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# Quarterly Performance Report January – March 2013

Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Informal Component (RLS-I)  
Contract Number: AID-306-C-12-00013



A constitutional law workshop in Shah Joy (Zabul)

7 May 2013

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Contract Number: AID-306-C-12-00013

Submitted 7 May 2013 by:

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# CONTENTS

<b>RLS-I PERFORMANCE DATA TABLE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RLS-I PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Program Objective 1 – Strengthen/improve TDR mechanisms.....	3
Program Objective 2 – Strengthened linkages between formal and informal sectors.....	5
Program Objective 3 – Develop approaches addressing long-term intractable disputes .....	6
<b>RLS-I GRADUATION CRITERIA.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Graduation assessment – Summary Table.....	9
<b>GLOSSARY.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## RLS-I PERFORMANCE DATA TABLE

SO:		Improved performance and accountability of governance													
IR I:		Increased public confidence in the rule of law system													
Sub-IR:		1.1.4 Strengthened traditional dispute resolution and justice in contested areas													
Indicator	Unit	Baseline	Oct – Dec 2012		Jan – Mar 2013		Apr – Jun 2013		Jul – Sep 2013		Oct – Dec 2013		Life of Project		
			Target	Actual	Target	Actual									
<b>Goal-level indicators</b>															
1	# of districts graduating from RLS-I	#	4			14								20	
2	Incidence of harmful practices ( <i>baad</i> , forced marriage) reported by spinary	#	62%											50%	
3	# of elders pledging to cease harmful TDR practices	#	--			1761								3300	
<b>Program Objective I: Strengthened TDR systems</b>															
1.1	# of district/regional assessments completed	#	12			15	0			2				17	
1.2	# elders graduating from RLS-I core program	#	420											1050	
1.3	% elders responding change in community adjudication	%	15%											25%	
1.4	% of elders reporting successful application of any element of RLS-I training	%	--											15%	
1.5	Change in disputant assessment (Procedural justice, subversion, equity)	Mean, %	3.8; 1.7; 4.1											5%	

Indicator	Unit	Baseline	Oct – Dec 2012		Jan – Mar 2013		Apr – Jun 2013		Jul – Sep 2013		Oct – Dec 2013		Life of Project	
			Target	Actual	Target	Actual								
1.6 % knowledge gain in learning workshop content	%	-											20%	
1.7 # of public advocacy campaigns on human rights supported by USG	#	3											6	
1.8 % knowledge gain among recipients of outreach material	%	5%											10%	
1.9 # Women's Dispute Resolution Groups ( <i>Spinsary</i> ) established	#	25			5	20	10		10				25	
1.10 # disputes resolved by <i>Spinsary</i> Groups	#	486		61		41	100		100		200		400	
<b>Program Objective 2: Strengthened linkages between formal and informal justice sectors</b>														
2.1 % elders using RLS-I decision book after one month	%	25%		22%		32%							30%	
2.2 # of dispute resolutions documented by elders	#	120		56		100								
2.3 % elders registering decisions with government	%	35%		23%		27%							40%	
2.4 # of resolutions registered with district institution	#	46		13		39								
2.5 # of TDR decisions recorded with Huqooq	#	-		124		5							-	
2.6 # of linkages assessments completed	#	-			5	6	5		5		2		17	
<b>Program Objective 3: Develop approaches that successfully resolve long-term, destabilizing disputes</b>														
3.1 # longstanding disputes identified	#	23	2	5	10	40	12		12		4		40	
3.2 # longstanding disputes resolved	#	11		1	3	3	4		4		4		15	

## RLS-I PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS

### Program Objective I – Strengthen/improve TDR mechanisms

<i>Indicator 1</i>	Number of districts graduating from RLS-I
<i>Target:</i>	20 (life of project)
<i>Actual:</i>	14
<i>Variance:</i>	14 districts were graduated from Phases 1-2 as planned during the January-March 2013 quarter. The remaining six districts will come from Phase 3 will be reported at the end of the project.
<i>Indicator 2</i>	Incidence of harmful practices reported by <i>spinsary</i>
<i>Target:</i>	12% reduction (life of project)
<i>Actual:</i>	--
<i>Variance:</i>	Not applicable. <i>Spinsary</i> groups will have been interviewed at baseline during the January – March 2013 quarter, with follow-up in September – November 2013. This indicator will be reported in the final evaluation and program reports.
<i>Indicator 3:</i>	# elders per district pledging to cease harmful TDR practices
<i>Target:</i>	3,300 (100 per district)
<i>Actual:</i>	1,761
<i>Variance:</i>	On track. However, the current pledge rate is slightly below what was used in setting the life of project target. As a result, the current projection is to be slightly below target for life of project performance.
<i>Indicator 1.1:</i>	Number of regional/district assessments completed
<i>Target:</i>	17
<i>Actual:</i>	0
<i>Variance:</i>	Regional assessments and district assessments of Phase 3, Tranche 1 districts are being finalized. District assessments of Phase 3 Tranche 2 districts will be prepared in connection with mobilization of those districts beginning in May 2013.
<i>Indicator 1.2:</i>	Number of elders graduating from RLS-I core program
<i>Target:</i>	1,050 (75 per district)
<i>Actual:</i>	--
<i>Variance:</i>	Not applicable. Graduation data will be reported for the April – June 2013 quarter once the program cycle has concluded for Phase 1 and Phase 2 maintenance districts and the first tranche of new Phase 3 districts.
<i>Indicator 1.3:</i>	% elders reporting change in adjudication
<i>Target:</i>	25%
<i>Actual:</i>	--
<i>Variance:</i>	Not applicable. Baseline data collection took place in November – December 2012. Midline data collection will take place in April – May 2013, and endline data collection in October 2013. Based on this schedule, this indicator will be

reported in the April – June 2013 performance report for Chora, and in the final performance and evaluation reports for all sampled districts.

*Indicator 1.4:* % elders reporting successful application of any element of RLS-I training  
*Target:* 15%  
*Actual:* --  
*Variance:* Not applicable. Baseline data collection took place in November – December 2012. Midline data collection will take place in April – May 2013, and endline data collection in October 2013. Based on this schedule, this indicator will be reported in the April – June 2013 performance report for Chora, and in the final performance and evaluation reports for all sampled districts.

*Indicator 1.5* Change in disputant assessment  
*Target:* 5% improvement against baseline  
*Actual:* --  
*Variance:* Not applicable. Endline data collection from disputants will take place in October 2013 and be reported in the final evaluation and program reports.

*Indicator 1.6:* % knowledge gain among participants of learning workshops  
*Target:* 20% improvement over baseline  
*Actual:* --  
*Variance:* Not applicable. Baseline data collection took place in November – December 2012. Midline data collection will take place in April – May 2013, and endline data collection in October 2013. Based on this schedule, this indicator will be reported on for the April – June 2013 quarter, the final performance report, and the evaluation report.

*Indicator 1.7:* Number of public advocacy campaigns on human rights supported by USG  
*Target:* 6 districts (life of project)  
*Actual:* --  
*Variance:* None. There are five waves of outreach campaigns in six districts. The first wave was in December 2012 – January 2013, and the second in March – April 2013. The outreach campaigns are proceeding as planned.

*Indicator 1.8* % knowledge gain among recipients of outreach material  
*Target:* 10% (life of project)  
*Actual:* --  
*Variance:* Not applicable. Baseline data collection for evaluation of the RLS-I outreach program will take place in January 2013, with follow-up data collection in September – October 2013. This indicator will be reported in the July – September 2013 quarterly report.

*Indicator 1.9* # women’s dispute resolution groups (*spinsary* groups) established  
*Target:* 5  
*Actual:* 20



**Variance:** Above target. Creation of *spinsary* groups has proceeded ahead of schedule. This will help with meeting the performance target for the number of *spinsary* decisions.

**Indicator 1.10** # disputes resolved by *spinsary* groups

**Target:** --

**Actual:** 41

**Variance:** None. The majority of decisions continue to come from Phase 1 and Phase 2 *spinsary* groups. In the January – March 2013 quarter, 24% of resolved disputes were from Phase 3 *spinsary* groups. Next quarter, it is expected that the majority of such disputes will be from Phase 3 groups.

## **Program Objective 2 – Strengthened linkages between formal and informal sectors**

**Indicator 2.1:** % elders using RLS-I decision books after one month

**Target:** 30% (life of project)

**Actual:** 32%

**Variance:** None.

**Indicator 2.2:** # of decisions documented by elders

**Target:** --

**Actual:** 100

**Variance:** The number of decisions documented is higher than previous trend.

**Indicator 2.3:** % elders registering decisions with government

**Target:** 40% (life of project)

**Actual:** 27%

**Variance:** Below target. One factor causing this less than desired performance seems to be Kandahar, where sampling in three out of four districts indicated a zero registration rate.

**Indicator 2.4:** Number of decisions registered with district institution

**Target:** --

**Actual:** 39

**Variance:** The number of disputes recorded is slightly above trend.

**Indicator 2.5:** # of TDR decisions recorded with *Huqooq*

**Target:** --

**Actual:** 5

**Variance:** None. There is not enough prior reporting of this data to establish a trend.

**Indicator 2.6:** # linkages assessments completed

**Target:** 5

**Actual:** 6

**Variance:** On target.

### **Program Objective 3 – Develop approaches addressing long-term intractable disputes**

<i>Indicator 3.1:</i>	Number of long-standing, potentially destabilizing disputes identified and taken before TDR actors for resolution.
<i>Target:</i>	40 (life of project)
<i>Actual:</i>	40
<i>Variance:</i>	Exceeded target based on performance to date. With the expanded definition of long-standing disputes and increased attention from program staff, more long-standing, potentially destabilizing disputes were identified than expected.
 <i>Indicator 3.2:</i>	 Number of long-standing, potentially destabilizing disputes resolved in intervention districts by TDR actors
<i>Target:</i>	15 (life of project)
<i>Actual:</i>	3
<i>Variance:</i>	On track. The ratio of identified to resolved disputes is consistent with past trend.

### **RLS-I GRADUATION CRITERIA**

District graduation refers to the point at which an RLS-I district achieves specified program objectives and is ready to continue to pursue those objectives without further RLS-I assistance or with only limited maintenance support for a limited period of time. RLS-I has two sets of criteria for determining district graduation.

The first set of district graduation criteria emphasizes procedure based on program inputs. That is, has a critical mass of program participants passed through the RLS-I core curriculum? Have formal-informal justice sector linkages been established? Are RLS-I participants taking advantage of networking meetings to collaborate on long-standing disputes and to share their experiences? The procedural criteria pertain mainly to the stabilization hypothesis – that strengthening TDR systems in communities with nascent or absent formal justice sector institutional presence will reduce the likelihood of such communities resorting to competing forms of governance and justice (for example, power brokers or the Taliban) and will prepare the way for a complementary and mutually supportive relationship between the formal and informal justice sectors. RLS-I will assess graduation criteria based on program inputs for each new Phase 3 district at the conclusion of implementation of the core program and again after a period of maintenance programming.

The second set of district graduation criteria focuses on evidence of program impact through changes in TDR adjudication and associated reduction in harmful practices. Here, the key measures are reduction in harmful practices and other rights violations, reduced influence of local power brokers who might otherwise subvert the integrity of the TDR system, and progress toward perceptual benchmarks on measures such as the proper relationship between the formal and informal justice sectors and the desirability of certain standards of TDR adjudication and outcomes. RLS-I will evaluate the achievement of district graduation criteria related to program impact, or societal change, through the program impact evaluation as well as qualitative research.

RLS-I cannot bring about social and behavioral change on its own, but also depends on broader social, cultural, and economic development within Afghan communities. Furthermore, district graduation is not an objective judgment based solely on data, but requires consultation among all stakeholders based on examination of available data sources and stakeholders' expert opinion.

Each category of RLS-I district graduation criteria is described in the following table:

Criterion	Threshold	RLS-I data source
<b>Procedural graduation criteria</b>		
Full RLS-I core program implemented	Minimum 40 male participants pass through at least five learning workshops (Phase 2) or sufficient numbers reached through mass outreach (Phase 1)	Database
Protocols for dispute referral and registration established	Yes/no	Monitoring reports
Consistent recording of TDR decisions on RLS-I forms	At least 30% usage rates of RLS-I decision books in Phase 2 or Phase 3 districts	Monitoring reports
Consistent registration of recorded TDR decisions by formal justice sector officials	At least 40% of elders who record decisions also report registering decisions with government	Monitoring reports
Cohort of female RLS-I participants in the district	Minimum 20-30 women reached in South; 30-60 reached in East	Monitoring reports
Evidence of participants' collaboration to address disputes, especially legacy disputes	Collaboration on a minimum of one long-standing dispute per district	Qualitative research, monitoring reports
Benchmarks of disputant perceptions met in disputant cases	Improvement over baseline	Impact evaluation
Benchmarks of knowledge and attitude met in elder interviews	Improvement over baseline	Impact evaluation

Criterion	Threshold	RLS-I data source
<b>Impact level graduation criteria</b>		
Benchmarks of disputant perceptions met in disputant cases	Improvement over baseline	Impact evaluation
Benchmarks of knowledge and attitude met in elder interviews	Improvement over baseline	Impact evaluation
Demonstrated involvement of women in TDR processes	Improvement over baseline	Impact evaluation; qualitative research; monitoring reports
Attempts to avoid harmful practices in resolution of cases	Awareness of alternatives documented in minimum two villages	Qualitative judgment from RLS-I based on pre-assessment, ongoing monitoring, and post-assessment

The updated assessment table for the January – March 2013 quarter follows. For any given district or province, some but not all assessment criteria will be updated based on RLS-I ability to monitor during the reporting period.

## Graduation assessment – Summary Table

District	Full RLS-I core program implemented or mass outreach completed	Cohort of female RLS-I participants in the district	Collaboration established	Consistent recording of TDR decisions	Consistent registration of TDR decisions	Collaboration on longstanding disputes	Avoiding harmful practices
	Minimum 60 male participants	20-30 women in South; 30-60 in East	Yes/No	30% usage rates (15% Phase I districts)	40% registration rate (20% Phase I)	Yes/No	Yes/No
Nurgal	1,299 total participations; 141 elders attended a minimum of five learning workshops	638 total female participations	Yes	--	--	No	Yes
Mihtarlam	833 total participations; 79 elders attended at least five learning workshops	619 total participations	Yes	8%	0%	No	Yes
Qarghayi	286 total participations; an additional several hundred estimated for Phase I	390 total participations; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	33%	17%	Yes (three long-standing disputes)	Yes
Puli Alam	745 total participations; 64 elders attended at least five learning workshops	515 total participations; 64 women attended at least three learning workshops	Yes	--	--	No	Yes
Dara-I-Nur	866 total participations; 107 elders attended five learning workshops	997 total participations	Yes	18%	0%	No	Yes
Jalalabad municipality	847 total participations; 66 elders attended five learning workshops	591 total participations; one woman attended five learning workshops	Yes	--	--	No	Yes

District	Full RLS-I core program implemented or mass outreach completed	Cohort of female RLS-I participants in the district	Collaboration established	Consistent recording of TDR decisions	Consistent registration of TDR decisions	Collaboration on longstanding disputes	Avoiding harmful practices
	Minimum 60 male participants	20-30 women in South; 30-60 in East	Yes/No	30% usage rates (15% Phase I districts)	40% registration rate (20% Phase I)	Yes/No	Yes/No
Bati Kot	743 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional several hundred estimated for Phase I	406 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	33%	33%	Yes (one long-standing dispute)	Yes
Kama	650 participations in Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I; 12 elders attended at least five learning workshops	456 total participations; an additional several hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	--	--	Yes (three long-standing disputes)	Yes
Kuz Kunar	294 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	370 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	--	--	No	Yes
Rodat	774 total participations in Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I; 25 elders attended at least five learning workshops	426 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional several hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	42%	38%	Yes (three long-standing disputes)	Yes
Ghani Khail	923 participations in Phases 2-3; an additional several hundred estimated for Phase I; 31 elders attended five learning workshops	453 total participations in Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	--	--	No	Yes

District	Full RLS-I core program implemented or mass outreach completed	Cohort of female RLS-I participants in the district	Collaboration established	Consistent recording of TDR decisions	Consistent registration of TDR decisions	Collaboration on longstanding disputes	Avoiding harmful practices
	Minimum 60 male participants	20-30 women in South; 30-60 in East	Yes/No	30% usage rates (15% Phase I districts)	40% registration rate (20% Phase I)	Yes/No	Yes/No
Daman	805 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional several hundred estimated for Phase I; 59 elders have attended at least four learning workshops	688 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	54%	0%	No	Yes
Kandahar municipality, sub-district 9	691 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I; 50 elders attended at least five learning workshops	647 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I; three women attended at least three learning workshops	Yes	33%	0%	No	Yes
Spin Boldak	627 total participations from Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	596 total participations from Phases 2-3, an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I; one woman attended at least three learning workshops	Yes	40%	0%	No	Yes
Chora	678 total participations; 56 elders attended at least five learning workshops	103 total female participations	Yes	50%	67%	Yes (three long-standing disputes)	Yes
Dihrawud	778 total participations; 49 elders attended at least five learning workshops	127 total participations; 49 women attended at least three learning workshops	Yes	20%	17%	No	Yes

District	Full RLS-I core program implemented or mass outreach completed	Cohort of female RLS-I participants in the district	Collaboration established	Consistent recording of TDR decisions	Consistent registration of TDR decisions	Collaboration on longstanding disputes	Avoiding harmful practices
	Minimum 60 male participants	20-30 women in South; 30-60 in East	Yes/No	30% usage rates (15% Phase I districts)	40% registration rate (20% Phase I)	Yes/No	Yes/No
Tirin Kot	802 total participations; 78 elders attended all six learning workshops	260 total participations	Yes	25%	100%	Yes (three long-standing disputes)	Yes
Qalat	803 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional several hundred estimated for Phase I; 21 elders attended at least five learning workshops	581 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	--	--	No	Yes
Shahjoy	814 total participations; 50 elders attended at least five learning workshops	241 total participations	Yes	--	--	No	Yes
Tarnak Wa Jaldak	588 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I; 31 elders attended at least five learning workshops	407 total participations for Phases 2-3; an additional few hundred estimated for Phase I	Yes	--	--	No	Yes

## Glossary

<i>alem</i> (pl. <i>ulema</i> )	religious scholar, considered to be more knowledgeable about <i>Shari'ah</i> than most <i>mullayan</i>
<i>baad</i>	customary practice of resolving a dispute by giving a girl from the offender's family in marriage to a male member of the victim's family
<i>badal</i>	exchange marriage performed between families or tribes to alleviate tensions or relieve the financial burden of <i>walwar</i>
COR	USAID/Afghanistan Contracting Officer Representative
CSO	civil society organization (usually but not necessarily incorporated as a legal entity)
d-i-d	difference-in-differences; impact evaluation measurement that includes an estimate of the counterfactual scenario of what would have happened in the absence of the USAID intervention.
DDA	District Development Assembly
<i>diyya</i>	(in Afghanistan often referred to by its Arabic plural <i>diyat</i> ) the custom of paying bloodmoney in a murder case to the family of the victim to avoid retaliation, the sum of the compensation is determined by <i>shari'ah</i>
DST	District Support Team
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
<i>hadith</i>	collection of scriptures detailing the actions, sayings, and tacit approvals or disapprovals of Islamic practices and beliefs of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), as documented by his companions and accompanied and verified by an authenticating record of the origin and lineage of each part of the collection, determining its authority as a source of Islamic law supplementing the Holy <i>Qur'an</i>
<i>haq-ullah</i>	concept of <i>Shari'ah</i> that refers to the rights of society; i.e., issues that have the potential to disrupt the peace within the community and for which it is the duty of the state to issue and implement legislation (e.g., criminal law)
<i>haq-ul abd</i>	concept of <i>Shari'ah</i> similar to the notion of civil law and that refers to the rights of the person; i.e., those rights that private individuals have vis-à-vis one another and that can be forfeited by the individual
<i>huqooq</i>	GIRoA Ministry of Justice representative at the district level responsible for liaising with elders and the community to resolve civil disputes



IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance, a GIRoA sub-ministerial body
<i>islah</i>	literally, “reform”; dispute resolution principle based on restorative justice, comprising the promotion of peace and social cohesion through mediation and reconciliation; in the context of registration of TDR decisions by <i>Huqooq</i> district offices, the term refers to the category in the <i>Huqooq</i> offices’ record-keeping system for registering TDR decisions
<i>jirga</i> (pl. <i>jirgee</i> )	<i>ad hoc</i> assembly of tribal elders convened to make specific decisions or resolve a specific dispute by consensus
<i>khan</i> (pl. <i>khanan</i> )	member of the wealthy, land-owning class, influential in the community
<i>machalgha</i>	deposit required from the disputants prior to the commencement of a <i>jirga</i> to ensure compliance with its decision
<i>maher</i>	money or goods given by a husband to a wife upon marriage and that remains the wife’s property, to ensure financial security in case of divorce or the death of the husband
<i>malik</i> (pl. <i>malikan</i> )	tribal elder who has been chosen as the head of the village and often liaises between the community and the government; due to this position of authority he is also approached to play a role in dispute resolution.
<i>manteqa</i>	area within a district encompassing a cluster of villages that share a common characteristic such as population of the same tribal group, location within a valley, or access to a major irrigation canal.
<i>maraka</i> (pl. <i>marakee</i> ):	currently, often used interchangeably with the term <i>jirga</i> , especially in southern Afghanistan. Originally, used to refer to a village-level conflict resolution mechanism that included members of only one tribe or sub-tribe
<i>mawlawi</i> (pl. <i>mawlawiyan</i> )	highly qualified Sunni Muslim religious leader, usually with a more extensive religious education than a <i>mullah</i>
<i>mudir-e-huqooq</i>	<i>Huqooq</i> office director
<i>mullah</i> (pl. <i>mullayan</i> )	local religious leader
<i>nahiya</i> (pl. <i>nawahi</i> )	municipal sub-district
<i>nanawati</i>	( <i>also nanawatai</i> ) a tenet of the Pashtun tribal code <i>pashtunwali</i> :  I. the act of a perpetrator’s representatives (often an older female and/or a <i>mullah</i> together with <i>jirgamaran</i> ) requesting forgiveness for a murder or injury from the victims’ family in order to reconcile the parties and reinstitute harmony in the community



	2. allowing a beleaguered person to enter the house of any other person and make a request which cannot be refused, plead for clemency or sanctuary
NGO	private or quasi-governmental not-for-profit organization (usually formally organized as a legal entity)
Platform	combined civilian-military teams at Regional Commands and PRTs that allocate resources, implement integrated programs, and assess results
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RC	Regional Command: any of the four geographic military command areas into which Afghanistan is currently divided - north (RC/N), south (RC/S), east (RC/E), and west (RC/W). The geographic areas of RC/E, RC/S, and RC/N correspond to RLS-I regions in the east, south, and north, respectively.
RLS-F	USAID/Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Formal Component
RLS-I	USAID/Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Informal Component
<i>Shari'ah</i>	legal precepts found in the Holy <i>Qur'an</i> and the <i>Hadith</i> ; sometimes used by non-scholars (and this report) to denote Islamic law or jurisprudence, which includes scholarly interpretations of the Holy <i>Qur'an</i> and the <i>Hadith</i> ; <i>ijma</i> ("collective reasoning" or consensus among scholars); and <i>qiyas</i> or <i>ijtihad</i> ("individual reasoning" or deduction by analogy)
<i>shura</i> (pl. <i>shuragani</i> )	established council of respected community members, often registered with GIRoA, representing the interests of their community to other institutions such as GIRoA bodies and that are often involved in resolving local disputes
<i>spinsary</i>	literally, feminine form of "white-headed"; respected female elder(s) involved in dispute resolution
TDR	traditional dispute resolution
USG	Government of the United States of America
<i>waak</i>	authority given by all disputant parties to resolve the dispute conclusively
<i>waak leek</i>	letter signed by all disputant parties authorizing a <i>jirga</i> to resolve their dispute conclusively
<i>walwar</i>	bride price; money or goods given by a groom or his family to the head of the bride's household