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RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 1 – JUNE 30, 2013

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Implemented by:
Tetra Tech DPK
605 Market Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Project Address:
Main Street, House #18
Shash Darak
Kabul, Afghanistan

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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
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
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
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
TOT	Trainer-the-Trainer
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.

The project accomplished the following results and activities in June:

Judicial Education RLS-Formal commenced a train-the-trainer program for instructors from the Judicial Stage to help engage students in learning through participatory, student-centered teaching techniques. In June, the project delivered office equipment to the Anti-Corruption Tribunal in Kandahar and began preparations for a conference on anti-corruption issues to be held in Kabul in August. RLS-Formal also coordinated an upcoming study tour to France for the Supreme Court’s Judicial Education Committee.

Court Management RLS-Formal worked closely with the Supreme Court to finalize the Administrative Stage, a training program to develop the capacity of court clerks, which will commence in July. In June, the project provided materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System to the Kabul Appellate Court and also delivered office equipment to the Herat Appellate Court to enable the court to operationalize the asset management database.

Legal Education In June, RLS-Formal published a textbook on the Fundamentals of Law and delivered legal references guides to Khost, Paktia and Kunduz universities. With RLS-Formal support, Herat University inaugurated a computer lab for female students and Kabul University commenced two computer literacy classes. Meanwhile, legal clinics on street law supported by RLS-Formal conducted legal outreach at high schools in Balkh and Kapisa provinces. Additionally, 637 students completed legal English programs at Balkh, Herat and Kabul universities with the support of RLS-Formal.

Public Legal Outreach The Ministry of Justice, in coordination with RLS-Formal, finalized plans for four training programs on the National Legal Awareness Strategy for public outreach staff in Balkh, Herat and Kabul between August and November. In June, the project worked with the Ministry of Justice on a web-based application to increase public access to the country’s laws by publishing the “Collection of Afghanistan’s Laws” on compact discs for national distribution.

Gender The Supreme Court approved the strategic plan of the Afghan Women Judges Association, which establishes the Association’s mission and objectives. The project also conducted three gender justice training programs for 130 female students at Balkh, Herat and Paktia universities, along with a training program for female judges on the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Additionally, the Gender Unit initiated a two-day program on women’s legal rights for local *mullahs* or religious elders.

COMPONENTS 1 & 2

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 to ensure fair, accountable, and transparent dispute resolution in the formal court system and increase public confidence in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY

TASK 1: CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE JUDICIAL STAGE PROGRAM

- On June 15th, RLS-Formal commenced an ongoing train-the-trainer (TOT) program for instructors from the Judicial Stage, the induction training program for new judges. 12 male and 3 female instructors received training on student-centered learning techniques in order to help them engage students to actively participate in classroom discussions and debates. The Supreme Court (SC) agreed to permit classroom observations of the instructors in order to evaluate the impact of the training and facilitate mentoring of these instructors. The classroom observations will assess whether the instructors have incorporated the teaching methodologies, including open discussions, question/answer sessions, and use of PowerPoints, among other mechanisms to improve their classroom instruction. The project will deliver follow-up training and mentoring to the instructors on an ongoing basis as part of this TOT initiative that aims to ensure Afghanistan's newest judges receive appropriate education in order to excel on the bench.



Stage instructors participate in a train-the-trainer program supported by RLS-Formal in June 2013.

- In June, RLS-Formal provided material assistance to the Judicial Stage as it prepares to graduate new judges from the 28th Round in September 2013. The project delivered over 120 robes for the anticipated graduates to wear during the commencement ceremony.

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

- On June 9th, RLS-Formal delivered office equipment to the Anti-Corruption Tribunal (ACT) in Kandahar. The equipment included computers, printers, scanners, and various office supplies intended to assist court staff to efficiently prepare case documents and maintain records and statistics. RLS-Formal provides technical and material assistance to strengthen the capacity of anti-corruption courts in order to enable them to promote transparent and accountable governance and increase public confidence in the government's commitment to the rule of law.
- On June 10th, RLS-Formal advisors met with officials from the SC and members of civil society organizations to commence preparations for an upcoming conference on anti-corruption. The conference, in coordination with INL, is tentatively scheduled for the end of August and will bring together justice sector stakeholders, specifically judges and prosecutors, and international donors to build consensus on measures to increase transparency and accountability in combating corruption in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal supports such initiatives in order to increase public confidence in the government's commitment to the rule of law.



Members of the Attorney General's Office, Global Rights, and RLS-Formal plan the joint prosecutor/judge Conference on Anti-Corruption.

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

- In June, RLS-Formal continued to coordinate with the SC's Judicial Education Committee on an upcoming study tour for its members. The study tour in France will provide the Committee an opportunity to observe and discuss the judicial education system upon which Afghanistan's Judicial Stage is modeled. The Committee members are expected to develop ideas, and support implementation of reforms, to improve Afghanistan's judicial education training program. RLS-Formal conducts observational learning programs, such as study tours, in order to provide

beneficiaries with an opportunity to evaluate international best practices and identify measures for strengthening the rule of law in Afghanistan.

- In June, RLS-Formal advisors continued work on standardizing curriculum for trainings focused on the Interim Criminal Procedure Law. The curriculum changes will better explain the Criminal Procedure Law so that it can be fairly and uniformly applied in courts across the country.

COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS

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

- On June 10th, RLS-Formal provided materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS) to the Criminal and Public Security divisions of the Kabul Appellate Court. ACAS is the country's paper-based case management system which tracks and records data as such litigant names, case type, and disposition. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to help develop processes to increase the fairness and transparency of case handling in order to improve public confidence in the judiciary as a trusted institution for the resolution of legal disputes.
- Throughout June, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the SC's Research and Studies Department and the Judicial Education Department to discuss the upcoming *Administrative Stage*, a new training program to develop the professional capacity of court clerks. The meetings focused on selecting instructors, locating a training venue, determining appropriate class size, as well as developing the course curricula and training schedule. The SC anticipates holding an inauguration ceremony for the *Administrative Stage* on July 1st to begin the 4-month course for an inaugural class of 35 court clerks. RLS-Formal works with the SC to professionalize court administration in Afghanistan to ensure effective and efficient justice delivery for citizens utilizing the formal justice system.
- In June, RLS-Formal continued to conduct a 9-week workshop to familiarize SC staff engineers with construction design software. Six engineers received training on 3D design utilizing AutoCAD, which streamlines the design and documentation processes for court construction projects. RLS-Formal assists the construction department of the SC to develop and manage infrastructure projects in order to effectively increase and improve the physical presence of the formal justice system and its courthouses throughout each province of Afghanistan.

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

- In June, RLS-Formal advisors continued to provide technical assistance to the SC's Transportation and Construction departments. RLS-Formal worked with Transportation staff to implement vehicle tracking and management processes. It also assisted the Construction staff to review and develop designs for new primary courts to be located in districts across the country. RLS-Formal provides technical assistance to the SC to implement strategies to enhance the management of its human resources, finances, and physical assets.
- On June 22nd, RLS-Formal delivered computers and other office equipment to the Appellate Court in Herat. The equipment will assist judges and court administrators to efficiently maintain

case records and report on case statistics. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to develop administrative reforms that build human and institutional capacity, while harnessing the power of information technology to improve reporting, dissemination of, and access to, court data and case information.

- In June, RLS-Formal continued to work with the SC's Administration and Information Technology departments to operationalize its asset management database. Project advisors provided assistance to SC staff with troubleshooting issues, protection from computer viruses and facilitating remote access to the database. The SC developed and installed the asset management database in December 2012 with assistance from the RLS-Formal project, with an aim towards developing the capacity of Court staff to manage its material assets.
- In June, the SC continued to work on implementing a statistics database supported by RLS-Formal. The project requested proposals from potential implementing partners to design the software and install the system. The database will track crucial court statistics such as case type, party names, pending case status, and filing and disposition dates, all of which will facilitate timely case flow and help identify backlogs and other procedural issues. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to develop administrative reforms that build human and institutional capacity through enhanced statistical reporting.

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 across the country. The objective of Component 3 is to form a cadre of well-trained and motivated legal professionals who have received a quality legal education in order to provide meaningful access to justice to the citizens they serve.

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

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

- On June 22nd, RLS-Formal received a new textbook on the Fundamentals of Law authored in Pashto by Professor Nasarullah Stankzai of the Law Faculty at Kabul University. 6,000 copies of the textbook will be printed and distributed to universities located throughout the country, but primarily in the eastern and southern regions where the language of instruction is Pashto. RLS-Formal assists Law and *Sharia* faculties with developing new course materials in order to improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.

TASK 2: PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

- On June 2nd, RLS-Formal delivered legal texts and reference guides to law libraries at Khost, Paktia and Kunduz Universities. At Khost University, the materials arrived in preparation for an upcoming RLS-Formal legal research training program for students. RLS-Formal supports the development of well-equipped libraries as a means for students to identify and access legal reference materials to develop critical legal writing, research and analysis skills in order to advocate on behalf of prospective clients and meaningfully contribute to the justice sector.



Paktia University receives legal texts for its law library in June 2013.

- In June, RLS-Formal advisors worked with deans and professors from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Kabul University to organize an upcoming Alumni Day/Career Fair. The event, planned for late August, intends to recognize the achievements of graduates and serve as a career fair for current students seeking employment opportunities with justice sector organizations and NGOs. Prospective employers will be invited to set up informational booths to recruit university students who will graduate this winter. The event will also inaugurate the first Faculty/Student Development Center at Kabul Law Faculty that will provide resources on teaching techniques, legal research, and writing to develop the capacity of both faculty and students. RLS-Formal supports such events to facilitate mentorships between students and recent graduates and familiarize them with potential legal careers in order to enhance opportunities to provide legal services after graduation.

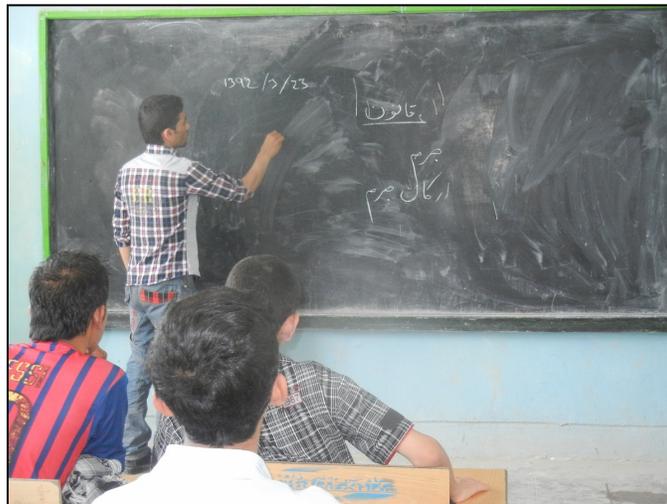
TASK 3: SUPPORT HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS

- On June 10th, Herat University inaugurated a computer lab for female students of the *Sharia* Faculty with the support of RLS-Formal. The new computer lab will assist young women with legal research, writing, and developing computer skills, including use of Microsoft Windows and other software. RLS-Formal supports the development of computer labs at Law and *Sharia* faculties across Afghanistan in order to provide students with the tools to develop their practical skills and prepare them to contribute meaningfully to the justice sector after graduation.
- On June 16th, Balkh University graduated 42 students from legal clinics supported by RLS-Formal. 26 male and 16 female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties participated in legal clinics focusing on civil procedure, criminal procedure and street law. RLS-Formal supports practical training initiatives, such as legal clinics, to help students develop their research and advocacy skills in order to adequately prepare them to enter the legal profession.



Students at Balkh University meet with a prosecutor as part of a legal clinic on criminal law in June 2013.

- On June 16th and June 25th, Kabul University commenced two computer literacy classes supported by RLS-Formal. 57 male and 39 female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties began learning Microsoft Windows through hands-on training and problem-solving activities. RLS-Formal supports training on essential computer applications in order to help Law and *Sharia* faculty students perform their coursework and build the basic skills necessary to meaningfully participate in the formal justice sector.



A student from Balkh University conducts a lesson on legal rights at a local high school as part of the street law course in June 2013.

- During the week of June 22nd, students participating in a legal clinic on street law at Al Biruni University visited four high schools in Kapisa Province to raise awareness of the legal rights of women and girls. 14 female and 12 male students from the legal clinic spoke with 120 female

high school students about legal rights in family law cases and the protections afforded under the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women. RLS-Formal supports practical training initiatives, such as legal clinics, to help students develop their advocacy skills, while also providing a valuable community service in helping to educate the public about the law.



Female students from Al Biruni University conduct a lecture at a local high school as part of a legal clinic on street law in June 2013.

Illustrative Ongoing Practical Coursework Supported by RLS-Formal*							
Start	End Date	Type of Coursework	Topic	No. of Students		University	Faculty
				Male	Female		
May	TBD	Legal Clinic	Family Law & Criminal Law	17	8	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
May	TBD	Legal Clinic	Street Law	12	14	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
April	June	Legal English	Level 3	18	13	Balkh	Law
March	June	Legal English	Criminal law	5	14	Balkh	Law & Sharia
March	June	Legal Clinic	Civil Law	6	6	Balkh	Law & Sharia
March	June	Legal Clinic	Criminal Law	6	6	Balkh	Law & Sharia
March	June	Legal Clinic	Street law	9	9	Balkh	Law & Sharia
April	June	Legal English	Level 3	0	28	Herat	Law
April	June	Legal English	Level 3	20	0	Herat	Law
April	June	Legal English	Level 2	0	20	Herat	Law & Sharia
April	June	Legal English	Level 1	22	0	Herat	Law & Sharia
March	June	Legal English	Level 2	64	0	Herat	Law
March	June	Legal English	Level 2	0	69	Herat	Law
April	June	Legal English	Level 1	45	0	Herat	Law

April	June	Legal English	Level I	39	0	Herat	Law
April	June	Legal English	Level I	0	40	Herat	Law
April	June	Legal English	Level I	0	70	Herat	Sharia
April	June	Legal English	Level I	31	0	Herat	Sharia
April	June	Legal English	Level I	75	0	Herat	Sharia
April	June	Legal English	Level I	29	0	Herat	Sharia
April	TBD	Legal Clinic	Family Law & Criminal Procedure	15	50	Kabul	Sharia
April	TBD	Legal Clinic		12	12	Kabul	Law
June	July	Computer Training	Microsoft Office	32	27	Kabul	Law
June	July	Computer Training	Basic	20	25	Kabul	Sharia
June	July	Legal English	Level 3	0	11	Kabul	Sharia
June	July	Legal English	Level 2	24	0	Kabul	Law

*As of June 30, 2013



Students from Kabul University conduct a mock trial as part of a legal clinic on family law in June 2013.

TASK 4: DEVELOP ADVANCED LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING

- Between June 16th and June 19th, 637 students completed legal English programs at Balkh, Herat and Kabul universities with support from RLS-Formal. The students received between two and three months of training on English language skills, including the use of legal terminology, and drafting and presenting legal opinions in English. The following is a breakdown of number of students by university: 23 male and 27 female students from the Law Faculty of Balkh University, 325 male and 227 female students from the Law Faculty of Herat University; and, 24 male and 11 female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Kabul University.



Students from Balkh University graduate from a Legal English program in June 2013.

- On June 15th and June 16th, Kabul University commenced two Legal English programs for 35 students supported by RLS-Formal. 24 male and 11 female students began a one-month course receiving advance English language instruction. RLS-Formal supports English language programs to help students to access mainstream legal resource materials and enhance their opportunities to participate in moot court competitions, study tours and scholarships abroad, all of which require English proficiency.

TASK 5: MODERNIZE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

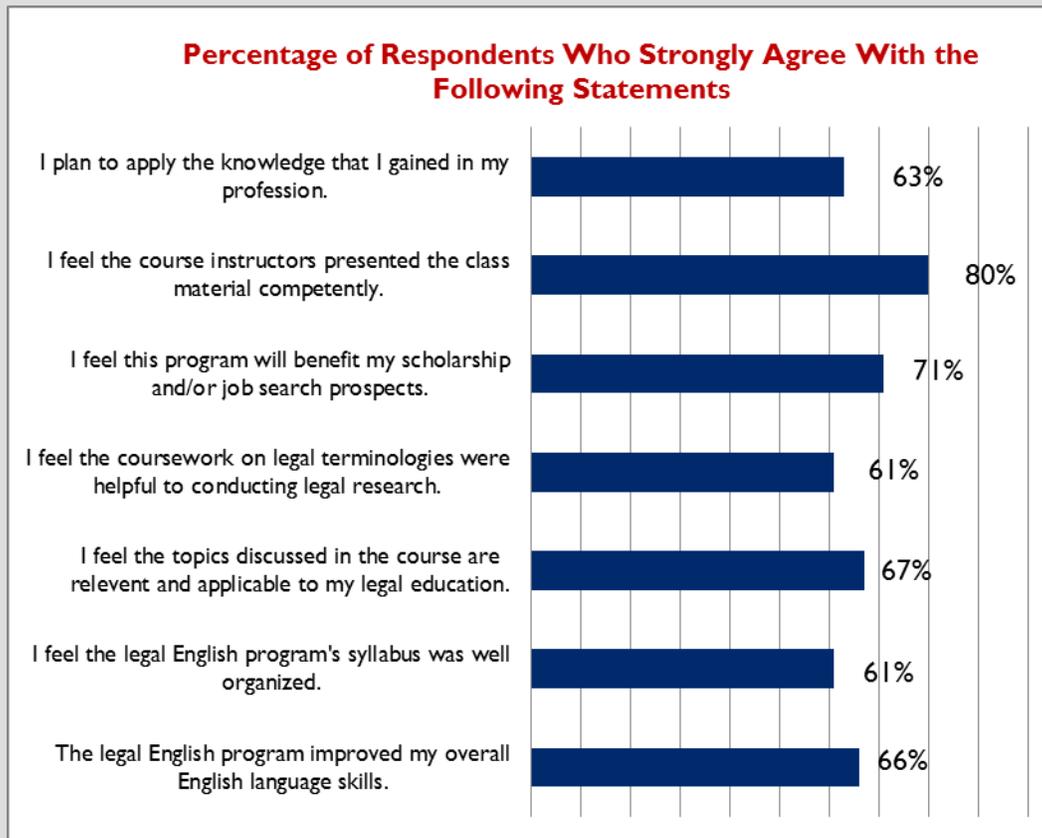
- On June 10th, RLS-Formal advisors met with deans and professors at Herat University to discuss how to implement changes to the core curriculum arising from the Symposium on Legal Education held by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) in May 2013. Herat University anticipates conduct a meeting in August 2013 to follow-up on additional recommendations from the Symposium. RLS-Formal supports events, such as the Symposium, to encourage Law and *Sharia* faculties to engage in a strategic dialogue on charting a sustainable future for legal education in Afghanistan.

Evaluating the Impact of Practical Coursework

Students Complete Legal English Trainings at Herat University

RLS-Formal evaluates its practical coursework through post-course questionnaires of students at Law and *Sharia* faculties. Specially-trained monitoring and evaluation staff conduct the evaluations and share the results with program staff in order to determine lessons learned and identify areas for improvement.

On June 16th, monitoring and evaluation staff conducted an evaluation of **116 students** from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Herat University who completed legal English training programs. A field surveyor distributed questionnaires to the participants and recorded their feedback before analyzing the results in a report to share with project and counterpart staff. The graph below represents the **positive results** of the evaluation.



The students' positive perceptions of the legal English training corresponds to the results of a survey of 8,729 students at the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Kabul, Nangahar, Balkh, Herat, Al Biruni, Khost, Kunduz and Takhar universities in May 2013. The survey found that a student who participated in a legal English training is **88 percent** more likely than the average student to say that the availability of quality legal education improved. **31 percent** of students had participated in at least one legal English training, making it the type of legal education activity most widely accessed by students.

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

RLS-Formal raises citizen awareness of legal rights and court processes 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 develop a core of professionals with the expertise and experience to sustainably continue public information campaigns that increase citizen awareness and develop trust in the formal 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

- In June, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to finalize key upcoming programs promoting public legal outreach. The MOJ agreed to conduct four training programs for its public outreach staff on the National Legal Awareness Strategy (NLAS) in Kabul, Balkh and Herat provinces between August and November 2013 in coordination with RLS-Formal. RLS-Formal assists the MOJ with conducting legal awareness activities which inform the public of their legal rights and increase their confidence in Afghanistan's formal justice system.

NLAS 2 Training map (Legal Training):



The map represents the provinces from which MOJ public outreach staff will attend the upcoming trainings in Kabul, Mazar and Herat.

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

- During the week of June 22nd, the MOJ prepared to implement a nationwide, multi-tiered legal awareness campaign using print publications with the support of RLS-Formal. The MOJ will distribute 612,000 brochures, 102,000 posters and 14,280 booklets which promote the rule of law in public areas, including courts, schools, religious centers, hospitals, and other government buildings. RLS-Formal assists the MOJ's public outreach staff with the concept and development of publication materials in order to foster a core of professionals with the expertise to implement campaigns that increase citizen trust in the justice system.
- In June, RLS-Formal continued to assist the MOJ developing a web-based application for access to Afghan laws. The application will allow justice sector personnel and members of the public to read and obtain copies of these laws online. The project also distributes print and compact discs (CDs) of Afghan laws to justice sector personnel across the country.

TASK 3: DEVELOP CAPACITY OF SUPREME COURT AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO PRODUCE RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS

- On June 3rd, the MOJ published 5,000 copies of the "Collection of Afghanistan's Laws" on CD with the support of RLS-Formal. The MOJ intends to distribute the CDs to its provincial offices to provide public outreach staff with resources to sustainably conduct public information campaigns that increase the citizenry's legal awareness.
- On June 11th, RLS-Formal advisors met with officials from the MOJ to discuss an upcoming public legal outreach campaign to raise awareness of children's rights in Kabul. The MOJ intends to conduct mobile theater performances in schools as a means to convey to children and parents their child's right to education, health and protection from exploitation. The project will broadcast the performances via television to leverage their impact and reach a wider audience. In partnership with RLS-Formal, the MOJ in conducting such events as an effective means of mass communication to inform the public of their basic rights.

Measuring the Impact of Public Outreach

Listening Groups of Male Youths and Men Conducted

RLS-Formal conducts listening groups to measure the effectiveness of its public legal outreach efforts. A listening group is a rapid appraisal technique where seven to ten participants share their opinions of radio, television and print media produced by the project with the help of a facilitator.

On June 26th, RLS-Formal conducted a listening group of fifty to evaluate the impact of radio, television and comic books and using the following criteria:

Words. The project depicts the words spoken by participants during the listening group.



Framework. RLS-Formal weighs the circumstances in which a comment was made in terms of its tone and intensity. For example, one participant reacted passionately to a mobile theater performance depicting the illegality of *baad*, the tribal practice where a young girl is traded to settle the dispute:

“I disagreed when the character in the play said: “I bought her to revenge my brother.” The actor played the character and performed well. This will cause people to not give their daughters in sin to other family members. They will know their sister’s and daughter’s life will not be good. It was good to see this terrible practice represented justly.”

Internal agreement. RLS-Formal measures shifts in opinions to identify consensus. The following exchange between three participants demonstrates this agreement:

Participant 1: “My kids brought [the comic book] from school to home, and they were reading it to their

mother. The series of mini books were easy to understand with pictures and short sentences.”

Participant 2: “Now most of the kids in the city are familiar with comic books, but I would like to propose to distribute the comic books at the district, and especially, the village level.

Participant 3: “This way we will reach those kids and families who never had a chance to read these interesting books before.”



A focus group discuss the effectiveness of comic books and mobile theater performances in Mazar in June 2013.

Precision of responses. The project determined which responses were based on personal experience and gave them greater weight than those based on impersonal impressions. An example of a precise response which was assessed more value is:

“My daughter brought these mini books from school about a year ago. She borrowed them from their classmates and shared them with our whole family. These were easy to read and understand, and readers will remember their messages for a long time.”

GENDER JUSTICE

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

RLS-FORMAL GENDER INTEGRATION & AWARENESS

- On June 4th, the SC's High Council approved the Afghan Women Judges Association's (AWJA) Strategic Plan which lays out the priority objectives and goals for the nascent association. Developed with RLS-Formal assistance, the Plan calls for implementation of activities that ensure that female judges in Afghanistan have a robust presence and role in the country's male-dominated judiciary, as well as equal professional capacity equal to their peers globally. The Plan's focus on legal training, basic computer skills, and observational learning activities (such as visits to forensic laboratories, women's shelters, and prisons) seeks to ensure professional development for female judges across the country. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to strengthen the organizational capacity of the AWJA to advocate on behalf of its membership and to inspire young women considering careers in the judiciary.

Afghan Women Judges Association: Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015

Afghanistan's Premier Membership Organization for Women Judges



The SC's High Council approved the AWJA Strategic Plan in June. The Plan sets forth a vision, mission and strategic goals for the legal association as it seeks to provide "a powerful opportunity to advance the rights of citizens – especially women – throughout the country." Please find below additional excerpts from the AWJA's Strategic Plan.

Vision: An Afghanistan where everyone has equal rights and access to justice.

Mission: To advance equal rights and justice for all through professional development of women judges and public education on women's rights.

Strategic Goals: The AWJA has three strategic goals that are decidedly interdependent.

- Women judges in Afghanistan have optimum professional judicial capacity
- Women have equal presence and participation in the judicial sector taking into consideration the country context and circumstances
- The AWJA has a strong and sustainable organization structure and financial support

- Between June 16th and June 18th, RLS-Formal conducted three gender justice training programs for female students at Balkh, Herat and Paktia Universities. 130 female students received training on the importance of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women in protecting the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal promotes women's rights and gender equality as a means to enhance women's access to formal justice mechanisms to foster a society more willing and capable of enforcing the law and Constitutional rights of women.



A RLS-Formal advisor leads a gender justice training program for female students at Herat University in June 2013.

- On June 22nd and June 23rd, RLS-Formal conducted a similar gender justice training program for judges in Kabul. 23 female judges received training on the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women.



Female judges graduate from a gender just training program in Kabul in June 2013.

- On June 30th, RLS-Formal commenced a two-day gender justice training program for *mullahs* or religious elders. 44 *mullahs* received training on women's legal rights, including women's rights to divorce, education and inheritance, enabling the religious leaders to incorporate these topics

when communicating with the public through Friday sermons attended by large number of Afghan men. RLS-Formal works to raise awareness of gender equality through culturally appropriate mediums that reflect local realities in order to ensure rule of law messages on gender equity reach as wide an audience as possible.



Mullahs participate in a gender justice training program in June 2013.

Quotes from Beneficiaries

The **Director of the Ministry of Hajj's Mosque Department** described the importance of the gender justice training received by *mullahs* in June 2013: "Gender justice training is very useful for all *mullahs*. We will try to have as many *mullahs* as possible attend this type of training, because it is the first time that they received formal training on gender issues."

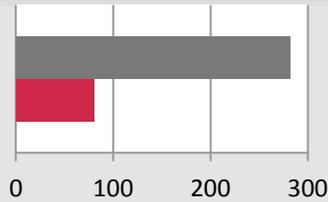
MONITORING & EVALUATION

RLS-Formal measures its program performance through 14 performance indicators as defined in its Performance Management Plan (PMP). The project tracks the indicators monthly and reports most indicators quarterly and several semi-annually. This section demonstrates RLS-Formal’s progress towards its quarterly targets and its cumulative progress to date.

Performance Indicators: Quarterly Report for Q3 of FY 2013

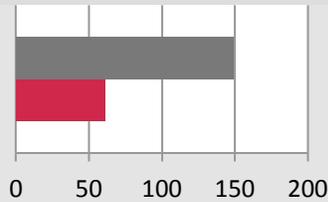
Indicator	Quarterly Targets (■) vs. Achievements(■)	Notes
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	-	The project initiated a nationwide court user survey in June and will submit the survey results and analysis in August.
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	<p>A horizontal bar chart comparing the quarterly target (grey bar) and achievement (red bar) for Indicator 2. The x-axis represents percentages from 0.00% to 6.00% in 2.00% increments. The target bar reaches 5.00%, and the achievement bar reaches approximately 1.11%.</p>	The project reached 1.11% of the population against its quarterly target of 5% of the population. Overall, the project has reached 7.93% of the population out of its cumulative target of 19.50%. Plans are underway to reach the targets set in this quarter.
3. Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted	-	The project reports on this indicator from The Asia Foundation Survey when it is published in annually in Q1 of FY 2014.
4. Percentage of judges that complete the basic or “stage” training	-	The project cannot report this because the 28 th Round of the Stage has not graduated.
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	<p>A horizontal bar chart comparing the quarterly target (grey bar) and achievement (red bar) for Indicator 5. The x-axis represents the number of trainers from 0 to 6 in increments of 2. Both the target and achievement bars reach the value of 5.</p>	The project achieved its quarterly target of 5 stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques.
6. Percentage of judges that received training on women’s legal rights	<p>A horizontal bar chart comparing the quarterly target (grey bar) and achievement (red bar) for Indicator 6. The x-axis represents percentages from 0.00% to 5.00% in 2.50% increments. The target bar reaches 3.00%, and the achievement bar reaches approximately 1.23%.</p>	The project trained 1.23% of judges on women’s legal rights out of its quarterly target of 3% of judges. Overall, the project has trained 23.24% of judges out of its cumulative target of 28%.

7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance



The project trained 80 judges and judicial personnel out of its target of 282 judges and judicial personnel. The result includes 34 judges and 46 judicial personnel. Overall, the project has trained 2,336 out of its cumulative target of 3,227 and plans are underway to meet the set target.

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



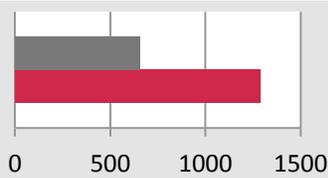
The project helped 61 courts benefit from improved court management systems, out of its target of 149 courts. Of these, 29 benefitted indirectly and 32 benefitted directly from the project's assistance. Overall, the project has assisted 74 courts out of its cumulative target of 551. Plans for meeting the remaining target courts are currently underway.

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

Achievement: 93%
Target: 90%

The project exceeded its target with 93% of students participating in practical coursework expressing confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector.

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



The project involved 1,286 students in practical legal exercises, exceeding its quarterly target of 655 students. Overall, the project has involved 3,326 students out of its target of 3,685.

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

-

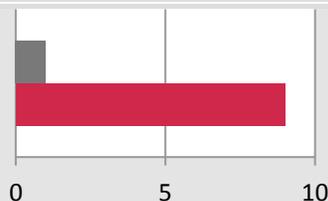
The project developed 4 new legal courses, exceeding its target of 2 legal courses. Overall, the project has developed 26 legal courses out of its cumulative target of 30.

12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries

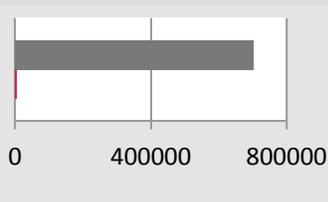
Qualitative Level: "Very Aware"
Qualitative Target: "Aware"

The project evaluated the beneficiaries of its public outreach campaigns as "Very Aware," exceeding its target of "Aware."

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



The project produced and disseminated eight television programs and one radio program, exceeding its target of one television or radio program. Overall, the project has produced 14 programs out of its cumulative target of 16 programs.



The project produced and disseminated 3,222 print publications out of its target of 700,000. Overall, the project has printed 4.01 IM publications out of its cumulative target of 5M publications. Plans are underway for fulfilling the overall target.

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

Achievement: 83%
Target: N/A

83% of females reported increased self-efficacy at the project's trainings. No target.

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 campaigns 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 graduate 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 *Sharia* law. RLS-Formal reports this indicator annually when the *Stage* graduates, or when the number of judges changes significantly. Indicator 4 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.1.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 gauge 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.

**USAID/Afghanistan
Office of Democracy and Governance
U.S. Embassy
Great Masood Road
Kabul, Afghanistan**