan based on the principle of common and shared responsibilities. He also emphasized the need for enhanced programs particularly in the treatment and prevention area, and said it would be very beneficial if more resources were devoted to supporting evidence-based drug prevention strategies.

THE SECRETARIAT

HIGHLIGHTS OF COLOMBO PLAN ACTIVITIES

- **PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL- H.E. HAN THU, AMBASSADOR OF MYANMAR**
- **INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020 - H.E. HAN THU, THE AMBASSADOR OF MYANMAR**
- **THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS, JULY 2019 TO JUNE 2020:**
 - ▶ **CHAIRPERSON- JULY 2019 - DECEMBER 2019- MR. BISWASH BHATTA, CHARGE D' AFFAIRES A.I., THE EMBASSY OF NEPAL**
 - ▶ **CHAIRPERSON JANUARY 2020 - JULY 2020- HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL (R) MUHAMMAD SAAD KHATTAK, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL ON ADMINISTRATIONS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS	COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL SESSIONS
11th July 2019	23rd July 2019 -298th Session of Colombo Plan Council
18th October 2019	27th November 2019 -299th Session of the Colombo Plan Council
5th March 2020	Due to the lockdown in March 2020, the 300th Session of the Colombo Plan Council was postponed to a later date

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

Member	Date of accession
 Afghanistan	1963
 Australia	1950
 Bangladesh	1972
 Bhutan	1962
 Brunei	2008
 Fiji	1972
 India	1950
 Indonesia	1953
 Iran	1966
 Japan	1954
 Laos	1951
 Malaysia	1957
 Maldives	1963
 Mongolia	2004

Member	Date of accession
 Myanmar	1952
 Nepal	1952
 New Zealand	1950
 Pakistan	1950
 Papua New Guinea	1973
 Philippines	1954
 Saudi Arabia	2012 ⁽⁶⁾
 Singapore	1966
 South Korea	1962
 Sri Lanka	1950
 Thailand	1954
 United States	1951
 Vietnam	2004



THE PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENT

THE PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENT

The Programme for Environment is aimed at Environment conservation, addressing the need of capacity building on various related topics such as waste management, renewable energy, eco-tourism, and climate change. This outreach is through training programmes, international conferences, and community awareness campaigns.

“ONE CHILD ONE TREE” CAMPAIGN



Launch of “One Child-One Tree” July 2018 at the 67th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan.

In addition to its ongoing programs, the Colombo Plan has further embarked on an innovative program to engage themselves in promoting a greener environment. In May 2018 soon after the new Secretary General HE Ambassador Dr. Phan Kieu Thu assumed office, her attention was drawn to the Colombo Plan program on Environment and Climate Change which needed a stimulus through effective social inclusion in its environmental program. She saw this as a vital taking into consideration the global impact and the consequences of climate change and environmental damage. As a result, the Colombo Plan spearheaded a program of its own to create an awareness among the people, especially among school children on the importance of planting trees and contributing to biodiversity. Biodiversity is advocated as an economically critical resource in the global arena. By introducing this program, the Colombo Plan places emphasis on involving society and making

them aware of how much trees are required and are essential to mankind and for the health and sustainability of the planet. This program is also a countermeasure against deforestation. There is knowledge sharing on the value of trees, besides producing oxygen and consuming carbon dioxide and filtering contaminants from the air, they also provide other benefits in the social, economic and environmental spheres as well as offering a fitting habitat for birds and wildlife.

With these factors in mind, the “One Child-One Tree” program was launched in July 2018 at the 67th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan.

This is a ‘peoples’ movement aimed at promoting civic responsibilities toward preserving the environment. Within this program, children at primary level in schools are gifted with a sapling that is meant to have a connection with their birthdays.



The Secretary General in a tree planting ceremony with school children.

In 2019, the campaign reached nearly 6000 school children from both the Puttalam and Anuradhapura districts of Sri Lanka. The Child Fund Sri Lanka and their local partner

'Voice' joined hands with the Colombo Plan and other partners by assisting to set up a GIS monitoring App to digitally track the growth of the plants.

“HEARING THE SILENCE” A GREEN CONCERT

This entirely new concept was unveiled through Green Concerts on the 23rd December 2019 in Mirigama, Sri Lanka and on 1st January 2020 at the Pahiyangala Temple in the Kalutara District at a location 400 feet above sea level in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The theme of the 1st January 2020 concert was **“Hearing the Silence”**. Mr. Sagara Wijesinghe, a nature

loving musician in Sri Lanka conducted these musical concerts with the purpose of raising awareness on the environment and allowing people to enjoy the beauty of nature.

The Colombo Plan took part in this concert and used this opportunity to distribute pamphlets on CP Environment Program.



The Secretary General of the Colombo Plan H.E. Ambassador Dr. Phan Kieu Thu Performing at the concert as a guest performer.



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Human Resource Development (HRD) plays an essential role in the development of a country. Therefore, the Colombo Plan endeavours to promote Human Resource Development initiatives in the member countries through its Capacity Building Programmes. The Colombo Plan provides short-term training courses, workshops, scholarships and Masters' degree programmes under its aegis. All activities are fully or partially funded by donors of the Colombo Plan on a cost-sharing basis and draws on the support of member countries and other International Organizations.

ONE YEAR MASTERS' DEGREE PROGRAMME WITH KDI SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

KDI School of Public Policy and Management located in Sejong City, in the Republic of Korea has been providing Masters' Degree Scholarships to Colombo Plan member countries since 2006. Scholarships are provided in the specialties such as Public Policy, Public Management, Intellectual Property and Development Policy.

This programme is delivered on a cost sharing initiative where the Colombo Plan bears the roundtrip airfare of the students while the KDI School provides full tuition fees and a monthly allowance.

Over the years, over 50 students from the Colombo Plan member countries have been benefited from this scholarship programme. During 2019, two students from the Republic of Maldives successfully completed their studies under the Spring 2019 batch, while another two students representing Nepal and the Maldives were included in the Fall 2019 batch. In the Spring 2020 batch, 03 candidates; Maldives (2) and Sri Lanka (1) followed the course.



KDI Students

THAILAND

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM ON “COMMUNITY BASED MICROCREDIT AND SUFFICIENCY ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

The Colombo Plan in collaboration with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) launched this cost sharing initiative as per a pledge made by the Government of Thailand at the 46th Consultative Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2018. The programme was conducted over a period of two weeks from 23rd June to 6th July 2019 in Bangkok, with the participation of 14 representatives from 5 Colombo Plan member countries.

The objective of this programme was to educate participants on ‘Sufficiency Economy Philosophy’ as a tool for poverty reduction. The programme also provided a forum where all the participants could exchange their views and ideas on the areas such as micro credit, Sufficiency Economy Development, community empowerment and poverty reduction.



Students attending International Training Program on “Community based Microcredit and Sufficiency Economy Development



INDONESIA

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES, HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA

This is a collaboration between the Colombo Plan and the Government of Indonesia, and carried out annually since 2016. Around 90 participants from the Colombo Plan developing member countries have benefited through these programmes since its inception.

The Program for 2019 was conducted with the theme of Small and Medium Industry Empowerment through Business Development Services, in order to deliver the services needed to develop and strengthen small and medium industry’s capacity and their capability. The programme was

held from 2nd to 13th July 2019, with 19 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia,



Students engaging in pottery painting

Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Its purpose was to provide participants with an opportunity to be updated on relevant approaches and knowledge on enhancing the development of Small and Medium Industry (SMI), covering policy, services and cooperation, and including observation of practices in the field and learning of SMI

experiences. The course contents include in-class sessions, workshops, field observations and the development of an action plan.

The Colombo Plan provided round trip airfares and a daily allowance for the participants while other training costs are borne by the Government of Indonesia.



Students engaging in practical sessions

INDIA

INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC) PROGRAM

Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), technical assistance is provided through the Colombo Plan to neighbouring member countries, in various fields such as:

- *Information Communication and Technology (ICT)*
- *Audit, Accounts, Banking and Finance courses*
- *Telecommunication and English Courses*
- *Management, SME/Rural Development Courses*
- *Specialized courses*
- *Technical Courses and Environment and Renewable Energy Courses etc.*

Through this Scheme, India provides comprehensive and integrated training to Asian (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam) member countries of The Colombo Plan, assisting them to enhance their administrative and technical capabilities through human resource development. Under this Scheme, India offers 50 slots per year and the total process is directly handled by ITEC and conducted online.



DRUG ADVISORY PROGRAMME

DRUG ADVISORY PROGRAMME

INITIATIVES IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

Expert Working Group Meeting: The Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) under its Preventive Drug Education (PDE) project organised a five-day Expert Working Group meeting to review the translation of UPC Coordinators Courses 1, 2, 3 and 5 in UAE from 24 to 28 July, 2019. This was the last in a two meeting series to review the translation of the courses into Dari and Pashto.

The working group consisted of Afghan translators – Dr Enayatullah Muhammadi, Dr Hamid Raza Yaqoubi and Dr Farhad Fahim; Afghan trainers – Mr Aliullah Jalil, Mr Muhammad Shoaib Saiqali and Ms Aziza Rasooli; and the PDE team – Ms Dichen Choden, Mr Farhad Akbari, Mr Yasir Ahmad Muhammadi and Mr Rahmatullah Muhammadi.

The team reviewed the translations in both languages, agreed upon technical terms to be used consistently through the courses and identified the area for improvement.

Basic Level UTC Courses 4 and 5: DAP organised a ten-day training on Basic Level UTC was organised for a group of eight lecturers of the Psychology and Counselling Departments of Kabul University, Afghanistan from 22 July to 1 August, 2019.

This was the second training cycle on the UTC series for this group. It covered two courses, namely: UTC 4: Basic Counselling Skills for Addiction Professionals and UTC 5: Intake, Screening, Assessment, Treatment Planning and Documentation for Addiction Professionals. Ms Susmita Banerjee (India) and Francis Moothedan (India) facilitated the training, which was held in New Delhi, India.

UPC-I CORE Course: DAP conducted a training on UPC-I CORE Course for Afghanistan, Cohort 1. A total of 30 participants who are currently working in various line ministries and organisations in Afghanistan attended the training. One staff member from the US Embassy in Kabul also attended the training on a self-sponsored basis.

Dr Khalid Humayuni (Afghanistan), Mr Rogers Mutaawe (Uganda) and Ms Angela Abaya-Garcia (Philippines) facilitated all ten modules of the Core Course during the eight-day training.

This training was the first training on the Universal Prevention Curriculum Series for Implementers in Afghanistan with the overall objective of building capacity and creating a cadre of prevention professionals in Afghanistan. This training was designed to educate substance use prevention practitioners on the science, knowledge, skills, and competencies associated with the implementation of evidence-based prevention intervention.

Advanced UTC-C Course 17: A training was conducted for 22 Afghan National Trainers from 7 to 10 October, 2019 in New Delhi India. Ms Aditi Ghanekar, Mr Francis Moothedan and Ms Susmita Banerjee (all from India) facilitated the training. The advance level UTC training aims to enhance the understanding of the trainers on the multi-factorial nature of substance use to be able to disseminate in their work in substance use disorders treatment field. Further, DAP engaged Kabul based Khatiz Organization for Rehabilitation (KOR) for the translation of advanced level UTC 9, 10 and 17 Courses

into Dari and Pashto.



National Training on UPC: Under its PDE project in Afghanistan, DAP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Afghanistan (MOE), conducted a national training of trainers for teachers from Kunar, Nimroz and Samangan from 20 to 26 October, 2019. A total of 26 participants attended the seven-day training.

DAP staff Mr Farhad Akbari and Mr Yasir Ahmad Muhammadi of DAP Afghanistan Office, along with Mr Aliullah Jalil of MoE facilitated the training. Mr Muhammad Aqa Stanikza, DAP Chief in Kabul and Mr Sayed Ebrahim Shah Salime of MOE graced the opening.

UTC 6, 7 and 8: DAP organised a training on three Basic Level UTC Course 6: Case Management for Addiction Professionals, Course 7: Crisis Intervention for Addiction Professionals, and Course 8: Ethics for Addiction Professionals from 1 to 11 December, 2019 in Dubai, UAE. In addition, the participants also attended a Refresher Course which covered all the Basic Level UTC Courses 1 to 8 in preparation for their writing the ICAP 1 examination.

Eight Kabul University staff, who have already undergone five courses of Basic Level UTC participated in the training. Ms Edna Luz Abulon (Philippines), Mr Evans Oloo (Kenya) and Dato' Zainuddin Bahari (Malaysia) facilitated the 10-day training.

PDE Online Training: DAP had planned in-house training programmes for schools in 17 provinces of Afghanistan to be held in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the training was converted to online training. DAP organised six (6) training from the beginning of May to the end of June 2020. A total of 120 teachers from ten 10 provinces (Kabul, Kabul districts, Bamyan, Balkh, Herat, Kunar, Kandahar, Takhar, Daikundi, Saripul, and Badakhshan) attended the training.

The six training, organised in collaboration with MOE and Directorate of Education of each province, was conducted in both Dari and Pashto. The presentations and videos were uploaded on Google Classroom, and live sessions were conducted through Zoom and Google Meet. The participants were also on WhatsApp and Google Hangout to discuss their assignments.

The PDE online training was the first online training experience for about 99 percent of the total participants.

UPC-I CORE Course: The training on UPC-I Core Course for Cohort 2 was held from 18 to 25 January, 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka for 30 selected participants presently working in various line ministries and organisations in Afghanistan.

Mr Farhad Akbari (Afghanistan), Mr Rogers Kasirye (Uganda) and Dr Isabel Melgar (Philippines) facilitated all the ten modules of the Core Course.

Treatment Outcome Evaluation Survey: DAP, with funding support from Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US Department of State has requested that PIRE collaborate with the Colombo Plan and the Afghan Ministry of Counter-Narcotics to conduct a second

(or follow-up) evaluation of DAT Centres in Afghanistan. This evaluation will help INL and the Colombo Plan better understand the current effectiveness of Afghan DAT Centres and of the Afghan drug treatment system. This Afghanistan drug treatment evaluation is designed to replicate the 2012 evaluation study that focused on residential treatment in Afghanistan.

During 1 July, 2019 to 30 June, 2020, accomplishments includes completion of all of the project activities includes Research monograph and executive summary. Moreover, project findings were presented to the stakeholders at the 2019 stakeholders meeting in Dubai.

During the period, weekly discussions regarding the progress of the project were conducted. Necessary advise, comments, and facilitate assistance to carry out the project from DAP was provided. Further, the administrative assistance necessary for the project such as the writing of annual project proposals, budgets, were also provided.

Assistance to Specialised Treatment Centres: DAP provides technical and financial assistance for the operation of 86 outpatient and residential substance use treatment centers in 28 provinces of Afghanistan. The project is jointly funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), U.S. Department of State, and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Afghanistan. These treatment centres provide services for adult (male and female), adolescent and child clients across Afghanistan.

These treatment centres are operated by the MoPH of Afghanistan, and nine NGOs: Social services Afghanistan Women Organization (SSAWO), The Welfare Association for Development of Afghanistan (WADAN), Khatiz Organization for Rehabilitation (KOR), Shahamat Health and Rehabilitation

Organization of Afghanistan (SHRO), Afghan Relief Committee (ARC), Afghan Support Point (ASP), Organization for Health and Social Service (OHSS), Organization of Social Development (OSD) and The Narcotic Education Journal Awareness Treatment (NEJAT).

Every treatment centre is monitored twice a year by the joint monitoring team of authorised officials from MoPH, DAP and UNODC. Primary objectives of these unannounced monitoring visits are to ensure that treatment centers are following minimum standards agreed by the stakeholders. During the reporting period, monitoring visits were made to 99 treatment centres in 39 provinces. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic monitoring visits in 2020 were held online.

Beneficiaries

Clients Group			Treatment Types		
Adult	Adolescent	Children	Residential	Home-based	Outpatient
22,801	1,541	1,876	19,552	3,916	2,750

Rural-based Prevention and Treatment Programme: Started in 2016, the project has the primary objective of developing specialised curriculum for substance use prevention and treatment in rural settings and piloting the rural-based prevention and treatment model. The project activities included:

- developing three courses of the curriculum and translating them into two Afghan languages;
- training of field staff on the rural-based curriculum; and
- pilot implementation of the project model in two provinces in Afghanistan.

The project will be evaluated by a third party to assess effectiveness of the model and plan future replication of the project across

the country. During the reporting period, following progress was made under the project:

- completed the development and translation of the three courses specialised rural-based prevention and treatment curriculum;
- one-year pilot implementation of the rural-based model started in Laghman and Jawzjan provinces through SSAWO and WADAN, NGO partners; and
- project field staff involved in the piloting process was trained on the rural-based prevention and treatment curriculum.

DAP Afghanistan Field Office Support: Established in 2010, Kabul field office

continued providing administrative supports for various DAP project through national team in various departments of the field office.

DAP organised the annual Afghanistan Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Stakeholders Meeting in Dubai from 16 to 18 September, 2019. The main objectives of the meeting was to review existing DAP projects in Afghanistan, strengthening coordination between stakeholders and planning future projects. Thirty-five (35) officials representing various Afghan ministries, INL, UNODC and DAP attended the meeting.

BHUTAN

UPC-I School-Based Prevention: DAP, in collaboration with Bhutan Narcotics Control Authority (BNCA), Royal Government of Bhutan conducted the Training of Trainers on Universal Prevention Curriculum – Implementer Series, Course 3: School-Based Prevention Interventions and Policies, Courses 1 to 6 for 19 Bhutanese national trainers. The training was held in Paro, Bhutan from 8 to 14 August, 2019.

Dr Josephine Choong (DAP) and Ms Naina Kala Gurung (Bhutan) facilitated the training

for selected educational professionals and BNCA staff with the overall objective of building capacity and creating a cadre of national trainers for Bhutan on the UPC-I, School Track. This training was designed to educate the trainees on the science, knowledge, skills, and competencies associated with the implementation of evidence-based prevention interventions in the school setting.

INDIA AND BANGLADESH

Support to Treatment Centres for Children: The Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM) in India, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina (UNC), is on a five (5) year study project on the evaluation of CHILD Curriculum through DAP.

The project has a component to support the operations of the Delhi facility for substance-using boys and Purda Bagh

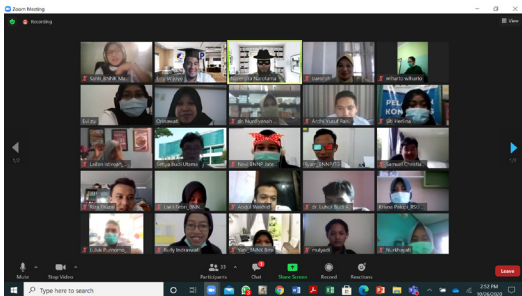
facility for substance-using girls. DAP has also continued to support the operations of APON, a Bangladeshi NGO that runs a drug treatment Outreach Drop-in Centre (ODIC) for children. The support for both countries is to fill a gap in the substance-using children/youth treatment system by identifying high-risk ones and providing screening, brief interventions, and as necessary, referrals to treatment and other appropriate social services.

INDONESIA

Basic UTC: The National Narcotics Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BNN) in collaboration with DAP continued to regularly hold series of Basic level UTC training in 2019 and 2020 in 33 provinces in Indonesia.

For the period July 2019 to June 2020, 23 training of UTC basic courses were conducted for BNN representatives in 23 provinces in Indonesia: six (6) training on courses 1 and 2; eight (8) training on course 4; six (6) training on course 8; and three (3) training on course 5. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, two (2) training on UTC 8 were conducted online as trainers led, and two (2) training on UTC 5 were conducted by hybrid (blended) method. A total of 575 people participated in the training series, consisting of representatives of SUDs treatment professionals from the Provincial BNN, health centres and prison officers.

Apart from being aimed at capacity building, this series of training was aimed at preparing the participants to take the national addiction counsellor competency examination.



ODIC Programme: The 'Support for Community Outreach and Drop-in Centres in Indonesia' has been successfully completed by achieving all targeted deliverables. However, there is still a remaining budget that has been aligned to organise several activities related to the ODIC programme, such as translating participant manual of Rural Based Prevention and Treatment Curriculum, manual adaptation through an Expert Working Group meeting and pilot training.

The translation process is carried out by one of the official translation agencies in Indonesia which has gone through a bidding/selection process. The work is carried out for three (3) months, accompanied and supervised by the Programme Officer, to ensure the quality of the results. After the translation results are finalised, it is necessary to carry out a review process and adjust the context (adaptation) through the Expert Working Group meeting. However, the process was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



MALAYSIA

UPC-I CORE Course: The TOT on the UPC-I, Core Course For Malaysian national trainers was organized to train 23 participants from the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), preventive drug education officers from the Ministry of Education, psychologist from the National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) and senior members from the Malaysian Drug Prevention Association (PEMADAM) at the National Anti-Drug Agency Training Center, Sg. Petani, Kedah. Dr Josephine Choong (DAP) and Ms Norkumala binte Abdul Rahman (Malaysia) facilitated the six-day training.

The overall objective of the training was to introduce the participants to the science of prevention as well as evidence-based interventions and policies grounded on the UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.

UPC-I Family-based Prevention: DAP conducted the TOT on the UPC-I, Course 2: Family-based Prevention for 22 Malaysian national trainers at the National Anti-Drug Agency Training Center in Sg. Petani, Kedah.

This course is organised into seven (7) courses, spanning almost two weeks of training. It provides an overview of the different family structures and functions, the science behind family-based prevention interventions, and the skills and methods used to intervene effectively with families in order to prevent substance use in children and adolescents. Dr Josephine Choong (DAP) and Dr Francis Grace Duka Pante (Philippines) facilitated the training from 11 to 19 January, 2020.

MALDIVES

Basic UTC 1 and 2: The TOT on UTC 1: Physiology and Pharmacology for Addiction Professionals and UTC 2: The Continuum of Care for Addiction Professionals, was held from 22 to 30 July, 2019 in Male, Maldives. A total of 15 Maldivian National Trainers completed the 8-day training. Ms Hunana Lateef (Maldives), Mr Ibrahim Mohamed (Maldives), Mr Ahmed Firaag (Maldives), Ms Fathima Risla (Maldives) and Dr Thirumaagal V (India) facilitated the training.

All of the 15 participants were from the National Drug Agency and its various departments representative of Maldives's Drug related intervention – the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, the Half-way House, Community Service Centre, Assessment section, Treatment Centres' Management Section and Prevention Section.



Enhancement Workshop for Pakistan: A three-day Enhancement Workshop on the UPC-Implementer Series, Core Course was held from 30 September to 2 October, 2019 for the third cohort of Colombo Plan Fellows pursuing the Post Graduate Diploma in Addiction Science at Cyberjaya University College of Medical Science (CUCMS). Dr Josephine Choong (DAP) and Mr Dorji Tshering (Bhutan) facilitated the workshop in the university college campus.

The workshop ended with a simple Closing Ceremony where Prof. Rosnah and PGDAS programme coordinator Dr Zall Kepli graced the closing and awarded certificates to the participants.

6th and 7th Cohort for Criminal Justice

Institutions: DAP is implementing project Substance Use Disorder Training for Criminal Justice Institutions and Universities in Philippines to strengthen drug demand reduction (DDR) initiatives in the Philippines by introducing mechanisms to broaden understanding of the multifactorial nature of substance use disorders (SUD) among the criminal justice system agencies and universities.

The training for the 6th and 7th cohorts was held from 28 October to 7 November, 2019, while the 8th cohort was held from 3 to 13 February, 2020 in Quezon City, Philippines. The 10-day training covered three courses: Physiology and Pharmacology for Addiction Professionals (UTC 1), Treatment of Substance Use Disorders and The Continuum of Care for Addiction Professionals (UTC 2) and Developing Community Based Recovery Support Systems. The training was tailored to the needs of participants who do not work primarily in SUD treatment but play crucial role in the supply reduction and implementation of community-based treatment efforts in the country.

A total of 67 participants successfully completed the training. The participants represented the Philippine National Police,



the Department of Justice, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, the Academy of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Philippine Public Safety College, Mindanao State University, Capitol University and Lourdes College.

Mr Brandon Hudspeth, Director – INL, US Embassy Manila; Deputy Director Colonel Ricardo Santiago, PDEA; and Police Colonel Roland Miranda, Executive Officer of Directorate, Human Resources and Development (DHRD) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) graced the opening ceremony.

UPC-I Family-based Prevention:

A TOT was conducted for 16 participants (six males and ten females) from multidisciplinary background from across various institutions and regions in the Philippines in collaboration with Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippines.

The Family-based Prevention Course of the UPC-I is designed to provide an overview of the science underlying prevention interventions and methods to intervene effectively to prevent problem behavior in children and youth.

Dr Josephine Choong (DAP) and Ms Susan Maua (Kenya) facilitated the training from 27 January to 5 February, 2020.

8th Cohort for the Criminal Justice

Institution: The 8th cohort on Substance Use Disorder Training for Criminal Justice Institution and Universities in the Philippines was held from 3 to 13 February, 2020 in Quezon City, Philippines. The 10-day training covered three courses: Physiology and Pharmacology for Addiction Professionals (UTC 1), Treatment of Substance Use Disorders and The Continuum of Care for Addiction Professionals (UTC 2) and Developing Community Based Recovery Support Systems. The training was tailored to the needs of participants who do not

work primarily in SUD treatment but play crucial role in the supply reduction and implementation of community-based treatment efforts in the country.

Mr Brandon Hudspeth, Director – INL, US Embassy Manila and Lt General Archie Fransisco Gamboa, Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) graced the opening ceremony. Mr Erry Wijoyo (DAP) and Ms Katherine Dela Cruz (Philippines) trained 21 participants. The participants represented the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) and the Davao City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC). With this training, DAP has successfully trained 137 participants from criminal justice institutions and 59 participants from universities collectively, which exceeds the expected target of the project.

Mr Brandon Hudspeth, Director – INL, US Embassy Manila; Director Martin Francia, Officer in-Charge, Intelligence and Investigation Services, PDEA; and Undersecretary Benjamin Reyes, Permanent Board Member, the Philippine Drugs Dangerous Board (DDB) attended the closing.

Basic UTC 4 and 6: DAP organised this training on Basic Counselling Skills for Addiction Professionals (UTC 4) and Case Management for Addiction Professionals (UTC 6) in response to the request of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as a continuation of the Basic UTC Courses for the Criminal Justice System that started in 2018. This is the 9th batch of training cohort for the Philippines but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was conducted in a blended learning approach – synchronous via online platform for two hours each day for the 12-day sessions, with off-line or asynchronous activities for small group collaborative learning.

The 12-day training was conducted through the use of the online meetings' platforms such as MS Teams and Zoom for the sessions. The training aimed to enhance the understanding of the participants on the

multi-factorial nature of substance use and how the criminal justice institutions like the PDEA can support treatment and recovery of affected individuals.

This on-line version of the two courses was customised to fill-in the gaps of the 'War on the Drugs' interventions from a health perspective via the 'Balay Silangan' projects in support of Local Government Community-based Programme Responses.

Webinar on Caring for Your Child:

UNODC Philippines organised a webinar on "Caring for your Children in Response to the COVID-19 situation" on 10 June, 2020 as a response to reports of families all over the world experiencing stress and anxiety brought by the COVID19 pandemic. This programme was facilitated by Shella Marquez, Health and Drugs National Programme Officer, UNODC Philippines and Therese Castillo, Project Manager Philippines, Drug Advisory Programme, Colombo Plan.

This online material utilised in the session was based on UNODC's evidence-based programme on Strong Families. The pre-selected participants were also attendees on the previously conducted face-to-face training on the Strong Families Programme. The primary purpose of this activity was to share information on practical tips on caring for children, teenagers and families accessible and readily available during this time of crisis.

A total of 32 participants from the Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (Palawan, Quezon City, Pasig, Cebu, Basilan, BARMM, Davao, Caloocan); DepEd Teachers; Polytechnique University of the Philippines; Psych Dept; WHO; INL; TLF Share Collective; USAID Renew Health; and ASEAN Preventive Drug Education Training Center attended the training. The programme included evidence-based strategies and practical tips on caring for children and teenagers during the time of the pandemic and was followed by a discussion and sharing of experiences in caring for children and families by the participants.

SOUTH KOREA

Walkthrough on Basic UTC: A 10-day walk-through training for 30 Korean addiction professionals was held from 8 to 18 July, 2019 in Seoul, South Korea. This initiative was implemented following a request from KAAP Organization, a DAP Education Provider. Dr Kim Min Sun (South Korea), Dr Betty Kadenge (South Africa) and Ms Yvonne Olando (Kenya) facilitated the training.

The training programme had two specific objectives: one was to support the South Korean Government in its efforts to fight illicit drug production, use and trafficking, and to curb related organised crime, including counterfeit narcotics and psychotropic substances; and second was to disseminate the UTC through universities so that the drug demand work forces can be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to respond to the drug problems in the country.



SRI LANKA

CHILD Curriculum Training: A TOT on CHILD Curriculum Courses 1, 2 and 3, was conducted from 24 February to March 5, 2020 in Colombo, Sri Lanka for 32 participants from Argentina (4), Paraguay (3), Peru (1), Chile (1), Bangladesh (1), Bhutan (1), India (3), Indonesia (1), Maldives (2), Pakistan (6), Philippines (2), Sri Lanka (2), South Africa (1)

and Nigeria (1) along with three DAP staff. Dr Beatrice Kuthungu, Dr Rehana Kader and Ms Aditi Ghanekar facilitated the 10-day training.



THAILAND

UPC Course 9: A TOT on UPC Course 9 was held at Princess Mother National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment (PMNIDAT) with the participation from PMNIDAT, ONCB, Thanyarak Khonkaen Hospital, Thanyarak Chiangmai Hospital, Chulalongkorn University and Mahidol University. The training was structured for seven (7) days that covered 8 modules from 22 to 27 July, 2019.

Mr Ali Adyb of Maldives and Mr Little Jones B. Espeleta facilitated the training. The objectives of the training was to train the selected prevention practitioners of Thailand in Universal Prevention Curriculum and to update them to the current trends and evidence-based prevention interventions for substance use worldwide.



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Youth Curriculum: DAP has been implementing youth congresses and youth forum since 2002. The youth programme model was revised in 2012 with the aim of providing youth with a platform to gain knowledge and skills to implement their own prevention projects in their countries. DAP in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS) developed the 'Substance Use Prevention Curriculum for Youth'. The main objective of the curriculum is to have a standard prevention curricula for youth/youth leaders (age group of 18 to 24) in line with the existing UPC and UTC.

An Expert Working Group meeting with 11 participants was held in London, the United Kingdom from 4 to 5 September, 2019 to review the topics and materials developed by the writers. A group of experts from the UAE, Seychelles, Maldives, Jamaica and a representative from the UNODC discussed the details of each module developed by writers and trainers from the United States and DAP.

Online Basic UTC Mentoring Curriculum:

DAP has successfully developed a mentoring structure for the Basic Level UTC Curriculum with the expertise of the University of South Florida (USF). Furthering on the initiative, DAP with USF has now developed an online mentoring platform to roll out the training. The Mentoring Courses include detailed contents of virtual group mentoring sessions.

The Mentorship Network will be hosted on the ISSUP website as it supports the development of professional treatment and prevention networks, and serves as a focal point for information about substance use treatment and prevention. To ascertain the validity and applicability of the developed curriculum, a pilot test on UTC Mentorship Course 4. The orientation was carried out via online video conference calls on 29 May, 2020 and 1 June, 2020. Following the orientation sessions, mentorship participants began work on the first of seven (7) two-week 'Skill Modules' within the Mentorship Course.

Virtual PEER and RECOVERY ALLIES

Courses: DAP has developed PEER and RECOVERY ALLIES Courses of Universal Recovery Curriculum (URC) with the expertise of Ms Nancy Dudley and the University of North Carolina (UNC). Both the Courses are well developed, refined and piloted in a way that it can be delivered online. The online adapted version of the PEER Course requires five (5) days of training and the Recovery Allies also requires five (5) days of training online. Currently one pilot cycle of both PEER and Recovery Allies have been conducted via zoom platform.

TEAG Meeting: A two-day Treatment Expert Advisory Group (TEAG) Meeting was conducted to review the curricula on Women's Intervention for Substance Exposure (WISE), Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) and Health

Care Professionals in Washington DC, USA from 3 to 4 October, 2019.

This review meeting was part of the curriculum development process that included review status of the curriculum, discussion of peer-reviewed comments and endorsement of the revisions of the manuals developed. Substance use disorder treatment experts from Austria, Chile, the United Kingdom, Mexico and the United States attended the meeting.

During the meeting the comments and changes proposed by the Peer Review Panel were submitted for approval and endorsement, and the members decided that the suggested comments and changes to the curricula to be ready by end of the year.

GLOBAL

5th ISSUP Workshop: The 5th International Workshop of the International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP) was held in Vienna, Austria from 1 to 5 July, 2019. Hundreds of participants from Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, America and South America attended the week-long workshop.

During the week, DAP organised eight (8) training tracks of its different curricula series which were facilitated by 21 DAP Global Trainers.

- UPC-I: Core Course
- UPC-C: School-based Prevention Intervention
- UPC-C: Family-based Prevention Intervention
- UPC-C: Media-based Prevention Intervention
- Basic UTC 4: Basic Counselling Skills for Addiction Professionals
- Advanced UTC 11: Enhancing Motivational Interviewing Skills

- Advanced UTC 16 : Advanced Clinical Skills
- CHILD Course 1: Interventions for Children with Substance Use Disorders

1st Caribbean Youth Forum: DAP, in collaboration CICAD, OAS, organised the 1st Caribbean Youth Forum in Barbados from 21 to 25 October, 2019. DAP was responsible for the content, and providing trainers and international youth leaders to conduct the training. The forum served as a pilot training of the newly developed Youth Curriculum.

The main focus of the forum was to promote youth leadership in drug demand reduction by promoting youth-led initiatives. The main objective of the forum was to provide knowledge, skills and strategies to enable young people to develop action plan for prevention initiatives in their respective countries.

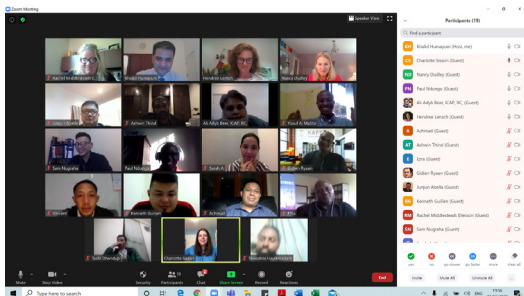
Ms Dichen Choden (DAP) was the lead trainer, assisted by DAP trainers: Ms Yvana Theresine (Seychelles) and Dwyane Gutzmer (Jamaica), Ms Isabella Araujo – OAS Programme Officer,

Ms Valerie – OAS trainer, Mr M. Husni (Sri Lankan Youth Leader) and 13 pre-selected Caribbean youth leaders. During the five-day forum, 66 participants from 13 English speaking Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago) attended the forum.

Hon. Adrian Forde, Minister of Youth and Community Empowerment, Barbados and Ambassador Linda S. Tagliatela, U.S. Embassy in Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean, and the OECS graced the opening ceremony as Guests of Honour, which was hosted by Mr Francis MacBernette, Representative of the Secretary General of OAS in Barbados. Ambassador Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary of OAS/CICAD; Ms Charlotte Sisson, Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. State Department; and Ms Dichen Choden, Programme Officer, DAP, each represented their organisation and delivered the opening remarks.

PEER Course for Asia and Africa: The first training of the PEER course for Asia and Africa was held virtually via Zoom from 26 May to 3 June, 2020. The schedule was five (5) training days each separated by a non-training day to allow participants to complete their homework and group work. The live session on the first day was three (3) hours and the other four days were two (2) hours each.

A total of 14 participants from Africa and Asia successfully completed the training. The opening session included LIVE participation



from INL who delivered Module 0 for the first time in any INL training setting. INL also delivered closing remarks for the graduation. Post-pilot training phase, participants are active on WhatsApp and a PEER recovery private network on the ISSUP website.

Monthly Webinars for CHILD Practitioners: DAP in collaboration with the University of North Carolina (UNC) continued to hold Monthly Webinar for global CHILD curriculum practitioners via a web-based video conferencing platform. The objective of the programme is to continue to empower the providers trained in the CHILD Curriculum to respond to the needs of children facing drug-life circumstances in varying social, cultural, economic, and political settings.

UTC Advance Courses for Central Asia: A TOT on UTC Advance Course 14: Working with Families with Substance Use Disorders, and UTC 17: Case Management Skills and Practices was conducted from 23 to 31 July, 2019 for five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). Fourteen participants joined the training from diverse work background including project managers, project coordinators, project directors, prevention specialist, neurologist and project consultants.

Dr Sun Min Kim (South Korea), Dr Yatan Pal Singh Balhara (India) and Ms Susan Gitau



(Kenya) facilitated the nine-day training in English. The participants were provided with participants manual and also had access to

soft copy of the Russian translation of the trainers' manual.

Advanced UTC Courses for Turkmenistan:

DAP organised two cycles of National TOT on UTC Advanced level for addiction professionals in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan for those who passed DAP's ICAP examination. The UTC initiative has been very successful and has positive in Turkmenistan since 2015. DAP, in collaboration with United Nations Organization on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for Central Asia (UNODC ROCA), trained almost 20 practitioners working in the DDR filed on UTC basic level in the past.

During the first cycle, three regional master trainers: Mr Yuriy Rossinliy, Ms Ainura Esenamanova and Mr. Oleg Yussopov trained 12 psychologists and psychiatrists from Turkmenistan on UTC 12 – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and UTC 15 – Skills for Managing Co-Occurring Disorders from 15 to 21 July, 2019. Ms Gulmira Suleimanova, DAP Project Manager for Central Asian and Afghanistan, represented the Colombo Plan during the training.

During the second cycle, two trainers: Galina Karmanova, MD (International Consultant/Trainer) and Tachnabat Annamuradova, MD (National Trainer) trained 19 participants from five regions and the capital of Turkmenistan on UTC 17: Case Management Skills and Practices and UTC 14: Working with Families with Substance Use Disorders in Russian language 26 November to 3 December, 2019.



DAP Initiatives in Africa: Since its first intervention in 2010 in the region, DAP has carved out a strong leadership role in the drug demand reduction landscape in Africa having expanded its activities to 22 countries in the region. During the reporting, DAP conducted 12 prevention and treatment trainings in nine (9) countries benefiting 309 professionals. A total of 184 professionals also received DAP's ICAP credentialing.

Universal Curricula trainings were launched in Egypt in February 2020 with a UTC Basic level walkthrough conducted for psychiatrists attached to the Egyptian General Secretariat of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment (GSMHAT).



Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Niger and Tunisia, five (5) of the seven (7) countries that had started Treatment Curriculum (UTC) Basic Level trainings the previous reporting period saw its successful completion. Continuation of training cycles in Eswatini and Seychelles were hampered due to COVID-19 global pandemic.

DAP works in close collaboration with the African Union and the Economic Community

of West African States (ECOWAS) to ensure its interventions are synchronized with partner country and regional priorities. Recognizing DAP's pioneering role in the region and its potential as a change agent, the African Union, in its Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention for 2019 – 2023 identifies DAP as a key stakeholder in drug demand reduction efforts in its march towards Agenda 2063, thereby paving the path for a strengthened, long-term

partnership in the continent. DAP aims to increase the current coverage of 40 percent to over 60 percent in the next three (3) years.

The ground work is being laid with the University of Cape Town to set up an ITTC hub in South Africa, with the aim of introducing evidence-based and culturally appropriate practices in prevention, treatment and recovery domains.

Initiatives in Africa

Initiative Title	Dates	Venue	Number of Participants
TOT on UTC 3 and 4 for Cameroon	22 to 30 July, 2019	Yaounde, Cameroon	33
TOT on UPC-I Series School Track for Kenya	12 to 14 August, 2019	Nairobi, Kenya	27
TOT on UTC 7 and 8 for Burkina Faso	5 to 10 August, 2019	Ougadougou, Burkina Faso	23
TOT on UTC 3 and 4 for Eswatini	9 to 17 September, 2019	Manzini, Eswatini	21
TOT on UTC 5 and Refresher Course for Gambia	1 to 9 November, 2019	Banjul, Gambia	21
TOT on UTC 5 and Refresher Course for Niger	1 to 11 November, 2019	Niamey, Niger	20
TOT on UTC 5 and Refresher Course for Burkina Faso	4 to 13 November, 2019	Ougadougou, Burkina Faso	23
TOT on UPC-I Core Course and School Track Courses 1 to 3 for Namibia		Namibia	27
TOT on UTC 6,7 and 8 for Cameroon	4 to 12 November, 2019	Yaounde, Cameroon	33
Walkthrough TOT for Egypt	8 to 18 February, 2020	Cairo, Egypt	27
TOT on UTC 3 and 4 TOT for Seychelles	25 February to 4 March, 2020	Victoria Seychelles	24
TOT on UTC 5 and Refresher Course for Tunisia	25 February to 5 March, 2020	Tunis, Tunisia	24
TOT on UTC 5 and Refresher Course for Cameroon	28 February to 8 March, 2020	Yaounde, Cameroon	33

UPC-I for Ecuador: This training aimed to train national UPC Trainers on Implementers Core Course from 29 July and 3 August, 2019 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Dr Andreas Hein (DAP), Mr Oscar García (Colombia) and Ms Gabriela Gómez (México) trained 30 government officials and prevention professionals during the six (6) days.



UPC-C for Colombia: The UPC TOT Walkthrough on UPC-C Course 1: Introduction to Prevention Science was held in Cartagena, Colombia from 30 August to 6 September, 2019.

Dr Andreas Hein (DAP), Mr José Luis Vásquez (CICAD), Dr William Crano (USA) and Dr Francis Duka-Pante (Phillipines) trained 20 regional trainers.



Advanced UTC for Bahamas: DAP organised series of TOT cycles of Advanced UTC to train national trainers who passed their ICAP-I certification

The objective of the TOTs, all held in Nassau, Bahamas, was to build the drug demand

reduction capacity of SUD treatment professionals in Bahamas by training national level trainers on the Advanced Series of UTC.

In the first cycle, Ms Aditi Ghanekkar (India) and Dr Kim Sun Min (South Korea) trained 20 national trainers, who passed their ICAP-I certification, on UTC 19 and 21 from 9 and 14 September, 2019



In the second cycle Mr Winston De La Haye (Jamaica) and Ms Yehudith Ayala (USA) trained 20 national trainers on UTC 10 and 15 from 30 September and 5 October, 2019.



In the third cycle, Dr Richard Gakunju (Kenya) and Mr Evans Oloo (Kenya) trained 20 national trainers on UTC 9 and 17 from 4 to 9 November, 2019.



In the fourth cycle, Mr Winston De La Haye (Jamaica), Ms Yehudith Ayala (USA), Ms Stephanie Lusk (USA) and Ms Keisha G. Rogers (USA) trained 20 professionals from treatment centres on UTC 18 and 20 from 13 to 21 January, 2020.



Dr Kim Sun Min (South Korea), Ms Aditi Ghanekkar (India) and Dr Danai Indrakamhaeng (Thailand) trained 20 professionals from treatment centres on UTC 13 and 16 from 17 to 24 February, 2020.



Basic UTC for Peru: The purpose of the two walkthrough on Basic UTC 1 to 8, which was held in Lima, Peru, was to build the drug demand reduction capacity of SUD treatment professionals in Perú by training a group of national trainers from the Ministry of Health, juvenile delinquent youth centres, Penitentiary Institute, INABIF and Street Educators (Ministry of Women and Populations Vulnerable), National Program against Family and Sexual Violence (Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations), Adolescent Orientation Service, Multidisciplinary Team of the Restorative Juvenile Justice Program.

In the first walkthrough, Ms Yehudith Ayala

(USA), Mr Luis Diego Camacho (Costa Rica) and Ms Gabriela López (Mexico) trained 50 professionals on UTC 1 to 4 from 23 to 27 September, 2019.



In the second walkthrough, Ms Julia Alvarado (Chile), Mr Luis Diego Camacho (Costa Rica) and Ms Gabriela López (Mexico) trained 40 professionals on UTC 5 to 8 from 21 to 25 October, 2019.



Basic UTC for Argentina: This walkthrough was organised to train the university academics in Buenos Aires Argentina from 23 to 27 September, 2019.

Mr José Luis Vásquez (CICAD, USA), Mr Juan Carlos Urías from El Salvador and Mr Italo García (Chile) trained 40 academics on Basic UTC 5 to 8 from Argentinean universities.



UPC-I Core for Latin America: The TOT was organised collaboratively with CICAD to train prevention professionals from Latin America.

Dr Andreas Hein (DAP), Dr Francis Duka Pante (Phillippines) and Mr Arthur de Oliveira (USA) trained 25 prevention professionals from 18 to 22 November, 2019



Basic UTC for Uruguay: The purpose of this walkthrough was to build the drug demand reduction capacity of SUD treatment professionals by training a group of national trainers from the National Drug Board, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Interior – National Institute of Rehabilitation, National Administration of Public Education, INISA and universities of Uruguay on the Basic UTC.

During the first walkthrough, Mr Italo García (Chile) and Ms Evelyn Bordón (Paraguay) trained 25 professionals on UTC 1 to 4 in Montevideo, Uruguay from 4 to 8 November, 2019.



During the second walkthrough, Mr Italo García (Chile) and Ms Marcela Lara (Chile) trained 25 professionals from on UTC 5 to

8 in Montevideo, Uruguay from 10 to 14 February 2020.



Basic UTC Colombia: DAP organised two walkthrough in Bogota, Colombia with the purpose of building the drug demand reduction capacity of SUD treatment professionals in Colombia by training a group of national trainers from Ministry of Public Health, treatment centres and universities on Basic UTC.

In the first walkthrough, Ms Yehudith Ayala (USA), Mr Luis Diego Camacho (Costa Rica) and Ms Blanca Gabriela López (Mexico) trained 40 professionals on UTC 1 to 4 from 18 to 22 November, 2019.



In the second walkthrough, Ms Yehudith Ayala (USA), Mr Luis Diego Camacho (Costa Rica) and Ms Marta Oliva (Chile) trained 40 professionals on UTC 5 to 8 from 9 to 13 December, 2019.



Basic UTC for Mexico: DAP organised two walkthrough in Guadalajara, Mexico with the purpose of building the drug demand reduction capacity of SUD treatment professionals in Mexico by training a group of national trainers on Basic UTC 1 to 8.

During the first walkthrough, Ms Blanca Gabriela López (Mexico), Mr Luis Diego Camacho (Costa Rica), Mr Juan Carlos Urias from El Salvador and Ms Marta Oliva (Chile) trained 70 professionals from treatment centres and universities on Basic UTC 1 to 4 from 13 to 17 January 2020.



During the second walkthrough, Ms Blanca Gabriela López (Mexico), Mr Luis Diego Camacho (Costa Rica), Ms Julia Alvarado (Chile) and Mr Eswin Minera (Guatemala) trained 70 professionals from treatment centres and universities on Basic UTC 5 to 8 from 17 to 21 February 2020.



Basic UTC for Chile: DAP organised a walkthrough in Santiago, Chile with the purpose of building the drug demand reduction capacity of SUD treatment professionals in Chile by training a group of national trainers on Basic UTC 1 to 8.

Mr Rodrigo Portilla (Chile) and Mr Italo García (Chile) trained 30 professionals from the National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Consumption (SENDA), universities and treatment centres from 20 to 24 January 2020.



South America CHILD Regional Training:

This Child Intervention for Living Drug-Free (CHILD) Curriculum training on courses 5 and 6 was a follow-up to the previous training on Course 1 to 4. The regional training provided a rich platform for experiences sharing, knowledge acquisition and networking opportunities for the diverse experts involved in interventions for children with substance abuse problems in South America.

Dr Hendree Jones, Ms Aditi Ghanekar and Ms Nancy W. Dudley trained 14 participants from Argentina (7), Chile (1), Paraguay (3) and Peru (3) from 14 to 21 August, 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It, respectively.



UTC Refresher Course and Credentialing

Exam: Ms Yehudith Ayala Castro, Mr Mohammad Shafiq Qureshi and Mr José Luis Vásquez trained eight (8) Humphrey Fellows of different nationalities on the UTC Refresher course from 9 to 12 March 2020 VCU Richmond, Virginia, USA. The participants sat for the credentialing exam on 13 March 2020.





THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR CREDENTIALING AND CERTIFICATION (GCCC)

GCCC, the credentialing arm of DAP, continued its mission to professionalise the addiction workforce by credentialing those working in treatment and recovery support. A professional credential sets a standard and criteria for the knowledge and skills needed to effectively reduce the demand for alcohol and other drugs through treatment and recovery support.

ICAP EXAMS

From July 2019 to February 2020, GCCC conducted 24 Credentialing Examinations, testing 589 candidates in 21 countries, four (4) of which were new to GCCC. Those 589 candidates represented 37 countries, 12 of which were new to GCCC exams. Due to the ongoing global COVID-2019 pandemic, all exams schedule after March 2020 were canceled.

GCCC's current pass rate is 65 percent. Many of these countries participate in GCCC's cost-sharing programme to support their commitment to evidence-based practices and recognition of the International Certified Addiction Professional (ICAP) designation.

[Countries where exams took place: Austria, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Namibia, South Korea, USA, Malaysia, Kenya, **Gambia, Niger**, Ghana, **Burkina Faso**, Pakistan, UAE, Indonesia, Philippines, Samoa, Botswana, South Africa, **Tunisia, Cameroon**] (Bolded are new countries)

[Countries represented by exam candidates: Afghanistan, Bahamas, **Barbados, Belize CA, Guyana SA**, Jamaica, **St. Kitts**, West Indies, Philippines, Uganda, Malaysia,

Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Namibia, South Korea, USA, Pakistan, Tanzania, Kenya, Gambia, **Niger**, Ghana, **Burkina Faso**, UAE, Indonesia, Samoa, Botswana, South Africa, **Tunisia, Cameroon**, United Kingdom, **Egypt**, Canada, **Moldova, Slovakia, Venezuela**] (Bolded are new countries)

Public Policy

In addition to professionalising the workforce, GCCC also strives to impact policy change. It is important that governments recognise the ICAP certification, but as countries move forward in addressing their addiction problems, more is needed. GCCC spends time meeting with focal points and other government officials to discuss the importance of requiring certification as policy and/or by law to ensure that the best practices are being used with people who seek services. It also protects their citizens from people using harmful practices and taking advantage of vulnerable people. We offer technical assistance when requested.

The GCCC Commission

The GCCC Commission, the Centre's governing body represents 20 countries (see full list below Exhibit B). The full Commission regular meeting was postponed until later in 2020 due to the global pandemic.

Exhibit A

No.	Country	ICAP I	ICAP II	ICAP III	RC	Total
1	Afghanistan	37	3	1	0	41
2	Albania	3	0	0	0	3
3	Argentina	1	1	0	0	2
4	Bangladesh	44	0	0	1	45
5	Bahamas	22	2	0	0	24
6	Barbados	1	0	0	0	1
7	Belize, CA	1	0	0	0	1
8	Benin	20	0	0	0	20
9	Bhutan	59	1	1	0	61
10	Botswana	43	11	3	0	57
11	Brazil	1	0	0	0	1
12	Bulgaria	1	0	0	0	1
13	Burkina Fuso	14	0	0	0	14
14	Cambodia	12	1	0	0	13
15	Cameroon	20	0	0	0	20
16	Canada	0	1	1	0	2
17	Chile	11	2	1	0	14
18	Cossta Rica	1	0	0	0	1
19	El Salvador	1	0	0	0	1
20	Egypt	0	2	0	0	2
21	Gambia	7	0	0	0	7
22	Germany	1	0	0	0	1
23	Ghana	65	8	0	0	73
24	Guyana, SA	1	0	0	0	1
25	India	41	15	6	0	62
26	Indonesia	121	17	2	9	149
27	Ivory Coast	18	0	0	0	18
28	Jamaica	3	0	0	0	3
29	Japan	0	0	0	17	17
30	Kyrgyzstan	11	0	0	0	11
31	Kazakhstan	27	0	0	0	27
32	Kenya	125	69	9	3	206
33	Liberia	10	0	0	0	10
34	Malaysia	28	4	3	6	41

35	Maldives	11	0	0	1	12
36	Mexico	1	0	0	0	1
37	Maldova	1	0	0	0	1
38	Mozambique	9	0	0	0	9
39	Myanmar	20	1	0	0	21
40	Niger	8	0	0	0	8
41	Nigeria	69	15	1	0	85
42	Namibia	15	6	3	0	24
43	Pakistan	112	27	1	4	144
44	Paraguay	13	0	0	0	13
45	Philippines	103	32	8	74	217
46	Republic of Macedonia	1	0	0	0	1
47	Serbia	4	0	0	0	4
48	Samoa	7	0	0	0	7
49	Singapore	2	1	0	0	3
50	Slovakia	1	0	0	0	1
51	South Africa	40	1	0	0	41
52	South Korea	73	1	2	0	76
53	Spain	0	0	1	0	1
54	Sri Lanka	16	1	1	1	19
55	St. Kitts	1	0	0	0	1
56	Tajikistan	5	0	0	0	5
57	Tanzania	16	1	2	0	19
58	Thailand	26	3	9	1	39
59	Togo	19	0	0	0	19
60	Tunisia	17	0	0	0	17
61	Turkmenistan	10	0	0	0	10
62	UAE	3	6	2	0	11
63	Uganda	17	6	0	0	23
64	UK	0	1	1	0	2
65	USA	9	1	3	0	13
66	Uzbekistan	13	0	0	0	13
67	Venezuela	1	0	0	0	1
68	Vietnam	14	0	0	0	14
69	West Indies	3	0	0	0	3
Total		1410	240	61	117	1828

Exhibit B

GCCC Commission Members		
Country	Name	Title and Organisation
Argentina	Dr María Verónica Brasesco, Vice Chair- person	Director, Drug Observatory, (SEDRONAR)
Bahamas	Ms Bernadette Ellis, Secretary	Registrar, Health Professions Council
Bhutan	Mr Nima Damdul	Chief Programme Officer, Demand Reduction Division, Narcotics Control Agency
Bangladesh	Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed	Director General, Department of Narcotics Control Ministry of Home Affairs
Chile	Mr Carlos Ibáñez Pina	Technical Advisor, SENDA, Chief of Addiction Unit, University of Chile
Ghana	Mr Francis Kofi Torkornoo	Executive Secretary, Narcotics Control Board (NACOB)
India	Ms Upma Srivasatava	Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Indonesia	Dr Riza Sarasvita, Chairperson Ethics Committee	Demand Reduction, BNN
Japan	Mr Yuji Yazawa	President and CEO, Oneness Group
Kenya	Dr Richard M. Gakunju, Chairperson	Chairman, Kenya Certification Council
Republic of Korea	Dr Sejin Ju	Professor of Namseoul University, Dept. of Nursing President, KAAP
Malaysia	Dr Zall Kepli MD Rejab	Ass't Professor Cyberjaya University College Of Medial Sciences
Malaysia	Dr Sabri Bin Zainudi Zainul	Deputy Director General, National Anti-Drugs Agency, Ministry Of Home Affairs
Pakistan	Mr Ata Hussain Shah Hashmi	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control
Philippines	Mr Benjamin P. Reyes	Permanent Member, Dangerous Drugs Board
South Africa	Dr David Bayever	Vice Chair, Central Drug Authority
Sri Lanka	Prof. Saman Abeysinghe	Chairman, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Ministry of Defence

Thailand	Dr Prapapun Chucharoen, Chairperson Training Committee	Programme Director, Addiction Studies Department, Mahidol University, ASEAN Institute for Health Development,
United Arab Emirates	Mrs Aysha Al Hosani	Specialist, Special Projects, ADEC Abu Dhabi Education Council
United States	Mr Kansas Cafferty, Chairperson, Credentialing Committee	Chair, National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP)
Vietnam	Mr Phan Dinh Thu	Director, Drug Addiction Treatment Policy, Department of Social Vices Prevention, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Social Vices Prevention
United Arab Emirates	H.E. Dr Hamad Al Ghaferi, Immediate Past Chair	Director General, National Rehabilitation Center (NRC)
Ex-Officio		
CICAD	Ms Jimena Kalawski	Chief, Demand Reduction Unit
The Colombo Plan	H.E. Ambassador Dr Phan Kieu Thu, PhD	Secretary General, Colombo Plan Secretariat
US Department of State	Mr Brian Morales	Director, Global Drug Demand Reduction Division



GENDER AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

GENDER AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

The Gender Affair Program (GAP) became an official component of the Colombo Plan on 4 May 2014 during the Colombo Plan's 282nd Council meeting. Prior to GAP, the Colombo Plan initially commenced its gender programming in 2007 through its Drug Advisory Program's (DAP) support to women and children's shelters in Afghanistan, and later through its Program for Public Administration. However, under the new founded GAP, the Colombo Plan's gender initiative expanded to other member states within the Asian and Pacific (APAC) region, focusing on the prevalent and persistent challenges women and children bear in modern times concerning their rights, health and safety, socio-economic development, climate change and more.

Since its debut in 2014, GAP took ownership of the Colombo Plan's two flagship projects in Afghanistan – Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF) and Afghanistan Children's Support Center Fund (ACSCF). Through these two projects, GAP has strengthened its influence within the Afghan Shelter Network (ASN) and the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), which are coalitions comprising of government, NGO and community representation. Additionally, within a 5 year span, GAP has extended its support to hundreds and thousands of Afghan women and children in 18 provinces through its partnerships with six local organizations.

During the following year of its commencement, GAP joined the Government of Indonesia to launch the collaborative initiative – South-South and Triangular Cooperation Program in Gender Affairs, which aimed to further foster regional and global engagement as a means to inspire partnership and leadership to address common gender and children related issues among the Colombo Plan member states. Since 2015, the Government of Indonesia and GAP have jointly organized 9 training events in gender affairs, inclusive of best practice models, for approximately 200 beneficiaries from 20 Colombo Plan member countries.

The Government of Indonesia and GAP remain committed to working together and utilizing their partnership to facilitate in the exchange of resources, skills, and knowledge between member states to continue to contribute to the advancement of women and children's rights within the region and beyond.

In more recent times, GAP has embarked on collaborative programs in Sri Lanka and Vietnam. In Sri Lanka, GAP teamed up the Sri Lankan Chapter of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) to initiate the Empowering Future Women Leaders (EFWL) project in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association (SLGGA) serves over 50,000 members nationwide and it is the largest national voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in Sri Lanka, which has enabled GAP to support 35 young female students in 7 provinces through its EFWL project.

During the previous reporting, the Colombo Plan Secretariat (CPS) and GAP were in close communication with the Vietnam Women's Union and its affiliated Vietnam Women's Academy (VWA), discussing the details of their upcoming program. On the 15th of July 2019, GAP and VWA officially launched their collaborative initiative to strengthen the capacity of the VWA's Gender and Development (GAD) Faculty in Hanoi, Vietnam. During the current reporting period, the GAD Learning Center was established and 18 scholarships were granted through the program. In addition, two courses were completed on gender specific research and teaching methodologies.

GAP remains dedicated to researching and analyzing the local, regional and global context of gender affairs to better serve member states as well as extend its reach to non-member states undergoing similar struggles and adversities. Finding linkages between countries is not difficult as many pressing issues concerning women and children are prevalent and caused

by common structural deficiencies. GAP continues to utilize linkages and commonality amongst countries to encourage south-south cooperation, an exchange and sharing of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries.

In an effort to optimize its support to all member states in the field of gender affairs, GAP annually hosts member states' delegates at a gender focal point conference specifically designed to enable networking and intergovernmental cooperation amongst member states on the subject of gender and development. In early December 2019, GAP held its fourth gender focal point conference in Hanoi, Vietnam and was co-hosted by the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU) to commemorate GAP and VWA's partnership.

Furthermore, the annual gender focal point conferences have set into motion the conceptualization of GAP's future and the development of a 5-year strategic plan. Following the output from the third gender focal point conference, literature review, interviews, consultations and the Internal and External Analysis, four strategic areas were prioritized to guide the program over the next 5 years –

1. Technical Support
2. Advocacy
3. Knowledge Management
4. Resource Mobilization

During the fourth gender focal point conference, GAP introduced an outline of its strategy plan for 2020 – 2024 with the aim to utilize the participating delegates' knowledge and feedback to further shape the strategy to conform to each and every member states' needs and concern. With this new way forward, GAP expects to reach out to all the member states in the future as the main regional intergovernmental organization to support their national priorities pertaining to gender affairs and child protection and development.

In order to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to Member States on all gender-

related issues, and to further position itself as the partner-of-choice on providing gender expertise, from 2019 to 2020 GAP has been adamantly working to improve its M&E system. The focus has been on setting up strong internal processes, establishing robust data quality and data validation procedures, and adhering to the most recent and rigorous industry standards in reporting and quality control. Attention has been given to improving coordination with stakeholders, setting up new/revising the existing tools, methodologies and approaches to adequately reflect the project services/activities as well as collect and handle the high volume of data coming from the field. Through these advancements, GAP aims to improve its response to project areas showing little or no progress, and in the medium term, position itself as one of the leading gender M&E system providers amongst member and non-member states.

Towards the latter months of the reporting period, the world was overwhelmed by the sudden increase of COVID-19 cases and associated deaths, as many countries were unprepared to respond to the unexpected burgeoning pandemic. Developing countries were hit the hardest during the global crisis, with their populations robbed of basic necessities, such as food and clean water. Afghanistan unfortunately stands out amongst these realities as a conflict-country heavily dependent on foreign aid, with a weak health system, majority of its population living below the poverty line and more than 4 million people internally displaced. As the Afghan government is struggling to cope with the coronavirus emergency and the outlook is dramatically worrisome, GAP took it upon itself to put into place precautionary measure to protect the health and safety of staff and beneficiaries as well as develop Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for local partner organizations to maneuver their way through the difficult period. GAP also collaborated with UN Women to provide implementing partners of shelters with a guideline focused on the shelters needs and challenges during the pandemic.

AFGHAN WOMEN'S SHELTER FUND (AWSF)



VWO WPC Literacy Class – April 2020

The Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF) is GAP's first flagship project in Afghanistan, sponsored by the U.S. Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), designed to support and adhere to the international obligation and ensuing national policies and legislations adopted by the Afghan Government to protect and care for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP).

The AWSF project's preliminary phase began in 2007 by means of financial support provided to one transitional center in Kabul. It was operated by the Afghanistan Women Skills Development Center (AWSDC) under the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Program (DAP). In line with the gradual expansion of that program, the AWSF project was officially established in 2011, upon which DAP continued to work with AWSDC, Voice of Women Organization (VWO), and

Women for Afghan Women (WAW), and Humanitarian Assistance for Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) to support their transitional centers. In February 2013, AWSF was transferred to Colombo Plan's Program for Public Administration (CPPPA). Later on when GAP was established under the Colombo Plan in May 2014, AWSF and its new expansion started operating under GAP through the continued support of INL.



YHDO Children Attending Educational Class – May 2020

Since 2014, GAP continues administers AWSF and expand its scope of support to local six partner organizations within 13 provinces in Afghanistan to provide alternative care for women, men, boys and girls exposed to gender-based violence and/or trafficking in persons by providing an interim protective space, such as shelters and centers, i.e. women protection centers (WPCs), family guidance centers (FGCs), halfway house (HH), and boys' shelters.

Accordingly, AWSF supports the following partner organizations and their facilities:

1. Women for Afghan Women (WAW) – 5 WPCs, 6 FGCs and 1 HH
2. Voice of Women (VWO) – 5 WPCs, 5 FGCs, 1 Legal Advisory Bureau (LAB) and 1 Legal Advisory Centre (LAC)
3. Hagar International (Hagar) – 1 Boys' Shelter
4. International Psycho-Social Organization (IPSO) – 50 +/- psychosocial counsellors
5. Justice for All Organization (JFAO) – 2 FGCs
6. Youth Health Development Organization (YHDO) – 1 Boys' Shelter

The overall goal of the AWSF project is to

AWSF expected project outcomes are as follows:

1. To improve access to a safe haven for survivors, or those at risk of experiencing, gender-based violence or trafficking in persons
2. To improve resolution of gender-based violence and trafficking cases through shelters and family guidance
3. To improve psychological health of beneficiaries the provision of psychosocial services at women protection centers (WPCs) and family

guidance centers (FGCs) and/or partner health organizations

4. To increase self-sufficiency among GBV and TIP Survivors
5. To increase public and institutional understanding of shelter and family guidance center (FGC) resources
6. To increase suitability of AWSF-funded legal and protective services for women and children.

To achieve its project objective and outcomes, the following services are provided through AWSF:

- Safe shelters and basic essentials (nutritious meals and clothing)
- Medical and psychosocial services (individual and group counselling)
- Legal aid services (individual or group legal counselling, mediation and representation in courts)
- Educational and vocational training classes
- Reintegration support (assistance packages and follow-ups)
- Institutional outreach program and community engagement, in addition to stakeholder coordination.



VWO WPC Vocational Training– April 2020

Selected AWSF achievements for the annual reporting period:

AWSF Selected Indicators	Jul –Sep 2019	Oct –Dec 2019	Jan – Mar 2020	Apr – Jun 2020	Total
	3rd Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2019	1st Quarter 2020	2nd Quarter 2020	July 2019 –June 2020
Number of beneficiaries cases that are resolved through the formal justice system in accordance with the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law or Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP)	111	103	134	87	435
Number of beneficiaries provided individual psychosocial counselling	1234	1488	1682	1662	6066
Number of women and children provided vocational training	679	761	710	732	2882

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Under the supervision and guidance of the GAP Senior Management and with the security approval of the Colombo Plan Security Manager based in Kabul, monitoring visits were conducted for 28 AWSF funded facilities in 13 provinces. The focus of M&E remains on monitoring and reviewing the expenditures and activities being paid from the AWSF fund to the six partner organizations, and bringing improvements where needed. In order to conduct the M&E, different techniques such as 1: detailed M&E testing, 2: observation, 3: procedural check and 4: discussions/ interviews were applied. The monitoring findings have been classified under key findings, inclusive of financial/ programmatic

implications and secondary findings covering internal control weaknesses.

Upon the completion of the monitoring visits and reporting, GAP Monitoring Team follows up with implementing partners to discuss findings and recommended remedial actions to bring improvements.

Monitoring visits are conducted by a GAP



VWO LAC Family Counselling Session– April 2020

Monitoring Team consisting of two female Monitoring Program Officers and two male M&E Finance Experts. Monitoring visits are usually conducted on a quarterly basis, however, due to deteriorating security in Afghanistan some monitoring visits are conducted at a minimum of two to four times per year (depending on location).

During the monitoring visits:

- The shelter monitoring assessment template were utilized, to interview shelter staff and beneficiaries present in the shelter.
- Field staff interacted with and conducted joint monitoring visits with provincial governmental officials (annual basis) — the Department of Women’s Affairs, Women Protection Center Department, etc. — and civil society organizations to verify information gathered at the shelter.
- Photographers were taken to capture conditions of facilities and premises, as well as equipment with GPS and time stamps were used.
- Collected copies of any written standard operating procedures (by means of hard copies, USB key or photographs).

- Photographed shelter ledgers and receipts

Upon the completion of the monitoring visits and reporting, GAP Monitoring Team followed up with implementing partners to discuss findings and recommended remedial actions to bring improvements.

GAP provided implementing partners with equipment to help facilitate remote monitoring, such as laptops and cameras.

The GAP staff conduct monthly phone or video calls with implementing partners for locations where in-person visits were not regularly possible to due security issues.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all AWSF in-person monitoring visits have been suspended since 25 March 2020. Thus, GAP developed its own Online Guidelines and Policies to apply and adhere to while conducting online monitoring through virtual sources, mainly phone and Skype. The following table displays all the monitoring visits (in-person and online) completed during the reporting period.



VWO WPC Individual Psychosocial Session – March 2020

S/N	Description	Project Name	Province	Monitoring Staff	Date(s) of Monitoring
1	Joint Monitoring with MoWA	VWO Badghis AWSF	Badghis	M&E Finance, M&E program, MOWA Rep	2 July 2019
2	Joint Monitoring with MoWA	VWO Herat AWSF	Herat	M&E Finance, M&E program, MOWA Rep	7 – 11 July 2019
3	Joint Monitoring with MoWA	WAW Faryab AWSF	Feryab	M&E Finance, M&E program, MOWA Rep	8 – 11 July 2019
4	Joint Monitoring with MoWA	WAW Kapisa AWSF	Kapisa	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert, MOWA Rep	28 – 29 July 2019
5	Joint Monitoring with MoWA	WAW Badakhshan AWSF	Badakhshan	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert, MOWA Rep	4 – 7 August 2019
6	Monitoring	YHDO Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E Program Expert,	25 – 27 August 2019
7	Monitoring	Hager international Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E Program Expert	25 November 2019
8	Monitoring	YHDO Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	28 November 2019
9	Monitoring	WAW Kabul HH AWSF	Kabul HH	M&E Finance Expert, M&E Program Expert	1 – 2 December 2019
10	Monitoring	YHDO Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	3 –5 December 2019
11	Monitoring	WAW Kapsa AWSF	Kapisa	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	8 – 9 December 2019
12	Monitoring	IPSO Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	11 – 25 December 2019
13	Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan AWSF	Badakhshan	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	23 – 26 December 2019
14	Monitoring	WAW Kabul HH AWSF	Kabul HH	CP-Director, M&E program Experts	7 January 2020
15	Monitoring	JFAO Khost AWSF	Khost	M&E Finance, M&E program,	16 – 18 January 2020

16	Monitoring	WAW Kabul FGC AWSF	Kabul FGC	M&E Finance, M&E program,	21 – 22 January 2020
17	Monitoring	VWO	Herat	M&E Finance, M&E program,	19 – 28 January 2020
18	Monitoring	JFAO Ghazni AWSF	Ghazni	M&E Finance, M&E program,	27 – 28 January 2020
19	Monitoring	Hager international Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	18 – 25 February 2020
20	Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan AWSF	Badakhshan	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	3 – 4 March 2020
21	Monitoring	VWO Farah AWSF	Farah	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	1 – 5 March 2020
22	Online Monitoring	WAW Kunduz AWSF	Kunduz	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	5 – 6 April 2020
23	Online Monitoring	YHDO Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	8 – 9 April 2020
24	Online Monitoring	VWO Herat AWSF	Herat	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	8 – 9 April 2020
25	Online Monitoring	VWO Nimruz AWSF	Nimruz	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	15 – 19 April 2020
26	Online Monitoring	JFAO Ghazni AWSF	Ghazni	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	26 April 2020
27	Online Monitoring	WAW Faryab AWSF	Feryab	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	April 26-28-2020
28	Online Monitoring	JFAO Khost AWSF	Khost	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	April 28-29-2020
29	Online Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan AWSF	Badakhshan	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	May 5-6-2020
30	Online Monitoring	WAW Kapisa AWSF	Kapisa	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	May 10-11-2020
31	Online Monitoring	VWO Farah AWSF	Farah	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	May 13-14-2020
32	Online Monitoring	Hager International Kabul AWSF	Kabul	M&E Finance Expert, M&E program Expert	May 12-19-2020

AFGHAN SHELTER NETWORK (ASN) MEETING

The Afghan Shelter Network (ASN) is a coordination network of Women's Support Centers in support of the national Women's Protection Center (WPC) Guidelines as well as national and internal obligations to protect and promote the rights of women and children. This strategic network provides a platform AWSF IPs to discuss constraints and challenges concerning beneficiary cases, particularly, violence against women (VAW) related cases (within the dominion of Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law), as well as legal constraints. Participation in the ASN allows AWSF IPs to more swiftly redirect complex cases to higher authorities or decision makers to generate resolutions. At times, these networks allow AWSF IPs to provide their inputs on necessary modifications in protocols or policies.

ASN's main objectives are as follows:

1. Ensuring coordination between non-governmental support centers in all areas of work. Cooperating in solving problems that are beyond the activities of women's support centers.
2. Technical cooperation and enrichment of work programs of women's support centers.
3. Efforts to provide the best possible services for supported women in women's support centers.
4. Encouraging and strengthening satisfactory working relations between the support centers, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and other governmental and non-governmental bodies.
5. Exchange of experiences between women's support centers in order to facilitate and improve the work.
6. Cooperating with donor institutions for the purpose of attracting and providing financial needs of support centers.
7. Strengthening the self-sufficiency of supported women in support centers.

8. Strengthening the spirit of cooperation and respect for the policy and implementation of each of the support centers.

The ASN consists of the following members:

1. The Afghan Women's Skills Development Center (AWSDC)
2. Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA)
3. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
4. International Psycho-Social Organization (IPSO)
5. Voice of Women Organization (VWO)
6. Justice for All Organization (JFAO)
7. Youth Health Development Organization (YHDO)
8. Women for Afghan Women (WAW)
9. Hagar International
10. U.S. Government – INL
11. Colombo Plan GAP
12. International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
13. Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA)

The ASN meetings are two pronged – internal ASN meetings and External ASN meetings. Internal ASN meetings are held on a monthly basis and attended by all aforementioned local NGOs, WPC donors and MoWA. Each partner organization has a turn to host the ASN internal meeting in its own compound. During the reporting period, 10 internal ASN meetings were held with the attendance of GAP and AWSF partner organizations.

The External Afghan Shelter Network (EASN) meetings are facilitated by the founder Danner organization on a quarterly basis and attended by the aforementioned NGOs operating shelters, WPC donors, and line governmental agencies. Note, EASN meetings are a government level assemblage attended by donor organizations, implementing partners,



YHDO Children during the Psychosocial Counselling Session – April 2020

government agencies such as: court, AIHRC, Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Police, Supreme Court other legal agencies to discuss more serious shelter issues. The government officials are invited based on the agenda and needs of the WPC. During the reporting period, 4 EASN meetings were conducted in Kabul with GAP participation.

COORDINATION MEETINGS WITH IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The GAP team regularly arranges coordination meetings with every AWSF implementing partner on a bi-monthly basis to discuss the monitoring findings and other shelter related challenges and issues, as well as recommend remedial measures to bring improvements. Regular coordination meetings provide opportunities for GAP and IP participants to review and consider ways



WAW Outreach Training – Faryab Province – May 2020

of addressing the challenges, gaps or overlaps between existing and impending activities. In addition, the discussions help develop a common understanding on key project related issues and priority needs, fostering harmony in carrying out the different tasks and activities planned to achieve the project's objectives efficiently.

During reporting period, 52 coordination meetings took place. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, GAP began conducting bi-weekly Skype meetings with each AWSF implementing partners.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Organizational Development and Governance Training

The Colombo Plan organized a 5-day Organizational Development & Governance training course from 1- 5 December 2019 in Kabul, Afghanistan. The training was given to 30 participants, representing the program focal points of implementing partners.

The course was 50% practical and 50% theoretical with instructor and peer assistance given to class members who were having a difficult time understanding the material or struggling with language barriers. During the course delivery, the lead trainer acted as a facilitator, using interactive learning methods to help trainees share their

experiences and learn through participating in activities such as group discussions, case studies, role-playing, and games.

The Training Course focused on the following:

- Good governance in organizational context, role and expectations of the board, effective Board governance, including oversight and

operations, governance procedures including administration, financial and management procedures and best practices,

- Basic management and systems introduction
- Leadership in proactive direction-setting, decision-making and problem-solving and organizational conflict solving methods

Fundraising and Sustainability Training

The longevity of AWSF-funded facilities and services are essential for survivors (or those at risk) of GBV and TIP. Therefore, GAP works with the AWSF partner organizations to safeguard their future project operations by providing trainings focused on fundraising and sustainability development to secure adequate resources in support of their facilities and services.

Accordingly, 20 representatives from AWSF implementing partners participated in a 5-day workshop that covered NGO fundraising and resource mobilization course from 17 –21 December 2019 in Kabul, Afghanistan. This highly interactive seminar focused on training implementing partners on how to develop locally sustainable fundraising methods to promote organizational sustainability, which in turn would help them develop their sustainability action plan.

The Training Course focused on the following:

- Introduction to Sustainability
- Approaches to Ensuring Sustainability of organizations
- Organizational development and sustainability responsibilities
- Fund Raising Methods
- Networking for Resource Mobilization
- Media for Resource Mobilization
- Developing Sustainability Plans
- Conduct a training to finalize the Sustainability Plans (a 1-day training for each implementing partner, total of 6 days, to review and finalize the sustainability strategies of IPs.)
- Design and deliver evaluations, pre and post-tests of all those to be trained to determine the success or further training needs on fundraising and sustainability.
- Prepare, conduct, record and analyze findings of training evaluations on each

Standard Operating Procedures in Administration, Logistics and Procurement Training

In consideration of the 2018 organizational capacity assessment's findings, GAP initiated a 35-participant training broken up in two segments for AWSF implementing partners, which was facilitated by an external consultancy service. The first segment of the training was a 2-day training on Administration, Logistics and Standard



35 participants completing training on SoPs

Procurement that took place from 14 – 15 October 2019 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The purpose of the training was to enhance partner organizations' capacity to develop SoPs for their respective organization.

The Training Course focused on the following:

- HR framework and core HR functions
- Guidelines on Human Resources Management
- Guidelines on Finance and Accounting
- Guidelines on Procurement Management
- Guidelines on Administration and Logistics Management

Standard Operating Procedures in Finance, Human Resources and Safeguarding Policies Training

The Following 2-day training was organized by GAP as complementary training to the aforementioned training on SoPs in administration, logistics and procurement. This specific training focused on finance, human resources and safeguarding policies, and was held from 16- 17 October 2019 in Kabul, Afghanistan. The training was provided to the same 35 aforementioned participants, comprising of implementing partners' relevant staff.

The training covered Employment, Recruitment and Retention, Benefits and Compensation, Performance Management, Personal Conduct Policies, and Finance and Accounting. A post-training form of seven questions (scale 1-5) was administered, revealing that approximately 90% of participants gained an overall greater understanding of the tools necessary to implement and update HR and finance practices within their organization.

The Training Course focused on the following:

- Defining and explaining HR framework and core HR functions

- Applying best suited recruitment methods so that to hire right person for the right job
- Orientation, training and coaching of organization staff members
- Managing employees benefits and compensations, leaves, and allowances
- Managing staff performance rewards them based on merits and achievements
- Explaining general guidelines and standard practices related to financial system set up and maintaining of financial records/books.
- Managing cash vs. bank accounts and reconcile them on periodical basis
- Comply with donor reporting and audit requirements and ensure compliance
- Explaining guiding principles and concepts of project procurement cycle
- Exercising best practices related to procurement of goods, services and civil work.
- Encouraging competitive bidding process and ensure appropriate vendors' selection
- Undertaking proper management of contracts and suppliers'/service provider
- Administering office affairs, vehicles, facilities and documents archive.

Project Management Training Workshop

GAP in partnership with a local consultancy service conducted a 5-day Project Management Training course, from 27 – 31 October 2019 in Kabul, Afghanistan. The training was offered to 35 participants, representing the program focal points of implementing partners.

The training sessions were practical in nature where 70% of the learning was practical and only 30% of the learning was based on lecture. Participants were provided a freedom to express and assess their own knowledge & skills after presentation and group works.

The Training Course focused on the following:

- To know about Project Management
- Developing Performance Indicators
- How to develop Logframe
- Project Cycle Management
- Results-based Management
- Project Implementation Methods

The 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters Kaohsiung Exhibition Center (KEC) in Taiwan

The World Conference of Women's Shelters (WCWS) is the largest and most diverse global gathering on protection services and prevention of violence against women (VAW). The 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters (4WCWS) was held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan on the 5th to the 8th of November 2019, and was organized by the Global Network of Women's Shelters and hosted by the Garden of Hope Foundation. The 4WCWS brought together 1,500 participants from 120 countries to network and share ideas on how to strengthen women shelters and end violence against women.

The goals of 4WCWS were to strengthen the role of women shelters in systematic approaches to preventing VAW; reinforce, mobilize, and increase the effectiveness and influence of the global and regional shelter networks as leaders in the effort to end violence against women; kick-start global projects and initiatives to support women shelters and combat violence; and raise awareness among governments, international organizations, the corporate sector, and the general public about the problems of violence against women to stimulate actions to support shelters.

9 staff from the AWSF implementing partners

and 3 Kabul GAP staff participated in the event. Two presentations were presented by the AWSF partner organizations – "The future of Women's Shelters in Afghanistan" and Equality and Economic Empowerment" – to raise global awareness on the current progress, conditions, and challenges faced in Afghanistan concerning women's shelters, as well as seek support on how they can help the Afghan women's organizations to overcome these barriers and sustain the services in the future for Afghan women.



GAP and AWSF IPs at 4WCWS

The AWSF implementing partners organized their session accordingly:

- A presentation on the overview of shelters and their functions in Afghanistan
- A documentary video on shelters and their functions in Afghanistan
- A case study presentation by an actual reintegrated survivor on the services and needs of shelters in Afghanistan highlighting her own case

Study Tour for in Tajikistan for AWSF Implementing Partners

The Colombo plan Gender Affairs Program organized a 6-day training for the GAP Implementing Partners and MoWA staff, in partnership with Caravan of Hope, in Hayat Hotel in Dushanbe Tajikistan from the 18th to the 21st of November 2019. Caravan of

Hope has been serving women's need in Tajikistan since 2009, and provides survivors and women at risk of GBV a safe haven in Dushanbe to receive support.

The objective of the study tour was to provide partner organizations with an opportunity learn and experience new approaches on sustainability and resource mobilization related to shelter management best practices and reintegration of clients, through a planned exposure to knowledge sharing settings on sustainability and fundraising.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CPGAP RESPONSE

As a protective measure against the spread of the coronavirus, the Colombo Plan Secretariat (CPS) issued an indefinite "work from home" policy from 23 March 2020. The Afghan and Sri Lankan government also placed regional specific lockdowns, which also led to the temporary closure of both CP HQ and Kabul field offices.

GAP readjusted all internal operations to tailor to working remotely. Accordingly, in order to process requests for budget utilization and fund transfers, staff was directed to prepare memos and seek approval via email. E-approval from all relevant signatories are required before processing a fund requests. All e-approved memos and supporting documents will be printed and filed on return to the office.

As mentioned previously, GAP developed a cyber monitoring plan to ensure GAP's supervision of AWSF funds and project activities were uninterrupted, and GAP would regularly check up on IPs to ensure operations were not compromised or disrupted, and to receive an update on COVID-19 related challenges.

GAP developed Infection Prevention and

Control (IPC) Guidelines as precautionary measures against the COVID-19 pandemic and shared with the partner organizations. GAP also requested partner organizations to develop their own contingency plans specific to their facilities, operations and services. Contingency plans were to cover procurement of COVID-19 related items, partner organization's response to high COVID-19 cases amongst staff, instructions on how to conduct project related activities while in consideration of health and safety, evacuation plan, etc. GAP supported partner organizations in the development of their contingency plans, as well as generate a budget for COVID-19 related items to cover them during the pandemic crisis.



WAW Kabul FGC Awareness Training – April 2020

In May 2020, GAP collaborated with UN Women – another leading intergovernmental organization administering support to women shelters in Afghanistan – to develop a joint guideline for all the WPCs in Afghanistan during the coronavirus pandemic.

UN Women arranged for two online courses to be conducted in June 2020 to provide further training on the COVID-19 protocols concerning the WPCs and FGCs. AWSF partner organizations and GAP participated in the course on COVID-19 precautionary measures.

In addition to the COVID-19 related guidelines, GAP has developed a tracker to identify confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases, and ensure IPs are isolating staff at home and beneficiaries are quarantined for the recommended 14 days. Staff is only to return to work if they are tested negative or if after 14 days of isolation they no longer exhibit any COVID-19 related symptoms. The COVID-19 trackers is updated regularly and shared with INL on a weekly basis.

From March 2020 to the end of reporting period, all coordination meetings with donors, GAP staff, partner organizations and other stakeholders were conducted remotely through available virtual meeting tools, i.e. Skype, Zoom and calls.

AFGHANISTAN CHILDREN SUPPORT CENTER FUND (ACSCF)



Thematic training on Child-led Monitoring held in Balkh CSC for CSC beneficiaries on 26 February 2020

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Afghanistan Children Support Center Fund (ACSCF) is GAP's second flagship project in Afghanistan that began on the 2nd of July 2014 through an agreement between the State Department's Bureau for International and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and GAP in support of the Women for Afghan Women's (WAW) work related to the Children Support Centers (CSCs) in Afghanistan. The primary purpose of the ACSCF project is to protect the rights of children of incarcerated women through the provision of comprehensive alternative care and successful reintegration, as it is not uncommon for children to be imprisoned with their incarcerated mother in Afghanistan.

Prior to the establishment of the CSCs, the alternative practice was to allow the child to live with their incarcerated parent in prison while he/she served his/her sentence or to transfer the child to the private and/or government-owned orphanages that are rundown, poorly kept and overcrowded.

The prison is an atrocious and harsh environment for a child to grow up in, especially as the physical and psychological impact on a susceptible youth is detrimental to his/her overall development and well-being. The prisons are unsafe and unhygienic; devoid of education, play space, and any child-friendly opportunities. In addition, prisons are not protected from criminal acts of sexual gender-based violence. What's worse, the Afghan government is not able to establish a comprehensive child protection mechanism where children are protected from violence, abuse and neglect resulting in potential insurgency recruitment. Nevertheless, after WAW's first Family Guidance Centers (FGCs) and Women's Protection Centers (WPCs or women's shelters) were successfully established, WAW started to fundraise and develop programming the first CSC, which opened in Kabul in November 2009. Accordingly, WAW was chosen as GAP's implementing partner because of the organization's sole leadership role in attending to the children of incarcerated mothers through the

establishment of their CSC programs.

At the outset, ACSCF provided support to the following CSCs:

1. Kabul CSC
2. Balkh CSC
3. Kunduz CSC

However, due to deteriorating security conditions in Kunduz, the Kunduz CSC was shut down, and a new center was opened in Badakhshan, upon which all the children in Kunduz were transferred to Badakhshan in March 2017.

INL's ongoing generous contribution to ACSCF has allowed GAP to maintain its support to WAW and CSC staff – inclusive of monitoring and technical support, capacity building trainings, stakeholder coordination and engagement, as well as external reviews (namely audits and institutional capacity assessments) to gain a sound understanding of the partner organization's strengths and needs to design, implement and track results of contextualized remedial interventions, which in turn has aided in the expansion of CSCs' operations and scope of work to better serve the children of incarcerated mothers.

ACSCF continues to support three of WAW's established CSCs – Kabul in the Central region, Badakhshan in North Eastern region, and Balkh in the Eastern region, all of which provide shelter and essential services to the children of incarcerated women. The CSCs geographical coverage entails 14 women provincial prisons.

The three funded CSCs work to protect the rights of children of incarcerated women through the following provisions of comprehensive alternative care:

- Safe, secure, and clean alternative housing.
- Access to adequate nutrition for the children
- Access to education, inclusive of

accelerated learning and vocational training;

- Clothing as well as hygiene kit and toiletries;
- Access to medical care (physical and psychological).
- Access to sports and recreational activities;

In addition to stimulate a normal and sociable environment, the CSCs conduct field trips, cultural activities and celebrations. To strengthen child-mother relationships and reintegration, the CSCs facilitate regular visits to their mothers in prison, coordinate reunification of mothers with their children upon release from prison, and conduct parenting and life skill classes for mothers.

The prison officials and CSC Social Workers are usually in regular communication to ensure children residing in prison are identified and enrolled into the CSCs. The set criteria for CSC recruitment within the governing Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) are as follows:

- Children of incarcerated mothers
- Children age 5-18 years' old
- Securing mother's consent prior CSC enrollment
- Children do not have any physical and mental disability

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS PARTNERS

To expand CSCs efforts and improve its existing services as well increase program sustainability, GAP advocates on behalf of the CSC and beneficiaries. Consequently, GAP reaches out to potential donors, the government of Afghanistan (line ministry – Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA/DoLSA)), and network of child protection stakeholder to ensure the CSCs receive the attention and support required to safeguard the longevity of its much-needed provisions.

Network of child protection stakeholders



ACSCF Key Stakeholders

include Child Rights Advocacy Forum (CRAF), National Action Coordination Group (NACG) and Child Protection Action Network (CPAN).

The relevant child protection stakeholders within Afghanistan are – MoLSA, Ministry of Hajj Affairs, Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA), Attorney General’s Office (AGO), Ministry of Justice, Municipality Department, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), in addition to other international NGOs (such as Save the Children and War Child UK/Canada) and national NGOs/ civil society organizations (inclusive of AWSF partner organizations, e.g. YHDO and Hagar).

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE PROJECT OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

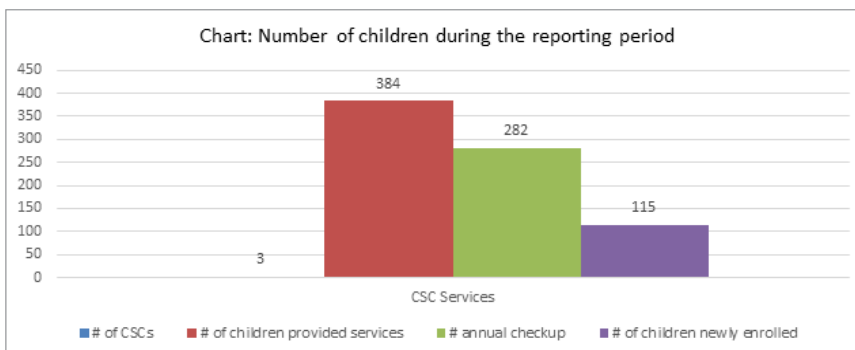
The following information shared pertains to all three CSCs, therefore, the numbers are inclusive of children from Kabul, Badakhshan and Balkh, unless specified otherwise.

1. To maintain access to a safe shelter for the children of incarcerated women

As mentioned above, under ACSCF, 3 CSCs (Kabul, Balkh and Badakhshan) serve children of incarcerated mothers in 14 provincial women’s prisons (specifically Kabul, Nangarhar, Kapisa, Parwan, Wardak, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Balkh, Faryab, Samangan, Saripul, and Jawzjan province prisons).

During the reporting period, initially 16 children (8 girls and 8 boys) over the age of 5 were not enrolled in the CSC programs due to their mothers’ refusal, however, the CSC Social Workers were eventually able to persuade the mothers to consent to the children’s enrollment into the CSCs. As a result, all the children within the CSC’s age criteria were transferred from the 14 aforementioned provincial women’s prisons and enrolled into the nearest CSC.

In June 2020, within ACSCF’s geographical coverage, 96% of children over the age of 5 were reported as enrolled in the ACSCF-funded CSCs. The remaining 4% of the children were not successfully enrolled in CSCs due to lack of mothers’ consent to enroll their children in CSC. Please note: The



CSC SoP does not permit child's enrollment in the CSCs without mother's consent.

During the reporting period, an overall total of 384 children (196 boys and 188 girls) benefited from CSCs' services.

From July 2019 to June 2020, a total of 115 children (60 boys and 55 girls) were newly enrolled in the CSCs.

All children received medical treatment(s) either inside the CSC clinic or at a hospital located outside the CSC. Additionally, 282 children (150 boys and 132 girls) received annual medical checkups outside of the CSC clinic.

As a common practice, every month all the CSC children are provided with hygiene kits. Furthermore, all children are provided with beds and bedding, clothing (during two Eids, New Year, winter season and school uniform). Each child is given a personal cabinet where he/she could keep personal belongings and assigned a dormitory. All children enjoy three nutritious meals and 2 snacks per day.

2. To improve access to quality education and skills training

During the annual period, 100% of children have benefited from formal and informal education offered through the CSC programmes. All CSC children are enrolled



Balkh CSC – Tutoring Class

in either formal schools or tutoring classes, pre-enrolled and/or accelerated classes.

240 children (129 boys and 111 girls) were enrolled in local schools in conjunction with CSC tutoring classes. 91 children (41 boys and 50 girls) attended pre-enrolled classes; these children were under 7 years old and did not meet the school enrollment age. 53 children (26 boys and 27 girls) were participating in accelerated classes.

All children enrolled in formal and informal education were provided with stationaries, school uniforms, and school bags, in addition to transportation to and from school.

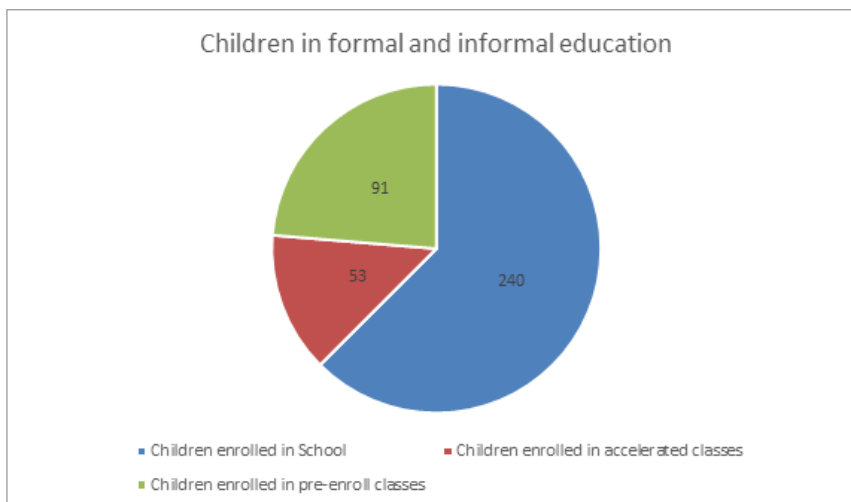
12 children (10 girls and 2 boys) of the Balkh CSC attended the vocational training classes offered at the Balkh CSC. The Balkh CSC girls partake in the vocational training classes five days a week from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, where they are taught how to sew and make clothing pieces.

In Badakhshan, 16 children (8 boys and 8 girls) attended the vocational training classes, while in the Kabul CSC, children from ages 13-17 years old attended vocational classes.

During the reporting period, schooling was interrupted due to the coronavirus scare. On the 15th of March 2020 the government of



Balkh CSC – Vocational Training Class



Afghanistan closed all academic institutions and declared a national lockdown, thus, the CSC children were not attending school from mid-March onward.

3. *To improve the mother-child relationship*

As children and mothers are separated upon the children’s recruitment and enrollment into the CSCs, CSC staff work to uphold and strengthen mother-child relationships. During the reporting period, 100% of children reported “definitely improved” relationships with their mothers. 100% of mothers also reported “definitely improved” relationships with their children.

All three CSCs arranged for CSC children to visit their mothers in prisons. The CSC children were able to visit their mothers in prison during two Eids, New Year, school winter and summer vacations, with the exception of the 13 children (4 boys and 9 girls) whose mothers were not incarcerated as they were referred to the CSCs by MoLSA, the provincial government, Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) and/ or Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), rather than recruited by the CSC Social Worker. Of the 13 children referred from alternative sources, only a few had relatives who the CSC Social Workers contacted to make arrangements for the children to meet them at the CSCs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CSCs were unable to arrange visits to the prisons for the children to meet with their mothers because of lockdowns imposed by the Afghan government. Temporarily, CSCs arranged phone calls for the children to talk with their mothers, accordingly, every child had phone communications with their mothers 2-3 times in a month. The prison officials halted all visitors’ entry inside the prisons on the following dates:

- Badakhshan CSC targeted prisons – 10 March 2020
- Balkh CSC targeted prisons – 15 March 2020
- Kabul CSC targeted prisons – 20 March 2020

During the reporting period, the CSC Social Workers achieved 106 visits to the 14 provincial women’s prisons to assess the conditions of the beneficiaries’ mothers and other children residing in the prisons. Please note, that after 15 March 2020 the CSC Social Workers’ visits to the prisons were also suspended due to COVID-19. Nevertheless, CSC Social Workers were able to maintain communication with the prison officials and incarcerated mothers via phone.

82 meetings and 82 counselling sessions were conducted by the CSC Social Workers with incarcerated mothers in prisons.

Moreover, the CSC Psychologists conducted 1,662 interviews with 384 CSC children. All children reported “definitely improved” relationship with their mothers during the interviews.

Quote from child residing in Badakhshan CSC:

"We are in touch with our parents through phone. We understand each other in this difficult time of COVID-19 and support each other. We try our best to make each other happy, and we have a very good relationship with them even though it has been months since we had met them in the prisons."

299 interviews were conducted by Psychologists with the children's their mothers to identify the child-mother relationship, all mothers reported “definitely improved” relationship with their children.

Quote from incarcerated mother in Badakhshan prison:

"Our children's behaviours have improved, and this issue have made us very hopeful for their futures. We are very happy to see positive changes in our sons and daughters."

Quote from incarcerated mother in Balkh prison:

"Our relationships with our children have definitely improved. Our children have become very kind and show us a lot of respect when they come to visit us in the prisons. We know all these positive changes in our children's behaviour came as a result of the CSC's efforts."

4. To improve physical and psychosocial health of beneficiaries

During the reporting period, 100% of children reported an increase in their feeling of well-being following the counselling sessions provided to them at the CSCs. 99% of the children also reported general good health.

During the reporting period, the CSC Psychosocial Counsellors conducted 1,417 group and 1,653 individual counselling sessions for the CSC children. Note: The individual psychological counselling sessions aim at supporting the emotional and psychosocial needs of each child.

In addition, the Psychosocial Counsellors conducted 270 counselling sessions with the incarcerated mothers in prisons. Note: Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the CSC Psychologist have not been permitted to visit the prisons to conduct counselling sessions with incarcerated mothers.

Topics covered during the private individual counselling sessions with the CSC children are as follows:

- Improving children learning disorders
- Reduction of mental stress
- Psychological concerns solutions
- Control of emotions and expressing it positively
- Solving traumatic problems
- Developing children's focus and attention



Badakhshan CSC – Individual Counselling Session

- Anxiety disorders
- Depression and disappointment
- Anger management
- Coping with stress, depression, and anxiety
- Reduce disappointments
- Motivational activities
- Therapeutic games in reducing detrimental behaviours

Topics discussed during group counselling sessions with the CSC children:



Balkh CSC – Group Counselling Session

- How to control depression
- How to change aggressive behaviour
- Self-confidence building
- Stress management
- Relaxing methods
- Self-respect
- Good versus bad attitudes
- Therapeutic games in reducing detrimental behaviours
- Therapeutic stories

Topics discussed during group/individual counselling sessions with incarcerated mothers:

- Coping with fear and stress
- Coping with emotions
- Reducing depression and stress
- Reduce disappointments
- Anger management
- Being positive and ignore negative thoughts



Kabul CSC – Children playing within CSC premise

- Establishing good relationships with each other

An essential part of improving physical and psychosocial health among the CSC children is to stimulate a normal and sociable environment, where a child can just be a jovial kid. Accordingly, the CSC children celebrated 60 cultural activities, including national and international holidays. As per usual, each CSC scheduled time for indoor and outdoor game activities for the children to enjoy a somewhat normal childhood irrespective of their circumstance.

Unfortunately, to mitigate exposure to COVID-19, the CSC Management decreased the celebration of cultural activities inside the CSCs, and children's visits outside the CSCs for recreational activities were temporarily cancelled.

5. To increase appropriate reintegration of beneficiaries whose mothers were not released from prison into Afghan society

During the reporting period, 429 follow ups (phone and in-person) were conducted for 325 reintegrated children (156 boys and 169 girls). It was revealed, only 274 children (143 boys and 131 girls), around 84% of reintegrated children were enrolled in school, while the remaining 51 children (16%) were not attending school due to insecurity, lack of access to schools, under age, and/or economic challenges.

247 children (129 boys and 118 girls) were reintegrated with their families after their

mothers were released from prisons. 429 follow up sessions (172 in-person and 257 phone) had been carried out by the CSC Social Workers for the 325 reintegrated children, inclusive of children who were reintegrated in the prior to the reporting period covered. 11 children (6 boys and 6 girls) were re-enrolled in the CSCs as the CSC Social Workers deemed the children “at risk” after conducting their follow-ups. Note: Re-enrollment in the CSC program generally means “unsuccessful reintegration” of the child.

During reintegration, all children (247 children) and their mothers (142 mothers) were interviewed to identify their level of satisfaction from the CSC services. During the interview, all children and their mothers reported “definitely satisfied” with the CSC services.

Starting from April to June 2020, reintegration numbers increased due to the presidential order to release female prisoners as a COVID-19 precautionary measure to reduce overcrowding within the Afghan prisons. Thus, many incarcerated mothers of CSC children were released, and children were reintegrated with their mothers earlier than expected.

6. To increase stakeholder knowledge of children’s rights and resources

During the reporting period, 152 outreach sessions were conducted by the CSC Child

Protection Trainers for the prison staff, incarcerated mothers, relevant government officials, schools and communities to increase their capacity and awareness on children’s rights and protection, CSCs and program activities. In addition, the CSC staff held 50 advocacy meetings with different stakeholders.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CSC Child Protection Trainers postponed all their outreach sessions until the end of June 2020. The government also called off Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) meetings due to the COVID-19 threat.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

The GAP CSC Coordinator and M&E Finance Expert conducted 14 monitoring visits (8 in-person and 6 online) for all three CSCs, on a quarterly basis, in line with the M&E plan and AWSF monitoring practices and procedures. Monitoring visits are compulsory to oversee and evaluate project-related activities, as well as the implementing partner’s internal operations and fiduciary compliance. Technical support is also provided during monitoring visits to ensure CSCs’ operations and services comply with governing SoPs and donor requirements.

M&E reports are developed after each monitoring visit on a quarterly basis and undergo an internal review. All findings and recommendations are shared with WAW Management and relevant staff during coordination meetings to record action points and bring improvements.

All project activities are monitored in accordance with the INL and GAP approved log frame indicators. All project activities are implemented in compliance with the governing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and policies.

Through GAP’s regular monitoring and technical assistance, during the reporting period 95% of the CSC children expressed “definitely satisfied” with the CSCs’ services. 5% children reported mild “satisfaction” with



Awareness Session conducted for Community Members in Badakhshan province on 20 May 2020.

the services rendered. No child reported “unsatisfied” with the CSC services.

As mentioned previously, due to the COVID-19 health risks and ensuing government imposed restrictions, GAP suspended field monitoring visits to the CSCs

from 25 March 2020 onward. Accordingly, ACSCF’s monitoring team adhered to the same online monitoring guidelines and practices applied under AWSF.

Monitoring schedule during reporting period.

S/N	Description	Project Name	Province	Fund	Visited staff	Date of Monitoring
1	In-person Monitoring	WAW Kabul CSC	Kabul	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	6 August 2019
2	In-person Monitoring	WAW Balkh CSC	Balkh	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	27-28 August 2019
3	In-person Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan CSC	Badakhshan	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	16-18 Sep 2019
4	In-person Monitoring	WAW Kabul CSC	Kabul	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	25 Nov 2019
5	In-person Monitoring	WAW Kabul CSC	Kabul	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	15-17 Dec 2019
6	In-person Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan CSC	Badakhshan	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	24-25 Dec 2019
7	In-person Monitoring	WAW Balkh CSC	Balkh	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	22-24 Feb 2020
8	In-person Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan CSC	Badakhshan	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	3-4 March 2020
9	Online Monitoring	WAW Kabul CSC	Kabul	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	5-6 April 2020
10	Online Monitoring	WAW Balkh CSC	Balkh	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	12 -14 April 2020
11	Online Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan CSC	Badakhshan	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator& M&E Finance Expert	20-21 April 2020
12	Online Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan CSC	Badakhshan	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	1-2 Jun 2020
13	Online Monitoring	WAW Balkh CSC	Balkh	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	8-10 Jun 2020
14	Online Monitoring	WAW Kabul CSC	Kabul	ACSCF	CSC Coordinator & M&E Finance Expert	21-22 Jun 2020

IP AND DONOR REPORTING

The GAP CSC Coordinator reviews monthly progress reports of the CSCs that are submitted by the implementing partner WAW. Upon completion of each review, feedback is provided to WAW to bring improvements in reporting of the CSCs as well as address any issues recounted in the monthly reports. Final monthly progress reports are also shared with the GAP's headquarter in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In addition, WAW submits financial reports to GAP that is then reviewed by M&E Finance Expert to oversee the expenditure of GAP funds and implementing partner's fiduciary compliance.

Quarterly narrative reports are developed capturing the ACSCF-funded CSCs' progress and completed activities. Reports are shared with GAP Colombo-based staff for further review and approval and then submitted to INL for further review and final approval.

ACSCF burn rates are developed at the end of every month for internal review to actively monitor project funds. The GAP finance team develops quarterly financial report that are shared with the donor INL.

Data collected from the CSC field offices is reported to GAP on a monthly basis, which is then reported to INL through DevResults – advanced and flexible monitoring & evaluation software for international development – on a quarterly basis.

COORDINATION MEETINGS

The GAP CSC Coordinator continued to participate in regular stakeholder meetings, conferences, and workshops concerning the CSC facilities and/or the capacity building of the CSC staff.

Quarterly coordination (in- person and online) meetings were also held with the implementing partner, inclusive of WAW's Management, Program and Finance personnel, to discuss the monitoring findings to bring improvement in the services.

A coordination meeting was held with prison heads, MoLSA and DoLSA (MoLSA's provincial counterpart) for efficient implementation of the CSCs activities.

The GAP CSC Coordinator regularly participates in monthly Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), Child Right Advocacy Form (CRAF) and National Action Coordination Group (NACG) which are chaired by MoLSA every month to voice and advocate for CSC children related issues. CPAN meeting are good exposure and means of keeping the CSCs within the national spotlight as they are regularly attended by important and influential national officials, i.e. representatives from the MoLSA, Ministry of Hajj Affair, Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA), Attorney General's Office (AGO), Ministry of Justice, Municipality Department, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), in addition to other international NGOs and national NGOs/ civil society organizations (CSOs).

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Following training were delivered by ACSCF team during the reporting period for the CSC staff or beneficiaries:

- 3 – 12 September 2019: GAP CSC Coordinator participated in CORE Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) for a workshop designed for the implementing partners in India through the Colombo Plan's Drug Advisory Program (DAP). The training was attended by ministry officials, in addition to DAP and GAP partners. Among ACSCF partners, WAW Kabul CSC Manager participated in the training. The training provided an overview of the science that underlies evidence-based prevention interventions and policies

along with introductory skills and competencies to engage in prevention practice in the primary contexts where provision takes place. This training was beneficial as it helped contextualize GAP and WAW staff's understanding of children's backgrounds and learn how to better address such situations, as some children may have had exposure to substance usage/abuse through their family or prison.

- 14 – 17 October 2019: The training is further covered under AWSF as it was a cost-shared deliverable. However, as mentioned above, the training on Developing Guidelines for Human Resources, Finance Administration, Procurement & Logistics were delivered to ACSCF/AWSF partners. The overall purpose of this assignment was to develop effective Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) in the areas of Human Resources, Finance, Procurement, Administration and Logistics for the implementing partners of CPGAP to enhance their capacity to carry out projects adhering to high standards. The 12 training was attended by 35 participants, of which 12 were from WAW due to their broad scope of work that entails AWSF as well as ACSCF funded facilities.
- 27 – 31 October 2019: Project Management Training was delivered to ACSCF/AWSF partners in Kabul – Safi Landmark. The basic aim of this training was to further develop and improve the implementing partners' project management knowledge and skills to ensure AWSF facilities are adequately handled and serving beneficiaries in accordance with donor requirements and expectations. The number of staff participated in this training were 39, inclusive of GAP staff. Among these numbers, 14 staff were from WAW. The training is further covered under AWSF as it was a cost-shared deliverable.
- 17 – 21 November 2019: Fundraising and Sustainability Training was conducted for ACSCF/AWSF partners in Safi Hotel Kabul, Afghanistan. The purpose of this specific training was to enhance implementing partners' capacity to develop effective sustainability plan for their respective organization. The number of staff participated in this training were 26, inclusive of GAP staff. Among the trainees, 5 participants were from WAW. The training is further covered under AWSF as it was a cost-shared deliverable.
- 1 – 5 December 2019: Organizational Development and Governance Training was conducted for ACSCF/AWSF partners. The purpose of this training on Organizational Development and Governance was to enhance implementing partner's capacity to improve their organizations and systems with planned development procedures and to restructure activities as required for their respective organization. The number of staff participated in this training were 33, inclusive of GAP staff. Among these numbers, 13 participants were from WAW. This training was held in Safi Hotel Kabul, Afghanistan. The training is further covered under AWSF as it was a cost-shared deliverable.
- 25 – 26 February 2020: GAP CSC Coordinator and M&E Finance Expert conducted a thematic training on selecting rights-based indicator and child-led monitoring for the Balkh CSC children. This was the 2nd phase of children thematic training. The training was attended by 15 children, of which six children are residing in the CSC and the remaining nine children have been reintegrated. The training was designed to teach the CSC children about their rights and required participation, in addition to teaching the children how to identify surrounding risks and to know who to seek support from within the CSC and/or their communities (when they are reintegrated).

- 5 – 6 March 2020: GAP CSC Coordinator and M&E Finance Expert conducted a thematic training for the Badakhshan CSC children, i.e. a training on selecting rights-based indicator and child-led monitoring. This was the 2nd phase of children thematic training. The training was attended by 15 children. The training was designed to teach the CSC children about their rights and required participation, in addition to teaching the children how to identify surrounding risks and to know who to seek support from within the CSC and/or their communities (when they are reintegrated).

Note: Most trainings planned during 2020 were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. GAP will resume training once viral threat ceases and security clearance is obtained.

MEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

During the reporting period, GAP launched a media outreach campaign aiming to prevent violence against children and child marriage.

GAP utilized a consultancy service to print (in local languages) 4,000 storybooks, 1,000 posters, 10 stand banners, and 10 billboards all aligned with the campaign. Of 10 billboards, 8 billboards were fixed in various locations within Kabul for one month, and 2 billboards were allocated for MoLSA to promote the child week celebration. In addition, 1,650 storybooks, 52 posters, and

7 stand banners were handed over to WAW and 2,190 storybooks, 3 stand banners, and 40 posters were shared with MoLSA for their utilization and distribution. The remaining posters and storybooks were distributed in CPAN and CRAF meetings among stakeholders.

All the storybooks, posters, billboards, and stand banners were developed in close consultation with MoLSA and WAW.

GAP also hired a consultancy service to produce two 60 second TV Public Service Announcements (PSAs), two 60 second Radio PSAs, and a 5-minute documentary on the prevention of violence against children and child marriage.

TV and radio PSA were developed in close consultation with MoLSA in the national languages, and were broadcasted on the famous national television channels – Shamsbad and Aryan – 20 times during prime-time television to ensure maximum effectiveness. Radio PSA was aired through well-known radio channels – Arman FM and Salam Watandar – 20 times during prime hours.

The 5-minute documentary also featured interviews with representatives from MoLSA, Ministry of Hajj Affair, WAW/CSC, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), and the GAP Director.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF CSCS

In March 2019, Colombo Plan contracted a consulting firm to undertake an institutional capacity assessment (ICA) of the four children’s support centres operated by WAW in Kabul, Badakhshan and Balkh Provinces (under the GAP ACSCF project), along with Herat Province in Afghanistan. The Herat CSC, although not a Colombo Plan funded facility, was included in the assessment to ensure cohesion in operations amongst all CSC facilities managed by WAW.

The ICA’s findings were shared with WAW



MoLSA Billboard designed to promote child week celebration

to develop an improvement plan. WAW developed an improvement plan to resolve the gaps and concerns. The ICA's findings, along with GAP's monitoring observations, also influenced the planned capacity building training for 2020, which are as follows:

1. Training on Institutional and Legislative Update
2. Training on Child Development with focus on Mental Trauma
3. Training on Community Social Work
4. Training of Teachers (ToT) on Teaching Methodology
5. Training on IFRS Standards, Financial Analysis, and Planning Control
6. Advocacy and Outreach Training to Achieve Sustainability

The ICA also revealed WAW's overall rating in organizational culture, staffing & leadership; staff capacity and development; financial and procurement management; delivering commitment; documentation and record keeping; risk management and security planning, improved since GAP involvement, i.e. oversight and technical support.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN CSCS

As previously reference, the COVID-19 pandemic heavily affected GAP as well as its implementing partners' regular program operations. ACSCF was no exception; undergoing similar constraints and challenges as AWSF. Accordingly, ACSCF followed the same procedures and practices as AWSF to navigate the GAP and IP staff through the difficult period and anomalies.

Furthermore, upon the news of the burgeoning COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan, GAP developed an Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guideline for WAW. WAW translated the IPC Guideline to the local language and shared it with CSC staff, who also received a training on the IPC Guideline. The IPC Guideline provided WAW/CSC



Kabul CSC – COVID-19 Precautionary Measures

with information about the virus as well as recommended precautionary measures to protect staff and beneficiaries as well as support project progress. GAP also guided WAW in developing its own contingency plan to better accommodate CSC needs. Moreover, GAP regularly shared the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) guidelines, procedures, and updates with WAW.



Badakhshan CSC – Awareness Session on COVID-19 Precautionary Measures-

Following precautionary measures were adopted by the CSC Management in all CSCs during the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. The CSC rescheduled their staff's duty to reduce numbers of staff in the CSCs in an attempt to avoid overcrowding and respect safe distancing during coronavirus pandemic.

2. WAW purchased enough PPE items and distributed among staff.
3. Entry point precautionary measures were established by CSC Management, inclusive of no-touch thermometers and sanitization stations.
4. Quarantine rooms were established separately for boys and girls suspected of COVID-19 and newly enrolled children (quarantine duration is 14 days).
5. Children's meals included more vitamin C to keep children's immune system up.
6. The COVID-19 committees were established in CSCs to monitor facility and make sure the COVID-19 precautionary measures were followed all.
7. Awareness sessions on COVID-19 were delivered regularly by CSC Child Protection Trainers and CSC Doctors to the CSC children and staff.
8. All facilities, specifically commonly used space and items, were disinfected 2-3 times every day.
9. CSCs tutoring classes timetable were rescheduled, and all classes were divided into two sessions to avoid overcrowding in the classrooms.
10. Using masks, gloves, and safe distancing were compulsory for all staff in CSCs.

GAP maintains close communication with WAW and CSC staff to make sure COVID-19 precautionary measures are strictly enforced and respected, as well as to receive an update on COVID-19 cases, and related challenges and needs.

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

- WAW was able to achieve all set targets as set in their logframe through GAP's support, i.e. supervision and monitoring (internal operations as well as fiduciary compliance), trainings and workshops, and technical assistance.
- CSCs provided services to 384 children

and 247 children were successfully reintegrated with their families.

- 95% of beneficiaries are definitely satisfied with the CSC services, and 5% children reported just "satisfied" by the CSC beneficiaries. No child reported "unsatisfied" with CSC services.
- All children residing in the CSCs received their National Identity Card.
- Most of WAW case management tools were revised and improved, such as within the Psychologist department.
- ACSCF team have built an enduring relationship with WAW, NGOS, INGOs and line ministries through their close coordination and communication.
- ACSCF team delivered technical trainings in areas requiring capacity building, as well as thematic training (setting rights-based indicator and child led-monitoring and analyzing) for all CSCs to raise awareness amongst the beneficiaries.
- 14 monitoring missions were successfully completed by the GAP ACSCF monitoring team.
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guideline was developed by GAP and shared with WAW.
- MoPH policies, guidelines, and updates were regularly shared by GAP with WAW.
- Online monitoring and follow up mechanism developed by GAP.
- The COVID-19 infected cases tracking sheet was developed by GAP, and on weekly basis shared with GAP senior leadership and INL.
- COVID-19 related budget was approved and PPEs procured and distributed within CSCs to protect staff and beneficiaries.
- GAP successfully completed media campaign on violence against children and child marriage.



GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA AND GAP COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE – SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION PROGRAM IN GENDER AFFAIRS

BACKGROUND

The Government of Indonesia is GAP's first partnering member state since its inception. The longstanding partnership was initiated through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on the 10 September 2015 that officially commenced the collaborative effort known as the "South-South and Triangular Cooperation Program in Gender Affairs" with the Indonesian Government designating its Ministry of State Secretariat and Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KPP-PA) as the gender focal points responsible for the implementation of the program in collaboration with GAP. The program comprised of training program focused on capacity building through knowledge acquisition, with the Colombo Plan's developing member states set as the target beneficiaries. The capacity building trainings were concentrated on the field of gender affairs and children protection.

Owing to the successful implementation of the collaborative program between the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and GAP from 2015 – 2016, at the 45th Consultative Committee Meeting held in Fiji from the 28th to 30th of September 2016, GAP expressed its commitment to continue its collaborative international capacity building program.

As a result, on the 26th of July 2017, CPGAP and GoI entered a 3-year agreement to conduct capacity building programmes from 2017 to 2019, covering but not limited to the following areas:

- i. Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB)
- ii. Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) through Cottage Industry focusing on Women and Headed Households
- iii. Child Friendly Environment

- iv. Gender and Disaster Risk Management (sharing Experiences)
- v. Violence against Women (VAW) and Children

The partnership between GoI and GAP has led to a total of 9 training programs and best practice paradigms in gender affairs and children protection, with approximately 200 beneficiaries from 20 Colombo Plan member countries. The direct beneficiaries of these programs were delegates who were nominated by their government on account of their role and/or knowledge in the field of gender affairs and/or child protection. The training programs were frequently attended by the following member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.



Sharing Best Practices on Women's Economic Empowerment – 15 to 21 September in Bali, Indonesia

ANNUAL PROGRESS

2019 marked the conclusion of the 3-year agreement. Accordingly, On the 15th of September, in accordance with a 3-year agreement between the GoI and GAP to strengthen regional cooperation through capacity building programs in the field of gender and children, representatives from 12

Colombo Plan member states began a 6-day training program on Sharing Best Practices on Women's Economic Empowerment that focused on the best practices of Indonesia's home-based industry. GAP had invited its member countries' gender focal points, of which 12 member countries responded to attend the training program: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Philippines, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. GAP also invited its AWSF implementing partner (WAW) to partake in the training with the aim to improve WAW's vocational training and reintegration support program.

The Gol endorsed the Home Industry Development policy, providing women with alternative solutions to financially support their family. Accordingly, since 2016 the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MoWECP) has been supporting 21 Cities/Regencies by piloting areas in the development of women-led home-based industry. In the past few years Indonesia has successfully added to the number of women in the home-based industry and broadened economic access for women by enabling them to conduct income generating activities.

The Sharing Best Practices on Women's Economic Empowerment training program showcased Indonesia's best practice in women's economic empowerment through its example of home-based industry in Bali's

Gianyar district known as the City of Art, and how the women entrepreneurs utilized the influx of tourism to optimize their profits.

Accordingly, the training program combined lectures and exposure visits to building the capacity and awareness of the member state participants. The lectures focused on presentations delivered by key actors, inclusive of government officials, to inform participants of the novel and innovative interventions and measures put into place on a local and national level to endorse female-led entrepreneurial culture and initiatives. The exposure visits were designed to show the participants the benefits of the aforementioned interventions and measures, and how local female entrepreneurs utilize their homes and community to further their business aspirations.

Each participants was also provided with the opportunity to share their respective national undertakings while also demonstrating how they will apply the training program information to enhance their local efforts.

During the preliminary months of 2020, GAP led the post-evaluation of the training programs conducted under the 3-year agreement. As Gol and GAP are committed to continuing their partnership for another 3 to 4 years, the post-evaluation findings are intended to shape the planned capacity building programs under the new MoU.



Exposure visit to Traditional Balinese Herbal Medicine Therapy Center – Puri Damai Herbal Terapi

VIETNAM: VIETNAM WOMEN'S ACADEMY: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT FACULTY (15 JULY 2019 – 15 JANUARY 2021)

On the 15th of July 2019, GAP and Vietnam Women's Academy (VWA) entered an 18-month memorandum of understanding (MoU), to strengthen the capacity of the Gender and Development (GAD) Faculty at the Vietnam Women's Academy. VWA hosted the GAP Director and the Colombo Plan Secretary General in Hanoi, Vietnam, where the MoU was officially signed and a project launching ceremony was held on the 30th of July 2019 to celebrate and promote the joint enterprise. The ceremony welcomed honored guests from VWU, ministries, agencies and more than 100 students and lecturers from VWA.

VWA BACKGROUND

VWA is an affiliated unit of the influential Vietnam Women's Union (VWU). VWU is a political-social mass organization working to enhance and protect the socio-economic status of women in Vietnam since 1930. The VWU has a broad network nationwide composed of 4 levels including the central, provincial, district and commune levels, with approximately 19 million members.

The women-led Union established the Vietnam Women's Academy (VWA) in 2015 as the first ever higher education institution in Vietnam focused on training and research as well as the promotion of gender equality, women's development and empowerment within the Vietnamese society.

The Gender and Development Faculty was established within VWA to offer the Vietnamese students an undergraduate education and bachelor's degree in Gender and Development (GAD). Gender and Development is one of the 6 specializations that VWA currently offers (Gender and Development, Social Work, Business Administration, Law studies, Multi-media



Project Launching Ceremony in Hanoi, Vietnam

Communication, and Tourism Management).

More than 200 students enrolled with the first batch of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Gender and Development, all of whom graduated in June 2019. More than 90% of the B.A. students in Gender and Development were female, between the ages of 18-22 years. Empowering female students of pre-marriage age of 18-22 is important, since the knowledge of gender equality can benefit their future families, and community. In view of that, GAP partnered up with VWA to develop a program purely focused on building the capacity of young women, the future leaders of Vietnam, both from the urban and rural areas, while working towards strengthening a national institution that promotes sustainable development and gender equality. The collaborative program will consist of trainings, awarding scholarships for eligible GAD B.A. students, and establishing a learning center with computers and other facilities. In addition, the program hopes to attract support from the policy makers, scholars, researchers and expert professionals to generate better policies in support of gender equality.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting period, through the support of GAP, VWA has procured 35 computers and established the GAD Learning Center, where the students of the GAD Faculty have taken full advantage of the equipment by conducting evidence-based researches, enhancing the awareness on gender and sustainable development, and/or to complete their homework for an in-class activity.

Within the GAD Learning Center, a Reading Room on Gender was established, comprising of a diverse source of reference materials for the students and lecturers of the GAD Faculty. The room also provides an ideal and comfortable environment for students to come to study and engage in discussions with one another on present and prevalent issues concerning sexual harassment, women empowerment, female start-ups and entrepreneurship, etc. in Vietnam as well as within the regional and global context.



Reading Room on Gender – GAD Learning Center

The room is also utilized as a space for the student association – “Youth Action for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development” (YAGS) of GAD Faculty to hold their regular meetings – through which they were able to conjure up innovative and create ways to enhance awareness on gender and sustainable development among the youth and general community.

Since the commencement of the MoU, through the collaborative initiative, 18 scholarships were awarded to B.A. students

of GAD, inclusive of valedictorians, students with high marks, and students who are dedicated advocates for gender and development.



Gender Research Methodology Course

As per the MoU, VWA was to conduct two courses, one focused on gender research methodology and the other on gender teaching methodology. On the 9th to the 13th of December 2019, VWA successfully conducted a Gender Research Methodology Course on the “Basic Statistical and Econometric Analysis applied in Gender Analysis”, which was designed to help participants gain basic knowledge and skills on data processing, impact assessment methods to analyze gender mainstreaming in economic and social issues, as well as learn how to analyze and assess the impact and effectiveness of drafting policies in social issues related to gender. Accordingly the 5-day training course outline was as follows:

Day 1: Some basics of practice statistics and familiarization with processing software;

Day 2: Basic econometrics;

Day 3: Impact assessment method;

Day 4: Predict the impact of the policy;

Day 5: Field trip to a province to put into practice training knowledge and skills.

The course was attended by 30 participants – 19 researchers and lecturers from VWA, and 11 researchers and staff from VWU’s Department for Supporting Women in Economic Development, Department of Propaganda, Department of Religion and Ethnicity, Department of Family and

Society, Department of Policy and Law and Department of Economics.

The training course was led by Professor Pham Ngoc Toan – Director of Strategic Analysis and Forecasting Center - Institute of Labor Science and Social Affairs, utilizing a teaching methodology that combined theory and practice, as well as engaging participants by having them their point of view on issues related to their expertise and approaches.

Following the Gender Research Methodology Course, VWA conducted and completed the Gender Teaching Methodology Course on “Positive Gender-Responsive Teaching Methodology”, which was held from the 11th to the 15th of May 2020.

The training course focused on enhancing lecturers’ understanding about positive teaching methodology, in addition to learning how to mainstream gender throughout their lectures, utilize positive gender-responsive teaching skills and techniques in planning lectures, and promote the advantages of positive teaching during lessons. The training course’s target group was 20 lecturers from faculties and departments within VWA, namely the Faculty of Gender & Development, Foundational Science Faculty, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Business Administration, Official Training Department, Faculty of Multimedia Communication, Faculty of Social Work and Microfinance Training Center.

The training course was delivered by Assoc. Dr. Trinh Thuy Giang – professor at the Department of Educational Psychology at



Gender Teaching Methodology Course

the Hanoi National University of Education. The 5-day course agenda covered five areas:

Day 1: Introduction to Positive Gender-Responsive Teaching Method,

Day 2: Using Teaching Methodology based on Case Study,

Day 3: Using Teaching Methodology based on Project,

Day 4: Using Teaching Methodology based on Solution to Problems, and

Day 5: Using Positive Teaching Techniques. For each topic, the participants were trained on positive teaching approaches, and then provided with the opportunity to practice and discuss in groups.

Lastly, during the reporting period, the GAD Faculty has completed the compilation of 3 lectures for the undergraduate program, which include:

1. “Gender, Culture and Development”

The overall objectives of the lecture were as follows:

- i. To equip students with the basic knowledge of gender concepts, culture and development, the interaction between culture and gender, and gender equality;
- ii. To provide students with basic skills concerning gender analysis and gender mainstreaming into cultural and developmental issues; and
- iii. To inspire students to respect and advocate for cultural development of gender equality and human rights.

2. “Gender in Population and Family”

The overall objectives of the lecture were as follows:

- i. To equip students with basic knowledge about gender, population and family, dialectical relationship between gender, population and

development, between gender, family and development;

- ii. To provide students with skills related to gender analysis, gender mainstreaming into issues of population, family and development;
- iii. To teach students how to contribute to strengthen gender mainstreaming in population and family development, gender sensitivity in population and family issues.

3. *“Gender in Education and Training”*

The overall objectives of the lecture were as follows:

- i. To equip students with basic knowledge on gender, education and training, dialectical relationship between gender and education and training;

- ii. To provide students with skills on gender analysis in education and training programs, textbooks; gender mainstreaming skills in education and training issues;
- iii. To help students to recognize and evaluate programs and documents related to education and training.

All three lectures were incorporated into VWA's GAD program for students to select during their third and fourth year, which will count as 3 credits (per lecture) toward their undergraduate degree.

EMPOWERING FUTURE WOMEN LEADERS PROJECT



SLGGA and GAP MoU Signing Ceremony

In an effort to promote women and youth empowerment within Sri Lanka, a member state and the Colombo Plan's place of origin, in December 2018 GAP joined the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association (SLGGA) – the Sri Lankan chapter of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) – launched the Empowering Future Women Leaders (EFWL) project. SLGGA joined WAGGGS, which is a girls-only organization and the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world, in 1951.

The EFWL project is designed to empower young Sri Lankan girls, from the ages 15 to 17, through a mentorship program on leadership development. The project was initiated through the selection of 35 Girl Guides representing seven provinces in

Sri Lanka, all of who were still attending secondary school. Note, the EFWL project is currently implemented as a pilot project with the aim of expanding into a replicable project that will be implemented in other countries.

Since the commencement of the project, SLGGA and GAP have been working together to train, mentor and develop the selected the Girl Guides' leadership, programming and advocacy skills, in addition to broadening their knowledge and outlook to assume their newfound role as a competent leader and positive force within their communities. Accordingly, the pilot project focused on empowering the 35 Girl Guides by training them how to conduct evidence-based research and identify the gaps and needs within their communities with a solution-oriented perspective, and then to develop and implement responsive projects in their respective locality. Subsequently, upon completion of their communal projects, the 35 Girl Guides will form the Panel of Young Advisors of the Association and the EFWL project will be continued for the benefit of reaching a larger number of young women.

The following activities were achieved under the EFWL project during the annual reporting period:



Selected Girl Guides – EFWL Project Team

#	Programme	Dates	Venue	Number of Participants
1	Training on Identifying Research Problems and Developing Research	4-7 July 2019	Sigiriya Village Hotel, Sigiriya, Sri Lanka	50 (35 Girl Guides, 7 Provincial Coordinators, 8 Resource Persons, Project Coordinators)
2	Mentoring on Community Based Action Oriented Research – Study on Causes, Consequences and Support Services of Unplanned Teenage Pregnancies	10 July 2019 – 10 October 2019	Central Province, Sri Lanka	5 Girl Guides
3	Mentoring on Community Based Action Oriented Research – A Study on Female Headed Households Financial Security and Sustainability in Northern Province	10 July 2019 – 10 October 2019	Northern Province, Sri Lanka	5 Girl Guides
4	Mentoring on Community Based Action Oriented Research –Water Scarcity in Rural Areas	10 July 2019 – 10 October 2019	North Western Province, Sri Lanka	5 Girl Guides
5	Mentoring on Community Based Action Oriented Research – Competitive Education Causes Stress Among School Children	10 July 2019 – 10 October 2019	Southern Province, Sri Lanka	5 Girl Guides
6	Mentoring on Community Based Action Oriented Research – Sanitation Facilities in Estate Communities in Uva Province	10 July 2019 – 10 October 2019	Uva Province, Sri Lanka	5 Girl Guides
7	Mentoring on Community Based Action Oriented Research – Screen Addiction of Secondary School Children in the Western Province	10 July 2019 – 10 October 2019	Western Province, Sri Lanka	5 Girl Guides
8	Mentoring on Community Based Action Oriented Research – Access to Vocational Training for Youth in Sabaragamuwa Province		Sabaragamuwa Province, Sri Lanka	5 Girl Guides
9	Training on Developing Community Based Projects	5-9 October 2019	Lavanga Resort, Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka	50 (35 Girl Guides, 7 Provincial Coordinators, 8 Resource Persons, Project Coordinators)
10	Community Water Project including awareness raising session	31 January 2020	Wehera West, Kurunegala, North Western Province, Sri Lanka	150 Community members
11	Community Sanitation Project including awareness raising on public health	8 February 2020	Namunukula Estate, Uva Province, Sri Lanka	200 Community members

12	Awareness Campaign on Utilizing Digital Screens Responsibly	14 February 2020	National Museum Auditorium, Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka	300 youth
13	Introducing Stress Management Mechanisms to School Children	13 February 2020	Southlands College, Galle, Southern Province, Sri Lanka	300 youth
14	Promotion of Vocational Training and Employment Opportunities in the Industrial Sector	25 February 2020	Public bus stand and Ferguson Girls School, Rathnapura, Sabaragamuwa Province, Sri Lanka	300 youth
15	Symposium on Adolescent Health	3 March 2020	Trinity College, Kandy, Central Province, Sri Lanka	350 youth
16	Entrepreneurship Development for Women	14 March 2020	Mannar, North Province, Sri Lanka	70 participants

TRAININGS AND MENTORSHIP

Training on Identifying Research Problems and Developing Research

The training on Identifying Research Problems and Developing Research was facilitated by 7 Provincial Coordinators from 4 – 7 July 2019 in Sigiriya, Sri Lanka. The training organized for the 35 selected Girl Guides to mentor them on the basics of researching to enhance their ability to gather information on a specific topic, review that information and analyze and interpret the information in a manner that generates a solution.



Training on Identifying Research Problems and Developing Research

Based on the training the participants identified the research project, developed the methodology to conduct the research. The Girl Guides from the respective seven provinces selected and developed research proposals on 7 topics, namely:

1. Central Province – Study on Causes, Consequences and Support Services of Unplanned Teenage Pregnancies
2. Northern Province– A Study on Female Headed Households Financial Security and Sustainability in Northern Province
3. North Western Province –Water Scarcity in Rural Areas
4. Southern Province – Competitive Education Causes Stress Among School Children
5. Uva Province – Sanitation Facilities in Estate Communities in Uva Province
6. Western Province – Screen Addiction of Secondary School Children in the Western Province
7. Sabaragamuwa Province – Access to Vocational Training for Youth in Sabaragamuwa Province



Girl Guide conducting field research

The above research projects were implemented under the supervision of Resource Persons for a period of 3 months.

Training on Developing Community Based Projects

The training on developing community based projects was conducted as a residential program from 5 – 9 October 2019. During the training the research findings of the respective 7 provinces were reviewed. Based on the research findings, community based projects were developed. The participants were mentored on developing a project proposal including a log frame, work plan and a budget. The 7 project proposals developed were:

1. Central Province - Symposium on Adolescent Health
2. Northern Province - Entrepreneurship Development for Women



Training on Developing Community Based Projects

3. North Western Province - Community Water Project including awareness raising session
4. Southern Province - Introducing Stress Management Mechanisms to School Children
5. Uva Province - Community Sanitation Project including awareness raising on public health
6. Western Province - Awareness Campaign on Utilizing Digital Screens Responsibly
7. Sabaragamuwa Province - Promotion of Vocational Training and Employment Opportunities in the Industrial Sector

COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS INITIATED AND IMPLEMENTED

The following projects were implemented in the respective province with the funding of Colombo Plan.

The Community Water Project

North Western Province — Wehara West, Malkaduwawa, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka

Through their research, the 5 young girls from North Western Province identified access to water as a main concern in the community of Wehara West, Malkaduwawa, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka that required further support.

Thus, to improve access to water the five girls developed and implemented a project aimed at connecting the existing water supply line as well as installing centralized water stock tanks for communal use through one outlet. In addition, to raise awareness within the community, the villagers will be trained on effective water usage, especially harvesting rain water during Sri Lanka's two monsoon seasons.

On the 31st of January 2020, the community development project was presented, with the community in attendance, at the temple of Wehara West during a ceremony that consisted of the provincial National Water Supply and Drainage Board connecting



Ceremony at Temple of Wehara West

the water supply line and the Girl Guides distributing the water tanks they purchased for the implementation of the project. Following the ceremony, the awareness raising session is scheduled to take place at the temple of Wehara West with the Chief Priest, member of the Pradeshiya Sabha (which are the legislative bodies that preside over the third tier municipalities in Sri Lanka), community leaders and representatives of the provincial National Water Supply and Drainage Board.

Community Sanitation Project

Uva Province — Namunkula Estate Community, Monaragala District, Sri Lanka

The Namunukula Estate Community is small remote village of Hindu residents tucked away in-between hills and accessed through an un-paved road. Despite its isolation, the beneficiaries of the project belong to a tight-knit community, who turn to one another at a times of need.



Building public latrine facility for the Namunukula Estate Community

The five young ladies who developed the Community Sanitation Project visited the Numanukula Estate Community often, developing a genuine and warm bond with the villagers. Despite their cultural and religious differences, the Girl Guides selected the Numanukula Estate Community due to the community's dire need for hygienic and sanitary advancements and related awareness raising, which was evident due to high incidents of food and vector borne diseases leading to mild to severe cases of diarrhea.

Accordingly, the five Girl Guides of Uva Province initiated a community-based project comprised of a community intervention aimed at raising awareness among the villagers concerning cleanliness and adopting good health habits through Shramadana (self-governance) campaigns, lectures on public health and hygiene, inauguration of a Girl Guide's entity at the village school, handing over sanitation items for the village school, as well as the installation of 2 hygienic public latrine facility at opposite ends of the village.

The community assisted the young girls in the preparation of the ceremony that took place on the 8th of February to commemorate the commencement of the community development project, which was then followed by the foundation setting of the two 2 hygienic public latrine facility. Throughout the celebratory occasion, any outside observer could see that the 5 young girls formed an enduring friendship with the people of the Numunukula Estate Community.

Awareness Campaign on Utilizing Digital Screens Responsibly

Western Province — National Museum Auditorium, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Western Province is the more populated region of Sri Lanka with the most exposure to the outside world and technology, particularly the youth. As a result, the five girls from Western Province decided to

conduct an awareness raising project on responsible digital screen usage.



Walk organized to create awareness on Digital Screens Responsibly

Obviously the new generation is more familiar with technology, especially smart phones. Today you rarely see a teenage without a smart phone in his/her hand. Therefore, teaching young individuals responsible practices pertaining to digital screens is important.

The girls' project is designed to raise awareness. Thus, an awareness raising campaign on responsible use of digital screens was launched on the 14th of February 2020, which consisted of – a 'Walk' to create awareness, awareness leaflets, as well as officially marking the 14th of February as the "Responsible Screen Day" to be celebrated by Girl Guides every year. Over 100 youths participated in the event, which opened with lectures led by Professor Sarath Wijesooriya, University of Colombo and Dr Apeksha Hewageegana, Consultant Adolescent Psychiatrist on practicing responsible use of digital screen, covering topics such as child protection and cybercrime as well as on screen addiction of secondary school children in Western Province. Upon the conclusion of the event, each Girl Guide in attendance received a "responsible screen use awareness raising" badge Guides to pin on her uniform.

Introducing Stress Management Mechanisms to School Children

Southern Province — Southlands College, Galle, Sri Lanka

Stress can affect anyone who is overwhelmed—even children. The General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level is a main school leaving qualification practiced in many parts of the world. In Sri Lanka, an overwhelming majority of students who pass their GCE Advance Level exams expect to attend university as the next step, however, many do not get a chance to enter the state run universities due to the lack space. Consequently, this has led to a highly competitive secondary education system that has in turn burdened the private lives of children, e.g. their leisure time, health considerations and holistic development.

Feeling the pressures of the above scenario, the 5 Girl Guides selected from Southern Province, conducted a research on the stress experienced amongst their peers. Their research led to the project idea to provide the youth with a mechanism to better cope with stress posed through the inevitable competitive nature of education.

On the 13th of February 2020, the stress management mechanism was presented, including an introduction of a study plan, followed by a lecture led by Dr. Ramani Rathnaweera on medication and mindfulness programme, promotion of extracurricular activities and declaration of "Anti-stress Day" which will be annually celebrated by the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association.



Inauguration of Stress Management Mechanism Program

To ensure this issue experienced by the general youth of Sri Lanka receives long-term attention, the website "The Stress Reliever" was launched and a ceremonial handover of the website to SLGGA in addition to the unveiling of the logo, were also covered during the event.

Promotion of Vocational Training and Employment Opportunities in the Industrial Sector

Sabaragamuwa Province — Public Bus Stand, Ratnapura, Sri Lanka



The Colombo Plan Secretary General and GAP Director with Girl Guides at the Inauguration of the Career Fair

Ratnapura, the capital city of Sabaragamuwa Province, is a major city in Sri Lanka located 101 km south east of the country's capital, Girls from Sabaragamuwa Province came together to identify and address the issue related to finding career opportunities by youth. Ratnapura is the traditional center for the Sri Lankan gem trade. In more recent times more effort has been made to develop the industrial sector in the region, however, contributory factors affecting the progress in the industrial sector in Ratnapura District include a weak linkage among the industries, vocational training institutes and the prospective and existing human resources. To strengthen this linkage, the girls decided to develop a project focused on the promotion of vocational training and employment opportunities in the industrial sector.

The next challenge was what platform to

utilize as the best means of optimizing the promotion of vocational training and employment opportunities. Majority of Sri Lankans use the public transportation frequently to get around, therefore, a good portion of the population will pass through the public bus stations. With this in mind, the four Girl Guides decided to reinstall a digital screen missing in the bus station for the sole purpose of broadcasting vocational training and employment opportunities within the industrial sector.

The project was launch on the 25th of February 2020, with the display of the digital screen. The girls also organized a career fair that same day to raise awareness amongst the youth on available training and career opportunities, helping young adults get a jumpstart in thinking about their futures. The Colombo Plan Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu, PhD., and the GAP Director, Ms. Tooba Mayel, were in attendance to support the Girl Guides' initiative.

Symposium on Adolescent Health

Central Province – Trinity College Auditorium, Kandy Sri Lanka

Although, teenage pregnancy in Sri Lanka is comparatively lower than other South Asian countries, it has in recent years been attracting policy attention in Sri Lanka because of the risks it poses to maternal and infant health, as well as their socio-economic well-being.



Ceremonial launch of Entrepreneurship Development for Women Project

5 young ladies from Central Province led a research on teenage pregnancies and child mothers in the Kandy District. They realized the numbers were high enough to indicate the importance of raising awareness on comprehensive adolescent health.

Accordingly, the girls proposed an intervention in the form of a project designed to raise awareness on adolescent health amid adolescent school children from 30 provincial schools. Approximately 300 school children participated in the symposium held on the 3rd of March 2020, comprising of lectures on 'Love and Wellbeing'; 'Physical and Mental Health of Adolescents' and 'Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents.' The Central Province EFWL team also developed a documentary video on causes and consequences of teenage pregnancy that was screened at the symposium.

Entrepreneurship Development for Women

Northern Province – Mannar, Jaffna, Sri Lanka



Ceremonial launch of Entrepreneurship Development for Women Project

Jaffna is the capital city of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, Mannar District lies south of Jaffna within the Northern Province. The impact of the civil war was felt the most in this region. In fact, 11 years after the end of a devastating civil war, Sri Lanka's Northern Province lags behind the rest of the country on social and economic development, and the catch-up process is proving long and tough. The social and economic burden is mostly felt by the marginalized and

vulnerable population, i.e. widowed single women heading households.

5 girls representing Northern Province implemented a project focused on empowering women who are the main breadwinners of their household. Empowerment is achieved through knowledge and skill acquisition in self-employment by forming 3 self-help groups (2 Self-help groups of 7 women each in Vellankulum, Mannar and 1 self-help group of 7 women in Jaffna). The girls were able to identify a local NGO, OPEne, to provide support by facilitating the self-help groups. The women in this group will be mentored on how to identify their talents and interests, as well as implement self-employment projects.

The Colombo Plan Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu, PhD., and the GAP Director attended the launch of the project, which was held on 14 March 2020 in Mannar District with the community people were present, along with representatives from the OPEne NGO. During the ceremonial launch, the Secretary General congratulated the young female leaders on their efforts and communal contribution as well as shared words of encouragement for the way forward.

To conclude their training, in the impending future the 35 Girl Guides will be provided with an online training on Advocating for Change with Government and Civil Society Stakeholders, where the participants will be mentored on how to play more active roles in advocating for progress in their country.

Owing to the success of the collaborative project and the positive impact it had on the female youth and communities, GAP aims to expand the project to other member states. The training manual developed specifically for the 'Empowering Future Women Leaders' project will be the basis from which other member countries can learn from and adopt in the future.



4TH GENDER FOCAL POINT CONFERENCE OF THE COLOMBO PLAN HANOI, VIETNAM

2 – 5 December 2019



4th Gender Focal Point Conference

BACKGROUND

The Colombo Plan Gender Focal Points Conference is a GAP annual tradition that began in 2014 to strengthen the program’s network among Colombo Plan member states as well as act as a platform bringing senior government officials of all member states together to collectively brainstorm and find solutions to national, regional and global issues concerning women and children.

The first and second Gender Focal Points Conferences were held in Sri Lanka in December 2015 in Colombo and May 2017 in Negombo respectively. The 3rd Gender Focal Points Conference was hosted by member state Nepal in Kathmandu, Nepal during April 2018.

2019 marked the launch of GAP and Vietnam Women’s Academy (VWA)’s collaborative initiative to strengthen the capacity of the Gender and Development (GAD) Faculty at the Academy. To honor the partnership with Vietnam Women’s Union (VWU) and

its affiliated academia, GAP and VWU co-organized and co-hosted the 4th Gender Focal Point Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Conference was held from 2–5 December 2019 and was attended by 23 Gender Focal Points representatives from 17 member states of the Colombo Plan – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, in addition to INL representatives.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 4TH GENDER FOCAL POINTS CONFERENCE

1. To orient the Colombo Plan Gender Focal Points on the progress and way forward of the Colombo Plan Gender Affairs Program, including the Strategy for the period of 2020 – 2024.
2. To share Colombo Plan Member States’ experience pertaining to their national legislations, mechanisms, best practices, and challenges, focused on the following themes:

- a. Gender Empowerment: Economic Sustainability and Resource Mobilization
 - b. Gender Justice: Prevention and Response on Gender Based Violence
 - c. Responses to Climate Related Disasters and Its Impact on Women and Children/ Indigenous Women
 - d. Child Protection and Child Development
3. Introducing Monitoring and Evaluation Impact and Theory of Change 2020
 4. Facilitate Colombo Plan member states to develop Recommendations and an Action Plan for collaborative initiatives in order to promote inter-country cooperation with the Colombo Plan.
 5. Establish the Colombo Plan Gender Focal Point Network (CPGFPN) in order to facilitate continuous support to all Colombo Plan Member States through coordination, facilitation and knowledge sharing.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

On the 2nd of December 2019, GAP and WWU held a Press Conference to commemorate their newfound partnership and launch of the 4th Gender Focal Conference. Over 30 participants were invited to ask questions and partake in a discussion led by the panelists; the Colombo Plan's Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu, the WWU Vice President, Mme. Nguyen Thi Tuyet, the WWU Director General of International Relations Department, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hoai Linh, and GAP Director, Ms. Tooba Mayel.

The 4th Gender Focal Point Conference commenced with an Opening Ceremony led by the Vietnam Women's Union Director General of the International Relations Department, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hoai Linh. The Vietnam Women's Union's President, Her Excellency Mme. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha (Assoc. Prof., PhD), and the Colombo

Plan's Secretary General, Her Excellency Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu (PhD) shared the stage to open the event as well as to mark their new collaborative capacity building programme.

Her Excellency Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu's opening remarks paved the way for the conference moving forward: "Today we come here as individual nations, with separate stories and experiences. My goal and the goal of the Colombo Plan is to aid in the development of one voice advocating for the rights and protection of women, boys and girls on a global, regional, national and local level."

The GAP Strategy for the next 5 years was introduced as the main focus of the conference where Dr. Stephen Van Houten, the Strategic Plan specialist of GAP, presented the strategy and engaged the delegates to ensure the member states are a part of the development and implementation of the strategy moving forward.

Accordingly, the conference was constructed to provide the delegates with the opportunity to participate in a group discourse focused on an array of thematic discussion focused on key areas identified in the GAP 5-year Strategic Plan, which are as follows:

1. Strengthen the technical gender expertise of government institutions
2. Develop an advocacy platform to voice concerns
3. Develop a knowledge management system and knowledge hub
4. Expand and sustain resource mobilization.

Accordingly, the delegates were divided into groups and asked to elaborate on how GAP could assist the member states in the recognized 4 key areas in regards to gender affairs and more specific pressing and prevalent issues pertaining to gender-based violence (GBV) response and prevention, gender empowerment and economic sustainability, response to climate related

disasters and its impact on women, and children, as well as child protection and child development.

Furthermore, to utilize the conference as an opportunity to showcase member states gender affairs related efforts, and exchange challenges and best practices, all participating Gender Focal Persons presented key gender focused issues and national interventions and initiatives undertaken in their respective countries. All member states' abstracts were compiled and shared with all delegates as well as saved for future reference. The presentations were conducted covering 5 thematic areas, which were identified during the 3rd Gender Focal Point Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal;

1. Prevention and response on Gender Based Violence (Including Engagement of Men and Boys in Addressing Gender Based Violence-Expert Presentation and Discussions; Combating forced and Under-age Marriages; Gender Justice –Strengthening Referral Pathways and Justice Continuum)
2. Gender Empowerment, Economic Sustainability and Resource Mobilization (Resource mobilization from Private Sector; Income Generation and Home-based Industries)

3. Climate Related Disasters and Its Impact on Women and Children/ Indigenous Women (Climate Related Disasters and Its Impact on Women and Children/ Indigenous Women; Community Development and Activism for the Environment; Gender Integration in Climate Change)
4. Child Protection and Child Development (Comprehensive Care for Children with Disabilities; Cyber-Crimes: Safe and Friendly Environments for Children; Child Health and nutritional securities)
5. Monitoring and Evaluation Impact and Theory of Change 2020 (Gender Audits and National Budgets)

CLOSING CEREMONY AND GALA DINNER

On the final day of the 4th Gender Focal Point Conference, GAP hosted the closing ceremony and gala dinner for all delegates to enjoy a final meal together and to receive their certificates for completion of the conference. GAP invited Mme. Nguyen Thi Tuyet, the Vice President of the Vietnam Women's Union, as the Chief Guest, to give the closing speech on the successful conference and display of partnership between the GAP and the Vietnam Women's Union.



4th Gender Focal Point Conference Closing Ceremony

Her Excellency Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu (PhD) closing remarks captured her hope for the Colombo Plan and its member countries in the near and far future:

“

Tomorrow you all will be returning to your home country with newfound knowledge and friendship as well as hope for a better future for all individuals, irrespective of race, color, gender, language, religion, politics, birth or other status. Your work in your home country as well as your participation in this conference, are gradual progresses being made to ensure the protection and promotion of the dignity, equality and absolute rights of all members of society.

I ask that you utilize your newfound knowledge and friendships to strengthen enduring South-South Cooperation. I look forward to seeing you all again and hearing about your successful independent as well as collective endeavors in gender affairs and children's right and protections.

”

The GAP team aims to adhere to Her Excellency's closing remarks by presenting member countries with the opportunities to collaborate as well as facilitate coordination amongst member states to strengthen collective efforts in supporting women and children. GAP will also continue to provide member countries with support in all their present and future endeavors to protect and improve the lives of vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

GAP M&E SYSTEM

The period from July 2019 – June 2020 has marked a significant refocusing of GAP's approach to Monitoring and Evaluation and placed M&E at the core of GAP's function. In a strategic bid to embed a rigorous, evidence-based approach to project management, and to position itself as the leader in providing topical expertise on gender and implementing gender projects across the APAC region and in sensitive environments, GAP has initiated the process of setting robust M&E processes across its projects and activities. Concerted and renewed effort was given to improving the data flows, increasing the data quality, enhancing the team's analytical capacity, setting up a documented foundation for the M&E system, and aligning GAP's activities with the strategic priorities of the Colombo Plan and its member states. As a unique organization providing cross-cutting gender expertise across Asia, GAP recognizes the leading role it is expected to play in providing technical support to Colombo Plan's member states on all issues related to gender. In line with this expectation, GAP has the ambition and has set the course on being one of the leading gender M&E system providers in the Asia-Pacific basin; the 2019-2020 reporting period has marked the beginning of this transition.

AWSF AND ACSCF M&E

A significant portion of the M&E work was dedicated to strengthening the data quality and data management in GAP's biggest projects, Afghan Women Shelter Fund (AWSF) and Afghan Children Support Centre Fund (ACSCF), which supports 31 facilities throughout Afghanistan through six local partner organizations. The M&E team has commenced drafting the Monitoring and Evaluation Manual, a reference document that standardizes the definitions of quantitative indicators used to monitor the performance of implementing partners in

the field and provides instructions on how to calculate the indicator values. The Manual is intended to serve as the document codifying the M&E system across the project and as a guidance to any interested party on how to calculate and interpret the set of quantitative indicators used in these complex projects. As part of the exercise to draft the Manual, a set of revised, streamlined indicators was designed by the M&E team and proposed to the donor. The preliminary drafting on the Manual has taken place, in line with the provided feedback. The completion of the Manual is expected in the first or second quarter of 2021.

The M&E team has also engaged in continuous data collection, validation and analysis of monthly actual indicator values in the two projects, and reported this information to the donor through Quarterly Reports. Monthly monitoring visits were organized to all implementing partners and their facilities, culminating in the production of monthly monitoring visit reports; monthly self-reports were being collected from the IPs, capturing both quantitative and qualitative data. Findings of the monitoring visits and findings stemming from self-report analysis were continually discussed with the implementing partners and relayed through Findings Reports or in-person meetings. This was done to ensure the uninterrupted provision of quality services in the facilities, correct any mistakes in the functioning of the centers and allow for continuous improvement in the facilities' operations and management.

To further enhance the robustness of the AWSF data collection system, the M&E team has provided capacity building exercises to the implementing partners (in the form of phone seminars and preparation of relevant templates) on creating quarterly targets for the quantitative indicator values. Thanks to this measure, the AWSF and ACSCF project teams started assigning targets on

all indicators to all implementing partners, mobilizing the partners to perform according to the set standard. Quarterly targets have been put in place and have been reported by all implementing partners for all their locations. This has added a strong layer of performance management to both projects.

Additionally, the team has carried out data quality improvement work by improving the data collection templates and instructing the IPs on how to populate them. Significant improvements were reported in eliminating all the instances of double-counting for some indicators and providing data disaggregated according to the very granular requirements of the donor.

The M&E team has also provided comprehensive support to the project team's needs. Ad hoc support was provided on all M&E issues.

COLOMBO PLAN MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTION

In addition to providing ongoing support to the running projects, GAP utilized the 4th Gender Focal Point Conference in Vietnam as the opportune assembly to record the feedback from all the member state participants on their views on GAP's strategic directions. As part of the conference proceedings, member states were engaged through group discussion focused on GAP's support aligned with GAP's strategic objectives – technical support, advocacy, knowledge management and resource mobilization. The feedback from the delegates on their strategic vision for GAP, in consideration of member states needs and challenges, highlighted the collective demand for technical support in M&E, specifically data collection, storage and reporting.

The feedback provided at the 4th Gender Focal Point Conference through the group discussions was recorded and analyzed by the GAP M&E team, consulted with the GAP Management and used as input into

the GAP 5-year strategic plan to reflect the needs of member states and stakeholders. The delegates' input also helped lay the groundwork for the creation of the Theory of Change of GAP, which is expected to be completed in the coming months and to provide a blueprint of the long-term impact that GAP intends to have on the broader gender issues.

M&E SUMMARY

The reporting period has been critical for re-focusing GAP's M&E efforts, strengthening the data and project management processes, and embedding a desired level of rigor into GAP's operations. Some of the more important technical improvements achieved in this period were the improvements in the data collection templates in the main projects, streamlining and codifying the quantitative indicators' definitions and assigning of disaggregated quarterly targets for 28 facilities in Afghanistan. Further, capacity building provided to implementing partners and ongoing improvements in the efficiency of conducting monitoring activities in the field have improved the data flows and strengthened the reliability of the M&E tools in use. All these activities have provided a solid foundation for creating a more robust M&E system in GAP in the coming periods, and for positioning GAP as the leading provider of gender M&E expertise across the APAC region.



GAP STRATEGY

The GAP strategic direction was an ongoing discussion during GAP's annual Gender Focal Point Conferences. As GAP was a nascent program, many member states proposed develop a strategic plan in line with the Colombo Plan's vision and mission as well as the member states' national priorities and needs.

Through the specific output from the 3rd Gender Conference, in addition to literature review, interviews, and consultations and the internal and external analysis, the following main challenges were identified and proposed to be incorporated into GAP's strategic goals:

1. Lack of technical expertise of government institutions
2. Absence of an advocacy platform for gender to voice concerns and provide leadership for advocating policy in gender affairs.
3. Absence of a knowledge management system, knowledge hub and relevant knowledge events
4. Limited resources and limited sustainability of those resources.

In turn, the following 4 strategic areas were prioritized to guide the GAP over the next 5 years – technical support, advocacy, knowledge management and resource mobilization. Consequently, GAP adopted the aforementioned challenges as its strategic objectives:

1. Strengthen the technical expertise of government institutions
2. Develop an advocacy platform
3. Develop and knowledge management system and knowledge hub
4. Expand and sustain resource mobilization

During the annual reporting period, GAP continued to develop its 5-year strategy

to correspond with the knowledge and feedback provided during to the 4th Gender Focal Point conference as well as to incorporate a new theory of change. Upon the conclusion of the reporting period, the GAP strategy was still under development and close review.

Moving forward, the GAP Strategy will emphasize and expand on the importance of strengthening awareness, prevention, reporting, and response to gender affairs issues, inclusive of child development and protection. Gender empowerment and child protection cut across the entire strategy and they will be central in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all for strategic objectives. GAP will aim to provide leadership and support to member states across these pressing and rampant themes, as well as in the 4 strategic areas, as per the member states' requests.

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
THE COLOMBO PLAN**

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements of the Colombo Plan Council and Secretariat for the Co-operative, Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific for the year ended 30 June 2019

I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

i. Opinion

The audit of financial statements of the Colombo Plan Council and Secretariat for the Co-operative, Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific for the year ended 30 June 2019 comprising the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in reserves and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Rule No. 10 of the Rules and Regulations 1997 of the Council and Secretariat.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Colombo Plan Council and Secretariat as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Statements of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

ii. Basis Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAUSs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

iii. Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statement that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri

Lanka Statements of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations and for such internal control as the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Secretariat's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the secretariat or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charge with governance are responsible for overseeing the secretariat financial reporting process.

iv. Auditor's Responsibility

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Sgd. W P C Wickramaratne
Auditor General
National Audit Office
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

22 January 2021

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2019

As at 30 June	NOTE	2019 Rs.	2018 Rs.
ASSETS			
Non - Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	2,382,405	3,949,462
Total non-current assets		2,382,405	3,949,462
Current Assets			
Inventories	4	90,000	96,260
Contributions receivable	5	19,082,025	19,256,543
Other accounts receivables	6	14,445,891	21,927,800
Prepayments	7	48,983	37,819
Stamp float		70,100	36,440
Cash and cash equivalents	8	321,982,521	265,196,361
Total current assets		355,719,520	306,551,223
TOTAL ASSETS		358,101,925	310,500,684
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Reserves			
Unrestricted funds	9	249,668,615	206,367,242
Designated funds	10	0	189,236
General reserve	11	75,850,000	75,850,000
		325,518,614	282,406,478
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefit liabilities	12	7,055,171	6,221,056
		7,055,171	6,221,056
Current Liabilities			
Accrued expenses	13	2,397,675	1,421,163
Other accounts payable	14	23,130,465	20,451,988
		25,528,140	21,873,151
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		358,101,925	310,500,684

Head of Finance

Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu, PhD
Secretary-General

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2019

Year ended 30 June	NOTE	2019 Rs.	2018 Rs.
Operating Income			
Contributions by Member Governments	15	77,207,880	69,584,911
Administrative Fund		-	3,291,400
Government of Sri Lanka - Rent		3,000,000	3,000,000
Interest income	16	9,734,664	18,712,417
Foreign exchange gains	17	34,217,702	16,125,591
Profit on disposal of assets		5,306	97,556
Other income		-	-
		124,165,552	110,811,875
Operating Expenditure			
Colombo Plan Council			
Working expenditure	18	4,663,386	1,586,102
		4,663,386	1,586,102
Colombo Plan Secretariat			
Salaries and allowances	19	42,366,181	43,270,341
Subsistence, travel, and transport	20	427,496	4,206,397
Maintenance of the Secretariat	21	1,860,621	2,486,789
Production of publications		-	35,200
Rent & Rates		6,000,000	6,250,000
Office expenditure	22	10,070,730	10,553,720
Community development		600,764	-
		61,325,793	66,802,447
Total expenditure		65,989,179	68,388,548
Surplus for the year		58,176,374	42,423,327

Head of Finance

Ambassador Phan Kieu Thu, PhD
Secretary-General

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT
Statement of Changes in Reserves for the year ended 30 June 2019

	General Reserve	Designated Funds	Results for the year	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Balance as at 1 July 2017	75,850,000	189,236	458,362,337	534,401,572
Transfer of funds to General Reserve	-	-	-	-
Transfer of funds for Community Development	-	-	-	-
Allocation of results to Community Development	-	-	-	-
Transfer to INL Administrative Fund	-	-	(294,418,422)	(294,418,422)
Surplus for the year	-	-	42,423,327	42,423,327
Balance as at 30 June 2018	75,850,000	189,236	206,367,242	282,406,477
Transfer to Programme For Public Administration	-	-	(14,875,000)	(14,875,000)
Allocation of result of community development	-	(189,236)	-	(189,236)
Surplus for the year	-	-	58,176,374	58,176,374
Balance as at 30 June 2019	75,850,000	(0)	249,668,615	325,518,615

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 30 June	2019	2018
	Rs.	Rs.
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the year	58,176,374	42,423,327
Adjustments to reconcile surplus / (deficit) to net cash flows		
Provision for depreciation	1,802,943	2,189,236
Provision for gratuity	681,015	159,203
Provision for leave pay	153,004	548,476
Provision for Community Development	(189,236)	-
Disposal of assets	(5,306)	(97,556)
Interest income	(9,734,664)	(18,712,417)
Prior year adjustment	-	-
	50,884,129	26,510,268
Working capital adjustments:		
(Increase) in inventories	6,260	(61,610)
(Increase) in contributions receivable	174,518	(5,743,107)
(Increase) / decrease in other receivables	12,084,812	(14,674,256)
Decrease in prepayments	(11,164)	60,061
Decrease / (increase) in stamp float	(33,660)	45,945
Increase / (decrease) in accrued expenses	976,511	589,000
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	2,678,477	16,883,238
Net cash from operating activities	66,759,884	23,609,539
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	5,131,760	18,826,605
Interest income from employee benefit liabilities	96	6,697
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(235,900)	(877,107)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	5,320	132,527
Net cash from investing activities	4,901,276	18,088,721

Cash flows from financing activities		
Transfer to PPA,PPSD,LTSP Project Activities	(14,875,000)	-
Leave pay	-	(200,409)
Transfer to INL project admin fund	-	(294,418,422)
Net cash used in financing activities	(14,875,000)	(294,618,831)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalent	56,786,160	(252,920,570)
Net cash and cash equivalent at beginning of the year	265,196,361	518,116,931
Cash and cash equivalent at end of the year (Note 1)	321,982,521	265,196,361
Note I		
Fixed deposits	239,559,651	55,908,430
U.S. Dollar special foreign currency accounts	82,573,915	211,694,207
Rupee accounts	(354,205)	(2,609,340)
Retirement fund savings account	173,159	173,063
Petty cash	30,000	30,000
	321,982,521	265,196,361

1. Basis of Preparation

1.1 Statement of Compliance

The Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Cash Flows together with the Accounting Policies and Notes to the financial statements as at 30 June 2019 and for the year then ended comply with Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organisations.

1.2 Basis of Measurement

The financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention

1.3 Functional and Presentation Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Sri Lanka Rupees which is the presentation currency. All financial information presented in Rupees has been rounded to the nearest Rupee, except otherwise indicated.

1.4 Changes in Accounting Policies

The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated, and are consistent with those used in previous years.

2. Summary of significant Accounting Policies

2.1 Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in currencies other than Sri Lanka Rupees are converted into Sri Lanka Rupees at rates which approximate the actual rates at the transaction date. At the reporting date, monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted into Sri Lanka Rupees at the rate of exchange at that date. Realized and unrealized exchange differences are reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The principal rates of exchange are shown below:

Currency	Closing Rate	
	30/06/2019	30/06/2018
US Dollar	175.00	156.60

Summary of significant Accounting Policies contd.

2.2 Cash and cash equivalents

The Secretariat considers cash on hand, amounts due from banks and term deposits to be cash and cash equivalents

2.3 Receivables

The Secretariat recognises receivables on the date that they are originated and stated at their cost.

2.4 Inventories

Inventories consists of stationery stocks and are valued at cost.

2.5 Property, plant and equipment

a) Cost and valuation

All items of property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost. Where an item of property plant and equipment subsequently revalued, the entire class of such asset is revalued. Subsequent to the initial recognition of an asset, property plant and equipment are carried at historical cost or, if revalued, at the revalued amounts less any subsequent depreciation. Additions subsequent to the last revaluation is carried at cost less any subsequent depreciation.

b) Subsequent expenditure

Subsequent expenditure is capitalized only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the item of property and equipment. All other expenditure is recognized in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as an expense as incurred.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all assets on the straight-line basis and is calculated on the cost or revalued amount of all property plant and equipment in order to write off such amounts over the estimated useful lives of such assets.

Depreciation is calculated on a monthly basis. Depreciation is provided from the month of purchase and no depreciation is provided in the month of disposal.

The rates of depreciation currently being used are:

Assets	Rate per annum
Furniture	25%
Equipment	33%
Motor vehicles	20%

d) Donated assets

Donated assets are valued at cost and brought in to the financial statements under property plant and equipment through a Capital Reserve. Depreciation provided on such assets will be charged against the reserve.

Summary of significant Accounting Policies contd.

2.6 Provisions

A provision is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when the Secretariat has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of assets will be required to settle the obligation, and the obligation can be measured reliably.

2.7 Income recognition

a) Contributions

Member Country contributions are accounted for the respective financial year to which they relate.

b) Revenue

Interest earned is recognised on an accrual basis

Revenue earned on administrative charges are recognised in the accounting period in which project funds are received and implemented.

Net gains and losses on the disposal of property plant and equipment are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income after deducting from the proceeds on disposal, the carrying value of the item disposed of.

Other income is recognised on an accrual basis.

2.8 Expenditure recognition

Expenses of the Secretariat are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income during the period in which they are incurred.

2.9 Administrative Fund - INL

In August 2014, as per the directive of U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the administrative fund earned from the projects of INL is separated from the Financial Statements of the Colombo Plan Council and the Secretariat and reported to INL biannually.

Notes to the Accounts

3. Property, plant and equipment

	Furniture		Equipment		Vehicles		Donations		Utensils, Library Books		Bungalow Furniture/ Equipment		Bungalow Equipment		Total	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Furniture	Equipment	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cost																
Balance as at 01/07/2018	2,368,071.15	5,219,756.93	7,993,265.80	-	440,019.90	550,976.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,572,090.28
Additions during the year	23,400.00	212,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	235,900.00
Disposals during the year	(181,460.50)	(89,515.00)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(270,975.50)
Balance as at 30/06/2019	2,210,010.65	5,342,741.93	7,993,265.80		440,019.90	550,976.50										16,537,014.78
Depreciation																
Balance as at 01/07/2018	2,162,938.24	4,408,317.82	5,060,376.02	-	440,019.90	550,976.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,622,628.48
Disposals during the year	(181,453.50)	(89,508.00)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(270,961.50)
Charge for the year	153,417.33	517,031.09	1,132,494.36													1,802,942.78
Balance as at 30/06/2019	2,134,902.07	4,835,840.91	6,192,870.38		440,019.90	550,976.50										14,154,690.76
Written down value																
As at 30/06/2019	75,108.58	506,901.02	1,800,395.42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,382,405.02
As at 30/06/2018	205,132.91	811,439.11	2,932,889.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,949,461.80

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT

Notes to the Accounts

As at 30th June	2019	2018
	Rs.	Rs.
4. Inventories		
Consumables	90,000.00	96,260.00
5. Contributions receivable		
Afghanistan	-	2,724,840.00
Lao - PDR	6,090,000.00	2,724,840.00
Maldives	-	5,449,680.00
Mongolia	22,691,648.28	22,691,648.28
Myanmar	56,549.50	50,603.72
Nepal	3,045,000.00	2,724,840.00
Pakistan	755,475.00	132,059.21
Papua New Guinea	6,090,000.00	2,724,840.00
United States of America	3,045,000.00	2,724,840.00
	41,773,672.78	41,948,191.21
Provision for doubtful debt		
Mongolia	(22,691,648.28)	(22,691,648.28)
	19,082,024.50	19,256,542.93
6. Other accounts receivable		
Refundable deposits	1,507,552.00	1,685,112.00
Advance payments	-	122,622.00
Rent advance - SG's Residence	3,856,388.82	15,601,339.00
Govt. of Sri Lanka - Office rent	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00
Drug Advisory Programme / Gender Affairs Programme	-	42,500.00
Interest receivable	6,079,130.27	1,476,226.74
Receivable from M Mallar	2,820.00	
	14,445,891.09	21,927,799.74

7. Prepayments		
News papers	10,920.00	-
Insurance	38,063.48	37,819.22
Anniversary celebration	-	-
	48,983.48	37,819.22
8. Cash and cash equivalents		
Fixed deposits	239,559,651.19	55,908,429.82
Special Foreign Currency Accounts (US\$)	82,573,914.50	211,694,207.08
Rupee current accounts	(354,204.56)	(2,609,339.53)
Retirement Fund savings account	173,159.40	173,063.40
Cash in hand	30,000.00	30,000.00
	321,982,520.53	265,196,360.76
9. Unrestricted funds		
Balance at the beginning of the year	206,367,240.76	458,362,335.60
Transfer to General Reserve	(14,875,000.00)	-
Transfer to INL Project Administrative Fund	-	(294,418,422.00)
Prior year adjustment	-	-
Surplus for the year	58,176,373.58	42,423,327.16
Balance at the end of the year	249,668,614.34	206,367,240.76
10. Designated funds		
Balance at the beginning of the year	189,236.04	647,818.44
Transfer of funds during the year - Community Development	(189,236.04)	1,300,000.00
Allocation of results - Community Development	-	(1,758,582.40)
Balance at the end of the year	0.00	189,236.04
11. General reserve		
Balance at the beginning of the year	75,850,000.00	75,850,000.00
Transfer of funds during the year	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	75,850,000.00	75,850,000.00

12.		
12.1 Employee benefit liabilities - Retirement Fund		
Balance as at 1 July	173,063.40	166,366.66
Expenses	(6,554.08)	
Interest income	6,650.08	6,696.74
Balance as at 30 June	173,159.40	173,063.40
12.2 Employee benefit liabilities - Gratuity		
Balance as at 1 July	2,386,474.00	2,227,271.00
Provision for the year	681,015.00	159,203.00
Balance as at 30 June	3,067,489.00	2,386,474.00
12.3 Employee benefit liabilities - Leave pay		
Balance as at 1 July	3,661,518.50	3,313,452.00
Provision for the year	153,003.86	548,475.50
Paid during the year	-	(200,409.00)
Balance as at 30 June	3,814,522.36	3,661,518.50
13. Accrued expenses		
Audit fee	371,594.94	315,010.80
Electricity	155,070.00	147,433.50
Internet / Email	446,116.50	169,700.57
Maintenance of SG's Bungalow	66,342.20	8,898.00
Maintenance of the Secretariat	-	37,898.00
Security service	-	80,232.60
Telephone	88,772.00	68,736.05
Transport	44,779.00	-
Water	-	33,535.95
Salary	1,225,000.00	559,718.00
	2,397,674.64	1,421,163.47
14. Other accounts payable		
Contribution from Mongolia (USD 25,000)	3,568,750.00	3,568,750.00
DAP - Voluntary contribution from Pakistan	-	147,277.74
INL Project Administrative Fund	16,510,059.86	16,725,504.84
Membership fee from Fiji (USD 68.83)	6,655.26	10,455.28
Contribution Received in Advance (19/20 from Korea)	3,045,000.00	-
	23,130,465.12	20,451,987.86

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT

Notes to the Accounts

As at 30th June	2019	2018
	Rs.	Rs.
15. Contributions by Member Governments		
Contributions received during the year	64,272,405.34	53,053,207.88
Contributions receivable for the year	12,935,475.00	16,531,702.94
	77,207,880.34	69,584,910.81
16. Interest income		
Rupee fixed deposits	112,010.93	170,634.94
U.S. Dollar fixed deposits	7,850,526.79	14,192,654.00
U.S. Dollar special savings accounts	1,772,126.28	4,349,128.33
	9,734,664.00	18,712,417.27
17. Foreign exchange gains		
Contributions outstanding from prior years	1,471,448.66	245,461.00
U.S. Dollar special savings accounts	24,949,920.55	6,510,056.25
U.S. Dollar fixed deposits	7,799,735.70	9,368,665.10
Others	(3,403.08)	1,408.58
	34,217,701.83	16,125,590.92

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT

Notes to the Accounts

As at 30th June	2019	2018
	Rs.	Rs.
18. Council working expenditure		
Consultative Committee Meeting	2,754,250.00	-
Council sessions	587,842.19	465,195.63
Travel expenses	282,808.50	-
Representation / Entertainment	1,038,485.10	1,120,905.91
	4,663,385.79	1,586,101.54
19. Salaries and allowances		
Salaries - International Officers	17,548,366.55	17,686,080.42
Rent - International Officers	6,289,270.00	5,443,713.75
Education allowance - International Officer	931,228.00	782,000.00
Medical expenses - International Officers	80,631.72	214,315.39
Leave encashment - International Officer	805,503.86	3,115,850.70
Salaries - Local Staff	12,836,776.81	12,538,364.67
Provident Fund @15% - Local Staff	1,842,749.75	1,693,484.50
Overtime - Local Staff	439,406.78	317,519.86
Gratuity - Local Staff	681,015.00	159,203.00
Medical expenses - Local Staff	911,233.00	771,332.94
Leave encashment - Local Staff	-	548,475.50
	42,366,181.47	43,270,340.73
20. Subsistence, travel and transport		
Travel and subsistence	159,960.00	1,520,923.06
Passage & Transfer cost	267,535.52	2,685,473.68
	427,495.52	4,206,396.74
21. Maintenance of the Secretariat		
Maintenance of the Secretariat	741,997.55	1,041,601.28
Maintenance of SG's Bungalow	1,118,623.80	1,445,187.96
	1,860,621.35	2,486,789.24

22. Office expenditure		
Advertisement	-	40,496.00
Audit fee	60,000.00	48,000.00
Bank charges	215,535.27	93,224.26
Computer expenses	604,106.00	477,244.00
Complementary expenses	25,000.00	55,000.00
Consultancy fee	-	617,292.00
Depreciation	1,802,942.78	2,189,235.87
Electricity	1,704,772.35	1,617,811.35
Insurance	303,231.85	282,920.30
Internet & Email	1,777,403.97	1,791,047.97
Newspapers / periodicals	26,520.00	8,218.00
Postage / courier	72,707.86	160,335.96
Printing & stationery	636,194.80	633,147.08
Photocopier maintenance	-	22,000.00
Photographs	-	15,000.00
Security	887,900.45	883,641.41
Sundries	22,284.90	45,726.00
Telephone / fax	639,203.00	570,062.75
Transport / fuel	573,402.60	438,060.00
Uniform for staff	44,470.00	34,000.00
Vehicle repairs	244,332.84	151,383.28
Water	57,215.35	85,712.61
Welfare	284,389.48	275,701.00
Withholding tax on interest income	89,116.97	18,460.01
	10,070,730.47	10,553,719.85

THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL & SECRETARIAT

Variance Analysis

For the year ended 30 June 2019				
	BUDGET	INCURRED	VARIANCE	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Operating Expenditure:				
Colombo Plan Council				
Working expenditure	5,100,000	4,663,386	436,614	9%
Colombo Plan Secretariat				
Salaries and allowances	43,639,148	42,366,181	1,272,967	3%
Subsistence, travel, and transport	1,400,000	427,496	972,504	69%
Maintenance of building / acquisition and repair of F&E	3,060,000	2,096,521	963,479	31%
Production of publications	560,000	-	560,000	100%
Rent & Rates	3,600,000	3,000,000	600,000	17%
Office expenditure excluding depreciation	9,654,000	8,267,788	1,386,212	14%
Community development	1,480,000	600,764	879,236	59%
	68,493,148	61,422,136	7,071,012	10%



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