



**USAID** | **AFGHANISTAN**  
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# RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 1 – AUGUST 31, 2013

**August 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

<b>ACAS</b>	Afghanistan Court Administration System
<b>ACT</b>	Anti-Corruption Tribunal
<b>AGO</b>	Attorney General's Office
<b>AWJA</b>	Afghan Women Judges Association
<b>CLE</b>	Continuing Legal Education
<b>CMS</b>	Case Management System
<b>COR</b>	Contracting Officer's Representative
<b>GIRoA</b>	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
<b>HR</b>	Human Resources
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>INL</b>	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
<b>ISAF</b>	International Security Assistance Force
<b>JSSP</b>	Justice Sector Support Program
<b>MOHE</b>	Ministry of Higher Education
<b>MOJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>PRT</b>	Provincial Reconstruction Team
<b>PMP</b>	Performance Management Plan
<b>RLS-Formal</b>	Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Project - Formal Component
<b>SC</b>	Supreme Court
<b>TOT</b>	Trainer-the-Trainer
<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>USAID</b>	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 August:

**Judicial Education** A joint training program on anti-corruption co-sponsored by USAID and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs built the capacity of judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and police investigators with the support of RLS-Formal. The project conducted a National Workshop on Anti-Corruption following the training for stakeholders to discuss methods of combating corruption. The 28<sup>th</sup> Round of the *Judicial Stage* is tentatively scheduled for completion in September.

**Court Management** In August, RLS-Formal continued to support the *Administrative Stage* which is a four-month long pilot training program for 30 court clerks. The project also initiated two computer literacy workshops for judges and court administrators at the Appellate Court in Herat, worked with the Supreme Court to begin design of a statistics database, and commenced training on construction design software for Supreme Court staff engineers.

**Legal Education** RLS-Formal coordinated with law faculties across Afghanistan to plan a conference in October to finalize a syllabus for the new unified law curriculum. In August, students competing in the National Media Law Moot Court Competition submitted their memorials in preparation for the final rounds of the competition in September. Additionally, several universities administered an examination to select teams for the 2014 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. Herat University began legal English courses for 299 male and 168 female students through the support of RLS-Formal.

**Public Legal Outreach** RLS-Formal, in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, delivered 728,300 legal awareness pamphlets, posters, and booklets to legal aid offices in provincial offices. The project conducted a training program on video and audio troubleshooting and graphic design for Supreme Court's public outreach staff. RLS-Formal also worked closely with the Ministry of Justice to finalize a series of upcoming trainings for public outreach staff on how to implement its National Legal Awareness Strategy.

**Gender** RLS-Formal assisted the Afghan Women Judges Association with preparations for its Second Annual National Conference which is scheduled for September 1-4 in Kabul and includes the election of new officers, a panel discussion on gender issues, educational site visits, and presentations on the Association's strategic mission and work plan.

# 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**

- Students from the 28<sup>th</sup> Round of the *Judicial Stage*, Afghanistan's induction training program for new judges, will complete their studies in September and the graduates, 91 males and 25 females, will receive their first assignments from the SC. RLS-Formal provides technical, material, and financial support to the *Stage* in order to ensure Afghanistan's newest judges possess the appropriate training and skills needed to enter and excel at judicial service.

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

- On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, RLS-Formal advisors met with the Head of the Anti-Corruption Tribunal (ACT) at the Appellate Court in Kabul to discuss the ACTs need for supplies and equipment to enhance development and output of ACTs. The Head of the ACT reviewed and approved delivery of needed materials to ACTs across Afghanistan. RLS-Formal works to strengthen the capacity of anti-corruption courts in order to empower them to promote transparent and accountable governance and increase public confidence in the government's commitment to the rule of law.
- On August 24<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal advisors met with officials from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and judges from the Kabul courts handling narcotics and security cases. The participants agreed that a group of respected subject matter experts should edit the new standardized instructional materials for continuing legal education subjects including criminal law and procedure, and laws on narcotics, organized crime, money laundering, and terrorism. 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.



*An RLS-Formal advisor meets with the Deputy Attorney General to discuss editing new standardized instructional materials for continuing legal education programs.*

- On August 27<sup>th</sup>, 28 justice sector professionals graduated from a joint training program on anti-corruption co-sponsored by USAID's rule of law program, RLS-Formal, and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)'s rule of law program, the Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP). One female and 27 male judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and police investigators from Kabul, Kunduz, Kandahar, Paktia, Balkh, Nangarhar and Bamyan provinces received training on investigating, processing, and adjudicating corruption cases, as well as substantive training on anti-corruption laws, money laundering, gender awareness, and ethics. RLS-Formal aims to improve the efficiency and quality of cases processed by anti-corruption tribunals through training programs that build the capacity of the justice sector professionals involved.



*RLS-Formal and JSSP advisors distribute graduation certificates to participants of a joint anti-corruption training in August.*

- On August 28<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal conducted a National Workshop on Anti-Corruption in Kabul attended by members of the judiciary, AGO, Parliament, Commission of Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution, Afghanistan Independent Bar Association, and civil society. The Workshop immediately followed the joint anti-corruption training and involved 35 male and ten females in a dialogue on measures to increase transparency and accountability, and the need for communicate among institutions combating corruption in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal supports such initiatives in order to support the Afghan government's commitment to fight corruption through greater transparency, accountability and fairness in the formal justice sector.
- In August, RLS-Formal continued planning for a study tour to provide an international perspective on combatting corruption for judges from ACTs throughout Afghanistan. The project is exploring suitable host countries and institutions to educate Afghan judges on successful strategies, processes and procedures for handling corruption cases. 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 institutional reform and strengthening and the rule of law in Afghanistan.

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

- In August, RLS-Formal worked closely with the SC to finalize a continuing legal education program for sitting judges to be held Badakhshan province in early September. The participants , coming from Badakhashan and several surrounding provinces, will receive training on criminal law, criminal procedure, inheritance rights, judicial ethics, gender justice, and the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS). RLS-Formal provides continuing legal education for sitting judges in order to build their practical skills and knowledge of legal topics and strengthen the rule of law in Afghanistan.

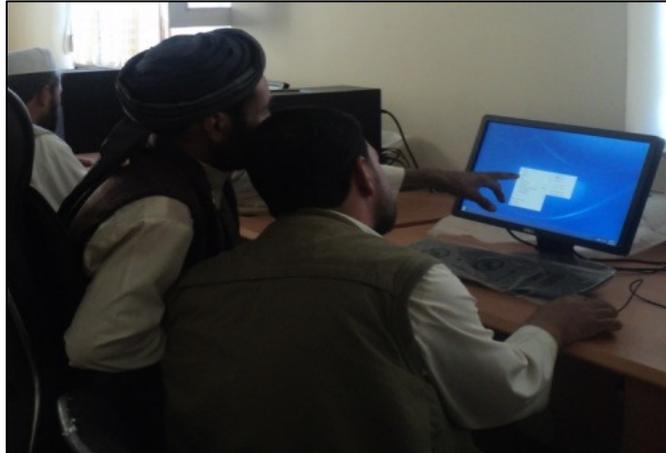
## **COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS**

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

- On August 14<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal advisors met with the Director of the Finance and Administration Department of the SC to discuss an upcoming study tour for court administration staff. The study tour will introduce a delegation of Afghan court administrators and judges to the court management reforms recently implemented in Macedonia, including innovations in case management, strategic planning, statistical reporting, and human resource and financial management. 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 institutional reform and strengthening and the rule of law in Afghanistan.
- On August 14<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal assisted in developing a course on the Afghan Constitution for the ongoing *Administrative Stage*, a four-month training program for court clerks. An Afghan constitutional law instructor developed his course materials with the assistance of project advisors in preparation for teaching his new course in September. Through the *Administrative Stage*, 28 male and 2 female court clerks are receiving training on subjects including the principles of court administration, the code of administrative conduct, case management, financial management and organizational leadership. In partnership with the SC, RLS-Formal aims

to professionalize court administration to ensure effective and efficient justice delivery for citizens utilizing the formal justice system.

- In August, RLS-Formal commenced two computer literacy workshops for judges and court administrators at the Appellate Court in Herat. In total 25 participants are receiving instruction on Microsoft Windows and Office through hands-on, problem-solving activities during the two-month programs. RLS-Formal implements capacity building initiatives for court personnel to gain knowledge of essential computer applications to enable them to prepare case documents and maintain records and statistics contributing to professional court administrative service and justice delivery.



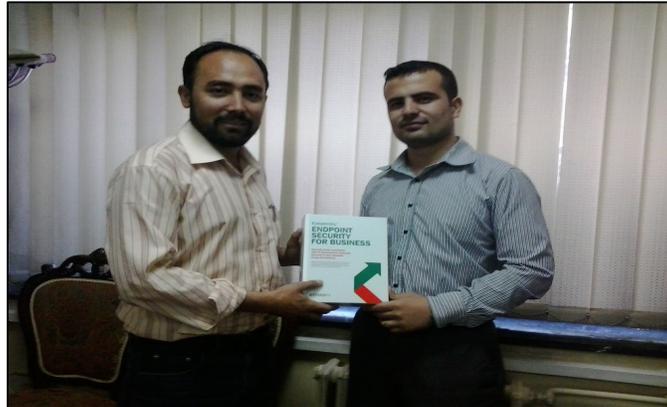
*Staff from Herat Appellate Court participate in a computer literacy workshop in August.*

- In August, RLS-Formal advisors held meetings with SC officials to arrange delivery and installation of a connex to provide working space at the Nangarhar Appellate Court for RLS-Formal advisors and court personnel. The Chief Judge of the Appellate Court agreed to the location of the new office space, as well as its intended use. RLS-Formal provides technical advisors and material and equipment to support courts across Afghanistan in order to increase the efficiency and transparency of the formal court system.

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

- During the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, RLS-Formal met with representatives of a local database design firm to discuss the development and installation of a statistics database at the SC. The database will track crucial court statistics such as case type, party names, case status, and filing and disposition dates, which will ensure timely case flow and to help identify backlogs. The database firm anticipates the program design and installation process to begin in late August. The project also worked closely with the Director of the SC's Statistics Department in August to develop teaching materials on the importance of case monitoring and statistics for the Administrative Stage. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to develop administrative reforms that build human and institutional capacity through enhanced statistical reporting.

- On August 7<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal provided anti-virus software to the SC to install on the office computers of 250 staff users. The project helps develop the capacity of the SC to manage its information and communication resources and take advantage of the power of information technology to increase the efficiency of the courts.



*An RLS-Formal advisor delivers anti-virus software to the SC's Information Technology Manager in August.*

- On August 24<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal commenced a workshop on construction design software for staff engineers from the SC. Three male engineers began receiving 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 throughout each province of Afghanistan.
- In August, an RLS-Formal advisor embedded at the SC continued to assist the Budget Directorate and Administration Department. The advisor provided assistance with developing circulars on the preparation, submission, and execution of the SC's budget and with preparing a lesson plan on financial management for the Administrative Stage. The project assists the SC to improve its capacity to efficiently and effectively fund the court system through efficient and comprehensive budget development and management.

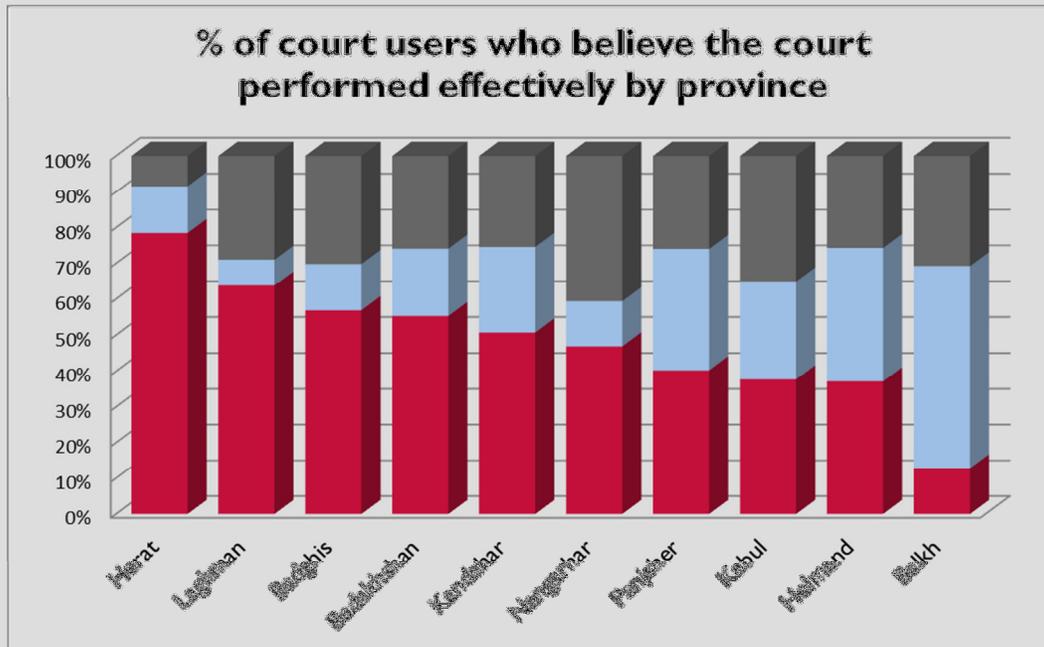
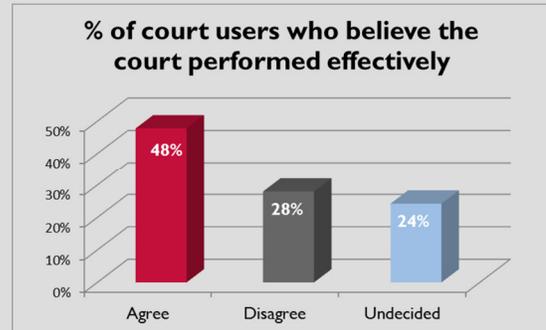


## National Survey of Court Users in Afghanistan

### 935 Court Users Surveyed at 26 Courthouses in 10 Provinces

RLS-Formal conducted the first phase of a survey of court users in Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Helmand, Herat, Laghman, Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Panjshir provinces in August 2013. The survey gauged the perceptions of court users about their interaction with the court system. The results indicate that USAID is increasing public confidence in the formal system based on perceptions of court users.

For example, half of court users in Afghanistan agree that their court performed effectively, and the remainder is divided almost equally between being undecided or disagreeing. Notably, a court user visiting a courthouse that implements a RLS-Formal program is more likely to agree that that court performed effectively as compared to a court which did not implement any RLS-Formal supported programs.



Specifically, the survey identified RLS-Formal programs such as training court clerks and CLE training for sitting judges as the most impactful activities to improve court user perceptions, as opposed to donating equipment or embedding staff at courthouses which, while helpful, has less of a direct impact on public perception.

Court user attitudes toward court performance closely correspond to their views of the court's overall administration. Additionally, a court user who receives a verdict in his or her case close to the time of taking the survey is more likely to believe the court performed effectively, regardless if the verdict was favorable.

Further analysis is available in the "Court User Survey: Perceptions of Court Users in Afghanistan".

## 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 August 5<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal advisors met with deans and professors at Kabul University to schedule a follow-up conference to finalize the core curriculum developed by the Law Faculties at the Symposium on Legal Education held in May 2013. The conference participant will need to agree upon a syllabus for each of the courses in the new unified curriculum, just as the *Sharia* Faculties did for the *Sharia* courses in 2012. Dean Abdul Iqrar Wasel of the Kabul Law Faculty agreed to facilitate the law conference which is scheduled to occur in late October. RLS-Formal provides support to Law and *Sharia* faculties to implement a unified curriculum and other educational reforms in order to improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.
- On August 12<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal advisors met with deans and professors from the Law and *Sharia* faculties at Herat University to facilitate the national effort required to draft syllabi for courses required by the unified curriculum in line with the conference in October. The syllabi will be submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education for approval later in the fall.

### TASK 2: PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

- During the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>, Nangarhar University continued a legal clinic on civil law for students from its Law and *Sharia* faculties through the support of RLS-Formal. 12 male students reviewed appellate court decisions, analyzed hypothetical cases, and learned techniques for preparing legal petitions and other applications. Navidullah, a third year student from the Law Faculty, described the importance of the clinic for his legal education: “The hypothetical cases strengthened my legal analysis skills and my knowledge of how legal doctrines are applied to different case types. I recommend every student have the opportunity to participate in such a legal clinic.”
- On August 28<sup>th</sup>, students from a legal clinic on civil and criminal law at Al Biruni University participated in two educational visits to justice sector institutions in Parwan province with the support of RLS-Formal. Eight female and seven male students met with officials at the investigative department and the Directorate of Women’s Affairs to learn about different types

of support the institution provides to litigants. RLS-Formal supports practical training initiatives, such as legal clinics, to help students develop their research and advocacy skills and prepare them to enter the legal profession after graduation.

- Between August 24<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal conducted a legal research training program for students from Khost University. 113 male students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties received training on techniques and sources for legal research and legal writing, and participated in practical exercises to strengthen their research skills. RLS-Formal supports practical training initiatives to assist students with developing their analytical and critical thinking skills in order to contribute to the justice sector and help citizens to access justice in Afghanistan.



*Students participate in a legal research training program at Khost University in August.*

- In August, RLS-Formal advisors continued to assist deans and professors from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Kabul University to organize a first-ever Career Fair. The event will familiarize soon-to-be graduating students with potential employers in justice sector organizations and NGOs. The employing institutions will have informational booths with representatives on hand to answer students' questions about career options. RLS-Formal supports such events in order to encourage Law and *Sharia* students to continue their interest in the law after graduating.
- Kabul Law Faculty and RLS-Formal have been developing a Faculty/Student Development Center in August. The Center, which will be completed in September, will help improve teaching methodologies and legal research and writing by increasing student and professor access to legal resources and computers available at the Center. RLS-Formal supports such initiatives in order to facilitate access to modern technology and resources that enhance the overall education experience.

### **TASK 3: SUPPORT HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS**

- On August 12<sup>th</sup>, students competing in the National Media Law Moot Court Competition submitted their memorials in preparation for the competition which is scheduled to take place in September. 29 male and 11 female students from Law and *Sharia* faculties at ten universities across Afghanistan are prepared to compete. The moot court will be conducted in Dari unlike other competitions that require English proficiency. In partnership with Internews, RLS-Formal supports this moot court competition, as well as other practical skills activities, to develop a

cadre of highly-skilled and well-trained judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers who are able to deliver citizens high-quality legal services.



*Students at Khost University work on their memorials for the National Media Law Moot Court Competition in August.*

- On August 17<sup>th</sup>, female participants from past Jessup International Law Moot Court Competitions and legal clinics participated in a Speaker Series to promote increased female law student participation in future oral advocacy competitions and practical training programs at Herat University. The guest speakers presented their personal experiences and encouraged 35 female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties who were in attendance to participate in moot court competitions and other practical skills activities as a means to enhance their legal writing, advocacy, research, and public speaking skills. A similar Speaker Series is scheduled to take place in Kabul in September. RLS-Formal supports practical skills training and moot court contests, such as Jessup, in order to develop a cadre of well-trained future judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys with the capacity to provide professional legal services for all citizens of Afghanistan.
- From August 25-26, RLS-Formal conducted an informational session on the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition for students from Khost University. 22 male students from the Law and *Sharia* faculty received information on the history, purpose, and organization of the annual competition. The students were encouraged to sit for the examination which will be used to select five students to form the university's team in the 2014 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, for only the second time in the school's history. In August, Balkh, Herat and Khost Universities administered the examination to form their 2014 Jessup Competition teams. The project anticipates that 12 universities and institutes of higher education will field teams for the 2014 competition, a record number of participating schools.



*Students at Herat University sit for the entrance examination to participate in the 2014 Jessup Competition.*

#### **TASK 4: DEVELOP ADVANCED LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING**

- On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Herat University commenced a four-month legal English course with support from RLS-Formal. The course consists of 299 male and 168 female students who will learn legal terminology and how to prepare legal opinions in English. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, Kabul University commenced a similar four-month legal English course but, due to the shortage of English instructors, only 20 male and 5 female students were able to participate. RLS-Formal supports legal English 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, the majority of which require a high level of English proficiency.



*Female students participate in a legal English course at Herat University in August.*

#### **TASK 5: MODERNIZE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES**

- In August, RLS-Formal assisted professors from Herat University Law and *Sharia* faculties in developing new materials for an upcoming Street Law program. The University intends to use the new materials for the program later in this fall semester. Herat was one of the first

universities to develop a university-run clinic, which includes the Street Law program, and continually refines its materials to offer students a excellent experience based on lessons learned and incorporating new ideas. 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.

Illustrative Ongoing Practical Coursework Supported by RLS-Formal*							
Start	End Date	Type of Coursework	Topic	No. of Students		University	Faculty
				Male	Female		
April	November	Legal Clinic	Family Law & Criminal Law	15	50	Kabul	Law & Sharia
April	November	Legal Clinic	Civil and Criminal Law	12	12	Kabul	Law & Sharia
August	September	Computer Literacy	Microsoft Office	15	0	Kabul	Law & Sharia
August	December	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	20	5	Kabul	Law & Sharia
May	August	Legal Clinic	Family Law & Criminal Law	17	8	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
May	August	Legal Clinic	Street Law	12	14	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
August	December	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	299	168	Herat	Law & Sharia
May	TBD	Legal Clinic	Civil Law	12	0	Nangarhar	Law & Sharia
April	September	Media Law Moot Court	Media Law Moot Court	29	11	Al Biruni Kabul Balkh Herat Kunduz Takhar Panjshir Kandahar Khost Paktia	Law & Sharia

\*As of August 31, 2013

# 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 implement 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 August, RLS-Formal advisors worked closely with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to finalize key messages for the institution's upcoming public legal outreach campaigns. The campaigns will, in part, promote children's right to an education and to raise awareness to end child labor through mobile theaters with performances at five high schools in Kabul between September and November 2013. The MOJ also anticipates conducting four training programs for its public outreach staff on how to implement the MOJ's National Legal Awareness Strategy. The trainings will take place in Kabul, Balkh, and Herat provinces between September and November 2013. RLS-Formal assists the MOJ in conducting legal awareness activities to inform the public of their legal rights and increase confidence in Afghanistan's formal justice system.

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

- During the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>, the MOJ, with RLS-Formal support, began distribution of 728,300 print publications designed to raise awareness of legal rights and services. The project delivered 612,000 brochures, 102,000 posters and 14,300 booklets to MOJ legal aid centers across all of Afghanistan's provinces. The publications are designed to raise awareness of reconciliation and mediation services, inheritance rights, the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and including prohibitions against forced and underage marriage. 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.

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

- On August 6<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal concluded a two-week training program on video and audio troubleshooting and graphic design for public outreach staff at the SC. Seven male staff received

training on video editing techniques, script writing, sound effect usage, and graphic design software. Omer Hussain Khail, the Director of the Cultural Department of the SC, described the impact of the program: “This training is a sustainable initiative for our radio and television studio staff, who day-by-day improve their skills to produce professional outreach programs.” Recently in a joint effort between the SC and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the institutions recorded a radio program at the SC studio that aims to raise awareness of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The program is anticipated to air nationwide in September. RLS-Formal attempts to transfer communications knowledge and skills to the SC’s public legal outreach section in order to foster a core of professionals with the expertise to implement public information campaigns to increase citizen trust in the justice system.



*An RLS-Formal advisor demonstrates audio and video troubleshooting techniques at the SC studio in August.*



# 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 August 4-5, the Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA) reviewed and revised key policy and procedures of the AWJA with technical support from RLS-Formal. The AWJA adopted a communications manual which focuses on promoting the inclusion of more women in the judiciary and enhancing access to justice for women and girls. The AWJA also designed a membership card and operationalized a database which contains membership information in order to serve the members better and more expeditiously. RLS-Formal works closely with the AWJA and the SC to support the AWJA to advocate on behalf of its membership to increase the presence and capacity of women judges in order to support women judges and to inspire young women to consider careers in the judiciary.



Sample of a AWJA membership card designed and produced with support from RLS-Formal.

- During the weeks of August 18<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal advisors met with senior leaders from the AWJA to discuss final preparations for the AWJA's Second Annual National Conference that is scheduled to be held in Kabul from September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup>. The conference agenda includes a presentation of the AWJA's strategic mission and work plan, member benefits, fundraising plan, as well as panel discussions on the Law on the Elimination of

Violence Against Women and the personal status law. The event also features educational site visits to a women's shelter, women's prison, a crime lab, and a forensic center.

## Preaching on Women's Rights Hits Home

### Mullahs Receive Training on Gender Justice Topics



*Mullahs receive training on the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.*

Mullahs and religious elders in Afghanistan perform the important social function of **promoting education** in their communities. Most Afghan communities adhere to local cultures and customs. These traditional cultures often ignore the rights of women afforded by Islamic laws, Afghan statutory law and international human rights. The Ministry of Hajj, in coordination with RLS-formal, recently initiated a program of encouraging mullahs to **raise public awareness of women's rights by dispel cultural and religious myths about the rights of women.**

In July, 45 mullahs received educational training on prominent gender justice topics, including the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, inheritance rights, marriage and divorce law, and **learned that running away from home is not a crime**, through the support of the project. The Ministry of Hajj then encouraged the newly trained mullahs to incorporate these topics in their sermons at mosque on Fridays which target a largely **male audience.**

Belal Wardak, a government employee in Kabul, attended mosque recently and listened to the sermon of Mullah Mawlawi Azizullah, who participated in the gender justice training. Mullah Azizullah preached **protection for women and girls** who run away from home under Islamic and Afghan statutory law. He said: "Arresting girls who run away from home is a bad custom in our country. Many young girls are faced with abusive and difficult family situations. We should take a positive step and end treating them poorly."

Upon arriving home after mosque, Belal Wardak **communicated this message to his entire family** who had gathered for the Eid holidays. He recalled the experience: "When I arrived home... I looked at my wife, and I cried and became emotional. I thought to myself why so far I was looking at my wife as a servant, while my wife is a person who shares similar rights with me in all areas."

Mullah Azizullah learned that running away from home is not a crime at the training. He recalled that "Before the training, I thought someone who left their home should be punished. I thought on the cultural side and not in legal terms." The Ministry of Hajj, with USAID assistance through RLS-Formal, continues to encourage other mullahs to use their positions of respect to promote women's rights in their communities.

# 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.

Indicator	4th Quarter FY 2013					Life of Project	
	Monthly Progress			Quarterly	Quarterly	Achievement	Cumulative Target
	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Achievement	Target	To Date	
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	-	47.80%	-	47.8%	-	47.8%	TBD
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	3.41%	1.20%	-	4.61%	-	12.54%	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%
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	0	5	-	5	5	10	15
6. Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights	0.37%	0.48%	-	0.86%	+2%	24.09%	28.00%
7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance	107	20	-	127	244	2463	3227
8. Number of courts benefiting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms	579	0	-	579	200	579	551
9. Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector	-	-	-	-	-	93%	100%
10. Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships	135	198	0	333	560	3689	3685
11. Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance	0	2	-	2	3	29	30
12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries	-	-	-	-	-	Very Aware	Very Aware
13. Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns	363,800 Print and 11 TV & Radio	363,832 Print	-	727,632 and 11 TV & Radio	180,000 Print, 1 TV & Radio	4,739,288 Print, 25 TV & Radio	5,000,000 Print, 16 Radio & TV
14. Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming	74%	74%	-	74%	-	74%	93%

**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 1.11.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 and court divisions which benefit directly and indirectly 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. The courts and divisions

benefit directly if they receive a new system or reform, or benefit indirectly if they are helped secondarily by a reform or system. For example, the newly implemented human resource database directly benefits the Supreme Court which operates the system and indirectly benefits all courts and divisions in Afghanistan by leading to better personnel management of judges and staff at these courthouses.

**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.

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