



**Labor Spring Organization
(LSO)**

Standard Annual Progress Report 2015

*Implementation of essential services in response to VAW/G through
Women Protection Centers in Afghanistan*

UN Women ERAW Special Fund

Organization: Labor Spring Organization (LSO)

Project title: Women's Protection Center (WPC)

Location of project implementation (province/s): Daikundi Province

Reporting period: 1/Mar/2015-29/Feb/2016

Report Submission Date: 29/Feb/2016

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Executive Summary

[Briefly summarize the key achievements and progress made against the outputs of the project this quarter. maximum one page].

From Mar, 2015 through Feb 2016, LSO's Daikundi WPC registered a total of **42** clients and **17** children accompanying their mothers.

During the reporting period, a total of **39** (old and new) cases were provided legal services and a total of **42** cases were provided psycho-social counseling and mediation services. In addition, a total of **32** cases were resolved through counseling and mediation and **8 cases** through legal aid.

I. Purpose

[Summarize the overall objective of the project as per the project document attached to the grant provided under the EVAW Special Fund and approved by UN Women, including: (i) expected results (project outcome and outputs); (ii) how the project aims to support overall national goals and priorities under the NAPWA, EVAW Law etc.].

(i) Project Outcome

LSO's WPC in Daikundi works to increase the protection of Afghan women and girls from violence, sexual exploitation, and other human rights and gender based violence abuses. This objective is met through providing WPC, social protection services, and access to justice to women and girls in Daikundi province. LSO's Daikundi WPC has the following objectives:

- Provide counseling and mediation for clients and families in crisis to resolve problems;
- Provide legal representation in civil and criminal court to WPC residents;
- Provide empowerment classes to residents: literacy, math, life skills, Islamic rights according to women, women's rights in the Afghan constitution, the LEVAW, and conventions signed by Afghanistan and other Islamic countries;
- Develop supportive relations with other key stakeholders in area; and
- Build the capacity of the WPC staff to provide high quality services to clients.

The above objectives aim to create a considerable improvement in the rights, status and living conditions of women/girls seeking relief from domestic violence and other violations of their human rights and for families in crisis through concrete services such as counseling and mediation for women and families, legal representation for women, educational/empowerment classes, and province-wide women's rights awareness trainings.

The anticipated outputs of the project objectives are as follows:

- Clients and families participate in counseling/mediation;
- Clients attend empowerment classes in WPC;
- Clients receive medical attention for physical and mental ailments;
- Lawyers access justice for women and girls;
- Cases are settled in court;

- Cases are settled outside court and approved;
- Prosecution of assailants is pursued but rarely carried out;
- Continued productive relations with other stakeholders are developed through meetings.

(ii) Supporting National Goals

LSO's WPC in Daikundi supports overall national goals and priorities under the NAPWA, and EVAW Law by:

- Providing clients with family mediation and legal aid in an effort to reduce family violence.
- Educating WPC clients about their rights and empowering them to speak out and take action when violations occur. LSO also works with families and perpetrators of violence to teach them about women's rights under Islam and Afghan law.
- Ensuring the implementation of the EVAW Law by referring cases to the Attorney General's office for prosecution. After referral, LSO lawyers continue to provide legal counsel to clients and prosecutors to ensure the proper implementation of the EVAW law.

II. Results incl. success story

[Provide and update and assessment of the following: (i) extent to which the project is progressing in relation to the project outcome and outputs for the relevant period, as per the indicators in the project document; (ii) main activities undertaken, key services and achievements delivered; (iii) any new development and key partnerships established, including expansion of service provision within the area of vocational training, awareness raising efforts etc. ; (vi) success stories and other highlights pertinent to progress and advisements of results being reported on; and (v) information as required in the tables below].

(i) Project progress

From Mar, 2015–Feb 29, 2016 Daikundi WPC registered a total of **42** new clients. Additionally, the WPC worked on cases that had opened in previously that were awaiting the final decision of the court. The role of LSO in changing the lives of women is substantial; not only does LSO help women to defend their rights, but it protects them and teaches them the skills they need to be empowered to live a better life when they are reintegrated back to society.

Protection

LSO's WPC aims to accommodate and protect those women seeking assistance from VAW, or they cannot go home immediately after their cases solved. In case of need, clients can stay at the WPC for up to two years. This is a temporary home for them to gain their psychological and physical health again and improve their life skills.

During the reporting period, **42** women at risk of violence were newly introduced to Daikundi WPC. **2** cases had been opened from previous year in WPC. Totally, **44** women have benefited from WPC services this year.

Counseling and Mediation

From 1/ Mar/ 2015 to 29/Feb/2016, Daikundi WPC worked on a total of **35** old and new counseling and mediation cases, of which **31** cases were resolved.

Legal Aid:

From 1/ Mar/ 2015 through 29/Feb/2016, a total of **9** old and new cases needed legal aid, of which all of cases were resolved/ reintegrated.



Photo1: the lawyer providing legal counseling for the clients on Nov, 25, 2015.

Empowerment

While staying at the WPC, clients have access to literacy, life skills, and vocational skills courses in a safe environment. Clients can participate in life skills, vocational, and literacy courses including Dari, Math, and Islamic Studies. During the reporting period,

- Quarter I: an average of **19** women,
- Quarter II: an average of **10** women,
- Quarter III: an average of **9** women, and
- Quarter IV: an average of **6** women participated in these empowerment classes.

All courses cover topics relevant to the daily lives and needs of clients and are administered through various mediums, including television and radio programs, group classes, and group discussions. Through empowerment coursework, clients gain critical knowledge and skills that build their confidence and assist them with reintegrating into their families and the community.

Despite the advantages of living in the WPC, several challenges arise. Clients come to LSO's WPC having been victims of gender based violence abuses including but not limited to domestic violence, forced marriage, forbidden marriage, and rape. As a result of these factors, clients living at LSO's WPCs often have significant problems that can include poor mental and physical health. These realities often deplete a client's desire, and/or entirely inhibit her, from participating in the empowerment coursework that is intended to improve her quality of life.

WPC Coordination Committee Meetings:

LSO has been holding monthly coordination committee meetings since March 1st, 2014 (establishment of WPC) at the end of each month. We invited all government line departments and stakeholders that predetermined the WPC regulation. This committee has helped us a great deal in reintegration, mediation, counseling and advocacy of cases. In this meeting, the line departments and stakeholders always gathered to discuss:

- WPC challenges and updates
- progress
- Reintegration and follow-ups method
- Mediation and counseling of victims and perpetrators.
- Health facility and legal services in WPC.

During the reporting period, 12 coordination committee meetings were held. In each meeting, issues like WPC services, challenges, progress, updates, clients' advocacy and counseling and mediation of cases were discussed.



Photo 2: WPC coordination meetings were held in DoWA' office on Jan, 19th, 2016.

Interview Assessment with WPC Residents

During reporting period, LSO conducted 12 assessments from 44 women for the purpose of receiving their opinions and reactions on WPC services. Out of these assessments, 10 assessments were only recorded in our monthly assessment form; however, 2 interview assessments were filmed from 6 and 8 women each time both individually and collectively by our social workers. The latter two assessments were different than the other ones because we attached the film record with assessment form.

As result of assessments, all of the clients were satisfied with the situation and environment of WPC especially the services.

(ii) New Developments and Partnerships

During the reporting period, LSO's Daikundi WPC clients were referred to LSO by court, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), Department of Justice (DoJ), Reformatory, awareness raising programs, and attorneys.

(iii) Success stories and highlights

Case Story 1:

A Place to Call Home: Daikundi WPC delivering services to VAW survivors to have a better life.

Name of Victim: Banin

Father's Name: Ismael

Age: 24 years old

Date of Entry: Jun, 1st, 2015

Date of Reintegration: Jan, 23rd, 2016

Place of Reintegration: DoWA's office

Province: Daikundi

Banin was refused to access her dowry by her husband. For advocacy, she was referred by DoWA to our WPC on Jun, 1st, 2015. Upon entry to WPC, our lawyers started to proceed her case in court. From Jun 1st, 2015 to Jan, 23rd, 2016, the lawyers have done the following activities for resolution of her case: preparation of case history, radio announcement at Radio Alanat Kabul Afghanistan, 13 counseling and mediation sessions, 2 court trials sessions and finally separated her from the husband legally in her favor in the court session. In addition to case proceedings services and mediation and counseling sessions in court, LSO also provided her with services such as psycho-social counseling, vocational training, literacy classes, health care, sport materials, library, and the necessities of life in WPC. Since her reintegration, our social workers have visited her twice, she has been satisfied at her family's home.

Case Story 2:

Name of Victim: Fatima

Age: 20 years old

Date of Entry: Nov 9th, 2015

Date of Reintegration: Dec 10th, 2015

Place of Reintegration: DoWA's office

Province: Daikundi

Fatima was raped by her neighbor Zahir in her village, Shahrstan District. After her family was informed of the case, she was beaten by her father and intended to be killed. Then, the families referred to General Attorney's office for prosecution of the case. The victim was referred to Daikundi WPC right away. LSO social workers and defense lawyers conducted many counseling sessions for both sides of the case in DoWA. As well as, our defense lawyers worked in follow-ups of the case proceedings in Court and Attorney General Office. Having received the assistance of prosecutor's office and judge, they played key role in reaching into a consent between two sides. Finally, LSO resolved the case in favor of victim and reintegrated her to her family.

In addition to case proceedings services, LSO also provided her with services such as psycho-social counseling, vocational training, literacy classes, health care, sport materials, library, and the necessities of life in WPC. Since her reintegration, our social workers have visited her twice, she has been satisfied at her family's home.

1. General information of clients/residents in WPC in 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

Client/residents turn-over	Women	Accompanying children
No. of clients/residents <u>accommodated</u> in WPC	44	19
No. of clients/residents <u>exited</u>	40	15
No. of <u>new</u> clients/residents entering	42	17

2. No. of new clients referred to the WPC during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016 disaggregated by organization

Organization ¹	No. clients in Qt. I	No. clients in Qt. II	No. clients in Qt. III	No. clients in Qt. IV
MoWA/DoWA	5	4	4	4
MoI	5	2	2	2
Ministry of labor and social affairs				
AGO, including EAWV Prosecution Units				
Court	2		1	
AIHRC	2	1	1	
Attorney	1	2	1	
Awareness raising program		1		
WPC to WPC				
Reformatory	2			
Relatives				
Total no. of clients	17	10	9	6
Total no. of clients for 2015	42			

3. VAW² incidents committed against clients/residents accommodated in the WPC during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

VAW incidents	No. of new clients in Qt. I	No. of new clients in Qt. II	No. of new clients in Qt. III	No. of new clients in Qt. IV
Rape	2	1	1	1
Forcing into compulsory prostitution	2			
Recording the identity of the victim and publicizing the identity of the victim				
Setting into flames, spraying chemicals or other dangerous substances				
Forcing into self-immolation or suicide or using poison or other dangerous				

¹As specified in the EAWV Law, 2009.

²As per the EAWV Law, 2009.

substances				
Causing injury or disability				
Battery and laceration		5	1	2
Selling of women for the purpose of marriage Baad (retribution of a woman for a murder, to restore peace etc...)				
Forcing into compulsory marriage				
Prohibiting from the right of marriage	2	3		
Marriage before the legal age		1		
Abusing, humiliating, intimidating	8		7	3
Harassment/ persecution	2			
Forced isolation				
Not feeding	2			
Dispossessing from inheritance				
Refusing to pay the dowry	1			
Prohibiting to access personal property				
Deterring from education and work				
Forced labor				
Marrying more than one wife without the observance of Article 86 of Civil Code				
Denial of relationship				
Accused to murder				
Accused to theft				
Adultery				
Divorce				
Engagement abolition				
Protection				
Treatment				
Engagement				
Kidnapped				
Separation				
Mental problems				
Forgery				
Murder				
Theft				
Separation				
Total	17 with 2 cases had been opened from previous year (19 women in total)	10	9	6

4. Please indicate information about no. of clients entering within 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016 that are victims of two or more types of VAW [e.g. rape and forced marriage]

No. Clients/residents	Types of violence [as per the EVAW Law and listed below]
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All	All the clients who come to Daikundi WPC, are mostly the victims of many types of violence; therefore, they leave their homes and come to LSO's WPC when they have no other option, otherwise in the cases of a single violence with the families, they compromise their lives for the choice of their family members and husband.
38	5 clients were victims of violence like, Battery and laceration, humiliating, intimidating.
16	16 clients were the victims of family violence by their parents (father and mother); and deterring from education and work.
5	5 clients' in-laws had problem with them, and always made their husbands to beat and abuse them because of housework for no exact reason.
8	2 clients were victims of more types of violence like abusing, humiliating, intimidating and prohibiting the right of marriage.
4	4 clients were the victims of family violence specially their parents (father and mother) and were forced into isolation.

5. No. of client/residents pursuing legal action through the criminal/civil courts during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

VAW incidents	No. of clients party to legal action through criminal courts, prosecuted under:		No. of clients party to legal action through civil courts, ground for claims:
	LEVAW	Penal Code	Civil Code Article
Rape	2		3
Forcing into compulsory prostitution	2		
Recording the identity of the victim and publicizing the identity of the victim			
Setting into flames, spraying chemicals or other dangerous substances			
Forcing into self-immolation or suicide or using poison or other dangerous substances			
Causing injury or disability			
Battery and laceration	5	2	1
Selling of women for the purpose of marriage Baad (retribution of a woman for a murder, to restore peace etc...)			
Forcing into compulsory marriage			
Prohibiting from the right of marriage	5		
Marriage before the legal age	1		
Abusing, humiliating, intimidating	15	3	
Harassment/ persecution	2		
Forced isolation			
Not feeding	2		
Dispossessing from inheritance			
Refusing to pay the dowry		1	
Prohibiting to access personal property			
Deterring from education and work			
Forced labor			
Marrying more than one wife without the			

observance of Article 86 of Civil Code			
Denial of relationship			
Accused to murder			
Accused to theft			
Adultery			
Divorce			
Engagement abolition			
Kidnapped			
Separation			
Forgery			
Murder			
Theft			
Separation			
Total	34	6	4

6. Status of VAW cases processed through criminal/civil courts during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

VAW incidents	No. of cases processed through Criminal Courts			No. of cases processed through Civil Courts		
	Withdrawn	Final judgment	Ongoing	Withdrawn	Final judgment	Ongoing
Rape	1	1		1	2	
Forcing into compulsory prostitution	2					
Recording the identity of the victim and publicizing the identity of the victim						
Setting into flames, spraying chemicals or other dangerous substances						
Forcing into self-immolation or suicide or using poison or other dangerous substances						
Causing injury or disability						
Battery and laceration	2	5		1		
Selling of women for the purpose of marriage Baad (retribution of a woman for a murder, to restore peace etc...)						
Forcing into compulsory marriage						
Prohibiting from the right of marriage	2	2		1		
Marriage before the legal age				1		
Abusing, humiliating, intimidating	10	3	3	2		
Harassment/ persecution	1	1				
Forced isolation						
Not feeding		1				1
Dispossessing from inheritance						
Refusing to pay the dowry					1	

Prohibiting to access personal property						
Deterring from education and work						
Forced labor						
Marrying more than one wife without the observance of Article 86 of Civil Code						
Denial of relationship						
Mental problems						
Adultery						
Forgery						
Murder						
Kidnapping						
Theft						
Separation						
Divorce						
Abolished engagement						
Total	18	13	3	6	3	1

7. Please indicate the status of VAW mediated during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

VAW incidents	No. of cases mediated through formal justice system		No. of cases mediated through informal justice system	
	Resolved	Ongoing	Resolved	Ongoing
Rape	5			
Forcing into compulsory prostitution	2			
Recording the identity of the victim and publicizing the identity of the victim				
Setting into flames, spraying chemicals or other dangerous substances				
Forcing into self-immolation or suicide or using poison or other dangerous substances				
Causing injury or disability				
Battery and laceration	7		1	
Selling of women for the purpose of marriage Baad (retribution of a woman for a murder, to restore peace etc...)				
Forcing into compulsory marriage				
Prohibiting from the right of marriage	5			
Marriage before the legal age	1			
Abusing, humiliating, intimidating	13	3	2	

Harassment/ persecution	2			
Forced isolation				
Not feeding	1			1
Dispossessing from inheritance				
Refusing to pay the dowry	1			
Prohibiting to access personal property				
Divorce				
Deterring from education and work				
Forced labor				
Marrying more than one wife without the observance of Article 86 of Civil Code				
Denial of relationship				
Mental problems				
Protection				
Total	37	3	3	1

8. No. of client/ residents reintegrated into family/society during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

Type of VAW	No. of clients reintegrated
Rape	5
Forcing into compulsory prostitution	2
Recording the identity of the victim and publicizing the identity of the victim	
Forcing into self-immolation or suicide or using poison or other dangerous Substances	
Causing injury or disability	
Battery and laceration	8
Selling of women for the purpose of marriage Baad (retribution of a woman for a murder, to restore peace etc...)	
Forcing into compulsory marriage	
Prohibiting from the right of marriage	5
Marriage before the legal age	1
Abusing, humiliating, intimidating	15
Harassment/ persecution	2
Forced isolation	
Not feeding	1
Divorce	
Dispossessing from inheritance	
Accused to theft	
Refusing to pay the dowry	1
Prohibiting to access personal property	
Deterring from education and work	
Forced labor	
Marrying more than one wife without the observance of Article 86 of Civil Code	
Denial of relationship	
Total no. of clients/residents reintegrated	40

9. No. of clients/residents who received care and services, disaggregated by type of services in the WPC during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

No. of clients	Type of service						
	Social services	Legal assistance	Psycho-social counseling	Health care	Vocational training	Literacy/ numeracy classes	Awareness raising sessions on i.e. women's rights etc.
Qt. I	19	15	17	17	15	15	17
Qt. II	10	9	10	10	8	8	10
Qt. III	9	9	9	9	7	7	9
Qt. IV	6	6	6	6	5	5	6

10. Frequency of available services in the WPC during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

Type of service	Qt. I	Qt. II	Qt. III	Qt. IV	Remarks
Social services	Based on need	10	9	6	LSO provides social awareness services for clients who are staying in WPC.
Legal assistance	15	9	9	6	Legal assistance was also provided to clients at WPC; lawyers are hired to manage legal cases of clients.
Psycho-social counseling	17	10	9	6	Psycho-social sessions prove very useful; most cases were resolved through counseling and mediation. WPC's counselors are helping clients recover from the trauma.
Health care	17	10	9	6	WPC has health facilities, have more drugs than other WPC in Afghanistan for major treatments; the more drugs belong to LSO fund contribution, if any client has serious health issues, they are taken to the hospitals for treatment.
Vocational training	15	8	7	5	Vocational trainings classes have more students than other classes because illiterate clients also benefit from it significantly.
Literacy/ numeracy classes	15	8	7	5	Most of clients now have realized the important role education/literacy plays in their lives. They regret not studying in the past, so they are eagerly participating in literacy classes; also, they do not want their kids to go through the same problems.
Awareness raising sessions on i.e. women's rights etc.	19	10	9	6	LSO held awareness raising sessions on women's rights, EVAW la, clients say that it is so important that we did not hear

					on women right
Other (Islamic Studies)	19	10	9	6	42 clients attended the Islamic studies classes.

11. No. of client/residents and/or accompanying children enrolled in the educational institutions during 1/ Mar/ 2015 – 29/Feb/2016

Type of Education	Qt. I	Qt. II	Qt. III	Qt. IV	Remarks
Dari	17 women with 2 children	10 with 2 children	9 with 2 children	6 with 2 children	Dari classes are daily. Students learned the alphabets and some who had the basic knowledge learned new topics. Advanced students work out of a separate book.
Life Skill	19 with 2 children	10 with 2 children	9	6 with 2 children	Clients found these classes very useful.
Math	7 with 2 children	5 with children	3	2 with 2 children	This class is daily, but sometime it is very though to make clients learn arithmetic lessons.
Islamic Studies	19 with 2 children	10 with 2 children	9	6 with 2 children	Some of our clients say that they wish they knew more about Islam before but our teachers teach them it is not too late to understand their rights.
English	7	5	3	2 with 2 children	English classes occur twice a week.

III. Challenges and Lessons Learned

[Implementation constraints, lessons learned from addressing these constraints, and knowledge gained from capacity building efforts, courses, monitoring visits by UN Women or UN Women partners etc. within the reporting period].

- A client from Kunduz Province suffered from a severe mental disorder. She was allowed to stay for a short time at the WPC, but due to her unstable mental illness she created chaos in the WPC and caused injuries to a few clients. Later, she was taken to hospital for diagnosis, as LSO does not have the capacity to deal with clients who suffer from severe mental disorders.
- **Weather and Environment Change** cause a little bit problems for our social workers to do follow-ups of cases, clients transportation to courts, hospital, attorney's general office in winter. Especially, when the social workers travelled to districts, they got stuck in the way for 2 to 3 days. In provincial development committee, we posed this issue with governor and

department of public benefits. They gave their phone numbers to us and promised to help us whenever we got stuck in the way.

- Daikundi province is a conservative area, most of the community people are illiterate and streak minded. Almost all people believe that WPC is a place for criminal women. Ordinary people who think so lost their trust in regard to the WPC reputation. This is a great challenge because it reduces people tendency to proceed their VAW cases through WPC services. Outreach program is the key to change the people attitude toward WPC positively.

IV. Financial Resources

[This section should include a brief summary of resources available to the project from other donors, including any constraints or challenges related to resources faced during the reporting period, or anticipated in the future].

UN Women is currently the sole institutional funder of our Daikundi Women's Protection Center. LSO is extremely grateful to UN Women for its continued support.

V. Next Steps and Planned Activities

[Information in this section includes priority actions planned for the following quarter, including how the project will overcome any constraints based on lessons learned; (ii) indication of any adjustments in the strategies and implementation of activities to deliver services].

Activities during 1th quarter of 2016 will start as usual. No planned adjustments are set to be in effect over the next reporting period.

Future activities will include:

- Conducting coordination meetings among women's rights stakeholders;
- Staying in close coordination with police regarding threats to staff and clients;
- Continuing and expanding awareness sessions on women's rights and the EVAW law in remote areas, especially with local schools, and with government officials and law enforcement officers;
- Providing legal and mediation support to the victims of violence;
- Providing empowerment and educational programs including literacy, vocational and life skills courses to our clients at the WPC;
- Conducting meetings to maintain and enhance good relations with local justice and security institution.
- Participating in different discussions regarding women and their economic, social and cultural challenges; and
- Meeting quarterly with LSO headquarters to ensure regular oversight and alignment of work and goals.

VI. Financial Implementation

[In addition to the face form, showing expenditure broken down by activity, this section should give a brief provisional report on overall expenditure this quarter and financial implementation status in 2015, against the total budget, as per the table below].

Total budget 2015	Actual expenditure (Jan-Feb 2016) 4th quarter	Total expenditure (Mar 1, 2015-Feb 29, 2016	Balance	New Request [period and amount]
8,353,000 AFN	1,730,000 AFN	8 330 000 AFN	23,000 AFN	1,736,888 AFN