



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASSISTANCE TO LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF AFGHANISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2013

OCTOBER 15, 2013

THIS PUBLICATION WAS PRODUCED FOR REVIEW BY THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS PREPARED BY DAI.

ASSISTANCE TO LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF AFGHANISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2013

Program Title:	Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan
Sponsoring USAID Office:	USAID Afghanistan
Contract Number:	AID-OAA-I-12-00003/AID-306-TO-13-00004
Contractor:	DAI
Date of Publication:	October 15, 2013
Author:	ALBA Project Staff

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.

CONTENTS

- ACRONYMS 2**
- INTRODUCTION 3**
 - BACKGROUND..... 3*
 - ABOUT ALBA 4*
- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 5**
 - QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 5*
- CHAPTER I: SUMMARY OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS 7**
- OBJECTIVE ONE - STRENGTHENED LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES..... 7**
 - SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS 7*
- OBJECTIVE TWO - IMPROVED OVERSIGHT 10**
 - SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS 10*
- OBJECTIVE THREE - INCREASED OUTREACH CAPACITY 14**
 - SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS 14*
- OBJECTIVE FOUR - INCREASED INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT..... 15**
 - SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS 15*
- CHAPTER II: CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS..... 19**
- CHAPTER III: PERFORMANCE MONITORING..... 20**
- CHAPTER IV: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION..... 22**
- ANNEXES 24**

ACRONYMS

ALBA	Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan
APAP	Afghanistan Parliament Assistance Program
API	Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute
AO	Assistance Objectives
AUAF	American University of Afghanistan
BMP	Branding and Marking Plan
CI	Counterpart International
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contract Officer's Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
CTAP	Civilian Technical Assistance Program
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DG	Director General
DSG	Deputy Secretary General
ICLAD	International Consortium for Law and Development
IR	Intermediate Results
MJ	Meshrano Jirga
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSI	Management Systems International
NDI	National Democratic Institute
PACC	Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus
PC	Provincial Council
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PRD	Public Relations Directorate
SG	Secretary General
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WJ	Wolesi Jirga

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The bicameral Afghan Parliament has made significant strides since the 2005 elections, emerging with a new political and legal structure with critical support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The training activities and expert support provided through USAID's Afghanistan Parliament Assistance Program (APAP) were instrumental in the establishment of a working legislature and jump-started a process of institutional development. Notably, USAID/APAP supported Parliament's role in the budget process through macro-level budget analysis and financial overviews; many of the commissions are active, calling ministry officials to meetings and engaging on key issues. USAID's support helped to keep the Wolesi Jirga (WJ) operational during the 2010 post-election crisis.

Serious challenges remain, however, especially in light of the security and political transition beginning in 2014, before Afghanistan becomes a more democratic and stable state. Underlying traditional/cultural norms and economic constraints encourage political reliance on narrow patronage networks, inhibit women's full political participation, and lead to nepotistic hiring practices in both ministries and Parliament. The Executive branch is overly powerful and lacks transparency. Parliament performance has improved over the years, but the institution has not yet lived up to its full constitutional mandate to hold the government to account.

Both Houses of Parliament—the WJ, and the Meshrano Jirga (MJ) — need to improve their performance in key areas. The commissions in both Houses need to step up their capacity and performance not only to carefully review proposed laws, but also to garner public input for important policy reforms. While members of the WJ also need the incentives, skills, and capacity to respond to constituents' needs—especially in the face of 2015 elections—the MJ requires positive and more consistent linkages to decision makers at provincial and local levels. Finally, the two Houses of Parliament must work together in a more coherent fashion, and without delay; the quality of forthcoming legislation such as the elections and courts laws will have a long-term impact on Afghanistan's political future.

ABOUT ALBA

The Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan project is a four-year technical assistance initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID), implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI). Work under the ALBA

project will support the development of the Afghan Parliament to enable it to operate as an independent and effective legislative, representative and oversight body.

USAID's overarching Assistance Objective (AO) 1 for Democracy and Governance in Afghanistan is 'Improved performance and accountability of governance'. Five intermediate results (IRs) comprise this AO. ALBA supports the third IR, 'Strengthened governance and service delivery at national and sub-national levels'. Specifically, ALBA will support the following sub-IR: 'Institutional capacity and oversight capacity of elected bodies at all levels strengthened'.

ALBA will assist in the continued development of the Afghanistan Parliament as a strong, effective, and independent parliamentary institution. The four key areas of the program are: Legislative Support; Oversight; Outreach; and Institutional Development of the Parliament with a major focus on the commissions as a vehicle for many of ALBA's activities.

USAID designed ALBA to prepare both Houses of Parliament for greater self-reliance. ALBA will build on the foundation of USAID's previous programs while expanding support to the MJ. This approach will include capacity development aimed at immediate and long-term application for practical, on-the-job learning as MPs and staff reduce reliance on embedded advisors and engage in legislative, oversight, and outreach activities alongside government, civil society, and private sector actors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Significant Activities/Events

- Initial discussions held with the WJ Public Relations Directorate in July
- Outreach to provincial councils through the MJ initiated in August, including planning sessions with both the relevant parliamentary commissions and the Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG)
- Initial meetings regarding restart of Parliamentary Fellowship program held with both Houses in August
- Strategic planning sessions conducted with the WJ Commission on Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights in August
- Initial draft of Oversight Manual completed in August
- International Consortium for Law and Development (ICLAD) Legislative Analysis Workshops began in September
- QATIA analysis review and Midyear Budget Review conducted for both Budget Commissions in September
- USAID briefed on Midyear Budget Review in September
- Afghan Parliamentary Institute (API) reopened, instructors hired and classes begun in September; development of a comprehensive long-term curriculum to be introduced in January
- Preparation of a guide to Gender Responsive Budgeting begun in September
- Initial drafting of public opinion research strategy underway

Following the initial start-up and staffing of the ALBA team, the past quarter saw substantial progress in virtually all of the program areas. The Ramadan / summer recess afforded the team to opportunity to begin on many of the assessments and analyses required for a rigorous set of activities to be instituted once Parliament returned to work in early September. The Budget team, Legislative team and the staff supporting the API were all active in engaging MPs and staff in various activities.

For Objective One, **Strengthening Legislative Processes**, ALBA continued working to institutionalize legislative analysis and drafting by first analyzing current practices of parliamentary staff – particularly Commission staff of both Houses, developing revised guidelines and manuals, and then building capacity. The program is working to develop effective communications between the Executive and the Parliament on policy-making

and legislation. Additionally, ALBA continues supporting Parliament to adjust to more sustainable research capacity broadly while ensuring that commissions have access to needed knowledge bases.

Under Objective Two, **Improved Oversight**, ALBA worked to increase general oversight by assisting the Commissions of both houses to streamline their processes, address staff capacity, and strengthen their legislative research capacity necessary to conduct oversight and assess government policy proposals. The project seeks to ensure an accountability link within Parliament to leverage the MJ's role in gauging and incorporating Provincial Council priorities in budgetary interventions. Finally, ALBA is supporting Parliament's oversight of budget priorities, implementation and performance through strengthened and institutional mechanisms for communications.

As outreach activities are geared more toward the latter half of the Year One work plan, most activities under Objective Three, **Increased Outreach**, are in the initial stages.

Objective Four, **Increased Institutional Development**, is geared toward revitalizing institutional development of the API, as well as expanding USAID's assistance to the parliament to formally include the upper house, the MJ. Additionally, considerable focus was given to the cross-cutting issue of Gender Mainstreaming in this Objective.

While some temporary delays affected restarting the API operations during the latter part of the first quarter of the Program Year, these delays have been resolved and the reopening of the API occurred in September. Some further adjustments remain to be made at the API – both in terms of structural and logistical matters, but classes have begun, with over 120 MPs and staff enrolled in a variety of courses. After further consultations with Parliamentary leadership, a revised long-term curriculum will be introduced in the Spring 2014 Session.

CHAPTER I: SUMMARY OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

OBJECTIVE ONE – STRENGTHENED LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES

ALBA continues working to institutionalize legislative analysis and drafting by first analyzing current practices of parliamentary staff – particularly Commission staff of both Houses, developing revised guidelines and manuals, and then building capacity. The program is working to develop effective communications between the Executive and the Parliament on policy-making and legislation. Additionally, ALBA continues supporting Parliament to adjust to more sustainable research capacity broadly while ensuring that commissions have access to needed knowledge bases.

The legislative program team finalized the end-of-session reports for both the MJ and the WJ, working with Secretariat staff to collect information on the number of:

- Plenary sessions held;
- Commission sessions held;
- Sessions involving questioning of Ministers and Ministry Officials;
- Oversight trips to the regions by Commissions;
- Petitions considered;
- Bills approved;
- Treaties / international conventions adopted; and,
- Declarations issued.

This information is augmented by a more detailed description of the activities of each individual Commission. The reports will serve several purposes, including acting as a guide for Parliamentary and Commission leadership, as well as feeding into ALBA's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP). The end-of-session reports are attached as ANNEX A.

Significant Activities/Events

- ICLAD Legislative Analysis Seminars began 30 September
- Initial meetings regarding restart of Parliamentary Fellowship program held with both Houses of Parliament

Task 1.1 - Institutionalize Legislative Drafting and Analysis

Legislative Drafting & Analysis Seminars – ALBA, through its partner ICLAD, supported Commission staff and members in the area of legislative analysis through a series of workshops held during the period 30 September - 6 October. Using legislation currently passing through the Parliament, ICLAD trainers led commission and legislative directorate staff for the two Houses, CSOs, and Ministry staff through the process of legislative analysis which goes beyond the narrow practices currently employed. The training addressed the potential social impacts of legislation, examining draft bills in a holistic manner while drawing on experts and other stakeholders throughout their deliberations.

To support this, the legislative program team held a series of meetings in August with the leadership of the following organizations within the Parliament:

- the Parliamentary Affairs Directorate of the WJ;
- the Legislative and Legal Research Directorate of the WJ; and
- the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Directorate of the MJ.

The meetings were used to brief the directorates on the upcoming training and to develop a short note for the incoming ICLAD trainers on how the directorates process legislation within the Secretariat.

The two ICLAD trainers arrived in mid-September and began to prepare for the planned Legislative Assessment trainings, which focused on the probable implementation and impact of the draft Mining Law and the draft Family Law. The seminar on the Family Law focused on helping participants identify problematic behaviors that can be addressed through law. The trainers worked with them to develop a legislative program that ensures implementable provisions are developed to address the causes of these problematic behaviors over time. In order to instigate this action planning process, the following points were addressed:

- Which concrete problem(s) is this bill intended to address?
- What problems exist in Afghanistan that are related to the general subject matter of this bill?
- Will the bill address these problems? If so, how?
- If this bill is enacted, how will people act in the face of the new law?
- How would the implementation of this bill affect poor and vulnerable persons, the general security situation, faith in the Rule of Law, etc?

These workshops have also provided ALBA with a benchmark for development of the longer-term legislative analysis and drafting curriculum for the API.

Task 1.3 - Strengthen Oversight and Legislation Research Methods

WJ & MJ Commission on Commissions Meeting – The ALBA team met with the Commission on Commissions for both Houses to discuss ALBA plans for conducting legislative research training in the Fall Session as well as the project’s desk review of the previous project’s Parliamentary Fellowship program. ALBA is considering a future Fellowship program as a means of building sustainable staffing through the encouragement of the parliament to commit to providing full time positions upon completion of a Fellow’s term in the program.

Results This Objective

- Legislative assessment workshop participants, including MPs, parliamentary staff and CSOs, learned how to scrutinize legislation using a holistic approach, which will result in more effective and responsive legislation design involving a variety of stakeholders. The utility of using legislation which is currently under discussion in the Parliament was shown as several of the members of the Commission on Natural Resources and Environment, following the workshops, clearly used the lessons learned while questioning the Minister of Mines in the plenary session of the WJ, in addition to leading Commission hearings in the newly introduced legislation.

OBJECTIVE TWO – IMPROVED OVERSIGHT

ALBA is working to increase general oversight by assisting the Commissions of both Houses to streamline their processes, address staff capacity, and strengthen their legislative research capacity. The project seeks to ensure an accountability link within Parliament to leverage the MJ's role in gauging and incorporating PC priorities in budgetary interventions. Finally, ALBA is supporting Parliament's oversight of budget priorities, implementation and performance through strengthened and institutional mechanisms for communications.

Significant Activities/Events

- Strategic planning sessions conducted with the WJ Commission on Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights;
- QATIA analysis review and Midyear Budget Review conducted for the Budget Commissions of both Houses;
- Initial draft of Oversight Manual completed; and,
- USAID briefed on Midyear Budget Review.

Task 2.1 - Increase General Oversight through Commissions

Strategic Planning Sessions for the WJ Commission on Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights – At the request of the Chair, ALBA facilitated several strategic planning sessions for members of the Commission. These sessions helped identify the aims of the commission for the fall sitting, and will focus on the ability of the Commission to adequately scrutinize the incoming 1393 National Budget, and to identify key pieces of legislation within the incoming legislative agenda for consideration by the commission's members. The session, which included participants from the UNDP and the gender department of the WJ, addressed the following topics:

- Review of background, activities and achievements of the Commission in the last six months;
- Brief discussion on the problems and the challenges during the legislative process as well as on budget analysis in the last six months; and,
- Discussion on the upcoming activities of the commission including legislation in the next four and half months.

The resulting work plan produced a roadmap for the upcoming fall session of Parliament and identified a series of activities to support both a credible and detailed gender analysis of the forthcoming 1393 budget, as well as identifying several key pieces of legislation, such as the Family Law, which the Commission deemed as critical to their work. The work plan is attached as ANNEX B.

WJ Commission on Religious and Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education – The ALBA team met with the Chair of the Commission to discuss the Higher Education Law that has languished in the Parliament. Despite the Chair’s best efforts – including proposing an interim solution that the contentious definitions be drawn up by a competent authority after the bill is passed – the legislation again stopped short of full passage. It is hoped that it will come up again in the Fall Session.

The Chair also welcomed assistance in developing a terminology glossary to facilitate resolution of the language issue. The Chair particularly asked for support from ALBA in three additional areas: seeking an embedded advisor in the Commission with a strong knowledge of Dari, Pashto and English; assistance in drafting a strategy to encourage youth and women to be more active in the political process; and, assistance on the Media Law, which is a priority for the commission.

MJ Commission on National Economy, Finance, Budget and General Accounts – ALBA met with the Commission and discussed efforts to gauge provincial budget priorities, and how ALBA could support these efforts in conjunction with its work with: the MJ Commission on Relations to the Provincial/Districts Councils and the Immunities and Privileges of the House; the MJ Commission on Internal Security, Defense Affairs and Local Organs; and, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG).

Task 2.3 - Oversight of Budget Priorities and Implementation

Qatia Analysis Report – The Budget Commissions of the both Houses received the Qatia document in late July. ALBA completed a draft Qatia Analysis report, to summarize the vast amount of data contained within this document and make it accessible for members of not only the Budget Commissions but also the other relevant commissions of both Houses. This activity also marked the beginning of the process of knowledge transfer to the Commissions’ permanent staffs, particularly for the Budget Units. ALBA worked with these individuals, assigning portions of the analysis and then mentoring them in the production of the report. This type of approach will build their skillset and allow them to produce such analyses in future years. An abbreviated version of the analysis report is attached as ANNEX C.

Budget Book – ALBA began assembling the components for a revised Budget Book for the upcoming 1393 fiscal year, to be distributed to the National Assembly, Civil Society Organizations and other relevant groups, as an aid to understanding the National Budget and its components. This will be developed with the help of the Budget expert (an ex-pat STTA) in conjunction with a series of briefing sessions on budget analysis to

permanent Commission staff and other Secretariat units. These activities will be held next quarter in conjunction with the introduction of the 1393 budget for parliamentary consideration.

Midyear Budget Review – The ALBA Budget Team assisted the WJ in preparing a mid-year budget review presentation, compiling a briefing paper on questions raised by Members regarding the substantive changes in the original budget projections.

Mid-Year Review Briefing Notes on Ministry Burn Rates – ALBA prepared analyses of the mid-year financial review and the burn rates of various Ministries by budget unit, for presentation to the Budget Commission in early September.

Oversight Manual – ALBA began drafting an oversight manual for commission leadership, with the Budget expert STTA taking the lead. It will include the following:

- Importance of oversight planning – the oversight strategy
- Elements of oversight by commissions
- Identifying key partners in oversight
- Roles of commission member and staff in oversight
- Reporting on oversight activities

ALBA will use the manual as a vehicle to support commission leadership in developing their individual oversight strategies during the course of the next year. ALBA plans to introduce the manual to commissions this fall as part of a workshop focused on the development of commission-level oversight strategies, beginning with the Budget Commissions of both Houses.

Budget STTA Begins Work – The STTA Budget Expert began work on reviewing and redesigning the annual Budget Analysis Report, including revising the overall format based on input from MPs and staff, as well as reviewing and providing suggested amendments and additions to the draft manual on oversight.

He worked with the ALBA Budget Team and the Budget Commission(s) on development of an oversight strategy, which will help the ALBA Budget team plan oversight activities for both Houses. This strategy consists of oversight on budget, economic policies and implementation, sectoral policies and implementation, provincial priorities and execution. It will be reviewed by both ALBA and the Parliament before finalization. A draft strategy for revamping the Public Accounts Sub-Committee was reviewed during his STTA, as well as development of a revision of the previous APAP Budget Book format. He also assisted in formatting the 1393 budget analysis draft. The

format consists of sections that are part of the budget analysis report, which is expected to improve the budget review process of both Houses for the 1393 budget. The report format was discussed with the Budget team and will form the core of the next scope of work for the Budget STTA.

Budget Briefing for USAID Staff – ALBA staff briefed USAID staff members on the mid-year budget review of the 1392 National Budget and the execution rates of government budget units as of late August 2013.

Results This Objective

- Commissions were supported by in carrying out one of their main functions – oversight. Mid-year review and Qatia briefings by ALBA enabled several commissions, including the Budget Commissions of both Houses, to effectively question Ministers and Ministry officials on the low execution rates of their budget units.
- Development of oversight strategies for commissions, through the drafting of an oversight strategy framework, will result in more effective oversight activities at the Commission level.

OBJECTIVE THREE – INCREASED OUTREACH CAPACITY

As outreach activities are geared more toward the latter half of the Year One work plan, most activities under this objective are in the initial stages.

Significant Activities/Events

- Initial discussions held with the WJ Public Relations Directorate
- Initial drafting of public opinion strategy underway

Task 3.2 - Strengthen Parliament Visibility

WJ Public Relations Directorate – ALBA staff held follow-on discussions with the Heads of the WJ and MJ Directorates of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) as part the planned desk review of their structures processes and the operation and design of the Parliament’s website. With regard to the website, the project interviewed candidates for a Senior ICT Specialist position originally conceived to combine both strategic vision and technical knowledge. However, after reviewing the candidates, it was determined that no one with this combination of skills was readily available. This approach will be revised to provide for an STTA to assess and determine a strategic direction and concept design that will be turned over to a technical specialist to implement. The technical position is now conceived as a longer term position that eventually will be assigned to the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API), sometime in the next quarter.

Task 3.3 – Developing an Open and Transparent Legislative Process

Public Opinion Research Activities – ALBA staff began planning for a series of public opinion research activities in conjunction with their partner Charney and Associates. This activity will be designed to support both program objectives as well as ALBA’s performance monitoring plan, and may include:

- Obtaining reactions on key parliamentary initiatives (3-4 per year) from youth, women, and NGOs to help NGOs develop campaigns and brief parliamentarians on public attitudes;
- Training NGOs and parliamentarians to use public opinion research in their work via “learning by doing” approach; and,
- Measuring baseline attitudes of constituents and their interactions with Parliament and evaluate how these have changed at the end of the program (and if possible, extent to which program changed them).

OBJECTIVE FOUR – INCREASED INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective Four is geared toward revitalizing institutional development of the API, as well as expanding USAID's assistance to the Parliament to formally include the MJ. Additionally, considerable focus was given to the cross-cutting issue of Gender in this Objective.

While some temporary delays affected restarting the API operations during the latter part of the first quarter of the Program Year, these delays have been resolved and the reopening of the API occurred in September. Some further adjustments remain to be made at the API – both in terms of structural and logistical matters, but preliminary classes have begun, with plans for a substantive long-term curriculum to be introduced in the Spring 2014 session.

Cooperation with the Women's Commissions of the Parliament is off to a good start, as noted above under Task 2.1, as well as the development of the Gender Responsive Budget Analysis process described in Task 4.2. Specific assistance to MJ Commissions is under consideration, particularly with regard to PC relations with the Parliament in tandem with the focus in Objective Two to ensure that PCs have input into the budget process at the beginning of budget deliberations, rather than the end.

Significant Activities/Events

- API reopened, instructors hired and classes begun; development of a longer-term curriculum to be introduced in January began this quarter.
- ALBA began preparation of guide to Gender Responsive Budgeting.
- ALBA outreach to provincial councils through the MJ includes both the substantive, relevant parliamentary commissions and the IDLG.

Task 4.1 - Strengthen the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute

ALBA provided the Secretary General (SG) of the WJ with a series of documents outlining the plans for the API during the Fall Session, while at the same time while ALBA conducted a comprehensive survey of staff and MPs to determine needs and opportunities for longer term API programming to begin in the Spring 2014 period. Key ALBA staff tasked with API programming and management was dispatched to the facility to complete a review of the physical status of the building and determine what initial steps were needed to begin seminars in September.

Joint Planning with WJ & MJ Human Resources Department – ALBA held a series of coordination meetings with the leadership of the HR departments of both Houses engaging them in planning API activities, and stressing the inclusion of HR staff in those activities. The API assessment was discussed, and objectives for the both the short and long term were identified.

API Training Curriculum Development – ALBA continued to develop a draft curriculum for the initial course offerings in the API, and will meet with the leadership of both Houses to receive feedback and endorsement. This effort is not meant as a substitute for a broader, more systematic effort to gauge members' training needs through a training survey; such a survey is currently being developed by ALBA in coordination with the Human Resources (HR) departments of both Houses and will be administered shortly after the parliament resumes in September.

API Instruction Staff – In preparation for the resumption of courses through the API in early September following the resumption of Parliament, ALBA staff, in coordination with the central DAI recruiting office, identified a short list of candidates for the positions of language and IT instructors. Upon filling these positions, ALBA staff took the new instructors through a series of briefings to orient them to the overall ALBA program and the long-term goals of the API. Registration for the courses was coordinated through the Human Resources Departments of both Houses.

Initial API Courses – ALBA resumed courses at the API as planned, distributing registration information through the Human Resources Departments of the MJ and WJ, with nearly 120 MPs and staff registering. Additionally, ALBA distributed approximately 400 questionnaires to Parliamentary staff to identify required training support for the coming year, with approximately 85 responses already received. In addition, the French Embassy began conducting a French Language course at the API that continued through September. The sample questionnaires are attached as ANNEX D.

WJ Secretary General Visit to API – ALBA staff briefed the SG on the new layout of the rooms, as well as outlining the support ALBA plans to provide to the HR Department. He was very pleased with the improvements made to the new and old wings of the facility, and also expressed his satisfaction that ALBA had started to integrate the staff of the Capacity Building Unit of the WJ into their plans and procedures. ALBA stressed that it would use the same approach with the equivalent section of the MJ. To this end, ALBA will seek to invite the MJ SG to the API to see the facilities and receive a briefing on the potential programs to be offered.

Task 4.2 - Support Gender Mainstreaming in the Parliament

Meeting with WJ Gender Advisor – ALBA met with the WJ Gender Advisor to discuss ALBA’s support to his own program, which is very modest – consisting of observing the meetings of the Women’s Commission and supporting this Commission with some research and clerical work. ALBA stressed that any support would have to be part of a broader, coherent plan of activities that addresses such issues as promoting gender mainstreaming in the activities of the WJ, supporting the ability of the Commission members and staff to conduct proper gender audits on the legislation its scrutinizes, and working with the HR Departments to begin an assessment of the hiring and retention policies of female permanent staff of the Secretariats. Cooperation with the Gender Advisor’s office is ongoing.

Gender Responsive Budget Analysis – ALBA staff, in cooperation with the leadership of the Women’s Commissions of both Houses, designed a program of support focused on analysis of the upcoming 1393 budget using a gender responsive budgeting (GRB) framework. Overall, this effort will include the following steps:

Briefing sessions relating to:

- The budget cycle in theory;
- Gender Sensitive budget analysis in theory; and,
- The 1393 National Budget.

Mentoring support to:

- Analysis of the 1393 National Budget from a gender perspective; and,
- Development of a report card of the 1393 National Budget.

Technical and administrative support to:

- Publication/distribution of Report on the 1393 Budget from Gender Perspective; and,
- Dissemination of report findings by commission leadership and members via radio, TV and print media.

Task 4.3 - Specific MJ Support Activities

MJ Commission on Internal Security, Defense and Local Organs – ALBA held several meetings at the request of the Commission leadership to discuss support to a

proposed series of public hearings related to the security situation in some of the provinces. Initial planning has taken place, however due to the violent attack in September on the Commission Chair, which resulted in extended hospitalization, the timelines for any public hearings are as yet undecided.

Strategy Session: MJ Commission on the National Economy and the Budget – ALBA conducted a strategy session with the leadership of the Commission to begin the process of developing an overall strategy of oversight for the period Sept 2013 – Sept 2014. A draft outline was discussed which includes the following:

- Themes – Revenue Operations
- Area of Focus – Customs / Passport / Licensing / Other
- Draft Timelines and Milestones
- Identify Required Research Effort / Plan Hearings / Other Activities
- Reporting Plan / Media Plan
- Follow-up Activities

Coordination Sessions with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance – ALBA began coordination efforts with IDLG, discussing issues in several areas: 1) the present level of communication and coordination between the PCs and the National Assembly, and IDLG's view of this process; 2) the upcoming revisions of the Provincial Council Law; 3) the establishment of revised Rules of Procedure for the PCs. Each has a bearing on ALBA's plans to establish greater linkages between the MJ and the PCs.

Results This Objective

- MPs and staff have resumed courses at the API, and curriculum planning has begun for the second phase of advanced courses, which will further the development of these groups in the areas of legislative research, budgetary analysis and other skills critical to their roles within the Parliament.
- Coordination and planning has taken place which will lead to select Commissions in the MJ becoming more active in legislative and budgetary analysis, as well as enabling the MJ as an institution to establish more effective links with their PC counterparts.

CHAPTER II: CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS

Anti-Corruption

Meetings with USAID Anti-Corruption Officer – ALBA met with USAID Anti-corruption Lead to discuss possible points of synergy on anti-Corruption issues in which USAID currently has programming. The two parties exchanged information regarding the legislative priorities of the GIROA and the international community.

International Community Transparency & Accountability Working Group (ICTAWG) – ALBA made a brief presentation on the Project and the impact its programming could have on anti-corruption efforts to the International Community Transparency and Accountability Working Group (ICTAWG) meeting. In addition, ALBA has been invited to join the regular ICTAWG meetings as an observer.

Gender Mainstreaming

Development of ALBA Gender Report – ALBA staff continued work on its gender report, which is aimed at providing a desk review of the previous gender efforts in Parliament, along with an analysis and recommendation of the approaches to be used in the upcoming years. The report will be completed next week and will include the following:

- Gender Analysis conducted for APAP - Jan 2012;
- ALBA 'roadmap' based on gaps and analysis from APAP report;
- Focus on Gender Responsive Budgeting;
- Focus on Gender Sensitive Legislative Analysis;
- Supporting Activities of the Women's Commission of both Houses; and,
- CSO interaction with Parliament on Gender Issues.

CHAPTER III: PERFORMANCE MONITORING

This quarter witnessed some progress on several key indicators within the ALBA PMP:

Indicator 1.1: Number of laws debated and subject to final vote;

Indicator 1.2: Percentage of legislation produced with input from outside experts and CSOs;

Indicator 2.1: Number of Executive oversight actions taken by legislature;

Indicator 2.3: Number of times services of the budget unit are accessed by Commissions; and,

Indicator 3.1: Number of interactions between CSOs and legislative bodies.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Quarter 1 (Target)/Ind. Data</i>	<i>Quarter 2 (Target)/Ind. Data</i>	<i>Quarter 3 (Target)/Ind. Data</i>	<i>Quarter 4 (Target)/Ind. Data</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Objective One: Strengthened Legislative Processes					
1.1 Number of laws debated and subject to final vote	BL: 0	18		(T 10-12)	At the time of writing there are 7 laws in MJ and 11 in WJ under discussion and subject to final vote.
1.2 Percentage of legislation produced with input from outside experts and CSOs	BL: 10%	11.11% (2 / 18)		(T 25%)	WJ Justice Commission held three hearings involving CSOs on election issues, incorporating their views in amendments. Likewise, CSO input was incorporated into amendments in Social Organization Law.
Objective Two: Improved Oversight					
2.1 Number of Exchange oversight taken by legislature	BL: 0	29		(T 60)	A total of 29 Executive oversight actions undertaken by NA (17 by WJ / 12 by MJ).
2.3 The number of times the service of the budget unit are accessed by commissions	BL: 0	3		(T 30)	The number is expected to rise in the upcoming Q3 as 1393 National Budget is introduced.
Objective Three: Increased Outreach Capacity					
3.1 Number of interactions between CSOs and legislative bodies	BL: 0	5		(T 30)	WJ Justice Commission held three hearings involving CSOs on election issues. Also, Education Commissions of both Houses called witnesses from representatives of student unions and civil society to discuss issues related to university entrance exam.

Other Quarterly Indicators – There were other indicators which were scheduled to be reported on a quarterly basis; these have yet to have data associated with them for various reasons:

Indicator 1.3: The percentage of Commissions that use a standard format developed by ALBA for legislative analysis and drafting. Although legislative training has commenced during the second quarter, no Commissions have adopted a standard format; as the training continues throughout the remainder of Year one, it is anticipated that several of the Commissions of both Houses will have been trained on a standard format and will have adopted it for consistent use.

Indicator 2.2: The number of times a standard procedure for questioning Ministers and officials as developed by ALBA is used. This is one of the main focal points of the oversight manual which is currently being developed and it is expected that some standardization will be achieved during the Spring 2014 period after the manual has been introduced to the Commissions through a series of workshops delivered by the Budget team.

Indicator 2.4: The degree to which the Public Accounts Sub-Committee mandate is implemented. Preliminary work on this issue has begun by the STTA Budget expert however any substantial progress in this area is anticipated to be seen only the end of the Spring 2014 period, at the end of Year One.

Indicator 3.2: Number of public forums in which legislators and members of the public interact. During the report period there were no public hearings supported by ALBA. However, during the upcoming quarter there are several public hearings planned, both in Kabul and throughout the provinces, enabling us to report against this indicator.

Indicator 3.3: Implementation of improved dissemination system of parliamentary proceedings. Although a desk review has begun relating to this area, it is anticipated that substantial progress will take place in the late Winter 2013 / early Spring 2014 period, as an ex-pat STTA will be secured to start assessing the technical requirements relating to the transcription systems.

Indicator 3.4: Number of times the parliamentary website is accessed. After a lengthy search for a qualified local STTA to support ALBA's efforts in this area, it was decided to secure the services of an ex-pat STTA with the required experience in both ICT, as well as legislative outreach, a combination not available at this point locally.

Indicator 4.3: Development and Implementation of revised API governance structure. Due to the sensitivities involved in the initial start-up of the API, in particular the question of 'ownership' of the API and its assets between the WJ and MJ, it was deemed appropriate to delay work on the governance structure until late Spring 2014, once ALBA has completed the necessary consultations to ensure no political issues arise.

Cross-cutting Indicator: Number of staff trained on: analysis / drafting / oversight / outreach. Although there are some courses already being delivered at the API, and ALBA's ICLAD training also began during the report period, these occurred only during the last few days of September. The next quarterly report will report against these activities, as the bulk of the ICLAD workshops and the resumption of API courses occurred in October.

CHAPTER IV: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Final approval of Branding & Marking Plan – The ALBA Branding and Marking Plan was approved during this quarter, after some coordination with USAID.

STTA Deployments – ALBA deployed STTAs to support activities under Objective One, Strengthened Legislative Processes and Objective Two, Improved Oversight.

In the first case, two trainers from ICLAD conducted a series of workshops aimed at introducing new approaches in legislative assessment to MPs, parliamentary staff, Ministry officials and CSOs. ICLAD trainers will return periodically over the next three years of the program to move this training forward, concentrating primarily on permanent during the next 18 months, and then shifting focus to the incoming MPs following the 2015 Parliamentary elections. The main departments targeted within the WJ will be the Parliamentary Affairs Directorate, and the Legislative and Legal Research Directorate. Within the MJ, the staff of the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Directorate will be the main focus of the training. Whenever possible, joint training sessions will be held to maximize the interaction between the staff of the two Houses.

During this quarter ALBA also deployed an STTA Budget Expert, who – through consultations with Budget Commission leadership and staff – developed a revised format for the Budget Analysis Report for the upcoming 1393 Budget, conducted initial consultations regarding the development of an independent Public Account Committee, and finalized a framework for a standard oversight strategy for Commissions. This STTA will be returning in mid-November to assist in the budget analysis efforts, and begin leading select commissions through the process of developing an annual oversight strategy using the newly-developed framework.

APPENDICES

NB: All annexes are submitted electronically, in accompaniment to the Quarterly Report.

ANNEX A: End-of-session Reports – WJ and MJ

ANNEX B: Workplan – WJ Commission on Women’s Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights

ANNEX C: Summary of the 1391 Qatia Report

ANNEX D: Staff and Member Questionnaires – API Services and Courses



Wolesi Jirga Session Report
March 6th 2013 to July 22nd 2013

Executive Summary

The Wolesi Jirga (WJ) held 60 plenary meetings in the Fifth Session of the 16th Term of Parliament. Out of these 60 plenary meetings, there was one Inaugural Session, two Extraordinary Sessions, four Interpellations, seven full House Questionings, two full House Hearings; four In Camera Sessions; and, 40 regular plenary sessions.

During the Fifth Session, 11 bills were passed, three International Agreements were adopted and 18 resolutions issued. Also, the WJ issued 15 decisions, issued three communiqués on various issues.

The Standing Commissions held 582 commission sessions (372 of which were regular commission meetings), 44 questionings, 39 hearings, six extraordinary commission sessions, 25 joint commission sessions, 16 consultative meetings and 14 joint committee sessions of both houses of Parliament.

The commissions also considered a total of 910 petitions during the Fifth Session.

The achievements of the Wolesi Jirga by its three core functions:

1. Legislation

a. Legislation Introduced by the Executive:

- The Law on Population Registration
- The Law on Higher Education
- The Law on Criminal Execution Code
- The Law on Adjudication of Disputes Related to State Properties
- The Law on Salaries and Expenditures of the President
- The Law on Regulating Salaries of High Ranking Government Officials
- The Law on Business Agencies

b. Legislation Approved:

- Amendments to the Law on Regulation of Communications Services (amending Article 2, and Paragraph (2) of Article 59
- The Electoral Law

- Amending Article 102 of the Income Tax Law
- The Law on Regulating Salaries of High Ranking Government Officials
- The Law on Adjudication of Disputes Related to State Properties
- The Law on the Criminal Execution Code
- The Law on Structure, Duties and Authorities of the IEC
- The Law on Regulating Salaries and Expenditures of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Amending Paragraph (1) of Article 72 of the Law on Income Tax
- Annex (4) of the Law on Urban Services Fee
- The Law on Population Registration

c. International Conventions:

- Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- International Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- Cooperation Agreement between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Tajikistan

2. Oversight

a. Interpellation Sessions:

- Interpellation of Ministers of Information and Culture, Economy, Mines, Commerce, Water and Energy, Counter-narcotics, Education on the execution of less than 50% of their development budget in 1390
- Interpellation of Minister of Finance on charging MPs for their illegal activities. 23.02. 1392
- Interpellation Minister of Finance on charging MPs, and not attending the questioning sessions. 04.10 1392
- Interpellation of Minister of Interior, returning a vote of no confidence

b. Questioning Sessions:

- Summoning the Minister of Higher Education for questioning on the results of the University exam of 1391

- Questioning the Ministers of Finance and Communication on not paying debts to the national treasury
- Questioning the Governor of the Central Bank on the devaluation of the Afghani currency
- Questioning the security organs on increase in the level of insecurity in the country
- Questioning the Minister of Information and Culture on humiliating public personalities and telecasting immoral movies and TV series, by the media
- Questioning the Ministers of Economy and Public Works on the problems in the contracting process of development projects
- Questioning the Ministers of Defense, Interior, the General Director of National Security, and the General Director of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance on the insecurity on the highways, and escorting of logistics convoys

c. Hearings sessions:

- Hearing the report of the Head of the Civil Service Commission on the employees hiring exam, and bringing reform to the civil service commission
- Hearing the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the National Security Advisor, and the Secretary General of the High Council of Peace on peace talks and recent developments in this area

3. Representation

Members of the Wolesi Jirga brought forward issues reflecting the current situation of Afghanistan, particularly the problems of their constituents. The plenary discussed more than 900 constituency cases in the plenary sessions, and sought solutions from the relevant government organs.

Commission Sessions

1. International Relations Commission

The International Relations Commission held 35 commission sessions, one of which was a questioning session, two were hearings, one was a joint hearing and the remaining 31 were ordinary commission sessions.

Legislation

The International Relations Commission adopted the following international treaties and conventions:

- Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- International Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

- Cooperation Agreement between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Tajikistan

The following International Treaties/Conventions are pending:

- Friendship Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Indonesia
- Cooperation Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom & Northern Ireland on training Afghan officers in the military academy
- Friendship Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Finland
- Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Denmark
- Pursuing membership in nine parliamentary associations

Questionings:

1. Summoning the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director and Deputy Director for the United Nations and International Conferences, and the Director of the Fourth Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the problems of the Afghan refugees in Turkey and Greece.

Hearings:

1. Summoned the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Director of Consular Affairs, and the Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Second Political Department on the implementation of the Law on Diplomatic and Consular Staff.
2. Briefing by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Commission on the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA, the peace process, and the implementation of the Law on Diplomatic and Consular Staff, and the Diplomatic consuls of Afghanistan throughout the world.

Joint Sessions:

1. The International Relations Commission held three joint sessions with the participation of representatives from the 17 standing commissions to enrich the draft of peace talks with government armed opponents.

2. Internal Affairs (Internal Security, NDS, and Local Governance)

The Internal Affairs Commission held 33 sessions, including one Extraordinary Session, nine questionings, one hearing, and 22 regular sessions.

Legislation:

Legislation passed by the Commission:

1. The Law on Population Registration

Legislation pending before the Commission:

1. The Law on Provincial Councils
2. The Law on Personal Affairs of Police, NDS, and other Military Structures
3. Amendments to Articles 2 and 52 of the Law on the Traffic Department

Questionings:

1. Summoned the Deputy Minister of Public Protection and the relevant directors regarding two Deputy positions and the process for establishing those positions, a lack of transparency in the contracts let by the Public Protections Department, and the payment of high salaries to staff members.
2. Summoned the Minister of Interior, the Chief of the Army, and the acting NDS Director regarding comments by President Karzai on the withdrawal of the US Special Forces from Wardak Province and the destructive operations of enemies across the country.
3. Summoned the Border Commandant on border-related issues with neighboring countries, particularly the construction of gates in the Goshta District of Nangarhar Province by Pakistan, and the late payment of police salaries.
4. Summoned the Minister of Telecommunications, the Deputy Ministers of Interior and Finance, and the Head of the Population Registration Agency regarding the distribution process for electronic IDs.
5. Summoned the Ministry of Interior's Head of Intelligence, the Ministry of Interior HR Director, and the Head of the Traffic Police Department regarding nepotism in the promotion of some officers, retirement, the distribution of license plates for the foreign citizens, on the implementation of the Minister's orders, and for harassing female police.
6. Summoned the Deputy for Public Protection, the Deputy for Security Affairs, and the Commandant of the 101 zoon on the private security companies' activities.
7. Summoned the Head of the Traffic Police Department and the Managers of the Traffic Police and Insurance Units on amending Article 52 of the Police Traffic Law, and the insuring of private companies' vehicles, vehicles already insured, and the revenues of the insurance and process for injecting these revenues into the government treasury.
8. Summoning the Commandant of the 101 zoon, the Border Police's General Director, and the Head of the National Security 10th Directorate on overall security issues around the country, particularly the attack on the Presidential Palace by foreigners.
9. Summoned the Deputy Head of the APPF, the Head of the Chamber of Commerce, and officials of private transportation companies regarding complaints involving those companies regarding highway security has worsened since the APPF took over security responsibilities from external private security companies.

Hearings:

1. Summoned the Deputy Minister of Interior for Security Affairs and a number of other ministry officials regarding logistical and contractual issues.

Extraordinary Sessions:

1. The Internal Affairs Commission held an extraordinary commission session regarding demonstrations among the people of Wardak province due to the uncoordinated operations of US Special Forces in Nerkh, Jalrez, and Maidan Shahar.

3. Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission

The Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission conducted 36 sessions in the Fifth Session of the Third Year, of which two were questionings, three hearings, and 31 regular sessions. In addition, the Commission conducted two field oversight visits.

Legislation Pending:

1. Law on Military Conscription

Questioning Sessions:

1. The Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission summoned the Minister of Defense, the Deputy Minister of Defense (Technical and Financial) and the Director of ANA Operations to discuss problems of ANA officials and problems in residential apartments in Ghazni province.
2. The Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission held questioning session with the Provincial Head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) addressing the political and security situation of the country and violation of Pakistan on border province.

Hearings:

1. The Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission conducted a hearing with the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Ministry of Defense Director of Education of the regarding the complaint of 40 students who passed the entrance exam to the Medical Faculty, but were not yet granted admission.
2. The Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission summoned the Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces, the Director of the ANA Detection Department, the ANA Deputy for Operations on the fifth phase of the transition from NATO to Afghan Security Forces, highlighting political and security situation of the country.

4. Finance, Budget & Public Accounts Commission

The Budget and Finance Commission held 33 sessions, of which five were questionings, four hearings, one joint session and 23 ordinary sessions.

Approved Legislation:

1. Law on Salaries of the Governmental High Ranking Officials
2. Amending the article (102) of the Income Tax Law
3. Law on the Salary and Expenditures of the President
4. Amendment paragraph (1) of article (102) of the Income Tax law

Legislation Pending:

1. Law on Financial Leases
2. Law on Banking
3. Law on Value Added Tax

Questioning Sessions:

1. The Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission held a questioning session with the Central Bank Governor, the Director of the Treasury and the Manager of the Receivership Department for the New Kabul Bank, to discuss the bank's activities.
2. The Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission held a questioning session with the Governor of the Da Afghanistan Bank, the Director of the Treasury and the Manager of Receivership Department of the New Kabul Bank to discuss the private banks' activities and the receivership of Kabul Bank loans, as well as the decline in the value of the Afghan currency against foreign currencies.
3. The Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission summoned Minister of Economy on general contracts across the country as well as the procurement process of ARDS.
4. The Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission summoned the Head of the High Office of Oversight on Fighting against Corruption, the Head of Central Audit, the Deputy Attorney General, the Technical Deputy Minister of Finance, the Director of Treasury of the Ministry of Finance and the Head of the Lawyers Association regarding all budgetary units.

Hearings:

1. A hearing was held by the Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission with the Ministry of Finance Budget Director and the Olympic Committee Finance Director of the regarding the technical problems of development projects the lack of execution of the Development Budget by the Ministry of Finance.
2. The Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission held two separate hearings with the Ministry of Finance Complaints Commission Director to discuss the Value Added Tax draft law, highlighting the importance of the law to society.
3. The Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission conducted a hearing with the Ministry of Finance Director of the Treasury. The Director of the Treasury updated the members regarding the 1391 Qatia Report. (The annual expenditures report of the government)

4. A hearing was conducted by the Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Commission with the General Director of High Office of Central Audit on the 1391 Qatia Report.

Joint Committee Sessions:

Seventeen separate joint committee sessions were conducted by Budget, Finance, and Public Accounts Commission with representatives of 17 WJ commissions, the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution. Commission members and their guests discussed the Law on Salaries and Expenditures of the President, the Law on Salaries of High Ranking Government Officials and the amendment to Article 102 of the Law on Income Tax.

Joint Sessions:

The Wolesi Jirga and the Meshrano Jirga conducted a joint session to discuss amendments recommended by both houses in the Law on Salaries and Expenditures of the President.

5. Commission on Complaints and Petitions

The Complaints and Petitions Commission held 33 sessions, of which 17 were questionings and 16 regular sessions, with two oversight visits conducted and two appreciation letters issued to governmental officials.

Questioning Sessions:

1. The Complaints and Petition Commission summoned the First Deputy Minister of Defense, the Ministry of Defense Director of Education and the Minister of Refugees and Repatriation regarding the lack of a representative ethnic composition within the Ministry of Defense. Additionally the Minister of Refugees and Repatriation and the Director of Refugees and Repatriation for Kabul were asked about a petition from the Qarabagh District regarding the non-implementation of refugee projects.
2. The Complaints and Petition Commission held a questioning session with the Minister of Public Works and the Ministry's Director of Human Resources to discuss the fate of 374 staffers at the Ministry of Public Works.
4. The Complaints and Petition Commission held a questioning session with a representative of Herat Agriculture Department regarding the usurpation of 180 square meters of its land for a building in the Gulran district of Herat.
5. The Complaints and Petition Commission held a questioning session with the Deputy Minister for Rural Development regarding the termination of five engineers without reason. The Deputy informed commission members that the engineers were not dismissed but rather their contracts ended and no funds were available for renewing their contracts.

6. The Complaints and Petition Commission held a questioning session with the Minister of Hajj & Endowment and the Administrative Reforms Commission Director regarding Ministry staffers not included in the administrative reforms process.

8. The Complaints and Petition Commission held a questioning session to discuss the petition of a Pahgman resident regarding a land dispute. The court issued a verdict in his favor but he was still denied occupancy of his land.

9. The Complaints and Petition Commission held a questioning session with inhabitants of Qargha District who complained about the construction of a high rise building in their area.

11. The Complaints and Petition Commission conducted a questioning session with the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and the Ministry of Defense Director of Education regarding the complaint of 40 students who passed the Medical Faculty entrance exam, but were not granted admission.

12. Complaints and Petition Commission held a questioning session with the MOD Director of Installations and the Properties Manager to discuss a petition of Wattapur District inhabitants in Kunar Province about the confiscation of 31 acres land by NATO.

13. The Complaints and Petition Commission conducted a questioning session regarding Takhar District inhabitants' petition about university admissions policies.

14. The Complaints and Petition Commission in its questioning session with the Deputy Minister of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director of Cultural Affairs regarding Indonesian scholarships.

16. The Complaints and Petition Commission summoned the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Director of Pensions for a questioning session regarding the non-execution of pensions for some retired staff.

6. Commission on Legislative Affairs

The Legislative Affairs Commission held 34 sessions, of which 12 were joint committees, four joint commissions and 18 regular sessions.

Approved Legislation:

1. Elections Law

Joint Committee Sessions:

The Legislative Affairs Commission held joint committee sessions on the Electoral Law, with participation of representatives from all standing commissions, the Head of the IEC, the Deputy Minister of Justice and the MoJ Legislative Department Director.

Joint Sessions:

The Wolesi Jirga and the Meshrano Jirga held one joint session to discuss controversial articles of the Electoral Law.

7. Commission on Women Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights:

The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission held 37 sessions, four of which were hearings, one was a joint committee session, four were consultative meetings and 28 regular commission sessions.

Approved Legislation:

1. Social Organizations Law

Legislation Pending:

1. Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW Law)
2. Draft Law on Marriage Affairs

Hearing Sessions:

1. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission summoned the Deputy Minister of Justice for not sending draft of the Families' Law to the parliament.
2. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission summoned the Ministry of Economy's NGOs Department Director to discuss problems of the Afghan Women's Network.
3. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission summoned the Administrative Reforms Commission Head to discuss the unfair treatment of women in the recruitment process.
4. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission summoned the Minister of Women's Affairs and the Deputy Head of the Election Commission to discuss women's role

in the upcoming Presidential and Provincial Council elections.

Joint Committee sessions:

1. A joint committee was conducted by the Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission with all standing commissions to discuss amendments proposed to the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women.

Consultative Sessions:

1. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission held an advisory session in the presence of representatives of women and other civil society organizations to discuss the Law on Elections.
2. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission held an advisory session and invited the Minister of Higher Education to discuss capacity development for female university students.
3. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission held an advisory session with members of WJ and Provincial Councils of the Northern Provinces and discussed relations between the WJ and the Provincial Councils.
4. The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission held an advisory session with the Ministry of Education's Deputy Minister for Islamic Education, the Deputy Minister of Women Affairs, the Director of Recruitment Board for Administrative Reforms, and 30 members of Provincial Councils in the eastern zone to discuss the need for drafting a clear policy for women.

Joint Sessions:

Joint session of Wolesi Jirga (WJ) and Meshrano Jirga (MJ) discussed controversial points of Law on Social Organization and approved the amendments.

8. Justice and Judiciary Affairs (Administrative Reforms & Anti-Corruption matters)

The Commission on Justice and Judiciary Affairs (Administrative Reforms & Anti-Corruption) held a total of 36 sessions, of which one was a hearing, one an extraordinary session, three joint sessions, three consultative meetings, seven joint committee sessions, and 28 regular sessions.

Approved Legislation:

1. Law on Structure, Authorities of the Attorney General Office
2. Law on Penal Procedure Code
3. Law on Adjudication of disputes related to the properties of the State
4. Law on Structure, Duties, Authorities of the IEC

Legislation Pending:

1. Law on Children's Paternity
2. Annex number (4) of the Law on the Penal Code
3. Law on Fighting against Corruption

Hearings:

1. The Commission summoned the Deputy Attorney General to discuss Attorney General Office activities.

Joint Committee Sessions:

1. The Justice and Judiciary Affairs Commission held a joint session with all other Wolesi Jirga standing commissions on April 2, 2013 on whether to revoke or approve the Commission on the Civil Service.
2. The Justice and Judiciary Affairs Commission held a joint session with Wolesi Jirga standing commissions on May 26, 2013 along with the Deputy Minister of Justice and Civil Laws Department Director regarding the Law on the Duties, Responsibilities & Jurisdiction of the Independent Election Commission (IEC).
3. The Justice and Judiciary Affairs Commission conducted a joint session with the Wolesi Jirga standing commissions on June 2, 2013, discussing the Law on the Duties, Responsibilities & Jurisdiction of the Independent Election Commission (IEC).

Consultative Sessions:

1. The Justice and Judiciary Affairs held a consultative session with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Justice and Legislative Department Head regarding amendments to the Law on the Penal Code as well as the Law on the Adjudication of Disputes Related to State Properties.
2. The Justice and Judiciary Affairs Commission held several joint consultative sessions – which included substantive participation of Civil Society representatives of over the status of the Election Complaint Commission (ECC), its selection committee, the share of women in the elections, and the selection of a woman as vice president.
3. The Justice and Judiciary Affairs Commission also conducted a joint session on June 23, 2013 with the Administrative Reforms Commission Deputy Head and the Anti-Corruption Commission to discuss the Law on Children's Paternity. The commission members and the representative of the Ministry of Justice agreed to the proposed amendments.

Extraordinary Session:

The commission discussed amendments to the IEC law, the Law on the Adjudication of Disputes Related to State Properties, and the Law on the Penal Code.

Joint Sessions:

1. Joint commission sessions were held on April 24 and May 8 regarding the differences between the two houses on the Law on the Structure and Authorities of the Attorney General Office, with both houses finally agreeing on amendments.
2. Joint commission sessions were held on April 3 and on April 14 regarding the differences about the IEC and the ECC legislation. After comprehensive discussion, the houses reached agreement regarding the amendments.
3. Joint commission sessions were held on July 6 and on July 13 regarding the differences about the revised IEC and ECC legislation. After comprehensive discussion the houses reached to an agreement regarding the amendments.

9. Commission on National Economy, NGOs, Rural Development and Agriculture and Livestock

The Commission on the National Economy, NGOs, Rural Development, and Agriculture & Livestock held 33 sessions, of which six were questioning sessions, two hearings, four joint committee sessions, three were consultative meetings and nine were regular sessions.

Legislation Pending:

1. Draft Law on Commercial Agencies
2. Draft Law on Commercial Contracts

Questioning Sessions:

2. The National Economy Commission conducted a questioning session with the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, where Ministry Directors explained the previous year's activities. Discussion focused on arrogation of government lands, the jungles of Pistachios in Badghis Province and the contracts of Ministry development projects. The Minister and his colleagues gave information regarding the ministry's functions. However, the commission members were dissatisfied with the minister's explanations and those of his colleagues. It was decided to discuss the issue in a full plenary session of the Wolesi Jirga.
3. The National Economy Commission held a questioning session with the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Director General of Customs, the Director of the Central Bank and the Central Bank's General CEO of Monetary Policy on the significant decrease of the Afghani against foreign currencies, the exemption of some companies from paying customs duties, the import quantity of these companies, and the taxes of Supreme Company and its customs tariffs.
4. The National Economy Commission conducted a questioning session with the Ministry of NGOs, Urban Development, Agriculture and Livestock, the Public Protection Deputy and the Director of Procurement for Security Firms regarding the purchase of 109 medicines and other necessary medical items by security services.

5. The National Economy Commission heard complaints from Herat province petroleum traders regarding the Herat Norms and Standards Department preventing the import of hundreds of fuel tankers to the country. The Commission met with the Deputy of National Norms and Standards Administration. The Deputy explained his views regarding the functions of the administration and the quality of fuel, safety of consumers and health safety measures. The members of the commission decided that since some provinces that don't have a Norms and Standards office at the borders, a laboratory should be created in order to prevent the import of bad quality fuel. The Commission also determined that Paramagon is of bad quality substance and is not effective, and thus its production in the north of the country should be prevented, with a result requested to be submitted at the next meeting.

Hearing Sessions:

1. The National Economy Commission held in a hearing with the Ministry of Finance Deputy of Customs, the Revenue Department Director General, the Deputy of Industry and Traders Association to discuss the increase of customs on fuel, and the problems of traders in Hairatan port.
2. The National Economy commission held a questioning session with the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation, his advisers and directors at the Ministry, the Central Bank's Deputy Governor, his adviser and moneychangers of the Shahzada Sary regarding the drop of the Afghani against other currencies.

Joint Sessions:

The National Economy Commission in its joint session discussed draft law of commercial agencies and discussed an amendment to Article 6 of the land affairs regulation law. The joint commission members decided to present both laws for approval in the plenary session.

Consultative Sessions:

The National Economy Commission held a consultative session with the Director of Policy of the Ministry of Commerce, the Legal Affairs Head, and the Ministry of Justice Financial and Economic Affairs Director and discussed the draft Laws on Commercial Agencies, and on Commercial Contracts.

10. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics

The Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances and Ethics held a total of 25 sessions, of which three were hearings, one a consultative meeting and 21 regular sessions.

Legislation Pending:

1. Law on Narcotics and Toxic Substances

Hearings:

1. The Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances and Ethics summoned the Deputy Minister of Urban Development to discuss the problems of Ferzone Township in Helmand Province.

The Deputy Minister presented his report regarding the Township and promised the Ministry will resolve the situation.

Advisory sessions:

1. A consultative session was held between the Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics and representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Commerce, along with a representative of the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) to discuss amendments to the Law on Narcotics and Toxic Substances.

11. Commission on Transport, Telecommunications, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities

The Commission on Transport Telecommunications, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities held 37 sessions, of which seven were hearings, three were joint meetings, and one was a joint committee and 27 regular sessions.

Legislation Passed:

1. Amendment to Article (10) and the addition of Paragraph (2) of Article 59 of the Law on Regulating Communications Services.

Hearings:

1. The Commission on Transportation and Telecommunications held a hearing involving the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Telecommunications, and the Mayor of Kabul regarding illegal high-rise building as well as the payments by mobile companies to the government. After the hearing from government officials the commission members took steps to resolve these issues.
2. A hearing was held by the Commission on Transportation and Telecommunications with the participation of the Minister of Hajj and Endowment, the Minister of Telecommunications, and the Directors of the Arianna, Kam Air and Safi Airways regarding bids for the transport of Hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. Commission members decided to give priority to Arianna Airlines due to its lowest fare.
3. The Commission on Transportation and Telecommunications in its hearing session with the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, and the Director of Salang Maintenance to discuss traffic problems along the Salang Highway, as well as the MoU between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Afghanistan, the Khost Airport, and the Kabul airport terminals.

The Minister of Public Works told the commission that winter is the main reason for the damage to the Salang Highway. He termed Salang Highway as a national highway and expressed his concerns. He demanded the commission take serious steps to protect the Salang Highway.

During the session, the commission also discussed the MoU between the UAE and Afghanistan on civil aviation. The commission declared the MoU to be contrary to

Afghanistan's interests and instructed the government officials to review the MoU with the UAE. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) was assigned to prepare a new MoU.

Joint Committee Sessions:

The Commission on Transportation and Telecommunication conducted sessions with other WJ commissions and the Mayor of Kabul to discuss annex 4 of the draft Law on Urban Services and decided to bring some amendments.

Joint Sessions:

WJ & MJ commissions conducted a joint session regarding amendments to the Law on Regulating Communications Services. After comprehensive discussion both sided approved the amendments.

12. Commission on Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education

The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission data was not available when this report was compiled. *(ALBA staff are checking with Parliament staff for the data of how many sessions were conducted.)*

Legislation Pending:

1. Law on Higher Education
2. Amendments and additions to the Law on Social Media

Hearings:

1. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held a hearing with the Minister of Higher Education, the Deputy Ministers of Higher Education, and the Military School Commander, along with the Ministry of Defense Education Director who presented information regarding retired staffers of Kabul University as well as about the entrance exam for the Military School.

Joint Committee Sessions:

1. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission conducted joint committee sessions with its MJ counterpart to discuss the results and consequences of University Entrance Exams, which are deemed to have created problems in the society. The Deputy Minister of Higher Education for Students' Affairs, the Director of University Entrance Department and representatives of students and civil society were also invited to take part in the discussions.
2. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission in its joint committee sessions with its respective MJ standing commission and discussed a joint draft regarding university entry tests that was prepared by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The Minister presented information about the joint draft regarding the entry test, adding that this draft has two impacts: short term and long term. The long term will begin in 1395 (2016).

Consultative Sessions:

1. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held a consultative session with the Minister of Information and Culture. The agenda focused on controversial articles in the Law on Media and it was agreed that the commission refer the law for review to all 18 commissions before placing it on the plenary agenda for discussion.

13. Commission on Health, Sports, labor and Youth

The commission held a total of 24 sessions, of which two were questioning sessions, one hearing, and 21 regular sessions.

Questioning Sessions:

1. The commission summoned the Minister of Public Health discuss the Ministry's Development Budget as well as challenges within the hospitals.
2. The commission held another questioning session with Olympic Directorate Head. This session was held at the request from some Olympic athletes who were not satisfied with the current circumstances at the Directorate. Moreover, they reported racism and corruption within the federations.

Hearings:

1. The commission held a public hearing to question officials of the Public Health Ministry regarding the ambiguity, corruption and lack of progress in the Ministry's development projects. Officials provided the members with relevant details and responded to their questions, which satisfied the members.

14. Commission on Martyrs, Disabled Dependents and Widows

The commission held 30 sessions, of which four were hearings, two consultative meetings, two oversight sessions, and 24 regular sessions.

Hearing Sessions:

The commission held a hearing with the Minister of Women Affairs (MoWA) and the Deputy of Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled (MoLSMD) and the Red Crescent Director. The session agenda aimed to find a relevant solution for derelict women.

Another hearing session was held with the Deputy of Ministry of Information and Culture and the National (Meeli) TV Channel Director to brief the commission members on specific television programs for the disabled, such as demonstrative news bulletins.

Consultative Sessions:

Regarding ambiguities in the Law on Rights and Privileges of Disabled, the commission held a consultative meeting with relevant entities to hear their views and recommendations. The participants included the Chair of the Disabled Commission, one member from MJ Disabled Commission, the Chief Executive Director of MoLSMD and the Head of Disabled affairs.

To raised voice and desire of the Disabled, the commission had another consultative meeting with President`s Administrative Office on granting overtime for disabled workers. The session was participated the Chair of WJ Disabled Commission, the Chair of MJ Disabled Commission, Deputy of the MoLSMD Disabled Office, and the Finance Ministry`s Chief Budget Director. The members agreed upon following steps:

- Assign a working group to identify dependents of Martyrs and the Disabled in the Capital, the Provinces and the Districts.
- Prepare a synopsis for granting overtime and privileges to Dependents of Martyrs and Disabled according to the relevant Law and refer it to the President`s Cabinet.

15. Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrant Affairs

The commission held 34 sessions, of which three were questioning sessions, one a consultative meeting, and 30 regular sessions.

Questioning Session:

The commission questioned the Minister for Refugees and Repatriates and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy for Consular Affairs. The agenda centered on the challenges faced by immigrants and repatriates from Iran and Pakistan and particularly the hanging of Afghan residents in Iran. The invited officials did not satisfy commission members regarding these matters and it was agreed that they return to the commission to provide greater detail and appropriate responses.

The commission held another session with the Minister of Public Health regarding the misbehavior of a midwife in Wardak Province with a nomad woman and it was decided to move her from that province to another.

Hearings:

The commission held a hearing with the Director of Nomadic Affairs of Nangarhar Province to further discuss challenges ahead for nomads in this province, particularly the lack of water and health services.

The commission held another session with Nomadic Representatives from Logar, Paktia and Khost Provinces to discuss their problems and look for solutions.

Consultative Sessions:

The commission held a consultative session with the Wolesi Jirga Deputy Speaker, the Head of the Lawyers Association and an elder of the Nomads to specify ten electoral districts for nomads across the country within the Electoral Law. This recommendation was approved by a majority vote of the commission. However, the decision was rejected by the Joint Commission session, which favored the Nomads preference for a single nationwide mandate for Nomadic seats.

16. Natural Resources and Environment Commission

The commission held a total of three hearings, two consultative sessions, and 24 regular sessions and one field visit.

Hearings:

1. The commission held a hearing with the Wolesi Jirga Second Deputy Speaker, and the Head of National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). The agenda focused on expanding NEPA and find ways to enhance its capacities. After the session, International Environment Day was celebrated and it was agreed to establish a Greenery Box for each province to collect the tax from the respected residents and utilize that amount in the budget of NEPA to further its aims as well as the quality of its services.
2. The commission held another hearing with the Minister of Mines to discuss the Law on Mining, with particular focus on the Mining concessions contracted with various international companies.

Consultative Session:

The commission held two separate sessions with the Executive Director of FIEFA, the Ministry of Justice Director of Civil Law Department and the Chancellor of the Law and Political Science Faculty. The agenda focused on discussions on the Electoral Law and amendments to the Law on Higher Education.

17. Rights, Immunities and Privileges of Members Commission of Wolesi Jirga

Throughout the session, the commission held two questioning sessions, one hearing and 27 regular sessions.

Questioning Sessions:

1. The commission held a hearing with the Director of Kabul National Security regarding security challenges in Kabul and other provinces.

Hearings:

1. The commission summoned the Head of the Traffic Police Department for a hearing on traffic jams and road closures during VIP movements.

18. Central Audit and Oversight on Law on Implementation Commission of Wolesi Jirga

The commission held four extraordinary sessions, one hearing and 24 regular sessions.

Hearings:

1. A hearing was held with the Deputy of the MoLSMD on unlawful activities and the dismissal of three employees from the Ministry. Additionally, the commission held a one day Seminar on the Law on Implementation and its challenges and solutions. Participants in this Seminar included the Wolesi Jirga Second Deputy Chairman, the Head of the Office on Anti-Corruption, the Ministry of Justice Legislation Director, and other high rank officials from various organizations and Civil Society activists.



Meshrano Jirga Session Report **March 6th 2013 to July 22nd 2013**

Throughout the First Session of Third Year of 16th term that began 6th March and ended 22nd July, the Meshrano Jirga engaged in the following activities:

- 43 Plenary Sessions
- 602 Committee Sessions
- 348 Questioning and Hearing Sessions with Ministers and other high ranking officials during Commissions and Plenary Sessions
- 12 Oversight trips to the Provinces
- Consideration of 440 petitions received
- Approval of eight Bills
- Adoption of three Treaties and International Conventions
- Affirmation of 48 declarations and messages received

Legislation

Approved Legislation

- Law on Regulating Communications Services
- Electoral Law
- Amendments to Articles 102 and 72 of the Income Tax Law
- Law on the Structure, Authorities and Duties of Independent Elections Commission
- Law on Regulating Salary and Expenditures of President
- Law on Salaries of the high ranking Government Officials
- Law on Adjudication of Disputes related to the State Properties

Adoption of International Treaties and Conventions

- Charter of Islamic Cooperation Organization
- Rejection of the Protocol of Cooperation between Foreign Ministries of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan
- International Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals- 1358

Joint Commission meetings of Both Houses on the Laws

- Law on Regulating Communications Services
- Law on Structure, Duties and Authorities of Attorney General Office
- Law on Social Organizations
- Law on the Structure, Duties and Authorities of Independent Elections Commission
- Electoral Law
- Law on Salaries of Government Officials
- Law on Salary and Expenditures of the President

Constituency Relations

- Telecast of 991 reports of plenary sessions, committee sessions and official meetings through TV and Radio in both formal languages
- Publication and distribution of 4,260 news bulletins
- Publication of seventh edition of the Meshrano Jirga Gazette
- Broadcasting of 50 radio programs on the National Radio
- Distribution of 9,000 Meshrano Jirga Gazette to Government agencies and Organizations
- Facilitated study visits to the Meshrano Jirga for 288 students
- Established a new English page in Meshrano Jirga website

Defense and Internal Affairs Commission

The Defense and Internal Affairs Commission held 47 sessions, of which 29 were hearing and questioning of Government high rank officials and authorities. During this Session, the commission reviewed and approved 11 pieces of legislation. Additionally, the commission received 21 petitions of which two were reviewed for a second time. A total of 104 letters were received and 132 letters were sent. The commission made a total of 29 decisions.

Women's Affairs and Civil Society Commission

During this Session, the Women Affairs and Civil Society Commission held 38 sessions, of which 30 were hearing and questioning sessions of Government high rank officials and authorities. The commission also reviewed and approved eight laws, agreements, and decrees. The commission received three petitions, received 55 letters and sent 29. The commission made a total of 37 decisions.

Public Welfare and Environment

The Commission on Public Welfare and the Environment held a total of 47 sessions, including 22 hearing and questioning sessions of Government high rank officials and authorities. This commission reviewed and approved nine laws, agreements, and decrees. Additionally, 60 petitions were received along with 135 letters and 92 were sent. A total of nine petitions were pursued. A total of 44 decisions were made by the commission during this Session.

Transportation and Telecommunications Commission

The Transportation and Telecommunication Commission held a total of 48 sessions, of which 46 were hearing and questioning sessions for Government high rank officials and authorities. This commission also reviewed and approved ten laws, agreements, and decrees. A total of 40 petitions were received, as well as 98 letters with 180 were sent, and eight petitions followed up. The commission made a total of 38 decisions.

Tribes and Borders Commission

A total of 45 sessions were held by the Tribes and Borders Commission, of which 28 were hearings and questionings of Government high rank officials and authorities. This commission reviewed and

approved ten laws, agreements, and decrees. Fifteen petitions were received during the Session, along with 81 letters, and 36 sent out. The commission made a total of 45 decisions.

Petitions Commission

The Petitions Commission held 55 sessions, of which 27 were hearings and questioning sessions for Government high rank officials and authorities. Additionally, the commission received 321 petitions, 95 letters and sent out 272. Two-hundred and five decisions were handed down by the commission during this Session.

Provincial Council, Immunities and Privileges Commission:

The Provincial Council, Immunities and Privileges Commission held a total of 42 sessions, of which 18 were hearings and questionings of Government high rank officials and authorities. Commission also reviewed and approved 11 bills, agreements and decrees. During the Session, the commission received 17 petitions. A total of 118 letters were received and 75 letters were sent out, three of which followed up letters received. The commission made a total of 42 decisions.

National Economic Commission

The National Economic Commission held 51 sessions, of which seven were hearings and questionings of Government high rank officials and authorities. The commission reviewed and approved 12 bills, agreements and decrees, while also receiving 60 petitions. One hundred and forty one letters were received – six of which were followed up - and 89 sent out. The commission made a total of 49 decisions.

Religious Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission

The Religious Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held a total 44 sessions, including 80 hearings and questionings of Government high rank officials and authorities. Additionally, the commission reviewed and approved nine bills, agreements and decrees, and 51 petitions. A total number of 42 letters were received, of which five resulted in commission follow-up with 122 letter sent out in the course of normal communications. The commission made a total of 70 decisions.

International Relations Commission

The International Relations Commission held of 54 sessions, of which 30 were hearings and questionings of Government high rank officials and authorities. Additionally, the commission also reviewed and approved seven bills, agreements and decrees. During this Session, the commission received 15 petitions, along with 58 letters to which 15 merited response, as well as 40 letters sent in the course of normal outgoing correspondence. The commission handed down a total of 54 decisions.

Legislative Affairs, Justice and Judiciary Commission

The Legislative Affairs, Justice and Judiciary Commission held 47 sessions between January and July, of which 15 were hearings and questionings of Government high rank officials and authorities. The commission reviewed and approved 11 bills, agreements and decrees and received a total of 60

petitions. One-hundred-eleven letters were received during the Session, and 90 responses sent. The commission made a total of 34 decisions.

Disabled and Immigrants Affairs Commission

The Disabled and Immigrants Commission held a total of 47 sessions, of which 29 were hearings and questionings of Government high rank officials and authorities. The commission reviewed and approved ten bills, agreements and decrees and received 40 petitions. A total of 102 letters were received by the commission, with 148 sent out as normal correspondence. The commission handed down 47 decisions during this Session.



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
National Assembly - Wolesi Jirga
Women’s Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Committee**

Workplan

6 Sept 2013-20th Jan 2014

Potential Objectives and Achievements

This plan has been developed by the Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Committee of Wolesi Jirga in cooperation and coordination of the Afghanistan Legislative Bodies Support (ALBA), UNWOMEN and UNDP on 25th of August, 2013. This plan includes the activities of the Committee for the next four and a half months (15 September 1392 to 30 serious) in the areas of legislation, representational and oversight.

This plan will help the Committee in maximizing its efforts to achieve its goals through better planning, determining appropriate strategies and finding better ways to achieve its goals and objectives by determining qualitative and quantitative criterias for measuring its performances, as well as better coordination between the Committee and other stakeholders.

In addition, this plan will help the Committee in drafting and follow up of laws, proper guidelines for conducting its activities and expanding its communication on the national and international levels.

Expected Results:

- Approval of the policy of monitoring recruitment of women in government agencies
Approval of the Family Law
- Review and follow up of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law and efforts for its approval
- Ensure implementation of the policies to increase women's participation in elections and increasing the number of women voters
- Planning and implementation of gender policies in the national budget
- oversight of prisons, detention centers, lock ups, children education and rehabilitation centers and support centers, and establishment of a committee for follow up of issues
- Ensuring budget expenditure, particularly the allocation for women and strengthening women's participation in the election process, building professional capacity of the committee members and its staff

Specific duties of the Women's Affairs Committee

Legislation:

Approval and amendment of laws to improve the status of women, human rights and strengthen the civil society.

Oversight:

Assess and address the issues of women's rights, including social and political participation of women.

Representation:

1 – Advocacy of the legal, political and social rights including social and political participation of women to government officials

2 - Assessment of the status of women in prisons, community centers and other places in the light of the Elimination of Violence Against Women and other laws of the country.

Jurisdiction of the Commission:

List of the Ministries and government agencies under the Legislative and Oversight jurisdiction of the Committee:

1. Ministry of Women's Affairs
2. Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
3. Ministry of Higher Education
4. Ministry of Education
5. Ministry of Justice
6. The Attorney General's office
7. Ministry of Public Health
8. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
9. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10. Ministry of Interior
11. Ministry of Hajj and Endowments
12. Administrative Reforms and Civil Service Commission
13. Human Rights Commission
14. Independent Elections Commission
15. Non-governmental organizations cooperating the Commission

Overall Objectives of the Committee

1. Improving the status of women through legislation, strategies, policies and budget allocation.
2. Improving the human rights situation in Afghanistan through ongoing monitoring, initiatives and amendments to existing laws.
3. Developing gender justice and developing gender issues in the National Development Strategy and a 10 year women action plan.
4. Coordination and communication with relevant and similar organizations.

Detailed Action Plan of The Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Committee (6 Sept 2013-20th Jan 2014)

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Agrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
Legislation and Policy	1. Establish monitoring policy to monitor the women recruitment process on leadership position at government agencies in coordination of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Independent Civil Service Commission	1.1 Coordination meeting between the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Administrative Reforms and Civil Service Commission and the WJ Women's Affairs Committee to provide comments on drafting and establishment of the policy.						Committee	Female MPs, ALBA / UN WOMEN, Administrative Reforms and Civil Service Commission and Ministry of Women's Affairs	Approval of the Policy and its implementation
		1.2 Coordination meeting for comments on the design of the policy by members of the Women's Affairs Committee						Committee	Members of the Committee	Approval of the Policy and its implementation
	2. Advocacy for Amendment of Part 4, paragraph 1 of Article 26	2.1 Overview of the Criminal Procedure Code by the Women's Affairs Commission of the Lower House and the Upper House, as well as by						Committee	The Women's Affairs Committee and	Necessary adjustments in the Law

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Aqrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
	of the Criminal Procedure Code	the Judicial Affairs Committees of both houses						UNWOMEN		
3. Famil Law	3.1 Discussion with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to submit the draft Family Law to the Parliament						the Ministry of Women's Affairs Committee	CSOs, Ministry of Justice, MoWA	Elaboration and review of the draft Family Law	
		3.2 Coordination with members of the civil society, Women's Affairs Committee of the Upper House, female members of the Provincial Councils, lawyers and legal experts about the context of the family law and getting their suggestions					The Women's Affairs Committee ALBA/UNWOMEN	CSOs, Ministry of Justice, MoWA, Professionals and lawyers	Elaboration and review of the draft Family Law	
		3.3 Discussion and opinions about the Family Law in the Women's Affairs Committee, as well as in the plenary of lower house of					Committee	Committee	Approval of Law in the Plenary	

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Aqrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
		the parliament								
Monitoring	4. Review and follow up of the EAW law by members of the Committee for difference of the disputed provisions of the law	4.1 The information collected from other Muslim countries for the law's effective justification					Committee	Relevant organizations, ALBA/ UNWOMEN	Approval of Law in the Plenary	
		4.2 Meetings with other Committees and relevant groups to seek their support on approval of the law					Committee	Other Committees of the WJ	Approval of Law in the Plenary	
		4.3 Meeting the President					Committee	Women's Affairs, Human Rights and Civil Society Committees of both houses	Approval of Law	
Monitoring	1.1 Monitoring of the policy to increase women's participation	1.1 Monitoring the voters' registration process					Committee	IEC, MoWA	Ensure women's participation in elections and increase the number of	

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Aqrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
	in elections.								women in the registration process	
		<p>1.2 Data collected both about voters and candidates through holding regular meetings with officials of the election commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Ensure women candidates in all constituencies - Monitor election campaigns and ensure non-discrimination between male and female candidates - - Hold regular meetings with the Election Commission about the follow-up and implementation of the policy - Supporting the process of political participation of women as candidates and voters by holding public hearings in the provinces 					Committee	IEC, MoWA and other relevant organizations	Implementation of the policy of Women's participation in elections and increase the number of women in the registration process	

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Aqrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
2	Monitoring the implementation of approved laws with a particular focus on the Budget and Gender Issues	2.1 Review of the 1392 national budget, especially programs related to women						Committee	MoF ,ALBA/ UNWOMEN	Accountability for the implementation of gender budgeting at the national level and improvement of the future plans
		2.2 Analysis of the 1393 national budget from gender perspective in partnership with the Provincial Councils and Local Authorities.						Committee	MoF ,ALBA /UNWOMEN	Planning and inclusion of gender policies in the national budget
		2.3 Monitor implementation of the national budget, with a particular focus on programs related to women during a visit to the provinces							Committee	Local Authorities, ALBA and other stakeholders

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Aqrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
	3 Hearings on planning monitoring programs with relevant officials and authorities	3.1 Holding hearings with officials from the Ministry of Finance regarding gender budgets at the national level.						Committee	ALBA/ UNWOMEN and other relevant organizations	Ensure implementation of the policy of women's participation in elections
	4 Coordination with regards to establishment of Gender and monitor implementation of the policy to increase the number of girls in the higher education institutes and scholarships	4.1 Monitoring of the curriculum to ensure inclusion of gender issues 4.2 Monitoring the implementation of policy to increase girls' education and scholarships						Committee	UNDP/ALBA UNWOMEN and other relevant stakeholders	Having a comprehensive curriculum, acceptable at community level

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Aqrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
	5 Oversight of prisons, detention centers, Lockups, juvenile training centers, and rehabilitation centers	<p>5.1 Coordination among officials of the prisons, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Affairs Committee of the Wolesi Jirga at national and provincial levels to visit prisons, detention centers, Lockups, juvenile training centers, and rehabilitation centers in the capital, as well as in the provinces</p> <p>5.2 Establishment of a Joint Committee of the Women's Affairs, Human Rights and Civil Society Committee and other relevant organizations</p>						Committee	Prison authorities (Ministry of Interior), judicial bodies and other relevant agencies and ALBA	Follow up of identified problems, addressing these problems and developing report
Representation	1. Using opportunities for organizing direct meetings for seeking support of the political parties for	<p>1.1 Identifying and meeting with political alliances.</p>						Committee	ALBA/UNWOMEN AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	Seeking support for approval of EVAW law
		<p>1.2 Awareness of the National Alliances about the importance of EVAW law and its provisions, as well as other women related issues</p>						Committee	ALBA/UNWOMEN AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	Seeking support for approval of EVAW law

Sections	Goals	Implementation of Activities	Time frame					Lead	Organizations Involved	Expected Outcomes
			Sunbula (23 Aug-22 Sep)	Mizan (23 Sep-22 Oct)	Aqrab (23 Oct-22 Nov)	Qaws (23 Nov-22 Dec)	Jaddi (23 Dec-22 Jan)			
	approval of the EAW law and other laws related to the activities of the committee	1.3 Prioritize issues of discussion with Political Alliances about approval of the EAW law and other laws related to the Committee						Committee	ALBA/UNWOMEN AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	Seeking support for approval of EAW law
		1.4 Gaining support of the political alliances and advocacy for approval of the mentioned legislation						Committee	ALBA/UNWOMEN AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	Seeking international support for approval of EAW law
	2. National and International Coordination on approval of the EAW law	2.1 Coordination with the political and diplomatic missions based in Afghanistan in order to: - - Sharing the purposes of the Committee about the EAW Law - Seedking support on approval of the EAW Law						Committee	Other relevant organizations	Seeking support for approval of EAW law
	3. Relationships with the media	3.1 Strengthening partnerships with the media to cover activities of the Women's Affairs Committee and strengthening professional capacity of female representatives to participate in the media and discussions over gender						Committee	Women's Affairs Committee and all Female MPs	Professional capacity and strong and active participation in discussions on radio and television channels

ANNEX C: Summary of the 1391 Qatia Report

Government's 1391 Financial Statement (Qatia)

Budget and Finance Committee of the WJ

Public Accounts Committee

Annual financial statements (Qatia) of Operating/Development budget and annual revenue of the government is in fact the consolidated annual revenue and expenditure report of the budget entities of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for a complete fiscal year, which is prepared by the treasury and budget general directorates of the Ministry of Finance and submitted to the Supreme Audit Office (SAO). The SAO then perform an in-depth financial review of the mentioned reports and submit their findings to the office of the president and national assembly.

Qatia report is usually reviewed by Wolesi Jirga, based on the following reasons:

- Qatia is an accountability document of the Government, which provides information on the implementation of last year's budget to the National Assembly.
- Qatia is a good tool of parliamentary oversight over the implementation of the last year's national budget.
- Qatia is an excellent guide for the Parliament to use budget performances and implementation capacity of the ministries during the past year, so that they take wise decision on the government's proposed budget for the upcoming year.
- Qatia shows budgetary performance of the ministries and other budget entities during the past year, to show transparency and non-transparency in implementation of their budget (legal actions, violations of law, accounting errors, technical problems and low level of activity at the budgetary units).

The 1391 Qatia was submitted to the Finance and Budget Commission of the Lower House on 04.03.1392 through the General Secretariat of Wolesi Jirga. Before and after the summer recess, this document was reviewed and discussed in several meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee with officials from the Ministry of Finance, the Supreme Audit Office and a number of other government agencies.

The Finance and Budget Affairs Committee, as dedicated committee compares the figures in the 1391 Qatia with the budget document at the beginning of the year, budgetary supplementary, the mid-year review document, the Supreme Audit Office report and other budgetary documents, and presents its findings in a detailed analytical report and submitted to all commissions of the WJ. Reviewing the Supreme Audit Office report, it was noticed that, budget performance by some ministries and budgetary units had the following shortcomings:

- Violations of the Public Expenditure Law and National Budget 1391 guidelines.
- Accounts errors and negligence by some agencies in implementation of the 1391 national budget.

- Technical problems in preparing the 1391 Qatia.
- The low level of activity by agencies in execution of the 1391 budget.

In this report, we would first provide brief information about the total figures of each section, while discuss finding of inspector general of the High Office of Audit at the end of that section.

I. The 1391 Revenue Qatia

A. The amount of domestic revenue as per the FY1391 budget estimation at beginning of year: Afs 87.967 billion.

B. The collected domestic revenue amount as reported in 1391 Qatia:

➤ The collected domestic revenue amount for FY 1391:	Afs. 81.476 bn
➤ The remaining of the collected revenue for FY 1390:	Afs. 0.228 bn
<hr/>	
Total balance of the collected revenue (as stated in the Qatia)	Afs. 81.705 bn

During 1391 (7.37 percent) reduction or deductions was witnessed in the amount of collected revenue, and only 92.63 percent of the planned revenue was collected.

Findings of the Auditor of the Supreme Office of Audit regarding the 1391 Revenue Qatia:

No legal violations regarding domestic revenue collection have been mentioned in the Supreme Audit Office's report, but, accounts errors, negligence, technical problems, and low level of activity by budget entities with regards to domestic revenue collection have been reported, the details of which have is included in the Commission's report.

Reflection of external debts in the 1391 Qatia:

The Supreme Audit Office report included detailed and important information about the loans received by Afghanistan before and after 2001, which is included in the detailed Qatia report, where information about waivers of loans, installments and interest, as well as about the projects funded from loans is also provided.

II. The FY 1391 Operating Budget Qatia

A.

Operating Budget at the beginning of the year (pas per budget decree)	Afs. 133.690 bn
Operating Budget throughout the year (after budget supplementary)	Afs. 157.970 bn
Operating Budget at the end of the year (as per Qatia report)	Afs. 156.896 bn

B.

Payments of the Operating Budget (as per statements of the Central Bank)	Afs. 135.790 bn
Payments of the Operating Budget (as per Qatia report of Treasury)	Afs. 135.790 bn

Directorate)

1391 Operating Budget (as per Qatia report)	(Figures in Afs.)
The approved Operating Budget (Core Budget)	117,356,567,000
Adjustment from approved budget to reserve codes	347,500,000
Total core budget after deduction of the said amount	117,009,067,000
Adjustment from reserve codes	16,081,114,463
Increase in the Budget Supplementary	23,806,288,400
Grand Total (after adjustment throughout the year)	156,896,469,863
Total expenditure of FY 1391	135,790,736,547
The remaining (balance)	21,105,733,316

Note: The average percentage of 1391 Budget expenditure has been of 86.5 per cent.

Findings of the Auditor of the Supreme Office of Audit regarding the 1391 Operating Budget Qatia:

Inspector of the Supreme Audit Office included the followings as his findings about the 1391 operating budget Qatia, one part of which includes violation of law, with the other being technical faults, low capacity of the implementing agencies and accounts errors:

A. Violations of the law (as pointed out in the Supreme Audit Office's report): In violation of the laws the followings are mentioned as samples:

- Adjustments in the prohibited codes (code 21, salaries), contrary to Article 8 of the 1391 budget execution law have been brought in some ministries and independent budget entities.
- In some departments, a number of amendments have been made to the operative codes, while Article 9 of the 1391 budget execution law does not permit adjustments from other codes to operative codes.
- Unit 9, Article thirty two of the public expenditure law states that "budget authority for future expenditure, is not exceeding three percent of the total cost of the program", but considering the Operating Budget Qatia for 1391, 32 budget entities have used 3.35 to 7.19 percent of their core budget from reserve codes.
- Looking at the (AFMIS) system, during 1391 an amount of Afs. 1.422 billion in sub code (21,128) of code 21 (salary) and Afs. 515.506 million in sub code (22,809) of Code 22 (goods and services) total of Afs. 1.935 billion have not been classified, recorded as "the amount of expenditure not classified", which is against the Public Finance and Expenditure Law, with the purpose of the expenditure being unclear.

B. Technical Problems, accounts errors or negligent in performances:

Information about such kinds of shortcomings can be seen in details in the report of the Commission.

III. The FY 1391 Development Budget Qatia

Development Budget at the beginning of the year (pas per budget decree) Afs. 111.053 bn

Development Budget throughout the year (after budget supplementary) Afs. 107.350 bn

Development Budget at the end of the year (as per Qatia report) Afs. 105.833 bn

The 1391 Operating Budget (as per Qatia report)

Details	(Figures in Afs.)
Total Approved Budget in the beginning of the year (estimated carry forward, and new budget)	111,053,558,500
Decrease in the figures of estimated carry forward	7,190,572,640
Increase in the new discretionary budget	150,000,000
New commitments for approved non-discretionary funds	3,337,144,900
The renewed approved 1391 development budget	107,178,564,468
Increased difference for the estimated carry forward and actual carry forward budget	7,666,420,500
Total	114,844,984,968
Decreased difference for the estimated carry forward and actual carry forward budget	14,767,682,920
Balance after adjustment	100,077,302,048
Adjustment from reserve codes	2,427,597,676
Budget Supplementary	3,328,943,000
Grand Total	105,833,842,724
Total 1391 expenditure	53,593,076,358
Remaining Amount (the budget not spent)	52,240,766,366

Note: The average percentage of 1391 Development Budget expenditure of Ministries and Independent Budgetary Units has been of 50.6 per cent.

Percentage of the Development Budget spending of the final development budget of 1391

No.	Agency	Budget (final result)	Expenditure	Percentage of expenditure from total budget
1	The High Office of Oversight over Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy	44,587,500	40,020,998	89.76%

No.	Agency	Budget (final result)	Expenditure	Percentage of expenditure from total budget
2	Ministry of Women's Affairs	86,808,500	71,211,205	82.03%
3	Ministry of Defense	27,416,000	22,445,057	81.87%
4	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	457,960,119	358,564,018	78.30%
5	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriates	124,724,000	89,439,173	71.71%
6	Ministry of Hajj and Endowment	163,341,000	116,397,296	71.26%
7	General Directorate of Security	70,237,950	46,880,014	66.74%
8	National Standard Department	232,957,063	154,448,234	66.30%
9	Ministry of Urban Development	1,216,635,092	784,311,979	64.47%
10	The Administrative Reforms and Civil Service Commission	357,979,000	226,633,289	63.31%
11	Ministry of Economy	453,115,500	280,467,417	61.90%
12	Ministry of Finance	3,467,750,535	2,096,850,762	60.47%
13	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	21,104,646,797	12,418,172,811	58.84%
14	Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs	95,513,000	56,006,849	58.64%
15	Office of Administrative Affairs	148,495,000	84,547,711	56.94%
16	Ministry of Public Works	22,454,930,826	12,708,747,135	56.60%
17	Ministry of Commerce	276,179,992	155,957,330	56.47%
18	Ministry of Martyrs, Disabled and Social Affairs	838,867,453	452,516,819	53.94%
19	Supreme Court	154,215,521	82,955,134	53.79%
20	Ministry of Public Works	8,539,371,701	4,560,776,038	53.41%
21	Ministry of Agriculture	5,813,949,501	3,056,162,784	52.57%
22	Ministry of Counter Narcotics	757,618,996	397,094,171	52.41%
23	High Commission of Atomic Energy of Afghanistan	2,208,500	1,147,277	51.95%
24	Disaster Management Department	27,855,000	14,328,785	51.44%
25	Ministry of Energy and Water	10,597,816,221	5,339,518,589	50.38%
26	Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation	1,645,665,182	818,318,707	49.73%
27	New Kabul City Independent Board	326,755,619	151,095,317	46.24%
28	Ministry of Communication	1,994,203,510	866,303,396	43.44%
29	Ministry of Mines and Industry	3,228,452,992	1,324,946,845	41.04%
30	President's Office	509,682,489	209,160,312	41.04%
31	Ministry of Higher Education	2,861,225,733	1,139,831,012	39.84%

No.	Agency	Budget (final result)	Expenditure	Percentage of expenditure from total budget
32	Department of Geodesy and Cartography	185,147,500	70,962,885	38.33%
33	Science Academy	48,386,000	17,342,024	35.84%
34	Independent Directorate of Local Governance	1,199,768,000	417,427,321	34.79%
35	Central Statistics Department	147,149,434	49,716,186	33.79%
36	Ministry of Interior	392,020,000	130,577,862	33.31%
37	Ministry of Education	8,473,506,363	2,816,130,464	33.23%
38	National Olympic Committee	405,862,000	134,086,354	33.04%
39	Kabul Municipality	1,164,087,570	380,869,249	32.72%
40	Department of Environmental Protection	62,167,000	20,185,300	32.47%
41	Breshna Inc.	3,079,071,927	940,725,453	30.55%
42	Ministry of Information and Culture	528,565,000	151,106,666	28.59%
43	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	50,000,000	13,292,128	26.58%
44	Attorney General's Office	105,080,424	27,308,439	25.99%
45	Control and Audit Department	336,970,949	81,470,127	24.18%
46	Ministry of Justice	307,931,138	53,515,708	17.38%
47	Canalization and Water Supply Department	762,220,276	132,047,968	17.32%
48	National Assembly	90,307,000	14,635,030	16.21%
49	General Independent Directorate of Coordination of Kuchis Affairs	30,030,500	3,316,820	11.04%
50	Independent Election Commission	14,776,500	1,372,451	9.29%
51	President's Protection Directorate	92,640,352	7,544,376	8.14%
52	Facilities to support small funding sources in Afghanistan	226,988,500	4,187,084	1.84%
53	Center for Legal Education	0	0	0.00%
54	Department of Communication order	0	0	0.00%
55	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency	50,000,000	0	0.00%
Total		105,833,842,725	53,593,076,359	51%

Findings of the Auditor of the Supreme Office of Audit regarding the 1391 Development Budget Qatia:

Same as in the operating budget, there have been technical problems and low execution matters noticed in the development budget, as well. Although violations of law in the development budget compared to operating budget is not that high, but other shortcomings in

this area have been quite substantial, the detailed report of the findings can be seen in the detailed report of the commission.

IV. Weaknesses and Shortcomings in the 1391 Qatia

Qatia inspection commission found a number of shortcomings and failures during inspection of the previous years' Qatia account, most of which were related to the Ministry of Finance and other budgetary units with regards to preparation and implementation of the budget and Qatia report, which were identified by the commission and correcting guidelines and feedback were provided for. Results of the 1391 Qatia suggests that the Ministry of Finance has partly addressed the weaknesses and shortcomings of the Qatia, but, in some cases there still are some shortcomings and weaknesses in the actions of the MoF and some budgetary units, which are reported as under:

1. Although the Ministry of Finance submitted the operating budget Qatia on 12 Hamal, development budget Qatia on 18 Hamal and Revenue Qatia on 14 Hamal to the Qatia inspection commission, which shows seriousness in the efforts of the MoF and budgetary units to prepare and submit the Qatia report on time, but still, there are 12 days delay in submission of the operating budget Qatia, 18 days delay in submission of the development Qatia and 14 days delay in submission of the revenue Qatia. Therefore, because of the limitation of review time and submission of the report on time, the delay in preparation and submission of the Qatia report, on whatever grounds it may be, will disrupt the review process and delay its submission, which will have negative effects on the quality of the audit too.
2. Delay in providing the documents and information required by the Audit Committee and in some cases providing unrealistic (Extrovertive) and undocumented information will cause delay and disruption in the inspection process.
3. The use of correction pen on figures, record of figures in Afghani, none existence of a single exchange rate, recording exchange rates in some forms, the lack of matching between figures (Numbers and letters) in some of the forms
4. Recording the reserve funds as a whole, based on which it was not understood that which department from which of reserve codes received what amount, as well as the none existence of details about the adjusted reserve codes in Qatia supplementary.
5. The lack of coordination between the budget, treasury and revenue departments, as well as different interpretation of some financial terms and in some cases presenting different figures.
6. Preparation of the budget on wrong planning and unrealistic (Extrovertive) proposals by some of the budgetary units and low execution capacity of the MoF.
7. The lack of clarity in the budget document about the projects funded from loans
8. Difference between the figures of Qatia and the figures of the beginning of the year in Budget Document.
9. Duplication in action of the treasury department in recording budget supplementary funds in the Qatia document.

10. Non consideration of the Budgetary Unit's Qatia during preparation of the government's Qatia.
11. Recording the 1392 B 23 Forms in 1391 Qatia.
12. Noncompliance of the figures of some budgetary units with overall Qatia of the government.
13. The existence of different perceptions towards the funds under the title of "The central bank compensation" transferred from the MoF as payee to the Central Bank as receiver.
14. The lack of attention in clearance of advance payments, as seen in Qatia, remaining of 1381-1389 the total amount of which is (1981921325) Afghanis, the remaining of 1390 being (173 698 523) Afghanis, remaining of 1391 being (859 447 630) Afghanis, the total of which is (3015067478) Afghanis have not been cleared yet, which shows the lack of attention of the relevant departments of the Ministry of Finance.
15. Payment of (1935848567) Afghanis as "not classified elsewhere" is not clear whether what the purpose of its use was.
16. The record of figures in Qatia should be done on the bases of the documents of that particular year, recording figures of the forms the issue date of which is not related to a fiscal year for which the Qatia is prepared, should be avoided.

V. Conclusions

Reviewing the view points of the Supreme Audit Office about the 1391 Qatia, the following points should be noted:

1. There have been some substantial differences between figures in the budget document and the Qatia report regarding domestic revenue, operating budget and development.
2. There have been some differences between the level of planned, actual and collected revenue of the government.
3. Based on unknown reasons, the government's budgetary units at an average level couldn't use more than 86.5 percent of their total operating budget and 50.6 percent of their development budget.
4. Budgetary performances of many of these budgetary units were in some cases against the law and financial regulations, which are well reflected in the report of Audit High Office.
5. Qatia of FY 1391 same as Qatia of previous years included some technical faults and errors, which are mentioned above.
6. Some Ministries and Independent Budgetary Units were weak in implementation of their budget in 1391, and their budget exaction was not acceptable.
7. Expenditure level in some projects of a number of Ministries during 1391 was Zero, which is a matter of concern.

End

Budget and Finance Committee (WJ)

Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API)

SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT (Supervisor)

1. Goal of this assessment:

The purpose of this services needs assessment is to assess the training needs of National Assembly members and staff. This would help us better understand your continuing training and capacity building requirements. Please take a few minutes to complete this training needs survey. Your responses will be used to develop targeted training programs for you and your staff members. Thank you for valuable input.

2. Personal Information:

Supervisor's Name: Title:

Gender: Male / Female (Circle appropriate)

Level of Education:

Telephone Number: E-mail Add:

Department MJ WJ

3. How many staff members are in your department?.....(M).....(F)

4. What areas listed below would you like to see additional training programs for your staff members?
(Select your top five)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and budget process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative drafting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentary oversight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Constituency relations & communication strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Report writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Research and Memoranda | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Management |
| Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Oversight and Accountability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using Databases and the Legislative Tracker | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Public expenditure |

- System of Local Administration
- Graphic design programs
- Gender Budgeting
- Gender Monitoring and Evaluation

- Legislative Process
- Gender Auditing
- Gender Mainstreaming for Economic Empowerment

5. Others (be specific)

.....

.....

6. What technology areas are of interest to your staff (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Creating and Publishing Web Documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing | <input type="checkbox"/> Data file management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adobe | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

7. Please select the most convenient time for your staff to attend training programs:

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 8:30am – 10:30am | <input type="radio"/> 1:00pm – 03:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Morning |
| <input type="radio"/> 9:00am – 11:00am | <input type="radio"/> 2:00pm – 04:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Lunch |
| <input type="radio"/> 10:00am - 12:00pm | <input type="radio"/> 3:00pm - 4:30pm | <input type="radio"/> Afternoon |

8. Please select the most desirable day for your staff to attend training programs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Saturday | <input type="radio"/> Sunday |
| <input type="radio"/> Monday | <input type="radio"/> Tuesday |
| <input type="radio"/> Wednesday | |

9. Are you currently involved in any training and or capacity development intervention? If yes what is the course name/title? Yes No

10. What areas listed below would you like to see additional training programs for yourself? (Select your top five)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and budget process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative drafting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentary oversight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Constituency relations & communication strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Report writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Research and Memoranda Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using Databases and the Legislative Tracker | <input type="checkbox"/> Oversight and Accountability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> System of Local Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Public expenditure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic design programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Auditing | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Budgeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Mainstreaming for Economic Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Monitoring and Evaluation |

11. Others (be specific)

.....

12. What technology areas are of interest to you? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Creating and Publishing Web Documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing | <input type="checkbox"/> Data file management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adobe | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

13. Please select the most convenient time for you to attend training programs:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 8:30am | <input type="radio"/> 1:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Morning |
| <input type="radio"/> 9:00am | <input type="radio"/> 2:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Lunch |
| <input type="radio"/> 10:00am - 12:00pm | <input type="radio"/> 3:00pm - 4:30pm | <input type="radio"/> Afternoon |

14. Please select the most desirable day for you to attend training programs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Saturday | <input type="radio"/> Sunday |
| <input type="radio"/> Monday | <input type="radio"/> Tuesday |
| <input type="radio"/> Wednesday | |

15. There are many ways to meet learning and development needs. What learning methods would you find most useful to support your development?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> API formal courses (classroom based learning at API building) | <input type="checkbox"/> Conferences. Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training manual | <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching (structured one to one meetings) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring (regular meetings to help with specific tasks/ skills) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shadowing (observing someone work) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondment (take a role for a short period to understand how its done while retaining your existing responsibility) | <input type="checkbox"/> Action learning (meeting in small groups regularly to work through real problems) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> E-Learning/Distance Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) | |

16. Please provide any suggestions on how we can better support individual and organizational success.

.....

.....

.....

Signed _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your participation in this Survey. Your candid input and time are appreciated.

Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API)

SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT (Staff)

1. Goal of this assessment:

The purpose of this services needs assessment is to assess the training needs of National Assembly members and staff. This would help us better understand your continuing training and capacity building requirements. Please take a few minutes to complete this training needs survey. Your responses will be used to develop targeted training programs for you and your staff members. Thank you for valuable input.

2. Personal Information:

Name:MJ/WJ (Circle appropriate)

Gender: Male / Female (Circle appropriate)

Department: Position:

Level of Education:

Telephone Number: E-mail Add:

3. What skills/ experience would allow you to be more confident in your work?

4. What areas would you like to improve? (Please be specific) _____

5. How would you rate your capacity/ skills/ knowledge of the following area? Please tick where appropriate. Where not applicable to your role, please leave it blank

Capacity/ Skills/ Knowledge	Weak	Average	Strong
Planning and running meetings, effective follow up			
Administrative tasks – report writing, drafting agenda, filing			
Effective use of IT and equipment			
Communication skills			
Developing a concept note			
Creating and giving presentations			
Conducting research			
Event management			
Performance Appraisal			
Financial understanding (budgeting)			
Budget, budget process & Public expenditure			
Legislative Process (whole process)			
Legislative drafting			
Legislative research and Memoranda writing			
Committee Procedures			
Parliamentary oversight			
Oversight and accountability			
Using databases and legislative tracker			
System of local administration			
Constituency Relations			
Communication strategies			
Media engagement			
Advocacy			
Developing Outreach materials and strategies			

6. Are you currently involved in any training and or capacity development intervention? If yes what is the course name/title? Yes No

7. Which of the trainings listed below would like to participate in? Select your top five)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and budget process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative drafting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentary oversight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Constituency relations & communication strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Report writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Research and Memoranda Writing | |

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using Databases and the Legislative Tracker | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> System of Local Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Oversight and Accountability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic design programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Public expenditure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Budgeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Auditing | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Monitoring and Evaluation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Mainstreaming for Economic Empowerment | |

8. Others (be specific)

.....

9. What technology areas would you like to be trained in? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Creating and Publishing Web Documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing | <input type="checkbox"/> Data file management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adobe | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

10. Please select the most convenient time for you to attend training programs:

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> 8:30am – 10:30am | <input type="radio"/> 1:00pm – 03:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Morning |
| <input type="radio"/> 9:00am – 11:00am | <input type="radio"/> 2:00pm – 04:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Lunch |
| <input type="radio"/> 10:00am - 12:00pm | <input type="radio"/> 3:00pm - 4:30pm | <input type="radio"/> Afternoon |

11. Please select the most desirable day for you to attend training programs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Saturday | <input type="radio"/> Sunday |
| <input type="radio"/> Monday | <input type="radio"/> Tuesday |
| <input type="radio"/> Wednesday | |

12. There are many ways to meet learning and development needs. What learning methods would you find most useful to support your development?

- API formal courses (classroom based learning at API building)
- Training manual
- Mentoring (regular meetings to help with specific tasks/ skills)
- Secondment (take a role for a short period to understand how it is done while retaining your existing responsibility)
- Other (specify)
- Conferences. Events
- Coaching (structured one to one meetings)
- Shadowing (observing someone work)
- Action learning (meeting in small groups regularly to work through real problems)
- E-Learning/Distance Learning

13. Please provide any suggestions on how we can better support individual and organizational success.

.....

.....

Signed _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your participation in this Survey. Your candid input and time are appreciated.

Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API)

SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT (Members)

1. Goal of this assessment:

The purpose of this services needs assessment is to assess the training needs of National Assembly members and staff. This would help us better understand your continuing training and capacity building requirements. Please take a few minutes to complete this training needs survey. Your responses will be used to develop targeted training programs for you and your staff members. Thank you for valuable input.

2. Personal Information:

Name:MP / Senator (Circle appropriate)

Gender: Male / Female (Circle appropriate)

Commission: Position:

Level of Education:

Telephone Number: E-mail Add:

3. What has helped you develop your skills as a Member of Parliament?

4. Of the below, which one(s) do you consider to have contributed to your increased knowledge of the role of an MP? {Tick all applicable}

- a. Learning from fellow MPs
- b. Study tours/visiting other countries
- c. Workshops/seminars/conferences

- d. Committee staff assistance
- e. Learning from Parliament leadership
- f. Self-education/Learning
- g. Other donor organizations (Specify).....

5. What knowledge/skills/ talents would you like to develop to help you in your work as an MP?

(Please be specific).....

6. Are you currently involved in any training and or capacity development intervention? If yes what is the course name/title? Yes No

7. API will provide training in the following subjects/ area. Which of the trainings listed below would like to participate in? Select your top five)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and budget process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative drafting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentary oversight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Constituency relations & communication strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Report writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Research and Memoranda Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using Databases and the Legislative Tracker | <input type="checkbox"/> Oversight and Accountability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> System of Local Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Public expenditure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic design programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Budgeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Auditing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Monitoring and Evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Mainstreaming for Economic Empowerment |

8. Others (be specific)

9. What technology areas are of interest to you? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Creating and Publishing Web Documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing | <input type="checkbox"/> Data file management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adobe | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

10. Please select the most convenient time for you to attend training programs:

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 8:30am -10:30am | <input type="radio"/> 1:00pm – 03:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Morning |
| <input type="radio"/> 9:00am – 11:00am | <input type="radio"/> 2:00pm – 04:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Lunch |
| <input type="radio"/> 10:00am - 12:00pm | <input type="radio"/> 3:00pm - 4:30pm | <input type="radio"/> Afternoon |

11. Please select the most desirable day for you to attend training programs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Saturday | <input type="radio"/> Sunday |
| <input type="radio"/> Monday | <input type="radio"/> Tuesday |
| <input type="radio"/> Wednesday | |

12. Would you be interested in attending training sessions during legislative recess? Yes/ No

13. There are many ways to meet learning and development needs. What learning methods would you find most useful to support your development?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> API formal courses (classroom based learning at API building) | <input type="checkbox"/> Conferences. Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training manual | <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching (structured one to one meetings) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring (regular meetings to help with specific tasks/ skills) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shadowing (observing someone work) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondment (take a role for a short period to understand how its dome while retaining your existing responsibility) | <input type="checkbox"/> Action learning (meeting in small groups regularly to work through real problems) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> E-Learning/Distance Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) | |

14. Please provide any suggestions on how we can better support individual and organizational success.

.....

Signed _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your participation in this Survey. Your candid input and time are appreciated.