



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# MONTHLY REPORT, December 2013

Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Informal Component (RLS-I)

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



Tribal elders from Daman district take delivery of over 200 legal and general education books to support TDR efforts moving forward, Daman (Kandahar) – December 2013

December 2013

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Checchi and Consulting Company, Inc.



# MONTHLY REPORT, December 2013

## Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Informal Component

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

Submitted: 21 January 2014 by:

Chris Boeder

Chief of Party

USAID/Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Informal Component

4<sup>th</sup> District, Ansari Square

2<sup>nd</sup> Street, House No. 270

Kabul

[cboeder@chechiconsulting.com](mailto:cboeder@chechiconsulting.com)

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RLS-I ACTIVITIES - DECEMBER .....</b>	<b>1</b>
East Region (Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Maydan Wardak, and Logar Provinces).....	2
South Region (Kandahar and Zabul Provinces).....	4
North Region (Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Takhar Provinces) .....	6
Outreach .....	7
<b>MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Outreach monitoring.....	10
RLS-I linkage assessments and decision book tracking.....	10
<b>CHALLENGES .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>LOOKING AHEAD .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>APPENDIX A: USAID/AFGHANISTAN RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR RLS- I.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT AGAINST TARGETS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX D: PLANNED ACTIVITIES: DECEMBER .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>APPENDIX E: PROGRAM REVIEW.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>APPENDIX F: GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>21</b>



## INTRODUCTION

USAID's Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Informal Component (RLS-I) aims to enhance access to fair, transparent, and accountable justice for men, women, and children by (1) improving and strengthening the traditional dispute resolution system, (2) bolstering collaboration between the informal and formal justice systems, and (3) supporting cooperation for the resolution of longstanding disputes<sup>1</sup>.

RLS-I strives to instill permanent cultural shifts in support of these objectives through a combination of increased awareness, self-initiated solutions, and mutual support and accountability by and between all stakeholders. To ensure the appropriateness of its programming, RLS-I assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the local justice environment in each new district prior to commencing activities. RLS-I then engages a geographically and tribally representative group of approximately 250 respected male and female elders and other public and religious leaders in legal awareness and solutions-based programming. RLS-I's 12-month district intervention consists of a six-month, 50 activity-day **core program** of coalition-building **network meetings**, legal education **workshops**, solutions-based **discussion sessions**, and formal-informal justice protocol **coordination meetings**. The core program is followed by six months of **maintenance** activity comprised, as needed, of ad hoc offerings of individual core program components. Parallel **women's programming**, including the formation of women dispute resolution groups, or *spinsary*<sup>2</sup> groups (as they are known locally), and women's rights education programs for male and female participants empowers women to exercise their legal rights and encourages greater female participation in dispute resolution processes. The program also includes an extensive **public outreach** aspect and a robust **monitoring and evaluation** component. Public **outreach** campaigns reinforce RLS-I messaging and create public demand for improved justice practices. A training-of-trainers (ToT) for select community members equips community **legal awareness mentors** to continue disseminating RLS-I lessons independently, demonstrating a clear commitment by local stakeholders to sustain the learning component of RLS-I.

## RLS-I ACTIVITIES - DECEMBER

RLS-I Program Participation				
Events Summary	Events	Male Participants	Female Participants	Total Participants
Network Meetings	34	1785	1552	3337
Workshops	55 <sup>3</sup>	1480	419	1899
Discussion Sessions	4	30	181	111
Coordination Meetings	4	146	-	146
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3441</b>	<b>2052</b>	<b>5493</b>

<sup>1</sup> The relationship between the USAID/Afghanistan Assistance Objective (AO) 1 - Improved performance and accountability of governance; Intermediate Result (IR) 1.1 - Increased public confidence in the Rule of Law system; and Sub-IR 1.1.4 - Strengthened traditional dispute resolution in contested areas and RLS-I's program objectives and activities are attached as Annex A: USAID/Afghanistan Results Framework for RLS-I.

<sup>2</sup> See Glossary for definitions of all commonly used terms

<sup>3</sup> This includes 18 two-day workshops

In December, RLS-I continued core programming and maintenance events in 18 existing districts, graduating five of those from the RLS-I program, as detailed in the regional summaries below. This brings the number of current RLS-I active districts to 23 while totaling 48 districts for the life of the project. Additionally, RLS-I concluded mentoring program subcontractors, The Liaison Office (TLO) and the Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO), in their implementation of core RLS-I programming for the first participant groups in the North, specifically Baghlan, Takhar, and Badakhshan provinces.

Public outreach efforts continued with RLS-I producing and airing radio/TV talk shows on Kandahar National Radio and Television (KNRT). The “Jirga and Justice” programs have been aired monthly through December 2013 with a new topic presented each month. In addition to the “Jirga and Justice” programs, RLS-I continued to broadcast previously produced radio talk shows and animated sketches on various topics, including alternatives to *baad*, inheritance and family rights, and the role of women in TDR. RLS-I also coordinated the production of a theatre play centered on property rights. The theater production was performed in Zhari and Panjwayi districts (both in Kandahar). RLS-I also organized the community outreach training of twenty MOJ-Legal Aid’s provincial outreach staff in Kabul.

In December, M&E field staff monitored activities conducted in the East, South and North and collected performance data.

Security for RLS-I staff and participants remained an increasing concern. All regions were impacted by the deteriorating security situation in advance of the elections which are scheduled for April 2014. RLS-I, however, is on track for completion of all component programming in February.

## East Region (Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Maydan Wardak, and Logar Provinces)

RLS-I Program Participation - East Region				
Events Summary	Events	Male Participants	Female Participants	Total Participants
Network Meetings	18	1251	647	1898
Workshops	16 <sup>4</sup>	386	78	464
Discussion Sessions	2	30	25	55
Coordination Meetings	2	71		71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>2488</b>

### Overview

In December, RLS-I’s regional office in Jalalabad completed the final handover district network meetings in all Phase 3 districts of Nazyan, Goshta, Khogayani, and Spin Ghar (all in Nangarhar), and Alishing (Laghman). The RLS-I team in Jalalabad also furnished three remaining jirga halls and supplied all jirga hall libraries with over 200 legal and general education books each. The team

<sup>4</sup> This includes 3 two-day workshops

distributed RLS-I's legal education workshop text, *Introduction to Basic Rights*, to all current and select former participants as well as government officials, who expressed particular appreciation. Judge Musa Khan explained that, "Very few organizations have done such great work, which will always be remembered by all those who read these books." During the handover meetings, participants volunteered to continue disseminating RLS-I messages to other elders and the general community. Participants also signed pledges to adhere to best practice in TDR, including, for example, to forgo the use of *baad* and work to prevent corruption. RLS-I framed the pledges and hung them in the district center jirga halls for all to see.



Handover district network meeting, Nazyan (Kandahar), 1 December 2013

The Logar/Maydan Wardak team continued makeup workshops for Nirkh and Maydan Wardak district participants, making progress toward achieving graduation targets. The team also completed makeup activities in Mohammad Agha district of Logar province and culminated all programming with handover district network meetings.

RLS-I's gender advisor continued her networking activities by meeting with Canadian Women for Afghan Women to share the RLS-I model and discuss possibilities for future collaboration. CWAW agreed to explore training RLS-I's spinary group members and RLS-I agreed to provide CWAW with its printed materials, including *Introduction to Basic Rights*, to support its *Afghanistan Reads!* program.

## Highlights

### ***RLS-I participants stand up for women, confident of state support***

In various instances this month, RLS-I participants ensured women lawfully received their inheritance. Confidence in the state and understanding of the role of formal justice actors is increasing, as underlined by the increasing number of cases in which informal justice actors refer women's disputes to the state (with ample support from the community) when they find the offending parties unresponsive. Oftentimes, just the threat to report is enough for the offending parties to relent.

Tajmaro, from Acheen district in Nangarhar, was sold by her first husband to another man because she could not have children. After 6 months, her second husband died and she inherited all his property and money. Tajmaro's brothers, intent on taking her inheritance, asked her to live with them and took everything from her over the next few years. When she had nothing left, they abused her and their wives tried to drive her out of the house. Tajmaro went to Sardara, an RLS-I trained *spinary*, for help. Sardara visited with Tajmaro's brothers, spending a lot of time explaining and trying to convince them of Tajmaro's rights, but they did not listen to her. Sardara then sought support from her husband, Malik Mamor Ahmad, the village *malik*, who gathered other elders and also visited the brothers. Again

Tajmaro’s rights were explained to them, but her brothers insulted the tribal elders and told them not to come back or speak about the matter again.

Sardara then advised Tajmaro to take her case to the district court, and encouraged her to travel to the district center, promising her support as well as that of the elders. Tajmaro travelled to Acheen district center and, with Sardara’s help, she filed a petition against her brothers in district court. The state then contacted Tajmaro’s brothers and informed them that they would distribute the family’s property fairly and according to Afghan law. Judges and district officials saw to it that the decision was implemented and Tajmaro as well as her sisters received their shares. The brothers deferred to the court and Tajmaro is now building a house for herself.

In another women’s inheritance case, Shamanroz, an RLS-I spinsary from Behsud district in Nangarhar, did not initially receive her inheritance because the scholar she consulted with was bribed by her cousins to tell her she had no right to inherit, but she never forgot her RLS-I training, and after two years decided to follow up and consult with a *mullah*. He confirmed her right to inherit. Local RLS-I trained elders then became involved and supported her through *jirga* sessions to take her portion from her cousins, but they resisted and after three *jirgas* still refused to relinquish her share. Finally Shamanroz approached Afirdi, another RLS-I trained spinsary, who visited with the cousins mother and said, “Shamanroz is entitled to her full share in her father’s property; you violated her rights. If you do not accept the *jirga* decision, then she will fight for her rights in district court; it is better to resolve the issue within a local *jirga*. Your sons will be punished for the violations against Shamanroz.” The cousins mother then told her sons to abide by the *jirga* decision and they obeyed her.

In an inheritance case in Puli Alam district of Logar, Shanaz, the Vice Principal of a girls high school and an RLS-I *spinsary*, heard about two women not receiving their lawful inheritance shares and took it upon herself to visit the man in question, bringing along her husband, also an RLS-I graduate. She told the man that if his sisters go to court they would receive their portions legally there, and the man relinquished their shares. She also actively participated in the subsequent *jirga*, providing testimony and evidence, and witnessing the decision. The sisters received property as inheritance which they sold back to their brother; one of them was able to build herself a house with her share of the inheritance proceeds.

## South Region (Kandahar and Zabul Provinces)

RLS-I Program Participation - South Region				
Events Summary	Events	Male Participants	Female Participants	Total Participants
Network Meetings	10	294	568	862
Workshops	35 <sup>5</sup>	1038	341	1379
Discussion Sessions	2	-	56	56
Coordination Meetings	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>2297</b>

### Overview

<sup>5</sup> This includes 13 two-day workshops

During December, RLS-I held core and maintenance programming in the Kandahar districts of Arghandab, Maywand, Kandahar City Sub-District 5 (SD 5), Kandahar City Sub-District 8 (SD 8), Takhta Pul, Spin Boldak and Zhari, as well as in Shinkay district of Zabul. At the ten capstone network meetings both male and female participants signed pledges to affirm their intent to continue applying and spreading the RLS-I lessons. The second women's ToT was successfully conducted for 15 influential women of Kandahar City Sub-District 9 (SD9), and Arghandab, Daman and Dand districts. The ToT covered inheritance law, family law, criminal law, Constitutional law and teaching methodology. The RLS-I team in the South also refurbished a jirga hall in SD5, and furnished jirga halls in Daman, SD9, Spin Boldak and Panjwayi with libraries consisting of over 200 legal and general education books each.

## Highlights

### ***Spinsary saves one-year-old girl from being given in baad***

A young woman from Andar district of Ghazni fled with her paramour to Shahjoy district of Zabul where they married and she became his second wife. After a week the woman's father and other male relatives found the couple and threatened to murder her new husband. The couple convinced her family that she had come willingly and had not been abducted or otherwise forced. The woman's family relented and, instead of the death of the husband, demanded a woman in *baad* from his family in compensation. As he did not have any marriageable women in his family, he told the woman's father he would give them his only daughter, a one-year-old girl from his first marriage and some money.

When his first wife (and the mother of the young girl) heard about the arrangement, she consulted with an RLS-I trained *spinsary* who met with the husband and advised him that he would not sacrifice the life of his one-year-old daughter just to save his own life, and that instead he would convince the family of his second wife to accept money alone. He accepted her stern advice and increased the sum offered. The bride's father agreed.

### ***RLS-I elder confronts powerful family and allied tribal elders***

Under Afghan law, before a property sale can be finalized, it must be offered to the parties who have right of first refusal, such as neighbors and those with right of access to public roads or water. Three years ago, a house had been offered to the parties required by law, after which the disputant had legitimately purchased the property. But despite the due process, a powerful Popalzai tribal actor who had refused the property 3 years ago now made a claim to the house.

The disputant approached RLS-I trained elder Abdul when he was requested to attend a *jirga* on the dispute by the head of the Kandahar Provincial Council, who was intent on backing his fellow tribesman. The disputant had been confident the law was on his side, but now he was sure the dispute resolution meeting would not be decided in his favor.



In the Panjwayi District jirga hall the library books are placed and pledges are publicly displayed on a notice board, December 2013

Abdul accompanied the disputant to the jirga, and contested the powerful family and allied tribal elders. He told the tribal leader, “It is fine you have close tribal ties with a powerful family, but this dispute will be resolved according to law, and the deserving party will be granted its rights.” He then addressed the entire jirga and explained, “A person cannot claim under the rules of preemption 3 years after a sale is made if due process has been followed...these are not my words, rather it is a part of our religion and the rule of law of Afghanistan.” When the other elders objected and asked for proof, Abdul produced the handouts and notes from the RLS-I property law workshop he attended. All members of the *jirga* accepted, but Abdul reiterated the point by insisting he would refer the matter to the Supreme Court if it was not settled explicitly with the preemptor. The other tribal elders then all informed the Popalzai tribal actor that he could not claim for preemption and the dispute was resolved peacefully.

### North Region (Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Takhar Provinces)

RLS-I Program Participation - North Region				
Events Summary	Events	Male Participants	Female Participants	Total Participants
Network Meetings	6	240	337	577
Workshops	4 <sup>6</sup>	56	-	56
Discussion Sessions	-	-	-	-
Coordination Meetings	2	75	-	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>708</b>

#### Overview

During the reporting period, RLS-I continued to mentor the two subcontractors in the North, The Liaison Office (TLO) and the Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO), as they worked towards completion of RLS-I core programming in Baghlan, Takhar, and Badakhshan provinces. RLS-I closely monitored the implementation of RLS-I activities conducted by the subcontractors. During the reporting period, both PTRO and TLO conducted elder endline survey interviews for RLS-I and also worked towards completing a final collection of M&E data towards the PMP indicators.

#### TLO

TLO conducted 2 final network meetings in Baghlani Jadid (Baghlan).

#### PTRO

PTRO conducted a total of 10 events in the two program districts of Farkhar (Takhar) and Fayzabad (Badakhshan), including makeup workshops, and final network and coordination meetings.

#### Highlights

*Final coordination meetings reveal improved legal understanding and cooperation*

---

<sup>6</sup> This includes 2 two-day workshops

During the final coordination meetings, the participants of the state-TDR working group and government representatives present displayed higher levels of understanding (each other's) responsibilities that has led to better cooperation. In Fayzabad, participant Abdul Ghafoor noted, "We will try to resolve small disputes between ourselves and submit large disputes like killing, adultery and kidnappings to the courts." Mohammad Aman, another participant from Fayzabad, remarked "While we have a council in our village which resolves disputes and keeps records on them, we do not send copies to formal justice organs. This will change now, as decisions which are made by village council without keeping records and registration, have no base. To ensure final resolution the decision needs to be registered with the government officials."

### ***Final network meetings underscore positive change***

During all six network meetings, participants proudly listed achievements and resolutions they have made as a result of the RLS-I program in their districts. The majority of the resolutions were also signed as part of a pledge, such as respecting women's rights and preventing violence against women; preventing corruption in the formal and informal justice sector; implementation of Afghan law in all cases; referring criminal cases to formal justice; registration of decisions with the formal justice institutions; and informing women about their right to access formal and informal justice. Notably, female participants reported significant change to their everyday lives at the end of the program. For example Zakera, a participant from Baghlani Jadid, explained, "In the beginning when we decided to participate in the conflict resolution *jirgas*, we used to be opposed by our families since it was unprecedented in the district previously, but we were able to discuss these matters within our families and made them agree to support us in conflict resolution." Gul Bano added, "One of the other challenges we faced was that we were not recognized as *spinsary* by people in the district, and when we interfered in cases they strongly opposed us. However, we told them that we attended RLS-I workshops where we were trained about law and we have learned enough to be able to help them in conflict resolutions. We also asked them to help us enforcing law in our society to which they agreed."

### ***Spinsary ensures girl's education and marriage rights***

Shahnaz, an RLS-I *spinsary* from Puli Alam district in Logar, approached Asma's mother when she heard that Asma, a 17-year-old student, would be married to her cousin after an agreement between Asma's father and uncle. Asma had no say in this decision and did not agree to it as she wanted to continue her studies. Shahnaz told Asma's mother, "Asma is not of legal age to marry yet. We have learned from RLS-I workshops that a girl's legal age for marriage is 18, and according to Sharia'ah, consent of a daughter is obligatory to be asked when the time comes for her marriage decision." She convinced Asma's mother to stop her husband. Asma's mother spoke to him about Asma's studies and age. Asma's father listened to his wife and asked his brother to cancel the marriage plans. Now, Asma continues her studies and her father says that when Asma completes school and comes of age, she may decide whether she wants to marry her cousin or not.

## **Outreach**

### **Overview**

In line with public demand, RLS-I further expanded its outreach efforts and collaboration with Kandahar provincial officials in the South region. As summarized in previous monthly reports, the Provincial Governor has become increasingly appreciative of RLS-I programs, specifically the public legal awareness activities involving state radio and TV stations.

In December, RLS-I produced and aired its fifth and final installment of the “Jirga and Justice” talk show. The “Jirga and Justice” programs addressed a new topic each month and aired monthly through December 2013. This month’s segment focused on property rights, with a special emphasis on TDR practices. During the 45-minute talk show, which aired in prime time, the moderator presented RLS-I program objectives and outreach goals in the province. Each of the four panelists answered various questions by the moderator and the in-studio audience, which consisted of approximately forty men, women and young adults. The show was so well received that the station re-aired the program two additional times on television and repeated it four more times on radio at no extra cost. RLS-I owns the shows’ content and is also rebroadcasting the programs on other radio and TV stations in Kandahar and Nangarhar.

In addition to “Jirga and Justice”, RLS-I continued to broadcast the project’s previously produced radio talk shows and animated sketches that address alternatives to *baad*, female participation in the dispute resolution process, and the relationship between the country’s formal and informal justice systems. These radio talk shows and animations were produced during Phase 1 of RLS-I and sustained public interest in these issues provided the impetus for the rebroadcasts in Phase III.



Re-enactment of domestic violence stemming from exorbitant payment of bride price that had further impoverished the groom’s family during theatre play on walwar and its negative consequences, Panjwayi (Kandahar). December 2013

In December, RLS-I continued community theater activities by facilitating the production and performance of a theater play about *walwar* and its negative consequences. The community theatre play, which was performed in both Zhari and Panjwayi districts (Kandahar), encouraged audiences to consider how the practice of ‘bride price’ negatively impacts girls’ lives as well as grooms’ families’ economic circumstances – and the typical consequences for marriages and the community at large. It also focused on *maher* (dowry) and other rights for women in marriage. RLS-I agreed with Kandahar Film and Theatre to produce and present five local theatre pieces (each performed twice) on traditional dispute resolution topics in remote areas such as Zhari and Panjwayi. These popular traveling theater productions reach deep into districts and rural villages to inform citizens of their basic legal rights. The theatre shows in Zhari and Panjwayi engaged local children as well as adults.

RLS-I conducted training for the MOJ Legal Aid office’s provincial outreach staff. RLS-I facilitated the logistics while Legal Aid outreach trainers conducted the training for 20 provincial outreach staff members. The workshop’s main focus was on community outreach skills, such as activity planning, activity coordination, outreach material development, outreach campaigns and the MOJ’s national legal awareness strategy. As a demonstration of sustainability in action, the Legal Aid outreach trainers had been trained by Checchi under the USAID Rule of Law Project (ARoLP) in 2004-2009.

This fact was not lost on the director of the MOJ Legal Aid office who stated his appreciation for the cooperation. “It is very important that with RLS-I’s logistic support our Legal Aid outreach trainers are able to conduct such training and transfer outreach skills to other staff. We have to keep in mind that we need to take over all legal aid and outreach activities by ourselves in the provinces.” This training enabled the Legal Aid office’s provincial outreach staff to develop and distribute required legal outreach materials in the provinces.

RLS-I printed 100,000 of its fifth illustrated booklet addressing *walwar* and its negative consequences and distributed them to the Community Cultural Centers (CCCs) in Kandahar, Nangarhar and Baghlan for final distribution in 100 villages as part of RLS-I’s final outreach campaign.

PTRO finished their outreach activities and handed in all deliverables to RLS-I.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### Event monitoring

During the reporting period, M&E field staff monitored nine activities – six in the South region and three in the East region. This lower rate of event monitoring is due to the imminent end of programming and the need for increased level of effort toward performance data collection.



Spinsary decision collection in Kandahar province, December 2013

### Spinsary group creation and dispute mediation

During the reporting period, RLS-I helped local women create eight *spinsary* groups – seven in the North region and one in the South region. From previously established *spinsary* groups, RLS-I documented a total of 130 *spinsary* decisions – 52 decisions across three districts in the North region, 46 decisions across nine districts in the South region, and 32 decisions across eight districts in the East region. The following table identifies the spinsary decisions by type:

Case type	Count	Percent
Family	49	38%
Disputes over children	25	19%
Marriage (including forced marriage)	24	18%
Inheritance	11	8%
Land / Property	10	8%
Physical assault	6	5%
Theft	3	2%
Accident	2	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100%</b>

RLS-I spinary groups succeeded in avoiding three cases of *baad* during the reporting period, and also played a role in several disputes that were between families or took the attention of the entire village.

### Longstanding disputes

During the reporting period, RLS-I identified seven longstanding disputes – three from the North region, three from the South region, and one from the East region. The table below identifies disputes by type as well as district:

Region	Province	District	Case Type	Case Sub-type	Count
North	Takhar	Farkhar	Civil	Land / Water	3
South	Kandahar	Zhari	Criminal	Killing	2
	Zabul	Shinkai	Criminal	Killing	1
East	Nangarhar	Goshta	Civil	Land	1
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>7</b>

One longstanding dispute was resolved in Baghlan Jadid (Baghlan province) during the reporting period.

### Outreach monitoring

During the reporting period, M&E staff observed the conduct of a community theater production adapted from the RLS-I illustrated booklet on *walwar* and its negative consequences. The production took place in the main bazaar of Panjwayi district center. An estimated 150-200 Afghans of all ages gathered to watch the production. According to the observation of RLS-I M&E staff and subsequent interviews with audience members, the performed play was of good quality and was effective in capturing the interest and attention of the audience. Several onlookers were queried after the production, and they were able to enunciate the main points of the play as well as recognize the primary message that *walwar* (bride price) was often exorbitant and served only to create disputes between and within families.

One audience member thanked RLS-I for supporting such an activity for the community, and commented, “Our people should not take high bride price because it creates lots of problems in our community. It destroys the children’s lives too; because of high dowry young girls get married to old men. Father’s should not marry their daughters for high dowry or to old men.”

### RLS-I linkage assessments and decision book tracking

During the reporting period, RLS-I tracked decision book usage among 121 elders across five districts in all regions. This report marks the first sampling of decision book usage for the North region. The summary of dispute documentation and registration is as follows:

Province	District	Elders sampled	% of Elders who documented decision	Disputes documented	% of Elders who also registered decision	Disputes registered
Kandahar	Takhta Pul	16	13%	8	0%	0

Kandahar	Maywand	19	89%	35	94%	26
Nangarhar	Goshta	39	31%	27	8%	1
Badakhshan	Fayzabad	27	22%	15	50%	3
Baghlan	Baghlani Jadid	20	30%	18	0%	0
<b>OVERALL</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>30</b>

Both documentation and registration are above target for the reporting period, thanks in large part to exceptional performance from Maywand elders.

## CHALLENGES

In late December, PTRO ceased their activities in the North after Checchi issued PTRO a stop-work order. Checchi has decided to provide planned make-up workshops in the North using Checchi RLS-I staff.

In the South, an RLS-I staff member was abducted by the Taliban in Zabul province and was subsequently released unharmed, however he was ordered to move his family to Pakistan

Poor security in several districts directly impacted RLS-I programming and attendance during the month of December. All regions were impacted by the deteriorating security situation in advance of the elections which are scheduled for April 2014. Threats specifically against women's programming continue to negatively impact female participant rates. In the East, fighting between Hezb-I-Islami militants and Taliban in Nirkh and Maydan Shahr has significantly deterred attendance to makeup activities as elders fear being accused by one side of being sympathetic to the other.. A former RLS-I participant, Haji Abdul Baqi (Phase 1), was targeted and killed in Arghandab district.

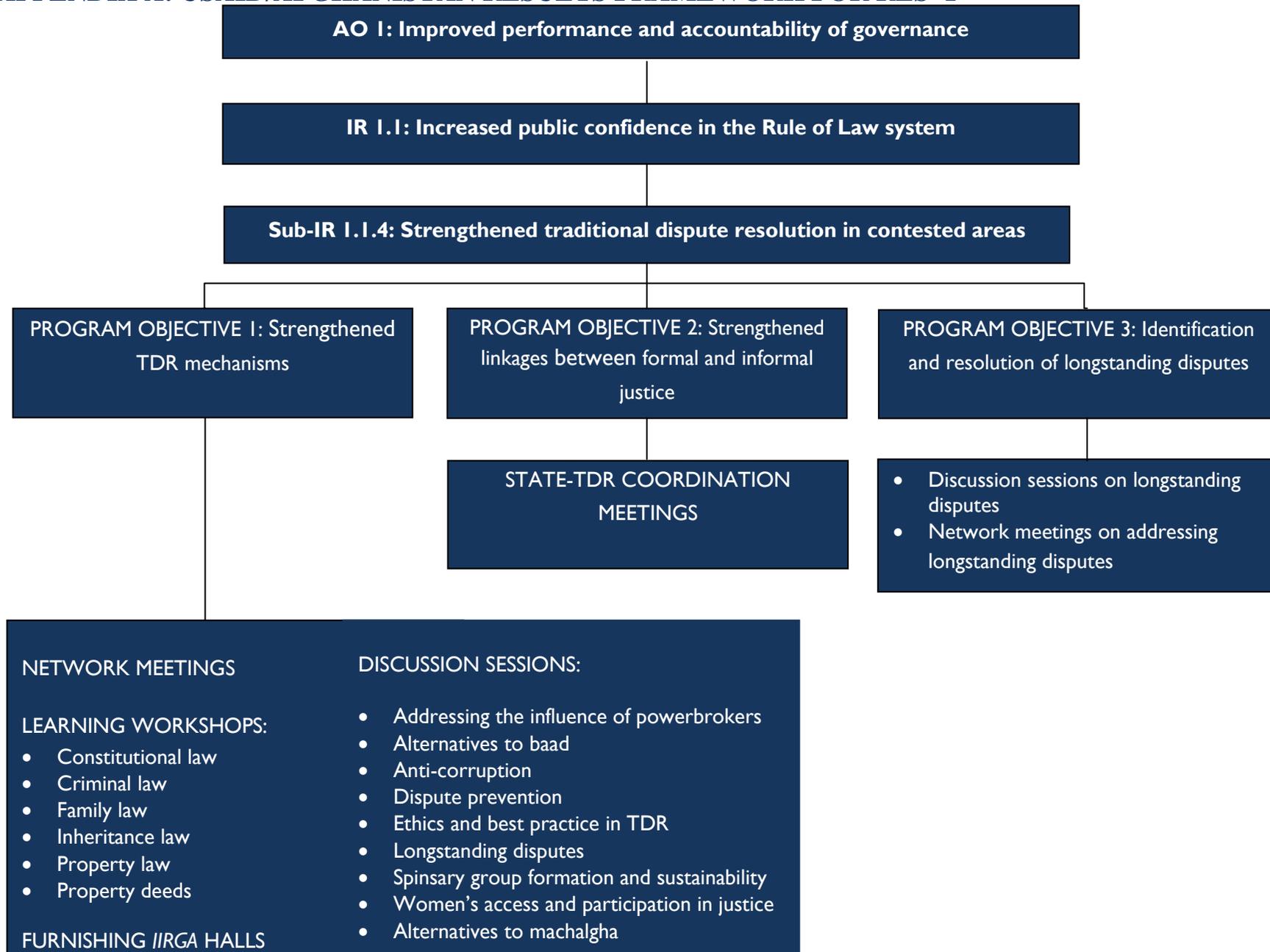
## LOOKING AHEAD

RLS-I anticipates conducting 46 core programming and maintenance activities in the East (Maydan Wardak), South, and North during the month of January. The Maydan Wardak team will complete all makeup workshops for Nirkh and Maydan Shahr and hold final handover district network meetings. RLS-I will continue its rigorous schedule in the South of education and action-oriented activities to complete all programming activities by the end of January.

During the month of January, TLO will start with core-programming/make-up workshops in Baghlani Jadid (Baghlan province) for a new group of 60 elders and 120 female participants as well as members of the first cohort to fill gaps from their core program. PTRO will cease work on January 11<sup>th</sup>, after which Checchi RLS-I will continue to implement the make-up workshops for the first group of participants in Farkhar district (Takhar) and Fayzabad district (Badakhshan).

RLS-I will carry out its fifth and final outreach campaign in Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Baghlan through the Community Cultural Centers (CCCs). The campaign will include distribution of 100,000 illustrated booklets on *walwar* and its negative consequences and forced marriage in 100 villages. The distribution will be conducted by 100 village volunteers and five Community Cultural Centers' campaign coordinators.

**APPENDIX A: USAID/AFGHANISTAN RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR RLS- I**



## APPENDIX B: ACTIVITIES DECEMBER

As RLS-I operates in high risk and exceedingly vulnerable areas, GPS coordinates are not included.		Network meeting	Constitutional law	Criminal law	Family law	Inheritance law	Property law	Property deeds	Conflict management workshop	Ethics & best practice in TDR	Alternatives to <i>baad</i>	Addressing corruption	Addressing domestic violence	Dispute prevention	Promoting legal awareness & justice > religious leaders	Long-standing disputes	Spinsary group	Women's access to justice	Coordination meeting	<b>TOTAL</b>				
men's events (white) <input type="checkbox"/>																					Legal Education Workshops			
women's events (shaded) <input type="checkbox"/>																								
Province	District	Phase 3 - Tranche 2 districts																						
Maydan	Maydan Shahr	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2									1	9	3			
Wardak	Nirkh	1	1										1	1					1	3	2			
Laghman	Alishing	1	2																	1	2			
Nangarhar	Goshta	2	2																	2	2			
	Khogayani	2	1																	2	1			
	Nazyan	2	1																	2	1			
	Spin Ghar	1																		1				
Kandahar	Arghandab																							
	Kandahar City SD 5		2	1	1	2	1	2	1											9	1			
	Kandahar City SD 8	2							1									1		4				
	Maywand	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1										5	4			
	Spin Boldak	1	1	1		1		1	1	1								1		6	2			
	Takhta Pul	1	2				1	1	1	1										3	4			
Zabul	Shinkay	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1										5	4			
Baghlan	Baghlani Jadid (TLO)	1	1																	1	1			
Badakhshan	Fayzabad (PTRO)	1	1			1	1												1	4	1			
Takhar	Farkhar (PTRO)	1	1	1	1														1	4	1			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>33</b>
Province	District	Phase 3 - Tranche 1 maintenance districts																						
Nangarhar	Acheen																							
Kunar	Chawkay																							
Logar	Mohammad Agha	1	1	2	1				1	1											7			
	Puli Alam																							
Kandahar	Panjwayi																							
	Zhari																							
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>										<b>7</b>			

## APPENDIX C: MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT AGAINST TARGETS

SO:	Improved performance and accountability of governance							
IR I:	Increased public confidence in the Rule of Law system	July - September 2013						Life of Project
Sub-IR:	1.1.4 Strengthened traditional dispute resolution and justice in contested areas	Oct	Progress	Nov	Progress	Dec	Progress	Target
Goal-level indicators								
1	# of districts graduating from RLS-I	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	20
2	Incidence of harmful practices ( <i>baad</i> , forced marriage) reported by spinsary	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	50%
3	# of elders pledging to cease harmful TDR practices	-	N/A	530	On track	288	On track	4235
Program Objective 1: Strengthened TDR Systems								
1.1	# of district/regional assessments completed	0	Below target	0	Below target	0	Below target	17
1.2	# elders graduating from RLS-I core program	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	1570
1.3	% elders responding change in community adjudication	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	25%
1.4	% of elders reporting successful application of any element of RLS-I training	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	15%
1.5	Change in disputant assessment (Procedural justice, subversion, equity)	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	5%
1.6	% knowledge gain in learning workshop content	24%	Above target	-	N/A	-	N/A	20%
1.7	# of public advocacy campaigns on human rights supported by USG	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	6
1.8	% knowledge gain among recipients of outreach material	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	10%
1.9	# Women's Dispute Resolution Groups ( <i>Spinsary</i> ) established	17	Above target	10	On track	8	On track	49
1.1	# disputes resolved by <i>Spinsary</i> Groups	41	Below target	121	On track	130	On track	505
Program Objective 2: Strengthened linkages between Formal and Informal Sectors								
2.1	% elders using RLS-I decision book after one month	41%	Above target	40%	Above target	43%	Above target	30%
2.2	# of dispute resolutions recorded by elders	14	N/A	83	N/A	103	-	-
2.3	% elders registering decisions with government	86%	Above target	32%	Below target	47%	Above target	40%
2.4	# of resolutions registered with district institution	12	N/A	19	N/A	-	N/A	-
2.5	# of TDR decisions recorded with Huqooq	-	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	-
2.6	# of linkages assessments completed	1	On track	3	On track	3	On track	17
Program Objective 3: Develop approaches that successfully resolve long-term intractable disputes								
3.1	# of long standing and intractable disputes identified	0	On track	23	Above target	7	Above target	64
3.2	# of long standing and intractable disputes resolved in intervention districts	0	On track	4	On track	1	On track	24

## APPENDIX D: PLANNED ACTIVITIES: JANUARY 2014

As RLS-I operates in high risk and exceedingly vulnerable areas, GPS coordinates are not included.		Network meeting	Constitutional law	Criminal law	Family law	Inheritance law	Property law	Property deeds	Conflict management workshop	Addressing influence of powerbrokers	Alternatives to <i>baad</i>	Addressing corruption	Addressing domestic violence	Ethics & best practice in TDR	Promoting legal awareness & justice>religious leaders	Long-standing disputes	Spinarsy group	Women's access to justice	Coordination meeting	TOTAL	
men's events (white) <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal Education Workshops									Discussion Sessions									46	
Province	District	Phase 3 - Tranche 2 districts																			
Maydan	Maydan Shahr	I	I		I	I	I													5	
Wardak	Nirikh																				
Laghman	Alishing																				
Nangarhar	Goshta																				
	Khogayani																				
	Nazyan																				
	Spin Ghar																				
Kandahar	Arghandab																				
	Kandahar City SD 5	I	I		I		I													3	
	Kandahar City SD 8	I				I														I	
	Maywand	I			I	I	I													3	
	Spin Boldak		I		I				I											3	
	Takhta Pul		I	I	I	I		I												4	
Zabul	Shinkay			I		I	I													2	
Baghlan	Baghlani Jadid (TLO)	I	I	I	I	I		I	2	I										5	
Badakhshan	Fayzabad (PTRO)		I	I		I														3	
Takhar	Farkhar (PTRO)		I	I		I														3	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>I</b>							<b>32</b>	
Province	District	Phase 3 - Tranche I maintenance districts																			
Nangarhar	Acheen																				
Kunar	Chawkay																				
Logar	Mohammad Agha																				
	Puli Alam																				
Kandahar	Panjwayi																				
	Zhari				I					I	I									3	
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>I</b>					<b>I</b>	<b>I</b>									<b>3</b>	

## **APPENDIX E: PROGRAM REVIEW**

### **Program Structure and Scope**

RLS-I's core program, which runs about six months, teaches participants a variety of legal topics relevant to dispute prevention and resolution via six courses (35-40 hours of training in all). The core program reaches approximately 125 male participants per district, with a target of at least 75 attending all six courses. The core program also provides four legal education workshops for approximately 125 women<sup>7</sup>; eight discussion sessions on pressing issues<sup>8</sup>; three state-TDR protocol coordination meetings<sup>9</sup>; three spinary group meetings<sup>10</sup>; and four network meetings<sup>11</sup>. In total, these events amount to approximately 50 days of activities.

The core program is followed by a maintenance period that provides an average of 15 needs-based activities<sup>12</sup> over a six month period to fill workshop attendance gaps and address other lingering needs that exist following the core programming. RLS-I's district intervention culminates with a handover network meeting, allowing participants to chart and commit to specific plans for carrying forward RLS-I objectives independently. Prominent elders and district and provincial officials are encouraged to attend provincial and regional network meetings focused on issues and longstanding dispute resolution.

### **Network Meetings**

District network meetings serve as the structured plenary forum for district groups of approximately 120 men and 120 women. Inaugural meetings familiarize participants and allow them collectively to assess the district's justice needs and determine project priorities. Capstone meetings culminate the core program with a structured reflection on lessons learned, commitments made, and further needs during maintenance. Participants have the opportunity to: 1) sign pledges affirming their commitment to specific measures aimed at promoting quality justice, 2) volunteer to be trained to become community legal awareness mentors, and 3) identify and volunteer to address longstanding disputes. Final handover district network meetings upon completion of maintenance allow participants to chart a path forward, including, for example, specific plans for ongoing state-TDR collaboration, independent of RLS-I assistance. Provincial network meetings provide a framework for key elders and officials from each district and the provincial government to assess and determine future action on challenges to justice at the province or district level. Volunteer mutual-accountability coalitions form to tackle, for example, specific instances of corruption. Regional network meetings provide a forum for structured dialogue among influential elders, officials, and other community leaders to identify, assess, and volunteer to take action on, longstanding disputes. Network meetings contribute to the achievement of USAID/Afghanistan's Democracy and Governance Assistance Objective (AO) I (Improved Performance and Accountability of Governance), Intermediate Result (IR) 1.1 (Increased Public Confidence in the

---

<sup>7</sup>Given severe restrictions on women's movement in some districts, the RLS-I project has not set a firm target for women's attendance. Yet, on average women participation rates of over 40%.

<sup>8</sup> Four for men, four for women. Discussion session topics are determined through district assessments and by participants in each district during network meetings and workshops.

<sup>9</sup> For tribal elders.

<sup>10</sup> For influential women.

<sup>11</sup> Two for men, two for women.

<sup>12</sup> Legal education workshops, discussion sessions, or coordination meetings.

Rule of Law System), Sub-IR 1.1.4 (Strengthened TDR in Disputed Areas), and, primarily, to the achievement of RLS-I Program Objectives 1 and 3.<sup>13</sup>

### **Workshops**

RLS-I legal education workshops are conducted by esteemed university professors and other legal professionals to deliver targeted messages on aspects of Afghan law relevant to ensuring legal compliance in dispute resolution. RLS-I's materials and trainers intentionally demonstrate congruence between Afghan law and local cultural/religious beliefs to ensure the messages resonate and to help bridge the gap between local communities and the state. The core curriculum, developed from RLS-I assessment findings, and in consultation with participants and university trainers, consists of Constitutional law, criminal law, family law, inheritance law, property law, and property deeds. Workshops contribute to the achievement of AO 1, IR 1.1, Sub-IR 1.1.4, and to the achievement of RLS-I Program Objectives 1, 2, and 3.

**Constitutional law** workshops focus on the importance of constitutional provisions, stages of adopting legislation, equal protection (i.e., equitable treatment in the courts, equity in civil rights and civil responsibilities), citizens' rights and responsibilities (i.e., rights of freedom of speech, to vote freely, and the presumption of innocence), as well as the role and responsibilities of government and the relations between Afghan law and Shari'ah.

**Criminal law courses** cover court jurisdiction, types of crimes under the Criminal Code, procedures for referral of crimes to the formal justice sector (i.e., police and prosecutors), and the state's criminal adjudication process.

**Family law** addresses common disputes arising out of engagement, marriage and divorce, and covers the specific topics of marriage engagement rights, consent to marriage, dowry and bride price, marriage expenses, the respective rights and responsibilities of husband and wife, guardianship, alimony, and divorce. Due to the extensive material that is covered, and to allow more interactive learning, the family law workshop has been extended to a two days.

**Inheritance law** covers the allocation of a decedent's estate under Afghan law, women's inheritance rights, and common disputes arising out of inheritance cases. Inheritance is the most complex subject in the RLS-I core curriculum, with program participants routinely requesting additional time and instruction on the rules governing the division of property among heirs. For this reason, RLS-I has shifted to two-day inheritance law workshops.

**Property law and property deeds** workshops describe the definition and types of real property, leasehold and freehold rights, concepts of preemption and right of first refusal, seizure and access rights, the types and validity of deeds, and common disputes arising from property and deeds issues.

---

<sup>13</sup> See Appendix A. All activity types contribute to the achievement of each Program Objective to some degree.

## Discussion Sessions

RLS-I discussion sessions provide a forum for formal-informal justice sector working groups (approximately 30-35 elders and five officials) to jointly develop and commit to solutions to challenges facing the formal and informal justice sectors, as identified through assessments and participant input. RLS-I's current set of topics, developed over three years of experience, includes alternatives to *baad* (the customary practice of settling a dispute by pledging a girl from a guilty party's family to a member of the harmed family); establishment of *spinsary* groups (women's dispute resolution groups); dispute prevention among children and neighbors; addressing corruption within the formal and informal justice sectors; addressing the influence of powerbrokers; longstanding disputes; women's participation and access to justice; alternatives to disputant deposits (*machalgha*); and ethics and best practice in TDR. The core program includes four of these topics, chosen based on each district's needs. Discussion sessions contribute to the achievement of AO 1, IR 1.1, Sub-IR 1.1.4, and to the achievement of RLS-I Program Objectives 1, 2, and 3.

The discussion session on addressing the influence of powerbrokers explores the challenge of power discrepancies between disputants and between disputants and outside parties in formal and informal justice mechanisms. During these sessions, formal and informal justice sector actors discuss ways to limit this influence in order to promote fair justice outcomes.

In the discussion sessions on alternatives to baad, participants discuss the negative consequences of the use of *baad* and work to develop alternatives – such as the exchange of property – that can serve a compensatory incentive in reconciling disputants.

The discussion session on anti-corruption provides an opportunity for informal and formal justice sector actors to identify and address the undermining influence of corruption on both sectors. Participants pledge to abstain from corruption and often agree on measures to prevent the practice, such as mutual monitoring and accountability.

The *spinsary* group formation and sustainability meetings follow a two-step sequence in which an interested group of women from the district network meeting later meets to discuss disputes particularly affecting women and women's access to justice. By the end of a second group meeting, participants elect to form *spinsary* groups in their villages. These women commit to support each other in addressing local disputes, typically involving families, children and neighbors.

Discussion sessions on dispute prevention among children and neighbors are an outgrowth of the *spinsary* groups, whose members report that violent disputes between families often arise out of the squabbling of children. Through sharing personal experiences, *spinsary* group members have learned to intervene on such occasions to defuse any escalating tensions between children.

The discussion concerning ethics and best practice in TDR aims to promote a collective affirmation by TDR practitioners of the qualities of a good *jirgamar* (TDR practitioner) and effective procedural practices to use in TDR cases. Participants are then encouraged to commit to live by those standards and implement best practices in disputes they resolve. During the ethics component, for example, RLS-I facilitators query participants on issues such as integrity and fairness. Best practice discussion questions

center on procedural issues such as freedom in selection of representation, neutrality of venue, and compliance with Afghan law.

As a supplement to network meetings on longstanding disputes, the discussion session on the topic have formal and informal justice sector actors identify specific disputes that have persisted over time and/or had a particularly destabilizing effect on communities in the district. RLS-I staff do not attempt to resolve such disputes, but instead facilitate discussions during which elders and state actors make assessments and become equipped to take independent action to resolve long-standing disputes.

When discussing women's participation and access to justice issues, participants consider how to increase women's access to formal and informal justice, and how to support female justice actors in their communities. Given cultural restrictions on women's interaction with unrelated men in most RLS-I districts, the debate is generally nascent, but one common theme that emerges is universal support for *spinsary* groups sponsored by RLS-I.

The alternatives to machalgha (disputant deposit) discussion session allows participants to examine the impact of reliance on disputant deposits (to guarantee compliance with TDR decisions) on the quality of justice outcomes. Issues such as the misuse (corruption) of *machalgha* and its impact on elder attention to seeking voluntary disputant compliance are addressed. Participants are given the opportunity to develop and commit to alternatives to the practice.

### **Coordination Meetings**

The formal-informal justice sector working group holds coordination meetings. The first meeting builds familiarity and establishes common understandings of the appropriate roles of formal and traditional justice actors, including jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters, in collaborating to resolve disputes. The second and any subsequent meetings establish specific coordination procedures for dispute referrals, TDR decision reviews, and registration with formal justice institutions. Participants are also introduced to authority and decision letters<sup>14</sup> as the standard recording and registration formats for TDR decisions. State-TDR coordination meetings contribute to the achievement of AO 1, IR 1.1, Sub-IR 1.1.4, and, primarily, to the achievement of RLS-I Program Objective 2.

### **Women's Programming**

In addition to women's programming in most areas described above and addressing women's rights throughout male and female activities, RLS-I assists female elders in forming women's dispute resolution (or *spinsary*) groups. The bodies focus on defusing family, children, and neighbors' disputes before they escalate into more serious and potentially destabilizing conflicts. *Spinsary* group members

---

<sup>14</sup> Authority letters (waak leek) are forms signed by disputants who grant authority (waak) to jirgamaran to resolve their dispute (including disputes referred to TDR by formal justice sector actors) and who pledge to abide by the resulting decision. Decision letters are forms used by jirgamaran to make a written record of their decision in a particular dispute and that may be registered with formal justice sector authorities. Both forms are intended to reduce the likelihood that the disputants will seek to reopen the dispute and, in the case of a registered decision letter, to increase the likelihood that formal justice sector authorities will assist in enforcing at TDR decision if necessary. Authority letters and decision letters are forms developed by RLS-I, participating elders, and formal justice actors, and are bound in books distributed to elders by RLS-I.

also actively apply legal workshop lessons in advocating for women's rights in dispute resolution processes. *Spinsary* groups contribute primarily to the achievement of Sub-IR 1.1.4 and RLS-I Program Objectives 1 and 3.

### **Outreach**

To help shape the local context in support of improved justice practice and respect for rights generally, RLS-I conducts an outreach campaign to the largely illiterate general public with illustrated materials, radio and TV programs, and work with community cultural center (CCC) village volunteers to raise public awareness of and demand for compliance with Afghan law relevant to common disputes and their resolution.

## APPENDIX F: GLOSSARY

alem	religious scholar, considered to be more knowledgeable about Shari'ah than most mullahs
baad	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
badal	exchange marriage performed between families or tribes to alleviate tensions or relieve the financial burden of walwar
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
diyya	(in Afghanistan often referred to by its Arabic plural diyat) 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 shari'ah
DST	District Support Team
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
hadith	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 Qur'an
haq-ullah	concept of Shari'ah 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)
haq-ul abd	concept of Shari'ah 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
huqooq	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
islah	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 Huqooq district offices, the term refers to the category in the Huqooq offices' record-keeping system for registering TDR decisions

jirga	ad hoc assembly of tribal elders convened to make specific decisions or resolve a specific dispute by consensus
khan	member of the wealthy, land-owning class, influential in the community
machalgha	deposit required from the disputants prior to the commencement of a jirga to ensure compliance with its decision
maher	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
malik	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.
manteqa	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.
maraka	currently, often used interchangeably with the term jirga, 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
mawlawi	highly qualified Sunni Muslim religious leader, usually with a more extensive religious education than a mullah
mudir-e-huqooq	Huqooq office director
mullah	local religious leader
nahiya	municipal sub-district
nanawati (also nanawatai)	a tenet of the Pashtun tribal code pashtunwali: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the act of a perpetrator's representatives (often an older female and/or a mullah together with jirgamaran) requesting forgiveness for a murder or injury from the victims' family in order to reconcile the parties and reinstitute harmony in the community</li> <li>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</li> </ul>
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

Shari'ah	legal precepts found in the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith; sometimes used by non-scholars (and this report) to denote Islamic law or jurisprudence, which includes scholarly interpretations of the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith; ijma ("collective reasoning" or consensus among scholars); and qiyas or ijihad ("individual reasoning" or deduction by analogy)
shura	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
spinsary	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
waak	authority given by all disputant parties to resolve the dispute conclusively
waak leek	letter signed by all disputant parties authorizing a jirga to resolve their dispute conclusively
walwar	bride price; money or goods given by a groom or his family to the head of the bride's household