



THE COLOMBO PLAN

for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific

AFGHAN WOMEN'S SHELTER FUND - PHASE IV (AWSF IV)

JANUARY 2021 – OCTOBER 2023

CLOSURE REPORT

This document serves as the closure report of the fourth phase of the Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF IV), implemented from January 2021 to October 2023. In the aftermath of the fall of Kabul in August 2021 and the subsequent disruptions to project activities, AWSF's primary initiatives were gradually phased out and ultimately concluded by October 2023.

This report has been prepared by the Colombo Plan Gender Affairs Programme (CPGAP) for review by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the United States Department of State.

April 2024.

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Cover photo: A beneficiary working on a kilim, Faryab Women's Protection Center, courtesy Women for Afghan Women.

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CLOSURE REPORT

Title	Afghan Women's Shelter Fund – Phase IV	
Location	Afghanistan	
Managing agency	Colombo Plan Gender Affairs Programme (CPGAP)	
Address	The Colombo Plan Secretariat 5th Floor, M2M Veranda Offices, 34, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02, Sri Lanka	
Funding agency	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), United States Department of State, Washinton, D.C. 20520	
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Financial Summary (01 January 2021 – 31 October 2023)	
Total funds received USD	6,676,502.62
Residual funds USD	4,687,144.19
Total project fund USD	11,363,646.81
14% administrative cost payable to The Colombo Plan Secretariat USD	1,395,535.57
Funds disbursed to implementing partners USD	8,251,499.00
14% administrative cost on project expenses USD	1,321,704.15
Accumulated project expenses USD	9,440,743.93
Balance funding (incl. of 14%) USD	601,198.72

CONTENTS

Abbreviations	5
Executive Summary	7
AWSF IV Key Achievements	9
Project Closure Synopsys	10
i. Introduction	12
ii. Progress Review	35
iii. Monitoring & Evaluation	83
iv. Capacity Building	89
v. Partnerships and Coordination	91
vi. Key Challenges, Lessons Learned and Recommendations	94
vii. Impact: Reflections on Change	98
viii. Major Risks and Mitigation Measures	101
ix. Assets	107
x. Financial Summary	109
Annexes	110

ABBREVIATIONS

ACSCF	Afghanistan Children Support Center Fund
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
ANDSF	Afghan National Defense Security Forces
APCEDA	Anticipated Project Completion End Date Adjustment
ASN	Afghan Shelter Network
AWSF	Afghan Women's Shelter Fund
AWSDC	Afghan Women's Skills Development Center
CC	Children's Committee
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CP	The Colombo Plan
CPAN	Child Protection Afghan Network
CPAoR	Child Protection Area of Responsibility
CPDAP	Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme
CPGAP	Colombo Plan Gender Affairs Programme
CSC	Child Support Center
DfA	De-facto Authority
DNH	Do No Harm
DoLSA	Department of Labor and Social Affairs
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
ECOSOC	Special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
EVAW Law	Elimination of Violence against Women
ESN	Essential Services Network
FGC	Family Guidance Center
FNM	Forgotten No More shelter
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
Hagar	Hagar International
HH	Halfway House
IDLO	International Development Law Organization
IEA	Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
iMMAP	Information Management and Mine Action Program
IP	Implementing Partner
IRA	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ipso	International Psychosocial Organisation
JFAO	Justice for All Organization
LAB	Legal Advisory Bureau
LAC	Legal Advisory Center

MCHC	Mother & Child Health Center
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
NDS	National Directorate of Security
NCE	No-Cost Extension
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ORCD	Organization for Research and Community Development
PSC	Psychosocial Counselors
PVPV	Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice
RFP	Request for Proposal
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TIP LAW	Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
TH	Transitional Houses
ToR	Terms of Reference
US	United States
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USA	United States of America
VAW	Violence against Women
VWO	Voice of Women Organization
WAW	Women for Afghan Women
WPC	Women's Protection Center
YHDO	Youth Health and Development Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The trajectory of the fourth phase of the Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF IV) was unlike that of any of its preceding phases. Launched in January 2021, the project faced unforeseen challenges that impeded its implementation. As it unfolded, the political landscape of Afghanistan shifted, presenting a series of unprecedented hurdles. Despite determination to move forward unwaveringly in its commitment to serve those in need and prevent nearly two decades of efforts from being undone, continuation seemed impossible.

Amidst these challenges, AWSF initiatives made a tangible impact on survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking, providing essential support such as protection, counseling, education, and vocational training. Furthermore, outreach programs fostered community awareness and tolerance, contributing to broader goals of gender equality and child protection.

However, by August 2021, the majority of AWSF facilities, totaling 27 out of 29, were rendered inoperable. Female-focused services were discontinued by June 2023, drastically reducing the project's presence from 18 provinces to solely Kabul. Funding for the remaining two boys' shelters ceased in October 2023.

Throughout its duration, AWSF facilities served a total of 8,904 clients across 13 provinces. Among these, 1,208 were female survivors seeking shelter at Women's Protection Centers, while 6,061 sought assistance from the Family Guidance Centers. Additionally, over 1,400 individuals sought assistance at the two legal aid units, and 165 underage male survivors or those at risk of trafficking found refuge in the two boys' shelters.

The project also conducted extensive counseling and outreach sessions, benefiting thousands of participants. Fifty-one psychosocial counselors in 47 facilities in 18 provinces conducted 10,976 individual and 830 group counseling sessions as well as 325 community and institutional outreach sessions, with 9,322 participants attending.

However, the political landscape in Afghanistan, particularly under the current regime, presented significant challenges to projects aimed at promoting women's rights and providing essential support services. Since August 2021, the realization of many AWSF objectives had been hindered, yet the significance of continuing such endeavors remained paramount. Stakeholders and staff drew motivation from the project's overarching goal of protecting women and children, providing them with access to professional support and a platform to be heard and respected.

Despite these recent setbacks, the AWSF project has left a lasting legacy, transforming individual lives, enhancing the professional capacities of staff, strengthening partner organizations, and influencing policy development. The closure of AWSF IV underscores the immense challenges faced by humanitarian initiatives in volatile contexts. Yet, by assimilating lessons learned and implementing recommended strategies, future projects can navigate crises with agility, ensuring continued support for vulnerable populations amidst uncertainty and adversity.

AWSF IV GOAL

To provide protection and quality essential services, inclusive of psychosocial and legal aid services, for survivors and/or those at risk of experiencing gender-based violence and/ or trafficking in persons in Afghanistan.

Women's Protection Centers and Family Guidance Centers

January – August 2021

- 10** Women's Protection Centers (WPC) in 10 provinces
- 13** Family Guidance Centers (FGC) in 13 provinces
- 01** Halfway House (HH)
Legal Advisory Bureau (LAB)
Legal Advisory Center (LAC)

- 1,208** WPC residents with 299 accompanying children
- 6,061** FGC beneficiaries
- 1,116** LAB beneficiaries
- 310** LAC beneficiaries
- 7,812** family counseling and mediation clients
- 1,771** cases resolved through mediation
- 971** cases resolved through court
- 7,356** received legal counseling/ legal support services
- 673** provided with educational services
- 527** received vocational training
- 1,106** clients reintegrated
- 19** provided with reintegration support
- 36** repeat shelter clients



AWSF
KEY
ACHIEVEMENTS

Boys' shelters

January 2021 – October 2023

- 02** boys' shelters in Kabul
- 165** shelter residents

- 127** cases resolved through mediation
- 185** offered family counseling and mediation
- 3** cases resolved through court
- 101** received legal counseling/ legal support services
- 146** received educational services
- 58** given access to formal education
- 118** provided with vocational training
- 130** clients reintegrated
- 130** provided with reintegration support
- 4** repeat shelter clients



SF IV KEY ELEMENTS



Psychosocial counseling and mental health care services

January 2021 – June 2022



51

psychosocial counselors in
47 facilities in
18 provinces

10,976 individual
counseling sessions

830 group counseling
sessions

1,840 benefited from
mediation services



Community and institutional outreach

January 2021 – October 2023



229 community outreach
sessions

96 institutional outreach
sessions

5,395 male participants

3,927 female participants



Monitoring and evaluation

January 2021 – October 2023



106 programmatic
monitoring visits 62 online

103 financial
monitoring visits 62 online

PROJECT CLOSURE SYNOPSIS

The establishment of the Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF) in 2011 was in accordance with the government of Afghanistan's commitment to international obligations and national policies. The primary goal of AWSF was to safeguard and aid survivors, as well as individuals vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP).

AWSF IV, the fourth iteration of the Afghan Women's Shelter Fund, was structured to run for 12 months, commencing from January to December 2021. Its primary objective was to enhance services and operational efficiency across 29 facilities dedicated to providing protection and recovery support services for survivors and individuals susceptible to GBV and TIP.

The fact that AWSF had reached its fourth phase is indicative of the maturity and progress achieved in its mission. Over the past decade, AWSF's presence across numerous provinces and the operation of Women's Protection Centers (WPC), Family Guidance Centers (FGC), Legal Advisory Bureau (LAB), and Legal Advisory Center (LAC) have underscored its successful implementation of projects in each phase, meeting most, if not all, objectives and deliverables. Beneficiaries, communities, and government stakeholders alike have expressed high satisfaction with the quality of services provided under successive iterations. AWSF's response to continuous demand and the societal need for female-benefiting initiatives has been evident, particularly in addressing issues related to GBV and TIP.

However, despite its considerable achievements and dedication, the present phase marks the final iteration of AWSF. This ending is the culmination of a complex and challenging set of circumstances, brought about by a significant political shift in Afghanistan. The year 2021 presented unprecedented challenges, encompassing the complexities of a lingering global pandemic, escalating security concerns, monumental shift in political dynamics, the transition back to remote work, a reckoning around political ill-will, and a sobering realization of the boundaries within the social change agenda.

The shift in Afghanistan's operating environment in August 2021, caught the donor community off guard; a hostile environment emerged, one that was not cognizant of the established protection needs of vulnerable women and girls, leading to the closure of multiple vital services supporting women and girls at risk of GBV and TIP, with dire consequences. Almost overnight, decades of progress were eroded. The situation regressed to levels reminiscent of a by-gone era, undoing nearly all advancements in services benefiting women. Many aid organizations ceased their operations, while others opted to continue at significantly reduced scope and scale.

The AWSF IV was severely affected. All facilities were rendered inoperative since mid-August 2021, except for the two boys' shelters in Kabul. The AWSF's ability to accomplish project objectives was severely impaired. The very mission it was established to support became untenable, leaving the population it aimed to serve in greater need than ever.

In response to the increasingly challenging climate, AWSF made the difficult decision to cease operations of shelters and services benefiting women and girls. Female beneficiaries were reintegrated. Those unable to be reintegrated were accommodated in alternative arrangements until June 2022, when they were transferred to UN Women in accordance with donor directives. With the majority of AWSF's original mandate untenable, the CPGAP's supervisory role of the boys' shelters came to an end on 31 October 2023, marking the end of the implementation phase, followed by a six-month reporting period ending on 30 April 2024.

The seismic erasure of a painstakingly crafted space for female-benefiting initiatives reflects the shifting dynamics and hardships confronting organizations committed to empowering and safeguarding women and girls in Afghanistan. The future for projects of this nature appears grim, given the current political opposition to the very idea of protection and recovery support services for women. Promoting programs aimed at benefiting women and girls would be fraught with obstacles, notably, the formidable barrier of a well-articulated anti-women ideology.



L-R; Office cleaner, housemother, and cook at Hagar's Forgotten No More (FNM) shelter, supported under AWSF IV. They have been working at the FNM shelter since 2021 © Hagar

I. INTRODUCTION

Contextual imperatives: Socio-political landscape

Afghanistan has historically been characterized by a deeply entrenched patriarchal system, where male dominance is ingrained in cultural and religious norms. Gender-based violence in Afghanistan is portrayed as a byproduct of the structural violence that validate widespread antagonistic customs and traditions on the one hand and the violence and complexities stemming from decades of war on the other. Within this framework, the rights of women and children have often been systematically violated, with the true extent of these violations not fully quantified or understood to date.

The country is widely acknowledged as a significant source, transit, and destination country for individuals, including men, women, and children, who are subjected to various forms of forced labor, including bonded labor, and sex trafficking. The majority of trafficking victims in Afghanistan are children, coerced into labor across sectors such as carpet making, brick kilns, domestic servitude, commercial sex, begging, poppy cultivation and harvesting, salt mining, transnational drug smuggling, and truck driving. Disturbingly, some Afghan families resort to physically violent means to compel their children into labor, while others knowingly facilitate their children's entry into sex trafficking networks through outright sale.

In this context, providing safe shelters for in-need women and children is vital as their absence could amplify existing social injustices and systemic repression.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRA) ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 5 March 2003, requiring the government to integrate women's rights into the national framework. This ratification mandated the government to incorporate women's rights into the national legal framework. Subsequently, in 2009, the country took a significant step forward by enacting the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW Law) through a presidential decree. This groundbreaking law criminalized 22 acts

of violence against women (VAW), including rape, child marriage, forced marriage, domestic violence, the sale of women and girls, and *baad*¹, marking a historic milestone for women's rights in Afghanistan.

Under the EVAW Law, the government was explicitly tasked with adopting preventive and protective measures against violence targeting women. This included ensuring the provision of protection for victims of violence in protection centers (shelters) or, in the absence of such facilities, other safe locations, along with other essential services. Consequently, survivors of GBV are referred to shelters operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associated FGCs.

These facilities are instrumental in providing Afghan women with the necessary protection and services, as outlined in Article 6 of the EVAW Law. In a country like Afghanistan, where women often have limited options for safety and support, these protection centers fulfill a crucial role by offering temporary refuge to women who are victims of violence. For many survivors of GBV, these NGO-led shelters represent the only safe haven available, underscoring the vital importance of the protection and services provided therein.

In 2017, Afghanistan took a significant step forward in combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling by enacting the Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (TIP Law). This legislation introduced stringent penalties, including the possibility of the death penalty for specific offenses related to trafficking. Furthermore, in 2018, the country criminalized sex trafficking and labor trafficking, including the reprehensible practice of *bacha baazi*², and imposed severe penalties for offenses such as sex trafficking and rape.

1 Refers to the practice of giving females to settle disputes between families.

2 Translated as 'dancing boys' refers to a form of sexual exploitation and abuse involving underage boys.

Afghanistan's EAW Law served as an additional tool in the fight against trafficking by prohibiting mediation in cases of violence against women and advocating for the prosecution and conviction of sex traffickers. However, the EAW law was abolished

after the fall of Kabul in August 2021. Along with it, the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) was dissolved and replaced with the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV).

Path of intervention: The evolution of AWSF through various phases

AWSF's journey dates back to 2007. AWSF's predecessor, the Afghanistan Women Shelter Program was initiated in 2007 through the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme's (CPDAP) financial support to a Kabul based transitional center operated by the Afghanistan Women Skills Development Centre (AWSDC). By 2011, the Afghanistan Women Shelter Program developed into the Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF), which provided grant funding and program assistance to four implementing partners (IPs) operating various transitional centers.

In May 2014, AWSF was officially assigned to the Colombo Plan's newly established Gender Affairs Programme (CPGAP). The second phase of AWSF

(AWSF II) was initiated in June 2014. AWSF II project-lifespan covered five years from 2014 to 2018, with a no-cost extension (NCE) granted to the end of 2019 for the purpose of completing certain project activities. The third phase of AWSF (AWSF III) ran from 01 February 2018 – 31 December 2020, COVID-19 challenging and transforming the project in 2020.

The fourth iteration of AWSF (AWSF IV) was designed to span 12 months, from January to December 2021, with a primary focus on improving services and operations across 29 facilities providing protection and recovery support services to survivors and those at risk of GBV and TIP.

Progression of AWSF

Phase I of the AWSF (2011 – 2014) focused on funding women's protection centers, - shelters for women and girls in need of protection from violence -, and associated family guidance centers, which provide legal, mediation, and counseling services to survivors or those at risk of GBV and their families.

Phase II of the AWSF (June 2014 – December 2019) focused on increasing the CPGAP's oversight over its implementing partners through regular on-site monitoring and external audits and assessments of the implementing organizations, as well as organizational capacity building.

During phase II, the AWSF expanded its focus to include boys by supporting facilities assisting survivors of human trafficking. This expansion involved funding legal clinics and local court-based defense attorneys to improve legal support for women and children, while also initiating support for psychosocial counseling and mental health education for survivors and their families throughout Afghanistan.

In Phase III (February 2018 – December 2020), the AWSF focused on building the sustainability of existing facilities, along with the services they offer. This phase aimed to achieve the goal of enhancing access to justice for survivors and individuals vulnerable to gender-based violence and trafficking in Afghanistan.

AWSF IV: Scope and objectives

The AWSF IV focused on improving services and operations of implementing partners. For this phase, CPGAP partnered with seven IPs, whereby CPGAP provided financial and technical support for existing initiatives, contextualized and tailored to align with beneficiary needs, partner organizations' objectives and the realities of the larger Afghan

society under six project outcomes evaluated by corresponding performance measures. AWSF IV outcomes and output indicators were modified from the previous phases of AWSF to better reflect the project's progress over the years as well as cover all activities implemented under AWSF IV in service of the targeted beneficiaries.

PROJECT GOAL

To provide protection and quality essential services, inclusive of psychosocial and legal aid services, for survivors and/or those at risk of experiencing GBV and/ or TIP in Afghanistan.

OUTCOMES

1. Sustained access to a quality safe haven for survivors, or those at risk of experiencing GBV and/or TIP;
2. Improved resolution of GBV and TIP cases through protection centers, family guidance centers and/or legal advice centers;
3. Improved psychological health of beneficiaries through the provision of psychosocial services at protection centers, family guidance centers and/or partner health organizations;
4. Increased self-sufficiency among survivors of GBV and TIP;
5. Increased understanding and acceptance of legal rights and access to justice for survivors and those at risk of GBV and TIP; and
6. Increased sustainability of AWSF-funded legal and protective services for women and children.

Project activities continued as planned from January to August 2021. Subsequently, given the changes that took place, the outcomes were adapted to suit boys

shelters during the no cost extension from March 2022-October 2023, thus retaining the first four.

Refined project outcome and output metrics

Drawing from the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) manual developed during AWSF III, a revised set of metrics was formulated for AWSF IV, encompassing adjustments to existing project indicators and the inclusion of measures to evaluate previously overlooked aspects of activities. Fresh logical frameworks (log frames) and updated outcome and output indicators were introduced at the onset of AWSF IV, indicating ongoing enhancements in support provided by CPGAP to the IPs and improvements in service delivery to beneficiaries. These adaptations ensured a standardized approach to comprehensively capturing project activities.

Notable modifications involved refining terminology and introducing new output indicators, particularly within outcomes 1 and 2, to better reflect project endeavors. Furthermore, additional outcome and output indicators were integrated, notably within outcome 3, to ensure comprehensive coverage. While no new output indicators were appended to outcome 4, existing indicators underwent substantial language revisions to enhance reporting precision. The key emphasis was placed on disaggregating data based on the geographical location of each IP facility, allowing for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of service delivery at each specific site.

Outcome 1: Sustained access to a quality safe haven for survivors, or those at risk of experiencing, GBV and/or TIP.

Performance measure 1a: % of qualified individuals who request protection from violence from AWSF-funded protection centers or FGCs and receive it.

Performance measure 1b: % of beneficiaries satisfied with the shelter supported facilities; accommodation, bedding, three nutritious meals, hygiene kits, and clothes etc.

Performance measure 1c: % of shelter beneficiaries aware about their entitlements during the period living in the shelter.

Outcome 2: Improved resolution of GBV and TIP cases through protection centres, family guidance centres and/or legal advice centres.

Performance measure 2a: % annual increase in the number of persons provided legal representation through protection centers, FGCs and/or legal advice centers who take a civil or criminal case to court for resolution or prosecution.

Performance measure 2b: % annual increase in the number of AWSF beneficiaries who take cases to the formal justice system for resolution or prosecution under the EVAW Law or TIP Law.

Performance measure 2c: % annual increase in beneficiary cases that are resolved through the formal justice system in accordance with the EVAW Law or TIP Law.

Performance measure 2d: % of beneficiaries satisfied with the results of their cases, including where applicable, reintegration with their families.

Performance measure 2e: % annual decrease in the number of reintegrated persons who end up back in protection centers or report further incidents of GBV and/ or TIP.

Outcome 3: Improved physical and psychological health of beneficiaries through the provision of medical and psychosocial services at AWSF facilities and/or partner health organizations.

Performance measure 3a: % of beneficiaries who received health services by either a physician or nurse in the AWSF facility and reported to be in 'better' health by AWSF medical staff after receiving such health services.

Performance measure 3b: % of beneficiaries who received health services delivered by a non-AWSF facility and reported to be in "better" health by non-AWSF medical staff after receiving such health services.

Performance measure 3c: % of beneficiaries who received psychosocial counseling and who were assessed and reported by psychosocial counselor to show improvements in their condition.

Performance measure 3d: % of beneficiaries who received psychosocial counseling and reported increased feelings of well-being.

Outcome 4: Increased self-sufficiency among survivors of GBV and TIP.

Performance measure 4a: % of clients report leaving the protection centers with improved literacy, technical and/or vocational knowledge and/or skills.

Performance measure 4b: % of long-term shelter residents engaged in income-generating activities that apply skills gained during training.

Outcome 5: Increased understanding and acceptance of legal rights and access to justice for survivors and those at risk of GBV and TIP.

Performance measure 5a: % annual increase in the number of justice sector referrals to shelters, family guidance centers and legal advice centers.

Performance measure 5b: % annual increase in the number of protection center, family guidance center, and legal advice center beneficiaries who were aware of the centers and their services before being referred or brought there.

Outcome 6: Increased sustainability of AWSF-funded legal and protection services for women and children.

Performance measure 6a: % annual increase from the baseline of operating costs covered by donors other than Colombo Plan.

Performance measure 6b: % reduction in the annual cost of operating AWSF funded facilities that does not reduce the number of beneficiaries or affect the quality of services by the end of AWSF IV (Quality being quantity of food, clothing, medical care, and utilities).

نایت بملی و
فود دارند.

برنده گان در مقابل بازنده گان

برنده گان همیشه یک برنامه دارند.
برنده گان میگویند بگذار ایتان انجامش دهم.
برنده گان برای هر مشکل پاسخ می یابند.
برنده گان میگویند ممکن است مشکل باشد اما امکان پذیر است.
برنده گان میگویند تقصیر از من بود.
برنده گان میگویند این کار را انجام می دهم.
برنده گان از گروه است.
برنده منافع و فرصت را می بینند.
برنده اعتماد دارد برنده شود.
برنده گان از کمالات ساده و لطیف استفاده می کنند.
برنده گان آنچه به خودی یسند برای دیگران بهر بهر بسند.

بازنده گان

بازنده گان همیشه یکت بجهانه دارند.
بازنده برای هر پاسخ مشکل می یابد.
بازنده گان میگویند ممکن است انجام داد اما بسیار دشوار است.
بازنده گان همیشه وعده می دهند.
بازنده گان نقش می کشند.
بازنده میگویند باید این کار را انجام شود.
بازنده جدا از گروه است.
بازنده گان متعقد اند تا یکی ببازد.
بازنده گان عیب ها مشکلات را می بینند.
بازنده گان از کمالات خشن و سنگین استفاده می کنند.
بازنده گان بر موارد ناخوشایندی هستند.

هشت گام براتقیر طرز فکر

دسپورت گتی

دحافظی بنده والی

دبدن ییاوری گول

دانذیننوا و فشار گولی

بنده خوب گول

دبدن خونذیتوب

دعمران

دخوبنی

- ۱- به دنبال مورد مثبت باشد (حتی کوچک باشد).
- ۲- کارتان را به تعویق نه اندازید.
- ۳- قدر دانی را به کار گیرید.
- ۴- برنامه آموزشی بهتر داشته باشید.
- ۵- اعتماد به نفس مثبت بسازید.
- ۶- از تصورات منفی دور بمانید.
- ۷- کار را که باید انجام دهید دوست بدارید.
- ۸- روزتان را با امور مثبت آغاز کنید.

Facilities supported by AWSF IV

The AWSF IV supported 29 facilities providing protection and recovery support services to survivors and those at risk of GBV and TIP. These facilities included 10 Women's Protection Centers (WPCs), two boys' shelters (BSs), one Halfway House (HH), 13 Family Guidance Centers (FGCs), one Legal Advisory Center (LAC), one Legal Advisory Bureau (LAB), and an isolation center (IC) established in Herat in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Women's Protection Centers provided safe and confidential accommodation for victims of GBV. These shelters, located in secure residential buildings, not only provided basic life necessities but also facilitated self-development through vocational and educational classes as well as income-generating activities. Beneficiaries had access to no-cost medical services, including consultations, testing, and treatments performed by experienced medical professionals. Additionally, psychosocial counseling services were available to help them overcome trauma and make informed decisions for their future.

When beneficiaries are reintegrated into their families and communities, depending on their need, economic situation and acquired skills, vocational assistance packages (tools to start a vocation) were provided. These included tailoring, embroidery, and necessities to go back to school. Once a beneficiary is reintegrated, multiple follow-ups were conducted for a period of one year to ensure she is adjusting and reintegrating well within their families and communities. Further support is provided when necessary. Follow-ups cease once staff feels the beneficiary has successfully reintegrated.

A **Halfway House** serves as an open center specifically designed to support beneficiaries transitioning out of WPCs who have resolved their legal cases but lack stable housing options. Here, individuals are accommodated and empowered to integrate back into society by either joining the workforce or pursuing further education outside of the facility. The goal is to help them achieve financial self-reliance and independence.

Boys' shelters provided comprehensive protection and recovery support services to survivors or those under 18 years at risk of TIP. These services encompassed safe shelter, three daily meals, clothing, medical care (both on-site and through external resources), psychosocial support, access to formal education, mediation, family counseling, vocational training, and recreational activities.

Family Guidance Centers are dedicated to enhancing access to justice for survivors and individuals vulnerable to GBV. These centers offer a range of services including family mediation, legal assistance, counseling for family reintegration, psychosocial support, referrals to relevant resources, legal representation in both civil and criminal cases, mediation services for case resolution, and implementation of awareness-raising initiatives and outreach training aimed at promoting gender equality under Islamic principles within communities.

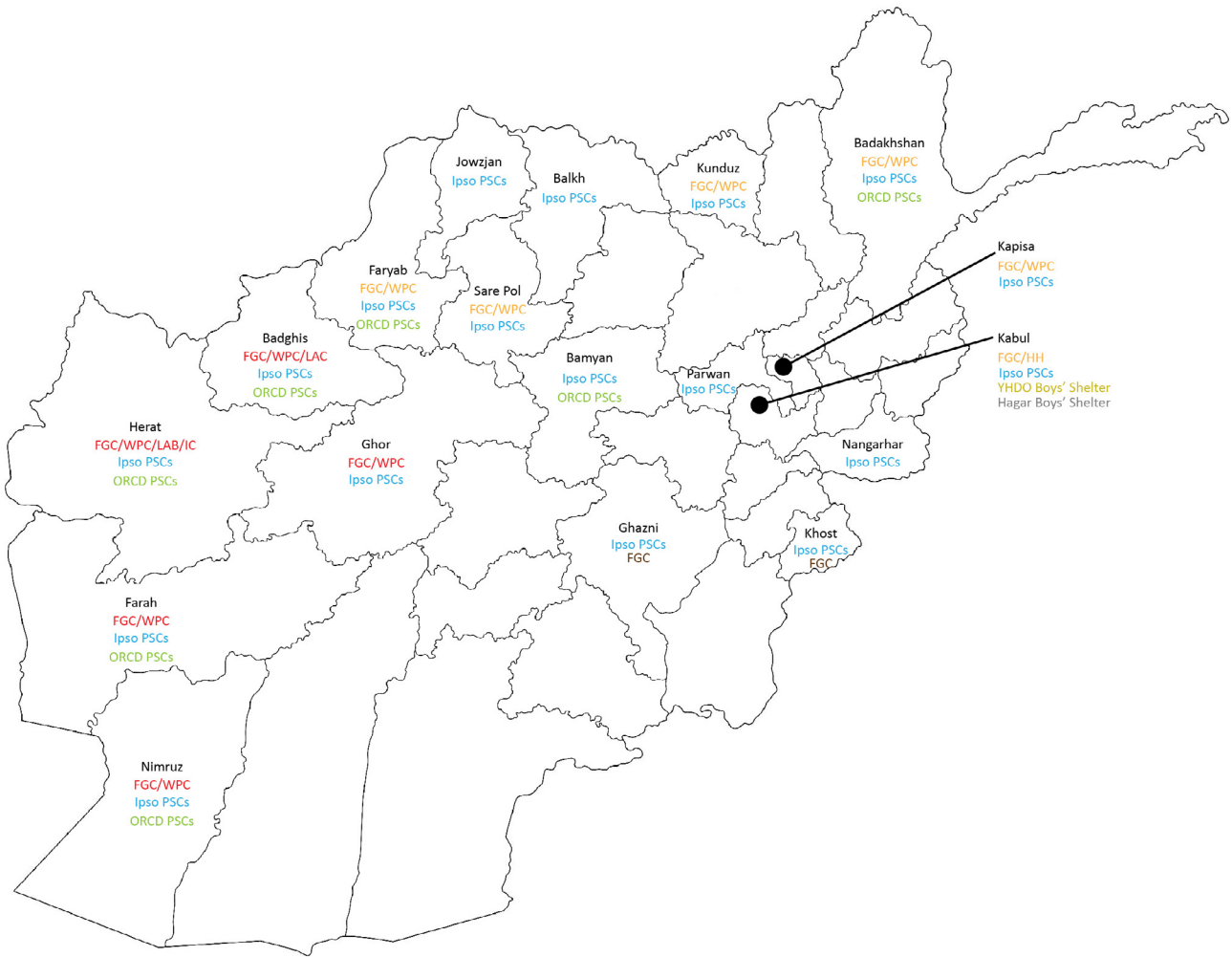
The **Legal Advisory Bureau** was one of the most successful initiatives run by VWO in Herat. The family court had permitted VWO to have the LAB office adjacent to the family court inside the appeals court premises, where LAB staff assisted clients based on intake forms along with defense lawyers to provide legal counseling, legal advice and legal aid services, including court representation.

The overall goal of the **Legal Advisory Center** was to facilitate access to the formal justice system for vulnerable women and girls and other clients who seek access to justice. LAC provided legal counseling, legal aid, and conducted community outreach campaigns for the target communities of Badghis province, to reinforce their level of awareness on women rights, laws, EVAW law and LAC project activities. LAC also conducted mobile legal clinics in collaboration with the Department of Justice in selected areas.

List of AWSF IV facilities

Implementing Partner	Province	Facility
Women for Afghan Women (WAW)	Badakshan	FGC, WPC
	Faryab	FGC, WPC
	Sar-e-Pul	FGC, WPC
	Kabul	FGC
	Kabul	HH
	Kapisa	FGC, WPC
	Kunduz	FGC, WPC
Voice of Women Organization (VWO)	Badghis	FGC, LAC, WPC
	Nimroz	FGC, WPC
	Herat	FGC, LAB, WPC, IC
	Farah	FGC, WPC
	Ghor	FGC, WPC
Hagar International (Hagar)	Kabul	BS
Justice for All Organization (JFAO)	Khost	FGC
	Ghazni	FGC
Youth Health Development Organization (YHDO)	Kabul	BS

Location map of AWSF facilities



FGC - Family Guidance Center
 HH - Halfway House
 IC - Isolation Center
 LAB - Legal Advisory Bureau
 LAC - Legal Advisory Center
 WPC - Women's Protection Center

- Hagar International (Hagar)
- International Psychosocial Organization (Ipso)
- Justice for All Organization (JFAO)
- Voice of Women (VWO)
- Women for Afghan Women (WAW)
- Youth Health and Development Organization (YHDO)
- Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD)



Hagar's psychosocial counselor and caseworker during community meeting with local Shura for family tracing © Hagar

Provision of psychosocial counseling and mental health care services

CPGAP collaborated with the International Psychosocial Organization (Ipso) from January 2021 to January 2022, and with the Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD) from March to June 2022 to offer psychosocial counseling and mental health care outside the public health system in 18 provinces in Afghanistan.

Psychosocial counselors (PSCs) from these organizations provided assistance to direct beneficiaries, including women and their families, as well as communities, addressing issues related to violence against women and girls, psychosocial stressors, coping strategies, and available care services.

Female PSCs stationed at WPCs and transitional houses supported women in coping with their experiences and improving family interactions, with a focus on exploring opportunities for family reunification. Meanwhile, male counselors stationed at FGCs provided counseling to family members of sheltered women, mediating discussions between women and male family members to assess the feasibility of safe reintegration into their families.

The majority of women receiving counseling sought assistance at WPCs, while the men seeking counseling were often husbands, fathers, or in-laws of the women, visiting FGCs to address their specific cases.

AWSF IV principal stakeholders

The establishment of WPCs and FGCs represented a major milestone and change giving women and girls the much-needed glimpse of hope to address their social and legal needs as well as respecting their rights and providing a window of opportunity for financial security through the vocational training programs provided in the WPCs.

Direct beneficiaries of the project were vulnerable women and girls experiencing GBV and or TIP, their accompanying children and female family members under WPC component; survivors or at risk boys of TIP; and family members of survivors and external clients seeking legal advice, legal aid, mediation and psychosocial counseling under the FGC component. Other direct beneficiaries included governmental officials who participated in the legal awareness sessions and capacity building training programs in all provinces where projects were implemented. Indirect beneficiaries were family members of direct beneficiaries and local communities where public outreach awareness sessions were conducted.

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), of the United States Department of State, has been funding the AWSF since its inception, initially through CPDAP since 2007, and from February 2013, through the Colombo Plan's Programme for Public Administration (PPA), subsequently through the CPGAP since 2014. CPGAP was established in May 2014, as per a recommendation made at the 43rd Consultative

Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan held in Indonesia in 2012 to set up a separate program focusing on women and children. The CPGAP took the AWSF under its wings with the continued support of the Government of the United States. The CPGAP administered a second project in Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Children Support Center Fund (ACSCF), from June 2014 to March 2021, that provided children of incarcerated mothers a safe haven, as well as alternative comprehensive care, including nutritious food, clean water, physical and mental health, clothing, and access to education.

As for government stakeholders in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) were integral to the AWSF, spearheading efforts to address the concerns of clients in WPCs and boys' shelters while effectively navigating them through the formal justice system. MoWA was the lead agency for promoting women's rights and advancement in Afghanistan. With the coming into power of the new administration, the MoWA was replaced by the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV). Both MoWA and MoLSA served as primary referral channels. Individuals would first seek assistance from MoWA or MoLSA, who would then guide them to shelters through established protocols and documentation. These agencies played a pivotal role in managing client referrals and ensuring their smooth reintegration.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), as the line ministry of the project, facilitated the project's implementation, cooperated in referring new clients as well as supporting implementing partners in tracking families of clients, resolving their cases and collaborated in facilitating the safe reintegration of clients with their families. These agencies actively contributed to enhancing laws and regulations to better serve survivors of GBV and TIP. MoWA played a significant role as a prominent

member of the Afghan Shelters Network (ASN) and most importantly, collaborated with support from the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to introduce the 'Women's Protection Centers Guidelines' in 2014. The publication of these guidelines was financially supported by INL. Additionally, both MoWA and MoLSA consistently served as essential governmental entities in providing support to organizations managing shelters.

AWSF IV implementing partners

In the fourth phase, AWSF worked with seven IPs, six of them continuing from AWSF III. The IPs fell in to two primary groups: those operating facilities and those providing psychosocial counseling and mental health care services. Among the five implementing partners operating facilities were Women for Afghan Women (WAW) and Voice of Women Organization (VWO), which managed WPCs and FGCs; Hagar International (Hagar) and Youth Health and Development Organization (YHDO) operating shelters for boys; and Justice for All Organization (JFAO) managing FGCs. WAW also operated a halfway house, while VWO ran a Legal Advisory Center, a Legal Advisory Bureau, and an isolation center in Herat established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. International Psychosocial Organization (Ipso), and Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD) provided psychosocial counseling and mental health care support.

Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, civil society organization. WAW's mission is dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and children in Afghanistan and New York, particularly their rights to develop their individual potential, to self-determination, and to be represented in all areas of life. WAW has been providing services to survivors of human rights violations in Afghanistan as well as in New York since 2007 and has directly supported over 60,000 Afghan women and children to date. WAW founded the Afghan Shelter Network (ASN), a strategic coordination network of women's support centers promoting Women's Protection Center Guidelines as well as national and international obligations to protect and promote the rights of women and children.

During the NCE period, WAW initially proposed to conduct a needs assessment for vulnerable rural women and families through consultations with various stakeholders in six provinces covering four districts in each province, however, later abandoned that idea.

Voice of Women Organization (VWO) a grassroots independent, non-governmental, organization established in 1998 which became the first women rights organization to register with the Afghan government in 2002, established the first WPC in Herat in 2005 with the aim of providing immediate safe haven for women and girls, victims of GBV and those at risk of GBV. VWO started in 1998 as a covert school for young women and girls under the Taliban rule that banned women and girls from receiving a formal education. Since its establishment, VWO has worked to elevate women's role within the patriarchal Afghan society through advocacy for women's rights, legal & social protection, capacity building and socio-economic empowerment.

During the NCE period, VWO continued use of its existing Kabul emergency shelters to shelter 19 women and 2 children until 30 June 2022, handed over to UN Women on donor instructions.

Hagar International (Hagar) is an international non-profit organization created in 1994 as a response to the pervasive and severe violence affecting women and children in post-civil war Cambodia. In 2008, Hagar began operations in Afghanistan to support women and children facing GBV and TIP. In Afghanistan, Hagar works closely with the government and the TIP High Commission to strengthen internal capacity to address human trafficking, slavery and abuse. Hagar also works on an individual level with survivors of human trafficking and abuse, to provide ground-

breaking rehabilitation and reintegration services through its shelter services. Hagar's Forgotten No More (FNM) project was the first center nationwide dedicated to providing specialized recovery services to male child survivors of trafficking and abuse.

Hagar faced no impediments to continuing its services and continued operating its boys' shelter in Kabul until the end of the NCE period in October 2023.

Justice for All Organization (JFAO) is a Kabul-based, female-led, local human rights-oriented NGO established in 2008 with the objective of strengthening the rule of law by increasing access to justice through the provision of free legal services (legal representation, advice, and mediation) through its FGCs, as well as free legal counseling clinics and legal aid clinics. JFAO also holds legal workshops and seminars, conducts advocacy and legal awareness programs, distributes publications, provides paralegals for legal aid offices, and builds the capacity of law and sharia students by providing legal clinics for training.

JFAO was suspended as an IP in February 2022 as per donor instructions based on the findings of a financial audit.

Youth Health and Development Organization (YHDO) is a local NGO registered with the Ministry of Economy (MoE) in 2009. YHDO's central focus is to offer a range of services to Afghan youth including women, men, boys and girls. YHDO's work in Afghanistan consists of – fighting bacha baazi in Afghanistan and ending impunity, empowering survivors of TIP, scaling up HIV intervention, strengthening responses for male survivors of TIP/sexual violence, and establishing shelters for boys who are at risk or survivors of TIP. YHDO has completed 60 projects in 17 provinces of Afghanistan and assisted over 200,000 beneficiaries since 2018. YHDO has special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council since 2019.

YHDO, too, ran its boys' shelter in Kabul until the end of the NCE period, and the organization had no issues continuing their services since the power shift.

International Psychosocial Organisation (Ipso) is a humanitarian NGO, based in Germany and Afghanistan that specializes in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) and in sociocultural dialogue to promote peace and social cohesion. Ipso also works at an individual and community level to address traumatic experiences and facilitate difficult life-transitions. Ipso offers coaching and mentoring services for expatriate staff of international aid organizations. Prior to its inclusion in AWSF II as an implementing partner, Ipso was offering its coaching and mentoring services to the Colombo Plan and UN Women funded WPCs and FGCs.

Psychosocial counseling, being a public health service, could continue unhindered during the NCE period with minimal or no risk to staff and beneficiaries. However, Ipso decided to halt its operations in Afghanistan and withdraw from AWSF with effect from 31 January 2022.

As Ipso was not able to meet the needs of the project beyond January 2022, the CPGAP transferred the project to another organization to continue the objectives and services proposed, namely, the **Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD)**. ORCD, involved in AWSF IV from March to June 2022, is an Afghan non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 2011 and registered with the MoE. ORCD employs an evidence-based best practice approach to empower communities in setting and achieving their development goals.

AWSF IV budget

AWSF was funded by the the Government of the United States of America, through the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). For AWSF IV, INL provided USD 6,676,502.62 to the Colombo Plan and authorized the Colombo Plan to repurpose

USD 4,687,144.19 in previously provided funds. INL subsequently agreed to extend the anticipated implementation period completion date for the project through 01 February 2022 and again through 01 March 2022. On 28 February 2022, INL authorized the Colombo Plan to realign the budget and activities

and extended the anticipated implementation period completion date for the project through 30 June 2022. INL subsequently agreed to anticipated

implementation period completion date extensions through 31 October 2022, 31 January 2023, 30 June 2023, and 31 October 2023.

AWSF IV timeline

	January 2021	Start of AWSF phase IV Project activities are carried out uninterrupted during the first half of the year
	May 2021	Start of the 2021 Taliban Offensive, districts and provincial centers are captured
	June 2021	Overall situation in the country worsens Reintegration process ramped up, survivors safely reintegrated with their families or into society
VWO relocates beneficiaries from Badghis and Ghor to Herat, and later (in August), from Herat to Kabul WAW relocates beneficiaries from Badakhshan, Faryab, and Kunduz to Kabul and Balkh		
WAW relocates beneficiaries from Badakhshan to Kabul and from Sar-e-Pul to Balkh	July 2021	CPGAP's MoUs with the IPs amended to address security related matters, human resources, and financial monitoring
JFAO Ghazni FGC relocated to Kabul	August 2021	VWO transfers survivors to Kabul, establish Emergency Centers in Kabul. LAC and LAB activities halted
Taliban takes over VWO's facilities Fall of Kabul. End of the 2021 Spring Offensive VWO senior management leave the country for safety reasons		WAW relocates beneficiaries from Kapisa to Kabul All FGCs and WPCs became inoperative 16 VWO staff detained during the first weeks of the Taliban takeover, and later released Taliban occupies WAW facilities
IP budgets realigned from September to December 2021 VWO Badghis, Ghor, Farah, Nimruz, WPC buildings and Herat FGC lease agreements terminated WAW Badakhshan FGC lease agreement terminated	September 2021	Ipso re-introduces remote supervision VWO 's Herat HQ and FGC compounds vacated and returned WAW's remaining beneficiaries are housed by staff
Executive Director of JFAO evacuated from Afghanistan. WAW Kabul HH center lease agreement terminated Vocational training, literacy classes and psychosocial counseling sessions resume for survivors in the Kabul emergency center of VWO	October 2021	VWO staff manage to access buildings in Ghor, Herat WPC and IC facilities. Herat WPC and IC lease agreements terminated

	November 2021	VWO Farah FGC building vacated by the Taliban
WAW Sar-e-Pul WPC, Kabul FGC, Kapisa FGC, Faryab WPC leases terminated	December 2021	Moore Afghanistan engaged by CPGAP to carry out an audit of JFAO for the period from January to October 2021
Remaining WAW clients (12 women and 1 child) handed over to VWO WAW Saripul FGC building handed over to the landlord	January 2022	Anticipated project completion end date adjustment (APCEDA) granted by the INL till 01 February 2022
		Ipso withdraws from AWSF IV. Counselors provide support till the end of February
Notification of termination of implementing partner status given to JFAO over audit findings	February 2022	APCEDA granted till 01 March 2022
		WAW suspends activities under AWSF IV
ORCD replaces Ipso to continue psychosocial counseling and mental health care services	March 2022	NCE granted by INL from 01 March to 30 June 2022
	May 2022	ORCD starts providing psychosocial counseling and mental health care services
End of ORCD project implementation period	June 2022	VWO clients transferred to UN Women. End of VWO project implementation period
Two boys' shelters continue under AWSF IV	July 2022	NCE granted by INL from 1 July 2022 to 31 January 2023
	December 2022	Taliban bans women working for international NGOs
	February 2023	NCE granted by INL from 1 February to 30 June 2023
	July 2023	NCE granted by INL from 1 July to 31 October 2023
	October 2023	Implementation period of the two boys' shelters end on 31 October 2023
	April 2024	Administrative closure of AWSF IV



A beneficiary of Kapisa WPC sewing face masks in June 2021 © WAW

COVID-19 response

Considering the then prevailing COVID-19 situation in Afghanistan in 2021, the AWSF IPs continued to implement COVID-19 precautionary measures, including mandatory isolation for incoming residents, as well as shifting counseling and legal advisory activities to a virtual space, when possible, based on the advice of CPGAP. For the services that could not be halted (live-in services, post-assault medical examinations, some forms of legal advisory), strict social distance guidance and mandatory personal protective equipment protocol were adopted. Despite the challenges, the AWSF IPs showed immense resilience and flexibility to ensure that essential and demanded beneficiary service provisions were uninterrupted. The number of beneficiaries served through AWSF provisions remained high, associated with a hike in GBV cases due to the pandemic.

As a precautionary and protective measure against the spread of the coronavirus, the Colombo Plan initiated a “work from home” policy on 23 March 2020. International staff was instructed to return to their places of origin. The Afghan and Sri Lankan governments also placed regional specific lockdowns, which also led to the temporary closure of both the Colombo Plan Secretariat and Kabul field offices. CPGAP readjusted all internal operations to tailor to remote working.

The CPGAP implemented a comprehensive online monitoring plan to ensure the effective oversight of AWSF-funded facilities. This plan encompasses specific guidelines covering provisions, rules, procedures, and COVID-19 related protocols. Additionally, CPGAP formulated infection prevention and control guidelines to mitigate risks associated with the pandemic, disseminating them among IPs. IPs were further tasked with crafting contingency plans tailored to their respective facilities, operations, and services. These plans addressed various aspects such as procuring COVID-19 supplies, managing high case volumes among staff, conducting project activities with health and safety in mind, and establishing evacuation procedures.

Furthermore, CPGAP introduced a COVID-19 tracker to monitor and manage confirmed and suspected cases, ensuring IPs adhere to protocols such as staff isolation and beneficiary quarantine. Additionally, during the previous quarter, CPGAP developed a COVID-19 liability and disclaimer form for all IP staff engaged in training or audit activities within IP facilities, emphasizing adherence to safety measures.

During 2021, CPGAP continued online monitoring visits to the field facilities. The in-person monitoring visits to IP facilities were expected to resume during the second quarter of 2021 depending on the number of COVID-19 cases reported and the security situation within the country, however, did not happen.

The two boys’ shelters adhered to these COVID-19 protocols until the very end of the implementation period. At both shelters, the staff made use of face masks, hand sanitizer, and forehead no-touch thermometer that were accessible and administered by the guards. For new children, a quarantine room was set up. Hagar placed new children in a quarantine room for seven days: YHDO for 10 days.

Constraints imposed on female staff

Following a decree issued on 24 December 2022, the government of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) implemented a ban prohibiting all female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations from attending their workplaces, mandating their confinement to their homes. Subsequently, upon reception of an official communication from the MoE, both Hagar and YHDO advised their female personnel to transition to remote work and reassigned tasks that necessitated physical presence at the premises to male staff members. This directive impacted a total of 18 positions held by women (10 within Hagar and eight within YHDO) in response to the IEA's proclamation.

The CPGAP organized multiple crisis meetings with Hagar and YHDO to assist them in implementing necessary adjustments to handle the situation. Following the guidance provided by the CPGAP, both IPs devised short-term and long-term strategic plans. Through extensive collaboration among themselves and with pertinent stakeholders, the IPs efficiently resolved the issue in a timely manner.

In January 2023, the YHDO team, with the backing of the Director of Supporting Mothers' and Children's Health Rights at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), received authorization to allow healthcare personnel to return to on-site duties at the shelter. A pivotal visit by a MoPH official to inspect shelter services and ensure the availability of necessary facilities for the female staff's reinstatement significantly influenced this decision. Consequently, the shelter medical nurse and psychosocial counselor resumed their roles on January 25. Additionally, the female cleaner was permitted to resume her duties in support of the female staff. Subsequently, the remaining five female staff members of the shelter resumed their duties in February with modified job descriptions and titles: Two caretakers assumed roles as 'Hygiene and Nutrition Officers', another two as 'Health Educators', and the sports instructor as a 'Health Assistant'.

Throughout January and February, Hagar's Legal and Child Protection Officer along with the Education Officer continued their work remotely through online platforms. Hagar arranged for these employees to operate from a private school attended by shelter children, as government restrictions did not apply to female teachers in primary schools. Meanwhile, Hagar's cook and assistant cook resumed their duties from the Hagar Executive Director's nearby apartment, preparing meals for both FNM clients and staff.

Following discussions with relevant government authorities and verbal approval from the MoE's Director of NGOs, three housemothers, accompanied by their husbands, returned to work at the shelter in March 2023.



Public awareness session conducted by the Badakhshan FGC © WAW

Evacuation, relocation & reintegration of beneficiaries

Following the US President Joe Biden's April 2021 announcement that the US military forces would be leaving Afghanistan by 11 September 2021, the Taliban forces swiftly began overrunning the country. Beginning in early May, the Taliban launched a series of devastating assaults aimed at destroying the Afghan National Defense Security Forces (ANDSF) and provincial authorities loyal to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The speed at which provinces and districts collapsed completely overwhelmed the central government officials in the capital of Kabul. Hostilities began in the northern city of Kunduz. Outmaneuvered, outmanned, and outgunned, local police and ANDSF, in large numbers, began deserting and in some areas switched sides in efforts to save their own lives.

As security forces were either killed, captured, or deserted, local officials, in hopes of minimizing loss of life and to prevent widespread destruction of villages and cities, felt compelled to surrender resulting in the rapid acceleration in territory seized by the Taliban forces. As forces swept westward, the AWSF implementing partners quickly concluded the situation had become untenable. In consultation with INL, CPGAP and IPs set in motion emergency contingency plans calling for the immediate relocation of beneficiaries that could not be safely reintegrated, staff and family members.

Commencing mid-June, IPs operating WPCs began relocating their clients to safer provinces, eventually to Kabul. Below is a recap of relocation of survivors from different locations to Kabul.

Relocation VWO clients

Badghis	14 survivors and five accompanying children relocated from Badghis to Herat on 13 and 14 June 2021. 31 survivors (19 survivors and 12 accompanying children) were safely reintegrated with their families.
Ghor	18 survivors and four accompanying children relocated from Ghor to Herat on 14 and 15 June 2021. Nine survivors were safely reintegrated with their families. A total of seven survivors (five women and two children) remained in the WPC since their reintegration was under process at the time and were later safely reintegrated.
Herat	93 survivors relocated from Herat to Kabul on 2 August 2021. This included 47 women and 14 children from Herat WPC; 11 women and two children from Badghis WPC; and 16 women and three children from Ghor WPC.
Farah	Four beneficiaries relocated from Farah to Herat. The survivors in Farah could not be relocated due to the rapidly changing situation. They left the WPC and were living with project staff and later on gradually reintegrated with their families.
Nimruz	Four beneficiaries relocated from Nimruz to Herat. The survivors in Nimroz could not be relocated due to the rapidly changing situation. They left the WPC and were living with project staff and later on gradually reintegrated with their families.

Relocation WAW clients

Faryab	14 survivors and eight accompanying children relocated to Kabul and Balkh on 19 and 20 June 2021. Family members of all clients were called to Kabul and all of them were reintegrated with their families.
Kunduz	Four survivors and one accompanying child relocated to Kabul and Balkh on 21 June 2021.
Badakhshan	17 survivors and nine accompanying children relocated to Kabul on 4 July 2021. Eight survivors and five accompanying children relocated to Kabul and Balkh on 19 June 2021.
Saripul	Four survivors and five accompanying children relocated to Balkh on 21 July 2021, later reintegrated into society.
Kapisa	Seven survivors and five accompanying children relocated to Kabul on 10 August 2021, and were subsequently reintegrated with their families or back into society.
Kabul HH	On 15 August 2021, the Kabul HH had 17 clients, of which five clients were immediately reintegrated with their family members. The remaining 13 clients who did not have any family members were relocated to the Kabul CSC ¹ as the Kabul HH building was occupied by Taliban.

In Kabul, the IPs were compelled to promptly reintegrate clients with either their relatives or someone from their village since they were not permitted to reside in a shelter without a *mahram* (chaperon). When the shelters became inoperative, WAW made the decision to accommodate clients who did not have relatives or family members with its staff members starting September. Thirteen such clients, including one accompanying child, were accommodated with WAW staff, who were compensated 10,000 AFN per client per month to cover daily expenses.

As of 31 December 2021, all these 13 clients remained in WAW care. 12 of these clients were handed over to VWO in January 2022, the remaining client was

reintegrated into society. This brought the number of individuals under VWO care to 19 (17 women and two children), who were accommodated across a few covert facilities in Kabul. VWO ensured that these facilities resembled ordinary residential houses to evade suspicion and prevent any potential trouble. Each house was staffed with a caretaker and a case worker who remained present 24/7 lived alongside the beneficiaries. Additionally, throughout the day, vocational trainers, nurses, literacy teachers, and project staff would visit the facilities to conduct their activities.

This last cohort of AWSF IV beneficiaries was handed over to the UN Women in June 2022, as per donor instructions.

Number of beneficiaries reintegrated since mid-2021:

Facility	Women	Accompanying children
WAW		
Badakhshan WPC	17	9
Faryab WPC	13	8
Kabul HH	26	4
Kapisa WPC	16	10
Kunduz WPC	4	2
Saripul WPC	6	5
VWO		
Herat WPC	136	44
Badghis WPC	32	17
Ghor WPC	38	10
Farah WPC	14	11
Nimruz WPC	20	15



YHDO beneficiaries learning tailoring © YHDO

II. PROGRESS REVIEW

A. Key achievements on project expected outcomes

Building upon the M&E manual developed during AWSF III, a refined suite of indicators was developed, taking into account the necessary adaptations to existing AWSF project indicators and the inclusion of measures to assess previously unaddressed aspects of project activities. With the start of AWSF IV, a fresh array of logical frameworks (log frames) and updated outcome and output indicators was implemented. These log frames and indicators underwent subtle modifications from the preceding AWSF iteration, showcasing the continuous enhancements in support extended by CPGAP to the IPs. Moreover, IPs reflected improvements in services delivered to beneficiaries and advancements in project-wide indicators, ensuring a uniform approach to comprehensively capturing and depicting project activities.

In refining AWSF's outcome and output indicators, significant modifications were made to the language and new output indicators were introduced, particularly to outcomes 1 and 2. These adjustments included revising the indicator language to better reflect the project activities as exemplified in outcome 5. Moreover, to ensure comprehensive coverage of all service provisions, additional outcome and output indicators were incorporated, notably under outcome 3. While no new output indicators were appended to outcome 4, substantial alterations were made to the language of existing indicators to optimize reporting on project activities.

During the AWSF IV, several indicators were presented in a revised format, marking a departure from previous reporting practices. Consequently, the alignment of their targets appeared inadequate, leading to instances of both overestimation and underestimation. This discrepancy in target calibration contributed to different internal data calculation methods among the IPs when reporting actual value data. Notable examples include indicators 5.1 (percentage of justice sector referrals to shelters, family guidance centers, and legal advice centers) and 5.2 (percentage of AWSF beneficiaries aware of facility services prior to referral), previously reported as distinct numbers rather than percentages.

Similarly, certain indicators within outcome 2 of the log frame showed target overestimation, posing challenges for IPs in reporting, particularly for three output indicators.

Although CPGAP provided close support to IPs throughout the period under review to ensure realistic reporting, pervasive challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, heightened security concerns, regime change, project closures, and short-term project extensions for the boys' shelters hindered the full realization of plans outlined in the M&E manual. These unforeseen circumstances disrupted the intended reporting mechanisms and underscored the need for agile adaptation strategies amidst dynamic project environments. Nevertheless, despite challenges, CPGAP made significant strides by introducing a revamped template for IPs' monthly narrative self-reports, aiming to enrich the qualitative data obtained from the field. This initiative also entailed a shift in reporting frequency from monthly to quarterly, accompanied by the development of tailored quarterly reporting templates for all IPs. Additionally, CPGAP implemented slight modifications to the monthly quantitative data collection sheet utilized by IPs, aligning it with the revised indicators for AWSF IV and their specific data disaggregation criteria.

The fall of Kabul necessitated a markedly different approach to the AWSF IV project implementation compared to the previous phases of the project. It had a direct effect on the AWSF project activities, ultimately leading to the closure of WPCs and FGCs and the suspension of the formal case resolution through the legal system. Services provided by the two boys' shelters remained uninterrupted until the end of the AWSF IV implementation period in October 2023.

Due to variations in project implementation and closure dates, the IPs operated within different timeframes, resulting in distinct data periods for each project outcome. The overall progress towards project expected outcomes, encompassing key activities and results, is outlined below:

OUTCOME 1 Sustained access to a quality safe haven for survivors or those at risk of experiencing gender-based violence and/or trafficking in persons⁴ (From January 2021 to October 2023)⁵

Performance measure ⁴	Total WAW ⁵		Total VWO ⁶		Total JFAO ⁷		Total Hagar ⁸		Total YHDO ⁹		Total AWSF IV	
	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target
1a. % of qualified individuals who request protection from violence from AWSF-funded protection centers or family guidance centers receive it (compared to AWSF III baseline)	91%	100%	100%	100%	80%	82%	91%	89%	100%	100%	92.40%	94.20%
1b. % of beneficiaries satisfied with the shelter supported facilities; accommodation, bedding, 03 nutritious meals, hygiene kits, and clothes etc.	89%	100%	95%	100%	n/a	n/a	97%	91%	100%	100%	95%	97.75%
1c. % of shelter beneficiaries aware about their entitlements during the period living in the shelter.	100%	100%	95%	100%	n/a	n/a	98%	92%	100%	100%	98%	98%

4 Concerns WAW, VWO, JFAO, Hagar and YHDO. Ipso and ORCD are discussed separately, under section B “Provision of psychosocial counseling and education” of the Progress Review.

5 Owing to different timeframes in the implementation and end dates of projects, the timeframes of operation for the AWSF IPs varied, thus giving rise to discrete data periods for each AWSF IV project outcomes.

6 The administration of Beneficiary Satisfaction Surveys at the IP level highlights a lack of standardization across IPs, revealing varying methodologies for capturing satisfaction. Numerous efforts were made by CPGAP to standardize the IP data calculation methodology across all AWSF IPs, however, the security situation and COVID-19 hindered the full realization of the expected plan for standardization of data collection methods, albeit with some improvements during the reporting period. Data collection include WPCs, HHs, and BSs, leading to an “n/a” value for JFAO, which only operated FGCs during AWSF IV. Throughout AWSF IV, sample sizes have exhibited inconsistency, attributed to fluctuations in beneficiary numbers and potential instances of double counting of long-term residents over time. Consequently, estimating a precise total sample size becomes impractical, prompting the application of weights reflecting the relative size of each IP based on their total number of shelters. This approach results in percentages that offer a dependable approximation of actual outcomes.

7 Reflecting data spanning from January to July 2021 for Badakhshan WPC & FGC; Faryab WPC & FGC; Sare Pul WPC & FGC; Kabul FGC & HH; Kapisa WPC & FGC; and Kunduz WPC & FGC, it is noteworthy that after August 2021, only 13 women and one accompanying child (previously admitted) received services.

8 Reflecting the underlying data for Herat FGC, WPC, LAB, & IC; Badghis FGC, WPC & LAC; Ghor FGC & WPC; Farah FGC & WPC; and Nimruz FGC & WPC from January 2021 to June 2022. Notably, between post-August 2021 and January 2022, only five women and one accompanying child were present at VWO facilities. However, with the total number of transferred clients from WAW, the count rose to 17 women along with two accompanying children residing at the VWO facility by 30 June 2022.

9 Reflecting the underlying data for Khost and Ghazni FGCs from January to September 2021. Note that JFAO’s final report was found lacking in comprehensiveness and accuracy, as it failed to include essential data values related to project activities and indicators. To rectify this deficiency, the CPGAP team undertook the task of revising and compiling the final report. They utilized the available data from JFAO’s data collection sheet and monthly/quarterly narrative reports to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the revised report.

10 Reflecting the underlying data for Boys’ Shelter run by Hagar from January 2021 to October 2023.

11 Reflecting the underlying data for Boys’ Shelter run by YHDO from January 2021 to October 2023.

12 Data source: Beneficiary Trackers – screening questionnaires and admissions records, Data Collection Matric, Quarterly reports, Monitoring reports. Note: the WAW online database was developed and managed by IDLO and post-August 2021, due to data confidentiality and data breach concerns, IDLO did not reactivate the WAW online database. Hence the WAW data presented in this report is retrieved from the monthly/quarterly narrative reports and data collection sheets.

13 Data source: Beneficiary Satisfaction Surveys administered at IP level. These have not been standardized across the IPs and methodology of capturing satisfaction might differ across IPs. Data applies to WPCs, HH, and BS. Hence a n/a value for JFAO which only operated FGCs.

14 Data source: Beneficiary Questionnaires administered at IP level. Data applies to WPCs, HH, and BS. Hence a n/a value for JFAO which only operated FGCs during AWSF IV.

As indicated under performance indicator 1a, 94.20% of individuals who approached or were referred to AWSF-run centers received relevant shelter assistance and services tailored to their needs. Despite facing on-the-ground challenges such as security measures and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the relocation of clients due to security concerns in 2021, efforts to ensure the smooth operation of the admission screening process remained robust.

An increase of 1.8% between actual and the target values is an indication the effectiveness of the admission screening process, even amidst heightened demand for shelter services. Notably, this reflects the continuous dedication of AWSF IPs, particularly the boys' shelters. Despite encountering obstacles from the de-facto authority (DfA) including delays in signing MoUs and lack of coordination from MoLSA, IPs persevered through continuous coordination, meetings, and awareness-raising sessions to enhance referral mechanisms and ensure that qualified clients were directed to shelters. Within each IP, the shelter manual outlines statutory reasons for potential client rejections, including cases falling outside the IPs' mandates or failing to meet shelter criteria. However, beneficiaries whose requests align with the IPs' mandates were typically accepted, adhering to established onboarding procedures.

The satisfaction level among beneficiaries regarding shelter-provided services, including accommodation, bedding, three nutritious daily meals, hygiene kits, and clothing, reached an impressive 97.75%, surpassing the targeted threshold of 95%, as outlined in performance measure 1b. This achievement reflects the overall high quality of care and standardization maintained across the AWSF IV shelter ecosystem. Instances of occasional dissatisfaction, reported through third-party monitors or beneficiary complaints, were promptly addressed and followed up by the CPGAP monitoring staff as needed. Both online and in-person visits conducted by CPGAP M&E team persisted beyond August 2021 until the conclusion of the project, ensuring continued service provision and addressing any concerns or complaints raised by beneficiaries.

During the crisis period in mid-2021, CPGAP and AWSF IPs prioritized the safety and well-being of beneficiaries, ensuring they had access to a safe

and conducive living environment. This involved addressing their primary concerns regarding safety, security, accommodation, and having access to three daily meals and other essential items. Through an in-depth security analysis and based on a thorough crisis management plan, some of the WAW and VWO beneficiaries were relocated to Kabul province, with new buildings rented and new living arrangements established to ensure their safety. This proactive approach underscores the CPGAP's and IPs' commitment to safeguard beneficiaries and maintaining high standards of care throughout challenging circumstances.

An essential aspect of the AWSF IV shelter and protection center system revolved around ensuring that all beneficiaries were fully informed about their entitlements and the level of services available to them. As stipulated in the shelter standing operating procedures (SOP), beneficiary entitlement notices were mandated to be prominently displayed in visible areas within each shelter or facility. This proactive measure aimed to guarantee transparency and empower beneficiaries to understand and access the services available to them. The achievement of performance measure 1c, reaching the targeted value of 98%, serves as a testament to the effectiveness of this approach. It indicates that the overwhelming majority of beneficiaries were indeed aware of their entitlements and service provisions. However, it's important to note that instances of lack of awareness may have occurred among illiterate clients or those who are facing language barriers, impeding their comprehension of the notice content.

Following August 2021, WAW clients were housed in staff residences as a precautionary measure against security threats posed by the DfA. Similarly, VWO operated undercover shelters in Kabul, utilizing three rented residential houses to accommodate clients until the project's conclusion. In these covert settings, displaying clients' entitlements posed challenges due to security concerns. However, since these clients had previously resided in shelters before the fall of Kabul, they were already familiar with their entitlements. Additionally, shelter staff verbally communicated these entitlements to the clients, ensuring they remained informed and supported despite the unique security circumstances. This meticulous attention to detail not only ensured compliance with organizational protocols but also fostered a culture of transparency and accountability

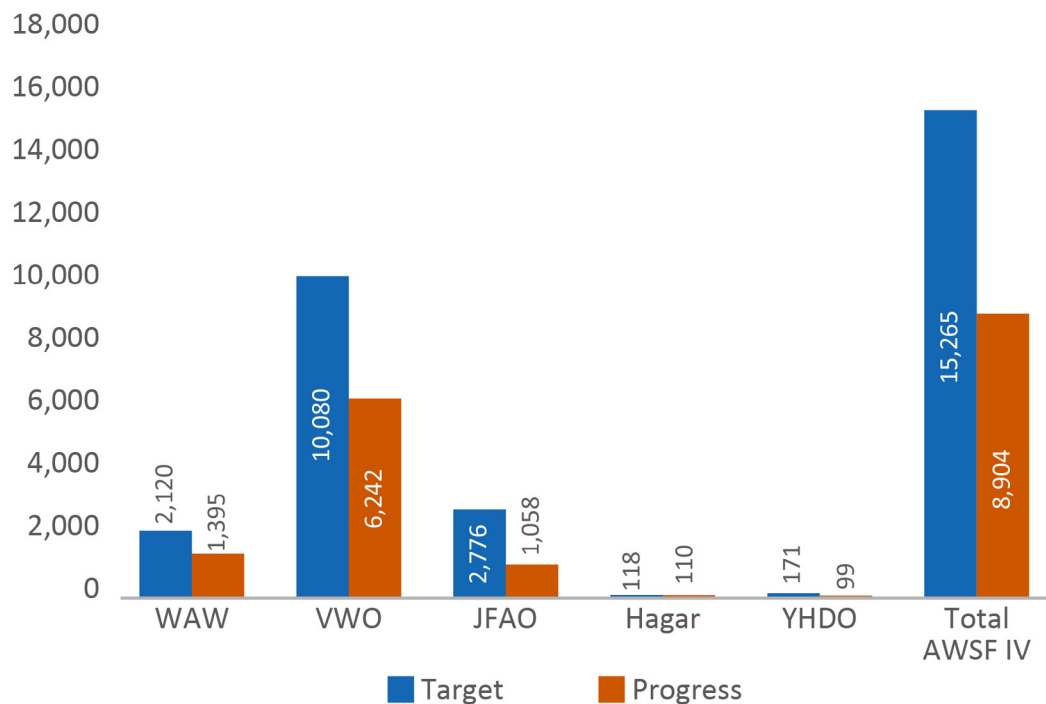


Lunch time at the Hagar FNM shelter © Hagar

within the shelter system. By prioritizing beneficiary awareness and empowerment, AWSF IV IPs demonstrated its commitment to upholding the

rights and dignity of those it serves, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness and impact of its shelter and protection initiatives.

Number of beneficiaries served during AWSF IV



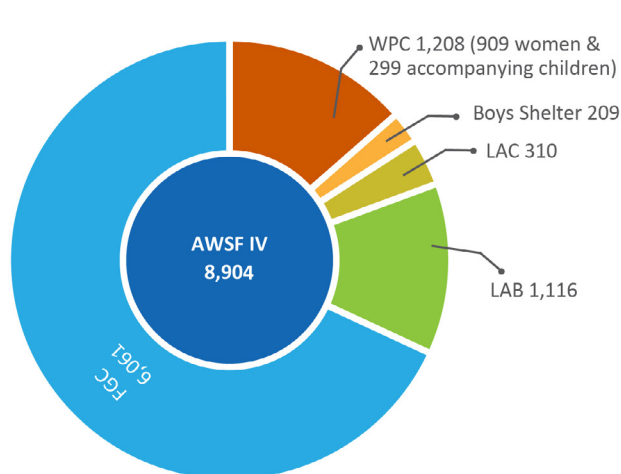
Throughout AWSF IV, a total of 8,904 beneficiaries were served across AWSF-funded facilities. Of these, 1,395 were served through WAW facilities, comprising 1,022 new cases and 373 previously admitted cases. Additionally, 395 clients, along with their 110 accompanying children (60 boys and 50 girls), resided at WPCs and Kabul HH. FGC facilities served a total of 890 beneficiaries.

VWO provided shelter services at WPCs to a total of 703 clients, including 514 women and 189 children, across WPCs in five provinces. A total of 4,113 external clients and survivors' family members,

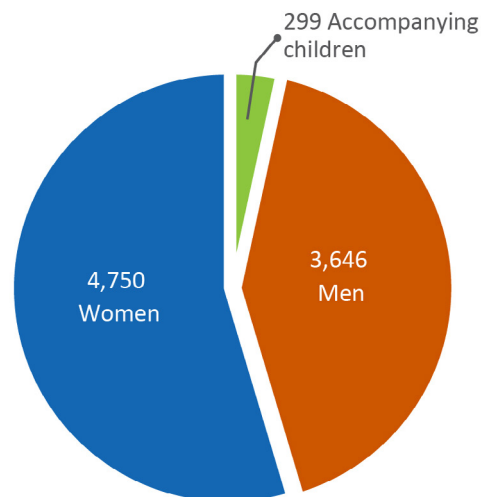
consisting of 2,122 women and 1,991 men, benefited from FGC services in all five provinces. The LAB and LAC facilities also played a significant role, with a total of 1,426 beneficiaries receiving legal services. LAB served 1,116 clients (896 women and 220 men), while LAC served 310 clients (103 women and 207 men). The Isolation Center in Herat accommodated 257 clients (193 women and 64 children) on a temporary basis from January to August 2021.

Furthermore, a total of 1,058 individuals sought and benefited from JFAO's FGC services, with 562 beneficiaries served in Ghazni and 496 in Khost.

Number of beneficiaries served by AWSF IV facilities



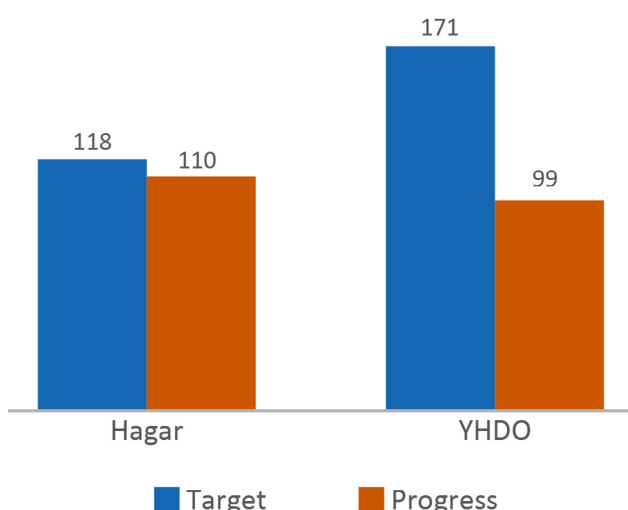
Breakdown of women, men and accompanying children served by AWSF IV facilities



The discrepancy between the set targets and the achieved values can be attributed to several factors. Primarily, the targets were initially established for a one-year period, extending until the end of 2021, under the assumption of normal project implementation timelines. However, it's important to note that the IPs, including WAW, VWO, and JFAO, were only able to execute project activities and admit new cases in the centers until July 2021. Despite facing significant challenges, such as major security concerns stemming from provinces falling under the Taliban control in mid-2021, IPs

remained committed to safeguarding beneficiaries and relocating them to safer locations. Remarkably, despite these obstacles, IPs managed to meet the set quarterly targets for the first and second quarters of 2021 across most project indicators. This resilience in achieving targets amidst challenging circumstances underscores the dedication and adaptability of the IPs, highlighting their ability to navigate complex situations while continuing to deliver essential services to beneficiaries.

Number of beneficiaries served at the boys' shelters from January 2021 to October 2023



Throughout AWSF IV, a total of 209 beneficiaries received support from the two AWSF boys' shelters. Among these, 99 beneficiaries were served by YHDO, while the Hagar assisted 110. Sixty-six out of the 110 Hagar beneficiaries were residential, while 44 were active reintegrated clients under Hagar's care, receiving services as needed. In total, there were 165 residential beneficiaries across both IPs. This included 124 newly admitted clients (Hagar 49; YHDO 75) and 41 previously admitted clients (Hagar 17; YHDO 24), continuing from AWSF III.

The difference observed between the targeted and achieved data values can be attributed to the confluence of significant events throughout the project implementation phase. Adding on to these were delays in the signing of MoUs with the DfA entities and their representatives at MoLSA level. The lack of professional staff at the MoLSA level, coupled with the unfamiliarity of new MoLSA personnel with shelter referral and reintegration mechanisms, contributed to a period of stagnation

or slowed activity in case referrals during late 2021 and early 2022. Exacerbating the situation, a ban on female employment was enforced in December 2022, further disrupting project operations. However, through concerted and tireless efforts, AWSF IPs demonstrated resilience and adaptability. They navigated these challenges by maintaining continuous coordination through frequent meetings and calls with MoLSA, alongside conducting targeted

awareness sessions on shelter activities and referral and reintegration mechanisms to the newly hired staff at MoLSA. As a result of these concerted efforts, IPs successfully managed to increase the admission of clients into shelters significantly, underscoring the importance of proactive coordination and targeted interventions in mitigating the impact of external challenges on project outcomes.

Salima's* journey: Escaping abuse, betrayal, and the Taliban's wrath

"I was only nine years old when my stepbrothers got me married to a 37-year-old man. I have six children with him. I gave birth to my first child at 14. I did not know how to take care of my child or cook food properly for which my husband who was the age of my father would beat and humiliate me. I was forced to do hard work in the fields, I was gathering grass for cattle, milking sheep and cows and taking care of the barn. With age, my husband got harsher with me and even accused me of having an extra-marital affair.

I could not tolerate the situation anymore, so I went to my sister's house and asked my brother in-law to arrange my divorce from my husband. My brother in-law came to me a few days later and said my divorce was taken care of and that I was free to remarry. After a few months, my brother in-law got me married to another person for a dowry of USD 4,000. He was a married man with four children.

For the next two years, I lived happily. But then news reached my ex-husband and he denied he had divorced me. So, he complained to the Taliban against me and my sister's husband. I learned that my sister's husband had lied to me only to get me re-married again and gain money. It was heart-breaking how a close family member betrayed me for money.

The Taliban issued death sentence against me declaring I had committed adultery for two and half years. Fearing I would be killed and stoned to death, I fled to Badghis and went to the Department of Women's Affairs to get help with the confusing and painful situation I was in. They introduced me to your office."

Betrayed by closest of kin and with a death sentence issued against her by the Taliban even before they took over the county, Salima fled Herat's Turghundi district to Badghis to save her life.

Her case was intricate, involving various parties embroiled in familial conflict. The legal staff at the FGC adeptly managed the complexities through all legal proceedings, resulting in the dissolution of her second marriage and the nullification of the first. Salima observed her 'iddah' period in the WPC, a customary waiting period a woman must observe after the dissolution of her marriage before she is free to re-marry.

Throughout the legal process, she benefited greatly from psychosocial counseling, which proved invaluable in alleviating her severe psychological distress. Following the successful resolution of her case, 34-year-old Salima expressed profound gratitude for the support she received.

*not her real name

OUTCOME 2 Improved resolution of gender-based violence and trafficking in persons cases through protection centers, family guidance centers and/or legal advice centers

Performance measure ¹⁵	Total WAW		Total VWO ¹⁶		Total JFAO ¹⁷		Total Hagar ¹⁸		Total YHDO ¹⁹		Total AWSF IV	
	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target
2a. % annual increase in the number of persons provided legal representation through protection centers, family guidance centers and/or legal advice centers who take a civil or criminal case to court for resolution or prosecution (compared to AWSF III baseline)	40%	17%	3%	32%	35%	188%	99.09%	100%	n/a	n/a	44%	84.25%
2b. % annual increase in the number of AWSF beneficiaries who take cases to the formal justice system for resolution or prosecution under the Elimination of Violence against Women Law or Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (compared to AWSF III baseline)	35%	27%	3%	99%	10%	96%	66.67%	100%	n/a	n/a	29%	28.6%%
2c. % annual increase in beneficiary cases that are resolved through the formal justice system in accordance with the Elimination of Violence against Women Law or Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (compared to AWSF III baseline)	19%	4%	3%	120%	10%	456%	98%	100%	n/a	n/a	32.5%	98%
2d. % of beneficiaries satisfied with the results of their cases, including where applicable, reintegration with their families ²⁰ .	87.5%	56%	95%	100%	5%	83.3%	92%	76%	100%	100%	76%	83.6%
2e % annual decrease in the number of reintegrated persons who end up back in protection centers or report further incidents of GBV and/ or TIP.	67%	95%	20%	90%	n/a	n/a	68%	98%	50%	80%	51.25%	91%

15 Please note that the output indicator 2.3, which measures the number of AWSF beneficiaries' cases forwarded to the formal justice system (civil/criminal court) in accordance with Anti-GBV Laws or Laws to Combat TIP and/or Smuggling of Migrants, was introduced during AWSF IV. CPGAP collaborated with IPs to establish a data collection method for this indicator during the initial stages of AWSF IV. However, due to the collapse of the former government and subsequent suspension of the legal system, IPs were unable to report under this indicator during AWSF IV.

16 The 3% target set by VWO seems out of sync with the methodologies provided by CPGAP M&E team. This target harkens back to an outdated approach predating the current M&E system, where a fixed annual increase of 3% was encouraged, irrespective of baseline conditions or incoming data readings. Unfortunately, due to resource constraints, VWO hasn't been able to update its targets to align with the updated guidance from CPGAP. An analysis of progress against targets reveals that the target should have been set much higher, closer to 50%.

17 The targets of 10% are deemed suitable for JFAO, given the smaller sample size that reflects the limited number of beneficiaries annually entering JFAO facilities compared to VWO or WAW.

18 Significant disruptions in the legal and judicial system of the country led to a state of inactivity post August 2021. Under the current government, existing laws addressing violence against women and anti-trafficking have been underutilized, with no discernible efforts made to combat labor and sex trafficking. Consequently, no cases were brought to court for formal resolution. While Hagar and YHDO have some pending cases, due to the existing challenges in the legal system, no case was brought for resolution within formal legal system. YHDO did not report under performance measures (2a, 2b, 2c), whereas the values reported for Hagar pertain to legal awareness sessions conducted by their legal team, both individually and in group settings within the shelter facility.

19 Note 16 applies for YHDO performance measures 2a, 2b, and 2c as well.

20 Due to a lack of data points available for Hagar under this indicator, Hagar resorted to assessing client satisfaction levels through alternative means. Specifically, Hagar derived satisfaction metrics from various data collection tools and forms, including those pertaining to Indicator 4.1. This indicator measures the progress of clients following their engagement with shelter services, focusing on improvements in literacy, technical, and vocational skills, as well as feedback from mediation and family counseling services.

In Afghanistan, the resolution of cases involving GBV and TIP through both formal and informal means carries significant implications for the victims involved. Formal legal proceedings provide victims with the opportunity to seek justice through established legal channels, potentially resulting in the prosecution of perpetrators and the imposition of appropriate legal penalties. However, the formal justice system in Afghanistan faces numerous challenges, including corruption, inefficiency, expensive, and limited access, which can deter victims from pursuing legal recourse. In contrast, informal resolution mechanisms offer victims alternative avenues for seeking redress. These approaches often prioritize reconciliation and community cohesion over punishment, providing victims with a sense of closure and the opportunity to rebuild their lives within their communities. Within AWSF facilities, beneficiaries not only accessed a spectrum of shelter services but were also extended legal aid assistance. This support encompassed various case types such as child custody disputes, runaway incidents, inheritance matters, divorces, instances of domestic violence, and other related cases. Utilizing both court proceedings and, where applicable, mediation, these services aimed to facilitate the resolution of these complex issues for the beneficiaries.

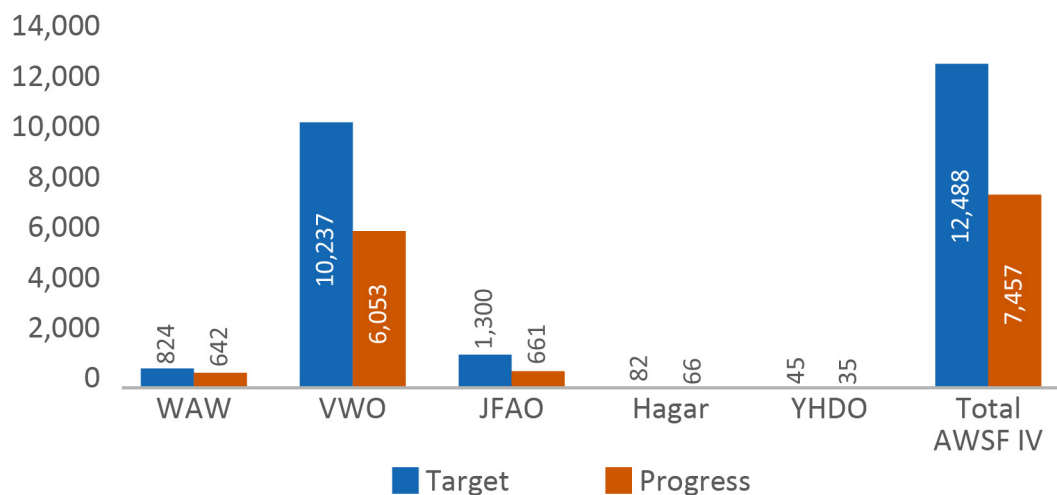
Legal counseling supported by AWSF enabled beneficiaries to make informed decisions regarding mediation or formal justice system resolution. Dedicated legal staff at each facility ensured that cases were presented in the appropriate tribunals according to each beneficiary's sought redress. Without the assistance provided by IPs, beneficiaries would struggle to afford legal representation and navigate the court system independently. The fact that these individuals opted for the formal justice system, often perceived as corrupt, expensive, and inaccessible, underscores their commitment to pursuing both restorative and retributive justice in a country renowned for its customary alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, which prioritize reconciliation over punishment. During the reporting period, a total number of 7,457 beneficiaries received legal aid services through AWSF funded facilities from 50 legal staff assigned to provide the legal aid services.

Legal aid services through the formal legal system were consistently available without interruption across FGCs, boys' shelters, LAB, and LAC until mid-2021. However, following August 2021, the legal system in the country completely collapsed, rendering case resolution through formal channels impossible. According to a statement released by UN experts, there is a lack of standardized protocols or substantial regulations in both criminal and civil domains for law enforcement officials, judges, and attorneys to adhere to. Several specialized courts, particularly those dealing with cases of sexual and gender-based violence, have been disbanded. The legal frameworks and regulations governing judicial procedures, appointments, and the conduct of fair trials, which were established under the previous administration, have been suspended. In their place, religious scholars have assumed the roles of judges. The principal judicial positions are now predominantly occupied by members of the Taliban who possess basic religious education rather than legal qualifications. Female judges have been removed from their positions, female prosecutors have been relieved of their duties, and female lawyers face challenges in renewing their licenses. This restructuring has led to the elimination of judicial independence, with religious scholars taking over the roles formerly held by judges.²¹

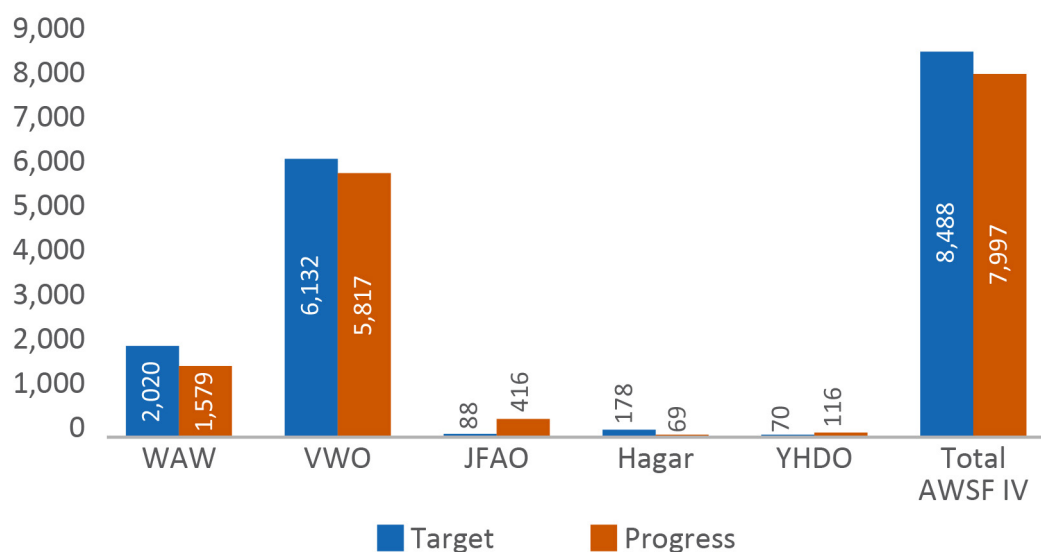
Following the suspension and closure of FGCs and WPCs operations in August 2021, despite having a target of handling two cases through the formal legal system, no such cases were identified for legal aid services at YHDO shelter during the first six months of 2021. Meanwhile, Hagar managed a total of six cases during this period, with three of them resolved through formal channels (during the two quarters of 2021) and two others resolved via mediation services—considered the sole viable avenue for case resolution post-August 2021. One case remained pending at the project's closure. Despite encountering challenges, the Hagar team diligently pursued alternative case resolution methods, including mediation, however the child had no family or relative to be reintegrated to. With the legal system rendered non-functional in the country, all case resolutions occurred exclusively through family counseling and mediation services following the collapse of the former government.

21 <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/ijudiciary/statements/2023-01-17/202301-stm-sr-ijl-sr-afghanistan-day-endangered-lawyer.pdf>, accessed on 20 March 2024.

Number of beneficiaries provided with legal aid services through AWSF-funded facilities²²



Number of beneficiaries who received family counseling and mediation services through AWSF funded facilities as means of informal case resolution



During the implementation of the AWSF IV project, 7,457 beneficiaries received legal aid services, and 447 beneficiaries took their cases to the courts for formal case resolution. A total number of 974²³ cases were resolved through formal means and 1,898 cases were resolved through family counseling and

mediation services as an informal case resolution. Moreover, 1,701 beneficiaries benefited from family counseling and mediation sessions prior to their reintegration, while 1,252 beneficiaries received these services after their reintegration during the AWSF IV period.

²² The data points for WAW in the figure solely represent the legal aid services provided through formal courts, whereas other IPs reported on both formal and informal case resolution under output indicator 2.1.

²³ This value includes the number of previously admitted clients at AWSF facilities whose cases were resolved during the AWSF IV period.

WAW offered legal aid services to a total of 1,395 beneficiaries. Among these, 753 cases received family counseling and mediation services, while the remaining 642 cases were resolved through court. Of these, 1,052 cases reached resolution, with 603 cases resolved through counseling and mediation, and 449 cases resolved through formal legal channels. VVO extended legal aid services to 6,053 beneficiaries through FGC, WPC, LAC, and LAB facilities. Among these, 514 cases were WPC clients, 4,113 cases were referred to FGC for legal aid services, LAB accounted for 1,116 clients (896 women & 220 men), and LAC accounted for 310 clients (103 women & 207 men). In addition, JFAO facilities provided legal aid services to a total of 661 beneficiaries (309 in Ghazni, 352 in Khost). Among them, 195 beneficiaries (168 in Ghazni, 27 in Khost) pursued case resolution through the formal justice system based on EVAW

law. A total of 405 cases (393 in Ghazni, 12 in Khost) were resolved through the formal justice system, while 416 beneficiaries (49 in Ghazni, 367 in Khost) received family counseling and mediation services. Of these, 88 cases (38 in Ghazni, 50 in Khost) were resolved through mediation services. Hagar provided legal aid services including individual and group legal awareness sessions to 66 beneficiaries. Six cases were taken to court for resolution, with three of them resolved through court proceedings. Due to the dismantling of the courts, two cases were resolved through mediation, while one case remained pending. Additionally, 69 clients received family counseling and mediation services, with 41 cases resolved through mediation. Lastly, YHDO provided family counseling and mediation services to 116 beneficiaries, with 86 cases resolved through these services.



Training for defense lawyers, February 2021, Kapisa © WAW



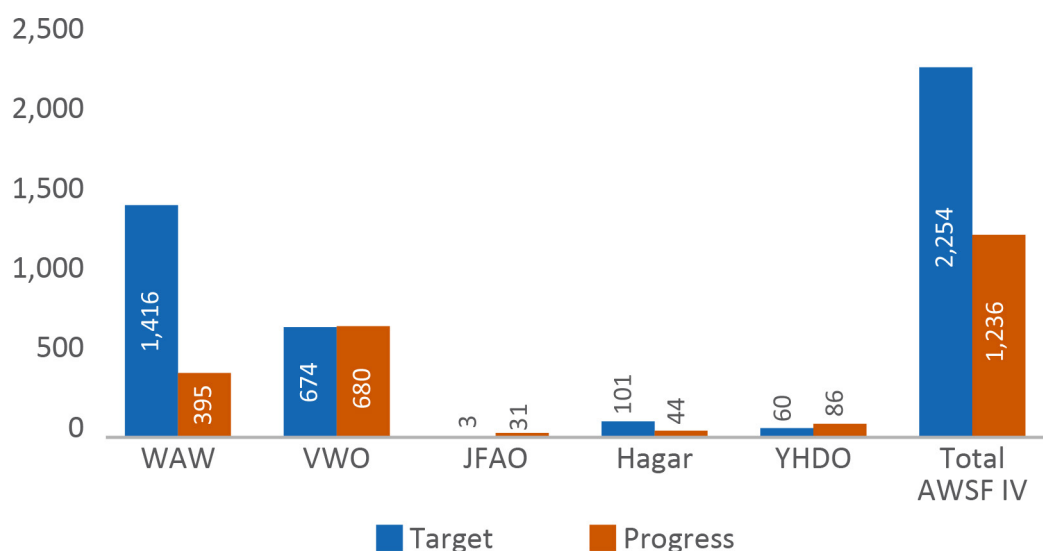
Family counseling session at LAC, Badghis © VVO

The data provided offers a compelling narrative of the AWSF's impact in Afghanistan. Through the collaborative efforts of partner organizations, the project successfully extended legal aid services to vulnerable populations across diverse regions in the country. Despite facing formidable challenges on the ground, including threats to the safety of legal staff by the Taliban or family members of beneficiaries at the provincial level, AWSF IPs persevered in delivering legal aid services. Despite adversities, the project made commendable progress, although some

targets under outcome 2 were not fully achieved. This shortfall can be attributed to the fact that legal activities were carried out by WAW, VWO, and JFAO for only six to eight months in 2021, rather than the full one-year duration for which targets were set. Nonetheless, the resilience and dedication of AWSF IPs ensured the continuation of legal aid services, mitigating the impact of challenging circumstances and providing vital support to the victims of GBV and TIP.

Reintegration of beneficiaries

Number of beneficiaries reintegrated through AWSF facilities



The reintegration process facilitated by AWSF-funded facilities during AWSF IV occurred in two distinct phases. The first phase involved reintegrating cases under normal circumstances, while the second phase unfolded during the emergency crisis triggered by the fall of Kabul. The data presented above pertains to beneficiaries reintegrated under normal circumstances. However, during the critical period from June to September 2021, the two largest AWSF IPs, WAW and VWO, undertook the voluntary reintegration of clients. Considering the deteriorating security situation across various provinces as the Taliban gained control, clients with family or relatives to reintegrate with voluntarily

requested their reintegration. Both IPs engaged the MoWA, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), and the police in the reintegration process whenever feasible. However, due to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and security concerns, these stakeholders were often unable to co-operate fully. Consequently, reintegration was facilitated through consent letters from the clients and guarantee letters from their family or relatives. Despite these obstacles, both IPs remained committed to supporting reintegrated clients, conducting follow-up through phone communication.

Number of beneficiaries voluntarily reintegrated to their family or relatives in the WAW facilities:

Facilities	Type of facility	Women	Children	
			Boys	Girls
Badakhshan	WPC	17	4	5
Faryab	Maimana WPC	8	5	0
	Andkhoy WPC	5	1	2
Kabul	HH	26	2	2
Kapisa	WPC	16	6	4
Kunduz	WPC	4	1	1
Sare Pul	WPC	6	2	3
Total		82	21	17

Number of beneficiaries who were voluntarily reintegrated to their family or relatives in the VWO facilities:

Facility	Number of beneficiaries reintegrated						Total number of beneficiaries reintegrated	
	Jun 2021		July 2021		August 2021			
	Women	Children	Women	Children	Women	Children	Women	Children
Herat WPC	26	8	34	10	76	26	136	44
Badghis WPC	14	11	6	1	12	5	32	17
Ghor WPC	14	3	3	2	21	5	38	10
Farah WPC	2	1	6	3	6	7	14	11
Nimruz WPC	10	10	6	4	4	1	20	15
Total	66	33	55	20	119	44	240	97

From abuse to abandonment: A woman's struggle for survival

In August 2020, a 40-year-old woman originally from Kapisa was referred to the Kapisa FGC/WPC. She is a mother of three children and had faced numerous challenges in her personal life. Her husband subjected her to frequent and severe physical abuse, neglected to provide for her and their children's basic needs, leaving them without money to buy food. During one such episode, when her husband was away in another province, she and her children had to starve. Tragically, one of her children died from starvation during this period. Upon her husband's return, he refused to believe the child had passed away and accused her of selling the child for money. To prove otherwise, she had to show him the child's grave, whereupon he opened the grave and saw the child's corpse.

Upon her referral to the Kapisa FGC/WPC, her case was registered, and she was provided with comprehensive services including health, education, legal aid, and psychosocial support. The center assigned her a defense lawyer to pursue her separation through the justice system. However, following the regime change, her case remained unresolved.

On 15 August 2021, she was compelled to reunite with her husband as the WPC could no longer accommodate her. Eventually, while en route to Kabul, her husband disappeared and never returned. Subsequently, she relocated to Nangarhar province where she resorted to begging in a market to sustain herself and her children. Recognizing her dire circumstances, compassionate individuals provided her with a container to shelter her family. They also offered food assistance daily.

During a December 2021 follow-up, it came to light that she continued to reside in the container with her three children enduring the harsh winter with only 500 Afghanis at her disposal. Despite facing multiple challenges and dissatisfaction with her living conditions, she is reluctant to return to her husband's home.

There is no guarantee that perpetrators will adhere to agreements made during mediation. When violence and abuse resurface, some survivors opt to seek services in shelters once again and pursue legal recourse. AWSF IV recorded 40 instances of repeat shelter clients, which is significantly lower than the anticipated number. WAW reported the highest number of clients under this indicator, with 22 cases, while VWO and boys' shelters reported low figures. Overall, there has been a notable 91% decrease in the number of reintegrated individuals returning to protection centers or experiencing further incidents of GBV and/or TIP, surpassing the target of 51.25%. Both VWO and boys' shelters have exceeded expectations significantly, achieving reductions of 90%, 98%, and 80%, respectively. Moreover,

performance measure 2d emerges as a pivotal gauge of AWSF IV's success, revealing that individuals who have undergone the complete treatment regimen within AWSF shelters and successfully reintegrated into their communities exhibit decreased need for re-seeking protection against GBV or TIP. Additionally, output indicator 2.3 under outcome 2, demonstrates high satisfaction levels among beneficiaries, with 83.6% expressing contentment with the outcomes of their cases, including reintegration with their families (surpassing the target of 76%). This data underscores the overarching satisfaction among beneficiaries regarding the legal/shelter services facilitated or initiated by AWSF IV, surpassing initial expectations.



A child being reintegrated with his family © Hagar

OUTCOME 3 Improved physical and psychological health of beneficiaries through the provision of medical and psychosocial services at AWSF facilities and/or partner health organizations

Performance measure ²⁴	Total WAW		Total VWO		Total JFAO		Total Hagar		Total YHDO		Total AWSF IV	
	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target
3a. % of beneficiaries who received health services by either a physician or nurse in the AWSF facility and reported to be in 'better' health by AWSF medical staff after receiving such health services ²⁵ .	90%	96.80%	91%	60%	n/a	n/a	98%	98.70%	100%	89%	94.75%	86.13%
3b. % of beneficiaries who received health services delivered by a non-AWSF facility and reported to be in "better" health by non-AWSF medical staff after receiving such health services.	50%	50%	31%	60%	n/a	n/a	97%	94%	100%	114%	69.50%	79.50%
3c. % of beneficiaries who received psychosocial counseling and who were assessed and reported by psychosocial counselor to show improvements in their condition ²⁶ .	83%	68%	57%	65%	80%	62%	85%	81%	92%	92.50%	63.32%	61.30%
3d % of beneficiaries who received psychosocial counseling and reported increased feelings of well-being.	89%	65%	59%	57%	90%	62%	88%	82%	93.60%	91 %	65.92%	59.02%

²⁴ To ensure the comprehensive provision of medical services at AWSF facilities, additional outcome and output indicators were introduced under outcome 3, as depicted in performance measures 3a and 3b during AWSF IV.

²⁵ Data sources for indicators 3a & 3b: Log-frame, Data Collection Sheet, Reports, Clients Files, Talley sheets, Clients Case Management Meeting minutes, clients' medical check-up forms.

²⁶ Data sources for these two indicators (3c, 3d) are beneficiary questionnaires, and as such, reflect solely the self-perception of beneficiaries' safety following psychosocial counseling. It is important to note that these indicators therefore do not reflect an assessment by accredited professionals but opinions of service recipients alone and might be subject to a perception or even response bias.

During AWSF IV, support was extended to WPCs, FGCs, HH, and boys' shelters to offer free medical treatment either on-site or by referring clients to external healthcare facilities, alongside providing essential psychosocial counseling. Throughout the AWSF IV period, AWSF achieved commendable results in delivering medical care and psychosocial support services through its partner organizations. Access to skilled medical professionals such as doctors and nurses, coupled with effective psychosocial counseling, plays a pivotal role in the recovery journey of survivors. The beneficiaries

were offered no cost medical services such as medical consultation, testing and treatments in shelter facilities, which were performed by a total of 20 experienced medical doctors and nurses assigned in the AWSF facilities, or referred to outside medical facilities. Each beneficiary, upon admission to a shelter underwent a medical checkup by the in-house nurse or doctor. If required, the beneficiary was taken to a nearby public hospital and/ or private clinic for medical tests (i.e. tests for pregnancy, HIV, Hepatitis B or C, tuberculosis, syphilis, and COVID-19 (if available)) and/or other medical treatments.



An infant being examined at Herat WPC © VWO



Shelter medical staff attending to a client ©YHDO



Vaccination of beneficiaries © VWO

Individuals referred to the shelters were survivors of GBV and/or TIP who had undergone moderate to severe trauma. Psychosocial counseling services were provided in the AWSF-funded shelters to help the survivors overcome their suffering and recover from their traumas in order to live normal lives and make the right decisions in the future. Psychosocial counseling sessions have proven to result in resolution of cases through mediation and helped survivors and their families to regain normalcy. Under AWSF IV, the psychosocial counselors conducted individual counseling sessions on a daily and as-needed basis for the beneficiaries. Each individual counseling session usually lasted 45 minutes. Several counseling sessions were conducted for each beneficiary to ensure they achieve a positive mindset and outlook as well as a certain level of normalcy. Group counseling sessions and awareness sessions were conducted on a weekly basis.

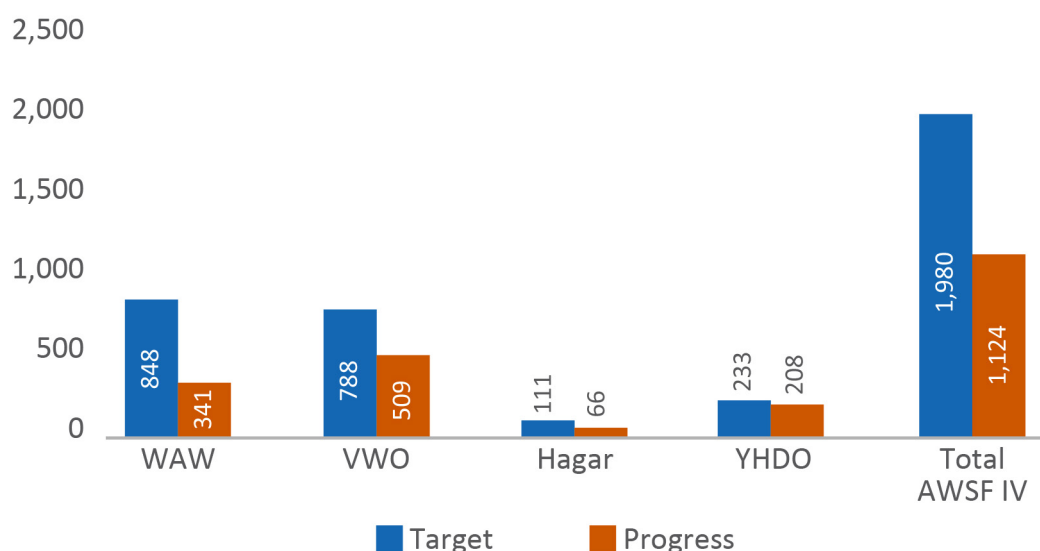
Outcome 3 underscores the fulfillment of the donor's expectations regarding the physical and psychological well-being of AWSF IV beneficiaries, even amidst challenging circumstances. Despite the upheaval following the fall of the former government, crucial medical healthcare services and psychosocial counseling remained available, addressing the acute needs of AWSF beneficiaries, particularly in terms of psychosocial support.

When Ipso ceased its services in January 2022,

recognizing the urgent need to assist beneficiaries residing in challenging environments, including covert shelters, grappling with trauma and stress, CPGAP collaborated with ORCD to extend support to VWO beneficiaries for an additional two months until the conclusion of the VWO project implementation phase in June 2022. Furthermore, medical professionals regularly visited beneficiaries at WAW staff houses and VWO underground shelters, ensuring ongoing medical care, and facilitated access to external healthcare facilities as needed. This underscores the steadfast commitment and unwavering support of AWSF towards its beneficiaries and the level of care provided to them.

The percentage of beneficiaries who received health services from a physician or nurse within AWSF facilities and were reported to be in improved health by medical staff, as indicated by indicator 3a, stands at 86.13%, falling short of the target of 94.75%. This variance may be attributed to the fact that though targets were set for a one-year period, WPC projects had to be suspended midway through 2021. However, beneficiary feedback indicates satisfaction with the quality of in-house medical treatment received. Consequently, the achieved value of 79.50% under indicator 3b represents a significant increase over the set target of 69.50%, reflecting the efforts of IPs in delivering essential healthcare services to beneficiaries.

Number of beneficiaries who received healthcare services at AWSF facilities²⁷

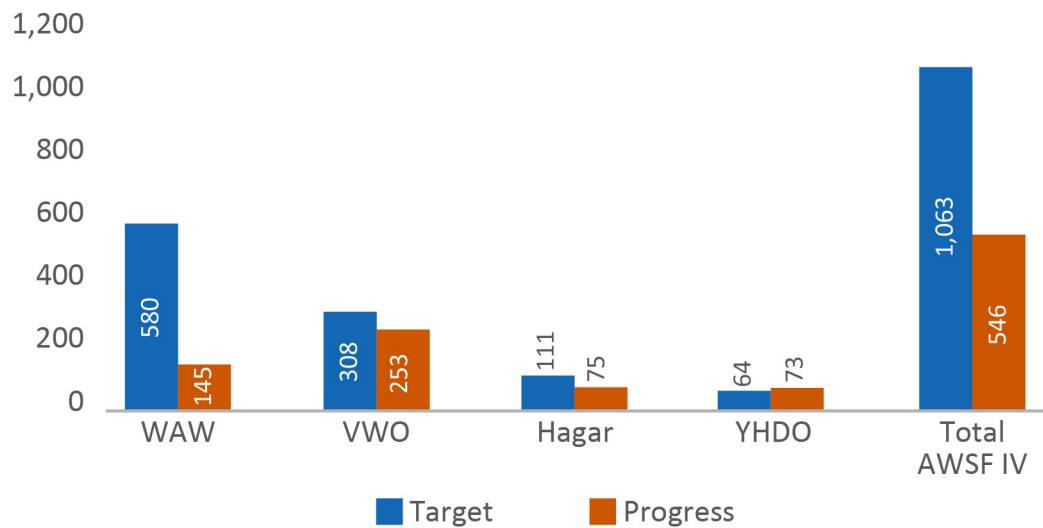


²⁷ YHDO total achieved values include both newly admitted clients and old cases who received in-house healthcare services when needed.



A psychosocial counseling session in progress © VWO

Number of beneficiaries who received external healthcare services²⁸



The variance observed between the total achieved and total target of AWSF IV in above charts primarily stems from the methodology used to set targets. IPs established targets based on the anticipated number of new referrals during 2021 and early 2022. However, WPCs were suspended in August 2021 and lack of coordination from MoLSA led to a slowdown in new admissions to boys' shelters in late 2021 and early 2022.

Furthermore, the provision of psychosocial support extended to 3,474 beneficiaries through various individual counseling sessions, tailored to address their specific needs and challenges. In addition, 2,163 group psychosocial counseling sessions were conducted for shelter beneficiaries, fostering a supportive environment for collective healing and growth. These sessions were designed to enhance mental well-being by addressing issues such as trauma, stress, and emotional distress, aiming to empower beneficiaries with coping mechanisms and resilience-building skills. This comprehensive approach reflects the commitment to promoting holistic mental health support within AWSF shelters, ensuring that beneficiaries receive personalized care and access to resources conducive to their healing journey.

As shown in the performance measures 3c and 3d, the percentage of beneficiaries who report improvements in their conditions following counselors' assessment, as indicated by indicator 3c, falls just short of the target of 63.32%, with an achieved value of 61.30%. This variance may reflect differences in data calculation methodologies among the IPs. Additionally, during AWSF IV, the reported percentage of beneficiaries who received psychosocial counseling and experienced an increased sense of well-being stood at 59%, slightly below the targeted figure of 65.92%. This variance can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, when setting the target, IPs such as WAW, VWO, and JFAO considered a one-year period of service provision and the influx of new admissions to their facilities. However, the suspension of project activities and the halt in new client admissions after mid-2021 affected the attainment of this target. YHDO reported an actual value of 91%, falling short of the set target of 93.60%. This discrepancy can be explained by the presence of four beneficiaries with cognitive disabilities who were undergoing treatment. Consequently, improving their mental health posed greater challenges compared to other beneficiaries, contributing to the lower reported percentage. These insights underscore the nuanced complexities involved in achieving psychosocial well-being targets within the AWSF IV framework, highlighting the importance of adaptability and tailored interventions to address diverse beneficiary needs.

²⁸ In addition to residential clients, Hagar also provided the external healthcare services for nine active reintegrated clients who were still under reintegration follow-up of Hagar.

Rebuilding hope: A journey from despair to empowerment

Lamar,* a fifteen-year-old boy from Logar province, Afghanistan, faced profound adversity from a young age. Growing up in poverty, he was denied the opportunity to attend school. His family's struggles escalated when his father, grappling with personal challenges, fell into drug addiction. Lamar's uncle compelled him to undertake laborious tasks in the fields, exacerbating his hardships.

One night, Lamar made the decision to run away from his family. Vulnerable and desperate, he encountered a stranger who offered him employment in Kabul. Lamar began to dream of a better life in the big city of Kabul. When they reached Kabul, this stranger introduced Lamar to a house painter. The painter promised to train Lamar to become his apprentice. However, that night in his workshop, the painter sexually abused Lamar. This abuse continued for weeks. In addition, he was forced to work long hours painting homes with this man. Eventually, Lamar escaped and travelled alone to Jalalabad city. There he found jobs at small hotels where he would work all day and sleep at night in the hallways.

As time went by, he befriended a man who promised him a job in Pakistan. Lamar's hopes increased as he dreamt once more of a new life. As he and this man approached the Pakistani border, the police stopped and interrogated them. Lamar being a minor was taken to a government-run boys' shelter. After five months there, he was referred to a AWSF boys' shelter.

Upon his arrival at the AWSF boys shelter, Lamar exhibited signs of profound distress and despondency. The shelter's dedicated staff recognized his need for comprehensive support, particularly in addressing the psychological trauma he had endured. Through individual and group counseling sessions, Lamar was provided with a safe space to express his emotions and work through his experiences. Moreover, the shelter offered various psychosocial support programs, including art therapy and recreational activities, to promote healing and resilience. As Lamar engaged in the shelter's educational programs, including accelerated learning initiatives, his confidence and sense of purpose began to flourish. The supportive environment fostered by the shelter enabled Lamar to discover his passion for learning and envision a brighter future for himself.

Efforts were also made to facilitate reconciliation between Lamar and his family. Recognizing the importance of familial bonds in his journey to recovery, the shelter provided family counseling sessions and mediated discussions to address underlying issues and rebuild trust. As Lamar's family received support and guidance, they became instrumental in his healing journey and eventual reintegration into the community.

To assist the family in overcoming economic challenges, a small business was established for Lamar's father who had by then completed a six-month de-addiction program at a hospital. The business involved selling shoes and slippers from a cart. This venture significantly bolstered the family's financial stability and as a result fostered trusting relationships among family members, leading to positive effects on the mental and physical well-being of Lamar within the family setup.

Lamar's story underscores the transformative power of psychosocial and mental health support in overcoming adversity and rebuilding hope. Through the compassionate care and holistic interventions provided by the shelter, Lamar was able to navigate the complexities of his past and emerge as a resilient and empowered individual. His journey serves as a testament to the importance of comprehensive support systems in nurturing the well-being and potential of vulnerable youth.

*not his real name

OUTCOME 4 Increased self-sufficiency among survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking in persons

Performance measure	Total WAW		Total VWO		Total JFAO		Total Hagar		Total YHDO		Total AWSF IV	
	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target
4a. % of clients report leaving the protection centers with improved literacy, technical and/or vocational knowledge and/or skills	80%	81%	73%	51%	n/a	n/a	80%	64%	69.3%	64.8%	75.58%	65.2%
4b. % of long-term shelter residents engaged in income-generating activities that apply skills gained during training ²⁹ .	65%	44%	27%	32%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45%	38%

²⁹ JFAO, YHDO, and Hagar did not report on this indicator as it did not accurately capture the scope of activity or service provision offered by these IPs to their beneficiaries. JFAO primarily operated FGCs, which, by their nature, do not provide residential services. Similarly, YHDO and Hagar, through their operation of boys' shelters and service provision to underage beneficiaries, did not offer any income-generating activities to residents.

Many female clients in shelter facilities had significant gaps in their formal education, presenting a critical barrier to their economic and social advancement. Recognizing this challenge, AWSF IV provided a pathway to pursue education and vocational training initiatives. These efforts were meticulously designed to enhance the economic resilience and social standing of shelter residents. The shelter facilities within the AWSF IV project implemented an extensive educational program with the primary objective of equipping beneficiaries with the vital knowledge

and skills essential for achieving self-sufficiency. In addition to providing fundamental literacy and math classes, these shelters exceeded expectations by offering a diverse array of educational opportunities including English and computer courses, as well as Islamic studies, catering to the varied needs and interests of their beneficiaries. To facilitate the learning process, beneficiaries were provided with resources ranging from books to stationery and equipment.



Children during a class at school ©Hagar



Beneficiaries at Badakhshan WPC taking lessons to improve their literacy © WAW



Self-study time © VWO



Computer class for shelter beneficiaries © YHDO

Moreover, vocational training classes played a pivotal role in the program, offering beneficiaries the chance to acquire new skills crucial for their successful reintegration into their families and society. Each shelter had dedicated vocational trainers who conducted regular sessions covering a wide spectrum of vocational activities. These included practical skills such as tailoring, embroidery, knitting, needlework, calligraphy, bakery, and weaving, thereby empowering beneficiaries with tangible expertise that enhances their employability and self-reliance.

To enrich the beneficiaries' experiences and provide opportunities for leisure and skill-building, in addition to life skills and soft skills, a variety of recreational activities were also organized. These activities aimed to offer them a diverse range of extracurricular engagements, fostering personal development and well-being. Furthermore, the shelter beneficiaries actively participated in celebrating national festivals like Nawruz and Eid organized by the IP staff. During these celebrations, efforts were made to create a joyful and festive atmosphere by providing the beneficiaries with new clothes, shoes, and other items. This not only contributed to their cultural

and social integration but also ensured that they felt valued and included in the communal celebrations.

Through the provision of comprehensive educational and vocational services, the AWSF IV project not only aimed at fostering personal development but also paved the way for beneficiaries to achieve long-term self-sufficiency and financial independence. By investing in their educational and skill-building endeavors, AWSF IV provided a pathway to empowerment, equipping shelter residents with the tools and resources necessary to forge their own paths to economic independence and social empowerment. This holistic approach underscores AWSF's unwavering commitment to equipping survivors with the practical skills and resources needed to rebuild their lives and thrive beyond the confines of the shelter environment.

The average stay in shelter facilities spanned from 6 to 12 months for survivors of GBV, and 12 months for survivors of TIP. Within this duration, AWSF IV diligently facilitated opportunities for skill development and knowledge acquisition, empowering beneficiaries with practical competencies essential for sustainable livelihoods.



A vocational trainer during a tailoring class © Hagar



Hagar clients learning electric equipment repairing at Kabul-Brishna Technical Center © Hagar



Beneficiaries at a dressmaking class ©VWO

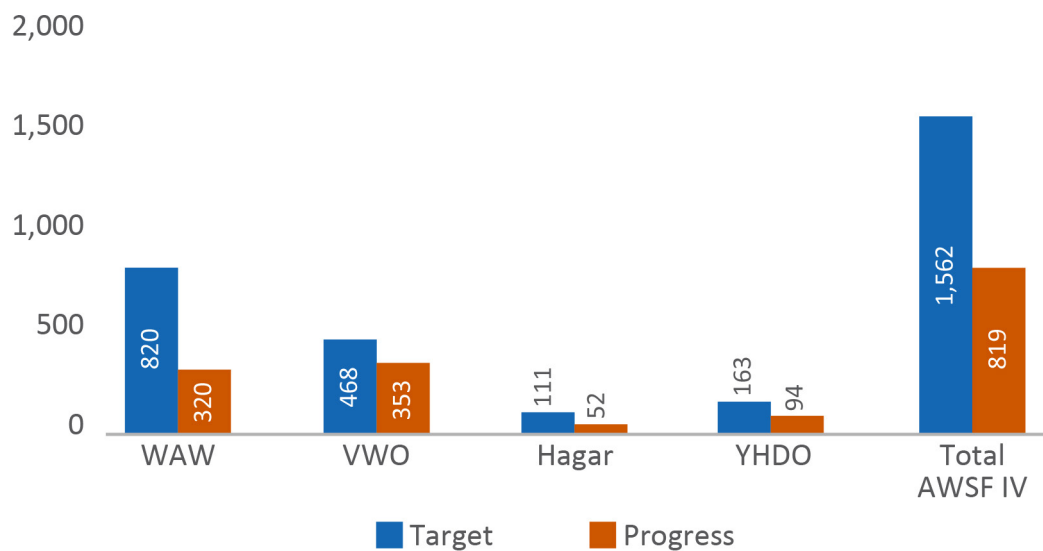
Indicator 4a shows an overall achievement of 65.2%, against the target of 75.58%. Based on collected data, VWO and Hagar have both missed their targets in this regard resulting in a decrease in the overall AWSF IV achievements. VWO recorded a 51% reading against a 73% target and Hagar recorded an achieved value of 64% against target of 80%. The target values set for VWO and WAW took into account a one-year project implementation period in 2021 and the anticipated admission of new clients into their centers. However, the suspension of operations of WAW and VWO in mid-2021, coupled with the cessation of new client admissions, resulted in a decrease in achieved values during the AWSF IV period. Despite these challenges, both VWO and WAW managed to meet the quarterly targets for the first two quarters of 2021, with service provisions continuing for WAW beneficiaries

residing in staff houses and VWO beneficiaries in underground shelters in Kabul until the project's conclusion in June 2022. Educational and vocational equipment were provided to beneficiaries, and trainers conducted regular classes throughout their stay in undercover shelters and staff houses. The lower achieved values of Hagar (64%) and YHDO (64.80%) compared to their respective targets of 80% and 69.30% can be attributed to various factors. These include disruptions in case admission and reintegration resulting from the collapse of the former government, the lack of professional staff at the MoLSA level, and inadequate coordination in case referral and reintegration. Delays in signing MoUs, the impact of COVID-19, restrictions on women's workplace participation imposed by the IEA government, and the challenges associated with

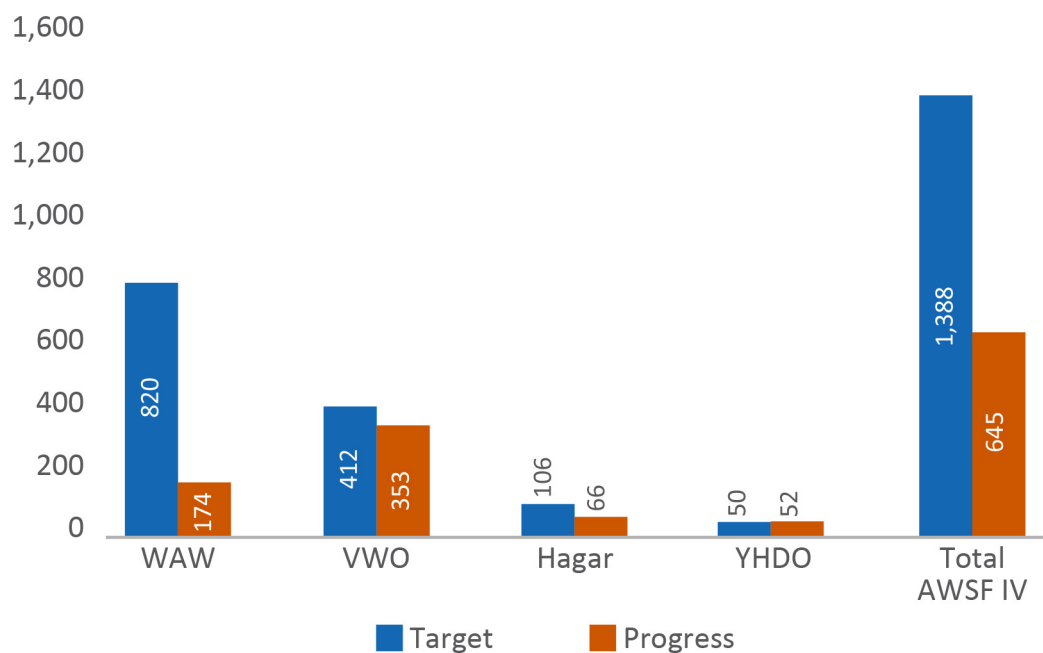
reintegrating long-term clients from boys' shelters with no familial support further contributed to the difficulties faced by Hagar and YHDO in meeting their targets. Additionally, YHDO reported that some of its residents in were short-term clients, with

one individual staying as briefly as four days due to being a deportee. Consequently, these individuals were reintegrated with little improvements in their knowledge and skills.

Number of beneficiaries provided with lessons in reading, writing, arithmetic and Islamic studies within the AWSF facilities



Number of beneficiaries receiving vocational services during AWSF IV



In addition to the educational services provided within the shelters, a total of 70 beneficiaries had the opportunity to attend public or private schools outside of the shelter. Among these, 12 beneficiaries were clients of Kabul HH, with one beneficiary attending university and pursuing higher education (prior to the collapse of the former government). The remaining 58 beneficiaries were supported by Hagar (30) and YHDO (28) to enroll in private schools providing formal education.

Furthermore, a total of 584 beneficiaries received life skills and soft skills training within the shelter settings. It's important to note that WAW encountered challenges in reporting under this activity due to difficulties accessing comprehensive data records stored in their database managed by International Development Law Organization (IDLO). Due to concerns regarding data confidentiality and potential breaches, IDLO did not reactivate their database, hampering WAW's reporting efforts. Nevertheless, in accordance with shelter policies and mandates, all shelter clients are mandated to receive such training. While these services were provided across WAW's WPCs and HH, they were not properly documented for reporting purposes. Conversely, all shelter beneficiaries at VWO and boys' shelters received comprehensive life skills and soft skills training, with the exception of one client at YHDO who stayed in the shelter for only four days.

The percentage of long-term shelter beneficiaries engaged in income-generating activities, as recorded under indicator 4b, exhibited a slight decrease in the achieved value, reaching 38% compared to the target of 45% during the AWSF IV period. Notably, VWO reported a higher engagement rate of 32%, surpassing the set target of 27%. However, WAW reported a decrease in their actual value, recorded at 44%, falling short of the target of 65%. This disparity could be attributed to various challenges faced on the ground, including the relocations that occurred during the second quarter of 2021. It can be assumed that the relocations resulted in a slight disruption to beneficiary engagement in income-generating activities, affecting the overall achievement of AWSF IV targets.

Furthermore, to promote the self-sufficiency of clients, reintegration and financial packages were offered to beneficiaries upon leaving the shelters. Those who participated in vocational training

programs and demonstrated skill improvement, as assessed by shelter staff, were eligible for these packages. Throughout AWSF IV, a total of 149 reintegration packages were disbursed to beneficiaries. However, both WAW and VWO reported a significant decrease in the number of packages provided, with WAW distributing 18 packages and VWO distributing one. This decline can be attributed to unforeseen circumstances leading to the unexpected closure of shelters towards the end of the project period, resulting in the inability to distribute the packages as planned. Additionally, challenges such as limited accessibility to reintegrated beneficiaries with appropriate vocational skills due to unstable conditions in the country further hindered the planned distribution of reintegration packages. These factors collectively impacted the distribution process, resulting in a lower than anticipated number of packages being disbursed.

While Hagar's mandate did not encompass the provision of income-generating activities, given its focus on underage beneficiaries, the organization still played a crucial role in supporting the client's post-reintegration. Despite not reporting under this indicator, Hagar allocated budgetary resources towards establishing small businesses for the family members of reintegrated clients throughout AWSF IV. Although the initial target was to establish 16 small businesses, Hagar successfully established 12 small businesses in various sectors including tailoring, grocery sales, hygiene products retailing, sandal sales, winter clothing retailing, and sheep farming. However, the target was not fully realized due to challenges faced by some reintegrated clients. Upon reintegrating into rural provinces, some clients encountered difficulties establishing businesses due to limited market demand in their areas. Additionally, certain reintegrated clients were minors, rendering them ineligible to start a business without a suitable family member available to oversee operations. Furthermore, following the collapse of the government in August 2021, some reintegrated clients and their families opted to migrate to neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan in pursuit of better opportunities. These factors collectively contributed to the partial achievement of the targeted number of small businesses established by Hagar.



A kiosk set up with assistance from Hagar as reintegration support © Hagar



Hagar staff inspecting small businesses run by the families of reintegrated clients ©Hagar

Both IV IPs operating boys' shelters remained steadfast in their commitment to enhancing clients' self-sufficiency following reintegration into their families or communities by offering comprehensive vocational services. With the guidance and support of CPGAP, YHDO initiated tailoring classes for shelter beneficiaries in late 2022, aiming to equip them with valuable skills for future self-sufficiency. Hagar went a step further by enrolling long-term shelter beneficiaries at an external vocational center, providing them with advanced training to enhance their vocational proficiency. In 2023, Hagar

formalized its commitment to vocational training by signing a MoU with the Brishna Vocational and Educational Center, specializing in household electrical equipment repair. Under this partnership, a total of 10 long-term residential beneficiaries were enrolled in a six-month course designed to further refine their vocational skills, and empower them to lead self-sufficient lives upon reintegration. This concerted effort underscores the dedication of AWSF IV in to facilitate the holistic development of beneficiaries and to ensure their long-term success beyond the shelter environment.

Tailoring dreams: Ahmad's journey.

Ahmad, in his own words, 'lived in dire circumstances' with his family. His father, disabled, and reliant on sporadic earnings as a market worker, struggle to provide for their basic needs. His aunt, who was employed at the National Directorate of Security (NDS) has been assisting them financially. Unfortunately she left her job, and the country during the Taliban's rise to power. Facing dwindling savings, Ahmad's family reached a breaking point: 'we didn't have anything to cook at home. We didn't have firewood to heat my house. My friends frequently took me along to weddings, so I experienced bacha bazi.'

One day, he was detained by Parwan NDS, and they referred him to MoLSA. MoLSA referred him to an AWSF boys' shelter.

Under the care of the AWSF boys shelter, Ahmad found solace and support. He received vital medical attention, engaged in individual and group counseling sessions, and was provided with nutritious meals, accommodation, and clothing. Participating in tailored educational and vocational programs, Ahmad honed his skills in tailoring, computing, English, and life skills.

In October 2022, he was reintegrated into his family. During the follow-up sessions, our IP realized that the child needed to start an income-generating activity, and tailoring which he learned at the shelter was an option. Our implementing partner started negotiations with one of the tailoring shop owners to give him a small space in the shop to start tailoring. The tailoring shop owner agreed, and in January 2023, Ahmed started work with him.

Today, Ahmad proudly contributes to his family's livelihood, earning 4,000 Afghanis monthly. Reflecting on his transformation, Ahmad acknowledges the pivotal role of support from AWSF: "I was at a breaking point, but when staff came and had follow-up, I explained the situation to them, and fortunately, they started income-generation activity for me. It was a blessing for me."



Ahmad learning tailoring at the shelter



Ahmad at work

OUTCOME 5 Increased understanding and acceptance of legal rights and access to justice for survivors and those at risk of GBV and TIP

Performance measure	Total WAW		Total VWO		Total JFAO		Total Hagar		Total YHDO		Total AWSF IV	
	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target
5a. % annual increase in the number of justice sector referrals to shelters, family guidance centers and legal advice centers (compared to AWSF IV baseline)	53%	12%	38.4%	39.6%	100%	42%	73%	77%	n/a	n/a	41.1%	32.15%
5b. % annual increase in the number of protection center, family guidance center, and legal advice center beneficiaries who were aware of the centers and their services before being referred or brought there	54%	23%	58.6%	76%	39%	46%	91%	95%	100%	65%	60.72%	51.8%

In the complex landscape of Afghan society, fostering a profound understanding and acceptance of legal rights and access to justice stands as a pivotal endeavor, particularly concerning survivors and those vulnerable to GBV and TIP. The AWSF tended to illuminate pathways to justice and advocacy in communities where such concepts may be obscured or undervalued. Through targeted outreach sessions, community dialogues, and comprehensive awareness campaigns, the project endeavored to dismantle entrenched barriers and misconceptions surrounding legal rights and recourse. By engaging with influential stakeholders such as community leaders, religious figures, and grassroots organizations, the project aimed to catalyze a transformative shift in societal attitudes, fostering a culture of accountability and respect for human rights. Collaborative efforts with legal aid

providers and law enforcement agencies further bolstered access to justice mechanisms, ensuring that survivors have the support and guidance needed to navigate legal complexities with confidence. Referrals from the justice sector to shelters, family guidance centers, and legal advice centers signified a crucial shift away from traditional or informal justice structures. They aimed to demonstrate a recognition that access to justice extends beyond criminal prosecution, encompassing various aspects such as physical and mental well-being, access to quality healthcare and psychological support, assistance with legal matters like divorce, and the provision of a safe haven. Without these services, survivors would not have been empowered to seek redress, lacking a safe place to turn to. Referral from justice sector actors to AWSF-supported centers show that they have been able to establish a trusting

relationship, coordination and collaboration with stakeholders and partner organizations. This also indicates the satisfaction of these organizations with the FGC services.

The provision of justice sector referrals faced multiple challenges during the AWSF IV period. Firstly, the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic during the first two quarters of 2021 hampered operations, disrupting the normal functioning of justice systems and case referrals. Secondly, the precarious security situation culminated in the fall of Kabul, resulting in a significant upheaval in governance. The subsequent formation of a new government was marred by inefficiencies, marked by the failure to establish a robust justice system. Furthermore, the closure of FGCs and WPCs, along with the dissolution of the MoWA, further

exacerbated the challenges. The MoWA played a crucial role as stakeholder supporting the AWSF and shelter managing organizations. Consequently, the percentage of justice system referrals during AWSF IV declined to 32.15%, significantly lower than the targeted 41.10% as reported under indicator 5a. These multifaceted challenges underscored the complexities and obstacles encountered in facilitating justice sector referrals during AWSF IV.

Awareness of the shelter ecosystem among potential beneficiaries prior to their referral or admission to AWSF facilities fell slightly below the set target during AWSF IV, with a total achieved value of

51.80%, compared to the targeted 60.72%. This variance can be attributed to the limited number of outreach awareness sessions conducted throughout the project implementation, which were fewer than anticipated as IPs faced constraints in conducting outreach sessions during the first quarter of 2021 due to delayed fund transfers and security challenges, leading to the collapse of the former government. However, AWSF boys' shelters managed to conduct a substantial number of outreach awareness sessions throughout 2022 and 2023. Most of the participants were male, as females were not allowed to attend due to existing restrictions/ban on women. Despite

the shortfall in the total AWSF IV achieved values, beneficiaries receiving services at VWO, Hagar, and JFAO indicated that they had become aware of shelter services through word-of-mouth from friends, family, and other acquaintances. Some beneficiaries may have even attended awareness-raising sessions conducted by AWSF IPs. This indicates that despite the restricted number of outreach awareness sessions during AWSF IV, a significant number of beneficiaries were informed about shelter services through diverse channels.



Outreach awareness session for MoLSA staff in Kabul © YHDO



Outreach workshop for school teachers in Kabul © YHDO

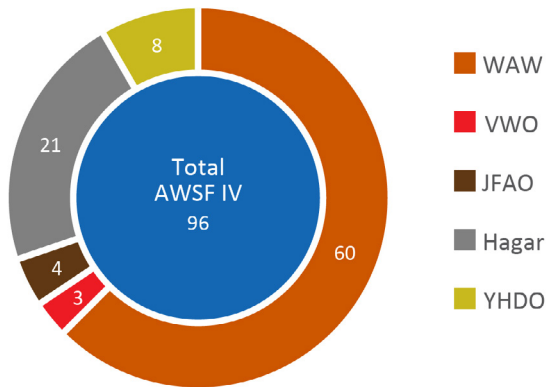


Outreach session for Kabul University students © YHDO

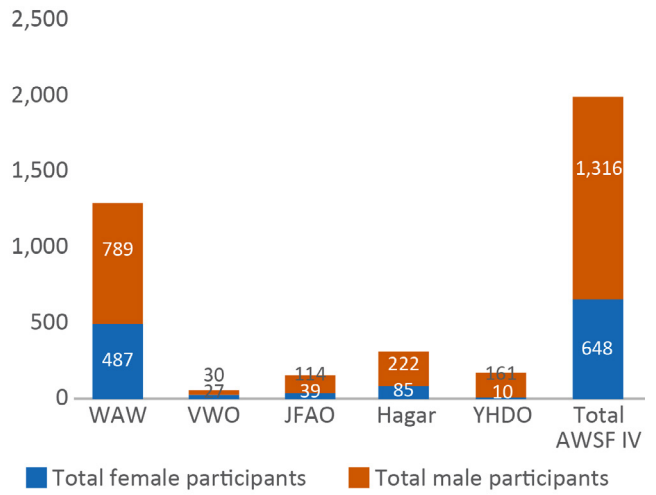


Two-day outreach stakeholder training for institutions © Hagar

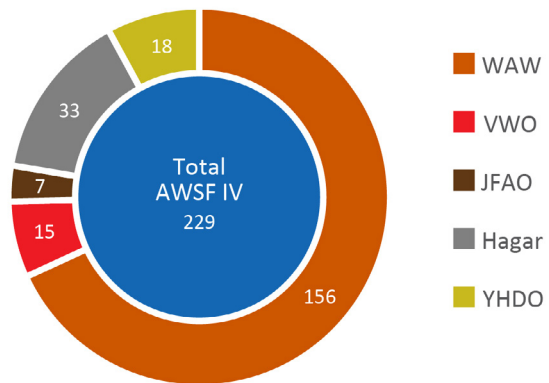
Institutional outreach awareness sessions through AWSF funded facilities



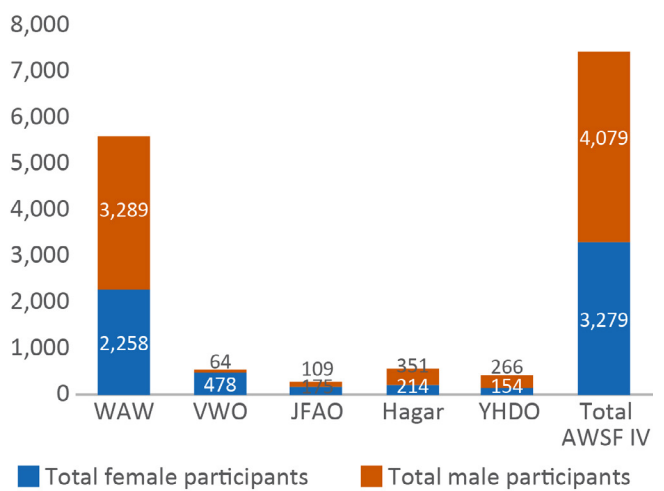
Number of participants - institutional outreach awareness sessions



Public outreach awareness sessions through AWSF funded facilities



Number of participants - public outreach awareness sessions



OUTCOME 6 Increased sustainability of AWSF-funded legal and protection services for women and children

Performance measure	Total WAW		Total VWO		Total JFAO		Total Hagar		Total YHDO		Total AWSF IV	
	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target	Target	Progress against target
6a. % annual increase from the baseline of operating costs covered by donors other than Colombo Plan	2%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	1	0	8	2	Data not available	Data not available	4%	Data not available
6b. % reduction in the annual cost of operating AWSF funded facilities that does not reduce the number of beneficiaries or affect the quality of services by the end of AWSF IV (Quality being quantity of food, clothing, medical care, and utilities)	2%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	1	0	0	0	Data not available	Data not available	1.5%	Data not available

For close to two decades, women's shelters stood as vital sanctuaries for numerous Afghan girls and women, offering a haven from the harrowing realities of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and coerced marriages. In the aftermath of the fall of Kabul in August 2021, the plight of women and children in Afghanistan has become increasingly dire, highlighting the urgent need for shelter and protection projects. The new regime imposed a system of gender apartheid, essentially confining the women of Afghanistan to a state akin to virtual house arrest. With the resurgence of the Taliban, concerns about the safety and rights of women and children have escalated dramatically. The Taliban's history of enforcing stringent interpretations of

Sharia law, which often restrict women's freedoms and access to education and employment, has left many vulnerable to gender-based violence and persecution. The collapse of the former government and subsequent closure of critical institutions, including women's shelters and legal aid centers, have only deepened these vulnerabilities. Shelter managing organizations face unprecedented challenges in providing essential services to vulnerable populations including security threats, funding shortages, and logistical barriers. The closure of critical institutions and the withdrawal of international support have further strained their capacity to sustain such projects. With the withdrawal of the international organizations, there

is a pressing need for shelter projects to support vulnerable women and girls victims of GBV and TIP survivors. The absence of international support has left many women and children without safe havens to escape domestic violence, forced marriages, and other forms of exploitation.

AWSF implementing partners, particularly those focused on women's protection, diligently engaged with the new government in an attempt to secure permission to continue their interventions. Despite their persistent efforts, they received no assurances and were instructed to close the facilities. However, over a period of nearly 10 months, IPs continued to offer shelter services for 19 survivors, including 17 women and two children, who had nowhere else to

turn and no means of reintegration. These survivors were initially accommodated in staff houses or placed in covert shelters, ensuring their safety and security. When VWO ceased its AWSF operations in June 2022, AWSF partners facilitated the seamless transition of these beneficiaries to shelters supported by UN-Women.

Following the cessation of operations in the WPCs and FGCs, VWO forged new partnerships with other donors like UN Women, UNICEF, and UNDP. This strategic maneuvering resulted in the acquisition of funding for six grants, which supported women empowerment initiatives across various provinces such as Herat, Kandahar, Helmand, Nimruz, Zabul, Bamiyan, Balkh, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Uruzgan, Ghor, and Kabul.

Hagar remained steadfast in its commitment to providing assistance through the FNM project, vital for aiding survivors of human trafficking and abuse. Leveraging its global support offices in the US, UK, Austria, New Zealand, Singapore, and Hong Kong, Hagar International Afghanistan has proactively pursued new avenues for donor engagement and

project sustainability. Notably, Hagar submitted a concept note for the Countering Trafficking in Person (CTIP-III) initiative of USAID, and another proposal to Counterpart International. The latter bore fruit, securing support for the FNM project from November 2023 to January 2024. Additionally, Hagar pursued funding opportunities with One Day's Wages and the Ross Foundation, resulting in a successful application with the former. Consequently, One Day's Wages has committed to backing the FNM program for one-month post-January 2024, underscoring Hagar's proactive efforts in sustaining vital support initiatives. Also, YHDO successfully secured additional funding from Counterpart International to extend support for the boys' shelter by an additional three months following the conclusion of the AWSF IV project in October 2023 and submitted a proposal for the CTIP III.

Outcome 6, "Increased sustainability of AWSF-funded legal and protection services for women and children" was not effectively operationalized during AWSF IV as the IPs did not fully collect data point under this indicator.



Family counseling after reintegration. © YHDO

B. Provision of psychosocial counseling and education

AWSF IV facilitated access to essential psychosocial care services, emphasizing the provision of vital counseling and mediation support to women, children, and their families affected by or vulnerable to GBV or TIP. Additionally, AWSF IV conducted informative psychoeducational sessions and awareness-raising activities for both families and communities, as well as local authorities. Through these engagements, the psychosocial counselors (PSCs) provided valuable insights into the various psychosocial stressors and symptoms, as well as the psychological repercussions of challenging living conditions such as violence, poverty, and trauma. They also offered guidance on accessing

shelter facilities and counseling services, ensuring comprehensive support for those seeking assistance.

Despite the formidable challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak, counselors persevered in delivering their vital services; they adeptly navigated safety protocols, seamlessly transitioning between face-to-face and online counseling sessions to ensure uninterrupted support for the clients. In total, 51 PSCs operated across 18 target provinces, serving 47 facilities. Facilities they provided services included the MoWA, three bureaus of DoWAs, 19 WPCs, three Transitional Houses (THs), two CSCs, 18 FGCs, and one Isolation Center located in Herat province.

Psychosocial care and education highlights under AWSF IV



51 PSCs
47 facilities
18 provinces



Nearly 11,000
received individual
counseling



Over 8,000
benefitted from
psychoeducation



Over 5,700
outreach
participants



January 2021 to July 2022

The PSCs continued their duties uninterrupted until the fall of Kabul. Because of the disruption to the shelter operations, Ipso, who administered the psychosocial counseling and mental health care activities of AWSF IV, and who had been a partner of AWSF since 2017, announced the decision to withdraw from AWSF by the end of January 2022.

Following Ipso's withdrawal, it became imperative to ensure the continuation of essential psychosocial care for the then-active facilities. To this end, CPGAP entered into a partnership with ORCD, operating within the Afghan health sector, whereby the latter recruited fourteen counselors recommended and

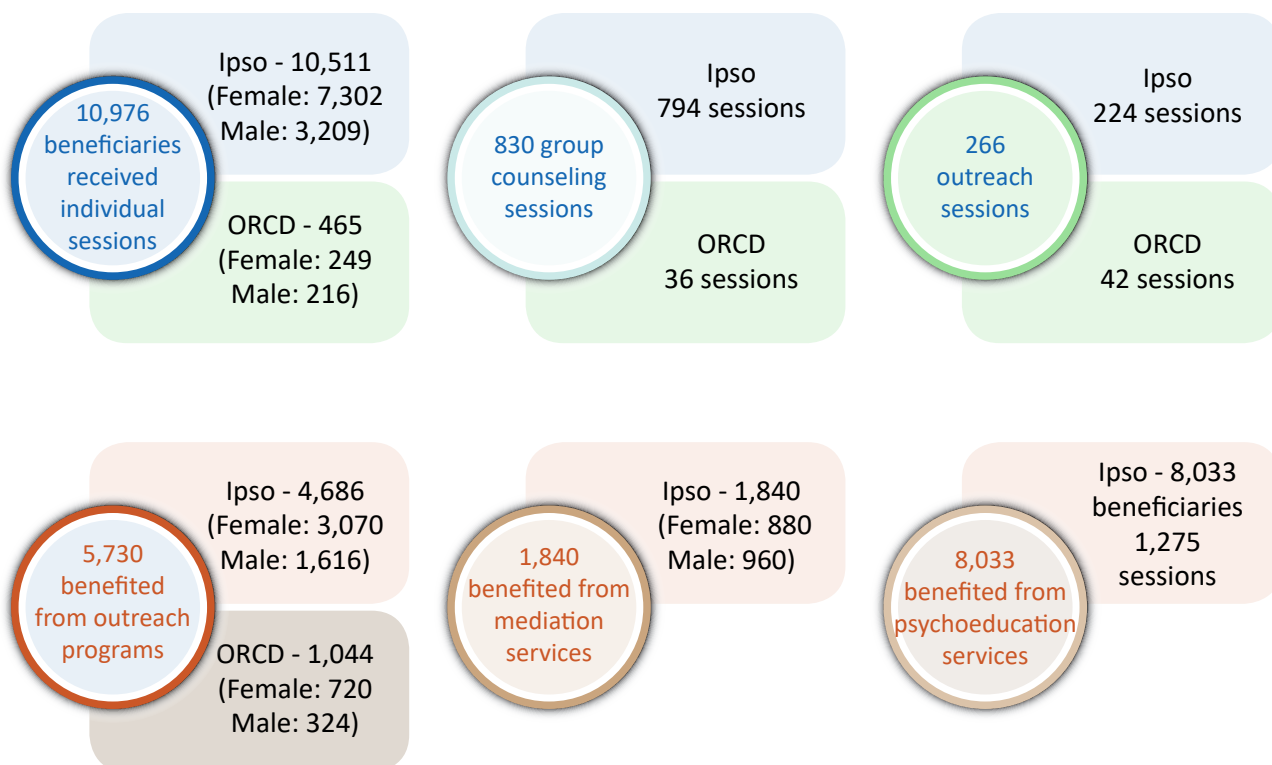
approved by CPGAP, who were previously with Ipso, along with two international technical advisors also from Ipso, ensuring both continuity and quality of care.

Following Ipso's departure, there was a brief hiatus while the arrangements were being finalized with ORCD, resulting in a temporary interruption to psychosocial counseling services. However, these services resumed in May 2022 and counselors were deployed across seven provinces of Afghanistan: Herat, Badghis, Bamyán, Faryab, Farah, Nimroz, and Badakhshan.

These PSCs provided counseling sessions to former beneficiaries of shelter facilities, shelter staff members, and community members in need of psychosocial support. Sessions were conducted remotely or in person, depending on local conditions.

Additionally, awareness-raising sessions were held in communities, including private schools, hospitals, and local associations/organizations focused on women, children, and families.

In numbers: a few selected indicators



Gender-responsive deployment and roles of psychosocial counselors

At the beginning of the AWSF IV implementation, 51 counselors, working in both AWSF funded and non-AWSF funded facilities, kept providing psychosocial counseling services. All PSCs collaborating with Ipso had undergone extensive training in the Value-Based Counseling Approach. This method is a brief psychodynamic intervention, characterized by its salutogenic perspective, which seeks to enhance clients' sense of coherence and self-efficacy. Through a nuanced blend of non-directive techniques within a meticulously structured dialogue, this approach facilitates meaningful client-centered conversations aimed at fostering personal growth and empowerment. Ipso trained all PSCs to gain

expertise in trauma consequences, trauma's link to domestic violence, family conflict origins, sexual abuse, and rape. Following the fall of Kabul, they adapted alternative methods to follow-up with clients and carry out community outreach programs.

The deployment of PSCs was carefully orchestrated, prioritizing gender responsiveness and alignment with the needs of the facilities and their intended beneficiaries. AWSF deployed female PSCs to assist direct beneficiaries at WPCs and THs to cope with their experiences and current life-circumstance, improving interaction within families and exploring ways to reunite families. Male counselors, placed in FGCs, counsel family members of WPC beneficiaries,

“I want to thank you for the conversations we had together. I am now able to recognize my own resources and skills. I now understand my negative thoughts and fears and know that they caused my headaches, fatigue, and frustration. I’m doing much better now and my relationship with my family has also improved.”

- A male family member that took counseling sessions with a counselor.

and mediate between these women and male family members to explore if a safe reintegration of the women into their families is possible. The PSCs also educated the direct beneficiaries (women and their families) and the communities on issues related to violence against women and girls, psychosocial stressors, possible coping strategies, and existing care services.

Training and supervision of psychosocial counselors

Throughout AWSF IV, Ipso and ORCD, consistently offered steadfast support to PSCs through a diverse array of approaches. These encompassed capacity-building/refresher training, on-site field visits, in-person supervisions, virtual supervisions leveraging online resources, and continuous technical support. Weekly group and individual sessions were instrumental in maintaining consistent guidance and assistance to the PSCs.

Training

During the project implementation period, two refresher training sessions were conducted for the PSCs. Initially, Ipso had planned to conduct two training sessions for all PSCs deployed across 18 provinces in 2021, organized in batches over a span of seven days. However, due to contextual challenges, only the first batch of the initial refresher training was conducted for 26 PSCs in April 2021. Despite efforts to arrange a second batch in May 2021, it had to be cancelled

due to security concerns. Instead, the PSCs accessed the same training content through online resources in the following months. Considering the evolving needs of the PSCs, as assessed by supervisors and trainers, and based on recommendations from the PSCs themselves, the training sessions focused on crucial topics. This included fostering teamwork, addressing issues of shame and taboo during counseling sessions, establishing support groups for staff members, and promoting self-care and empathy among participants.

Additionally, an online refresher training was organized by ORCD and facilitated by the two Ipso consultants in June 2022. The training spanned 10 days, with each session lasting two hours, and accommodated 13 PSCs³⁰. This online training for counselors was comprehensive and intensive, providing them with valuable techniques and knowledge for effective counseling in Afghanistan’s challenging environment. Despite difficult circumstances, counselors showed high motivation and commitment throughout the training. They also had the chance to address personal challenges and develop coping strategies. The PSCs gained valuable insights into addressing the needs and challenges of staff members during training sessions. They shared skills, knowledge, and perspectives aimed at enhancing the staff’s interactions with beneficiaries, colleagues, and themselves.

Given the pandemic and deteriorating security conditions, self-care remained a focal point in the training. Due to the prevailing security situation and heightened uncertainty and tension on the ground, many counselors faced personal hardships, which often impacted their ability to fulfill their duties effectively. Through self-care exercises and reflection, they learned to better manage their responsibilities, activate their inner resources, and build resilience in navigating their work environment.

Supervision

In the first half of 2021, Ipso’s supervision team, comprising experienced master trainers, trainers, and supervisors, conducted on-site visits to shelter facilities. These visits aimed to provide face-to-face supervision of the PSCs and coordinate activities with various stakeholders across different provinces.

³⁰ Out of the original 14 PSCs who began working under ORCD, one counselor resigned in early June.

The team managed to visit four provinces (Herat, Parwan, Balkh, and Kabul) for in-person supervision, covering 18 out of 51 PSCs. This fell short of the targeted 30 PSCs due to escalating security concerns and the persisting challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. From May 2021 onwards, provincial stability declined, rendering travel impractical. Following the fall of Kabul, travel became entirely unfeasible, and most facilities in the provinces had to close down. Consequently, no field visits were conducted after August 2021. Nonetheless, regular in-person visits were carried out for the PSCs stationed in Kabul. Additionally, those provincial PSCs who were relocated to Kabul due to deteriorating security conditions received weekly face-to-face supervision sessions at Ipso headquarters in Kabul.

Due to heightened security concerns, far distance supervision of PSCs became crucial for supporting PSCs effectively. PSCs based in one facility convened weekly internal supervision groups, connecting with their supervisors via conference calls or Skype. These sessions addressed group/client difficulties and accomplishments, with counselors submitting monthly checklists summarizing key points. Additionally, supervisors conducted individual calls with each PSC at least twice weekly to discuss cases and personal challenges. In 2021, each counselor received approximately eight to nine sessions per month, exceeding the targeted eight sessions, and in 2022, throughout the two-month ORCD implementation period, each counselor had a minimum of eight sessions per month, surpassing the targeted number of six sessions per month. Additionally, WhatsApp groups and Skype calls were set up to guide the counselors through the challenging situations on the ground.

Promoting the well-being of staff at AWSF IV facilities

Ipso and ORCD were both committed to bolstering the capacity and psychosocial well-being of staff at WPCs and FGCs, as well as personnel from partner organizations, through support group sessions. Ipso successfully facilitated support groups for staff members in 2021. These sessions were tailored for shelter supervisors, provincial managers, family counselors, social workers, attorneys, case workers,

“Before I met you, I had completely lost my self-confidence, my love for my family and my children had diminished and work was frustrating. Fortunately, life has become enjoyable again. I am able to manage my difficulties and I like being with my family again.”

- A staff member appreciating the support of a PSC who conducted group and individual support sessions for shelter staff.

HR personnel, and the directors of MoWA and DoWA. Held once or twice a month, these gatherings proved instrumental in helping staff navigate the challenges of their work environment, thereby enhancing their ability to assist children, women, and families in need. Participants reported significant improvements in their well-being and noted enhanced relationships both at work and within their families.

In addition to support group sessions, there were plans to hold two-day workshops in target provinces aimed to equip staff with the knowledge, skills, and empathy needed to sensitively address taboo social topics. However, due to security concerns in 2021, these workshops couldn't be held. Instead, Ipso intensified its support group sessions for staff, ensuring continued professional development and support in challenging circumstances. By mid-August 2021, a total of 1,330 staff members (942 female, 388 male) had participated in 226 sessions, illustrating the profound impact of these supportive interventions. ORCD continued with providing individual counseling sessions for staff of the the covert shelters in Kabul managed by VWO from May to June 2022



Group counseling with beneficiaries of Kinderberg shelter in Badakshan © ORCD



Awareness raising session for children receiving help at Kinderberg shelter in Badakshan © ORCD



Awareness raising session for female employees of the Department of Public Health in Badakshan © ORCD



Ipsos psychosocial counselors attending supervision briefings in Balkh © Ipsos



Community outreach and awareness raising sessions

The PSCs operating within shelter facilities organized awareness raising sessions within key community hubs such as public gathering places, clinics, schools, and institutes. Additionally, they engaged with local authorities including community elders, police, DoWA, and court representatives. These sessions aimed to foster a constructive dialogue, garnering acceptance, and soliciting support for the shelter facilities and their significance within the community.

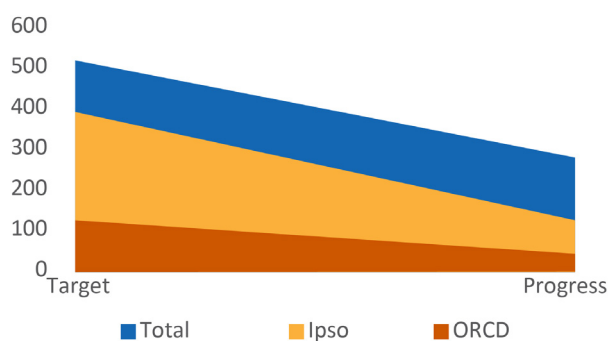
In 2021, the frequency of outreach activities conducted by the counselors varied between one to four times per month, depending on the facility's capacity and demand. Typically, these activities were coordinated in collaboration with the facility's staff. However, counselors independently visited nearby locations to extend their reach and impact within the community. The outreach awareness sessions covered a wide array of key topics, including gender-based violence, domestic violence, good parenting, self-esteem issues, psychosocial stressors, psychosocial counseling, effective communication, relationship building, shelter necessity and benefits, and other relevant psychosocial issues such as forced marriage, family conflicts, and unemployment.

Following the fall of Kabul, counselors initially suspended outreach activities, resuming them cautiously when security conditions permitted. Later, they prioritized engaging with women's associations like the Women's Garden in Kabul and attending vocational classes for women. Additionally, they conducted community sessions outside schools and hospitals, focusing solely on psychosocial well-being and the repercussions of difficult circumstances to empower local communities. Following the collapse of the former government in mid-2021, an unprecedented surge in demand for psychosocial counseling services emerged as individuals grappled with the profound upheaval in their lives, significantly impacting their well-being. The abrupt transition to new living conditions, coupled with stringent restrictions disproportionately affecting females, exacerbated instances of domestic violence and heightened psychological distress among women, men, and children, reverberating throughout families and communities.

From May to June 2022, the 14 PSCs operating across seven targeted provinces responded by conducting proactive awareness-raising sessions within their respective communities. They actively engaged with diverse stakeholders, including private schools, universities, Shuras, local associations dedicated to women's education and support, as well as orphanages and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Through these engagements, they initiated vital dialogues on psychosocial themes, fostering understanding and support among affected individuals and communities.

In 2021, the outreach awareness programs connected with a significant number of people, reaching a total of 4,686 individuals. Among these participants, 372 were women and 1,641 were men, engaging in a series of 224 sessions led by counselors throughout the implementation period. In 2022, from May to June, outreach efforts were still impactful, connecting with a total of 1,044 individuals. Impressively, 720 of these participants were women, alongside 324 men, engaging in a focused series of 42 sessions.

Number of outreach awareness raising sessions conducted

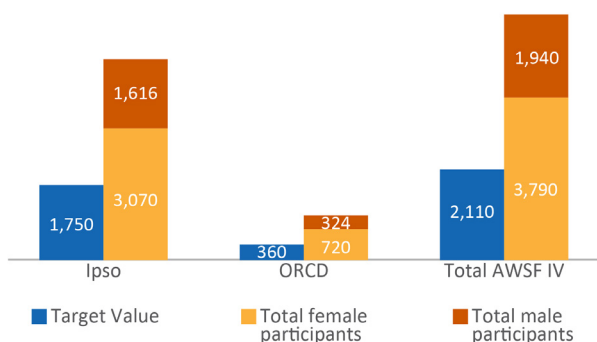


During AWSF-IV, 266 outreach awareness sessions were conducted, falling short of the target of 492. The primary factors contributing to this shortfall included the disruptive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the destabilizing influence of the Taliban incursion up to mid-2021.

Following the fall of Kabul, counselors initially halted outreach activities due to security concerns but resumed them cautiously as circumstances permitted. Despite challenges, the resumption of outreach activities had a profound impact on communities. Counselors cautiously re-engaged

with various segments of society, particularly focusing on women's associations and vocational classes. These efforts extended to engaging with communities near key institutions such as schools and hospitals, fostering discussions centered around psychosocial well-being and the adversities faced, thus empowering communities to navigate through the prevailing hardships.

Breakdown of participants attending outreach sessions



In 2021, the knowledge assessments before and after training sessions for authorities and institutional members was done. However, assessing the community members' knowledge proved challenging. Many participants were illiterate and uninterested in completing written pre and

post-test questionnaires. Instead, they preferred verbal discussions with counselors to share their knowledge. The assessment methodology, anchored by pre and post-test questionnaires, yielded a noteworthy outcome: an average of 21% knowledge increase among participants, falling short of the target 30%. This difference could be traced back to various reasons affecting people's motivation; given the daily struggles and the instability in the country, many individuals didn't feel inclined to participate in formal assessments. Instead, they found comfort in the guidance provided by the counselors, who became sources of support during challenging times.

However, even in the uncertain times, people in marginalized groups like those in IDP camps, orphanages, and community councils (Shuras) showed a strong interest in connecting with the counselors. They were eager to talk and share because there weren't many other support options available, and they needed to discuss the challenges they were facing. In the middle of Afghanistan's difficult socio-economic situation, the need for psychosocial support had grown rapidly. In response, the counselors became crucial lifelines for those dealing with deep emotional, social, and financial struggles caused by the country's unstable conditions.

Psychosocial counseling services

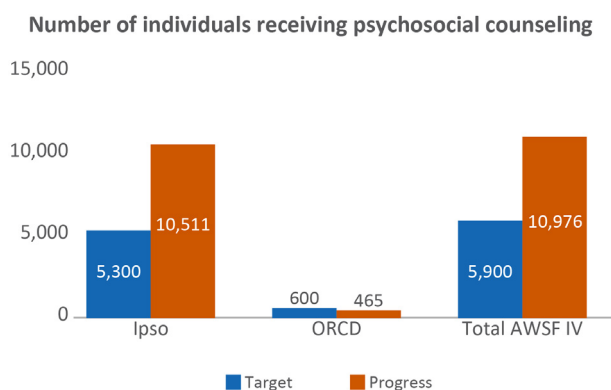
Upon a client's initial admission to the centers, as per the counseling procedures, PSCs conducted a thorough assessment of the beneficiary's psychological and mental health condition. Based on the assessment findings and indications, treatment would commence for women and children in the shelters and family members in the FGCs. Counseling was delivered through individual sessions and, if suitable and agreed upon by the client, group sessions tailored to address the client's specific challenges. Psychosocial counseling services were offered to both men and women, with women primarily seeking counseling at WPCs. Men, typically husbands, fathers, or in-laws of the women, sought help at the FGCs regarding their family's situation. Male PSCs reached out to these individuals and invited them for individual counseling sessions.

Following August 2021, amidst worsening living conditions compounded by restrictions on basic

“I was always a girl in pain – I grew up in a parental home where I experienced constant violence from my parents. My life was hell. I was so tired, every day, every hour, every moment - I was too tired to endure this life. I have tried to end my life several times. Finally, I fled from home. I didn't know what to do with myself, saw no meaning in life. But after attending counseling sessions, something changed in me. I realize the value of life and I am very happy that I am still alive.”

- A female client to her counselor

rights and freedom of speech, both men and women faced immense hardships. Particularly, women bore the brunt of these challenges. In response, PSCs endeavored to reach out to former AWSF beneficiaries, staff, and the wider community to offer mental health support during this tumultuous period. The primary objective of counseling was to stabilize the well-being of clients, providing them with a safe space to express themselves, cope with daily adversities, and come to terms with their current circumstances. Additionally, counselors assisted clients in identifying and utilizing available resources to navigate their challenges effectively. Strengthening social networks and fostering resilience were integral components of the counseling process, aimed at empowering clients to withstand and overcome the hardships they faced.



During the AWSF-IV period, 10,976 individuals, encompassing both beneficiaries and their family members, received individual psychosocial counseling services; 7,551 women accessed individual psychosocial counseling services, while 3,425 men participated in similar support sessions. Among these, 3,754 cases were newly admitted, highlighting the program's ability to address emerging needs. Additionally, 7,222 individuals benefited from ongoing support through follow-up sessions, demonstrating the sustained impact of the counseling services provided. Following a beneficiary's reintegration into the family, the PSCs played a pivotal role in assisting the assigned staff with monitoring the beneficiary's progress. They conducted regular follow-up calls to ensure the safety and well-being of the beneficiaries and occasionally accompanied the assigned staff on home visits to provide further support and assistance as needed. While Ipso surpassed its target by reaching out to

more individuals than the set target of 5,300 for individual psychosocial counseling services, ORCD fell short of achieving its target of 600 due to the project's short-term implementation.

Percentage of counseling beneficiaries who report increased feeling of well-being following counseling



Approximately 99% of counseling beneficiaries who received psychosocial counseling services were assessed by AWSF PSCs and reported improvements in their well-being. Additionally, around 97% of counseling clients confirmed feeling secure, as evaluated by counselors. Women residing in shelter facilities frequently encountered persistent traumatic experiences within their families, such as domestic violence, conflicts, and forced marriages. As per the follow-ups conducted, they also grappled with challenges like the uncertainty of life and the constraints imposed by the IEA government following August 2021. Following psychosocial counseling services, shelter beneficiaries reported a 97% increase in their well-being, while family members of shelter beneficiaries reported a 99% improvement in their well-being. The primary objective of continuous counseling was to stabilize the well-being of women and individuals grappling with severe mental health issues, providing them with a platform to be heard and to cope with challenges, ultimately fostering acceptance of their present circumstances.

In addition to individual counseling, PSCs facilitated group counseling sessions for clients, both within shelter facilities and occasionally for beneficiaries beyond them. These group sessions aimed to provide a secure environment for participants to freely express themselves, share their experiences, stories, thoughts, ideas, and emotions, as well as their values. Encouraging active listening, mutual learning, and support, these groups fostered acceptance of both differences and commonalities

among participants. These sessions empowered individuals to break their silence, engage in an open dialogue, and forge connections with one

another, thereby alleviating feelings of isolation and reinforcing the understanding that no one is alone in their emotions or experiences.

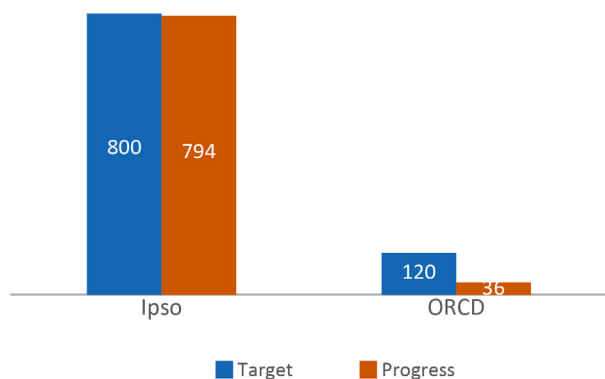
“A description of typical cases should help to better understand the mental state of the beneficiaries. Many families the counselors work with live below the poverty line and are plagued by hopelessness and powerlessness. Before the fall of Kabul, the focus was primarily on family conflicts and domestic violence. Now, unemployment and extreme restrictions on personal freedom have exacerbated these challenges, making it even more difficult for families to cope. Some female clients who were shelter employees have lost their jobs and social status. Some are threatened because of their work at that time or are socially ostracized, they have no way of supporting their families financially, and they suddenly find themselves trapped in traditional gender roles, unable to send their daughters to school.

These stressors pose real threats, some of which cannot be changed. Understandably, these clients often experience desperate, anxious, and at times depressed mental state. Counselors give them space, empathy, and acceptance, fostering a willingness to work on their attitudes, accept the situation, and look for ways to cope and find alternative resources. It is essentially about strengthening the resilience of these clients so that they can take action within the scope available to them, discover ways of life that they previously thought were impossible, and make better use of the social structures around them.

In this way, the counselors were able to help many clients regain hope and a sense of agency. Some unemployed women have been encouraged to look for new jobs, work on their self-confidence and ability to contribute to a better future. As a result, some have found new jobs, are better able to provide for their families and have realized their own self-efficacy.”

- Senior Technical Advisor to ORCD

Number of group counseling sessions conducted



Throughout AWSF IV, a total of 830 group counseling sessions were conducted benefiting 6,763 individuals (female: 4,293 male: 2,470). From January to February 2021, PSCs facilitated 794 group counseling sessions for 6,449 beneficiaries (female: 4,150 male: 2,299) across target facilities, successfully meeting the set target of 800 sessions, as indicated in the figure above. From May to June 2022, PSCs conducted 36 group counseling sessions for 314 beneficiaries (female: 143 male: 171) across the seven target provinces. However, due to the service provision period being reduced to two months instead of four, the set target of 120 sessions for 600 individuals was not attained.

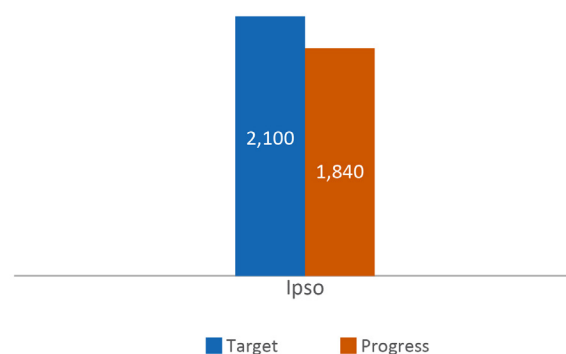
Psychosocial mediation services

The provision of mediation to families held paramount significance, recognizing domestic violence as a symptom of dysfunctional family dynamics. Therefore, initiating early dialogues with family members of women and children seeking shelter proved essential for gaining deeper insights into family dynamics and collaboratively identifying solutions agreeable to all members. Male PSCs engaged in this endeavor established connection with the families of women and children at an early stage. Their primary role involved initiating dialogue with family members and offering individual psychosocial counseling to those in need. These counseling sessions addressed all challenging issues in a professional and empathetic manner, aiding both victims and aggressors in comprehending their situation, identifying triggers, and understanding the root causes of conflicts. Counselors facilitated the

development of conflict resolution skills, fostering insights into respectful interpersonal interactions, thus promoting psychosocial well-being for all family members. Families that participated in mediation and counseling gained the capacity to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence and cultivate more empathetic relationships with one another.

In 2021 a total of 1,840 beneficiaries (880 female, 960 male) participated in mediation sessions, falling short of the set target of 2,100. On average, each

Number of beneficiaries receiving mediation services



beneficiary received one mediation session, falling short of the targeted two sessions. The inability to meet the target stemmed from challenges associated with the fall of Kabul, when frequent mediation services became unfeasible due to female shelters

“I don’t know how to thank you. Today my relationship with my husband has changed and improved a lot. At that time, we had nothing more to say to each other, there was nothing that connected us. But now that we’ve talked with you, we’re talking to each other again and having real family life with our children. Thanks for your help.”

- A female client thanking a counselor

being shut down. However, mediation sessions continued at the boys' shelters. Additionally, not all female shelter beneficiaries were referred to counselors for mediation sessions, as some stayed for only a brief period in the facilities and were discharged quickly, making it impractical to arrange a mediation session in such a short timeframe. From May to June 2022, no mediation services took place as the VWO centers that were covert operations, catering to beneficiaries who had already undergone mediation and lacked alternative accommodation or family for reintegration.

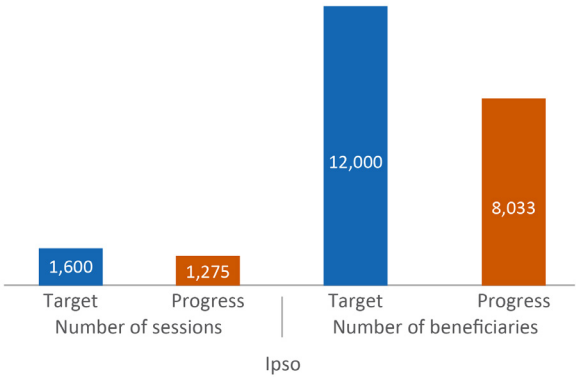
Psychoeducation/awareness programs

The PSCs conducted psychoeducation and awareness-raising activities for women, children, and their families upon their admission into the centers. These sessions aimed to destigmatize psychosocial difficulties, symptoms, and problems, while also highlighting the repercussions of psychosocial stressors and the advantages of psychosocial counseling. By fostering awareness, these activities helped destigmatize shelter facilities and informed women, children, and their families about the accessibility of psychosocial counseling and mediation as valuable resources for those affected.

Throughout AWSF IV, PSCs maintained their commitment to supporting beneficiaries and their family members through psychoeducation

services. However, following August 2021, the provision of services became limited, significantly affecting psychoeducation activities. Nevertheless, psychoeducation remained integrated into the counseling process and was therefore addressed during individual counseling sessions with clients.

Psychoeducation sessions conducted and beneficiaries served



In 2021, a total of 1,275 psychoeducation sessions were conducted within shelter facilities, benefiting 8,033 individuals (5,370 female, 2,663 male). However, the set target of 1,600 sessions (400 per quarter) and 12,000 beneficiaries (3,000 per quarter) was not achieved. Reduced contacts due to the pandemic and the closure of many centers after August 2021 contributed to the inability to reach the targets.



On-site monitoring visit, Nimruz WPC and FGC © VWO

III. MONITORING & EVALUATION

The AWSF IV commenced with ambitious goals to enhance the M&E system. Several of these initiatives were successfully implemented throughout different phases, particularly within the first six months of 2021. However, as the project progressed, it encountered a multitude of challenges including sustained impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and political transitions. Internal political tensions within the governmental entities impeded the realization of its intended initiatives and slightly hindered advancements in M&E. At the beginning of the AWSF IV, a new set of logical frameworks (log frames) and indicators measuring the progress in implementation were put in place. These were slightly modified and improved from previous version of AWSF indicators reflecting the continuous improvements made to the M&E system. Additionally, considerable efforts were made to revamp the M&E methodology and tools to make them more fit-for-purpose, measure the results more effectively and to improve donor reporting. An immense focus was given to the accuracy of indicators, targets, baselines, and reporting methodology. A new template for the IPs' monthly narrative self-report was developed to improve the granularity of qualitative data. Also, the IPs' monthly quantitative data collection sheet was adapted in each project period to accurately reflect changes in project activities over the course of AWSF IV implementation. Furthermore, the reporting frequency for IPs was adjusted from monthly to quarterly starting from the second quarter of 2021 and shelter codes were assigned for ease of reporting and to avoid any confusion in relation to shelter and sub-shelter classification. Due to the volatile political situation in the country, marked by the closure of WPCs and constraints on the delivery of legal and shelter services, the activities of the AWSF project encountered disruptions. In response to these challenges and in accordance with directives from INL, IPs were advised to continue reporting under AWSF IV project outcome and output indicators without any amendments/revisions on project indicators.

Supported by CPGAP management and M&E field staff, AWSF IV partners intensified their efforts to bolster the provision of M&E services, adapting

swiftly to on-the-ground dynamics. Through the concerted efforts of CPGAP, not only did M&E services persist, but they also evolved, incorporating innovative methods and techniques to effectively tackle ground-level challenges.

On-site M&E visits

Ensuring the monitoring and evaluation of AWSF IV-funded facilities involved conducting routine on-site visits, maintaining regular virtual and telephone communication between IPs and CPGAP, IP weekly M&E update, IP quarterly narrative reports, monthly data collection sheet, and third-party institutional and financial audits. The frequency of site visits depended on various factors such as the remoteness of the facility, security risks, adverse weather conditions, and political volatility. CPGAP endeavored to conduct in-person monitoring visits whenever feasible. However, at the onset of the project, the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and political tensions in mid-2021 posed challenges for such visits. Despite this, online monitoring visits remained consistent and were conducted based on "CPGAP online monitoring guidelines".

In-person monitoring visits, suspended since the COVID-19 outbreak during AWSF III, resumed during the second quarter of 2021 for facilities in Kabul and those nearby. However, after the regime change in the country, in-person monitoring visits were once again suspended during the third quarter of 2021, resulting in a lapse of monitoring activities during this period. Nevertheless, CPGAP introduced a crisis-responsive M&E format, with updates communicated weekly. This format gathered information on various aspects, including IP facilities, project operations, beneficiary status, shelter activities and services, as well as challenges and issues encountered by IPs, along with interactions with the de-facto government.

Despite the formidable obstacles and constraints imposed by the de-facto government on women and projects pertaining to women's welfare, the CPGAP M&E team, comprising both male and female program/finance experts, persevered in

closely monitoring AWSF IP activities. They diligently tracked changes concerning IP facility operations, beneficiaries, facility closures, project budget allocations, asset handovers, and overall IP activities through both in-person and online monitoring visits. While online monitoring visits were consistently conducted across all IP facilities, a female M&E assistant was recruited to conduct in-person monitoring visits at VWO Kabul facilities during the second quarter of 2022. Additionally, in-person monitoring visits to AWSF boys' shelters persisted until the conclusion of the project implementation period.

The CPGAP M&E field staff adhered to a standardized process of reviewing the quality and condition of AWSF IV facilities and services provided. Each monitoring visit entailed a comprehensive

assessment where CPGAP staff meticulously appraised the condition of shelters and amenities, took detailed photographs of facilities, conducted individual interviews with shelter beneficiaries and staff. This data collection process aimed to provide valuable feedback on shelter services, facilitating continual enhancements in service quality. The on-site M&E visits also assessed the operational and managerial standards of the facility that also entailed review of any written SOPs. When possible, the assessment also included a review of beneficiary ledgers to confirm validity of reported data. These findings were then compiled and reported back to CPGAP Kabul and Colombo offices for review and feedback. A total number of 105 monitoring visits were conducted by CPGAP M&E team both in-person and online during AWSF IV.

The following M&E visits were conducted by CPGAP staff during AWSF IV:

	Description	IP facility	Date(s)
1	Online Monitoring	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	18 January 2021
2	Online Monitoring	WAW Kapisa WPC & FGC	03, 04 & 24 February 2021
3	Online Monitoring	VWO Nimruz FGC & WPC	08 & 22 February 2021
4	Online Monitoring	VWO Badghis FGC, WPC & LAC	08, 22 & 25 February 2021
5	Online Monitoring	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	10-11 February 2021
6	Online Monitoring	VWO Farah FGC & WPC	11, 16, 18 & 28 February 2021
7	Online Monitoring	WAW Kabul HH	16, 18 & 28 February 2021
8	Online Monitoring	JFAO Ghazni FGC	16-18 February 2021
9	Online Monitoring	WAW Sar-e-Pul FGC & WPC	16-17 February 2021
10	Online Monitoring	VWO Herat FGC, WPC, IC, & LAB	23-25 February 2021
11	Online Monitoring ³¹	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	01, 14 & 23 March 2021
12	Online Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan FGC & WPC	02, 03, 14 & 16 March 2021
13	Online Monitoring	VWO Ghor WPC & FGC	03, 04 & 23 March 2021
14	Online Monitoring	JFAO Khost FGC	04 March 2021
15	Online Monitoring	WAW Kabul FGC	04 & 30 March 2021
16	Online Monitoring	VWO Badghis FGC, WPC & LAC	08-09 March 2021
17	Online Monitoring	WAW Faryab FGCs & WPCs	09-10 & 22-23 March 2021
18	Online Monitoring	Kabul Ipso	10 March 2021
19	Online Monitoring	WAW Sar-e-Pul FGC & WPC	14-15 March 2021
20	Online Monitoring	VWO Herat FGC, WPC, IC, & LAB	14-15 March 2021

³¹ A one-day, in-person monitoring visit was carried out at Hagar FNM Boys' Shelter on 23 March, with the remaining two days conducted virtually.

21	Online Monitoring	WAW Kunduz FGC & WPC	14, 17, 22 & 23 March 2021
22	Online Monitoring	VWO Nimruz FGC & WPC	21-22 March 2021
23	In-Person Visit	WAW Kapisa FGC & WPC	03-04 April 2021
24	In-Person Visit	Kabul Ipso	06-07 April 2021
25	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	06-08 April 2021
26	Online Monitoring	VWO Nimruz FGC & WPC	04-06 May 2021
27	Online Monitoring	JFAO Khost FGC	17 & 19 May 2021
28	Online Monitoring	JFAO Ghazni FGC	23-24 May 2021
29	Online Monitoring	WAW Sar-e-Pul FGC & WPC	23, 25 & 26 May 2021
30	Online Monitoring	VWO Badghis FGC & WPC	24-26 May 2021
31	Online Monitoring	WAW Kunduz FGC & WPC	01, 02, 09 & 23 June 2021
32	Online Monitoring	VWO Badghis FGC & WPC	01-02 June 2021
33	Online Monitoring	VWO Herat FGC & WPC	01, 22 & 23 June 2021
34	Online Monitoring	WAW Sar-e-Pul FGC & WPC	06-07 June 2021
35	Online Monitoring	VWO Farah FGC & WPC	06-07 & 16-17 June 2021
36	Online Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan FGC & WPC	06, 09 & 29 June 2021
37	Online Monitoring	VWO Ghor FGC & WPC	10 & 14 June 2021
38	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	13 & 15 June 2021
39	Online Monitoring	WAW Faryab FGC & WPC	13, 16 & 22 June 2021
40	Online Monitoring	VWO Nimruz FGC & WPC	20 & 22 June 2021
41	In-Person Visit	WAW Kabul FGC	20 & 23 June 2021
42	Online Monitoring	JFAO Ghazni FGC	21 June 2021
43	In-Person Visit	WAW Kabul HH	21, 23, 29 & 30 June 2021
44	Online Monitoring	JFAO Khost FGC	27 June 2021
45	Online Monitoring	WAW Kapisa FGC & WPC	27 June 2021
46	In-Person Visit	WAW TH-Kunduz relocated beneficiaries	29 June 2021
47	Online Monitoring	Kabul Ipso	29-30 June 2021
48	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	08-09 November 2021
49	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	15 November 2021
50	Online Monitoring	WAW All Facilities	20, 26 & 27 December 2021
51	Online Monitoring	VWO Kabul Facilities	24-26 December 2021
52	Online Monitoring	Kabul Ipso	28 & 30 December 2021
53	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	24-25 January 2022
54	Online Monitoring	Kabul Ipso	06-07 March 2022
55	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	07-08 March 2022
56	Online Monitoring	JFAO Ghazni FGC	08-09 March 2022
57	Online Monitoring	JFAO Khost FGC	13-14 March 2022
58	Online Monitoring	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	15-16 March 2022

59	Online Monitoring	WAW Kabul FGC	20 & 23 March 2022
60	Online Monitoring	WAW Badakhshan FGC & WPC ³²	22-23 March 2022
61	Online Monitoring	VWO Kabul facilities	23-24 & 27-28 March 2022
62	Online Monitoring	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	24 March 2022
63	Online Monitoring	VWO Nimruz & Farah FGC	27 March 2022
64	Online Monitoring	WAW Kunduz FGC & WPC	27-28 March 2022
65	Online Monitoring	VWO Herat, Ghor & Badghis FGCs	28 March 2022
66	Online Monitoring	WAW Faryab FGC & WPC	29-30 March 2022
67	In-Person Visit	VWO Kabul facilities	09-11 May 2022
68	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	11-12 May 2022
69	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	06-07 June 2022
70	Online Monitoring	VWO Nimruz & Farah FGCs	07 June 2022
71	Online Monitoring	VWO Herat, Ghor & Badghis FGCs	08-09 June 2022
72	Online Monitoring	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	08-09 June 2022
73	In-Person Visit	VWO Kabul facilities	13-15 June 2022
74	Online Monitoring	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	19-21 June 2022
75	Online Monitoring	VWO Kabul facilities	21-23 June 2022
76	Online Monitoring	ORCD Kabul	26-27 June 2022
77	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	19 July 2022
78	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	20 July 2022
79	Online Monitoring	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	13-14 September 2022
80	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	02 & 19 October 2022
81	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	03 & 18 October 2022
82	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	20 November 2022
83	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	21 November 2022
84	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	12 December 2022
85	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	13 December 2022
86	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	16 January 2023
87	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	17 January 2023
88	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	20 February 2023
89	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	21 February 2023
90	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	14 March 2023
91	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	15 March 2023
92	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	16 & 18 April 2023
93	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	17 April 2023
94	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	21 & 22 May 2023

32 Throughout Q1 2022, all monitoring visits conducted at WAW facilities were exclusively financial in nature and were conducted virtually. No programmatic monitoring visits occurred during this period, as the WAW clients had been transferred to VWO centers.

95	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	22 & 23 May 2023
96	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	19-20 June 2023
97	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	20-21 June 2023
98	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	24 July 2023
99	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	25 July 2023
100	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	22 August 2023
101	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	23 August 2023
102	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	23 & 24 September 2023
103	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	24 & 25 September 2023
104	In-Person Visit	YHDO Kabul Boys' Shelter	23 October 2023
105	In-Person Visit	Hagar Kabul Boys' Shelter	23 October 2023



Hagar staff during a Trauma-Informed Care event © Hagar

IV. CAPACITY BUILDING

Throughout the various phases of the AWSF, the CPGAP prioritized capacity building for IPs with notable success. These training courses played a vital role in equipping AWSF IPs with the necessary skills for effective project implementation. In addition to capacity building sessions, CPGAP provided technical support, project assessments, evaluations, audits, and oversight, ensuring a comprehensive approach to capacity enhancement.

Under outcome 5, IPs organized internal staff training sessions, while IP staff also participated in training facilitated by other stakeholders. However, it's important to note that this activity faced challenges during the first year of AWSF IV implementation, including disruptions caused by the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, heightened security measures, and political instability in the country. Despite these obstacles, the commitment to capacity building remained unwavering, underscoring its crucial role in project success.

Audit: The project financial audit conducted during AWSF III, carried out by Moore Afghanistan, was successfully completed by the beginning of the first quarter of 2021. CPGAP and IP consultations were held to finalize the audit reports. Based on the audit findings, CPGAP provided templates for each IP to develop audit action plan. CPGAP identified priority audit observations and proposed recommendations were also shared with each IP. CPGAP introduced an addendum to the MoUs of the IPs to specify finance, HR and operational procedures based on the audit findings.

Project sustainability: Following the Fundraising, Advocacy, and Outreach Development Training facilitated by SMARCT Afghan International Training and Consultancy in December 2020, CPGAP proactively supported IPs by providing templates to initiate the development of fundraising, advocacy, and outreach strategies during AWSF IV. Subsequently, an online training session conducted by SMARCT on 21 June 2021 addressed IP inquiries and provided further clarification on strategy development. By 30 June 2021, IPs successfully completed all three strategies, marking a significant milestone in project progression.

Capacity building training: In early May 2021, CPGAP announced the Request for Proposals (RFP) for two training courses – Do No Harm (DNH) and Reporting – scheduled to roll out during the second quarter of 2021. The DNH training aimed to enhance the capacity of caretakers to effectively serve survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking in persons, aligning with principles of “respect for persons, nonmaleficence (minimizing harm), beneficence (maximizing benefits), and justice. The reporting training aimed to enhance the reporting skills of staff from all AWSF partner organizations engaged in data management and reporting, including M&E officers, reporting officers, and database management personnel.

Kabk Consulting and Capacity Building Services Company was selected to conduct the DNH training, while Navigate Consulting Services was chosen to deliver the reporting training. Both local firms underwent background checks, and their references were cleared by the end of May 2021. By early June 2021, contracts were finalized with both firms to begin their respective assignments. Unfortunately, due to deteriorating security situation, which necessitated the relocation of some AWSF IP locations, both trainings were cancelled, and the contracts terminated. A 10% contract value was paid to the companies.

M&E needs assessment of AWSF IPs: In order to strengthen the M&E capacity of the IPs, CPGAP contracted the Mohibullah Sidique Consultancy Services in December 2020 to conduct an M&E training needs assessment of the AWSF IPs. This assessment was successfully concluded in March 2021, by reviewing the existing M&E tools that CPGAP uses and conducting interviews with CPGAP and IP staff. The main deliverables and objective of the assessment was to:

- Assess the gaps in the M&E capacity of each IP and map the gaps in their ability to perform required M&E functions;
- Assess the specific M&E training needs of each IP, based on the gap assessment;

- Map the data flows between the IPs and the CPGAP; and
- To develop a two-year M&E training plan that the CPGAP will implement for its IPs in the future.

All the desired objectives of the assessment were duly and successfully fulfilled by end of March 2021. Under close direction of the CPGAP team, the service provider conducted the assessment and submitted a final report with all the deliverables to a more than satisfactory quality and the output of the assessment was used to design the M&E system and tools for the prospective fifth iteration of the AWSF. The consultancy also conducted workshops with each IP separately between 29-31 March 2021 informing them of the findings to advance IPs' M&E system. Moreover, the CPGAP M&E team conducted a half-day online training for IPs in February 2021 on the project baseline, target, log frame, the amended data collection tools and IP narrative report templates.

Evaluation of the boys' shelters: In September 2022, CPGAP engaged the services of the Samuel Hall Consultancy to conduct a project evaluation on the two boys' shelter in Kabul covering the period from January 2020 to August 2022 with the below objectives and goals intended:

- To assess the overall project according to Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) criteria;
- To identify lessons learned and good practices from this project which can be shared more broadly;
- To provide recommendations for future programming on similar topics/projects.

The evaluation was completed by end of the fourth quarter of 2022 and the evaluation report was finalized by mid-2023. The project evaluation report comprehensively assessed the project services, impact, and outcomes. It offered detailed recommendations tailored to both CPGAP and AWSF IPs, aiming to optimize performance and foster continuous improvement.

Establishment of Children's Committee for AWSF boys' shelters: Based on experience with other programs serving vulnerable children, CPGAP suggested setting up a Children's Committee within each boys' shelter during the last quarter of 2021. All necessary guidelines for the formation of CC were shared with YHDO and Hagar management. CPGAP also developed standard operating procedures and provided guidance and templates to enhance Shelter Complaint Response/Feedback Mechanisms facilitating an improved framework for addressing concerns and feedback effectively.

Enhancing security capacities: Considering the security situation in the country, training and mentoring was provided for the IPs to conduct security assessments and develop evacuation plans for all IP facilities. CPGAP supported in conducting the identified security upgrades, and the process of reviewing and approving all security evacuation plans. Furthermore, based on CPGAP's instructions and support, both YHDO and Hagar, prepared short-term and long-term strategic plans to address the IEA government's decree on banning female staff from workplace during the first quarter of 2023.

Note: For a list of capacity building trainings conducted by IPs, refer to the annexes.

V. PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

The AWSF played an essential role in fostering partnerships and coordination. The CPGAP actively encouraged cooperation among operators of AWSF facilities, Afghan government ministries dealing with gender-related issues, UN entities including UN Women, and international organizations such as IDLO. Additionally, the AWSF supported the establishment of networks across Afghan organizations, facilitating cooperative monitoring visits by governmental officials and CPGAP personnel to AWSF facilities. CPGAP actively participated in various networks, including the Afghan Women's Shelter Network (ASN, now Essential Services Network or ESN) and CPAN chaired by MoLSA.

CPGAP and IP staff vigilantly tracked legislative changes to improve women's legal access and identifying areas for enhancement in human rights for women and children. AWSF legal aid services were adjusted accordingly. Awareness campaigns addressed access to justice issues, specifically concerning human trafficking and violence against women in Afghanistan.

CPGAP partners collaborated with diverse stakeholders, including AWSF IPs, relevant ministries MoWA, MoPH, MoLSA, and working groups ASN -now ESN-, CPAN, GBV-Sub Cluster, and MHPPS Working Group throughout the project. All working groups engaged in gathering information and addressing GBV in Afghanistan ceased activities in August 2021 due to safety concerns for participants.

The CPGAP highlighted critical actions and provided expertise, allowing AWSF partners to address their weaknesses and implement improvements. Regular communications between the CPGAP monitoring officers and partners, along with monthly coordination meetings with the management, fostered seamless collaboration. With CP's assistance, partners successfully developed a COVID-19 guideline, ensuring that all partners staff could persist in delivering services to beneficiaries in need. Furthermore, the provincial offices of IPs and CPGAP staff maintained close coordination and collaboration with stakeholders at the provincial level to ensure effective project implementation.

The CPGAP initiated a virtual dialogue, facilitated by IDLO, bringing together IPs' leadership to collaboratively address implementation challenges, exchange experiences, and agreement on mutual support.

For over a decade, the MoWA was a key stakeholder for all CPGAP implementing partners but was later replaced by PVPV. The Taliban's dissolution of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) created challenges for the CPGAP and the partners. Despite these difficulties, CPGAP partners' staff at both Kabul and provincial levels engaged in numerous meetings with the de-facto authorities, advocating for the resumption of projects and emphasizing their significance. VWO conducted a total of 312 coordination meetings with various stakeholders, including 27 meetings with de facto authorities in different regions. These meetings primarily focused on the retrieval of seized assets, including vehicles, reclaiming office compounds, and ensuring the continuity of ongoing projects. WAW conducted 45 coordination meetings with government stakeholders between January to October 2021.

Afghan Shelter Network: The Afghan Shelter Network functioned as a coordination network for the WPCs, aligning with national WPC guidelines and international obligations for the protection and promotion of women and children's rights. This strategic network served as a platform for the AWSF IPs to address constraints and challenges in beneficiary cases, particularly those related to violence against women within the framework of the EVAW Law, as well as legal constraints. Active participation in the ASN enabled AWSF IPs to efficiently redirect complex cases to higher authorities and contribute to necessary modifications in protocols or policies. Monthly meetings were organized for all partner organizations and relevant stakeholders overseeing shelter facilities. All CPGAP and its partners actively participated in ASN meetings, presenting its activities, coordinating with partners, and advocating for the continued sustainability of services within the facilities. VWO chaired and led six ASN/ ESN meetings in 2022 in the months of July, August, and September, while Hagar also chaired and led several meetings.

The Afghanistan Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster (GBV SUB-Cluster): was established as a national coordinating body to strengthen and enhance the efforts and activities of stakeholders in preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Monthly meetings were held in 2019 but were replaced with monthly reporting in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. The objectives were to consolidate, coordinate, and support relevant stakeholders in GBV prevention and response in the humanitarian context in Afghanistan. CPGAP partners were provided information on its activities until August 2021, but after the Taliban's invasion, the Sub-Cluster became inactive. Recently, at the end of 2023, this cluster changed the modality name to Mother & Child Health Center (MCHC) by UNFPA, and they are trying to get approval for this modality from MoPH. After the approval, all NGOs will start the implementation of new modality under the MCHC.

The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Group: Established in Kabul in 2017 and led by Action Against Hunger, the MHPSS Working Group includes NGOs like Ipso, Medica, Parsa, YHDO, Intersos Afghanistan, Humanity and Inclusion/Handicap International, International Assistance Mission, Health Net TPO, and International Organization for Migration. Collaborating with entities like MoPH's Mental Health Department, Ministry of Higher Education, and MoLSA the group addresses MHPSS needs in Afghanistan such as provide coordination, guidance in developing MHPSS strategy, mapping and monitoring MHPSS services, advocating and integrating MHPSS services in other sectors, providing technical support and capacity building to the MHPSS partners, facilitated information sharing among the MHPSS stakeholders, and support to the humanitarian actors who are delivering mental health and psychosocial services to the affected population in Afghanistan. Monthly meetings shifted to reporting in 2020 due to the pandemic. The network was inactive briefly and resumed data requests in late 2021, with Ipso abstaining from reporting to due beneficiaries' case sensitivities and confidentiality. Now MHPSS Working Group is led by UN-WHO and co-chaired by International Medical Corps. This cluster conducts meetings on monthly basis.

Child Protection Action Network (CPAN): Established in 2003, CPAN is a network comprising of governmental and non-governmental organizations

mandated for field interventions in child protection. Recognizing the family and local community's vital role in meeting children's protection needs, model CPANs were established in provinces by MoLSA with UNICEF's support. According to the latest information received from MoLSA, it's worth noting that during the previous government, UNICEF provided funding and professional assistance to MoLSA in support of child protection services such as protect and promote the rights of children who are exposed to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, emergency cases, advocacy for children rights and policy development, capacity building of child protection actors, and coordination and collaboration for humanitarian actors such Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) to ensure quality and integration child protection response in crisis situation. However, following the collapse of the previous government, UNICEF ceased their financial support to MoLSA. Recently, UNICEF has provided funding to some of the national NGOs to support CPAN in approximately 12 provinces and UNICEF is financially support CPAoR and conducting CPAoR meeting on monthly basis it central and regional basis with technically support under the partnership with Information Management and Mine Action Program (iMMAP). Additionally, in some provinces, some NGOs have supported the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) and have been involved in conducting meetings. CPAN's responsibilities include conducting monthly meetings, responding effectively to child protection cases, utilizing reporting tools, planning, exchange information, facilitated communication, encourage cooperation between organizations involved in child protection program, effort to raise awareness, promote laws and procedures and documenting activities, enhancing the provincial referral system, developing prevention strategies, and addressing under-reporting. CPGAP and its partners actively engaged in the monthly meetings of the CPAN, where they deliberated on matters concerning children and they provided the support such health, vocational training, education, and livelihood facilities to the beneficiaries inside the shelter and after reintegration. Following the Taliban takeover, CPAN initially postponed meetings. However, after the collapse of the previous government the CPAN meeting was halted but after a year and a half the IEA government resumed some CPAN meetings in Kabul quarterly basis and in provinces occasionally.



Handicrafts by Hagar beneficiaries © Hagar

VI. KEY CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AWFS IV faced numerous challenges, demanding unprecedented determination, courage, planning, coordination, and teamwork from all stakeholders involved. Amidst adapting to the ‘new normal’ due to COVID-19, the security situation in Afghanistan deteriorated sharply. The pandemic compounded obstacles, particularly affecting outreach activities. Nevertheless, it inadvertently equipped stakeholders to navigate significant restrictions, including reduced face-to-face interactions, mediation, outreach efforts, supervision meetings, travel, and stakeholder engagements, in anticipation of inevitable changes.

Fall of government-controlled districts: As the Taliban intensified their Spring Offensive in 2021, capturing districts and provincial centers, government-controlled areas began to fall. By mid-June 2021, IPs, particularly those managing WPCs and FGCs, had to relocate their staff and beneficiaries. All individuals at risk, including beneficiaries and employees, were supported and relocated as necessary to ensure their safety. In some cases, survivors sought refuge with project staff. Reluctantly, the implementing partners had to transition to emergency mode, halting normal project activities. By July 2021, as the situation deteriorated further, relocation to safer locations became the only viable option. Fortunately, AWSF IV made the critical decision to relocate project staff and survivors, which ultimately saved lives. The takeover of provinces by the Taliban resulted in the seizure of offices, buildings, and assets where AWSF IV operated.

Fall of Kabul: The occupation and takeover of buildings, offices, and vehicles by the Taliban resulted in the cessation of activities, with most of the facilities under Taliban control. Consequently, all FGC and WPC facilities had to be closed. Despite multiple meetings held with the DfA to discuss the resumption of project activities and explain their importance, no positive outcomes were achieved. The DfA remained firm in their decision to suspend all female-benefitting interventions. Furthermore, the DfA confiscated assets and properties belonging to AWSF IV, with some items still missing and others damaged.

Fear and panic among staff members: Project and core staff had to endure heavier workloads and deal with dangers of being detained or reported to the DfA by families of those survivors who did not want their family members in the WPC in the first place. Some IP staff members were detained by the DfA along with assets that were seized. IPs showed exceptional professionalism and were able to ensure the release of detained staff – unharmed – and retrieval of assets that the DfA agreed to return. Some of the assets were not returned. CPGAP Kabul-based staff were given distress leave, and a few of them left Afghanistan for safety reasons. There were some IP core management staff who left Afghanistan as well. Commendable was the dedication and risks taken by those who agreed to host beneficiaries until an alternative durable solution was found.

Access to resources: Following the Taliban’s takeover, disruptions to the supply chain and access to vital resources such as food, medical supplies, and funding became evident. The collapse of the banking sector necessitated the use of money exchange dealers’ services as an alternative. However, this posed risks associated with transporting cash during uncertain times. Staff salaries were delayed due to withdrawal limits and ceilings imposed by financial institutions. Utilizing hawala services, while an alternative, entailed higher commissions and uncertainty. Another option was to transfer funds to overseas banks of IPs. Yet, this carried the risk of fraudulent redirection of funds, exemplified by a transfer intended for YHDO being rerouted. YHDO’s email chains were intercepted by hackers who managed to reroute a fund transfer amounting in USD 37,522 to a fraudulent account based in the United Kingdom.

Anti-female rhetoric: The DfA’s increasingly draconian stance on Afghan women became evident over time, posing significant barriers to the resumption of work of WPCs and FGCs and undermining years of dedicated efforts and resources aimed at supporting women and girls. The DfA’s limited understanding of safe spaces for women and girls has led to misconceptions, viewing such facilities as pleasure houses.

In the wake of the Taliban's rise to power in Afghanistan, the regime intensified its campaign to enforce 'traditional values,' resulting in the systematic marginalization of women across social, economic, and political domains. This has been marked by stringent measures including prohibiting women from engaging in employment or public activities without a male relative accompanying them, denying them access to secondary and higher education, and restricting their presence in public spaces such as gyms, baths, parks, and amusement areas. Additionally, women are prohibited from working with both national and international non-governmental organizations, and they face gender-based segregation in educational and professional settings, coupled with mandatory full covering in public spaces.

Recommendations

Tailored interventions for acceptance and political support: The success and continuity of services aimed at vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, hinge on the disposition of political authorities. While negotiating certain restrictions might still be feasible, circumventing outright prohibitions imposed by the government without risking retribution or penalties, and in the worst-case scenario, punitive measures, is exceedingly challenging. Thus, interventions targeting vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, need to align with the preferences of the DfA. Future interventions need to be framed as female empowerment initiatives rather than solely survivor/victim support initiatives. Highlight vocational training, livelihood support, and income generation opportunities to align with broader empowerment objectives and gain greater acceptance from the government.

Core funding for non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Advocate for securing core funding for non-governmental, nonprofit organizations to cover essential costs related to core staff, administrative, and operational activities. Core funds are indispensable for organizations to sustain operations, explore funding opportunities, and execute projects to aid communities. Recent trends indicate that most funding calls predominantly

Overhauling operations in response to external pressures: The evolving external landscape necessitated a series of swift adjustments. The AWSF log frame swiftly became obsolete, leading to the discontinuation of several services and the suspension of others. Instructions were issued for IPs to purge all their records, while project documents were relocated to secure locations and measures were implemented to safeguard project assets. The majority of IP staff found themselves barred from accessing work emails and documents. CPGAP was compelled to transition to more agile, flexible, and ad-hoc data gathering methods, resulting in limited data collection and evaluation. Consequently, data quality suffered significantly, with no case referrals or operations occurring in WPC/FGC facilities. All outreach activities, including legal and mediation services, were suspended, exacerbating the challenges faced.

emphasize humanitarian and emergency activities, with few, if any, willing to cover the expenses of NGO core staff and operational costs. This scarcity of funds for core expenses poses a significant challenge for organizations to maintain their operations, as the availability of such funds is imperative, and their absence could jeopardize the organization's activities altogether.

Diversification of funding sources: Explore and diversify funding sources to mitigate risks associated with disruptions in the banking sector or sanctions imposed on the government. This could involve establishing partnerships with multiple donors and exploring alternative financial mechanisms to ensure continuity of project operations. Foster good relationships and cooperation with counterparts and partners, so that when in need, these options can be resorted to.

Collaboration and coordination: Strengthen collaboration and coordination with other organizations, government agencies, and humanitarian actors to leverage resources, share best practices, and coordinate responses to common challenges. This may involve participating in coordination forums, sharing information and resources, and fostering synergies with complementary initiatives.

Strengthening data security: Some implementing partners were not able to access data stored in third party websites/data bases. Enhance data security measures to prevent unauthorized access or interception of sensitive information. This may involve implementing encryption protocols, regular data backups, and training staff on data security best practices.

Enhanced security measures: Implement enhanced security measures to protect staff, beneficiaries, and project assets in high-risk environments. This may include training staff on security protocols, establishing secure communication channels, and collaborating with local authorities to enhance security arrangements.

Diversity in team composition: Recognize the importance of diversity in team composition, enabling using diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds within the team to navigate complex situations and negotiate with relevant authorities effectively.

Emergency preparedness and response planning: Develop and regularly update emergency preparedness and response plans to swiftly address evolving security threats and external disruptions. This should include protocols for staff and beneficiary relocation, asset protection, and communication strategies in crisis situations.

Capacity building and support for staff: Provide ongoing capacity building and support for project staff to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate complex and changing environments. This may include training on crisis management, trauma-informed care, and self-care strategies to address the psychological impact of working in high-stress environments.

In conclusion, the closure of the AWSF following the fall of Kabul highlights the intricate challenges and risks encountered by humanitarian initiatives in conflict-affected regions. By assimilating lessons from these experiences and applying the recommendations outlined above, future projects can adeptly navigate similar crises and sustain essential support to vulnerable populations.



21 02 2021

A radio roundtable ©VWO

VII. IMPACT: REFLECTIONS ON CHANGE

Afghanistan holds the disheartening distinction of being recognized as “the worst place in the world to be a woman”³³. Violence against women is grossly underreported due to cultural norms, societal stigma, victim-blaming, and fear of retaliation from male relatives. The consequences of pervasive gender-based violence are severe, with many Afghan women and girls resorting to suicide attempts. According to the Herat Women’s Affairs Directorate, some women choose suicide as an alternative to enduring domestic violence.

It is in this context that CPGAP and its partners operated projects in targeted provinces of Afghanistan, providing vital assistance and support to women, girls, and boys fleeing distressing family conflicts. CPGAP aimed to improve the psychosocial well-being, safety, education, health, vocational skills, financial stability, legal support, and overall quality of life for these individuals, delivering essential services at shelter facilities.

Following the fall of Kabul, CPGAP and partners were forced to close most facilities and project activities due to potential risks to beneficiaries and staff. Despite this, the AWSF initiative had a significant impact on the lives of survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking, as well as their families, communities, and Afghan society at large.

Transforming lives: The enduring impact of AWSF interventions on beneficiaries: The AWSF has left a profound and enduring impact on survivors, community members, and government agencies, notably by significantly enhancing their comprehension of legal matters. This heightened understanding has resulted in more empowered households, improved health outcomes, increased independence, and enhanced education and skills among beneficiaries. The interventions and services provided by the initiatives have been pivotal in driving these substantial improvements in the lives of beneficiaries.

Empowering communities through outreach awareness sessions: The outreach awareness sessions, initiated by IPs, aimed to elevate knowledge of women’s rights from a religious

perspective and foster greater tolerance among men in society. These sessions had a profound impact on the community, significantly increasing awareness and understanding of women’s rights. As a result, there was a notable improvement in acceptance and tolerance, particularly among male members of the community, promoting inclusivity and support.

The increased awareness empowered women to seek redress, address challenging situations, reach out for help as well as actively engage in social and economic activities, thereby contributing to gender equality. Moreover, the program instilled a strong sense of responsibility within the community, prompting individuals to respect the rights of children and women, intervene early in cases of abuse, and promptly access support services.

Community awareness programs, involving teachers, youth, students, and other child protection advocates, proved to be effective in identifying instances of child abuse, gender-based violence, and neglect. This proactive approach facilitated timely intervention and support for vulnerable individuals, further strengthening the community’s commitment to safeguarding women and children.

Fostering resilient individuals through psychosocial counseling support: The provision of psychosocial counseling support has had a transformative impact on numerous women, girls, and boys, instilling confidence and fostering strong mental and physical resilience. Particularly for survivors of GBV and TiP, these counseling sessions have been instrumental in providing essential support, enabling survivors to build strength and resilience. Therapeutic interventions have addressed trauma, enhanced coping mechanisms, and facilitated the rebuilding of lives with increased confidence, significantly contributing to the psychological well-being of GBV/TiP survivors and guiding them towards healing and recovery.

Beyond individual cases, psycho-social services, particularly counseling for GBV/TiP survivors, have played a crucial role in positively influencing clients’ attitudes, thereby contributing to stability within affected families and communities. Beneficiaries of these services have gained insights into their situations, improved their ability to articulate

³³ <https://www.amnestyusa.org/updates/the-worlds-worst-places-to-be-a-woman/> accessed on 20 April 2024.

feelings, thoughts, and needs, and enhanced communication and relationships with others. Post-counseling, they have felt acknowledged and empowered to navigate the challenges of their life circumstances. Skilled counselors have provided both individual and group psychosocial counseling, fostering self-esteem, trust, and resilience among beneficiaries, effectively improving their well-being, alleviating distress, and enhancing coping skills.

Transformative education and vocational training opportunities: Afghanistan has one of the lowest female literacy rates in the world. Not surprisingly, many of the shelter clients have had little to no formal education. The AWSF IV supported women with little to no formal education, empowering them to acquire essential literacy and numeracy skills. Shelter residents, typically staying between 6 to 12 months for GBV survivors and 12 months for TIP survivors, had ample time to develop foundational skills.

However, the support didn't end there. Shelters not only provided literacy services but also facilitated access to further education upon safe reintegration. Moreover, vocational training initiatives were introduced, enhancing survivors' economic and social standing within the community.

The integration of literacy and vocational training by AWSF had a profound impact, empowering women, girls, and boys and boosting their confidence and resilience. These initiatives not only transformed the lives of GBV/TiP survivors but also contributed to the community's development, fostering increased independence and self-sufficiency.

Furthermore, the project's emphasis on enhanced vocational skills and financial support paved the way for future self-sufficiency. Many beneficiaries had the opportunity to learn valuable trades such as tailoring and baking, while some boys shelter residents received training in electric appliance repair, further expanding their employment opportunities and prospects.

Catalyzing positive change: Impact of client reintegration: The successful reintegration of clients into their families has had far-reaching positive effects, not only on the individual but also on their families and communities. Feedback from the families of reintegrated clients has underscored a notable shift in the clients' aspirations. They have expressed witnessing a newfound eagerness among the clients to pursue education, embark on new economic activities, and envision a brighter future.

Enhancing professional capacities of IP staff: The implementation of the AWSF provided partner staff members with invaluable opportunities to broaden their knowledge and expertise across diverse domains. This encompassed various aspects such as child protection, adept case management in high-pressure and emergency situations, fostering effective teamwork, fostering collaboration with government entities, managing shelters, extending assistance to the most vulnerable populations, honing project management skills, fundraising, and enhancing communication, technical, problem-solving, and adaptability abilities.

These achievements were facilitated by comprehensive training and technical support initiatives aimed at building staff capacity. Additionally, collaborative meetings, streamlined cooperation mechanisms, adoption of efficient project management techniques, and both internal and external project audits and evaluations were instrumental in broadening staff horizons.

Strengthening partner organizations: CPGAP played a crucial role in enhancing the operational effectiveness of partner organizations through the implementation of improved tools and processes. These included enhancements to enrollment documents for clients, development of safeguarding plans, refinement of data collection sheets and reporting mechanisms, establishment of comprehensive case management guidelines, introduction of disciplinary protocols, optimization of reintegration documents, deployment of satisfaction surveys, and implementation of various assessment and progress tracking forms. These enhancements have not only fostered better outcomes but also contributed to higher levels of client satisfaction.

Policy development and enhancement: CPGAP assisted partners to develop and enhance several key policies. These policies encompassed areas such as human resources, security, child safeguarding, procurement, and financial management. By refining and implementing these policies, partners have been able to strengthen their organizational frameworks, ensuring greater efficiency, transparency, and compliance with best practices.

Unfortunately, with the fall of Kabul, the strides made over the past decade have come to a halt. In fact, indications suggest that the situation for women and girls will worsen, with a rise in gender-based violence against them as a result of the prevailing stance and policies of the de-facto authority.



Staff negotiating entry to an AWSF facility © VVO

VIII. MAJOR RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

	Risk	Description	Risk rating	Mitigation measures
External Support	Volatile political environment and security	The country remained mired in persistent fragility characterized by unstable security and political conditions throughout the duration of the AWSF project		<p>CPGAP regularly evaluated the potential for disruptions to project operations, ensuring the safety of personnel in unstable areas, anticipating delays in activities due to political instability, and devising contingency plans to address unforeseen circumstances.</p> <p>CP Security Manager diligently supervised the security and political landscape in Afghanistan, providing vital guidance to both the CPGAP team and IPs on necessary security measures.</p> <p>All AWSF IPs underwent comprehensive training in security assessments and the development of evacuation plans, with CPGAP meticulously reviewing and monitoring these plans.</p> <p>Regular security updates were received from IPs, and coordination meetings were held between IPs and CPGAP.</p> <p>Leveraging its network, CPGAP stayed updated on peace talks, the status of the Afghan government—particularly line ministries—and overall security conditions through engagements with international and national officials, including embassies and government entities.</p>
	Enforcing the EVAW Law, without inconsistencies, in Afghanistan's legal sector	Amid political instability, the uncertainty surrounding the status of women's rights present significant hurdles to the effective implementation of the EVAW Law		<p>Implementing the EVAW Law within Afghanistan was fraught with risks including potential legal discrepancies, cultural resistance to reform, resource constraints, political instability, low awareness about the law, capacity-building requirements, and coordination challenges within the legal system.</p> <p>AWSF IPs implemented outreach initiatives aimed at educating legal professionals within the justice sector, including NGOs, lawyers, and legal institutions. Concurrently, these programs sought to raise awareness among the general population about the critical significance of guaranteeing access to justice. This sustained and concerted outreach effort remained consistent throughout the initial months of AWSF IV.</p>

Obtaining approval and renewing MoUs with line ministries	Collaborating with government staff and securing their support for project execution		<p>Assessing the intricacies associated with engaging government personnel, navigating bureaucratic processes, and securing support for project activities required identifying potential collaboration barriers, addressing resistance from lower-level staff, and establishing effective communication channels with line ministry authorities.</p> <p>To establish effective partnerships, it was imperative to closely coordinate with officials from line ministries. This coordination ensured they had a comprehensive understanding of the project and its objectives, which was vital for garnering support for project activities. IPs had established effective working partnerships with relevant authorities, ensuring smooth collaboration and securing support for the project initiatives.</p>
Project sustainability	Following the fall of Kabul, many international donors discontinued their support to NGOs operating in the country, significantly affecting the NGOs' capacity to carry out essential humanitarian and development work		<p>Assessing the challenges related to securing ongoing support and resources for sustainable projects involved evaluating the impact of political instability, fluctuations in international funding, and the ability to maintain operations in unpredictable environments.</p> <p>During this period, CPGAP aided IPs in devising sustainability strategies to ensure the continued viability of AWSF interventions.</p>
Collapse of the government leading to the destabilization of the socio-political-economic framework	Liquidity issues caused by banking restrictions introduced by the IEA		Implementation of strategies tailored to address challenges due to banking restrictions, including exploring alternatives like Hawala and facilitating direct money transfers to overseas accounts of IPs.
	Identifying and referring boys who are survivors of trafficking or at risk of trafficking		<p>IPs faced challenges with government staff who lacked training in TIP matters, resulting in a lack of sensitivity to the issue and their failure to serve as a crucial link in the referral chain. This was exacerbated by high staff turnover and frequent reassignment to different tasks, a situation that persisted consistently.</p> <p>AWSF partners collaborated closely with the MoLSA network and police departments in major cities to refer clients based on specific criteria.</p> <p>AWSF partners actively engaged with other child protection actors to identify clients based on the established criteria.</p>

Human Resources	Ban on female employees in workplace	In December 2022, the Ministry of Economy issued a ban prohibiting women from working at INGOs		<p>Responding to the prohibition of female employees, AWSF partners devised an alternative plan to sustain crucial services for clients. Male colleagues temporarily took over the duties of their female colleagues. Subsequent discussions with the Ministry of Economy (MoE) and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) resulted in verbal approval for IPs to reinstate their female staff.</p> <p>IPs adjusted the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for female-held positions to align with the DfA criteria.</p>
	Extensive brain drain	Exodus of highly skilled and educated individuals has resulted in a scarcity of professionals		With the support of CPGAP, IPs launched additional capacity-building initiatives aimed at both junior and existing staff. These efforts enhanced their skills, preparing them for greater responsibilities and enabling their advancement to senior positions.
	Low staff morale	Due to the unstable political and security conditions in Afghanistan, staff members express apprehension about their future well-being and livelihoods		The CP Security Manager and CPGAP leadership conducted follow-up discussions with IP Security Focal Points and management, delivering updates on security and emergency issues while offering guidance on risk mitigation strategies. Furthermore, CPGAP maintained consistent coordination through regular calls with IPs, addressing concerns and providing support.
Ethics and Compliance	Incidence of abuse	Children being abused (physically/emotionally) by adults (staff, other individuals)		Training both staff and children in child rights and protection, ensuring strict adherence to a code of ethics, is a priority. IPs uphold a zero-tolerance policy for abuse, which is clearly communicated and rigorously enforced. They have also established incident reporting procedures and are committed to prosecuting perpetrators when necessary.
	Due to sociocultural or other factors, clients express reluctance to engage in psycho-social counseling	Clients may be hesitant to share their problems with psychosocial counselors due to stigmatization and adherence to traditional values		<p>PSCs collaborating with IPs underwent specialized training to effectively address sensitive issues.</p> <p>During challenging situations, IPs provide close supervision to identify and address difficulties, offering support to PSCs to enhance their skills.</p>
Safety and Security	Incidence of security threats within AWSF implementation regions	AWSF IPs in provinces have faced security threats from hostile forces and occasionally from the families of beneficiaries		With advisory support from the CP Security Team, IPs independently developed tailored Security, Risk Management, Emergency Response, and Safety plans. The CP Security Manager collaborated with each IP Security Focal Point to ensure effective and adaptable security programs and actively engaged with IPs to address ongoing security enhancements, prioritizing physical security improvements.

General insecurity	The prevailing insecurity in the country denotes a condition of widespread instability and unpredictability that encompasses apprehensions regarding public safety, political instability, armed conflicts, terrorism, and an overall absence of security.		<p>With the support of CP Security manager, all partners adhered to security policies, organized movements in accordance with security protocols, closely monitor the security situation, and provided necessary support to ensure the safety of clients and staff. Security protocols were followed and regular reviews of project risk assessments were conducted.</p> <p>Evaluating potential risks to the safety, stability, and overall well-being of both staff and clients. Formulating effective strategies to minimize the impact of general insecurity and striving to create a more stable and secure environment for staff and clients.</p>
COVID-19 impact	COVID-19 significantly impacted AWSF operations, leading to infections among IP staff and beneficiaries. It also affected face-to-face services like psychosocial counseling monitoring and in-person technical support. Adhering to infection prevention measures incurred additional costs for facilities.		<p>Evaluating the health risks associated with COVID-19, including the disease's severity and transmission rate, and assessing the social impact, which encompasses effects on mental health, social interactions, and the overall well-being of staff and clients. CPGAP assisted all IPs in formulating a COVID-19 Prevention and Precautionary Measure Action Plan.</p> <p>All shelter facilities designated an isolation room for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. CPGAP regularly obtained weekly updates on individuals affected by COVID-19 among beneficiaries and staff. Awareness programs were conducted to safeguard both staff and beneficiaries from the virus.</p> <p>Financial aid was provided to cover essential expenses during the pandemic, including PPE. Support extended to updating contingency plans and ensuring compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.</p> <p>CPGAP informed AWSF IPs about available vaccines in their regions and shared critical information from WHO, MoPH, and other reliable sources. This allowed IPs to make informed decisions about vaccinating staff.</p>

Categories	Risk level
High risk	
Moderate risk	
Low risk	



Inside scenes at VVO facilities following the Taliban takeover © VVO



Established in 2005, the WPC in Herat, operated by VWO was the largest facility in the country in terms of capacity until mid-2021 © VWO



Representatives of the de facto authority seen at the Herat VWO premises after establishing a military base © VWO



Badakhshan FGC Office after being occupied by the Taliban © WAW

IX. ASSETS

Prior to May 2021, CPGAP maintained positive control over its assets through regular monitoring visits and audits. However, with the collapse of provinces between May and September and the subsequent occupation of IP facilities by the Taliban, maintaining control became impossible due to restricted access to the facilities. Following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul on 15 August, and the establishment of the new interim government, swift guidance was issued declaring all INGO locations as IEA property. Consequently, local officials systematically denied access to assets falling under their jurisdiction, making it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, for CPGAP and its IPs to conduct inventory and asset removal. Additionally, the majority of the vehicle fleet was seized by the DfA. Any assets that were not stolen, damaged, or confiscated by criminal gangs masquerading as Taliban forces became inaccessible.

Following September 2021 through the remainder of the AWSF implementation period, DfA officials consistently denied WAW's requests to access and retrieve assets in the northern provinces of Badakhshan, Kunduz, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, and Kabul city. Similarly, VWO faced obstacles in Badghis, Ghor, Herat, and Nimruz provinces, with DfA permitting access only to share inventories with local officials and prohibiting asset removal. In the East, JFAO encountered barriers in accessing its Ghazni and Khost offices. As the Taliban's control over Afghanistan strengthened, their reluctance to provide assistance grew, leading to the decision to donate all assets to IPs, enabling them to collaborate with the DfA in efforts to recover any remaining stock.

On 23 January 2023, CPGAP donated all of WAW's inventoried AWSF assets to WAW; a further decision was made on 21 July to donate five vehicles to WAW. Subsequently, on 23 February, CPGAP donated assets to VWO. There were concerns regarding the availability vehicles for donation due to VWO

having provided at various times through 2022-2023 security incident reports indicating that Taliban had confiscated vehicles from multiple locations. On 27 March, CPGAP donated assets to Ipso. On 3 October, CPGAP donated its entire AWSF inventory to YHDO followed by donations on 29 October and 10 December to Hagar for assets, including one vehicle seized by the Kabul local police on 26 October 2023. As of February 2024, Hagar was still in negotiations with relevant DfA officials regarding the transfer and retrieval of this vehicle. JFAO remains the sole IP where donations could not be achieved. Citing concerns that the Taliban would ultimately confiscate any assets donated, JFAO opted not to accept CPGAP's offer.

In contrast to the chaotic transition of power experienced across the country, the Colombo Plan's Kabul-based field office experienced minimal upheaval.

On the heels of the Taliban's resurgence in Kabul, CPGAP encountered theft committed by a small group of guards assigned by its subcontracted risk management company, GardaWorld. This incident occurred simultaneously with an unauthorized reduction in the guard force. On or around 16 August 2021, some guards, having been approached by the Taliban and fearing for their safety, abandoned their posts. The CPGAP promptly notified GardaWorld, seeking clarification. In response, GardaWorld stated that it had not authorized any guards to leave their posts. Upon identifying the guards involved, termination notices were issued.

Upon their entry to Kabul, the DfA officials conducted a few cursory inspections to gather information regarding the nature of CP programs and personnel involved. However, authorities refrained from confiscating any assets.

With the exception of a few assets donated to an INGO, all remaining assets were left for the use of the Colombo Plan's Drug Advisory Programme.



Hagar beneficiaries celebrating Children's Day © Hagar

X. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of receipts and payments for the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 October 2023

	USD
Receipts	
AWSF II & III balance utilized for AWSF IV	4,687,144
U.S. Department of State – INL (AWSF IV 2021 - 2023)	6,676,503
Total receipts	11,363,647
Payments	
WPC/FGC operational cost	8,251,499
Personnel	1,046,295
Fringe benefits	56,131
Monitoring and evaluation	10,906
Training for implementing partners	1,464
Evacuation and relocation	10,400
Other supplier cost	64,049
Total cost incurred	9,440,744
14% administrative cost on project expenses	1,321,704.15
Total cost incurred with administrative cost	10,762,448
Balance as of 31 October 2023	601,199

ANNEXES

Annex – Capacity Building Training by IPs

Women for Afghan Women (WAW)

	Date	Participant profile	Training theme	Training mode	Training conducted by
1	21 February 2021	Kapisa vocational training teacher	Women empowerment	In-person	MAIL
2	03 March 2021	Sar-e-Pul FGC/WPC staff members	Security	Online	WAW
3	24 March 2021	Sar-e-Pul PM, WPC supervisor, and HR assistant	Time management	Online	WAW
4	27 March 2021	Kabul HH supervisor, case worker, marketing officer, psychologist, math teacher, vocational teacher, computer teacher and legal aid intern	Time management	Online	WAW
5	28 March 2021	Sar-e-Pul PM, WPC supervisor, and HR assistant	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	In-person	WAW
6	27 March 2021	Kabul HH supervisor	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	Online	WAW
7	31 May 2021	Kunduz FGC/WPC logistic assistant	Logistics orientation	Online	WAW
8	10 April 2021	Sar-e-Pul PM, WPC supervisor, and HR assistant	Email writing	Online	WAW
9	25 May 2021	Sar-e-Pul PM, WPC supervisor, HR assistant, database assistant, logistics assistant and finance assistant	Fraud awareness	Online	WAW
10	06, 07 & 19 July 2021	Kapisa FGC/WPC caseworker, defense lawyer, community trainers, caretaker, medical doctor, and psychologist	Child abuse	In-person	HAGAR
11	19 & 21 July 2021	Kabul HH marketing and employment officer	Customer relationship management	N/A	Rokyan Consultancy
12	26 & 28 July 2021	Kapisa caseworker	Gender	N/A	JSSP

Voice of Women (VWO)

	Date	Training name	Target group of participants	Number of participants			Training facilitated by	Province
				Total	Men	Women		
1	14 May 2022	PSEA – Online Training	WPC Staff	15	8	7	UNICEF	All provinces
2	21 & 23 June 2022	Training of Trainers (TOT) on Life Skills	General	2	0	0	UNICEF	Kabul
3	5 April 2022	GBV Prevention Essentials Training - Online	Legal Advisors/Defense Lawyer, Case Manager	2	2	0	UN Women	Herat
4	10 June 2021	Protection Mainstreaming Training	Program Officer, Isolation Center Supervisor	2	0	2	UN IOM	Herat
5	13 September 2021	PSEA Online Training	Senior Program Officer	1	1	0	UNICEF	Kabul
6	27 & 29 July 2021	ToT on GBV Safe Referrals, Conduct Safety Audit – Online	Compliance Officer, Program Officer	2	1	1	UNICEF	Herat
7	7 April 2021	Online Reporting Tool for Partners/CPAN - Online	Program Officer	1	0	1	UNICEF	Herat
8	3 & 8 April 2021	Refresher Course for Psychosocial Counsellors	Psychosocial Counselors	11	5	6	Ipso	All provinces
9	1 April 2021	Security Training	Security Guards	8	8	0	INSO	Herat

Hagar International Afghanistan (Hagar)

	Date	Training name	Participants' profile	Total	Male	Female	Training facilitated by	Province
1	12 October 2023	Basic Medical First Aid, Hygiene, Covid awareness Training	FNM and HA staff	80	57	23	Hagar	Kabul
2	Quarterly basis	Security Drill Training	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
3	21 June 2023	Staff Wellbeing Outdoor Activities	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
4	Quarterly basis	IT training (SharePoint, OneDrive & Clouding System)	Computer users	30	23	7	Hagar	Kabul
5	13-19 June 2023	Project Management Training	Relevant staff	19	14	5	Rokyan Management Consultancy International	Kabul
6	16-20 July 2023	Advanced Proposal Writing Capacity Building Training	Relevant staff	17	14	3	Rokyan Management Consultancy International	Kabul
7	27-31 August 2023	M&E Capacity Building Training	Relevant staff	23	18	5	Rokyan Management Consultancy International	Kabul
8	21 September 2023	Client, Vulnerable Adult & Child Protection Policy Training	All Staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
9	02 October 2023	BSGT By INSO	Relevant staff	2	2	0	International NGO Safety Organization	Kabul
10	02 October 2023	Procurement Training Capacity Building Training	Relevant staff	17	13	4	Rokyan Management Consultancy International	Kabul
11	05-09 November 2023	Trauma Informed Care Training	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
12	Regular basis	Child Protection & Safeguarding	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
13	Regular basis	Fraud & Corruption	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
14	Regular basis	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment (PSEAH)	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
15	Regular basis	Gender Equality & Diversity	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
16	Regular basis	Disability Inclusion	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul
18	Regular basis	Professional English Capacity Building	Relevant staff	29	22	7	Hagar	Kabul
19	05 November 2023	Human Trafficking Training	All staff	56	43	13	Hagar	Kabul

20	19 November 2023	Case Management System	Relevant staff	13	9	3	Hagar	Kabul
21	September 2023	Case Management Training	FNM project Manger	1	1	0	UNICEF	Kabul
22	Regular basis	Security Refresher Training	Security Guards	4	4	0	Hagar	Kabul
23	June 2021	Fundraising, Advocacy, and Outreach Strategy	FNM staff	5	4	1	SMARCT Afghan International Trainings & Consultancy	Kabul
24	May 2021	Anti-Fraud and Corruption Training	FNM staff	24	17	7	The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia.	Kabul
25	April 2021	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	Psychosocial Counselor	2	1	1	MHPSS working group	Kabul
26	August 2021	Children Right and Children Protection	FNM Team	3	2	1	UNICEF	Kabul
27	July 2021	Caregivers; Psychosocial First Aid	The Legal and Child Protection Officer	1	0	1	UNICEF	Kabul
28	July 2021	Advocacy and Outreach Strategy	FNM Team	4	3	1	SMARCT Afghan International Trainings & Consultancy	Kabul
29	December 2021	Virtual Dialogue	The Legal and Child Protection Officer	1	0	1	IDLO	Kabul
30	March 2022	Shelter and Sustainable Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants Virtual Training	FNM staff	2	1	1	UNODC	Kabul
31	May 2022	First Aid Training	FNM staff	21	17	6	Hagar	Kabul
32	May 2022	Learning Motivation Training	FNM staff	14	9	5	Hagar	Kabul
33	June 2022	Psychosocial First Aid Training	FNM staff	23	17	7	Hagar	Kabul
34	June 2022	Security Refresher Training	FNM Guard	4	4	0	International NGO Safety Organization	Kabul
35	July 2022	Trauma Informed Care Training	FNM Case Manager	1	1	0	Hagar International	Kabul
36	October 2022	Psychosocial Needs of Children during Criminal Justice Proceedings	FNM staff	4	3	1	UNODC	Kabul

37	November 2022	Intro to Safety & Security (ISS) and Personal Safety Training (PST)	FNM Guards	2	2	0	International NGO Safety Organization	Kabul
38	February 2023	Fire Extinguisher Training	FNM staff	18	16	2	Hagar	Kabul
39	May 2023	Resilience Training	The Legal and Child Protection Officer	1	0	1	IOM	Kabul
40	October 2023	Medical First Aid	FNM staff	21	17	4	Hagar	Kabul

Youth Health & Development Organization (YHDO)

	Date	Training name	Targeted group	Number of participants			Training facilitated by	Province
				Total	Men	Women		
1	28 February 2021	PSS Activities for Children and Youth	Shelter project staff /YHDO staff	2	1	1	MHPSS Technical Advisor Hannah Green	Kabul
2	18 March 2021	Fire Distinguisher Presentation	Shelter project staff	15	11	4	Eng.Abdulqodus Rafi from YHDO	Kabul
3	11 April 2021	Child Rights	Shelter project staff	10	7	3	Atiqullah Khorami from YHDO	Kabul
4	24 March 2021	Children Mental Health	Shelter project staff	7	3	4	Farhad Hamidi from YHDO	Kabul
5	30 & 31 March 2021	Human Trafficking, GBV, and Legal Judicial Procedure in Kabul	Shelter project staff	1	1	0	YHDO social workers	Kabul
6	11 & 14 April 2021	IASC MHPSS Guidelines	Shelter project staff	1	1	0	Brandon Gray from Action Against Hunger	Kabul
7	15 April 2021	MHPSS Referrals	Shelter project staff	1	1	0	Brandon Gray from Action Against Hunger	Kabul
8	18 & 19 April 2021	Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Shelter project staff	1	1	0	Brandon Gray from Action Against Hunger	Kabul
9	20 April 2021	Medical First Aid	Shelter Project staff	12	8	4	Medical Doctor of Shelter Project	Kabul
10	20 April 2021	MHPSS Assessments	Shelter project staff	1	1	0	Brandon Gray from Action Against Hunger	Kabul
11	28 April 2021	Role of Study in the Improvement of Career.	Shelter project staff	7	5	2	Bushra Salihi	Kabul

12	12 May 2021	Basic Psychosocial Skills: Training for COVID-19 Responders	Shelter project staff	2	2	0	Trainer of Action Against Hunger	Kabul
13	26 May 2021	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group Meeting	Shelter project staff	1	1	0	Trainer of Action Against Hunger	Kabul
14	15 June 2021	Online Training Follow Up Session on "PSS Activities for Children and Youth	Shelter project staff	1	1	0	Trainer of Action Against Hunger	Kabul
15	29 June 2021	Online Training Opportunity on PSS for Caregivers	Shelter project staff	2	2	0	Trainer of Action Against Hunger	Kabul
16	13 & 14 June 2021	Counter Human Trafficking	shelter project staff	1	1	0	Hagar international	Kabul
17	24 & 26 October 2021	Psychodrama and Behavior Change Techniques	YHDO and Shelter project staff	14	14	0	Sayed Rohullah Rezwani (Trainer and Psychologist)	Kabul
18	2 November 2021	First Stage Training Follow Up on IASC Guideline Training Topic	PSS Counselor	2	2	0	Hannah Green from YHDO	Kabul
19	9 & 11 November 2021	Project Cycle Management (PCM)	YHDO staff	10	10	0	Dr.Abdul Raziq Asar/Consultancy	Kabul
20	21 November 2021	Second Stage Training Follow Up on PSS Activities for Children and Youth	Shelter PSS counselors	2	2	0	Trainer of Action Against Hunger	Kabul
21	21 February 2022	Covid-19	Shelter staff	20	14	6	Medical Nurse and Dr khan Agha Ahmadzai from YHDO	Kabul
22	21 & 24 February 2022	Psychological First Aid (and Essential Psychological Skills for Mhpss Implementing ngos)	YHDO & Shelter staff	2	2	0	UNICEF Afghanistan	Kabul
23	26 February 2022	Covid-19	Shelter staff and beneficiaries	35	27	8	Medical Nurse and Dr khan Agha Ahmadzai from YHDO	Kabul
24	29 May 2022	Covid-19 and Monkeypox	Shelter staff and beneficiaries	38	30	8	Medical Nurse and Dr khan Agha Ahmadzai from YHDO	Kabul
25	27 July 2022	GBV in Children	Shelter staff	15	7	8	Shelter social worker	Kabul
26	8 August 2022	Cholera	Shelter staff and beneficiaries	29	22	7	Medical Nurse and Dr khan Agha Ahmadzai from YHDO	Kabul
27	10 October 2022	Covid-19	Shelter staff and beneficiaries	29	22	7	Medical Nurse and Dr khan Agha Ahmadzai from YHDO	Kabul

28	14 February 2023	Covid-19	Shelter staff and beneficiaries	55	47	8	Medical Nurse and Dr khan Agha Ahmadzai from YHDO	Kabul
29	15 August 2023	Child Safeguarding	Shelter staff	15	8	7	Shelter social workers	Kabul
30	11 September 2023	Effective Commotion	Shelter staff	15	8	7	Shelter educators	Kabul
31	28 May 2023	Safety and Security	Shelter staff	15	10	5	Shelter security office	Kabul
32	7 June 2023	Basic First Aid	Shelter staff	12	9	3	Shelter security office	Kabul
33	6 July 2023	Employ Fire Safety	Shelter staff	11	9	3	Shelter security office	Kabul
34	16 July 2023	Briefing	Shelter staff	6	6	0	Shelter security office	Kabul
35	26 July 2023	Basic First Aid for Burns	Shelter staff	9	7	2	Shelter security office	Kabul

International Psychosocial Organization (Ipso)

	Date	Training name	Trainer	Number of participants		
				Total	Men	Women
1	14-16 December 2020	Healthcare and Education Protection	Geneva Call	1		1
2	7-9 August 2021	Personal Security	Rokyan Management Consultancy	1		1
3	11-12 April 2021	Child Rights and Combatting Human Trafficking	HAGAR	1		1
4	10 January 2022	Child Protection	WAW	1	1	
5	20 December 2021	Child Protection	Help Information Organization	1	1	