



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 1 – FEBRUARY 28, 2013

February 2013

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DISCLAIMER

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

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACAS	Afghanistan Court Administration System
ACT	Anti-Corruption Tribunal
AWJA	Afghan Women Judges Association
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
CMS	Case Management System
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
JSSP	Justice Sector Support Program
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RLS-Formal	Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Project - Formal Component
SC	Supreme Court
USG	United States Government
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization – Formal Component (RLS-Formal) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded program designed to increase public confidence in the rule of law system and support the improved performance and accountability of governance in Afghanistan.

RLS-Formal accomplished the following results and activities in February 2013:

Judicial Education RLS-Formal conducted a training program on legal standards and courtroom procedure for sitting judges from Afghanistan’s Anti-Corruption Tribunals (ACTs). The project also conducted a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program for judges which focused on building their knowledge of judicial ethics and the judicial code of conduct. In late February, the Supreme Court (SC) administered the entrance exam for the judicial *Stage*. Nearly 2,000 graduates sat for the exam in Kabul.

Court Management RLS-Formal conducted a training program to familiarize court staff in Kabul and Nangarhar provinces with the procedures and materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS), the country’s paper-based case management system. The project also delivered ACAS materials to the Justice Center in Parwan (JCIP) to enhance case tracking at JCIP. RLS-Formal trained engineers from the SC on procedures to monitor and report on construction projects.

Legal Education RLS-Formal supported legal clinic programs on civil and criminal law at Balkh University and on family law at Kabul University. The project also prepared to support a legal clinic for female students, as well as a street law program at Nangarhar University. In February, an estimated 180 students from Balkh, Herat, and Kabul universities participated in English language supported by RLS-Formal. The project commenced a survey of the perceptions of students studying at eight universities. RLS-Formal continued to meet with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and other stakeholders to plan the Symposium on Legal Education and Practical Training, which is scheduled from April 20th to April 23rd.

Public Legal Outreach RLS-Formal entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) detailing a common approach to improving access to courts and public awareness of legal rights. The project assisted with the development of *Marif-e-Qazaye*, a television program to raise awareness of legal rights. RLS-Formal distributed over 1,500 CDs of Afghanistan’s laws to the MOJ and universities across Afghanistan.

FORMAL RULE OF LAW SYSTEM IMPROVED

RLS-Formal enhances the rule of law system in Afghanistan by strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and court administrators. The project organizes these activities under Component 1 and Component 2, respectively. The objective of the components is fair, accountable and transparent dispute resolution in the formal court system and increased public confidence in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA).

COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY

TASK 1: CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE JUDICIAL STAGE PROGRAM

- On February 21st, the SC of Afghanistan administered the entrance exam for the judicial *Stage*, the induction training program for new judges. An estimated 2,000 graduates of Law and *Sharia* faculties, as well as Madrassas sat for the exam in Kabul. The SC anticipates releasing the results in mid-March 2013 to commence the new *Stage* class shortly thereafter. RLS-Formal advisors assisted the SC with administering and monitoring the examination. The project provides technical and material support to the judicial *Stage* in order to ensure Afghanistan's newest judges possess adequate training to enter and excel at judicial service and delivery.



Nearly two thousand graduates sit for the entrance exam for the judicial Stage in Kabul on February 21st.

- In February, RLS-Formal continued to work with the SC to coordinate a special short-term legal education program for eighty-two new judges expected to fill vacancies in insecure provinces. RLS-Formal advisor met with the SC's Research and Studies Department to finalize the program's 3-month schedule and curriculum. RLS-Formal supports the education of new judges who do not attend the standard, two-year judicial *Stage*, ensuring that Afghanistan's specially-

appointed judges in insecure districts receive the appropriate training before entering judicial service.

TASK 2: IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING ANTI-CORRUPTION COURTS

- Between February 16th and February 27th, RLS-Formal conducted a training program on legal standards and courtroom procedure for twenty-seven sitting judges from Anti-Corruption Tribunals (ACT) across the country. Twenty-four male and three female judges from Balkh, Bamyān, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Paktia provinces participated in the training, which was held in Kabul. The program provided an opportunity for the participants to study the legal framework for fighting corruption, including banking and money-laundering laws, as well as judicial ethics and gender justice. Advisors from the Commercial Law Development Program, funded by the US Department of Commerce, presented a training module on corruption in commercial cases. RLS-Formal aims to improve the capacity of anti-corruption courts through practical training activities for judges and their staff, which will increase public confidence in the government’s commitment to the rule of law.



Judge Gul Mohammad (left) of the primary ACT in Paktia graduates from the Kabul-based ACT training program on February 27th.

The Impact of Training

Judge Adjusts Sentence as the Result of RLS-Formal Training

The Head of the Primary ACT in Paktia Province Judge Gul Mohammad raised a real-life case while participating in the RLS-Formal training program on legal standards and courtroom procedure. In matter before his court, the judge had recently convicted a government employee of “abuse of job authority” due to an act of corruption and sentenced him to sixteen years imprisonment. Judge Gul Mohammad, however, felt uncertain of his decision and asked those present at the training whether his decision was in line with the law.

The training instructor and his fellow judges helped Gul Mohammed identify the related article in the criminal code which specified the punishment for “abuse of job authority” is between three and ten years imprisonment. Upon realizing his mistake and returning to his court, Judge Gul Mohammad reduced the sentence by six years in line with statutory law. Upon graduating, Judge Gul Mohammad

called the opportunity to participate in the RLS-Formal training program “a privilege.”

RLS-Formal conducts continuing legal education programs with a focus on real-life problem solving in order to build the practical skills and substantive legal knowledge of sitting judges to ensure the correct application of the law.

TASK 3: CONTINUE PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING & CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR SITTING JUDGES

- Between February 3rd and February 18th, RLS-Formal conducted a continuing legal education program for sitting judges from Kabul, Khost, Logar, Paktia and Paktika provinces. Twenty-eight judges, including eleven women and seventeen men, participated in the program which focused on building knowledge of judicial ethics and Afghanistan’s judicial code of conduct. At the graduation on February 18th, RLS-Formal issued certificates, books and CDs of Afghanistan’s laws to the graduates. Judge Monira, a female trainee and judge from the criminal division of a primary court in Kabul, spoke at the graduation: “...the teaching methods used in this training program were commendable because we discussed the challenges of our work and developed solutions with other judges and the instructors.” RLS-Formal provides continuing legal education for sitting judges in order to build the practical skills and knowledge of substantive legal topics and ethical rules to ensure accountability, transparency, and fairness in strengthening the rule of law in Afghanistan.



Judge Monira from the criminal division of a primary court in Kabul addresses fellow judges at the closing ceremony of the continuing legal education training on February 18th.

- Throughout February, RLS-Formal continued its initiative to standardize continuing legal education (CLE) materials for training sitting judges. Project advisors are evaluating current training materials focusing on emerging legal issues and recently enacted laws, including those on financial disclosure requirements and conflicts of interest, as well as revising obsolete materials to ensure an up-to-date and uniform CLE curriculum. RLS-Formal works closely with the Judicial Education Department of the SC to develop and distribute these materials and conduct trainings at the provincial level to build capacity within the judicial ranks.

- Between February 23rd and February 28th, RLS-Formal advisors held meetings with the SC to finalize plans for a CLE training program for sitting judges in Balkh province. As plans continue to develop, the project anticipates the program will commence in early March 2013.

Evaluating Judicial Trainings

Evaluation of a Continuing Legal Education Program

RLS-Formal evaluates its judicial training programs through post-training questionnaires and pre and post-tests of beneficiaries. Independent monitoring and evaluation staff conducts the evaluations to eliminate potential bias. They share the results with program staff in order to focus on lessons learned and areas of improvement.

For example, monitoring and evaluation staff conducted a post-training evaluation of the continuing legal education program for sitting judges in Kabul province from February 3rd to February 18th. The accompanying questionnaire included questions on the program's content and usefulness, and whether the trainees retained knowledge and reported improved self-efficacy.

The evaluation results indicated the training led to increased confidence and the retention of applicable knowledge, as well as areas of improvement for the project. For example, 60 percent of beneficiaries strongly agreed that they learned from the modules on family law and inheritance rights as opposed to 40 percent who felt similarly about criminal law.



Training participants report increased confidence in their professional capacity following a RLS-Formal training program.

The vast majority of beneficiaries, 90 percent, strongly agreed that they intended to apply their new found knowledge on the bench. In the words of twenty-six year-old judge, Faiqa Shefajoy, "This was the first time that I participated in such a training... The topics were very useful, and my job-related knowledge increased during the training."

COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS

TASK 1: TRAIN COURT STAFF TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL COURT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- On February 2nd, RLS-Formal conducted a training program to familiarize court staff from the Appellate Court in Nangarhar Province with the procedures and materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS). Nine male court administrators from the Crimes Against Internal and External Security Division learned how to register and track cases using ACAS. On February 19th, the project conducted a similar training program for seven male court administrators from the Crimes Against Internal and External Security Division in Kabul. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to train judges and court staff to manage cases using ACAS in order to increase the efficacy and transparency of case handling as well as strengthen the public perception of the judiciary as a trusted institution for the processing and resolution of legal disputes.



Administrators from the Appellate Court in Nangarhar study materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System on February 2nd.

- On February 9th, RLS-Formal completed the distribution of ACAS materials as requested by the Chief Judge at the Justice Center in Parwan. ACAS assigns unique numbers to filed cases and institutes index cards for cases to help judges, court administrators, litigants and attorneys to find and track case information. RLS-Formal works closely with its partners promote the use of ACAS in order to increase the efficacy and transparency of case management and strengthen the public perception of the judiciary as a trusted institution for the resolution of legal disputes.



Judges and a US Advisor at the Justice Center in Parwan receive materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System on February 9th.

- Throughout February, RLS-Formal supported two computer literacy workshops for court administrators and judges in Herat province. The on-going, three-month workshops enable 11 male and three female court administrators and four female judges from the Herat appellate court to learn Microsoft Windows through hands-on, problem-solving activities. Knowledge of essential computer applications enables court staff to efficiently prepare case documents and maintain records and statistics, contributing to a professional court administrative service.
- In February, RLS-Formal advisors met with the SC's Research and Studies Department to discuss improvements to the case management manual. The manual complements ACAS by establishing procedures and the workflow practices to manage the lifecycle of legal cases. The project supports establishing clear policies and procedures for case management in order to increase the transparency and accountability in court system and build public trust and confidence in judicial institutions.

TASK 2: DEVELOP SUPREME COURT CAPACITY TO MANAGE BUDGET PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- On February 25th, RLS-Formal presented strategies to monitor and evaluate construction projects to the SC's Department of Construction. Eight male engineers attended the presentation and learned how to use reporting templates to regularly monitor construction projects. RLS-Formal works to develop the SC's capacity for budget management, personnel and infrastructure management through technical support and mentoring.



Engineers from the Supreme Court attend a presentation on monitoring and evaluating construction projects on February 25th.

- On February 23rd, RLS-Formal advisors provided assistance to the SC's Budget Directorate to develop the quarterly financial forecast. The project assists the SC to improve its capacity to efficiently and effectively fund the court system through better budget development and management.

COMPONENT 3

AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION EXPANDED

RLS-Formal expands the availability of legal education in Afghanistan by building the capacity of Law and *Sharia* faculties at universities under Component 3. The objective of Component 3 is to form a cadre of well-trained and motivated legal professionals who can provide meaningful access to justice to more citizens.

COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE FACULTIES OF LAW AND SHARIA

TASK 1: CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF CORE CURRICULUM FOR LAW AND SHARIA FACULTIES

- Between February 16th and February 20th, RLS-Formal distributed CDs of Afghanistan's laws to Law and *Sharia* faculties and government offices and across the country. The CDs contains legal glossaries and reference guides for statutory laws. The project distributed over six hundred CDs to appellate courts and provincial offices of the MOJ and several hundred CDs to Law and *Sharia* faculties at Al Biruni, Kabul, Nangarhar and Takhar universities. RLS-Formal seeks to build a foundation of knowledge and skills among Afghan educators and judges in order to strengthen their capacity to promote the formal justice system and build public confidence in the rule of law.

TASK 2: PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

- Between February 2nd and February 8th, ten male and ten female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties at Balkh University participated in a legal clinic on civil and criminal substantive and procedural law. The students researched and learned to prepare petitions for cases, complementing their academic coursework on family, criminal and commercial law.
- On February 4th, RLS-Formal advisors met with deans from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Nangarhar University to discuss arrangements for a legal clinic program for female students and a street law program. The deans offered their support, allocating classroom space for the clinic and providing trainers for the street law program. The project supports practical training initiatives, such as legal clinics, which help students to develop their research and advocacy skills to prepare them to enter the legal professional after graduation.
- On February 26th, RLS-Formal advisors met with the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and advisors from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) to discuss the upcoming Symposium on Legal Education and Practical Training. The Deputy Minister agreed to the schedule of the Symposium and offered his support to invite key government officials. GIZ agreed to arrange for an expert in legal curriculum development to participate in the

Symposium. RLS-Formal organizes national conferences like the Symposium to build consensus among educators on curriculum reform and modern teaching methodologies.

TASK 3: SUPPORT HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS

- Throughout February, twenty-six students from Kabul University held mock trials as part of an ongoing legal clinic on family law supported by RLS-Formal and the organization Global Rights. Students from the *Sharia* faculty rehearsed trials on domestic relations with participating defense lawyers, practicing their public speaking, critical thinking and argument formation skills. On February 26th, the *Sharia* Faculty of Kabul University graduated twenty female and six male students from the program. The legal clinic's Professor Saeed remarked on the impact of the program: "The students gained professional knowledge about the operations of family courts as well as useful information on a personal level. Several female students said they now know how important it is to make the right decision about who to marry after witnessing divorce proceedings arising from a forced or bad marriage." RLS-Formal provides technical and financial support to legal clinic programs to help students learn about the legal system in a competitive manner and develop skills relevant to litigation of actual cases.



Students from Kabul University participate in a legal clinic on family law in February.

- In February, RLS-Formal coordinated a series of meetings between the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court in Balkh Province and professors from Balkh University to discuss legal clinic activities. The Chief Judge agreed to allow twenty students from the university's Law and *Sharia* faculties to observe the proceedings of the court. RLS-Formal provides support to legal clinic programs which help Afghan students gain practical knowledge and experience by observing the country's formal justice system. The project anticipates the observations will begin in March 2013.
- In February, students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Kabul University participated in two computer literacy training programs supported by RLS-Formal. The students learned how to use Microsoft Word to conduct their academic research and writing assignments, Seventeen male students from the Law Faculty graduated from their program on February 6th which began in

late December. Thirty male students from the *Sharia* Faculty commenced a similar program on February 5th which will conclude in early March. RLS-Formal supports computer literacy training programs to help equip students with the basic computer literacy skills necessary to enter a legal profession.

Update on the Jessup Competition

Team from Herat University Prepares to Travel to Washington, DC

In February, RLS-Formal helped to prepare the winning team of the Afghan National Round of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition to attend the International Rounds in Washington, DC. The project assisted the team from Herat University with the US visa application process and required medical check-ups as well as facilitated their travel and lodging arrangements.

RLS-Formal advisors will accompany the team to the competition and organize additional education activities for the students. Potential activities may include visits to the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Museum, the Georgetown University Law Center and the New York State Bar Association.

The International Rounds of the Jessup Law Moot Court Competition begin on March 31, 2013, in Washington, DC. The Jessup Cup World Championship Round will occur on April 6, 2013.

In January, forty students from eight universities participated in the Preliminary National Round of the Jessup Competition in Kabul. Four universities competed in Jessup for the first time in the history of the program. Students from Al Biruni and Herat Universities competed in the Final National Round.

Ambassador Stephen McFarland, the Coordinating Director for Rule of Law and Law Enforcement at the U.S. Embassy, said “observing law students passionately arguing their cases on points of international law demonstrates how far Afghanistan has come in reforming its legal education.”

TASK 4: DEVELOP ADVANCED LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING

- On February 11th, RLS-Formal advisors met with the Chancellor of the Panjsher Institute to discuss initiatives to develop the Institute’s language and library resources. The Chancellor welcomed the project’s support and pledged to contribute classroom space to accommodate a refurbished library and language lab with computers. RLS-Formal supports the development of well-equipped libraries and language labs as a means for students to more easily identify and access legal resources. The team of students from the Panjsher Institute competing in this year’s Jessup Moot Court Competition faced a lack of research and classroom resources when preparing for the competition.
- In February, RLS-Formal supported English language courses for Law and *Sharia* students from Balkh, Herat, and Kabul universities. An estimated 180 students, including 67 female students, learned advanced English reading, writing and communication skills using the newly inaugurated language labs at the universities. RLS-Formal assists universities to implement advance legal English trainings in order to expand the opportunities of students to participate in moot courts, debates and other international competitions which require English language proficiency.



Students from Kabul University participate in an English language course in February.

TASK 5: MODERNIZE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

- On February 11th, RLS-Formal commenced a survey of the perceptions of students studying at Law and *Sharia* faculties in Afghanistan. The survey focuses on those students at Al Biruni, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Khost, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Takhar universities, and elicits their views on the quality of education provided by their institution, the availability of practical coursework and the intended careers of students after they graduate. RLS-Formal measures the perceptions of students as a means to evaluate the results of its initiatives to expand the availability of legal education in Afghanistan. The project intends to feature the survey results at the upcoming National Symposium on Legal Education and Practical Training in April 2013.

CITIZEN AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL PROCESSES OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM INCREASED

RLS-Formal raises citizen awareness of legal rights and process with public legal outreach and awareness conducted through strategic communications under Component 4. The objective of Component 4 is to transfer knowledge and skills to government counterparts to leave a core of professionals with the expertise and experience to sustainably continue increasing public trust in the justice system.

COMPONENT 4: PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH AND AWARENESS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

TASK 1: PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH CAPACITY

- On February 11th, RLS-Formal entered into a MOU with the MOJ detailing an intended common approach to improving access to courts and public awareness of legal rights in Afghanistan. The MOU describes eight areas of intent to cooperate, including continued support to the Legal Awareness Department and information sharing and approaches to promote the sustainability of joint initiatives. RLS-Formal focuses on transferring knowledge and skills to counterparts, such as the MOJ, in order to foster a legacy of professionals with the expertise and experience to sustainably build public confidence in the justice system and increase access to justice in Afghanistan.
- On February 23th, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the MOJ in Herat Province to prepare a training program on the National Legal Awareness Strategy for public outreach staff from western Afghanistan. The MOJ agreed to a list of participants as well as training activities, including a module on gender justice, mobile theater presentation and the distribution of print publications to support public awareness. The project anticipates the training program will occur in mid-March. RLS-Formal conducts national and regional seminars to educate and motivate local government stakeholders to engage in intensive public outreach to foster awareness and promote confidence in Afghanistan's justice system.

TASK 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE PRINT CAMPAIGNS

- On February 18th, RLS-Formal conducted a listening group with Afghan youth to evaluate the effectiveness of the project's public legal outreach materials. Ten male from targeted socio-economic groups discussed how well mobile theater performances and comic books developed in coordination with the MOJ raised public awareness of legal rights and services. RLS-Formal uses listening groups to evaluate the impact of its activities to increase citizen awareness of legal rights and the legal processes of the judicial system.



Male youths participate in a listening group, discussing their opinions of a mobile theater performance in support of women's rights.

- On February 26th and February 27th, RLS-Formal distributed 900 CDs of Afghanistan's laws to the MOJ. The CDs contain legal glossaries and reference guides of Afghan statutory laws. The MOJ will supply these CDs to their Public Legal Outreach Department staff and various educational institutions throughout the country. RLS-Formal provides legal resource materials, such as these CDs, to Afghan lawyers, government officials and educators in order to promote wide-spread knowledge and enforcement of the rule of law.



A representative of Kabul University receives a CD containing legal glossaries and reference guides on statutory laws on February 26th.

- On February 26th, RLS-Formal advisors met with officials from the MOJ to discuss developing a civil and criminal procedure handbook for use by the public. The handbook will use pictures, graphics and written directions to assist potential court users in understanding how their case

Framework. RLS-Formal weighed the circumstances in which a comment was made in terms of its tone and intensity. The facilitator asked three broad questions with three layers of follow-up sub-questions to encourage the participants to express their views.

For example, the facilitator showed the beneficiaries a video in which a woman uses a court to assert her rights after being falsely accused of adultery. Initially, the youths agreed that the message of the video “was clear” in communicating “saying no to violence against women, and promoting the use of the formal justice system.” The participants concluded by agreeing that the formal system offers better access to justice on family law than the informal system. For instance, a youth claimed “such cases dealing with human rights and violence against women should be brought to formal courts, as *jirgas* don’t think they are important.”

Internal agreement. RLS-Formal measures shifts in opinions to identify consensus.

The most broadly held area of consensus was the ability of comic books to increase citizen’s awareness of legal rights and legal processes. All youths found the materials “understandable and practical” with the ability to “reach all members of a family.” One youth commented, “I read these books so often and share with my younger brothers and sisters at home.”

Precision of responses. The project determined which responses were based on personal experience and gave them greater weight than those based on impersonal impressions. Examples include:

- “I will always remember the message of this video. The woman is beaten and registers her case in the district court. The woman was brave and struggled to win her case according to the law.”
- “Yes, the actors were believable, but the video is not applicable to my home. We have no district court operating there.”
- “I recommend using the formal justice system for family issues as we see in this video. But the problem is the current level of corruption.”



Male youths discuss the effectiveness of comic books and workbooks at conveying rule of law themes.

The big picture. RLS-Formal summarized the major findings of the listening group.

- The opinions expressed by the male youths suggested that the project’s public outreach assistance to the Ministry of Justice results in campaigns that successfully raise awareness of legal rights amongst those they reach.
- The youths endorsed comic books and workbooks in legal issues, affirming their ability to reach men and women of different ages and educations. One participant urged incorporating the materials in primary education: “It should be necessary that these workbooks be distributed to all classes in Afghanistan and taught by teachers once a week as part of the formal curriculum.

GENDER JUSTICE

RLS-Formal advances the rights of Afghan women and girls by building their capacity to participate in the justice sector and raising awareness of women's rights and gender equality. The project aims to promote women's access to formal justice mechanisms, improve access to legal education for women and foster a justice sector willing and capable of enforcing existing law and Constitutional rights of women.

RLS-FORMAL GENDER INTEGRATION & AWARENESS

- On February 25th and February 26th, RLS-Formal conducted a gender awareness training program for fifty religious clerics or *mullahs* from Kabul province. The two-day training introduced the *mullahs* to gender justice concepts and the legal provisions protecting women contained the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. RLS-Formal provides gender awareness training to members of the formal and informal justice systems in order to raise awareness of women's rights and foster a justice sector willing and capable of applying Afghanistan's constitutional guarantee of gender equality.



Mullahs participate in a gender awareness training in Kabul on February 25th and February 26th.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Performance Indicator Data							
Indicator	2nd Quarter FY 2013					Life of Project	
	Monthly Progress			Quarterly	Quarterly	Achievement	Cumulative
	Jan	Feb	Mar.	Achievement	Target	To Date	Target
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	-	-	-	-	-	-	+10% on Q3 Result
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	0.00%	0.01%	-	0.01%	-	4.51%	19.50%
3. Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted	-	-	-	-	-	68%	71%
4. Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training	-	-	-	-	82%	-	82%
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	-	-	-	-	5	-	15
6. Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights	-	-	-	-	23%	18%	28%
7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance	77	70	-	147	82	2199	3227
8. Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms	13	0	-	13	5	13	551
9. Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector	-	-	-	-	-	-	+10% on Q3 Result
10. Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships	100	139	-	239	225	2004	3685
11. Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance	0	0	-	-	2	21	30
12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	Very Aware
13. Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns	1840 Print	4424 Print	-	6,264 Print	100,000 Print, 1 TV & Radio	4,007,554 Print, 4 TV	5,000,000 Print, 16 Radio & TV
14. Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming	-	-	-	-	-	-	+10% on Q3 Results

Indicator 1: Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively

RLS-Formal utilizes a court user satisfaction survey, or Q10 survey, to gauge the perceptions of Afghan citizens who interact with courts. The views of court users suggest whether judicial reforms result in the creation of efficient and transparent dispute resolution in the eyes of Afghan citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

Indicator 2: Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law

RLS-Formal works with its implementing partners to collect data on the number of people reached by its public legal outreach campaigns. Exposure to such a campaign increases the likelihood that a citizen will increase his or her awareness of their legal rights and how to access the justice system. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 2 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1b.

Indicator 3: Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted

RLS-Formal employs The Asia Foundation's Survey of the Afghan People, Question 79b to measure the public confidence in courts in Afghanistan. The percentage of the population who agree state courts are fair and trusted speaks to the overall public confidence in the rule of law system. The Asia Foundation publishes the survey results annually in November.

Indicator 4: Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training

RLS-Formal tracks the judges who graduation from the judicial *Stage*, the induction training to prepare a judge to serve in the judiciary. The *Stage* builds the capacity of judges by improving their legal knowledge and professional skills in areas, such as the constitution, civil and criminal code, and the *Qur'an* and *Hadiths*. RLS-Formal reports this indicator annually when the *Stage* graduates or when the number judges changings significantly. Indicator 4 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.11.b.

Indicator 5: Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques

RLS-Formal evaluates the teaching techniques of instructors at the judicial *Stage*, including their use of visual aids, learning exercises, student-led debates and classroom discussions. Modern teaching techniques increase the likelihood judges will build the practical legal knowledge and professional skills necessary to serve in the judiciary. RLS-Formal reports the results of its evaluations quarterly.

Indicator 6: Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights

RLS-Formal tracks which judges receive training on gender equality and gender justice. The training programs aim to improve judges' knowledge of women's rights and enable them to secure these rights through court proceedings. RLS-Formal reports these results quarterly.

Indicator 7: Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance

RLS-formal tabulates the number of justice sector personnel that receive training through program activities through attendance sheets. The project's training programs aim to assist judges and judicial staff to effectively carry out their duties and instill a sense of the necessity for judicial independence, transparency and accountability. RLS-Formal reports its training data quarterly. Indicator 7 is the US Foreign Assistance Framework Indicator 2.1.2-7. Indicator 7 represents the project's reported number of personnel trained to USAID. Training numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

Indicator 8: Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms

RLS-Formal tracks the courts which benefit from its initiatives to improve court administration and management. Professional management systems enhance the capacity of the Supreme Court to manage its budget, personnel and assets. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly.

Indicator 9: Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector

RLS-Formal surveys students to measure their perception of the quality of legal education at their university's Law and *Sharia* faculties. Practical legal coursework intends to training and motivating students become legal professionals who can offer meaningful access to justice to more citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

Indicator 10: Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships

RLS-Formal gages the number of students involved in practical legal activities, including legal clinics, moot courts, mock trials or other competitions designed to hone students' advocacy and research skills, through attendance sheets. Practical legal exercises complement the theoretical legal education commonly found in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 10 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2b. Indicator 10 represents the project's reported number of student participants to USAID. Student numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

Indicator 11: Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance

RLS-Formal tracks the number of new legal courses developed as a result of its assistance to the Ministry of Higher Education. Such courses complement the newly unified core curriculum for Law and *Sharia* faculties by providing the coursework, textbooks, and reference materials for professors to teach their classes. RLS-Formal reports the new legal courses developed quarterly. Indicator 11 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2e.

Indicator 12: Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries

RLS-Formal conducts listening groups of beneficiaries to gage the effectiveness of its public legal outreach activities. Public legal outreach activities aim to increase citizens' awareness of legal rights and process through strategic communications. RLS-Formal analyzes and reports the result of the listening groups quarterly.

Indicator 13: Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns

RLS-Formal tracks the public outreach materials produced and disseminated through the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court as the result of its assistance. Effective legal outreach campaigns require leveraging popular media channels and mechanisms to ensure rule of Law message reach the public. RLS-Formal reports these numbers quarterly.

Indicator 14: Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming

RLS-Formal solicits feedback from participants through questionnaires to measures the efficacy of its training programs. Training programs aim to stimulate growth in women's confidence and ability to advocate for women's legal status and access justice. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly. Indicator 14 is the USAID Gender strategy Indicator #3.

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