

MONTHLY REPORT, February, 2014

Justice & Governance Eastern Afghanistan (JGEA) Project (Logar, Khost, Paktia)



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Introduction:

General Information	Project Start Date	04 July 2012
	Project Completion Date	03 July 2014
	Project Name	Justice & Governance in Eastern Afghanistan
	Organization	The Liaison Office
Project Location	Logar, Paktia and Khost	
Project Status	Contract Signed	04 July 2012
	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Cancelled	
	Completed	

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Justice & Governance Eastern Afghanistan (JGEA) project focuses on the establishment of Commission on Conflict Mediation (CCMs) in Logar, Paktia and Khost. Building on past experiences, TLO will facilitate the establishment of dispute resolution shuras committees called CCMs. The CCMs include traditional elders that reflect and represent the population of their provinces, and seek to resolve disputes and, especially at the regional level, develop policy recommendations. Working with respected elders already known to TLO and relevant government officials in each target province, TLO will establish a transparent process to select 20 persons to form a body comprising traditional elders, local religious leaders, and other individuals that can contribute to the enduring resolution of disputes.

Each CCM will be balanced to reflect the province’s tribal and ethnic makeup helping to ensure province-wide reach and promote collaboration. Each will also meet regularly with its respective provincial government (provincial governor or representative, Department of Justice and Department of economy, both benefitting from, and complementing, government dispute resolution efforts. Previous CCM decisions have received the stamp of the provincial governor. TLO has not sought to impose this requirement here, but will work with each CCM to develop appropriate cooperation modalities in its province.

The main tasks to establish the CCMs are recruiting project staff in each location; securing the approval of each provincial government; establishing a transparent process to select CCM

members that are representative of the population; selecting CCM members; developing CCM working procedures; and operationalizing the CCMs.

Once operational, TLO will review and analyze both each case the CCMs decide, and the cases as a group in order to help identify major conflict actors, patterns, and trends, as well as to provide some (more-or-less real-time) insight into the CCMs' successes or shortcomings; TLO, as possible and only with the prior consent of the CCMs will also post CCM decisions on the Project website, in order to increase transparency and accountability. Project records and CCM decisions will, finally, provide a solid foundation on which to base an evaluation of CCM procedures at the end of this first year.

Because CCM set-up and operation in year one proved generally successful, the main task of year two will be to review CCM members' lists and revise them as necessary. TLO by no means expects significant members' list revision, but will take the opportunity to "tweak" membership of each CCM to ensure maximum impact and performance.

During year two, TLO, as possible and only with the prior consent of the CCMs¹, will also post CCM decisions on the Project website, in order to increase transparency and accountability. Project records and CCM decisions will, finally, provide a solid foundation on which to base an evaluation of CCM procedures at the end of the project.

Longer-term the RCCM could become a forum to bring together a broader group of ADR providers to discuss important issues and enhance their capacity in areas such as the rights of women and minority rights, and how to improve the functioning of ADR, including how to better support the Afghan government and its initiatives.

As a practical next step – and based upon the specific request of RCCM members – TLO will thus provide increased resources to the RCCM in year two. More concretely, while the RCCM met twice in year one, during year two it will meet on a quarterly basis.

Major activities will include consultative meetings to select regional CCM members and topics; the conduct of Regional CCM meetings; the recordation, analysis, and, as possible, promulgation of Regional CCM decisions; and the evaluation of Regional CCM operations and procedures.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the Tasks set out below are taken directly from the JGEA Project Work Plan – July 4, 2013 to July 3, 2014. A summary of the main achievements against each of the Tasks, Indicators and Targets presented below in table 1. The structure of the main report is designed to describe the achievements under each of the indicators given in the work plan.

Table 1: Tasks, Indicators, Targets and Actual Achievement

¹ TLO's experience has been that most dispute parties will not object to the resolution of their dispute being recorded, or even publicized. However, especially if a dispute implicates significant issues of honor or family governance, dispute parties will often resist publicization, or even recordation, vigorously.

No	Task	Task Status	Indicators	Targets	Target Status	Actual Achievement during period	Actual Achievement During Life of Project
1	Task 1: Regular CCM Meetings	On going	<p>1.number of CCM meetings held</p> <p>2.number of conflicts resolved by the CCMs</p>	(at least) 16 CCM meetings during each project year 2	On going	<p>2 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Khost CCM</p> <p>2 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Paktia CCM</p> <p>2 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Logar CCM</p> <p>2 conflicts resolved by Khost CCM</p> <p>1 conflicts resolved by Paktia CCM</p> <p>2conflicts resolved by Logar CCM</p>	<p>16bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Khost CCM</p> <p>15bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Paktia CCM</p> <p>15bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Logar CCM</p> <p>28 conflicts resolved by Khost CCM</p> <p>26conflicts resolved by Paktia CCM</p> <p>38 conflicts resolved by Logar CCM</p>
2	Task 4: Promulgate CCM Decisions	On going	<p>1.number of CCM decisions posted to project website</p> <p>2. number of CCM decisions recorded</p>	<p>1.The creation of one project website (as part of TLO website)2.P posting most CCM decisions to that website</p> <p>3.Preparation and submission of two summaries</p>	On going	<p>The website is being created in close consultation and coordination between the donor and TLO.</p> <p>During this period, TLO received a presentation of the website from its developer, and agreed on a structure to the website.</p>	<p>A total of 92 CCM decisions have been recorded so far in the three target provinces.</p> <p>The summary of the 92 CCM decisions have been prepared in English language.</p> <p>Template for the website</p>

No	Task	Task Status	Indicators	Targets	Target Status	Actual Achievement during period	Actual Achievement During Life of Project
				of CCM decisions			is prepared and revised.
3	Task 3: Conduct Regional Commission	On going	number of RCCM outputs	1.Four RCCM meetings 2.Four RCCM output reports	50%	Fourth RCCM meeting was conducted on fifteenth December, 2013 by Kabul project staff	The 2nd year 2 RCCM output report (4th RCCM output report overall) was prepared and translated from Pashto to English and sent to the donor
4	Task 2: Hold discussions with women's civil society organizations and provincial Departments of Women's Affairs	Completed	1. Number of meetings held 2. number of suggestions received	At least one round of discussions conducted in each province with women's civil society leaders and the DoWA	100%	Total six Meetings have been held one in each target province (Logar, Paktia, and Khost) with DoWA and women's civil societies	Two meetings were held in Logar one with DoWA and one with women's civil society. Two meetings were held in Paktia one with DoWA and one with women's civil society. Two meetings were held in Khost one with DoWA and one with women's civil society in the month of February, 2014.

No	Task	Task Status	Indicators	Targets	Target Status	Actual Achievement during period	Actual Achievement During Life of Project
5	Task 3: Hold discussions with area spinsari	On going	1.number of meetings held 2. number of suggestions received 3. number of suggestions incorporated	At least one round of discussions held in each province with local spinsari	On going	Meetings with local spinsaries are scheduled in the month of March, 2014.	On going

III. Summary of Project Activities

In the month of February, 2014, the Khost Paktia, and Logar CCMs each met twice. ***During these meetings, the Khost CCM has resolved two conflicts, Paktia CCM has resolved two conflicts and the Logar CCM has also resolved two conflicts.***

Additionally each provincial CCM has drafted one set of guideline for dealing with family issues (such as bride price, dowry, etc.). Now the guidelines are being discussed with the provincial line departments (Huquq, tribal Affairs, DoWA, Hajj and Awqaf, etc) and as well as with other religious and community leaders in their districts. After gathering of the feedback then it will be incorporated in to these guidelines by each CCM in their target provinces. When the next RCCM meeting is held then each CCM will share its guideline with RCCM members for taking further steps.

In the month of February, 2014 the Logar CCM's decision about the prevention of harmful practices in the Hesarak area (consisting of over 40 villages where 4,500 households) has been widely accepted. The representatives of these 40 villages gathered in in the main Hesarak Masjid (Mosque) and had discussed the current bride price with the CCM members. Finally they jointly announced a decision, composed of 24 articles, to the audience. The average bride price in the area had been 500,000AFN, an amount very difficult for most people to pay, leading to family disputes and damaged social relationships. It is also in contradiction with Sharia law and the civil law of Afghanistan. According to the Logar CCM's decision the current bride price is decreased to 250,000AFN. The CCM also stipulated that the bride herself should receive this money; the father or brother of the bride does not have the right to get the *Walwar* or bride price for his own use.

IV. ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST EACH INDICATOR

Task 1: Regular CCM meetings

Indicator: 1.1 Number of CCM meetings held

1.2 Number of conflicts resolved by the CCMs

Achievements:

In the month of February, 2014 Each CCM had conducted additional 2 bi-weekly meetings in their target provinces; and ***as a result of these meetings the CCMs have in total resolved an additional five conflicts.*** Most of the resolved disputes were related to rainfed, forest and irrigated lands and as well as family disputes and violent activity. The total conflict solved by each CCM is listed in Table 1, which is updated with every monthly report.

Table 1: Number of conflicts resolved by each CCM in three provinces

Province	# of conflicts resolved	Type of conflict
Khost	28	Irrigated and rainfed lands, family disputes, inherited land, and verbal fight
Paktia	26	Irrigated and rainfed lands, family disputes, criminal, forest, and micro-hydro power
Logar	38	Irrigated and rainfed lands, family disputes, criminal, inherited land, and related to cash
Total	92	

Task 4: Promulgate CCM Decisions

Indicator: 1.1 number of CCM decisions posted to project website

1.2 number of CCM decisions recorded

The TLO office, and its staff, will also manage a website that publishes, as possible CCM case decisions (in order to increase transparency, accountability, and knowledge of conflicts in the Southeast/Center and the informal justice system’s resolution of them).In the month of February, 2014 the Website is still being created in close consultation and coordination between the donor and TLO. During this month, the developer presented the website to TLO program staff, and took comments and suggestions.

A total of 92 CCM decisions have been recorded, so far by the targeted provinces (Logar, Paktia and Khost) and the summary of these 92 CCM decisions were prepared in English language and submitted to the donor.

Task 2: Hold discussions with women’s civil society organizations and provincial Departments of Women’s Affairs

Indicator: 1.1. Number of meetings held

1.2 Number of suggestions received

TLO, however, has also frequently faced such views only to discover during project implementation that engagement between women and ADR providers can take place more quickly, and in greater depth, than these previous responses would indicate. This pattern repeated itself in the present project. TLO first approached the CCMs with the general requirement of developing a strategy to engage with women, but without further stipulations. The Logar and Khost CCMs then themselves replied with the idea to incorporate female CCM members, while the Paktia CCM suggested working with its Women's Liaison Officer to aid in "women's" disputes, but without female CCM members as such. Toward the end of year one, each CCM in turn suggested the creation of a provincial women's CCM. The idea seems to have originated with the Logar CCM and then, facilitated by RCCM meetings, spread to Paktia and Khost.

Unfortunately, facilitation of a women's CCM falls outside the scope of this project. Nevertheless, during year two, TLO will work with each CCM to both develop the ideas surrounding a women's CCM, and to fertilize other ideas for how women's engagement may be solidified and expanded. These discussions should result in a set of concrete plans and proposal inputs, which TLO can then explore with the donor and other donors – representing a very significant step above women's ADR engagement as it has taken place in these provinces previously. To develop these plans, TLO will facilitate a series of consultations between CCMs and local government officials, women's civil society leaders, and spinsari ("white haired" female community elders). These consultations will help the CCMs further develop their strategy for women to take an even more active part in CCM tasks and activities. Assuming some degree of success and buy-in, TLO will then further develop these inputs, and begin the more formal process of project development.

In the month of February, 2014 the JGEA project staff held in total six consultation meetings with provincial DoWAs and women's civil society organizations in the target provinces (Logar, Paktia and Khost). The agenda of these meetings were to discuss that what steps should be taken forward for women to take more active role in the male CCM tasks and activities. During the meetings they all came in to almost the same opinion, as they said for generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls. Finally they have presented the following recommendations:

1. Because women are one half of every community and the tasks of peace buildings are so great, women must be partners in the process of peace building/ conflict resolution.
2. Because women are the central caretaker of families in many cultures, every one suffers when women are oppressed, victimized, and excluded from peace building/ conflict resolution.
3. Because women are excluded from the public decision-making, leadership, and educational opportunities in many communities around the country, it is important to create special programs to empower women to use their gifts in the tasks of building peace.

4. Because women and men have different experiences of violence and peace, women must be allowed and encouraged to bring their unique insights and gifts to the process of peace-building.

Task 2: Hold discussions with area *spinsari*

- Indicator:**
- 1.1. Number of meetings held**
 - 1.2 Number of suggestions received**
 - 1.3 Number of suggestions incorporated**

Consultation meetings with the local *spinsaris* are scheduled in the month of March, 2014. Some of the meetings are going on in the targeted provinces. The recommendations of these meetings from the local *spinsaris* will be reported to the donor at the end of March, 2014 M&E report.