



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2013

November 2013

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech DPK.

Contract: AID-306-C-12-00014



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1 – NOVEMBER 31, 2013

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

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

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.

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	i
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY.....	2
TASK 1: Continuing support to the judicial <i>Stage</i> program	
TASK 2: Improve institutional capacity of state justice institutions, including anti-corruption courts	
TASK 3: Continue practical skills training & continuing legal education for sitting judges	
COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS.....	6
TASK 1: Train court staff to provide professional court administrative services	
TASK 2: Develop Supreme Court capacity to manage budget, personnel, and infrastructure	
COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING OF FACULTIES OF LAW AND SHARIA.....	10
TASK 1: Continue implementation of core curriculum for Law and <i>Sharia</i> faculties	
TASK 2: Provide practical training for law students and instructors	
TASK 3: Support hands-on training for law students	
TASK 4: Develop advanced legal English training	
TASK 5: Modernize teaching methodologies	
COMPONENT 4: PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH AND AWARENESS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.....	18
TASK 1: Provide equipment and technical assistance to develop public legal outreach capacity	
TASK 2: Capacity building of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice to conduct effective print campaigns	
TASK 3: Capacity building of the Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice to produce radio and television programs	
GENDER JUSTICE.....	21
MONITORING & EVALUATION.....	24

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACAS	Afghanistan Court Administration System
ACT	Anti-Corruption Tribunal
AGO	Attorney General's Office
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	Training-of-Trainers
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 November:

Judicial Education In November, RLS-Formal met with leaders from Anti-Corruption Tribunals across Afghanistan in order to discuss strategies and reforms to enhance the effectiveness of their courts. The project intends to issue an assessment of the Tribunals in December. Members of the Supreme Court participated in a study tour to France to learn best practices in judicial education. The Supreme Court also conducted a continuing legal education program for sitting judges in eastern Afghanistan.

Court Management The Supreme Court concluded the *Administrative Stage*, Afghanistan’s first induction training program for court clerks. Judges and court administrators in Herat completed a computer training to help them to use the Supreme Court’s statistics database, the design of which is nearing completion by the project and the Supreme Court. RLS-Formal continued to train Supreme Court staff engineers on construction design software.

Legal Education Deans and professors met in Kabul to discuss developing a syllabus for legal clinics which will be finalized in a conference in December. Four family law professors completed a study tour to South Africa. Students from Kabul and Khost universities who competed in the final round of the National Media Moot Court Competition travelled to India to observe the regional competition. RLS-Formal conducted a survey of Law and *Sharia* students, evaluating its work in legal education.

Public Legal Outreach In November, the public legal outreach staff from the Ministry of Justice completed a workshop on the National Legal Awareness Strategy in Herat. RLS-Formal conducted two mobile theater performances promoting women’s and children’s rights in Nangarhar. The project and Ministry of Justice undertook preparations for an upcoming event commemorating International Human Rights Day at Kabul University in December.

Gender RLS-Formal held gender justice programs for judges, students, and religious leaders in Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Panjsher provinces. Programs included forums for female students to encourage their interest in becoming a judge as well as trainings for judges and religious leaders on the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, women’s right to own property, and marriage and divorce law, among other rights and issues.

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. The objective of the components is to ensure fair, accountable, and transparent dispute resolution in the formal court system and to 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

- In early November, the Head of the Supreme Court's (SC) Research and Studies Department reviewed newly-developed standardized course materials for the two-year *Judicial Stage*, Afghanistan's induction training program for judges. RLS-Formal will assist in printing and distribution of the new course materials covering civil law to all *Stage* students and instructors after the SC has finalized its review. RLS-Formal delivers training and mentoring to the *Stage* in order to ensure Afghanistan's newest judges receive a high quality legal education to prepare them to enter and excel at judicial service.
- During the week of November 2nd, RLS-Formal advisors met with representatives of USAID, the French Embassy, Hamida Barmacki Organization, and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to discuss support for the SC's *Judicial Stage* program. The participants discussed sustainability and the nature and extent of each donor's support for the program. The next donor gathering will focus on setting the agenda for a meeting with the Judicial Education Committee to discuss the Committee's plans for a sustainable *Stage* program and to coordinate donor support. RLS-Formal provides support to the *Stage* program to improve the quality of legal education and prepare judges to dispense fair and transparent justice.

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

- On November 10th, RLS-Formal advisors met with the General Director of the Judiciary, Dr. Abdullah Atayee, and the Head of the Administration and Finance Directorate, Haji Yaqob, to discuss several on-going activities. The SC officials agreed to request that the High Council approve the Afghan Court Administration Systems (ACAS) Manual which has been waiting for SC approval since January 2013. The SC officials also gave a tour of a large classroom in a building under construction at the SC which will be used for a computer lab supported by RLS-Formal. RLS-Formal also met with the Head of the SC Construction Department, Engineer Anis, who confirmed that a new judicial education center is under construction with funds from the World Bank. The SC intends for the center to house the Judicial and Administrative *Stage* programs by this coming summer.

- On November 10th, RLS-Formal advisors met with the newly-appointed leaders of the Kabul Anti-Corruption Tribunal (ACT). The RLS-Formal advisors discussed the project's on-going ACT assessment and sought input from the judges on reforms and initiatives aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Tribunals. RLS-Formal works to strengthen the capacity of ACTs 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 November 26th, RLS-Formal conducted a workshop with judges from ACTs in order to discuss findings of a recent survey of ACT judges and address areas of opportunity for enhancements to the effectiveness of the Tribunals. At the workshop, the 24 male and one female judge from Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Paktia provinces, discussed a project survey which evaluated staff capacity, work environment, administrative support, and case management, and also offered recommendations to improve the operation of the ACTs. The project intends to issue an assessment of the ACTs in December based on the results of the workshop, ACT surveys, site visits, meetings with court personnel, and ACT trainings.



RLS-Formal advisors lead a workshop for judges from ACTs across Afghanistan in November.

- On November 28th, five members of the SC's Judicial Education Department concluded a ten-day study tour to France having learned best practices in judicial education with RLS-Formal support. The participants visited the French National School of the Judiciary, which serves as a model for Afghanistan's own judicial induction training program, the *Judicial Stage*, and discussed ideas for improving Afghanistan's continuing legal education programs for sitting judges. RLS-Formal collaborated with the French Embassy to provide a magistrate and translators to accompany the delegation. In the coming months, the participants hope to begin implementing reforms based on knowledge gained from the study tour. RLS-Formal conducts observational learning programs, such as study tours, in order to assist beneficiaries in gleaning international best practices and implementing reform measures to strengthen the rule of law in Afghanistan.



Members of the SC observe the results of France's induction training program for new judges while on a study tour in November.

Afghan Judge Jumpstarts Reforms after Study Tour

Members of the Supreme Court travel to France to Observe Judicial Best Practices



Judge Akbari (left) listens during a presentation on France's training program for new judges

Institutions require sound organizational structures to ensure their human resources match their goals. When qualified people fit in appropriate positions, the organization's missions and values are aligned and progress can be achieved. In Afghanistan, a **tashkeel** is the organizational chart for each government ministry, detailing staffing positions and lines of authority and responsibility within the institution. Changing a **tashkeel** therefore represents a **major reform effort** with immediate impacts on the institution. The Supreme Court of Afghanistan is considering just this type of change following a **study tour to France** supported by USAID.

RLS-Formal organized a study tour for **five Supreme Court members** involved in judicial education to train at the French National School of the Judiciary. The French National School serves as a model for Afghanistan's judicial induction training program, the **Judicial Stage**. For ten-days, the Afghan contingent met with French judges and educators and discussed ideas for improving Afghanistan's legal education programs.

Judge Najibullah Akbari, the newly-appointed Director of the Judicial Education Department, in charge of day to day operations of the Afghanistan's **Stage**, was particularly impressed by a presentation on the benefits of a healthy organizational structure on the success of a judicial institution. "During my visit, **I learned the importance of long-term planning and proper use of resources.**" Immediately upon his return to Afghanistan, Judge Akbari petitioned key Supreme Court officials to improve the organizational structure of the judicial education institution to provide high-quality, key staff to help him develop the training institute in a professional manner.

Specifically, **Judge Akbari has proposed to recruit and hire well-qualified staff for administrative, finance, IT, and research positions at the Stage.** With proper staff and resource allocations, these positions have the potential to enhance the Court's capacity to provide proper administration and training programs for new judges' foundational training and for continuing educational programs offered to sitting judges. As Judge Akbari's recent France experience has shown, the revised **tashkeel** should more closely align with the French model of judicial education in order improve the quality of services provided to judges by the judicial training institute.

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

- On November 14th, the SC graduated 31 sitting judges from a nine-day continuing legal education (CLE) program in Kabul through the support of RLS-Formal. The 31 male judges from Nangarhar, Kunar, Nooristan, and Laghman provinces received training on criminal law, criminal procedure, inheritance rights, judicial ethics, gender justice awareness, and use of the ACAS, the country's paper-based case management system. 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.



Judge Ali Asghar from the Appellate Court in Nangarhar leads a training module on the penal code at a CLE program.

Quote from a Beneficiary of Continuing Legal Education Training

Judge Lal Mohammad, Head of the **District Primary Court in Bati Kot District** in Nangarhar Province, described the impact of the training;

“This relatively quick training has had a huge **positive impact on helping me to run my court.** Before the training, I was sending summons to appear in court to the accused and the defense attorney just one or two days before the trial date. Now, through this training, I have learned to inform of them at least five days prior to an appearance.”

- In November, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the SC's Judicial Education Department and officials from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to discuss the ongoing standardization of course material for continuing legal education programs. Prosecutors and prominent judges from the Counter Narcotics and Internal and External Security courts will serve as editors of course material on narcotics and criminal law. The project is also developing a textbook on anti-corruption law and drafting enhancements of the penal code. RLS-Formal provides support to the SC to develop standardized training materials in emerging legal areas in order to ensure a uniform and sustainable judicial education program which improves Afghan judges' knowledge of substantive and procedural laws.

- Despite the SC’s appreciation of RLS-Formal’s ongoing support to the *Stage* and CLE programs, the program has not been able to engage the SC leadership in developing a strategic plan to ensure the sustainability and high quality of the judicial training program as donor support, particularly financial support, diminishes. In partnership with the other *Stage* donors, namely the French Embassy, IDLO, and Hamida Barmacki Organization, RLS-Formal has continuously followed up on its request from the fall of 2010 that the SC meet with donors to develop a strategic plan. This effort has been to no avail. The project is hopeful that, with a concerted and united effort by USAID and other donors, the SC will agree to meet with the donors in December to discuss strategic planning and other important initiatives to ensure a sustainable future for the SC’s judicial education programs.

COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS

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

- During the week of November 2nd, the SC administered the final exams for the inaugural class of the *Administrative Stage*, Afghanistan’s first induction training program for court clerks, with the support of RLS-Formal. The clerks will now return to their courthouses and are expected to use their knowledge to improve their job performance and to implement reforms discussed during the program. In the week prior to the exam, the project’s internationally recognized expert on court management gave instruction on Effective Case Flow Management and Core Court Performance Standards to the 28 male and two female participants. Topics included scheduling and monitoring cases to ensure timely processing, realistic deadlines for case disposition, and reduction in backlogged cases. RLS-Formal, in coordination with the SC, supports professional training for court administrators in order to ensure effective and efficient justice delivery for citizens utilizing Afghanistan’s courts.

Quotes from Administrative Stage Graduates

Mohammad Hamid, a clerk from the **Public Rights Division** of the Kabul Appellate Court, praised the program’s impact:

“Previously, I did not know much about case management. As a result, I processed cases very slow. But now, after I graduated from the *Administrative Stage* course, I know a lot more. I know **how and when to process a case** and hand the file over to judge. I know **how to inform parties** of the time and location of the hearing. Prior to this program, we used to waste time finding case files, but after learning the ACAS system, it is very easy for me to locate case files.”

- On November 13th, 13 judges and court administrators at the Appellate Court in Herat completed a computer literacy workshop through RLS-Formal support. The male participants received instruction on Microsoft Windows and Office through hands-on, problem-solving activities during the three 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.

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

- During the week of November 9th, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the SC's Statistics Directorate to discuss the development and installation of a statistics database. The meeting focused on adapting the preliminary database design to the needs of the SC. RLS-Formal advisors and staff from the SC Statistics department gave a presentation on the proposed database to the Head of the Research and Studies Department. The database will enhance and streamline case management procedures in courts across the country and improve mechanisms for tracking court statistics such as case type, party names, case status, and filing and disposition dates. These improvements will help ensure timely case flow, identify backlogs and enable the SC to allocate personnel and financial resources based on specific needs of each court.



RLS-Formal advisors and staff from an implementing partner work on the statistics database for the SC in November.

- In November, RLS-Formal continued a workshop on construction design software for staff engineers from the SC. Three male engineers received training on 3D design utilizing AutoCAD which streamlines the design and documentation processes. This month the project added training on Microsoft Office to help the participants prepare scopes of work and budgets 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.
- Over the course of several months, a joint committee comprised of SC advisors and RLS-Formal staff developed procedures to improve court administration through a new ACAS Procedures Manual. The Manual was submitted to the SC High Council for approval on January 5, 2013. The committee expected the High Council to expeditiously approve the Manual so that RLS-Formal could begin training personnel on the new policies and procedures contained in the Manual. However, during the past 11 months since the Manual was submitted for approval, the High Council has not taken any action on the Manual. This inaction by the SC continues despite several follow-up meetings with the Head of the SC administration and other decision-makers to urge the SC to review the Manual.

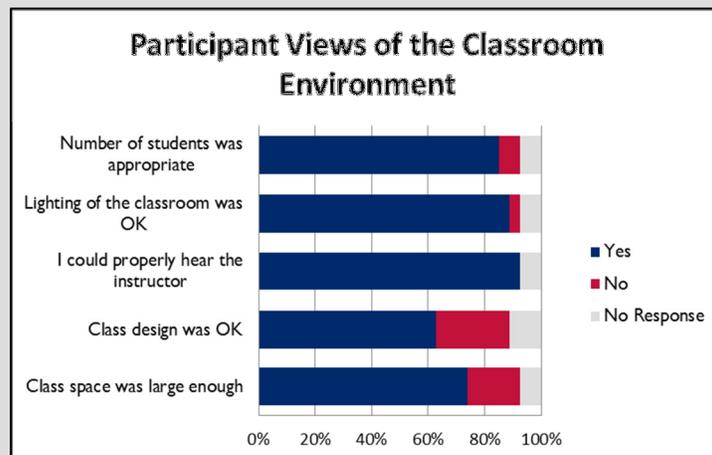
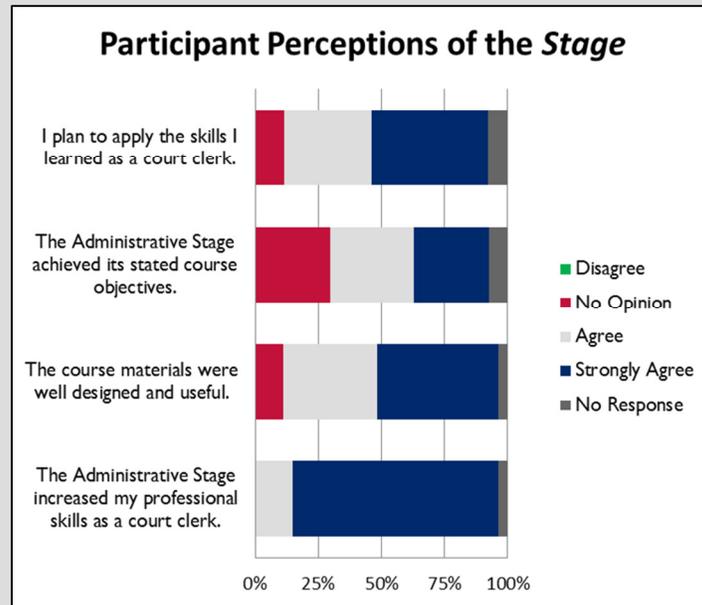
- Over the past several months, the SC has informed the project that it would designate a room at the SC complex for its staff to use as a computer training lab. At the request of the SC, the project purchased computers for the new lab in order to train SC staff on essential computer programs designed to professionalize its court administrative service and operate the new statistics database. The SC recently informed the project that the computer lab will be provided in a building currently under construction at the SC complex. As soon as the space for the computer lab is ready to be occupied, RLS-Formal will donate the equipment and supplies to allow the lab to become operational.

Evaluating the Impact of the Administrative Stage

Court Clerks Complete a Four-Month Induction Training Program

RLS-Formal evaluates the impact of its training programs by administering tests to assess the knowledge of participants both before and after the trainings. Monitoring and evaluation staff conduct the evaluations and share the results with trainers in order to determine how to modify the lessons to improve the effectiveness of the training programs.

In November, RLS-Formal conducted an evaluation of the 30 court clerks participating in the Administrative Stage. Below is a sample of the evaluation's findings.



The project also gauged student's views of the topics and instructors, and gathered background data on the court clerks in order to improve the next Administrative Stage program. For more information, please request a copy of the Administrative Stage Evaluation or the Administrative Stage report from USAID.

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 November 16th, professors and deans from Law and *Sharia* faculties and clinic donors participated in a national Legal Clinic Conference in Kabul through RLS-Formal support. The participants presented their upcoming activities, agreed to criteria for admitting students, and discussed mechanisms to coordinate donor assistance. Four family law professors who participated in a RLS-Formal study tour to South Africa presented their observations. The participants decided to develop a uniform syllabus for legal clinics across the country which will be finalized at a second conference in December. RLS-Formal supports legal clinic programs to provide practical experiences for students to prepare them to serve as future judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers.



Deans and professors gather at a conference on legal clinics in November in Kabul.

Quote from a Leader in Legal Education

Rohullah Qarizada, the **President of the Afghan Independent Bar Association (AIBA)**, spoke at the Legal Clinics Coordination Conference, saying:

“I am very pleased to be a part of this conference. It is a great success to have members of donor organizations here in order to help coordinate legal clinic activities throughout Afghanistan. AIBA is willing to provide **help to legal clinics through its attorneys** in different provinces. I thank USAID for their supporting of the conference and legal clinics in Afghanistan.”

- In November, RLS-Formal advisors met with deans and professors from universities across Afghanistan to develop a course syllabus for a unified law school curriculum, which will be discussed at a conference in December. At the Symposium on Legal Education in May 2013, the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) asked each Law faculty to develop recommendations for a unified curriculum. The Law faculties prepared their inputs and presented them to the curriculum advisory committee which consolidated those recommendations into a single suggested curriculum. In November, RLS-Formal worked with the MoHE and Law faculties to plan a conference to finalize the uniform curriculum. The conference is tentatively scheduled to take place in Kabul from December 22nd to 25th. The conference also aims to finalize several new courses which were designed at the symposium in May. 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.

TASK 2: PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

- On November 2nd, Kabul University commenced a computer literacy training program for students from its Law Faculty supported by RLS-Formal. 15 male students began learning Microsoft Windows through hands-on training and problem-solving activities. Later in the month, the University began, with RLS-Formal support, two additional computer literacy programs for students from the *Sharia* faculty. 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.
- From November 4th to 6th, RLS-Formal advisors conducted a two-day legal research and writing workshop for 69 male and 11 female students from the Law Faculty at Al Biruni University. The workshop covered online legal research, including instruction on how to access case laws and other resources from US library websites. The advisors also provided tips on writing a senior thesis which the University requires students to complete for graduation in December. RLS-Formal provides training on legal research and writing in order to help improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.
- From November 7th to 11th, RLS-Formal conducted a training-of-trainers (ToT) course on interactive teaching methods for 30 male professors at Takhar University. The training introduced the instructors to the new credit hour system which the MoHE plans to implement at all Law and *Sharia* faculties in the next academic year. RLS-Formal supports improvements in legal education to enhance the quality of instruction for those studying to become justice sector professionals.

- On November 14th, four family law professors from Herat, Balkh, Paktia, and Nangarhar universities concluded a 10-day study tour to South Africa supported by RLS-Formal. The two men and two women, accompanied by the project’s legal education advisor, visited the legal clinic programs offered by law schools at several major universities, including the University of Johannesburg, University of Witwaterstrand, and the University of Pretoria, and also met with the head of the Legal Aid office in Johannesburg. RLS-Formal supports study tours for educators to introduce them to other legal educational programs (such as legal clinics) from which they can learn best practices in order to improve their own legal education programs in Afghanistan.



An Afghan contingent of family law professors visits a legal clinic at the University of Witwaterstrand in South Africa in November.

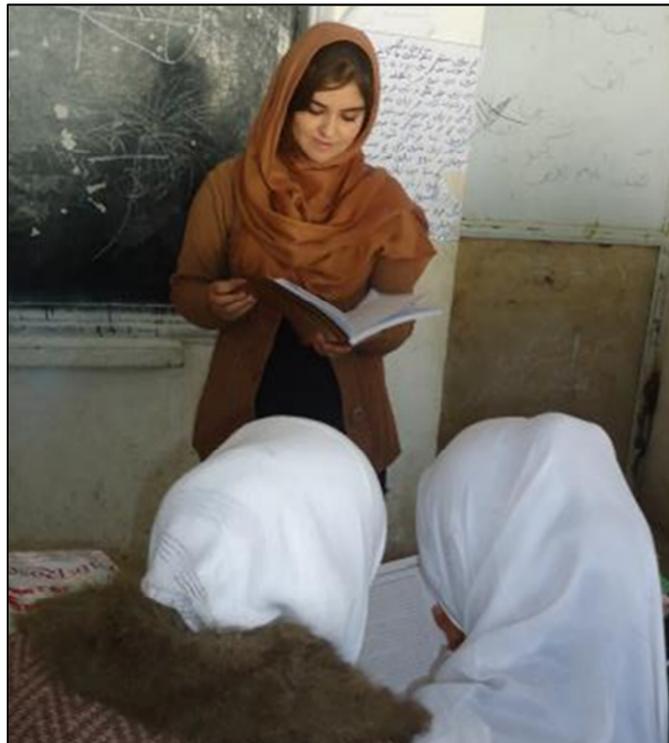
- During the week of November 16th, Balkh University prepared to hold its first-ever career fair to introduce students to potential employers in the justice sector with the support of RLS-Formal. Professors and deans from the Law and *Sharia* faculties and project advisors met with representatives of the judiciary and other branches of the government in Balkh along with organizations and donor agencies in order to solicit their participation. On November 19th and 20th, RLS-Formal conducted workshops for an estimated 200 male and 100 female Law and *Sharia* students in their fourth year of university at Balkh on resume writing, networking, and job interviews to prepare them to meet employers. Later in the month, the project conducted a resume writing workshop for 30 male and 10 female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Balkh University. RLS-Formal supports career fairs to encourage Law and *Sharia* students to seek employment in the justice sector where their skills and knowledge will improve the justice system in Afghanistan.
- On November 28th, students from Kabul and Khost universities who competed in the final round of Afghanistan’s National Media Moot Court Competition concluded a study tour to India to observe the Regional Finals of the Competition with RLS-Formal support. The participants met with deans and students from the Law Faculty at the National Law University in Delhi to discuss their curriculum and teaching methods, and observed a lecture on media law. RLS-Formal supports moot court competitions and international educational visits to develop a cadre of skilled and well-trained judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers who are able to deliver legal services to citizens in Afghanistan.

TASK 3: SUPPORT HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS

- On November 2nd, 4th and 5th, instructors and students from a legal clinic on street law at Al Biruni University visited high schools in Kapisa province to raise awareness of legal rights among students with RLS-Formal support. 120 female and 90 male students at seven high schools received practical law lessons on the rights of children, girls and women, and were encouraged to apply their knowledge to better their communities and participate actively in society.



A student from a legal clinic on street law leads a presentation for male high school students in Kapisa province in November.



A student from a legal clinic on street law leads a presentation for female high school students in Kapisa province in November.

- On November 6th, students participating in a legal clinic on family law at Balkh University visited the offices of the AIBA with the support of RLS-Formal. 20 female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties received a presentation on the procedures governing family law cases and reviewed several real cases on family law with an attorney. 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.
- On November 6th, students participating in a legal clinic on civil and criminal law at Al Biruni University visited courts in Kapisa Province with the support of RLS-Formal. 19 male and 8 female students from the Law and *Sharia* observed two criminal trials at the Appellate Court and one family law trial at a district primary court as well as toured a nearby juvenile rehabilitation center. RLS-Formal supports courthouse visits and legal clinic programs to provide practical experiences for law student to help prepare them to serve as future judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers.



A prosecutor in Kapisa reviews a sample indictment with a student from a legal clinic at Al Biruni in November.

- In November, 12 universities continued to prepare their teams to compete in the 2014 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition through RLS-Formal support. The project advised the students on writing a brief, provided information about, and access to, online research resources, and helped answer questions on various aspects of the competition. 60 students, in teams of five, will represent 12 universities at the national competition: Al Biruni, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia, Panjshir, and Takhar universities. A total of eight women students from three different universities will be among the competitors, another record for Afghanistan's Jessup competition. RLS-Formal supports 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 meaningful access to justice for all citizens of Afghanistan.

TASK 4: DEVELOP ADVANCED LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING

- On November 2nd, students commenced a legal English training program at the Panjshir Institute of Higher Education through the support of RLS-Formal. 25 male students from the *Sharia* Faculty began studying English grammar and learned technical terms specific to criminal law and

criminal procedure. The course is taught in Panjshir's new language lab which the project developed in May 2013.



Students at Panjshir Institute of Higher Education attend a legal English training in November.

- On November 9th, Al Biruni University commenced a legal English training program for students with RLS-Formal support. 46 male and two female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties began studying English grammar and legal terminology. RLS-Formal supports legal English programs to help students to access English-language legal resource materials and enhance their opportunities to participate in moot court competitions, study tours and scholarships abroad.
- On November 24th, Herat University graduate 299 male and 168 female students from legal English training programs through RLS-Formal support. Over four months, the students learned English grammar and public speaking skills, as well as technical terms specific to the law.



Students at Herat University on the last day of their legal English course.

TASK 5: MODERNIZE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

- Beginning on November 7th and concluding on November 11th, RLS-Formal supported a TOT workshop on implementing a credit system for deans, professors, and administrators at Al Biruni University. The participants learned how to apportion core and elective courses and how to advise students on selecting courses in line with their career ambitions. RLS-Formal supports Law and *Sharia* faculties with developing new course content in order to improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.

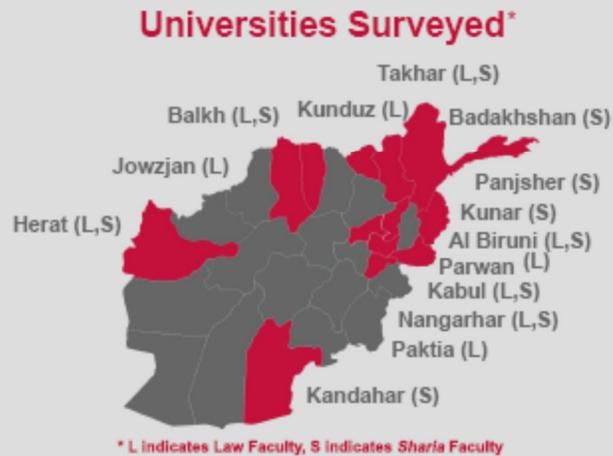
Illustrative Ongoing Practical Coursework Supported by RLS-Formal*							
Start	End Date	Type of Coursework	Topic	No. of Students		University	Faculty
				Male	Female		
September	TBD	Legal Clinic	Criminal Procedure	70	0	Balkh	Law & Sharia
October	TBD	Legal Clinic	Family	0	20	Balkh	Law & Sharia
October	December	Legal Clinic	Civil and Criminal Law	4	4	Kabul	Law
September	December	Legal Clinic	Civil Law	30	0	Kabul	Sharia
October	December	Legal Clinic	Criminal Law	0	25	Kabul	Sharia
October	December	Computer Literacy	Microsoft Office	47	13	Kabul	Law & Sharia
November	December	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced Street Law	48	2	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
September	December	Legal Clinic	Civil & Criminal Law	6	10	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
September	December	Legal Clinic	Civil & Criminal Law	19	8	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
November	TBD	Legal Clinic	Intermediate & Advanced	10	6	Herat	Law
November	December	Legal English	Intermediate & Advanced	25	0	Panjshir	Sharia
October	December	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	147	0	Nangarhar	Law & Sharia
September	February	Moot Court	2014 Jessup Competition	52	8	Al Biruni, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia, Panjshir, and Takhar	Law & Sharia

*As of November 30, 2013

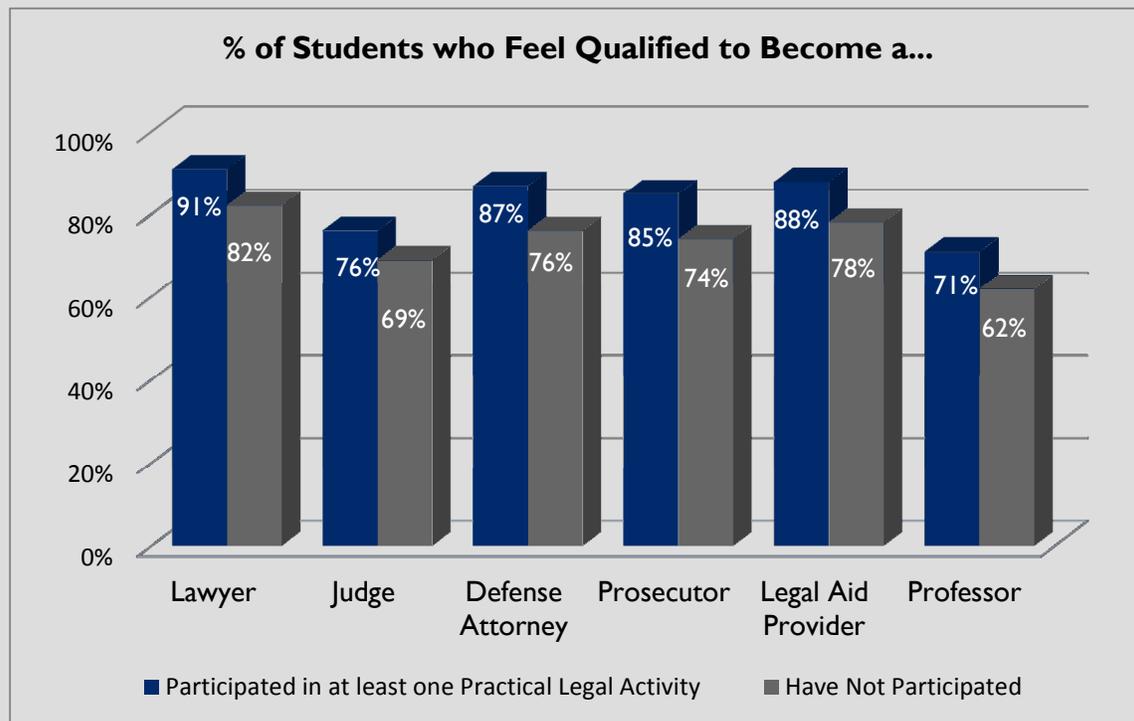
Evaluating the Impact of Legal Education

Project Surveys Students at 14 Universities

The second phase of the RLS-Formal Student Survey reached 754 students from 20 Law and *Sharia* faculties at 14 universities. This constitutes a representative sample size of around 12,000 students – over 90% of Law and *Sharia* students in Afghanistan – at a confidence interval of plus or minus 5% and a confidence level of 99%.



Below are selected findings from the survey. For more information, please request a copy of the report.



42% of students have participated in at least one practical legal activity, either: a legal clinic, computer training, English training, moot court, or courthouse visit. Across the board, these students feel more qualified to enter key professions in the justice sector than students who have not participated in a practical legal activity.

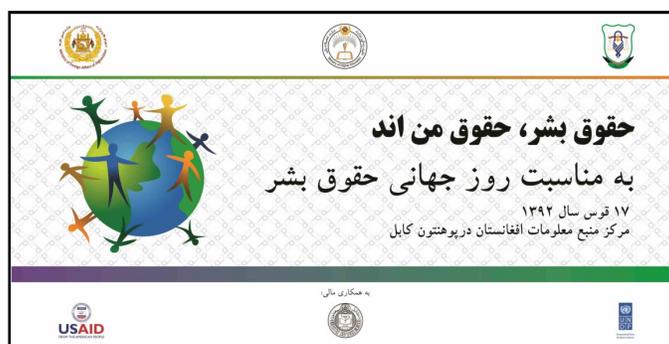
CITIZEN AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL PROCESSES OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM INCREASED

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

- On November 3rd and 26th, RLS-Formal advisors met with two human rights advisors from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to plan an event commemorating International Human Rights Day in early December in coordination with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). UNDP and RLS-Formal provide support to the MOJ on legal awareness and will co-sponsor the event to be held at the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University on December 8th. RLS-Formal will arrange a mobile theatre performance on human rights, and produce and distribute copies of Afghanistan's laws and brochures on human rights. The event will also feature a game show, live music, and speakers designed to appeal to university students to become involved in promoting human rights.



A promotional brochure for International Human Rights Day in December produced by RLS-Formal.

- On November 20th, the MOJ graduated ten public legal outreach staff members from a workshop on the National Legal Awareness Strategy in Herat with RLS-Formal support. The

male MOJ staff participated from legal aid offices in Badghis, Farah, Ghor, Herat, and Nimroz provinces, learning how to inform the public of the legal rights of the accused, laws preventing forced marriage, and laws regarding divorce and child custody. The training promoted creative awareness-raising strategies using media releases and social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube. RLS-Formal assists the MOJ with conducting legal awareness campaigns to inform citizens of their legal rights and to increase the public's confidence that those rights will be enforced through the formal justice system.



MOJ participants at a workshop in Herat learn about criminal procedure in November.

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

- On November 10th, RLS-Formal met with the Head of the SC Publications Department to discuss how to inform the public about corruption cases prosecuted through ACTs. The Department Head selected several cases from Herat, Kabul, and Kunduz provinces in which corrupt individuals were brought to justice. After receiving approval of the Chief Justice, the SC Publication's staff will work with RLS-Formal to develop news stories which profile the cases in local newspapers. RLS-Formal supports the SC in publicizing corruption cases in order to educate citizens on the laws against corruption and demonstrate the courts' enforcement of those laws.

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

- In early November, the MOJ continued to broadcast a radio program educating the public about the laws prohibiting violence against women with support from RLS-Formal. The MOJ broadcast the program jointly with the SC and aired it in primetime morning listening hours in Afghanistan's 34 provinces. The project regularly reviews audience feedback on the broadcast in order to improve the script by enhancing its appeal to the public and educational content.
- On November 5th, the MOJ conducted two mobile theater performances in Nangarhar promoting women's and children's rights with RLS-Formal support. 2,000 students from Nahid Shibir High School in Bishad District and Fakhruallah Girls High School in Surkh Rod District

attended the performances. The performances represent an entertaining and informative approach to teach the public about the rights of Afghan citizens, focusing on violence against women, child labor laws, and children’s right to an education.



Female youth attend a mobile theater performance promoting women’s and children’s rights in Nangarhar in November.



Actors perform in a mobile theater performance conducted by the USAID and the MOJ in an effort to raise public awareness in remote provinces.

Quote from a Beneficiary of Public Legal Outreach

Malaka, a **female student** at Nahid Shahid High School in Nangarhar Province, offered her perspective of the mobile theater performance:

“I know that in our neighborhood they have some of the same problems in their families as described in this mobile theater show. By repeating this performance’s message, we can send our own message to them that **they shouldn’t commit such violence**. The main point I learned is that there are legal aid departments in all provinces. Since I have seen this mobile theater performance, I can advise people suffering from abuse to go to a legal aid department where they will provide **free advice and access to a defense attorney.**”

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 November 5th, RLS-Formal implemented a gender justice training for judges in Kabul. 32 male judges received instruction on the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, women’s right to own property, marriage and divorce law, and were informed that it is not a crime for females to “run away from home” in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal works to promote women’s rights and gender equality as a means to enhance women’s access to formal justice mechanisms and to foster a society more willing and capable of enforcing the rights of women.
- On November 6th, RLS-Formal supported a forum encouraging female students from the Panjsher Institute of Higher Education to consider a career in the judiciary. Two women judges from Kabul facilitated the forum which informed 40 female students from the *Sharia* Faculty about the benefits of serving in the justice sector and provided useful information about the requirements for becoming a judge, the course of study at the *Judicial Stage*, and how to apply to the *Stage*. RLS-Formal aims to advance the rights of Afghan women and girls by building their capacity to meaningfully participate in the justice sector.



Female students from Panjshir attend a women’s forum in November.

- Between November 9th and 12th, RLS-Formal conducted two gender justice trainings and a forum for female students in both Balkh and Herat provinces. 30 *mullahs* in Balkh and, and 30 male and 9 female judges in Herat received instruction on the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, women’s right to own property, marriage and divorce law, and information that, contrary to customary beliefs, it is not a crime for females to “run away from home” in Afghanistan. 35 female students from Law and *Sharia* faculties of Balkh University and 70 female students from Law and *Sharia* faculties of Herat University also learned the benefits of serving in the justice sector and provided useful information about the requirements for becoming a judge, the course of study at the Judicial *Stage*, and how to apply to the *Stage*. RLS-Formal supports programs to provide information on gender justice and to educate female students about career options in order to increase the number of women in the judiciary.



Female students from Herat University attend a women’s forum on how to enter the justice sector in November.



The Head of the Appellate Court in Herat inaugurates a gender justice training program for judges in November.

- Between November 16th and 18th, RLS-Formal conducted three training programs on gender justice and family law for judges in Balkh, Kabul, and Kandahar. In total, 32 female and 26 male judges received instruction on the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, women's right to own property, marriage and divorce law, and were educated to understand that it is not crime for females to "run away from home". RLS-Formal works to promote women's rights and gender equality as a means to enhance women's access to justice and to foster a society more willing and capable of enforcing the rights of women.
- Between November 23rd and 24th, RLS-Formal conducted gender justice trainings in Jalalabad for *mullahs* and also for female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Nangarhar University. 30 *mullahs* received training on women's legal rights, including women's rights to divorce, education, and inheritance. The training enables the *mullahs* to communicate these rights to the public by incorporating them in their sermons. In a separate training, 39 female students received similar instruction on gender justice 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.

Indicator	1st Quarter FY 2014					Life of Project	
	Monthly Progress			Quarterly Achievement	Quarterly Target	Achievement To Date	Cumulative Target
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.				
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	-	-	-	-	-	47.8%	-
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	10.85%	0.00%	-	10.85%	+10%	25.00%	19.50%
3. Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted	-	62%	-	62%	71%	62%	71%
4. Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training	-	-	-	-	82%	81%	82%
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	4	0	-	4	5	14	15
6. Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights	1.21%	6.50%	-	7.71%	-	42.00%	28.00%
7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance	134	153	-	287	602	2979	3227
8. Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms	0	0	-	0	175	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%	-	93%	+10%	93%	100%
10. Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships	295	1356	-	1651	480	6196	3685
11. Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance	0	0	-	0	2	29	30
12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries	Very Aware	Very Aware	-	Very Aware	Very Aware	Very Aware	Very Aware
13. Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns	32,000 Print and 1 TV & Radio	72 Print		32,072 Print and 1 TV & Radio	14,000 Print	4,771,360 Print and 13 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	86%	90%	-	89%	+10%	84%	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. The numbers of trained personnel in project activities mentioned earlier in this report represent estimates that may not qualify under this indicator.

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 gauges 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. The numbers of student participating in project activities mentioned earlier in this report represent estimates that may not qualify under this indicator.

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 messages 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**