



# **Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

## **Strategy and National Action Plan on the Elimination of Violence against Women**

**2016 - 2020**







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**Elimination of Violence against Women**  
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Ministry of Women's Affairs

Any kind of discrimination and distinction between citizens of Afghanistan shall be forbidden. The citizens of Afghanistan, man and woman, have equal rights and duties before the law.

Article 22 "Constitution of Afghanistan"

## **ACRONYMS**

AGO	Afghanistan Attorney General's Office
AIBA	Afghanistan Independent Bar Association
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEc	Ministry of Economy
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoHRA	Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs
MoIA	Ministry of Interior Affairs
MoIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NAPWA	National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VAW/G	Violence against Women/Girls
WPC	Women's Protection Centres

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**Statement by His Excellency Sarwar Danesh, Second Vice-President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Ending Violence against Women National Strategy & Action Plan**

I am pleased to present the Ending Violence against Women National Strategy and Action Plan, which was verified by the Gender and Women Affairs Committee of the Cabinet of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 11 June 2016. This strategy and plan is part of the government's quest to create better conditions for women in Afghanistan, more specifically by eliminating violence against women.

The National Unity Government has taken effective and unprecedented actions over the past two years to improve the situation of women. For example, it is government policy to increase the number of women in leadership and management positions, and to help achieve this, it has appointed four female ministers, four female ambassadors, nine deputy ministers, a female Deputy Attorney -General and a female Governor. When it comes to the elimination of violence against women, for the first-time special courts and attorneys have been activated in 34 provinces of the country where the Courts activation and expansion plan is ongoing, an indication of the importance the government places on this issue. Women in detention cases are prioritized in the country's judicial system and are followed up within the required period; women who are charged with minor offences are being freed from prisons.

Unfortunately, there is a long way to go to reach gender equality; there is still a high level of violence against women. Violence against women is still far too common and there have been far too many horrible cases recently, a cause of shame and deep regret. The statistics published by national and international institutions during the past years are worrying and harden our resolve as executives and implementers of law, rules and policies. The strategy and national action plans for eliminating violence against women have been developed and approved in order to help implement the government's obligations in upholding women's rights.

The success of the Brussels Conference in 2016, especially the international community's commitments towards gender equality and the discussions during the Empowered Women and Liberated Afghanistan session, are causes for hope. When combined with this strategy and other actions, we are taking more effective steps towards ending violence against women.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in particular the Gender and Women's Affairs Committee of cabinet, the Ministry of Women Affairs and other cooperating institutions, will continue to make decisive efforts to implement this Ending Violence against Women Strategy and Action plan, as well as other government policies aimed at ending violence against women.

Sarwan Danesh

Second Vice President

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Kabul 02 October 2016

## Foreword

Equal rights for men and women is clearly reflected in the Afghan constitution, and the protection of women's rights is reinforced through the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan and a range of international human rights conventions. The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) has worked tirelessly to support women's rights in Afghanistan and ensure women are sufficiently protected. However, the Ministry cannot prevent and end violence against women in Afghanistan on its own. Ending violence against women requires a clear and consolidated national strategy and action plan, as well as a high level of cooperation and coordination among other responsible institutions. While the Elimination of Violence against Women Law is critical it is also the duty of each and every responsible party and stakeholder to combat violence against women in Afghanistan.

MoWA is a key actor with a responsibility for the elimination of violence against women and ensuring women's access to justice. Through this role, MoWA has developed a comprehensive national ERAW strategy with technical and financial support from a number of other institutions. This strategy has been developed in accordance with the Islamic and legal principles, as well as national and international obligations such as the Afghan constitution, which encompasses women's basic rights, such as freedom, equality, education, occupation, health, political and other rights, the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child, Security Council Resolution 1325.

In order to ensure this Strategy is effectively implemented, an action plan has also been developed.

The Ministry looks to achieve its mandate on eliminating violence against women and facilitating increased access of women to justice by mobilizing cooperation and coordination among various stakeholders, and regular monitoring and evaluation.

MoWA is grateful for the technical and financial support provided by **UN Women** in developing this strategy and associated action plan, and hopes this valuable relationship will continue during the implementation of this strategy.

Sincerely,

Alhaj Dilbar Nazari

Minister, Women's Affairs

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

## CHAPTER ONE

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) has been clearly established as a serious issue facing the majority of women and girls in Afghanistan with deadly, disabling, and long term consequences; not only for women, but for children, families, future generations, communities and society as a whole. VAWG deprives families and communities of peace and limits nearly half the population from fully participating in the betterment of society.

Eliminating VAWG is a critical part of the development process. Women, men, religious leaders, leaders at all levels of the community, provincial and national governments, teachers, civil society organizations, media, businesses and universities are all instrumental in eliminating VAWG. Change is possible, and it requires both personal and professional commitment. Enormous gains result when violence is prevented, and the benefits of shaping relationships, families and communities in non-violent ways need public discussion and exploration.

#### 1.1 Current Situation

In Afghanistan countless women and girls experience multiple types of violence, and the country has one of the highest rates of VAWG in the world. VAWG has been well documented in Afghanistan, and ample information is now available about the types of violence, how women seek and receive assistance, and the challenges they face with safety, getting help from qualified service providers, accessing justice and fair outcomes that take women's and children's safety concerns fully into account—including through informal justice mechanisms (typically, mediation).

*'The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.'* - United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

VAWG is rooted in a fundamental belief that women and girls have less value than men and boys. In Afghanistan it is a byproduct of traditional beliefs, discriminatory customs and mindsets with regards to roles of men and women in society, weak rule of law and decades of armed conflict.

Civil war in the country has left many broken homes, and placed women in even more difficult positions as a result of inadequate education, healthcare, and employment. The Government of Afghanistan has been criticized by the international community regarding the lack of proper law enforcement and weak justice sector as well as low levels of awareness about VAWG among Afghan communities.

The widely held view in Afghanistan is that the role of women is primarily in the home, performing housework and raising children, and that of men is activities outside of the household, such as providing for the family and earning a good living. These gender roles are firmly entrenched in Afghan society,



particularly in rural communities. This mindset also affects the legislation and policy-making processes, and their interpretation by individuals, authorities and institutions.

However, ideas in any society about gender, and the value and rights of women and girls, are constantly changing and this can be also seen in Afghanistan. As decision-makers, religious leaders, service providers, justice officials, academia, communities and citizens come to understand the causes and consequences of VAWG, tolerance of the practice is diminishing. The advantages and opportunities enjoyed by families living without violence are being recognized and more men and women are standing up in favor of violence-free families. The unique and valuable contributions of women at all levels – from the family and community up to The national government – are needed to build a stronger, more peaceful and inclusive society.

Families without violence are generally happier, healthier, and more economically stable. Children are healthier, better educated, and have a greater ability to resolve problems without violence. This leads to a stronger and more stable new generation of violence-free families, where everyone wins. In 2006, a Global Rights study on domestic violence against women in Afghanistan<sup>1</sup> revealed as many as 87 percent of women experienced at least one form of physical, sexual, or psychological violence or forced marriage, and 62 percent of women experienced multiple forms of violence. This is almost three times the global average rate of 1 in 3 women (or approximately 30 percent), which is already considered unacceptable high. This has devastating consequences for the people of Afghanistan.

Afghan women face many forms of violence in all aspects of social life, from domestic violence to violence at the community level, violence in the way they are treated in institutions such as healthcare, policing, education, social protection and the work place, the legal system and the types of justice available to them.

Violence against women in any context is under-reported and the same is true for Afghanistan. While thousands of cases of VAWG are reported each year, this is just a fraction of the number of actual cases that occur and go unreported. Strengthening prevention efforts and building response systems that are sensitive to the traumatic and dangerous situations that women and girls find themselves in will allow more women and girls to seek assistance, find safety and begin to heal, for this generation and those to come.

### *1.1.1 Forms of violence against women*

Evidence points to domestic violence as the most common type of violence against women in Afghanistan. According to the Global Rights study published in 2008,<sup>2</sup> 17 percent of women reported sexual violence, with 11 percent experiencing rape. Furthermore, 52 percent of women reported physical violence, with 39 percent saying they had been hit by their husband in the past year. Women who experienced psychological abuse totaled nearly 74 percent, while about 59 percent of women were in forced marriages, as distinct from arranged marriages. There were broad variations between provinces with 100 percent of Kochi women living in Kabul reporting at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence; 42 percent of women in Kandahar experiencing sexual violence; and 91 percent of women in Khost experiencing forced marriages.

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<sup>1</sup>Global Rights, 2008. *Living with Violence : A National Report on Domestic Abuse in Afghanistan*.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

According to the 2014 report issued by the MoWA on the implementation of the EVAW Law,<sup>3</sup> the highest numbers of cases were recorded under beating/battery and laceration, at 1,826 cases. It is remarkable and tragic that the next highest type of violence reported was murder, at 327 cases, illustrating the alarming seriousness of the problem of VAWG in Afghanistan. Not only does murder deprive someone of their own right to life, it leaves children and other family members traumatized and vulnerable.

Sexual violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, assault and exploitation of women and underage girls, is a serious concern that is beginning to be better understood in Afghanistan thanks to recent research. The following reports published from 2013-2015, highlight this countrywide problem:

- The AIHRC report for 2013 reported that around 163 sexual assaults and 243 honour killings were documented across the country by that institution.<sup>4</sup> Honour killing and sexual assault are linked since suspected sexual contact outside of marriage, even if it was forced, sometimes results in the murder of the woman or girl. Due to traditional sensitivities and cultural practices a large number of such cases are kept hidden and unreported.
- The Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF) report, interviewing 346 women and girls in seven provinces, revealed that sexual harassment incidents are extremely common, with 90 percent taking place in public spaces, 87 percent in the workplace, and 89 percent in educational environments.<sup>5</sup>
- The Educational Development Institute's Assessment of female university students aged 18-25 found that 79 percent said that they have seen other women and girls being harassed, whether it was verbal, non-verbal or physical. In public places physical harassment is the most common form, while 43 per cent reporting experiencing verbal harassment in public places and 38 per cent reported experiencing it in both the workplace and educational institutions. Non-verbal harassment was reported at 31 percent in public places, 25 percent at workplaces and 10 percent in educational institutions.

The Government has formally proclaimed that it will take serious action on sexual harassment and sexual violence. Efforts to draft and ratify laws, policies, and guidelines that expedite action against such incidents are underway. In September 2015, the Government of Afghanistan approved a regulation to address sexual harassment in institutions and workplaces. Parliament is working on a new law addressing sexual violence and the new draft of the Criminal Code of Afghanistan contains a full chapter on sexual crimes.

The AIHRC report shows that almost 50 percent of honour killings are committed because of a perception of "Zina" (adultery) and "attempted Zina", although this may be unproven or due to forced sex. Some survivors of sexual assault have been killed as a result of being a victim of rape or sexual assault, and are

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<sup>3</sup>Ministry of Women's Affairs, 2014. First Report on the Implementation of the Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) Law in Afghanistan .

<sup>4</sup> Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, 2013 (1392), Violence against Women in Afghanistan

<sup>5</sup> Women and children Legal Research Foundation, 2015. Research on Sexual Harassment against Women in Public Spaces, Workplaces and Educational Institutions of Afghanistan.

thus doubly victimised. Women and girls who survive sexual assault are often blamed for the crime, and considered a disgrace to the family and the tribe, although they had no power to prevent or stop the crime. Therefore, the killing of the woman is used as a justification to restore respect to the family, rather than pursuing justice for the crime by investigating the case through proper legal channels, and placing blame where it belongs, with the perpetrators of violence. Research shows that in many cases, even the justice system in Afghanistan views survivors of sexual assault as criminals and convicts them of “moral” crimes.

In many cases, “disgraced” women are either forced to self-immolate to commit suicide, or they attempt to commit suicide on their own, either of which sometimes ends in death, and other times in terrible injuries or disability.

Forced and early marriages are other forms of VAWG that are common in Afghanistan, placing girls and women at high risk of different forms of violence, as well as limiting their ability to continue their education, pursue employment and earn an income later in life. These types of VAWG cases have been well documented in Afghanistan, and are increasingly the subject of attention for prevention and justice measures.

### *1.2.2 Access to Justice*

The Government has taken some significant steps to eliminate and prevent VAWG. The ratification of the EVAW Law has led to the establishment of mechanisms mandated to address VAWG, such as Family Support Units within Police Departments, specialised EVAW units within the AGO, expression of interest in the establishment of EVAW courts and EVAW Commissions in Kabul and the provinces. Support for women survivors of violence, the drafting and ratification of the regulation on Women's Protection Centres (WPCs), and facilitating the establishment and activities of these centres are examples of concrete steps towards the elimination of VAWG.

Despite this, women and girls in Afghanistan still have particular difficulty accessing justice. A report released by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)<sup>6</sup> identifies the factors that enable or hinder women's access to justice in cases involving violence. It documents the individual experience of 110 Afghan women survivors of violence who sought justice through the judicial system and through non-judicial mechanisms, including mediation, across the country between August 2014 and February 2015. The report highlights that an approach centred on women's direct experiences, amplifying women's insights and concerns, can better inform and influence policy and institutional reforms needed to improve women's access to justice.<sup>7</sup>

The majority of the cases in the report were brought to mediation, a process designed to resolve a dispute through mutual agreement and reconciliation between parties. Only 5 percent of the resolved cases resulted in criminal prosecution and sanctions against the perpetrators.

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2015 . *Justice through the Eyes of Afghan Women: Cases of Violence against Women Addressed through Mediation and Court Adjudication*.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

Mediation is a process that is founded on the understanding that both parties in the negotiation are equal, and in the case of VAWG, women are not equal parties due to the inherent power imbalance that places them at a disadvantage. Therefore, women's interests are often not fully met or taken into consideration in mediated cases involving VAWG, including serious safety concerns. Mediation can, in fact, place women in greater danger by limiting their options and prioritising reunification above safety concerns and risks.

The UNAMA report found that women's preference for mediation to address their case was influenced by several factors, such as perceived deficiencies of the criminal justice system in processing their claims, including allegations of corruption, abuse of power, and lack of professionalism. Findings also revealed the high value women attached to the swift processing of their cases due to their multiple household obligations and financial constraints – something it was perceived mediation could provide.<sup>8</sup>

UNAMA's findings highlight the need for a review of the legal framework – which mainly focuses on criminal sanctions – so that it is more responsive to women's demands for justice. As such, the strengthening of effective civil remedies available to women experiencing violence (e.g., availability of restraint and protection orders, considerations in matters regulating custody of children, right to maintenance after dissolution of marriage and right to reside in the marital home), accompanied by measures to support women's economic empowerment and integration into society, is imperative. A review of the criminalisation of "Zina" and "attempted Zina" is also necessary as there is a real risk of prosecuting women for crimes that have been committed against them, as this severely limiting their right to freedom of movement and their right to leave an abusive environment.<sup>9</sup>

### *1.1.3 Why a Strategy and National Action Plan is Needed*

Across Afghanistan, accessing protection and safety from violence is a real challenge for survivors. This is despite the fact that there are a variety of institutions through which women can access protection and safety, including the police, judiciary, medical clinics, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), CSOs offering support services and/or legal aid, and sections of the MoWA and Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA).

Women consistently lack access to quality support services, including WPCs for emergency protection and shelters in many provinces. They face not only physical barriers in rural areas, which lack security and access to judicial institutions, but also come up against other obstacles even when these services are available. Biases against women, lack of coordination and cooperation between service-providing institutions, lengthy litigation processes, and the existence of fundamental challenges in forensic laws and the registration and presentation of required documentation for expediting fair court processes are some of the hurdles faced by those seeking assistance.

Furthermore, the perpetrators of violence against women are rarely penalised or held accountable. The culture of impunity for most perpetrators of VAWG is a serious cause for concern.

In light of provisions in the Constitution which provide men and women equal rights before the law, and evidence of the significant and damaging problem of violence against women in the country, the

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

Government of Afghanistan has enacted specific legislation to combat all types of violence against women: The **Elimination of Violence against Women Law** (commonly known as the EVAW Law).

This landmark legislation criminalised 22 acts of violence against women and harmful practices including child marriage, forcing or prohibiting marriage, forced self-immolation, rape and beating for the first time in Afghanistan. The Law also specified punishments for perpetrators and criminalised “customs, traditions and practices causing violence against women and which are against Islamic sharia”. The EVAW Law emphasises the State’s role in protection and prosecution, requiring the police to register complaints and protect victims, and courts and prosecutors to prioritise such cases. Law enforcement agencies are required to apply the EVAW Law and inform MoWA about all incidents. Each provincial police headquarters and large district is meant to have a Family Response Unit (FRU) staffed by policewomen.<sup>10</sup>

The EVAW Law is being used with increasing frequency to seek justice. However, further understanding of the Law is needed, including the rights of women who experience violence, and the obligations of service providers to provide safe, confidential, coordinated survivor-centered assistance and build confidence in seeking assistance from formal justice systems.

In 2014, MoWA issued a report detailing the findings from the first few years of implementing the Law and collecting data on cases of VAWG. This report analyses the statistics related to the reported cases of VAWG from 32 provinces. The total number of cases reported reached 4,505, representing different forms of violence including physical violence, homicide, exploitation and misuse, deprivation of the means of livelihood, and forced marriages. The report compiles data on VAWG from the AGO, MoIA, and MoWA. Based on the analysis of case data and information received from these three institutions, the report outlines recommendations for improvements going forward. Some of these recommendations include:

- Agencies involved in the implementation of the EVAW Law need to come together for the collection of data and analysis on VAWG.
- Noting that mediation is the most commonly sought solution to cases of VAWG; improve the quality of mediation through EVAW Law institutions and ensure that there is a common standardised approach to mediation of cases. MoWA will prepare guidelines and train personnel.
- Since shuras and Jirga s play a crucial role in the resolution of cases of VAWG, there is a need for MoHRA and MoWA to improve the awareness on the laws related to women.
- Strengthen the national and provincial Commissions on the EVAW Law.
- Observing that provinces with dedicated units for prosecution of VAWG have achieved better results, such units will be further expanded and established in other provinces.
- MoIA has committed to further increasing the number of women in the police force. Having more women in the police force is considered essential to improving women’s access to and Level of comfort with the police, because women in Afghan culture are more comfortable approaching female police officers. The MoIA’s vision to increase the number of women in the police force to 10,000 is crucial in improving reporting and registration of cases.

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<sup>10</sup>Ministry of Women’s Affairs, 2014. *First Report on the Implementation of the Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) Law in Afghanistan*.

To implement the EVAW Law accordingly, and to prevent VAWG and respond to the needs of survivors, a comprehensive strategy and action plan to combat violence against women in the country is required. This Strategy on EVAW with its National Action Plan (NAP) has been developed to reflect the provisions in the EVAW Law and the institutional responsibilities outlined there, the findings in the first report on the implementation of the EVAW Law, and alignment with key related policy documents, such as, *inter alia*, Afghanistan's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. It has been developed by the MoWA Law Drafting Committee (a group of legal and *sharia* experts from the Supreme Court, the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association [AIBA], the Science Academy, Civil Society and MoWA) with technical assistance from UN Women. The EVAW Strategy and NAP were designed to address current concerns about women's lack of access to quality services, emergency safety, security, judicial and health sector responses, as well as the long trial process and challenges with forensic evidence collection, and the need for forward-looking prevention initiatives.

## 1.2 Constitutional and Legal Provisions Related to Eliminating Violence against Women

### 1.2.1 National Frameworks, Policies and Structures

The Government is committed to bringing about positive changes to the current situation of women in the country by creating an enabling environment for women to advance in social, economic, political and cultural arenas. Ensuring an active role for women in key decision-making processes will affect the future of the country as per its obligations under religious laws, the Constitution of Afghanistan, relevant statutory laws of the country, and international conventions and treaties ratified by Afghanistan.

#### Constitution of Afghanistan

Article 22 of the Afghan Constitution states: "Any kind of discrimination and distinction between citizens of Afghanistan shall be forbidden. The citizens of Afghanistan, man and woman, have equal rights and duties before the law." This article is a critical foundation supporting gender equality and non-discrimination against women, particularly in legal and policy contexts.

Women's rights were ensured specifically in article 24 of the National Constitution: Liberty is the natural right of human beings. This right has no limits unless affecting others freedoms as well as the public interest, which shall be regulated by law. Liberty and human dignity are inviolable. The Government bears the responsibility to respect and protect the liberty of its citizens, including women and girls who comprise almost half the country's population. Violating women's liberty is considered a type of violence. Moreover, humiliating, verbally or physically abusing women are different forms of VAWG and a violation of their human dignity.

Article 54 of the Afghan Constitution states: Family is the fundamental pillar of the society and shall be protected by the state. "The state shall adopt necessary measures to attain the physical and spiritual health of the family, especially of the child and mother, upbringing of children, as well as the elimination of related traditions contrary to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam." Children brought up in family environments characterised by violence can experience irreversible psychological harm, creating vulnerabilities that impact the future of the child, the family and the community as a whole.



Articles 43, 44, 53, and 54 of the Afghan Constitution provide for education, health care, welfare and employment services for women, all of which contribute to the necessary conditions for women's economic empowerment and the prevention of VAWG.

### **Elimination of Violence against Women Law (EVAW Law)**

The EVAW Law, enacted in reference to articles 24 and 54 of the Constitution and consisting of four chapters and 44 articles, was ratified through a Presidential decree issued on 20 July 2009. The Law considers objectives such as: maintaining and upholding statutory and *sharia* laws and preserving human dignity and the wellbeing of the family; elimination of customs, traditions and cultures that induce violence against women and are contradictory to the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam; protection of survivors. prevention of violence against women; generating public awareness with — regards to violence against women, and; prosecuting the perpetrators of crimes of violence against women.

As per article 4 of the EVAW Law, violence is a crime and nobody has the right to commit it in any public or private space. If committed, the person is subject to punishment according to the provisions of the Law.

The EVAW Law identifies **22 types of violence against women** that are punishable crimes:

1. Sexual assault
2. Forced prostitution
3. Recording the identity of the survivor and publishing it in a way that damages her reputation
4. Burning, using chemicals or other dangerous substances
5. Forcing one to burn herself or to commit suicide or using poison or other dangerous substances
6. Causing injury or disability
7. Beating
8. Selling and buying women for the purpose of or on the pretext of marriage
9. The practice of *Baad*
10. Forced marriage
11. Denying the right to marry or the right to choose a spouse
12. Underage marriage
13. Abusing, humiliating, intimidating
14. Harassment/persecution
15. Forced isolation
16. Forced addiction
17. Depriving of inheritance
18. Prohibiting access to personal property
19. Denying the right to education, work and access to health services
20. Forced labour
21. Marrying more than one wife without observing Article 86 of Civil Code
22. Denial of kinship

The EVAW Law is being used regularly and with increasing frequency in Afghanistan to prosecute cases of VAWG, as the Law is better understood and tested. Further capacity development for all actors that are involved in supporting women facing violence is still needed to clarify the scope and use of the Law,

and when the Law must be applied. This includes health workers, police, shuras and Jirgas, social protection officers, lawyers and justice personnel, and anyone requested to mediate cases of VAWG.

### **National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA)**

NAPWA is a 10-year policy structure that outlines the commitment of the Government for the continued growth of Afghan women and the achievement of gender equality, as well as the preservation and continuation of the efforts already made by the Government to protect the legal and social rights of women in all sectors of Afghan society.

The goal of NAPWA is to “see Afghanistan turn into a peaceful and developed country where men and women enjoy security and equal rights and opportunities in all walks of life.”

Drafting a national strategy for the elimination of violence against women is one of the recommendations in the NAWPA report of 2013.

According to NAPWA, the Government of Afghanistan seeks to promote and ensure the rights of women. The Government instructed all ministries and institutions to incorporate the indicators of the National Action Plan in their plans, programme and budgets and to ensure the implementation of their commitments and obligations with regards to the elimination of violence against women and provide opportunities for the improvement of women's rights and women's participation in leadership positions.

According to the 2014 NAPWA report, government institutions committed to incorporating programme from NAPWA in their annual work plan, taking the annual indicators of the National Action Plan into consideration with an emphasis on access to education, health, legal, social and other services and increased participation in the political, economic, social and judiciary sectors in leadership positions.

### **National Structures**

To enforce provisions made in the Constitution; legislation, policies, action plans and a number of national structures have been established. These include: MoWA, AIHRC, family courts, the ERAW Commissions in Kabul and the provinces, and the Commission on Eliminating the Sexual Abuse of Women and Children. A special ERAW Law Prosecution Unit in the Attorney General's Office that investigates and prosecutes cases of violence against women, with similar units formed at the provincial level, is operational. The AIHRC was established in 2002 with the purpose of promoting, protecting, and monitoring human rights and investigating human rights abuses.

#### **1.2.2 Frameworks for International Policies**

### **Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women was ratified by the General Assembly of United Nations on 18 December 1979 and endorsed by the Government of Afghanistan in March 2003. Article 1 in Part 1 of CEDAW states:

*(T) he term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of*



*human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.*

The Convention constitutes an international bill of rights for women. It sets out, in legally binding form, a comprehensive legal framework for women's equality. It creates binding legal obligations regarding women's equal enjoyment with men of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and requires States parties to eliminate discrimination against women in the public as well as the private spheres, including within the family. Adherence to the Convention fosters a climate – both internationally and nationally - where violations of the rights of women will not be tolerated.

### **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

The United Nations General Assembly approved the Convention of the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989 and Afghanistan ratified it on 27 April 1994. The main principle of the Convention focuses on protecting the rights of children and enabling them to develop to their full potential. A total of 193 states have ratified the CRC and 72 countries have observer status. Article 19 in Part 1 of the CRC states:

- 1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*
- 2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.*

### **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325)**

UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was ratified on 31 October 2000 by the UN Security Council. The resolution is a legal framework focusing on the effects of war on women as well as the constructive roles women can play in managing and resolving crisis and in bringing sustainable peace. The resolution urges governments to:

- a. Address specialised requests of women and girls during return and resettlement, and also requests related to revival, new direction of partnership and normalisation of the situation post conflict.
- b. Take measures for supporting women's initiatives in the area of peace and conflict resolution processes, and encourage the participation of women in executing mechanisms for the realisation of peace accords.
- c. Take appropriate measures for defending women's and girls' human rights, in particular in areas that pertain to the Constitution, electoral systems and the behaviour of police and judicial organisations.

Afghanistan launched its first UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan in June 2015, reflecting the four pillars of **participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery**. The implementation of the NAP brings

into partnership civil society, individual women's rights activists and different government organizations. There is specific attention to eliminating VAWG in the NAP on Women, Peace and Security, and actions that align with this current ERAW NAP, which have been noted in this document.

### **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 (UNSCR 1820)**

Passed in 2008 by the UN Security Council, UNSCR 1820 recognises that sexual violence is frequently used as a war tactic against women in conflict and post-conflict settings. It identifies sexual violence in conflict as a war crime and demands that parties to armed conflict take immediate and appropriate measures to protect civilians from sexual violence, including training troops and enforcing disciplinary measures. The Resolution emphasizes that women and children must be protected during war and post-war periods and that survivors of sexual assaults must have access to support.

### **Obligations of the Government of Afghanistan to Eliminate Violence Against Women based on Agreements Concluded at International Conferences for the Future of Afghanistan**

**The Bonn Conference** was held in 2001 and focused on ending war, bringing about national solidarity, sustainable peace and stability, and reinforcing the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. Recognising the rights of the people of Afghanistan to determine their own political future based on principles of democracy and Islam, the Conference was a step towards ending Afghanistan's political isolation.

In addition, the Conference focused on the review and reform of existing laws and regulations, to ensure that they are not inconsistent with the resulting Agreement<sup>11</sup> or with international treaties and conventions to which Afghanistan is a party.

The independent judicial power of Afghanistan was another area of focus at the Conference, to be vested in a Supreme Court of Afghanistan. It was agreed that the Interim Administration would establish, with the assistance of the United Nations, a Judicial Commission to rebuild the domestic justice system in accordance with Islamic principles, international standards, the rule of law and Afghan legal traditions.

**The Tokyo Conferences** (2002 and 2012) produced resolutions with regards to rule of law, human rights and access to justice, committing to ensuring that women could enjoy their economic, social, cultural and political rights. The participants reaffirmed that a thriving and free civil society based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the equality of men and women, enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, will be key to achieving a more pluralistic society in Afghanistan.

**The Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework** (TMAF, 2012) is a key development document that sets out policies, outcomes, and benchmarks for accountability on the progress of Afghan women, among other priorities.

**The London Conference** of 2006 resulted in the Afghanistan Compact, which covered many areas of governance including gender equality, realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), implementation of the NAPWA, and participation of women in all governmental organisations including

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<sup>11</sup> [Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions](#)

elected and appointed positions, as well as their increased participation in the private sector. The Compact also emphasised strengthening awareness of human rights among personnel in relevant sectors and monitoring human rights by the Government and the AIHRC for the sake of protecting and improving the status of human rights in Afghanistan.

The agreements of the Government of Afghanistan, and the obligations that follow, form part of the foundation for this ERAW Strategy and NAP.

### 1.3 Fundamental Values

The ERAW Strategy adheres to the following values within the framework of Islamic principles:

#### **Islamic Values:**

According to article 3 of the Constitution, the Government has an obligation to respect and ensure Islamic values, human dignity and the rights of citizens. Islam is the religion of equality and has ensured the rights of women equal to men without discrimination. Allah says in the Koran: *Va Asherohona Belmaroofo* (وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ) – “live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. Allah brings about through it a great deal of good” Also the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) says: “The best of you is the best to his family, and I am the best to my family.”

**Human Rights:** As per the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), violence against women is a violation of human rights. Women should enjoy privileges and opportunities equal to that of men and should have equal access to resources and facilities. Therefore, training and educating professionals from the police, judicial institutions, health services, NGOs and other relevant institutions who come into contact with cases of violence, is mandatory for respecting women's rights, improving the safety and quality of services for survivors of VAWG, and transforming social norms that condone violence into those that reject violence, whether at home or in public.

**Code of Conduct: Employees** and institutions have a moral responsibility to prioritise services for women affected by violence, to maintain the confidentiality of affected women, their cases and related documents, and to ensure their safety. A code of conduct must be prepared and used for ensuring the application of these principles.

**Cultural values:** Respect for culture and people's beliefs are considered among the basic principles as well, and positive approaches within the framework with respect to human rights must be used to combat violence against women.

**Type of Social Structure:** Violence against women can threaten any woman regardless of her ethnicity, religious or political affiliation, or socioeconomic status. Therefore, programmes to eliminate violence against women must not discriminate based on ethnic, religious or other labels. All women subject to or affected by violence must have equal access to support and protection programmes.

**Partnership:** Success in eliminating violence against women is not possible without the partnership and coordination of the relevant responsible bodies. The Government, Ullema council, civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), donors and the international community, the private sector, media, educational and research institutes, peoples' councils and ordinary citizens all have a role to play in supporting or implementing ERAW programmes. As the body, responsible for social welfare and security, the Government must manage ministries and related institutions in preparing policies, promoting coordination, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the ERAW strategy, and providing coordination in mobilising the necessary financial resources.

promoting coordination, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the EVAW strategy, and providing coordination in mobilising the necessary financial resources.

**The values and principles that guide this NAP specific to VAWG include:**

- Domestic violence, family violence and sexual assault affect women of all ages, ethnic and cultural groups, and socioeconomic classes, although some women are at higher risk.
- Everyone regardless of their age, gender, sex, race, culture, disability, religion, faith, linguistic background or location, has the right to be safe and live in an environment that is free from violence.
- Domestic violence, sexual assault, and all forms of VAWG are unacceptable and against the law.
- Governments and other organisations will provide holistic services and support that prioritises the needs of survivors of violence, in particular safety and care that is sensitive to their needs and wishes.
- Community participation by men and women acknowledging the problems and working towards solutions is key.
- Everyone has the right to access and to participate in judicial processes that enable them to achieve a fair outcome.
- Responses to children exposed to, or affected by violence, prioritise the safety and long-term well-being of the child.

**Guiding principles for preventive measures include:**

- Build a common understanding of what VAWG is, types of VAWG, as well as the causes and consequences.
- Research and analyse risk factors contributing to VAWG, the economic and social impacts of violence, and identify preventative factors, which may reduce the likelihood of VAWG occurring.
- Expand cooperation and coordination between all partners, including government institutions, non-governmental institutions, civil society, media, religious leaders, youth and other groups for eliminating VAWG.
- Education and awareness-raising to create good relations based on respect for gender equality among children, youth, men, women, and the older generation.
- Strengthen the capacity of educational and academic institutions in changing the individual and social behavior of children and youth to prevent violence and promote gender equality through educational means.
- Capacity and skill-building within families, in order to promote parental behaviors based on gender equality values and non-violent parenting practices.
- Raise awareness regarding the elimination of violence against children and women, promoting non-violent methods of social interaction, power-sharing and problem solving.
- Promote responsible actions in social interactions/relations at schools, universities, and institutions. This should also include methods for preventing sexual abuse and harassment.
- Increase the role of the media in condemning VAWG and promoting a culture of respect for the human dignity of women and men.

### **Mechanisms to implement VAWG laws and policies**

For the purpose of effectively combating violence and establishing coordination among the relevant organisations, the EVAW High Commission was established under the presidency of the Minister of Women's Affairs in the following structure, according to article 15 of the EVAW Law, which has provincial level Commissions for more localised coordination and implementation support:

1. Deputy of the Attorney General's Office
2. Deputy of the Ministry of Interior Affairs
3. Deputy of the Ministry of Justice
4. Deputy of the Ministry of Public Health
5. Deputy of the Ministry of Information and Culture
6. Deputy of the Ministry of Education
7. Deputy of the Ministry of Higher Education
8. Deputy of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
9. Deputy of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs
10. Member of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
11. Head of the Kabul Specialised Family Court
12. Head of the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association

The EVAW High Commission and EVAW Provincial Commissions were established for the following purposes according to Article 16 of the EVAW Law. The EVAW Commission has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Studying and evaluating factors of violence in the country and adopting appropriate preventive measures.
- Arranging public awareness programme to deter people from committing acts of violence .
- Coordinating the activities of the relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies on combating violence.
- Collecting statistics and figures of violence related crimes.
- Providing suggestions on amendments to the law.
- Suggesting the adoption of regulations and relevant rules and procedures for the purpose of better implementation of the Law.
- Gathering information on violence cases from the Police, the Prosecutor's office and the Court.
- Preparing an annual report of its activities and submitting it to the Council of Ministers, and
- Other duties given by the Government.

#### 1.4 Method of Preparing the Strategy

Through an initiative of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and with technical support from UN Women, consultations for the preparation of this strategy were initiated in mid-2014. The EVAW Commissions in Kabul and the provinces provided their views regarding the content of this document through a consultative process. The first draft of the Strategy was reviewed and amended by MoWA's Technical Committee for Laws and Policies. In a national workshop, the document also was reviewed by directors of Women's Affairs Directorates and civil society members from 16 provinces in Afghanistan. The penultimate draft of the Strategy was shared in a national workshop with EVAW Law partners including civil society, the UN and international organisations. MoWA's Law Drafting Committee approved the Strategy and finally, the Strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in December 2015.

## CHAPTER TWO

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### 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE STRATEGY

#### 2.1. Vision

The vision of the Strategy is to create a violence-free environment for girls and women, in which they can benefit from opportunities such as the right to education, employment, and a healthy life.

#### 2.2 Goal

The goal of this strategy is that women and girls live free from violence in Afghanistan.

#### 2.3 Objectives

- Strengthen prevention of and response to violence against women and girls.
- Improve accountability of the responsible ministries to implement the ERAW Law and ERAW National Strategy, including through allocation of ministerial resources.
- Strengthen coordination and advocacy on ERAW-related issues among the ERAW Commission, civil society and the international community through the establishment of the ERAW Advisory Group.

#### 2.4 Priorities

1. Prevent violence against women and girls
2. Strengthen coordination and accountability among service providers
3. Law and policy reform and implementation
4. Capacity-building
5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will employ the following methods for achieving the five above - mentioned priorities.

#### 2.5 Approaches

##### *2.5.1 Prevent violence against women and girls*

**Objective:** Safe families and societies that enable women and girls to live free of the fear of violence, to be secure and economically independent, as well as having a role in decision-making within the family, society and government. To prevent violence against women, social norms that tolerate or ignore violence must be transformed to support a culture that rejects violence.



- Enable dialogue that questions the tolerance of VAWG through media, campaigns and education.
- Produce and promote age-appropriate educational curricula at primary, secondary and university levels on healthy relationships, VAWG and gender equality.
- Improve women's access to economic resources and their ability to control them.
- Enable women's employment by addressing sexual harassment in the workplace to both prevent violence and create safer working environments.
- Make registration of marriages and divorces mandatory, and improve knowledge about marriage rights as a means to prevent violence.

### *2.5.2 Strengthen coordination and accountability among service providers for provision of quality services*

**Objective:** Survivor-centred, rights-based quality services by specially trained personnel that have demonstrated a practice of using guiding principles and understanding the need for sensitivity towards survivors of VAWG. Services are informed by established guidelines and protocols that set the standard for care and ensure strong referrals between service providers, for the benefit of survivors.

- Coordinated mechanisms to respond to VAWG at national and provincial levels, including agreements on how coordinated VAWG response and referral efforts operate.
- Ensure confidential case management and referrals through standard sector guidelines.
- Strengthen ERAW Commissions at national and provincial levels, which support advances in service development and delivery, budget allocation, and evidence gathering on quality services and prevention drivers.
- Ensure access to immediate services with good quality consultation and legal aid.
- Strengthen direct service providers' capacity for providing immediate and good quality services to women and girls affected by violence, guided by sector protocols from health, police, social welfare, justice.
- Enable women's recruitment and retention in service delivery institutions such as health, police, justice, social welfare, education, through gender equality and sexual harassment policies.
- Implement specialised training to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for female personnel assisting survivors.
- Health centres have the necessary commodities and trained personnel to respond to VAWG according to minimum standards, and can perform forensic evidence collection at specified locations.
- Strengthen women's access to justice, and knowledge about their legal rights and options.
- Ensure women and girls affected by violence have access to support centres such as shelters (Women's Protection Centres) and Family Guidance Centres.

### *2.5.3 Law and policy reform and implementation*

**Objective:** The Government of Afghanistan will ensure that laws and policies developed in Afghanistan meet the needs of women and ensure women's participation in the process of law and policy reform is strengthened.



- Strengthen legislative mechanisms and Afghan legal framework to address VAWG most effectively, following a review of existing laws and policies, and identification of improvements needed.
- Strengthen mechanisms and policy institutions in order to ensure performance is based on the principles and values of EVAW.
- Enforce active participation in the implementation of the EVAW Law and existing policies in this area.
- Implement policies to guide the application of laws or commitments to comprehensively prevent or respond to VAWG.
- Establish a practical mechanism for following up on decisions by the EVAW High Commission.

#### *2.5.4 Capacity-building*

**Objective:** Strengthen technical capacities of national institutions and CSOs to implement, report, monitor, evaluate, and coordinate activities to eliminate VAWG.

- Develop knowledge, attitudes and practices among service providers and community leaders to provide sensitive, survivor-centred assistance to survivors of VAWG.
- Establish expertise in each responsible ministry for participatory, survivor-centred facilitation of VAWG capacity-building sessions, guided by quality standard learning materials.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of capacity-building activities and empowerment of institutions associated with EVAW work (including religious leaders and the media) to ensure sensitivity and appropriateness of prevention and response activities.

#### *2.5.5 Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation*

**Objective:** Establish ethical, quality, survivor-centred, safe monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

- Ensure all service-providing and data-collecting organisations with access to VAWG data carry out their work following safety standards and ethical protocols.
- Implement information sharing protocols and agreements within and between sector agencies.
- Coordinate regular and periodic monitoring of the EVAW strategy and NAP to track progress.
- Strengthen the data and statistics collection systems to analyse VAWG case handling and the actions taken by the responsible officials.
- Develop capacity within research institutions to study VAWG, its drivers and consequences, and evaluate programming approaches that hold promise within Afghanistan.

## CHAPTER THREE

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### 3.1 Implementation mechanism<sup>12</sup>

#### **Implementation Plan**

The Government of Afghanistan acknowledges the need for a detailed implementation plan to ensure the successful implementation of the NAP. Hence, a separate implementation plan based on the matrices is set to be developed to clarify the responsibilities of the lead and supporting agencies during the implementation of the NAP and the steps to be taken in terms of coordination, monitoring and evaluation and financing of the NAP.

For successful implementation of the NAP it will be crucial for all the implementing agencies and the involved stakeholders to respect the deadlines set. The activities will be prioritised by the lead and supporting agencies and will be specified in the relevant implementation plans of the agencies.

#### **Implementing Agencies**

A clear division of responsibilities between different ministries and agencies is important to avoid confusion. For this purpose, the implementing agencies have been divided into two categories: 1) lead implementing agencies; and 2) supporting agencies.

The NAP is a government policy and a reflection of the Government's commitments with regards to eliminating VAWG. Lead implementing agencies are government agencies, ministries, structures, and institutions, while civil society, media and the private sector play an important role as the supporting agencies.

#### **Reporting and Accountability**

All lead and supporting implementing agencies will be responsible for reporting on their assigned activities on an annual basis to the ERAW Commission. As Secretariat, MoWA will compile the reports and submit them to the ERAW Commission for approval. After approving the report, the ERAW Commission will submit the final report to the President's Office, the National Assembly and the international community. The annual reporting will address: the extent of activities implemented; financing allocated, disbursed and spent; progress made; challenges encountered; and suggestions to improve the implementation.

The annual reporting mechanism, a midterm and final review will be conducted by a team of experts. To ensure uniform and consistent reporting of high quality, templates are designed for the annual reporting, and all focal points in the lead agencies responsible for collecting the data and writing the reports will be given training. The training will focus on how to use the templates and indicators, data collection, and how to analyse and present the data collected.

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<sup>12</sup>This section of the NAP is in alignment with the NAP on Women, Peace and Security (2015), which has many similar features and aims.

In order to ensure effective implementation and reporting of the NAP, the annual reports as well as the midterm review and final review will be published on the MoWA's website.

The Government of Afghanistan recognises the importance of strong accountability mechanisms in order to achieve successful implementation of the NAP. The annual reporting by the lead agencies and the independent midterm and final review will serve this purpose and will ensure that all the agencies are implementing the activities for which they are the lead implementing actors.

The matrices outlining the activities of the NAP have been designed to ensure that there is no uncertainty about which agencies are responsible for implementation and reporting. The annual reporting by the lead agencies will be prepared on the basis of indicators, templates, activities and their specific responsibilities. The annual reporting by the lead agencies and the independent midterm and final review will respond to the requirements of the principle of transparency that the Government requires in order to achieve successful implementation of the NAP.

Strong accountability mechanisms and monitoring of the NAP implementation are dependent on broad ownership, transparency, political will and accountability at the highest levels of government.

### **3.2 Monitoring & Evaluation**

The Government recognises the need for a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure effective implementation of the NAP. Therefore, a separate Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan is designed, which includes annual monitoring, midterm (after two years) and final review (evaluation) in the fourth year. The M&E Plan will include tracking and monitoring of financing for the NAP to ensure transparent and effective implementation, for which the EVAW Commission is responsible. The Government recognises the important role of civil society as an independent oversight body for the successful implementation of the NAP.

### **3.3 Cooperation & Partnerships**

Successful implementation of the EVAW NAP requires close cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan, civil society, survivors of VAWG and the international community. The Government bears overall responsibility for the implementation of the NAP through the agencies mentioned in the implementing agencies matrix.

The legitimacy of the NAP and effective implementation relies on the support of the women of Afghanistan and those specifically affected by the NAP, including female survivors of VAWG, female civil servants, women in the security sector, politicians, and activists.

Civil society organisations that are committed to eliminating VAWG and related issues play an important role in the implementation of the NAP, as supporting agencies and implementing partners. They can also function as an important watchdog, conducting advocacy and awareness-raising and producing shadow reports. The Government of Afghanistan is committed to ensuring that the necessary resources are available for civil society capacity-building.

The private sector should be an important partner for the implementation of the NAP, particularly for activities related to relief and recovery and creating employment opportunities for women. Successful implementation of the NAP also requires extensive awareness-raising and public outreach; hence

private and state owned media outlets (TV, radio, newspapers etc.) across the country will play an important role.

Furthermore, the international community, donors, and international organisations who have supported the development of the NAP will continue to be important partners for the implementation phase, providing technical and financial assistance.

### 3.4 The National Action Plan

Overall Goal: Women and girls live free from violence in Afghanistan

Indicators:

- Prevalence rates of violence against women
- Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15+ subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months
- Proportion of women and girls aged 15+ subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15 (Data sources: DHS 2015; dedicated national prevalence survey on VAWG)

Priority 1: Prevent violence against women and girls						
Indicators:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>% of people who believe that it is never justifiable to beat a woman</b> (data sources: DHS survey, and can implement a national survey about VAWG attitudes every 4-5 years to track changes)</li> <li>• Rates of public support for efforts to end violence against women<sup>13</sup></li> <li>• Number of institutions and organisations that have drafted and implemented workplace harassment policies in their respective organisations</li> <li>• Drivers of and risk factors for violence against women and girls identified through high quality research, to inform prevention programming (data sources: national in-depth prevalence survey on VAWG; survey on men's attitudes and experiences related to VAWG)</li> <li>• Proportion of women ages 18-24 that were married before the age of 18.</li> </ul>						
Outcome 1: Individual and social behavior change reduces acceptance of violence against women						
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator <sup>14</sup>	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency Support Agency
Dialogue that questions the acceptance of VAWG facilitated through media,	Develop age-appropriate content within curricula for <b>schools (primary and secondary)</b> on healthy relationships, gender	The new educational discipline is made ready and included in the curricula for primary and high	Number of educational institutions that have included healthy relationships and	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's	2016-2018	MOE MoWA, MoHE, AIHRC, SCOs

<sup>13</sup> Data source: national survey about VAW attitudes

<sup>14</sup> Throughout the NAP, monitoring and measurement of results will be based on data that is disaggregated by sex, age, location (province, city, etc), where necessary.

campaigns and education curricula	equality and VAWG.	schools.	EVAWG as subjects in their curriculum as per the MoE curriculum.	Office and Cabinet			
	Develop content within curricula for <b>universities</b> <sup>15</sup> on healthy relationships, gender equality and VAWG (including VAW definitions, types, consequences, causes and relationship to laws and <i>sharia</i> ).	The new educational discipline is added to the credit hour system for universities.	Number of higher education institutions that have included healthy relationships and EVAWG as subjects in their curriculum as per the MoE curriculum.	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet	2016-2018	MoHE MoWA	MoE, MoWA, AIHRC, CSOs
	Launch public awareness programme to reduce acceptance of VAWG at the district and village levels through mosques and District Development Councils (including VAW definitions, types, consequences, causes and relationship to laws and <i>sharia</i> ).	Standard educational and discussion materials to build awareness and question violence is prepared and utilised.	Number of evaluated prevention programme designed to change attitudes, beliefs and practices that condone VAW.	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet	2015-2020	MoWA MoHRA MoIA MOJ	Media, CSO, AIHRC MRRD, and partner organizations
	Designing national awareness-raising guidelines <sup>16</sup> for EVAW (including VAW definitions, types,	National public awareness-raising guidelines with regards to EVAW including special	Number of participants of the awareness programmes disaggregated by	Quarterly and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to	2016	MoWA	AIHRC, all relevant ministries and CSOs

<sup>15</sup> Materials for students and staff

<sup>16</sup> Guidelines are for government departments, NGOs and others who are raising awareness about VAWG

	consequences, causes and relationship to laws and <i>sharia</i> ).	messages, campaigns implemented.	gender, occupation and provinces.	President's Office and Cabinet.		
	Conducting dedicated public awareness programme by leveraging different tools of mass media and evaluating responses from viewers. <sup>17</sup>	Regular TV and radio programme with regards to elimination of violence against women are produced and continuously aired.	Implementation of national social marketing campaign to reduce acceptance of VAW and promote healthy, non-violent relationships.	Quarterly and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	MoIC MoWA MoJ  Private and public audio and video media outlets, and CSOs.
<b>Outcome two:</b> Women and girls have assets; income, skills and power use them, to protect them from violence.						
Indicators:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's and girls' decision-making in homes, in markets, in associations</li> <li>Women's and girls' income, and level of control over income</li> <li>Number of economic programme implemented to benefit survivors of VAW</li> <li>Proportion of female survivors of violence participating in women's economic empowerment programs.</li> </ul>						
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency Support Agency
Women have increased resources (capacity, income, assets), and the ability to control them	Finalization and implementation of National Women's Economic Empowerment Programme.	The National Women's Economic Empowerment Programme is fully implemented.	The National Women's Economic Empowerment Programme is operational.	Mid-year and annual report to MoWA for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	MoWA MRRD MOCAT  NGO, partners
	Design standard skills development programme	The women's economic	Number of female survivors of	Mid-year and annual report to	2016	MoWAM oECMoCI  AISA, NGOs

<sup>17</sup> Aligns with Afghanistan NAP on Women, Peace and Security, section C, Prevention, Objective 1, Strategic Objective 2: Raised awareness of the consequences of VAW among the public across the country. Action: Launch a campaign to end VAW (including radio/TV programmes, workshops, and advertisements) across the country.

	that will benefit female survivors of violence <sup>18</sup> covering social and economic issues.	empowerment skills development programmes on business, income generating activities, small enterprises and livelihood of survivors of violence are implemented and evaluated.	violence participating in women's economic empowerment programme.	MOWA for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	MRRD MoCAT	
	Establish policies and mechanisms for addressing sexual harassment in the workplace to increase women's employment and freedom from harassment.	Ethical policies and mechanisms for preventing and responding to sexual harassment in the workplace are in place. Staff awareness of sexual harassment policies and mechanisms is raised.	Number of institutions and organisations that have drafted and implemented workplace harassment policies.	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	MoE, MoHE, MoIA, MoJ, MoPH, MoHRA, MoWA,	Media and CSOs
<b>Outcome three:</b> Marriages and divorces are registered and women and girls are knowledgeable about marriage and divorce rights <b>Indicators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of a guideline for registration of marriages and divorces</li> <li>• Number of training programme regarding marriage and divorce registration and rights</li> <li>• Existence of marriage and divorce registration center in each province.</li> <li>• Proportion of people who demonstrate knowledge of available marriage and divorce registration centres.</li> </ul>						

<sup>18</sup>Noting that any skills programmes that will be made available to survivors need to be open to any women, and survivors of VAWG to be included confidentially and without being identified as a survivor, for safety reasons



Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency
Establish counselling and awareness-raising about marriage registration and rights.	At least one office for marriage registration and divorces is established in each province.	Establishment of marriage and divorce registration offices at the provincial level	Number of operational marriage counselling offices, by province.	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	Supreme Court	MoJ, MoWA, partner agencies
	Standard public awareness programme about rights to marriage and divorce, and the availability of marriage and divorce registration centers, are broadcasted through media.	Launching public awareness raising programme with regards to the existence of marriage and divorce registration centres.	Number of public legal awareness-raising program me (with sex disaggregation and reflect geographical locations).	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	MoWAM oHRA MoJ MoLC	Media and partner organizations
	Standard public awareness program me are prepared and conducted about rights to and laws about marriage and divorce registration, and availability of services.	Conducting awareness-raising programs for families and youths on the importance of the registration of marriages and divorces.	Number of public legal awareness-raising program me with sex disaggregation and reflect geographical locations.	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	MoWAM oHRA MoJ	Media and partner organisations
	Hotline for marriage and divorce rights and registration information is established.	Hotline established and advertised; personnel trained to respond to inquiries.	Hotline operational. Calls monitored and analysed for usage rates, common questions and referrals made.	Mid-year and annual report to EVAW High Commission for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	MoWA MoJ	

Priority 2: Strengthen coordination and accountability among service providers for provision of quality services							
Indicators:							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of guidelines, agreements, and policies issued by the EVAW High Commission on coordination and accountability</li><li>• Evidence that shows improved response to the cases of violence through coordination and monitoring</li><li>• Evidence of budget allocations achieved through EVAW Commission support</li><li>• Good practices identified and shared across the EVAW commissions at the provincial and national level</li></ul>							
Outcome One: Strengthened cooperation and coordination between all service providers, including working referral mechanisms							
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency
Coordinated mechanisms to address VAWG at provincial and national levels support safety and access to justice for women.	The provincial EVAW Commissions are active in all provinces of Afghanistan, implementing responsibilities to develop evidence on VAWG, prevent VAWG and coordinate providers for the benefit of survivors.	Expansion and continuation of the activities of the EVAW Commissions to coordinate responses to VAW among actors, ensuring services are available and prevention actions implemented.	Number of provincial EVAW Commissions operational, by location. Evidence of EVAW Commissions' regular coordination with prevention and response providers; analysis of needs, good practices, and justice outcomes.	Mid-year and annual reports of EVAW Commissions for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	EVAW Commissions members	MoWA-Secretariat Relevant line ministries as per the EVAW law and Partner organisations
	Identification of centres and institutions providing assistance to VAWG survivors, including health, legal services and assistance, counseling, emergency	Directory containing the names and addresses of the organisations offering services for female	Directory <sup>19</sup> of VAWG service providers, including legal aid, available and updated yearly. Number of referral	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's	2016	MoWA	AIBA, legal, defence lawyers, legal firms

<sup>19</sup> Aside from government actors listed in the directory, CSOs can be listed only with their consent to be listed in keeping with the Do No Harm principle. For safety reasons, some CSOs may not wish to be identified.

shelter and assistance, economic services, etc by services and location.	survivors of violence is prepared and distributed.	handbooks printed and distributed per year.	Office and Cabinet.			
Agreements (such as MOUs, SOPs) defining roles and responsibilities of VAWG service providers <sup>20</sup> , referral of cases between providers, coordination and information sharing methods implemented at the national and provincial levels.	Establishment of safe, confidential, survivor-centered referral mechanisms defining responsibilities of providers and roles of EVAW Commissions.	Proportion of provinces with MOUs/SOPs establishing coordinated and confidential referral systems between service providers at the capital and provincial levels. Number of staff that have been trained on the service protocols, by location and agency.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	EVAW Commission MoWA, Mol, MoPH, MoLSAMD, AIHRC, AGO	Relevant line ministries and partner organisations
Develop guidelines for confidential case management and referrals within each service provision sector (health, policing, social welfare, justice, education, shelters, etc).	Establish clear guidelines on case management including issues like confidentiality, information sharing, reporting, consent, etc.	Proportion of service providers trained on the local referral mechanism for VAW survivors that feel confident in their role implementing it. Evidence of use of confidential case management	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	EVAW Commission members MoWA	

<sup>20</sup>Includes government and NGO service providers that are part of the referral system.

			practices by providers.						
	Establish clear budgets for VAWG services and prevention initiatives within each ministry that has responsibility for addressing VAWG, in order to support increased quality services.	Clear budgets for VAWG services and prevention initiatives within each ministry that has responsibility for addressing VAWG.	Budgets dedicated to VAWG available.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	EVAW Commission MoWA	Relevant line ministries		
<b>Outcome two: Increased access to legal aid and criminal justice organisations for VAWG survivors</b> <b>Indicators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of women who know of a local organisation that provides legal aid to VAWG survivors</li> <li>• Number of women and girls that received services from legal assistance providers per year</li> <li>• Proportion of VAWG cases that were investigated by police</li> <li>• Proportion of VAWG cases that were prosecuted</li> <li>• Proportion of VAWG cases that were prosecuted using the EVAW Law</li> <li>• Proportion of prosecuted VAWG cases that resulted in a conviction</li> <li>• Proportion of Family Dispute Resolution Units established by police</li> <li>• Proportion of provinces with specialised women judges</li> </ul>									
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency		
An inclusive mechanism for increasing women's awareness on legal issues and rights, and access to	MoIA adopts a national protocol on police response to VAWG reports, including referrals to other service providers, and how personnel are to be trained on the	National protocol on police response to VAWG cases is adopted and implemented.	Proportion of law enforcement units following a nationally established protocol for VAWG complaints.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and	2016-17	MoIA			

justice is in place. <sup>21</sup>	protocol.		Number of law enforcement professionals trained to respond to incidents of VAWG according to an established protocol.	Cabinet.			
	Family Response Units of police at the provincial and district level are resourced and staffed with trained personnel and receive support from the MoIA to provide survivor-centred support.	Family Response Units are improved to provide quality services to survivors.	Number of operational Family Response Units, by location. Number of staff recruited and trained to provide sensitive, quality services to VAW/G survivors, by sex and location.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	MoIA	NGO partners
	MoIA adopts and implements gender policy to increase numbers of female policing staff, create more balanced and safer workplaces, improve services for VAWG survivors, etc.	MoIA gender policy in place.	MoIA gender policy adopted and implemented.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	MoIA	NGO partners
	MoIA conducts campaign to recruit	Number of public serving and	Number of female police officers <sup>22</sup> , by	Mid-year and annual reports	2017-2020	MoIA	

<sup>21</sup> Aligns with Afghanistan NAP on Women, Peace and Security, Protection Objective 2.1: An inclusive mechanism for increasing women's awareness on legal issues and access to justice is in place, with active participants [sic] of women.

	women within the police force that can assist with VAWG investigations.	investigative female police officers increases.	Location and position. Number of female personnel trained on VAWG dynamics and legal rights.	to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.		
	MoIA creates safer work environments through <b>sexual harassment policy</b> , safe reporting and investigation procedures for reports of sexual harassment and training of personnel.	MoIA adopts and implements sexual harassment policy, safe investigation procedures, and trains personnel on policy.	MoIA sexual harassment policy available. Proportion of MoIA personnel trained on sexual harassment policy.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	MoIA
	Establishing and strengthening EVAW <b>Special Attorney Offices (SAO)</b> in all provinces, including by training personnel on VAWG dynamics, consequences, causes and legal rights. <sup>23</sup>	EVAW Special Attorney Offices are established in all provinces.	Number of operational EVAW Special Attorney Offices, by location. Number of personnel trained on VAWG dynamics and legal rights. Number of VAWG survivors assisted, by location and case outcomes.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	AGO MoJ SAO

<sup>22</sup> Female police officers in investigation and direct public assistance positions are especially critical for effective, survivor-centred responses to VAWG. Many survivors of VAWG have a strong preference for reporting to female police officers, which enables reporting and prosecutions.

<sup>23</sup>Note: Several actions in this section align with Afghanistan's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, section B, Protection, Objective 1, Action B: *Strengthen the justice sector to effectively and efficiently address the VAW cases with special focus on prosecution office and courts.*

Establishing and strengthening <b>special EVAW courts</b> in all zones, including by training personnel on VAWG dynamics, consequences, causes and legal rights.	EVAW specialised courts are established in all Zones.	Number of operational EVAW Special Courts, by location. Number of personnel trained on VAWG dynamics and legal rights. Number of VAWG survivors assisted, by location and case outcomes.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	Supreme Court	
Establishment of <b>Family Courts</b> in all provinces and training personnel on VAWG dynamics, consequences, causes and legal rights. <sup>24</sup>	Family courts are established in all provinces.	Number of operational Family Courts, by location. Number of personnel trained on VAWG dynamics and legal rights. Number of VAWG survivors assisted, by location and case outcomes.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	Supreme Court	
The Supreme Court and judicial organisations adopt and implement gender policy to improve services to women, increase numbers of female staff, create safer work environments for	Number of female staff in judicial sector is increased. Gender policy is adopted in judicial sector.	Gender policy is in place. Number of female personnel, by location and position.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2017	Supreme Court Moj AGO	

<sup>24</sup> Aligns with NAP on Women, Peace and Security, section C, Prevention, Objective 1, Action A: *Creating a specific mechanism for family courts to oversight the EVAW cases.*



	women, etc.	Justice institutions adopt and implement sexual harassment policy, safe investigation procedures, and train personnel on policy.	Justice and judicial institutions' sexual harassment policy available. Proportion of justice personnel trained on sexual harassment policy.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	Justice and judicial institutions	
	Justice institutions (MoJ, AGO, Supreme Court) create safer work environments through sexual harassment policy, safe reporting and investigation procedures for reports of sexual harassment and training of personnel.						
	Implement plan to increase the number of professional women at the <b>courts and judicial organisations, including judges.</b>	Number of female judges is increased, and specialised training about VAWG is provided.	Number of female judges, by location and position. Number of female judges trained on VAWG dynamics and legal rights.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2017	Supreme Court and AGO	
<p><b>Outcome three:</b> Expanding access of female survivors of violence to quality health and social support services, and Women's Protection Centers</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proportion of provinces that have Family Support (FSC), Family Guidance (FGC) and Women's Protection Centres (WPC)</i></li> <li>• <i>Proportion of provinces that have counselling facilities with staff specially trained to support VAWG survivors</i></li> <li>• <i>Proportion of health units that have adopted a protocol for the clinical management of VAWG survivors</i></li> <li>• <i>Proportion of health units that have done a readiness assessment for the delivery of VAWG services</i></li> <li>• <i>Proportion of health units that have clinical commodities for the clinical management of VAWG</i></li> <li>• <i>Proportion of hospitals equipped with forensic laboratories and DNA testing equipment</i></li> <li>• <i>Number of health staff members trained in treating survivors of violence</i></li> <li>• <i>Proportion of women who demonstrate knowledge of available protection/social welfare-based VAWG services, such as shelters (WPCs)</i></li> <li>• <i>Number of women and children using VAWG social welfare services such as shelters, FGC services</i></li> </ul>							



Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency
Health, psychosocial, safety and forensic evidence collection services are available to survivors of VAWG. <sup>25</sup>	Establishing and sustaining WPCs and FGCs at the provincial Level	WPCs and FGCs established and are active in all provinces of Afghanistan.	Number of operational WPCs and FGCs, by location. Services provided at each WPC and FGC for survivors. Number of survivors assisted, by location.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	MoWA, MoF	Partner CSOs
	MoPH adopts a national protocol on health response to VAWG reports, including referrals to other service providers, and personnel training on the protocol.	National protocol on health response to VAWG cases is adopted and implemented.	Proportion of health centres following a nationally established protocol for VAWG. Number of healthcare workers trained to respond to incidents of VAWG according to established protocol.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-17	MoPH	
	Establish centres for counselling VAWG survivors at the capital and provincial levels, and train personnel on	At least one counselling facility is established and running in all provinces.	Number of counselling centers for VAWG survivors, by location.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for	2016-2020	MoWA, MoPH, MoLSAMD	NGO partners

<sup>25</sup> Aligns with NAP on Women, Peace and Security, section B, Protection, Objective 3, Strategic Objective 1: Health and psychosocial support for the victims and survivors of violence through Basic Package for Health Services (BPHS) are available.

	VAWG dynamics, causes, consequences, legal rights, and referral options.	Recruitment of women for providing psychological treatment is further expanded.	Number of counsellors trained on VAWG dynamics and how to support survivors.	reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.		
	Health centres have commodities for the clinical management of rape, and materials for performing forensic testing in each province.	Hospitals have commodities for the clinical management of rape and trained personnel. At least one hospital is operational with facilities and equipment to perform forensic testing.	Proportion of health centres with commodities for the clinical management of rape, and trained personnel. Availability of the forensic testing service, by location.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2016-2020	MoWA, MoPH and MoF
	Establish and equip specialised DNA testing centre at central level.	At least one hospital is operational with facilities and equipment to perform DNA testing.	Availability, accessibility and adoptability of the DNA testing service in each province.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2016-2020	MoWA, MoPH and MoF
	National protocol developed for forensic evidence collection and chain of custody.	National protocol established for forensic evidence collection and chain of custody.	National protocol available for forensic evidence collection and chain of custody. Number of	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to	2016-2020	Moj Moj MoPH AGO Courts

			personnel trained on forensic evidence collection protocol, by location and agency.	President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.			
	Establish emergency fund for survivors of violence.	Clear guidelines for the use of first emergency funds are drafted and resources have been allocated.	Emergency funds available for VAWG survivors. Guidelines on emergency funds are in place and utilised. Number of survivors that benefit from emergency funds, by location.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2017-2020	MoWA EVAW Commission	MoF, NGO partners
<b>Priority 3: Law and policy reform and implementation</b>							
<b>Indicator:</b> Number of laws and policies are finalised and enforced which reflect integration of survivor rights, putting her at the centre of response efforts.							
<b>Outcome one: Strengthened legislation framework in addressing violence against women</b>							
<b>Indicators:</b>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analytical reports available on existing laws, and laws that are recommended for amendment</li> <li>Laws that are amended</li> </ul>							
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency
All laws relevant to ending VAWG are reviewed and amended	Assess the implementation of existing VAWG laws for the purposes of identifying successes,	An analytical report on the implementation of the laws is prepared and	Assessment of existing laws on ending VAWG results in recommendations	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for	2016-2017	MoJ MoWA(Law Reform - Committee)	

where necessary. <sup>26</sup>	gaps, and challenges. <sup>27</sup>	published.	for amendments.	reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.			
	Advocacy for reform and implementation of existing laws in accordance with the international commitments of the GoIRA.	Advocacy mechanisms and distinction of partners and actions for advocacy are prepared and implemented.	Number of laws assessed by the Law Reform Committee of MoWA.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2016-2020	MoJ MoWA (Law Reform Committee)	
	Review and amend the draft family law.	Technical comments are consolidated and used to inform drafting of family law.	Enactment of family law and enforcement.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2016-2017	MoJ MoWA (Law Reform Committee)	AIHRC, CSOs
	Review and amend the draft penal code.	Technical comments are consolidated and used for advocacy purposes.	Penal code amended with recommendations drawn from assessment of EVAW related laws.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to	2016-2017	MoJ MoWA (Law Reform Committee)	CSOs

<sup>26</sup>The objective and actions in this section align with the Afghanistan National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015), under B. Protection, Objective 1, Strategic Objective 2, Action A: *Conduct an assessment of existing laws of Afghanistan on VAW*; and Action B: *Amendment of existing laws of Afghanistan on VAW based on the recommendations of the assessment.*

<sup>27</sup> Aligns with the Afghanistan National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015), under B. Protection, Objective 3, Strategic Objective 3: *Legal measures are in place to protect and consider the distinct needs of survivors of VAW (including domestic and sexual violence), witnesses, and their family members*; Action: *Conduct needs assessment of legal measures needed to protect and consider the distinct needs of witnesses and survivors of violence and their families.*

	Review and amend ERAW Law to address challenges with regard to some articles, i.e. proper definition of rape, etc.	Technical comments are consolidated and used for advocacy purposes.	ERAW law amended with recommendations drawn from assessment of ERAW related laws.	Mid-year and annual reports to ERAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2016	MoJ MoWA (Law Reform Committee)			
	Review and amend comprehensive Child Act.	Technical comments are consolidated and used for advocacy purposes.	Comprehensive Child Act amended.	Mid-year and annual reports to ERAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2017-2018	MoJ MoWA (Law Reform Committee)			
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Policies are gender-responsive and account for the needs of VAWG survivors <b>Indicators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of analytical comments as proposed amendments to the policies</li> <li>• Number of policies, regulations and procedural codes that have been drafted, reviewed and ratified in support of protecting women against violence</li> <li>• Number of VAWG complaints reported to the police</li> <li>• Number of law enforcement professionals trained to respond to incidents of VAWG according to an established protocol</li> </ul>									
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency		
Policies in place to set standards and guide	Review and amend policies pertaining to the property and financial rights of	Technical comments are consolidated and used for advocacy	Policies on property and financial rights of women available	Reports to ERAW Commissions and MoWA	2017-2020	MoWA and MoJ	MoWA, MoJ		

implementation for survivor services and prevention of VAWG	women.	purposes.	and implemented. Number and type of policy implementation activities.	Report to EVAW Commissions and MoWA.	2017-2020	MoWA and MoJ	Parliament, respective line ministries and State institutions.
	Draft, ratify and implement policies for making registration of marriages and divorces mandatory.	A technical guideline is prepared and used for advocacy purposes.	Policies on property and financial rights of women available and implemented. Number and type of policy implementation activities.				
	Implement terms of reference outlining the activities of FGCs.	Terms of reference ready and used by parties and individuals concerned.	Terms of Reference outlining activities of FGCs is available.		2016-2017	MoWA, MoPH	Partner organisations.
	Review the alignment of sectoral policies with the laws and international commitments of GoIRA in the area of EVAW (health, social welfare, policing, justice, education, labour, etc)	Review of sectoral policies related to EVAWG responsibilities identifies areas for improvement and coordination among sectors.	Findings and actions related to sectoral policy review available. Sectors include, at a minimum: health, social welfare, policing, justice, education and labour.	Report of findings and actions taken presented to EVAW Commission.	2016-2020	MoPH MoLSAMD MoIA MoJ MoE, MoHE	
	Implement the regulation on sexual harassment in the	The regulation on sexual harassment in the workplace is	Number of ministries that have implemented	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW	2016-2020	EVAW Commission	Other partner organisations.

	workplace, including through specific sexual harassment policies in ministries, safe and confidential reporting and investigation procedures, and training of personnel.	ratified and put into effect.	the sexual harassment regulation. Level of implementation of the regulation by each ministry. Number of staff that have been trained on the implementation of the regulation, by sex and location.	Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.		members, IARCSC <sup>28</sup> ,	
	Draft and implement the regulation on the elimination of discrimination against women.	The regulation on the elimination of discrimination against women is enacted and put into effect.	Regulation on elimination of discrimination available and implemented. Number and type of policy implementation activities, by location and agency.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2016	Moj	MoWA AIHRC Partner organisations
	Draft and implement the regulation on rights-based, survivor centred mediation in the cases of domestic violence.	The regulation on mediation is ratified and put into effect.	Regulation on mediation available and implemented. Number and type of policy implementation activities, by location and	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and	2016	MoWA and Moj	EVAW Commission

<sup>28</sup> Civil Service and Administrative Reforms Commission

	Draft and implement guidelines on the treatment of cases of domestic violence for the police.	The guidelines are prepared and ratified.	agency. Number of police and responsible directorates who are aware and have applied the provisions of the guidelines. Number of cases of domestic violence accordingly addressed by police officers.	Cabinet. Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2017	Mol and MoWA			
	Draft and implement internal rules and regulations on the implementation of EVAW Law by the sectoral ministries.	Ministries and other stakeholder institutions have prepared and put into effect EVAW Law rules and regulations for their respective organisations.	Internal Rules and Regulations to implement the EVAW Law by respective ministries in place and available. Number of personnel that have been trained on the regulation, by location.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2017	EVAW Commission	MoWA-Secretarial ministries		
	Draft and implement a code of conduct/ guidelines for reporting safely and sensitively on cases of violence against women through media.	Media outlets have made their staff understand the code procedure and it is applied.	Code of conduct and safe reporting guidelines for media in place and available. Number of personnel that have been trained on the code of conduct and safe	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016	MolC	Private media		



<p><b>Strategic priority 4:</b> Develop knowledge, attitudes and practices among service providers and community leaders to provide sensitive, survivor-centred assistance to survivors of VAWG.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The level of quality treatment of the EVAW cases.</li> <li>Satisfaction of survivors with services received.</li> </ul>										
<p><b>Outcome one:</b> Institutionalising quality services of the national organisations and institutions charged with elimination of violence through capacity and systems development</p>										
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency			
Quality guidance materials and skilled facilitators are available with expertise on VAWG participatory learning methods.	Establish participatory capacity-building expertise on VAWG within MoWA and responsible ministry training/education departments.	Facilitators with expertise on VAWG are available to facilitate workshops and learning sessions across ministries.	Number of skilled facilitators available on VAWG, by sector/ministry, sex, and location.	Report to EVAW High Commission and provincial commission.	2016-2020	MoWA, EVAW Commission				
	Develop standard guidebook for capacity-building and identification of institutions that require training.	Guidebook or manual for multi-sectoral VAWG capacity-building is produced, covering VAWG definitions, types, dynamics, causes, and consequences, services needed, and guiding principles for	Availability of guidebook for capacity-building on VAWG. Areas that each ministry requests capacity-building on related to VAWG.	Report to EVAW High Commission and provincial commission.	2017	MoWA	Mol, MoPH, MoHRA, MoPH, AGO, Supreme Court, and partners.			

		service providers.	Training needs assessment results and analysis available.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2017	MoWA, Mol, MoPH, MoHRAM oPH, AGO, Supreme Court	Partner organisations
	Conduct training needs assessment for the purposes of organising training and awareness-raising programs.	A needs assessment report is prepared and is presented to the Capacity Development Committee.					
	EVAW Commission members participate in specialised seminars, workshops and conferences to build capacity and knowledge on EVAW.	EVAW Commission members report increased knowledge about VAWG dynamics, causes, and consequences, rights of survivors, and service delivery principles and options.	Number of EVAW Commission members that participate in capacity strengthening opportunities, by location and ministry.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.		MoWA EVAW Commission members	
	Draft, prepare and develop standardised training materials for <b>direct service providers</b> on VAWG definitions, types, consequences, causes and good response practices.	Standardised training materials are developed for conducting training programme.	Standard training materials available and in use. Number of personnel trained with standard training materials.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017	MoWA, Mol, MoE, MoPH, MoHRA and partner organisations	
	Conducting short term training courses for <b>police</b> about their roles	Specialised training programmes conducted.	Number of police personnel trained with standard	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW	2016-2020	MoWA, Mol and partner	

	and responsibilities in ending violence, based on standard police protocol for responding to VAWG.		training materials.	Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.		organisations	
	Conducting short-term specialised courses for <b>media</b> outlets about their roles and responsibilities in ending violence based on guidance for media reporting of VAWG.	Specialised training programme conducted.	Number of media personnel trained with standard training materials.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	MoWA, MoIC and partner organisations	
	Conducting short term specialised courses for <b>service – providing staff</b> members about VAWG definitions, types, consequences, causes and good response practices, and their roles and responsibilities in ending violence.	Specialised training programme conducted.	Number of service - providing staff trained with standard training materials.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2016-2020	MoWA and partner entities	
	Conducting short- term specialised courses for <b>Mullahs and religious scholars</b> about their roles and responsibilities in ending violence based on guidance for	Specialised training program meconducted.	Number of religious leaders trained with standard training materials.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and	2016-2020	MoWA MoHRA MoJ MoI AIHRC	

	responding to VAWG by religious actors.			Cabinet			
	Conducting short - term specialised courses for <b>judges and prosecutors</b> about their roles and responsibilities in ending violence.	Specialised training programme conducted.	Number of judges and prosecutors trained with standard training materials.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office and Cabinet.	2017-2020	MoWA, AGO, Supreme Court, AWJA and partner entities.	
<b>Fifth Strategic Priority:</b> Establish ethical, quality, survivor-centred, safe monitoring and evaluation mechanisms <b>Indicators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existence of information sharing protocols for ethical and safe handling of VAWG data</li> <li>Establishment of Monitoring and Evaluation units in ministries with responsibility to respond to and prevent VAWG (such as health, police, social welfare, justice and education)</li> <li>Review of existing VAWG database and tools needed to ensure ethical and safe collection and management of data</li> <li>Number of institutions using the EVAW database following ethical and safety protocols</li> </ul>							
<b>Outcome one:</b> Strengthening and operationalising the EVAW database							
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency
Agreed information sharing protocols and agreements for handling confidential information in place among all service providers.	Take stock of current data collection and management systems in all sectors providing response services for VAWG survivors, to assess good practices, gaps and coordination needs against established guiding principles.	Data stocktaking exercise produces findings related to current VAWG data collection and management systems and practices, and provides recommendations for improvement and coordination.	Report of VAWG data management stocktaking exercise, with recommendations based on established guiding principles.	Report to EVAW Commission and MoWA	2016-17	EVAW Commission MoWA	NGOs
	Establish information	Personnel with	Existence of a	Evidence of	2016-	EVAW	

	sharing protocols to protect sensitive, confidential information, and define how information can be shared between institutions that collect statistics about VAWG.	access to and responsibility for handling VAWG data follow the information sharing protocols. Quality and quantity of reporting of VAWG statistics will improve in a standardised manner.	system for collection of statistics and assessing and analysing the actions of relevant organisations for addressing cases of VAWG. Regular assessment of ethical procedures in place for safe handling, storage and sharing of VAWG data.	agreed information sharing protocols for the ethical and safe handling of confidential VAWG information.	2017	Commission MoWA, MoJ, MoJ, MoPH, AGO, Judicial Sector	
	Analyse and evaluate statistics collected in collaboration with VAWG data experts.	Existence of periodic and regular reports on EVAW statistics.	Existence of coordination and cooperation mechanisms to manage the recording and analysing of statistical data.	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.	2016-2020	MoWA, Central Statistic, MoJ, MoJ, AGO and Judicial Sector	NGO partners and CSOs
<b>Outcome two: Research and analyse different factors of violence against women and its economic and social implications</b>							
<b>Indicators:</b>							
• Number of research studies published for studying the risk factors causing violence, to guide prevention and response programme.							
	Strengthen the capacity of research institutions in the areas of research on VAWG to establish risk and protective	At least a national annual report is prepared and published.	Number and quality of research reports issued per year on VAWG causes,	Mid-year and annual reports to EVAW Commissions and MoWA, for	2016-2020	MoWA, Central Statistic, Research institutions	

	factors, and identify programming and policy approaches that may reduce VAWG.		consequences, responses, and promising prevention approaches.	reporting to President's Office, Cabinet and GoIRA.			
<b>Outcome three:</b> Monitoring the implementation of the EVAW Law through this National Action Plan Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports analysing the strengths and challenges of the implementation of EVAW Law and the implementation of this NAP</li><li>• Regular monitoring program me conducted to cooperatively assess implementation of this NAP and the EVAW Law with responsible ministries and departments in government.</li></ul>							
Strategic Objective	Specific Action	Expected Results	Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Time-frame	Lead Agency	Support Agency
	Establishment and execution of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of EVAW Law (in addition to this NAP).	Monitoring action plan, methods, and periods of monitoring are prepared and implemented.	Reports detailing progress and analysis of implementation of the EVAW Law and this NAP.		2016-2020	EVAW Commission	MoWA-Secretariat CSOs
	This NAP is monitored on a quarterly basis through the EVAW Commission members.	Progress on all areas of the NAP happens quarterly; EVAW Commission members are aware of where progress and gaps are for attention and budgetary support.	Monitoring tool updated quarterly to show progress and gaps on NAP implementation.	EVAW Commission members submit progress with NAP monitoring tool.	2016-2020	EVAW Commission	MoWA-Secretariat
	Share findings of monitoring with responsible organisations for their follow up	Monitoring reports are shared with EVAW High Commission and provincial commissions.	Level of decisions taken and proper measures put in place to address the findings.		2016-2020	MoWA, AIHRC and CSOs	



