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ACRONYMS

ABBAT	Association of International Transport Operators of Tajikistan
ABADE	Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises
ACBR	Afghanistan Commercial Business Registry
ACCI	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ACD	Afghanistan Customs Department
AMA	Afghan Marble Association
ANCA	Afghanistan National Customs Academy
ANSA	Afghanistan National Standards Authority
APTTA	Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement
APTTCA	Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordinating Authority
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
ARFC	Afghanistan Rural Finance Co.
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project
BCP	Border Crossing Point
BMM	Border Management Model
CAR	Central Asian Republics
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CBTA	Cross-Border Transport of Persons, Vehicles, and Goods
CCC	Customs Consultative Council
CHAMP	Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Program
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAB	Da Afghanistan Bank
DFID	Department for International Development
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EIF	Economic Integration Forum
E-Pay	Electronic Payment
EPAA	Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HKIA	Hamid Karzai International Airport.
ICD	Inland Clearance Depot
IFC	International Finance Corp.
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IRU	International Road Transport Union
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MEDT	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industries
MOIC	Ministry of Information and Culture

MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOTCA	Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
PATTTA	Pakistan Afghanistan Tajikistan Transit and Trade Agreement
PCA	Post Clearance Audit
PPQD	Plant Protection and Quarantine Department
PPP	Public-private partnerships
PSU	Professional Standards Unit
PTA	Preferential Trade Agreement
REC	Regional Economic Cooperation project
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TIR	Transports Internationaux Routiers
TPAU	Trade Policy Analysis Unit
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
VAT	Value Added Tax
WCO	World Customs Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Chemonics, with partner Economic Integration Forum (EIF), implements USAID's Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project to support Afghanistan in realizing its full potential in the global trading market.

ATAR, which began Nov. 7, 2013, and will end Nov. 6, 2017, is based in Kabul and has staff in Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, and Jalalabad to support regional customs activities as well as a presence in Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to strengthen Afghanistan's trade ties in Central Asia. ATAR provides assistance to improve the business climate of Afghanistan to enable private investment, enhanced trade, job creation, and fiscal sustainability through the country's critical transition period.

Specifically, ATAR is tasked with:

1. Improving the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to create and implement a liberal policy framework for trade and investment in accordance with international standards;
2. Enhancing integration in the regional and world economy through the promotion of trade and agreements, enhanced governance of corridors, and private-sector linkages throughout South and Central Asia;
3. Strengthening revenue generation for fiscal sustainability and trade facilitation through reforms and anti-corruption measures in customs.

These objectives are achieved through three ATAR components:

Component 1: Support Trade Policy Liberalization

Component 1 promotes liberalization of Afghanistan's trade regime by supporting its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). This support is accomplished by building the necessary technical capacity and providing technical assistance within the implementing institutions to conduct negotiations, draft legislation, and institute reforms required to improve the trade regime within the region and meet WTO requirements. The policies, laws, and regulations will provide a framework to attract investment and enable the private sector to grow and prosper.

Component 2: Facilitate Enhanced Access to Regional Markets

Under Component 2, ATAR (1) facilitates the development and implementation of regional trade agreements; (2) assists GIROA to support measures needed to implement regional trade agreements; and (3) supports the implementation of transport corridors and trade facilitating measures by working with countries such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan.

Component 3: Improved Customs Administration

Component 3 will enhance GIROA's capacity to generate revenue through implementation of value added tax (VAT)¹, in combination with outreach and enforcement, by improving customs procedures to increase transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the collection of revenue, performance of core functions, and facilitation of trade.

¹ This activity is on hold pending instruction from USAID.

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Component 1: Support Trade Policy Liberalization

Summary of key achievements

In an effort to bring Afghanistan's trade environment in line with WTO requirements, ATAR continued to assist GIROA in related legal reforms at every stage of the process from line ministry to Parliament. In a major achievement, President Ghani endorsed the amendments to the law on trademarks, which will soon be published in the official gazette for entry into force. The trademark law is part of a set of laws that the WTO requires of its members to ensure strong protection of intellectual property rights.

In support of implementation of the trademarks law, ATAR trained the trademarks section of MOCI's Afghanistan Central Business Registry for Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) and supported ACBR-IP in delivering the training to more than 80 members of the private sector and legal community. ATAR supported preparation for implementation of other laws through trainings and working groups on the geographical indications law, food safety law, and animal health and veterinary public health law.

ATAR also worked closely with the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) to prepare it for routine operation and subsequent accreditation of its food laboratory. This will allow ANSA to certify that Afghanistan's food imports and exports meet international standards. ATAR also trained laboratory staff from the ANSA, the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) on essential lab concepts as well as the ISO 17025 standard accreditation process.

Constraints

Afghanistan was well positioned to hold its fifth Working Party meeting, but the date of the meeting is pending the decision of the new Afghan government. ATAR supported the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MOCI) in preparing materials for presenting the progress of Afghanistan toward WTO accession and the benefits of WTO accession to the new administration.

Component 2: Facilitate Enhanced Access to Regional Markets

Summary of key achievements

The Afghan government, with ATAR support, participated in the fifth Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority meeting (APTTCA) on Jan. 1-2 and in a Pakistan Afghanistan Tajikistan Transit Trade Agreement (PATTTA) meeting on Jan. 3 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Decisions at the APTTCA meeting will help resolve certain trade and transit issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan, while the PATTTA meeting is the first meeting for launching negotiations that could pave the way for a trilateral trade and transit agreement between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

ATAR supported bilateral discussions between Tajikistan and Afghanistan on PATTTA in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on March 9-10. ATAR provided guidance and clarifications to both parties during the bilateral

discussions. ATAR also delivered three awareness sessions in Tajikistan for the public and private sector to discuss PATTTA and receive feedback on the proposed agreement. ATAR assisted in reflecting proposals for improvements in the text of APTTA. ATAR also continued support in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan toward implementation of trade facilitation measures.

In close partnership with the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA) and other USAID projects, ATAR supported Afghanistan's participation in Gulfood, the world's largest annual food and hospitality show, in Dubai; Domotex, an international carpet exhibition in Germany; StoneMart, an event focusing on the stone industry, in Jaipur, India; and Aahar, an international food and hospitality show, in India. Traders reported about \$6 million in confirmed deals as a result of the events. ATAR, in addition, continued supporting EPAA in preparation for Expo Milano 2015.

Constraints

The conflict between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan regarding the Karamyk border crossing point impeded ATAR's work on customs cooperation. In addition, the Turkmen and Uzbek governments have not yet totally cleared ATAR to proceed with operations in those countries.

Component 3: Improved Customs Administration

Summary of key achievements

In order to increase compliance, ATAR proposed a three-silo strategy agreed upon by ACD in principal. In order to increase compliance of activities, ATAR proposed an Internal Audit Unit that would be primarily responsible for assessing compliance with ACD's strategic, operational, and tactical processes and procedures. In order to increase compliance of staff, ATAR proposed a Professional Standards Unit to investigate any case with a reasonable suspicion that a staff member is guilty of misconduct. To assist in the overall risk management compliance strategy, ATAR assisted ACD in developing a professional Post Clearance Audit (PCA) function that would confirm that compliance exists following an audit of a customer's processes, systems, and procedures.

ATAR drafted the comprehensive gap analysis on PCA and delivered of a full-day workshop on the subject to ACD staff. The PCA will allow ACD to build confidence in a customer's internal operating procedures to identify his or her own compliance with relevant laws and procedures. Once confidence is secured following the audit, ACD can reduce intervention controls for that particular trader and focus on traders who are less likely to be compliant.

Constraints and critical issues

ATAR received positive feedback from ACD management on E-Pay, the electronic payment of customs duties, but ACD has yet to move toward implementation. In addition, security concerns regarding ACD prevented ATAR's expatriate staff from embedding at the site. The staff conducted short visits and meetings at ACD where possible throughout the quarter and relied as necessary on local ATAR staff who continue to work at ACD.

C. COMPONENT 1: TRADE POLICY LIBERALIZATION

1. Support WTO Accession Process

Afghanistan's fifth Working Party meeting was scheduled for November 2013 and for April 2014 with the concurrence of WTO Working Party members, but the meeting was cancelled both times due to delays in approval of the travel of the Afghan delegation.

The re-scheduling of Afghanistan's fifth Working Party meeting is pending the decision of the new Afghan government. During the quarter, ATAR supported MOCI in preparing materials for presenting the progress of Afghanistan toward WTO accession and the benefits of WTO accession to the new administration. This included a summary on the status and merits of WTO membership for Afghanistan and a presentation summarizing commitments and key remaining steps and reforms

AFGHANISTAN'S WTO PROGRESS

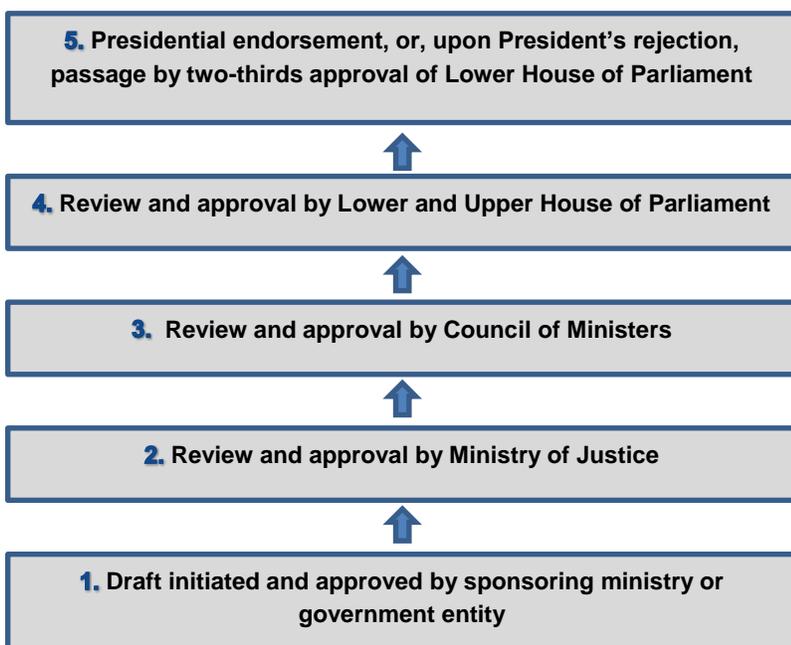
Afghanistan is in its final stages of WTO accession.

In early 2014, Afghanistan completed its bilateral market access negotiations, which represent around 60 percent of the WTO accession process.

By end 2014, Afghanistan's Working Party proceedings, which represent around 40 percent of the accession process, were 90 percent complete.

Remaining work relates to adoption of WTO-related legislation and resolution of certain policy issues.

AFGHANISTAN'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



2. Support Legislative Reforms for WTO Conformity

GIROA must reform and amend a wide array of legislation to conform to WTO rules and Afghanistan's commitments. This lengthy, complex process is presented in simplified form in the chart.² These diverse laws cover every aspect of a modern, vibrant trading regime – including customs reform, trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, food safety, and standardization.

Throughout the quarter, ATAR assisted at every stage of the

² This chart is a greatly simplified illustration of the intricate and lengthy process of drafting and passing a law. At certain stages, relevant government bodies and private-sector representatives are invited multiple times to offer input on the draft law, or the draft law is circulated to various committees or departments within the sponsoring ministry or MOJ for review and changes. The draft law may be rejected at any stage and returned to the preceding stage for revisions.

legislative process from line ministry to Parliament. The following table provides the status of WTO-related legislative items as of the end of March. ATAR's active areas of support for the quarter are highlighted in light blue, and laws that have progressed in status during the reporting period are bolded.

During this period, ATAR continued promoting the addition of remaining drafts to the MOJ legislative agenda. The law on safeguards and the law on topography of integrated circuits were added.

Although not on the Afghan year 1393 or Afghan year 1394 agenda, the MOJ has nonetheless agreed to consider the draft law on standards and technical regulations. The draft law on plant variety protection remains the only draft to be included on the MOJ agenda.

The following remaining drafts, although not on the 1392 agenda, can be considered by MOJ, given amendments do not exceed 50% of the original legislation:

- Amendments to the regulation on drafting procedure and processing of legal acts;
- Regulation of production and importation of medicines and medical equipment of 24 February 2007 (concerning fees for activity license for import of medicines and medical equipment);
- Income tax law (concerning 3% fixed tax).

AFGHANISTAN'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR WTO ACCESSION

No.	Legislation	Responsible Government Authority/ ATAR Employee	Status	Stage: 1. Sponsoring Ministry ³ 2. Ministry of Justice 3. Council of Ministers ⁴ 4. Parliament 5. President 6. Entry into Force	Laws and Regulations Included in MOJ Agenda ⁵
Legislative items receiving ATAR support					
1	Amendments to the 2005 Customs Law	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	MOJ submitted the draft to the Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers in March 2014. The draft is under review.	Council of Ministers	Yes
2	Procedure on Customs Valuation (including interpretative notes and software and interest charge valuation)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	The Minister of Finance is to adopt the procedure after the draft customs law is adopted.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
3	Procedure on Advance Ruling on Binding Decisions (covering advance origin rulings)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	In the second half of 2014, ATAR worked with ACD to finalize the draft; the draft has been submitted to the Director General for approval. During the quarter, ATAR followed up with ACD to determine the status of the most recent draft and provided clarifications on some provisions. The Minister of Finance will adopt the procedure after the draft customs law is adopted.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A

³ Procedures remain at the level of sponsoring ministry for adoption by the Minister and do not proceed further.

⁴ Regulations go to the Council of Ministers and do not proceed further.

⁵ Procedures and amendments not exceeding 50 percent of original legislation do not need to be on the MOJ agenda.

4	Law on Standards and Technical Regulations	Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) Sayed Hashimi Farhat Farhat	ANSA completed its review and shared the Dari law with track changes with ATAR. ATAR reviewed the draft for WTO conformity and provided comments to ANSA in January 2015. ATAR discussed comments with ANSA and assisted in revising the draft in February and March 2015 for submission to MOJ.	Sponsoring Ministry	No ⁶
5	Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) Siyar Sahar Luis Flores	The Council of Ministers approved the draft in September 2014. The Council submitted the draft to MOJ for Pashto translation. MOJ translated the draft into Pashto and submitted it to Parliament in January 2015.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
6	Law on Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health	MAIL Sayed Hashimi John Woodford	During the quarter, ATAR assisted MOJ's Education, Culture, and Health Department in conducting several meetings on the draft law. Once the technical review is finalized, the law will proceed to MOJ Executive Committee.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
7	Law on Food Safety	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Sayed Hashimi Gary Stefan	During the quarter, ATAR assisted MOJ's Finance and Economic Department in conducting working group meetings to finalize the review of this law and ready it for submission to MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee. Once ATAR and MOJ finalize additional changes, the draft will be sent to MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee for final review before submission to the Council of Ministers.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
8	Procedure on Customs Control of Intellectual Property Rights (Intellectual Property Border Enforcement)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	The Minister of Finance adopted this procedure on April 12, 2014.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A

⁶ Although not on 1393 or 1394 agenda, the MOJ has nonetheless agreed to consider the draft law on standards and technical regulations.

9	Amendments to the Law on Supporting the Rights of Inventors and Discoverers of 31 April 2009 (Patents Law)	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	An article has been inserted into the law to establish a patent board in January 2015. MOJ is making efforts to send the patent law with an official letter to the Council of Ministers to be reviewed by the President.	Council of Ministers	Yes
10	Amendments to the Law on Trademarks of 1 September 2009	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	In January 2015, the draft was approved by the Upper House and sent to the Office of the State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. On Feb. 10, 2015, the President endorsed the law. The law has been sent to MOJ for publication.	Ministry of Justice Publication Department	Yes
11	Amendments to the Law on Supporting the Right of Authors, Composers, Artists, and Researchers of 26 July 2008 (Copyrights Law)	Ministry of Information and Culture (MOIC) Siyar Sahar Polly Maier	The Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers approved the draft, instructing MOJ to check certain terms. The Afghanistan Development and Peace Research Organization proposed changes and met with the Second Vice President, who asked MOJ to take the comments into account. In January 2015, MOJ asked ATAR to check if the amendments are WTO consistent. ATAR found that some violate WTO. ATAR, MOIC, MOCI, and the organization have met five times during the quarter and continue trying to reach an agreement.	Council of Ministers	Yes
12	Law on Geographical Indications	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	On Jan. 5, 2015, a session was held on the law at the Commission of Religious Affairs, Cultural and Higher Education of the Upper House. On Jan. 6, a session was held at the National Economic, Financial and Budgeting Commission. ATAR provided clarification related to the law. Comments were compiled. On March 16, 17, 25, and 30, 2015, working groups were conducted on the revision of the law at the Upper House. Members of Parliament requested clarification on the title of the law and related articles. ATAR provided clarification and noted that amendments were needed to bring certain articles in	Parliament	Yes

			<p>conformity with WTO.</p> <p>During the quarter, working group members debated the name of the law. It was changed from the law on geographical indications to the law on place of production and back to the original name.</p>		
13	Law on Industrial Designs	<p>MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier</p>	<p>On Jan. 27, 2015, MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee held its first working group to review the law. Eight articles were reviewed. On Feb. 4, MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee held a second working group meeting. Participants reviewed ten articles. On March 4, the MOJ Executive Committee held its third working group on the law and completed review of the law.</p> <p>On March 25, ATAR aligned all relevant amendments, insertions, additions and omissions made by MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee. ATAR is working with MOJ to request relevant governments representatives provide their comments.</p>	Ministry of Justice	Yes
14	Draft amendments to the Commercial Code	<p>MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier</p>	<p>On Feb. 9 and 16, 2015, MOJ held two working group meetings on the draft amendments. In close consultation with the Supreme Court, MOJ decided both laws – the civil procedural code and the commercial procedure code – should be jointly reviewed.</p> <p>On March 1, 2015, the Civil Procedural Code and Commercial Procedural Code were reviewed with the representative of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan; the Supreme Court representative requested all</p>	Ministry of Justice	Yes

			amendments be incorporated into the Commercial Procedure Code. Currently, ATAR is assisting in incorporating all relevant amendments into the Commercial Procedure Code.		
15	Law on Trade Secrets (undisclosed information)	MOCI Siyar Sahar Polly Maier	During the quarter, ATAR assisted MOJ's Commercial and Private Sector Department in its initial review of the draft.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
16	Law on Topography of Integrated Circuits	MOCI Wali Faqirzad Polly Maier	ATAR is assisting MOJ to provide clarification on the law and put it on the agenda for next year.	Ministry of Justice	No
17	Law on Consumer Protection (provisions on Unfair Competition)	MOCI Sayed Hashimi Polly Maier	MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee reviewed this law during the quarter. ATAR provided technical assistance to MOJ during review of the law. The law is now with the Minister of Justice. After the Minister has reviewed the law, MOJ will invite relevant ministries and agencies, including the private sector, to provide final comments. The law will then be sent to the Council of the Minister's Legislative Committee.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
18	Law on Plant Variety Protection	MAIL Siyar Sahar William Lesser	During the previous quarter, ATAR met with the Deputy Minister to discuss the pre-assessment of plant variety protection. ATAR collected data for the pre-assessment and met with MAIL and the private sector to assess Afghan-specific benefits of plant variety protection. On Nov. 2, 2014, ATAR conducted a workshop at MAIL to improve understanding of the law and discuss the impact assessment.	Sponsoring Ministry	Yes
19	Amendments to the Law on Publication and Enforcement of Legislation of 1998	MOCI/MOJ Wali Faqirzaad	On Feb. 28, 2015, ATAR provided clarifications on revision of the draft law to MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee. On March 18, 2015, the first working group on amendments to the law was	Ministry of Justice	Yes

			conducted at the MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee. Participants reviewed eight articles.		
20	Amendments to the Regulation on Drafting Procedure and Processing of Legal Acts	MOCI/MOJ Siyar Sahar	The draft is at MOJ under review by the relevant MOJ legislative department.	Ministry of Justice	N/A
21	Law on Foreign Trade in Goods	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	On Feb. 8, 2015, MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee held its first meeting on the draft law. ATAR participated in this meeting and assisted MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee in understanding the draft and ensuring compliance with WTO. On March 28, 2015, ATAR met with member of MOJ's Legislative Executive Committee to further clarify the law and answer questions.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
22	Procedure on Import and Export Licensing	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	The draft procedure is finalized and will be adopted once the law on foreign trade is adopted.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
23	Procedure on Customs Storage Fees	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Farhat Farhat	The draft is at ACD for final review and is awaiting signature.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
24	Regulations of production and importation of medicines and medical equipment of 24 February 2007 (concerning fees)	MOPH Siyar Sahar Farhat Farhat	ATAR prepared a methodology for analyzing fees for import licenses for importers/producers of pharmaceutical products to encourage restructuring of fees in line with WTO.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
25	Income Tax Law (concerning unequal treatment of import tax)	Ministry of Finance (MOF) Wali Faqirzad Farhat Farhat	During this quarter, ATAR met with the Afghan Revenue Department to discuss proposed WTO-related changes to this law	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A

26	Law on Safeguards Measures for Domestic Protection	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	MOJ's Finance and Economic Department started technical review of the law. ATAR conducted two meetings with MOJ regarding the law in March 2015.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
Legislative items not prepared by ATAR					
27	Value Added Tax	MOF	The law has been approved by the Upper House and signed by the President. It is awaiting publication in the official gazette.	President	Yes
28	Law on Minerals	Ministry of Mines	President Karzai endorsed the law on August 11. The law is published in the official gazette.	Entry into Force	Yes

3. Support Implementation of WTO Laws and Commitments

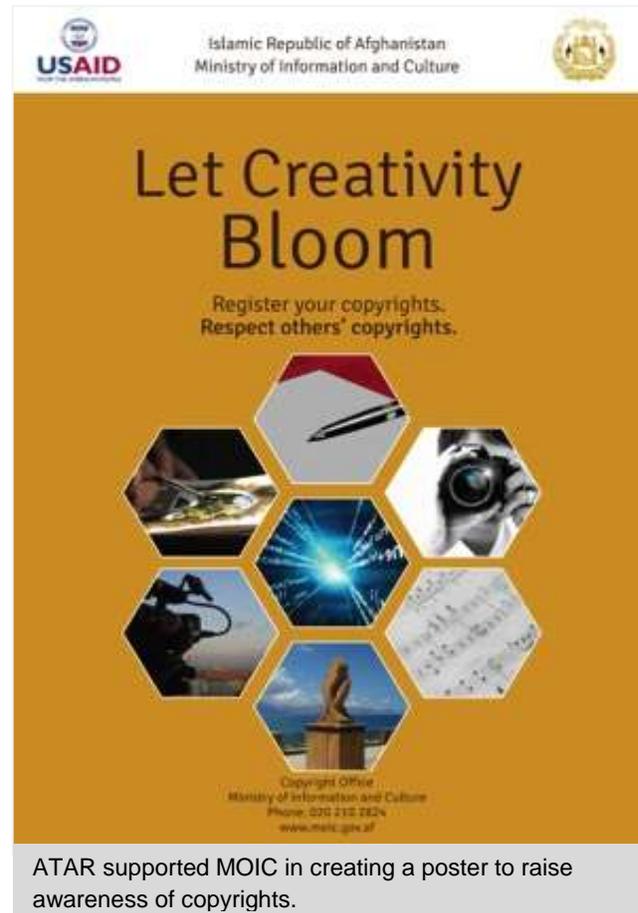
Intellectual Property Rights

Trademarks law

In support of implementation of the trademarks law, ATAR trained the trademarks section of MOCI's Afghanistan Central Business Registry for Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) and supported ACBR-IP staff in delivering the training to judges and members of the private sector.

On Jan. 4 and 6, ATAR held a training seminar explaining the criteria for trademark registration. ATAR delivered the training to staff of ACBR-IP's trademark section. In the second half of January, ATAR assisted ACBR-IP staff in developing awareness materials for trademark registration. ATAR supported preparation of a poster and presentations.

On Feb. 8, ATAR and ACBR-IP held a one-day training titled "Awareness Training Seminar on Trademarks for the Private Sector." ATAR delivered the seminar to 27 private-sector members.



ATAR provide training on trademarks to the private sector and judges in February.

On Feb. 9, ATAR and ACBR-IP held a one-day training called “Procedure for Trademarks Registration” for 33 members of the private sector. This seminar explained how to apply for trademark registration.

On Feb. 10, ATAR and ACBR-IP held a one-day training called “Trademarks for the Legal Community” for 18 members of the legal community. The training explained the legal aspects of trademarks and helped participants understand the importance of trademarks and the trademarks law.

On Feb. 22, ATAR and ACBR-IP delivered a one-day training called “Trademarks for Justices” to six judges, including one woman, and one public prosecutor in Kabul. The training focused on the legal and interpretational aspects of trademarks; the meaning of intellectual property; and the function and types of trademarks. The training helped the judges understand provisions of the law and understand the importance of the trademarks law to economic development and consumer interest.

Geographical indications law

In support of implementation of the geographical indications law, ATAR delivered a one-day training seminar on geographical indications and registrar rules to 26 staff of ACBR-IP on March 2 and two awareness training seminars on geographical indications to 22 members of the private sector on March 25-26. These trainings helped participants understand the importance of geographical indications and familiarized them with law and regulations related to geographical indications..

ATAR also discussed with ACBR-IP the organization of a registrar of geographical indications and discussed draft regulations for implementation of the law.

Geographical indications are place names or words associated with a place used to identify products that come from those places and have those characteristics. The geographical indications law restricts the use of the geographical indications for the purpose of identifying a particular type of product unless the product originates from a particular area or meets certain standards.



ATAR provided training on geographical indications to the private sector.

International intellectual property conventions

In March, ATAR completed translation of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Madrid Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks.

The translations are part of ATAR's assistance to the Afghan government in the preparation and submission of applications for membership to the agreements. Afghanistan joined the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the requirements of which are linked to WTO, in September 2005. For WTO membership, Afghanistan is expected to join certain WIPO-administered conventions.

ATAR conducted, upon the request of ACBR-IP, a comparative assessment of intellectual property rights (IPR) exhaustion regimes used by different countries to examine which may be most appropriate for Afghanistan. Exhaustion refers to one of the limits of IPR. Afghanistan has not formally adopted either a national or an international IPR exhaustion regime.

WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement Article 6 states that nothing in that agreement shall be used to address the issue of the exhaustion of IPR so each WTO member is free to choose the type of IPR exhaustion regime it will enforce. The choice of exhaustion regime (national, regional, or international) determines the legality of the parallel importation of IPR goods, which is the importation of legitimately acquired goods containing IPRs where the importation is not authorized by the IPR owner.

ATAR drafted a report on IPR exhaustion that explained the background and purpose of IPR exhaustion, starting with a focus on the legal theory behind the exhaustion of copyright, trademark, and patent rights generally. The report described the flexibility that exists under international trade treaties and the global IPR system for a country to choose among different IPR exhaustion regimes and contained a comprehensive review of the IPR exhaustion regimes of the United States, the European Union, India (a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement member), Bhutan (a SAFTA member and least developed country like Afghanistan), and Australia.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Animal health

During the quarter, ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting 12 working groups (four in January, five in February, and three in March) to review procedures in support of the veterinary control of import and export regulation as well as procedures in support of the animal health regulation. Both regulations will support implementation of law on animal health and veterinary public health.

Procedures Reviewed in Support of the Veterinary Control of Import and Export Regulation	Procedures Reviewed in Support of the Animal Health Regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine, seizure, destruction and disposal of a consignment of live animal(s), a commodity or a controlled article • Disinfection, disinfestations, destruction and disposal of live animal(s), commodities and controlled articles at designated ports of entry or within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan • Sanitary measures for the importation of fresh, frozen or partially processed poultry meat. • Sanitary measures for the importation into and transit through the territory of Afghanistan, of live cattle and buffalo • Sanitary measures for the importation into and transit through the territory of Afghanistan of live sheep and goats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of controlled animal diseases and diseases which shall be subject to control under an animal disease control scheme • Declaration of notifiable animal diseases in the territory of Afghanistan • Publication of changes to existing and proposed new draft procedures for the implementation of the animal health regulations • Delegation of powers and authority to perform functions by the chief veterinary officer to a provincial veterinary officer of the veterinary authority

On Jan. 27, ATAR assisted MAIL’s Animal Health Directorate in conducting a seminar regarding the regulation of animal health for the directorate’s technical staff. ATAR also facilitated two roundtable discussions in support of the law on animal health and veterinary public health.

On Feb. 22, ATAR supported a roundtable with importers of animal products and managers of MAIL’s Animal Health Directorate on the impact of risk analysis and sanitary measures for imported animals and animal products.

On Feb. 23, ATAR supported a roundtable for managers of MAIL’s Animal Health Directorate and livestock managers on the draft model animal health regulation; ATAR followed this roundtable with two days of training for the same group of participants on administrative procedures of the veterinary authority, disease surveillance, and disease prevention and control.

Food safety

ATAR assisted MOPH in conducting ten working groups during the quarter (four in January, three in February, and three in March) to review a procedure to support the food safety law. The procedure, 63 pages in length, concerned food category systems used with food additives permitted for human use. Representatives of MOPH, MOCI, National Environmental Protection Agency, EPAA, ANSA, Kabul University, and the private sector participated.

ATAR also worked with MOPH to plan for a working group that would help develop a national food control authority responsible for enforcing requirements of the food safety law. ATAR discussed the draft functional statement for the proposed food control authority with MOPH.

In the latter half of February, ATAR met with professors from Kabul University and the National Agricultural Education College to identify topics for inclusion in a course called “Introduction to Food Safety.” Participants agreed on the topics and format for the lesson to be used in the course.

In August 2014, ATAR received the commitment of MOPH to work with the Ministry of Higher Education to adopt the course as part of the official curriculum of the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The course would help provide Afghanistan with specialists to implement the food safety law under WTO.

Phytosanitary

During the quarter, ATAR conducted four working groups with MAIL’s Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD) to review the first three procedures in a manual of procedures that supports the plant protection and quarantine regulation. The participants included the technical team of PPQD and representatives of MOCI, ACCI, Kabul University, and the private sector.

Procedures Review in Support of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Regulation

- General conditions for the importation of plants, plant products and related articles
- General conditions for the importation of plants, plant products and related articles
- Procedures for importing insects/ticks (Ixodidae), nematodes/ microscopic living organisms’ cultures including algae/ biological control factors

During January and February ATAR worked with Kabul University to finalize a curriculum for a course called “Afghanistan’s Agriculture Import/Export Markets and Plant Health Standards.” In August 2014, ATAR received the commitment of MAIL’s PPQD and Kabul University’s Faculty of Agriculture to establish the course as well as the commitment of PPQD to work with the Ministry of Higher Education to adopt the course as part of the official curriculum of the Faculty of Agriculture.

As part of WTO requirements, Afghanistan must pass and implement sanitary and phytosanitary laws, including the plant protection and quarantine law; the course would help provide Afghanistan with the specialists needed to implement the law.

Safeguards Law

Afghanistan has no experience in administering safeguards and no institutions to conduct safeguards investigation. In Year 1, ATAR provided a strategy paper on the establishment of a safeguards unit within MOCI to administer the safeguards law once adopted. ATAR also supported the development a draft law in line with the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, which allows protection for domestic industries against sudden import surges in exceptional circumstances.

During this quarter, ATAR assisted in developing model documents for supporting the implementation of the safeguards laws covering the following:

- Structure and administrative rules of the state body/unit responsible for the safeguards law (investigating authority);
- Model forms and templates for each stage of safeguards proceedings (e.g. safeguards complaint form, investigative questionnaires, disclosure forms, non-confidential summary templates);
- Safeguard investigative procedures.

Customs

Advance Rulings

An advance ruling is a written binding decision provided to traders prior to the importation of a good that sets forth the treatment that the member shall provide to the good at the time of importation with regard to the good's tariff classification, the origin of the good, and other customs matters. A needs assessment for an advance rulings unit at ACD has been conducted. ATAR also supported advancement of draft amendments to customs law, which introduces advance rulings, and development of a procedure of advance rulings.

During this quarter, ATAR completed a "Manual on Administration of the Binding Decisions Program" for use by the General Directorate of Customs. This manual, more than 50 pages in length, is in the form of standard operating procedures (SOPs). It can be used as a reference manual by the staff in the General Directorate who operate the program and also can be used for training. The manual was written based on the binding decision program that is described in the draft amendments to Afghanistan's customs law and the draft Ministry of Finance's procedure on advance ruling on binding decision. These draft provisions, and therefore this manual, are aligned to international standards for advance rulings.

The manual covers all processes required to process an application for a binding decision (e.g., register application, reject application, assign application, request additional information, withdraw application, etc.) as well as all processes required to manage binding decisions once issued (e.g., extend expiration date, revoke or annul binding decision, prepare decision for publication, etc.). The manual includes templates for notifications and forms for all these processes, as well as guidelines for protection of confidential information.

Customs Arbitration Administration

The WTO agreements require acceding countries to establish independent appeal processes for examining cases related to trade and customs matters. This is important in countries like Afghanistan where access to the judiciary is lengthy and complicated. The regulations on customs arbitration administration was adopted in 2006 based on the authority provided in the customs law. This body has not, however, been established due to the fact that agreement cannot be reached on the three individuals who should be appointed to this body.

ATAR reviewed the 2006 regulations on establishment of the arbitration committee and provided best practice recommendations to be considered by the Ministry of Finance to overcome this impasse of nearly a decade.

4. Build Capacity and Sustainability of ANSA

Conformity Assessment Systems

ATAR worked closely with ANSA to design a certification mark for export products and internally manufactured products that meet standards and requirements.

ANSA's top management approved the mark, and ATAR began work with ANSA to design a certification mark for management systems.



ATAR supported ANSA in the design of a mark that will certify Afghan products meet internationally accepted standards.

ANSA Training and Information Center

In support of the training and information center, ATAR held meetings with ANSA leadership on the development of an ANSA database that will house standards. ATAR prepared a detailed action plan, including requirements, training plan, and timeline for the database and shared the document with ANSA management.

National Metrology

In consultation with ANSA, ATAR prepared and submitted to USAID the terms of reference for an expert to assist in development a draft law on legal units measurement and law on legal metrology as well as to conduct a needs assessment for establishment of a national metrology institute.

ANSA Food Laboratory

ATAR assisted ANSA in developing documents required to operate its laboratory that will perform quality testing on food products. ATAR drafted SOPs based on international standards for specific product tests as well as procedures for a quality manual in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This documentation is necessary for ISO accreditation of the laboratory.

The documents also included organizational charts for ANSA and the food laboratory, including job descriptions and requirements; document control for writing and updating standard operating procedures; a description of how lab work may be subcontracted to other laboratories within Afghanistan or abroad; and plans for different types of training that may be provided by the food laboratory.

ATAR assisted ANSA in preparing procurement bidding documents for equipment and supplies needed for the food laboratory. When delivered, the equipment and supplies will elevate the status of the food laboratory from inactive to operational and will allow for commencement of technical training of laboratory personnel on basic laboratory procedures and operations.

On Jan. 7, ATAR conducted a workshop on ISO 17025, which details the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. Twelve employees of ANSA participated in the ISO training, which is vital for good laboratory practices.

On Feb. 18, ATAR conducted training on best practices of laboratory operations for 11 technical staff from ANSA's food laboratory, MOPH food laboratory, and MAIL's veterinary laboratory.

On March 15, ATAR held training covering basic laboratory skills and safety for more than 30 laboratory technicians and supervisors from ANSA, MOPH, and MAIL. The training will help staff to ensure the safety and quality of Afghanistan's imports and exports.

On March 25, ATAR presented a workshop on ISO 17025 internal audit checklists. More than 30 laboratory scientists, supervisors and managers affiliated with ANSA's food laboratory, MOPH's food laboratory, and MAIL's veterinary laboratory participated in the workshop.



ATAR provided laboratory training to government laboratory staff throughout the quarter.

On March 16, ATAR organized a study tour of Omaid Bahar Fruit Processing Ltd., a Kabul-based company that is ISO certified. On March 29, ATAR organized a study to the Central Veterinary and Animal Public Health Lab at MAIL, which is considered one of the best laboratories in Kabul.

5. Assist in Building Capacity and Sustainability of the WTO Unit for Post-Accession

ATAR completed a draft white paper outlining the terms of reference for MOCI's WTO Unit to handle post-accession matters. ATAR discussed aspects of the paper with MOCI and received additional input. The paper included proposed functions of the WTO Unit, job descriptions, and qualification requirements, and a staff retention and technical sustainability plan.

ATAR developed a presentation for MOCI WTO Unit and other MOCI officials on post-accession matters to be delivered in March. The presentation was delayed to April due to temporary travel restrictions.

6. Assist in Building Analytical Capacity⁷

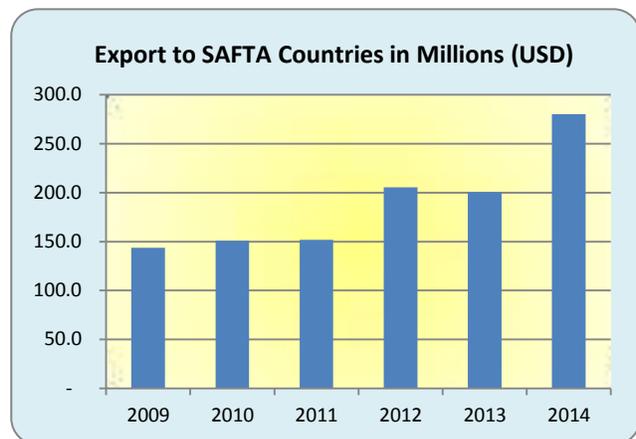
Trade Policy Analysis Unit

ATAR held consultative meetings with MOCI’s Director General regarding the sustainability of MOCI’s Trade Policy Analysis Unit (TPAU) and to discuss continuing capacity building and the education of current personnel.

ATAR conducted a capacity building needs assessment for the TPAU by interviewing staff of the TPAU and MOCI officials, including the Deputy Minister and the Head of the International Directorate, as well as ATAR staff. ATAR evaluated the analytical capacity and resources of the TPAU in terms of staff’s ability to collect and analyze the appropriate trade and market data and undertake basic economic modeling and policy analysis to properly support the needs of government policymakers. ATAR prepared a report detailing a capacity building program, including a career path for existing staff, curriculum for each relevant technical area, and staff retention.

ATAR continued to work closely with TPAU to build its capacity to analyze trade data that will help GIROA make informed trade decisions. ATAR guided MOCI’s TPAU in the estimated impact of the implementation of the SAFTA agreement.

Since SAFTA’s full implementation in August 2011, Afghanistan’s exports to SAFTA countries almost doubled. Exports to SAFTA countries increased more than 30 percent in 2014 alone, contributing .9 percent to the growth of Afghanistan’s gross domestic product and improving the trade balance by about \$230 million.



ATAR completed translation in Dari and Pashto of the “Annual Review on Trade Policy” that was prepared by MOCI’s TPAU with ATAR support. ATAR began working with the TPAU to clean and finalize ACD data for preparation of MOCI’s next annual trade review.

Central Statistics Office

To further reduce statistical discrepancies, ATAR held six trainings at the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) in January and February. These trainings focused on the application of software in statistics and

⁷ For further information on ATAR’s building of analytical capacity at GIROA, see the following section on the Central Statistic Office and SAFTA in the Afghanistan section of Component 2.

analysis and the preparation of formats to help eliminate discrepancies in the reporting of external trade data by CSO, ACD, MOCI, EPAA, and MAIL.

About 30 participants from these counterparts participated in the trainings. Participants studied methods of collection, verification, modification, maintaining, and analysis of trade and other economic data used for economic and trade policy analysis.

7. Assist in Building Nationwide WTO Awareness

ATAR will assist MOCI in building awareness of Afghanistan's accession commitments to the WTO once WTO members approved the WTO accession package. During this quarter, ATAR assisted in developing a presentation with high-level commitments made in the context of WTO accession.

Component 1: Planned Activities

- Provide support, as requested, for Afghanistan's participation in its fifth Working Party meeting
- Continue support to advance WTO-related draft laws to meet WTO requirements
- Continue to review the procedure on food category systems to support the draft food safety law with MOPH
- Continue supporting development of regulations and procedures related to sanitary and phytosanitary laws at MAIL and MOPH
- Continue support for applying to intellectual property conventions
- Continue capacity building for implementation of geographical indications
- Build capacity of ACD on advance rulings to facilitate establishment of Advance Rulings Unit.
- Complete work on terms of reference for MOCI's WTO unit in a post-accession environment
- Deliver training to WTO Unit staff on post-accession
- Support development of syllabus and training materials for ANSA Training and Information Center
- Assist in development of draft law on legal units of measurement and law on metrology
- Conduct needs assessment for National Metrology Institute
- Conduct an assessment of food laboratory at the Ministry of Public Health

D. COMPONENT 2: FACILITATE ENHANCED ACCESS TO REGIONAL MARKETS

1. Afghanistan

Trade Facilitation Support – Central Asian Republics

Regional and bilateral initiatives

During this quarter, ATAR followed up with MOCI on moving the following initiatives through diplomatic channels to launch negotiations: the trade and transit agreement between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan; the trade and transit agreement between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan; the trade and transit agreement between Afghanistan and Azerbaijan; and the trade and transit agreement between Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkmenistan and the extension to Turkey (Lapis Lazuli).

At the request of ACD, ATAR supported the adaptation of the mutual assistance agreement with Tajikistan for Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and translated both documents into Russian.

ATAR discussed with ACD the need to establish a genuine electronic data interchange (EDI) system with Tajikistan with real-time transmission data and mirror read-only databases. ATAR further discussed with ACD the draft memorandum of understanding with Tajikistan on the exchange of information, the harmonization of documentation, and other matters associated with effective control of cross-border trade.

Trade Facilitation Support – South Asia

SAFTA

On Jan. 11-12, ATAR guided a meeting at MOCI to assist in preparing a revised sensitive list for submission to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as part of implementation of the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement. Sensitive lists are products of special interest to SAFTA member countries and are exempted from low SAFTA tariffs.

On March 10, ATAR and MOCI's Regional Trade Department held a working group meeting to finalize the list. More than 40 representatives from MOCI, MAIL, EPAA, ACD, ACCI, and the private sector participated in the meeting. ATAR assisted in completion of the final draft of all sensitive tariff lines, which were reduced to 850 from 962. MOCI will sign the revised list and send it to SAARC upon appointment of the new Minister of Commerce and Industries.

During the quarter, MOCI received an official communication from the SAARC secretariat that the tenth meeting of the SAFTA Committee of Experts will occur in Kabul on Aug. 3-4 and the

What is SAFTA?

SAFTA is a regional free trade agreement between Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. These countries form SAARC.

Afghanistan ratified SAFTA on Jan. 7, 2011, and the agreement came into effect on Aug. 7, 2011. The agreement provided Afghan producers with greater and more consistent access to SAFTA countries' markets and provided consumers with greater access to affordable, imported products.

ninth meeting of the SAFTA Ministerial Council will take place in Kabul on Aug. 5 in Kabul. In March, ATAR held an initial meeting with MOCI on preparations for this first-ever such SAFTA meetings in Afghanistan. About 40 delegates from the seven other SAARC nations will participate in the meeting. ATAR will assist MOCI in developing an agenda, background paper, and other communication materials for this event.

APTTA

On Jan. 1-2, ATAR supported an Afghan delegation in the fifth meeting of the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) in Islamabad, Pakistan. APTTCA was designed to allow the Pakistani and Afghan governments to resolve issues on APTTA and oversee its implementation. Acting Minister of Commerce and Industries Mozammil Shinwari headed the Afghan delegation at the meeting. Many of the decisions and actions made during the APTTCA meeting are expected to resolve challenges to Afghan transit trade to India through Wagah, a border crossing point between India and Pakistan, and to Pakistani seaports.

What is APTTA?

The Afghan and Pakistani governments signed APTTA on Oct. 28, 2010, and the Afghan government ratified the agreement on Jan. 7, 2011. APTTA replaced an outdated 1965 transit agreement and updated and improved the joint transit system to reflect current economic conditions, infrastructure, technology, and transport practices.

In one of the major decisions, participants in the APTTCA meeting agreed that Afghan trucks with a letter of guarantee can transit Pakistan up to Wagah effective Jan. 20. The letter of guarantee, to be issued by Afghanistan's Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MOTCA), would replace costly bank guarantees required for trucks under APTTA.

On Jan. 13, ATAR followed up on the APTTCA meeting with MOCI's Director General of Planning and Policy and MOTCA officials to discuss technical assistance to issue letters of guarantee. After receiving input from the officials, ATAR designed the letters of guarantee, printed 200 letters for distribution by MOTCA, and provided training to MOTCA staff on implementation of the letters.



Clockwise from top left: 1) Afghanistan's Acting Minister of Commerce and Industries Mozammil Shinwari (right) signed minutes from the fifth APTTCA meeting with the Pakistan representative; 2) Afghanistan's Director General of International Trade Mohammad Rahim Momand (right) signed minutes from the bilateral trade meeting with the Pakistan representative; 3) The Acting Minister (right) signed minutes from the PATTTA meeting with the Tajikistan and Pakistan representatives; 4) The PATTTA representatives shake hands.

PATTTA

On Jan. 3, following the APTTCA meeting, ATAR supported Afghan, Tajik, and Pakistani representatives in their first trilateral meeting regarding the proposed PATTTA in Islamabad, Pakistan. ATAR helped prepare the Afghan delegation, headed by Acting Minister Shinwari, for advancing negotiations and supported preparation of an agenda, talking points, and material regarding special economic zones.

In February, ATAR and MOCI participated in a roundtable in Kabul to follow up on the trilateral meeting. Participants included MOCI's Director General of Trade and representatives of ACD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MOTCA, and other officials.

Participants reviewed APTTA and developed proposed alternatives and official negotiating positions for Afghanistan for bilateral PATTTA negotiations that occurred on March 9-10 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, between the Afghan and Tajik government. ATAR assisted in drafting talking points and position papers and in amending the APTTA agreement consistent with input received during the roundtable.

ATAR facilitated the organization and logistics connected with the trip of the Afghan delegation to Dushanbe for the bilateral PATTTA consultations with Tajik counterparts. ATAR participated in the meeting and provided guidance and clarifications to both parties. Subsequent to the March meeting, ATAR assisted in making further revisions to the PATTTA text to reflect agreed upon and new proposals.

Preferential Trade Agreement with Pakistan

During the quarter, ATAR reviewed the draft Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Afghanistan to assess its consistency with Afghanistan's WTO agreements and commitments under SAFTA to identify implementation challenges for Afghanistan. ATAR developed a report and shared it with MOCI.

Trade and transit trade issues with Pakistan

During this quarter, ATAR assisted in developing two notes on transit trade through Pakistan and bilateral trade with Pakistan to support high-level dialogue that would facilitate transit and bilateral trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Issues at Wagah border crossing

ATAR, in cooperation with USAID's Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Program (CHAMP), developed a paper on ongoing infrastructure and procedural issues at the Wagah land crossing. The paper covered the issues of operating hours, prioritizing perishable products, availability of parking and refrigeration facilities, scanning and weighing costs, timely transmission of transit code from Torkham to Wagah, and other customs clearance issues. The paper was submitted to MOCI and private-sector organizations for discussion with Indian and Pakistan counterparts.

What is PATTTA?

PATTTA would extend APTTA to Tajikistan, providing Pakistan and Afghanistan with access to Central Asian countries and providing Tajikistan with access to Pakistan's seaports by way of Afghanistan. PATTTA would also improve upon APTTA by better facilitating trade and reducing costs.

Modalities for trade/transit facilitation between Afghanistan and Pakistan

A meeting between the Afghan and Pakistani Ministers of Finance in November 2015 highlighted three areas relating to customs, including collection of customs duties and taxes by ACD at Pakistani ports, one border stop at crossing points between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and transshipping of Afghan transit trade in Peshawar.

In February, ATAR launched technical assistance to ACD and MOCI on developing modalities to support these trade and transit facilitation activities between Afghanistan and Pakistan. During the first half of March, ATAR held meetings with ACD and private-sector representatives from Alokozay Group of Cos. and the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI).

During the reporting period, ATAR developed the modality for a One Stop Border Post and submitted a draft document for discussion with ACD. The document has been accepted on principle by the counterpart and will be presented to ACD Director General and top management for approval. The document outlined the One Stop Border Post model for the establishment of joint border customs controls between Afghanistan and Pakistan at border crossing points between the countries.

Trade/Business Promotion

EPAA

In the first part of the quarter, ATAR supported EPAA in developing its annual work plan, which has been approved by MOCI. In addition, in coordination with EPAA, ATAR developed product-specific export promotion strategies for Afghan products for India. This strategy paper contains an analysis of six products – almonds, raisins, figs, dried apricots, pistachios, and saffron – and includes product description, global market overview, and proposed branding strategies for each of the products. ATAR also developed a planning document for EPAA for the development of a national export strategy.

Gulfood

In partnership with EPAA and USAID's CHAMP, ATAR organized the Afghan pavilion at Gulfood 2015 held from Feb. 8-12 in Dubai. The 16 Afghan businesses that participated reported more than \$2.3 million in confirmed deals and \$5.9 million in potential deals at the end of the event, according to a survey administered by EPAA.



ATAR supported Afghanistan's participation in Gulfood in Dubai.

Four of the participants visited the Dubai wholesale market and agreed with wholesale buyers to supply Afghan fresh fruit to Dubai wholesale markets in the upcoming season. CHAMP and ATAR rented the pavilion, and ATAR designed

the booth, invitations, and a catalog. ATAR also develop a short video on Gulfood and its success and submitted the video to USAID for its social media channels.

Domotex

Afghan carpet traders reported potential deals worth \$3.6 million at Domotex on Jan. 17-20 in Hannover, Germany. ATAR developed a carpet catalogue for the exhibition and assisted EPAA in inserting a full-page advertisement in Hali, an international carpet magazine, to coincide with the show. Domotex is the largest international exhibition in the carpet sector.



ATAR supported EPAA's participation in Domotex in Germany.

India Stone Mart

Afghanistan's marble, onyx, and lapis lazuli traders reported more than \$12 million in potential deals with Indian buyers at India Stone Mart in Jaipur, India. In partnership with EPAA, ATAR assisted the Afghan companies and organizations in participating in Stone Mart, which is the largest international exposition on the stone industry.

The four-day event, from Jan. 28-Feb. 1, gave Afghan companies and associations the opportunity to showcase Afghanistan's marble and precious stones. Many of the traders travelled to the New Delhi and Mumbai headquarters of the Indian companies to discuss deals. ATAR developed marketing materials and organized a factory visit for eight Afghan marble traders who saw marble cutting and polishing techniques used in India.



ATAR supported the participation of Afghan marble companies in StoneMart in India.

Aahar

ATAR worked with EPAA to support participation of 11 Afghan businesspeople in the Aahar International Food and Hospitality Show in New Delhi, India, on March 10-14. Traders reported deals of

more than \$3 million for Afghanistan's saffron, dried fruit, and nuts and reported potential deals of almost \$3 million for the products.

During the fair, ATAR assisted the traders in holding business-to-meetings and in conducting negotiations. About 100 business meetings were held, and about 3,000 people visited the pavilions. Prior to the event, ATAR assisted EPAA in identifying Afghan exhibitors who could benefit from participation in the show. ATAR also conducted training for participants, designed the pavilion, and created marketing materials.



ATAR supported the participation of dried fruit, nut, and saffron traders in Aahar in India.

Trade and investment workshop

ATAR launched consultations with stakeholders in Afghanistan and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) for organizing a regional workshop on trade and investment in Kabul in September 2015. ATAR will initiate discussions with Pakistan and CAR stakeholders in early April.

Expo Milano 2015

ATAR assisted EPAA to organize the Afghan pavilion at Expo Milano, an international exhibition that will be held from May 1 to Oct. 31 in Milan, Italy. During this reporting period, ATAR assisted EPAA in planning the event and the management of the Afghan pavilion. ATAR helped to define the activities, events, and agenda for the six months of the event and, based on that, assisted EPAA in the preparation of a request for proposal for retaining an event management firm. ATAR, in addition, conducted meetings with potential sponsors and shortlisted potential new sponsors and provided guidance for the meetings. Further, ATAR assisted EPAA in developing an export booklet, a video for the event, and other marketing materials.

Marble sector

ATAR worked with FICCI, the Afghanistan Marble Industry Center for Excellence, and Rajasthan Udyog, an Indian machinery manufacturer, to promote the export of Afghan marble and attract investment in this sector. Rajasthan Udyog and the Afghan Marble Industry Center for Excellence formed an alliance that will promote technology transfer from India. This alliance will organize a joint training program for quarry workers and will promote Afghan marble across the world. ATAR facilitated a factory visit for seven Afghan marble producers through this partnership. Rajasthan Udyog is supplying

machinery to two Afghan organizations, and USAID's Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE) will provide a partial grant.

ATAR also assisted the Afghanistan Marble Association (AMA) in its advocacy effort for its members. The Afghan government imposed a ban on export of marble in rough form. This caused problems for the Afghan quarry as most them do not have facility for cutting and polishing. ATAR assisted AMA to make a representation to the President to withdraw this ban.

Cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan/ Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

ATAR developed a paper on strengthening relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan/ Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province covering issues of interest to both parties, including energy, transportation and transit issues and investment and trade in mining, agriculture, and iron production. The paper was one of a series of four provided to MOCI officials at the request of the Ambassador to Pakistan to discuss issues in common with Pakistan provinces.

Framework for public-private partnerships

Per the request of MOCI, ATAR completed a review of Afghanistan's draft law on public-private partnerships (PPP) for consistency with best international practices and proposed changes. ATAR also recommended next steps that must be considered, including the other key components of the PPP framework such as PPP policy, PPP institutions and organizational relationships, PPP regulations and procedures, and PPP training and capacity building.

Export fund

In February, ATAR developed the concept of an export fund for EPAA that would provide financial and non-financial benefits to build the capacity of Afghan exporters and help increase the country's exports. The objective of the export fund is to support Afghanistan exports through financial and technical assistance to develop competitive products, create jobs, and attract investment. The proposed fund would help Afghans conduct or participate in exhibitions and provide export guarantee benefits to financial institutions to enhance exporters' access to affordable financing. ATAR suggested a separate board to manage the fund, with the EPAA chief executive officer being a member of the board.

On Feb. 18, ATAR conducted a roundtable on the fund for representatives from MOCI and EPAA. Based on the recommendation of the participants, ATAR worked with EPAA to promote the idea and presented the concept to Harakat, an Afghan organization that works to improve Afghanistan's business environment as well as the International Finance Corp. (IFC) and the Department for International Development (DFID).

Harakat expressed willingness to fund the concept in its budget for next year, and DFID expressed willingness to support the activity through its private-sector development program; IFC said it would discuss the idea with upper management. ATAR will continue to assist EPAA to coordinate with other donors to implement the export fund.

Trade finance roundtable

On March 3, ATAR and EPAA organized a trade finance roundtable in Kabul to increase traders' access to financial mechanisms that can help them grow their businesses and increase exports. More than 70 people participated, including exporters, government officials, and bank and insurance representatives. The roundtable addressed challenges to accessing finance and explained available trade finance products and services.

As a result of the workshop, five businessmen and three businesswomen began working with USAID's Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) project, which also participated in the event, to complete and submit loan applications that will help them strengthen their businesses. In addition, the Afghanistan Rural Finance Co. (ARFC) agreed with EPAA to offer finance to Afghan exporters.

In February, ATAR also delivered two trade finance awareness seminars to businesswomen and businesses representatives of different economic sectors such as marble, dried fruit, saffron, and carpets.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Business Council

ATAR started the process of drafting a memorandum of understanding and terms of reference for the formation of an Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Business Council, called for in the minutes between the two ministers of finance of Afghanistan and Pakistan in November 2014.

2. The Kyrgyz Republic

CBTA

Early in the quarter, ATAR learned the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent the Afghanistan's protocol of accession to the Cross-Border Transport Agreement-Corridor 5 (CBTA) to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Transport and Communications after receiving it from Afghanistan in December.

In February, ATAR met with the Kyrgyz Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications to discuss the ratification of the Afghanistan protocol CBTA. The Deputy Minister outlined the process for ratification and appeared agreeable to pursuing ratification. ATAR presented the Deputy Minister with a white paper outlining the benefits of ratifying the Afghanistan protocol.

WHAT IS CBTA?

The CBTA between Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan helps link East Asia with the Middle East and South Asia through Corridor 5. Corridor 5 connects East Asia to the Arabian Sea through Central Asia. The corridor is one of the six transport corridors that traverse the CAREC region. CAREC brings together Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and promotes regional projects.

WTO TFA

On March 19, ATAR led a presentation and discussion on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) at the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy. The event attracted 32 participants from relevant border-related agencies, brokers and transport associations, and donors such as USAID, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the World Bank.

ATAR gave an overview of the WTO TFA, the results of the ATAR's TFA assessment of the Kyrgyz Republic, best practices in the establishment of a National Trade Facilitation Committee, and the WTO-TFA related reporting requirements. ATAR will hold a similar roundtable in April in cooperation with GIZ, this one targeting traders.

WHAT IS WTO TFA?

The WTO TFA, signed during the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013, brings together improved WCO Revised Kyoto Convention provisions, a number of improved provisions in existing WTO agreements, and new trade facilitation provisions. This new agreement presents a new framework for promoting regional reforms to facilitate trade, reduce corruption, improve transparency and private sector participation, and strengthen transit rights. The agreement will enter into force when two-thirds of the WTO member countries submit a letter of acceptance to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee.

Binding rulings

ATAR prepared a recommendation for adoption of an effective customs binding ruling program, along with a draft regulations, for presentation to the Kyrgyz government. Binding rulings enable importers and other interested parties to get binding pre-entry classification, origin and/or valuation decisions prior to importing a product. If adopted, Kyrgyz customs will be in compliance with Article 3 of the WTO TFA.

ATAR translated the documents and will submit the documents to the Ministry of Economy. ATAR began working on a similar recommendation on pre-arrival declaration, another TFA article.

ATAR also started examining the current fee structure for customs processing in light of Kyrgyz customs code provisions and the requirements of the WTO TFA

Customs risk management

The paucity of information in Kyrgyzstan customs is preventing any meaningful risk management system from functioning. A comprehensive report was produced highlighting the various sources of information that are available, the process for gathering the information and recommendations which should help in broadening the information base on which Kyrgyz customs can draw to develop more relevant risk profiles. A paper was produced on a suggested methodology for ensuring that profiles are regularly reviewed and analysis of the profiles is undertaken objectively. Due to the Customs Union, Kyrgyzstan is not interested at this point in regional cooperation with Tajikistan and Afghanistan on risk management.

Modern Transport and Logistics Workshop

ATAR followed up on the Modern Transport and Logistics Workshop held in Bishkek in December by contacting Kyrgyz workshop participants to obtain their feedback on the workshop. They indicated they were pleased with the workshop and felt the presentations were meaningful. They also said they established useful contacts in countries where they previously had none.

Customs Consultative Council

Prior to 2011, Kyrgyz customs regularly held meetings with importers, exporters, and brokers. This was called the Customs Consultative Council (CCC) and provided an opportunity for traders to voice their frustrations and for customs to articulate regulations. ATAR has been actively promoting the re-establishment of the CCC, and two sessions have been held to date. An additional event was held with both customs and Ministry of Economy participation aimed at providing information to traders about future changes caused by accession to the Customs Union, a critical concern for cross border traders in the Kyrgyz Republic.

3. Tajikistan

PATTTA

ATAR facilitated the deployment of the Tajik delegation to the PATTTA tri-lateral meeting in Islamabad on Jan. 3. Following the delegation's return, ATAR, in the company of the USAID Country Director and the U.S. State Economic Advisor, met with the Deputy Minister for a debrief of the meeting. The Tajik government said it was committed to continuing the trilateral discussions and indicated willingness to sign the agreement in the near future.

In the latter half of January, ATAR provided a Russian-language version of the Pakistan proposal of the PATTTA to the Tajik government. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade disseminated the Russian translation to government counterparts.

On March 9-10, Tajikistan and Afghanistan held bilateral discussions on the proposed PATTTA. ATAR supported the Tajik negotiating team by providing a Russian translation of the Afghanistan draft counter-proposal to the Pakistan PATTTA proposal. ATAR participated in the meeting and provided guidance and clarifications to both parties. Subsequent to the meeting, ATAR supported further changes to the PATTTA counterproposal to support agreed-upon items and additional proposals.

Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Pakistan are expected to meet in Dushanbe for the second trilateral meeting on PATTTA in April. Although the Tajik and the Afghan delegations shared commonality in their response to the Pakistan proposal, they are both submitting individual counter-proposals for discussion at the upcoming tri-lateral. ATAR provided an English translation of Tajikistan's counter-proposal.



ATAR supported bilateral discussions between Tajikistan and Afghanistan on PATTTA in March.

Support to the State Customs Service

ATAR supported the Tajikistan State Customs Service on its national strategy for integrated border management following the country's implementation of a "one stop shop." A customs "one stop shop" is as a system of coordination for authorities involved in inspecting a good; the process is conducted under the supervision of the customs administration so that different controls, such as sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary, and security inspections, can be carried out in one place at one time.

ATAR, in conjunction with the GIZ's Regional Trade Facilitation project, delivered an analysis of the review of the one stop shop concept implemented at the Nijni Panj border crossing point in Tajikistan near Afghanistan. The review consisted of desktop review of laws and regulations and a visit to Nijni Panj for oversight of the processes in November 2014. The resulting analysis from ATAR and GIZ included re-engineered business process proposals and recommendations to improve inter-agency relationships, goods clearance procedures, and infrastructure support at the site. ATAR prepared a presentation of the findings for a roundtable to be scheduled as soon as the Tajikistan States Customs Service is available.

ATAR also assisted with the installation of a risk information database at three customs stations in Dushanbe identified as crucial links for expanding information flow to the risk management unit: the airport freight office, the railway freight yard, and the international post office.

ATAR complimented each installation by providing on-the-job training for customs staff and delivered a paper on identification of information, mechanisms for collection, analysis, and dissemination, and data collection principles. ATAR had developed the risk information database, which offers centralized collection of information relating to compliance and enables effective risk management.

ATAR also proposed a structure for centralized risk management, including the introduction of a Risk Management Committee, developed job descriptions for the Risk Management Unit, and prepared a proposed training plan for the risk analysts. The proposals are being translated prior to presentation to the Tajik State Customs Service.

Mutual exchange of risk management information

In an effort to further promote trade facilitation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, ATAR drafted an agreement on mutual exchange of risk management information in customs matters and proposed the agreement for the trilateral adoption of ACD, the Tajikistan State Customs Service, and the Kyrgyzstan Customs Service.

ATAR presented the draft agreement to the Tajikistan State Customs Service and is awaiting feedback. The agreement is intended to strengthen customs-to-customs cooperation in the exchange of information for customs risk management and will help promote regional and international trade.

Support to the State Veterinary Inspection Service

ATAR provided a Russian version of a training course on conducting qualitative import risk analyses to the Tajik State Veterinary Inspection Service. ATAR had developed this material and delivered it to the Afghanistan Veterinary Inspection Service; ATAR shared it with the Tajik counterpart as Tajikistan has proposed an agreement in mutual assistance and cooperation on veterinary science matters with Afghanistan.

PATTTA Public Private Dialogue

To build PATTTA awareness and support for the upcoming negotiations rounds in March and April, ATAR held during this quarter three awareness/public-private dialogue events in February and early March in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT). On Feb. 25, ATAR facilitated a session hosted by the Association of International Transport Operators of Tajikistan (ABBAT) for 15 participants and facilitated another session on Feb. 26 at the Association of International Transport Operators of Tajikistan (AIATT) for 17 participants. Participants included representatives from the transport companies, the Tajik customs service, the Ministry of Transport, MEDT, the State Insurance Agency and the USAID mission.

On March 13, ATAR facilitated the third session in Tajikistan for the public and private sector to discuss the proposed PATTTA. The session, supported by MEDT, was delivered to private-sector members of the Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The private-sector participants stressed the importance of the three governments minimizing non-tariff barriers. The participants also requested an economic study comparing the benefits and advantages of the two main seaports – Karachi in Pakistan and Bandar Abbas in Iran. The study's results would enable improved decisions regarding market access and transport options.

4. Turkmenistan

WTO TFA

ATAR completed assessment of Turkmenistan’s legal, regulatory, and institutional framework for conformity with the WTO TFA. ATAR launched translation for further transmission to Turkmen authorities.

WTO/WCO customs assessment

ATAR completed the translation of the assessment of the Turkmen customs code with WTO agreements and the World Customs Organization (WCO) Revised Kyoto Convention and shared the Russian version with USAID Turkmenistan. With the support of ATAR, USAID submitted a cover letter for transmitting the analysis to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and offering the State Turkmen Customs Service to discuss and make the changes in the Turkmen code to align it with the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention and WTO customs-related agreements and to deliver related seminars.

Turkmen construction exhibition

ATAR began planning for the participation of Afghan marble businesses in the international “Turkmen Construction 2015” exhibition in Ashgabat from August 27-29. ATAR is working with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan and the Afghanistan Marble Industry Center of Excellence to secure a pavilion for Afghanistan

Support to Export Promotion Institute

In response to interest from the Turkmen Export Promotion Institute on USAID’s export promotion support, ATAR provided a note highlighting USAID activities in neighboring countries related to export promotion and development and suggestions for initial support for the Turkmen Export Promotion Institute. USAID sent the note to the institute.

5. Uzbekistan

Customs training

ATAR prepared an outline for one week of training on customs risk management and authorized economic operators to be delivered to Uzbek customs. The outline was shared with USAID/Tashkent and transmitted through a diplomatic note to Uzbek authorities. ATAR provided additional clarifications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon receiving initial feedback.

Termez-Hairaton process mapping

ATAR discussed with UNDP the possibility of cooperation on mapping import, export, and transit processes at the Termez crossing point and identifying bottlenecks and opportunities for streamlining

process and reducing steps for reducing costs and delays. Uzbek customs is interested in similar study for Tashkent Airport and would probably agree on the Termez mapping if task covers also Tashkent airport.

Trade/transit route study

ATAR completed planning to launch a study for assessing alternative routes for linking Tashkent with New Delhi and the Arabian Sea. This study will support promotion of a bilateral agreement on transit and transport between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Pending approval of the terms of reference, ATAR is ready to start this study.

Uzbek Chamber of Commerce and Industry

In March, ATAR met with the Chairperson of the Uzbek Chamber of Commerce and Industry. ATAR briefed him on the objectives of the project in terms of increasing Uzbek trade with South Asia and Afghanistan and exploring cost-efficient routes and a framework for linking Uzbekistan with South Asia and open seas and facilitating trade. The Chairperson was supportive and agreed to start planning a targeted business-to-business event with Afghanistan.

ATAR informed him of the various initiatives in the region to facilitate trade and transit. He was particularly interested in APPTTA as it provides road access to India. He stated that Uzbekistan should perhaps consider becoming a member of this agreement. He indicated a great interest in increasing trade with South Asia but stressed the importance of eliminating logistical and costly bottlenecks. He was also interested in the regional studies being conducted under the project and indicated that the chamber is prepared to help and provide data. He assigned a point of contact to work closely with the project.

Tashkent route study

ATAR completed planning a study to assess alternative routes for linking Tashkent with New Delhi and the Arabian Sea. This study will support promotion of a bilateral agreement on transit and transport between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. ATAR developed a terms of reference for approval by USAID.

Coordination meetings

ATAR held a series of meetings to discuss potential cooperation in trade and customs related activities. This included the IFC, UNDP/Customs, UNDP/Trade, ADB, and GIZ. ATAR also met with the Commercial Officer at the Afghan Embassy in Tashkent and discussed issues concerning trade between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. The Commercial Attaché expressed support for any activities that would link Afghan and Uzbek businesses.

6. Cross-Cutting

APTTA extension study

ATAR completed an impact assessment on extending APTTA to Tajikistan and India. ATAR shared the English version of the report with MOCI and USAID office in Tajikistan for further transmission to the Tajik MEDT. ATAR also began translation into the Russian language.

Regional comparative advantage/trade complementarity study

ATAR continued working on an analysis to assess regional comparative advantage and trade complementarity and identify viable value chains. By the end of this quarter, ATAR completed the analytical work. ATAR is drafting the report.

Wheat flour vitamin fortification working meeting

ATAR participated in a wheat flour vitamin fortification working meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Feb. 8-10 with the USAID Mission for Central Asia and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

The group discussed strategies for harmonization of wheat flour fortification specifications throughout Central Asia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The participants reviewed and finalized educational material and presentations and discussed harmonization strategies and public messages. The group met with three representatives from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and learned of the bank's funding and business management efforts with flour millers in the region.

On the final day, ATAR presented research results to about 30 USAID officials, GAIN representatives and other interested parties during a video conference among USAID regional offices from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan followed by discussion and plans.

In the second half of February, ATAR further revised the fortified wheat flour study taking into account input provided regarding the situation in Uzbekistan.

Regional customs workshop

ATAR assessed the possibility of a regional customs workshop in Tashkent involving eight countries (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan) and covering customs valuation, risk management, E-Pay, post-clearance audit, authorized economic operators, and electronic data interchange. IFC and other donors are not ready to collaborate on this at this stage due to funding constraints.

Component 2: Looking Forward

- Continue to support the PATTTA process
- Continue development and finalization of modalities for Afghan customs at Karachi; transshipping in Peshawar; and a single border stop at crossing point Afghanistan-Pakistan
- Continue work related to advancing the ratification in Kyrgyz Republic of the CBTA protocol of accession of Afghanistan and facilitate transmission to Tajikistan
- Facilitate the development of a memorandum of understanding on mutual cooperation between a Kyrgyz transport company and its Tajik counterpart as agreed in a protocol signed during the Modern Trade and Transport Workshop
- Support the Tajikistan State Customs Service on the national strategy for integrated border management
- Build capacity of Tajiks State Customs on post-clearance audit
- Support implementation of select provisions of trade facilitation in Kyrgyzstan
- Complete a regional study on comparative advantages and trade complementarity
- Launch trade route mapping study linking Uzbekistan and India and Arabian Sea
- Launch free economic zones assessment
- Continue implementation of aspects related to South Asia Strategy
- Continue promoting regional trade and customs initiatives with CAR
- Continue support SAFTA process
- Continue building EPPA capacity
- Support EPAA in its participation in Expo Milano 2015
- Continue planning for trade and investment conference in September 2015

E. COMPONENT 3: IMPROVED CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

1. Support Regional Integration

See Component 2 for further information on regional integration between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia.

2. Institutionalize the Border Management Model

ATAR continued to support the implementation of the Border Management Model (BMM) through weekly reporting from regional staff. The weekly reports highlight examples of best practices and areas of concern that need to be raised with ACD's Director General.

3. Strengthen the Customs Code and Customs Policies

ATAR continued to support ACD in a review of its customs regulations and procedures to help ensure that they are aligned with international standards. ATAR provided technical assistance to ACD on warehousing, advanced rulings, and licensing regulations.

4. Implement Risk Management Systems

Toward the end of the quarter, ACD senior management committed to providing ATAR with direct access to ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) World to identify data required to support further efforts to enhance risk management. ATAR developed 13 report templates that will be coded within ASYCUDA World, so that appropriate data can be extracted easily (known as "key stroke" reports). Travel restrictions to ACD slightly delayed the process, as the reports should ideally be coded with an international advisor to ensure all data is captured correctly.

This data will be used to assist ATAR in advising ACD in a number of risk management areas, including: intervention percentages, compliance assessments by location, use of random selectivity, and performance of regional risk profiles (i.e. those that yield the greatest number of infractions). Once these reports have been coded within the system and ATAR obtains the data, the project expects to submit its complete assessment of the implementation of risk management.

ATAR continued to monitor ACD's risk management in Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-e Sharif through comprehensive risk management data that was obtained at a regional level by ATAR's staff in the

WHAT IS BMM?

Afghanistan's BMM establishes clear roles and responsibilities for ACD, which is responsible for cross-border trade, and the Afghan Border Police (ABP), which is charged with immigration and national security at the borders.

The model encourages information sharing between the two entities to stem corruption, smuggling, and other illegal activities. The aim of the model is also to reduce interaction with other agencies operating at the border, thereby speeding trade across the border.

In July 2011, the BMM was implemented on a pilot basis at the Hairatan Border Crossing Point (BCP) in Balkh. Following this successful initial implementation, ACD implemented the model at other BCPs.

regions. ATAR developed a template for a weekly compliance snapshot that will allow ACD management to closely monitor regional compliance and performance data. This was developed as an interim measure until ATAR receives the comprehensive ASYCUDA World data.

The snapshot will provide ACD management with a summary of compliance and performance data for Inland Clearance Depots (ICDs) at Hairatan, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Kabul, and Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA). This data includes risk management information that identifies ACD compliance with the policy; number of infractions; any additional revenue following selectivity controls and lane selectivity percentages; and average clearance times per selectivity lane. The snapshot will also capture other data relevant to ACD compliance with the national streamlined procedures blueprint.

ATAR advised ACD regional managers in responding to ACD Risk Management Committee's request to ensure all risk management problems are forwarded to the committee on a monthly basis and that ICD staff prepare ASYCUDA profile request information forms and forward them to the committee. ATAR assisted the ACD risk management manager in creating 20 risk profiles for Herat ICD.

5. Implement Electronic Payment of Customs Duties

Although Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) was ready to proceed with electronic payment of customs duties, or E-Pay, ACD did not provide terminal access and passwords for ASYCUDA to DAB staff due to remaining concerns about the process.

In February, ATAR met with ACD and DAB at the USAID offices to discuss roadblocks to the implementation of E-Pay. ACD outlined its concerns, and DAB said it would assist in assuming responsibility for certain procedural requirements where appropriate. Participants agreed that ACD's Operation Director would follow up the meeting by emailing specific concerns to DAB, including providing proposed solutions.

ATAR assisted ACD's Operations Director in drafting the concerns, and ACD submitted its specific concerns and solutions in the second half of February. DAB replied in the first half of March. ACD and ATAR held discussions to progress the initiative. It was agreed that ACD would provide ASYUCUDA

WHAT IS RISK MANAGEMENT?

In the past, ACD policy required all imports and exports be subjected to a physical examination; this caused delays in clearing goods and was an inefficient use of staff resources.

In 2012, ACD developed and implemented a revised interdiction strategy based upon the principles of risk management. Risk management is an internationally accepted approach to using limited resources to focus on trade transactions that pose the greatest risk, and allow all other trade transactions to be cleared with minimal or no controls.

Risks include revenue loss through undervaluation, misclassification, or smuggling and interdiction of prohibited goods such as narcotics or pre-cursor chemicals. On the other hand, under risk management, traders and brokers with a documented history of compliance with ACD's laws and requirements face minimal to no intervention.

terminal access and passwords to DAB employees on receipt of their details. This was provided by DAB, but ACD has not yet provided access.

6. Increase Gender Representation in ACD

ATAR began an internship program in late 2014, placing young university graduates at ACD for six months to prepare them for a possible career at ACD or to give the foundation for a job in the trade sector. While ATAR focused on recruiting mainly females for the program, the vast majority of qualifying resumes were from males. ATAR selected nine interns, including two females and seven males, for the internship program.

The students continued working in ACD's tariff, exemption, post clearance audit, valuation, tariff research and statistics, and transit departments. During the quarter, ATAR supported the ACD internship program through regular meetings and daily workplace support.

In an effort to reduce the gender gap at ACD, ATAR delivered a train-

the-trainers course on Jan. 10 in gender awareness to seven Afghanistan National Customs Academy (ANCA) trainers. ANCA, with ATAR support, then led gender awareness courses on Jan. 17 with 21 male participants and on Jan. 24 with 24 female participants. The training will become a part of ANCA curriculum.

ATAR also met with ACD's women's representative. This meeting included a telephone conference call with the Ministry of Finance's Director of Gender to discuss concerns and issues of female employees at ACD in Kabul and the regions.

7. Reduce Corruption at ACD

In consultation with ACD, ATAR finalized the draft policy and procedure manual for the implementation and operation of an Internal Audit Unit (IAU) in ACD. The policy and procedures are consistent with relevant provisions of the "International Professional Practices Framework" – which is the conceptual framework that organizes authoritative internal audit guidance promoted by the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors. The procedural manual is in line with associated standards in the "Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing."



An intern, a member of ATAR's internship program, worked at her computer in ACD.

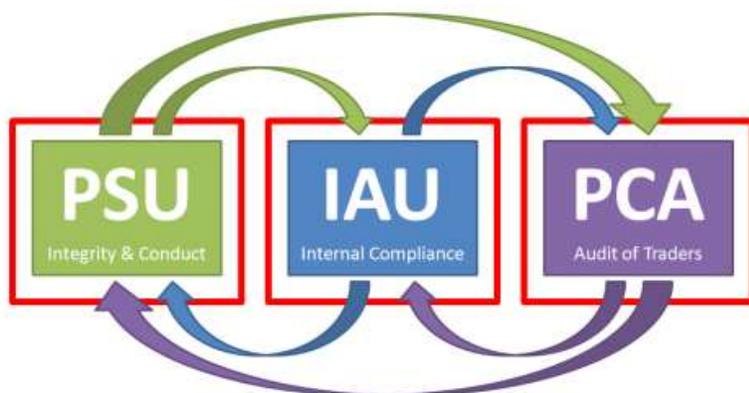
In February, ATAR gave a presentation to ACD Directors and the Head of the Legal Department to highlight the requirements for ACD to enhance their compliance strategy, with a focus on staff through the IAU, activities through a Professional Standards Unit (PSU), and customers through Post Clearance Audit (PCA).



ATAR gave a presentation to ACD management on a multi-pronged compliance strategy.

In order to increase compliance of activities, ATAR explained the IAU would be primarily responsible for assessing compliance with strategic, operational, and tactical processes and procedures undertaken by the ACD at both headquarters and regional level. As well as identifying unnecessary burdens to trade or procedural inefficiencies, the IAU will be responsible for identifying systematic abuse of existing systems. Where necessary, the IAU will draft revised operating procedures to minimize opportunities for illicit activities and align them with international standards or best practices.

In order to increase compliance of staff, ATAR proposed a PSU with the primary objective of investigating any case with a reasonable suspicion that a staff member is guilty of misconduct. Implementing a PSU will enhance ACD’s accountability and capacity and enable the administration to tackle ACD integrity issues effectively and transparently. ATAR drafted the PSU strategy in the last quarter of 2014.



The PSU, IAU, and PCA are independent functions but exchange information.

To assist in the overall risk management compliance strategy ATAR started work on assisting

ACD in developing a professional Post Clearance Audit (PCA) function. The primary purpose of PCA is to confirm that compliance exists following an audit of a customer's processes, systems, and procedures. Such audits are often targeted at larger, international companies and undertaken at a customer's place of business – often the main headquarters in Afghanistan.

ACD agreed with ATAR's proposed three-silo strategy in principal and welcomed additional workshops where appropriate and submission of associated policy proposals. Toward the end of this reporting period, the Director General tasked three ACD officials to review the Dari translations of the PSU policy and associated procedural manual.

8. Implement Outreach Programs

Once the PSU is operational at ACD, ATAR will work with ACD to develop an outreach campaign to trader and the public. This will include identifying appropriate reporting mechanisms so that any suspect activity can be reported to the PSU in confidence.

ATAR will propose such reporting should include a dedicated telephone line, a standard reporting template linked to the ACD website, and a dedicated email address. ACD could use the National Anti-Smuggling Hotline for this purpose as well as reporting smuggling activities upon the hotline's reactivation. Reporting mechanisms will be made available to all stakeholders, including ACD staff, other government departments, traders, and the public.

9. Support Streamlined Customs Procedures

ATAR customs specialists in the regions and at HKIA and Kabul ICD continued to monitor the current number of procedures at ICDs compared to ACD's national blueprint for streamlined import procedures. ATAR observed that extra steps have been implemented at various locations. ATAR continued discussions with regional management to remove those additional steps and return to the agreed national blueprint. Though some progress has been made in reversing some of these additions through discussions with regional management, intervention by ACD's Director General may be necessary in some cases.

Going forward, ATAR will compile a weekly summary of streamlined procedure compliance for ICDs at Kabul, HKIA, Jalalabad, Herat, and Hairatan for ACD senior management. This summary will include an annex that identifies exactly which steps are non-compliant and the reasons why

10. Support ANCA

After helping ACD obtain access to WCO's E-Learning site in 2014, ATAR tried to support ANCA in using the WCO E-Learning materials. At the present time, ACD lacks a reliable Internet connection for ANCA to fully implement WCO E-Learning.

ATAR also assisted in the delivery of English language courses at the beginning of the year, but stopped due to the security situation. In the first half of February, ATAR delivered two trainings to ANCA trainers

on how to develop presentation templates and themes. This included the creation and use of appropriate visual aids, such as graphs and charts within PowerPoint.



ATAR delivered a presentation skills course to ANCA trainers and assisted ANCA in delivering English language courses.

ATAR continued developing training materials through the quarter. ATAR:

- Finalized training modules on basic valuation and valuation fraud and is translating the modules into Dari.
- Finalized the professional standards awareness training. ATAR has proposed that this is mandatory for all ACD staff.
- Began developing a Mobile Verification Team training course, including container and freight examination, vehicle examination, questioning and interviews, body language, team working, and team building.
- Began developing an airport training module for customs officers at the request of the Balkh Regional Director; this module can be used independently or as part of the customs enforcement curriculum.
- Began developing a train-the-trainers presentations skills course. Those who successfully pass the train-the-trainers course will attend an ATAR workshop so they can deliver the training modules being developed.
- Continued drafting an instruction manual for the ANCA shared drive and version control of documents, updating course material, and drafting new training materials.

11. Enhance the Development of Post Clearance Audit

ATAR met with ACD's Director of Operations and the PCA Team Manager to assist in the drafting of a gap analysis detailing the current status of Afghanistan's PCA and what is required to meet international best practices. In March, ATAR drafted the comprehensive gap analysis on PCA and delivered of a full-day workshop on the subject to PCA headquarters staff, the Director of PCA, and the Director of the Risk Management Unit.

About 90 ACD staff in the headquarters and provinces are performing activities under the umbrella of PCA. These activities relate more to transactional audit verification than PCA. Further, these audits are undertaken prior to the goods actually being released by the ACD.

PCA allows ACD to build confidence in a customer's internal operating procedures to identify his or her own compliance with relevant laws and procedures. As such, if a company has robust measures in place to ensure they follow all rules, then there is a better chance they will be voluntarily compliant. Once appropriate confidence is secured following the audit, ACD can then significantly reduce intervention controls for that particular trader. As these companies account for a large percentage of imports, ACD can focus their frontier efforts on the smaller percentage of traders that are less likely to be compliant.

12. Strengthening the TIR and Transit Regimes

TIR

During this quarter, ATAR worked with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and Afghan stakeholders to finalize the program for a Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) roundtable to be held on April 20 and a national TIR workshop to be held on June 7-8 and prepared a presentation on "Recommendations for TIR Re-Activation in Afghanistan".

In consultation with stakeholders, ATAR launched preparation of a draft case study on the first TIR outbound shipment from Torkham to Almaty to publicize the first successful TIR shipment by an Afghan operator.

What is TIR?

TIR is a customs transit system that simplifies the movement of cargo across at least one international border. The principles and guidelines for implementing TIR are described in the TIR Convention 1975. In September 2013, TIR was reactivated in Afghanistan after three decades of suspension.

13. Enhancing ACD Performance

During March, ATAR developed a list of data required from ACD that would enable the evaluation and comparison of the performance of ACD's customs offices.

Based on best international practices, there are about 120 indicators that need to be considered for customs evaluation. ATAR requested ACD provide the following data: a detailed budget on customs lines; trade statistics such as imports, exports, declarations, and revenue; transit statistics; statistics on physical inspections; number of containers of imports/exports; number of procedures; formal risk assessment reports; audit reports; customs investigation reports; number of documents available on intranet/internet; statistics on manifest in electronic format; customs warehouses reports; and number of customs complaints.

To date, ATAR collected import, export, and revenue statistics that can be used as the basis for 8 to 10 indicators, which are relevant to about 25 percent of the total customs evaluation. ATAR will collect other

data based as available based on meetings with the Director General and heads of relevant departments.

14. Enhancing ACD Human Resources Department

ATAR met with the Director General and agreed the terms of reference for the an international human resources advisor in support of ACD, but position was later cut due to budgetary restraints.

Component 3: Looking Forward

- Continue regional work with ACD
- ACD, ATAR, DAB and USAID to meet to progress the full implementation of e-payment
- Continue to assist ACD in reviewing regulations and procedures, including warehousing and licensing regulations
- Continue to support ANCA in reviewing training material and developing new material
- Continue to support ANCA to deliver English language courses if the security situation allows
- Continue implementation of the enforcement plan
- Implement the weekly compliance snapshot template and start providing ACD management with weekly compliance and performance data
- Support ACD to develop mechanisms for assessing their performance and gauge their efficiency
- Following a request from the Balkh Regional Director, provide local assistance for one week at the Mazar International Airport include identifying opportunities for streamlining import procedures, improving risk management operations, and gaps in training skills
- Develop airport training course for customs officers at Mazar International Airport.
- Discuss with ACD the timeline and activities for the implementation of an IAU and PSU
- Once the PSU and IAU policy papers are agreed and approved, draft relevant training modules for staff within both units
- Draft and submit a post-clearance audit gap analysis.
- Start the development of relevant policies, procedures, and training materials in support of implementing a professional post clearance audit function
- Provide technical assistance to ACD in TIR and Transit
- Continue to draft appropriate modality assessment for collection of customs revenue in Pakistan
- Develop training modules in management and leadership skills

F. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION⁸

ATAR Project Objective: Improved trade environment for Afghanistan, fostering increased investment, export, and market-based employment opportunities

USAID Afghanistan DO1: Sustainable, Agricultural-led Economic Growth Expanded

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP IR 1.1: addressed: Employment Opportunities

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP Sub-IR 1.1.4: addressed: Regional Trade Increased

USAID Afghanistan DO3: Performance and Legitimacy of GIROA Improved

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP IR 3.1: addressed: Citizens Hold the GIROA Accountable

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP Sub-IR 3.2.2: addressed: Policies and Procedures Improved

Indicator Table⁹

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
Project Purpose: Business climate strengthened to enable private investment, enhanced trade, job creation, and fiscal sustainability through the critical Transition Period and continuing into the Transformational Decade										
1	Growth in trade volume (import, exports, transit)	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Country, per border crossing; commodity group; month, quarter; percent; and actual amount	GIROA	Annual	\$9.3 billion in 1391 excluding transit (CSO)	\$3.2 billion in first six months of 1393 (ACD)	\$3.2 billion in first six months of 1393 (ACD)	Tracking only	Trade volume is defined as the licit trade value of goods brought into Afghanistan (import), the value of Afghan goods sold in the foreign country or countries (export) and value of goods imported to Afghanistan from a country and exported to another country (transit). Total volume of trade in six months of 1393 was \$3.2 billion based on ACD data, including imports (\$3 billion) and exports (\$276 million).

⁸ See Annex A for USAID's Afghan Info report for supplemental information on ATAR activities.

⁹ Annual statistics gathered by GIROA are reported according to the Afghan solar calendar, in which 1391 covers March 2012 to March 2013; 1392 covers March 2013 to March 2014; and 1393 covers March 2014 to March 2015.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
2	Growth in (real) gross domestic product (GDP) per capita	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	By sector	CSO, World Bank Report	Annual	\$21 billion in 1391(CSO)	\$21.2 billion in 1392 (CSO)	\$21.2 billion in 1392 (CSO)	Tracking only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. Annual percentage growth rate of GDP per capita based on constant local currency. GDP per capita is gross domestic product divided by midyear population. GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Note: Based on a CSO report, the total value of Afghanistan's GDP in 1392 was \$21.2 billion.
3	Foreign trade (X-M) as a percentage of GDP	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	By sector, import and export	CSO, World Bank Report	Annual	Import 39%, Export 6% in 2012 (World Bank)	Import 47% Export 6% 2013 (World Bank)	Import 47% Export 6% 2013 (World Bank)	Tracking only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. Sum of exports as % of GDP and imports as % of GDP. Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude labor and property income (formerly called factor services), as well as transfer payments. Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. Note: This indicator captures the percentage of foreign trade (import and export) in the GDP of Afghanistan.
4	Value of goods imported to the United States taking advantage of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Commodity group; month, quarter	ACD and CSO	Annual	\$123,500 (1391)	Will be reported next quarter	Will be reported next quarter	Tracking only	The U.S. GSP is a program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 5,000 products when imported from one of 126 designated beneficiary countries including Afghanistan.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
5	Export	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Product, countries	GIROA	Annual	ACD = \$307 million in 1391 CSO = \$414.5 million in 1391	\$276 million in first six month of 1393 (ACD)	\$276 million in first six month of 1393 (ACD)	Tracking only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. Sum of exports as % of GDP and imports as % of GDP. Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude labor and property income (formerly called factor services), as well as transfer payments. Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. Disaggregation by country: Pakistan = \$80 million India = \$51 million Turkey = \$19 million UAE = \$11 million Iran = \$6 million China= \$5.9 million Iraq = \$2.8 million Turkmenistan = \$1.8 million Others = \$98.5 million

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
6	Import	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	Product, countries	GIROA	Annual	ACD = \$7.464 billion in 1391 CSO = \$8.9 billion in 1391	\$3 billion in six months of 1393 (ACD)	\$3 billion in six months of 1393 (ACD)	Tracking only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. Sum of exports as % of GDP and imports as % of GDP. Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude labor and property income (formerly called factor services), as well as transfer payments. Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. Note: Based on ACD's data for six months in 1393, total value of Afghanistan imports was \$3 billion. Disaggregation by country: Pakistan = \$517 million China = \$517 million Iran = \$448 million Turkmenistan = \$215 million Japan = \$168 million Uzbekistan = \$163 million Kazakhstan = \$151 million Malaysia = \$136 million United Arab Emirates = \$87 million Russia = \$84 million India = \$75 million Others = \$443 million
7	Change in World Bank's Doing Business ranking, trading across borders indicator	Outcome/Impact Required by Prime Contract	None	World Bank Doing Business Annual Report	Annual	184 (Doing Business Annual Report 2014)	184 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	184 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	Tracking only	The World Bank Doing Business report presents quantitative indicators compared across 189 economies over time. Afghanistan was ranked 179 out of 183 in 2012 and 178 out of 185 countries in 2013. According to the 2015 report, Afghanistan is ranked 184 out of 189 countries.
8	Ease of Doing Business rank	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	By sector	World Bank Doing Business Annual Report	Annual	164 (Doing Business Annual Report 2014)	183 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	183 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	Tracking only	The World Bank Doing Business report sheds light on how easy or difficult it is for a local entrepreneur to open and run a small- to medium-sized business when complying with relevant regulations. Based on the 2015 report, Afghanistan is ranked 183 out of 189 countries.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
9	Number of public policies introduced, adopted, repealed, changed or implemented consistent with citizen input	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Policies introduced Policies adopted Policies repealed Policies changed Policies implemented	Project/ program documents, direct observation, analysis of secondary data and third-party observation (i.e. monitoring of public policy by local NGO)	Annual	0	0	0	Tracking only	Public policies include any law, regulation, policy or similar directive that is formally adopted by either the legislative branch or a unit of the executive branch at any level.
PIR 1: Capacity of Afghan government and private sector to formulate and implement liberal policy framework for trade and investment strengthened										
10	Reduction in discrepancy between the Central Statistics Office and the ACD on trade statistics	Output USAID requested indicator	N/A	CSO/ACD	Annual	27%	15%	15%	10%	The difference between values reported by ACD and CSO divided by the average of the two values, shown in percentage. Note: Based on trade statistics data from ACD and CSO for 1393, the overall discrepancy was 15%, which is better than the target of 20% for the year.
PIR 1.1: WTO accession process finalized										

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
11	Number of WTO-related legal acts advanced through the legislative process with ATAR support	Output USAID requested indicator	Ministry partner	Project records and MOCI	Quarter-ly	0	15	3	30	<p>Bringing the legal framework in line with the WTO agreements is a pre-condition for becoming a WTO member. This indicator will capture progress made in the legislative process when draft laws (including amendments) and sublegal acts (regulations, orders) move from one stage to another. These stages are: 1) Sponsoring ministry; 2) MOJ; 3) Council of Ministers; 4) Parliament; and 5) President endorsement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law on plant protection and plant quarantine submitted to the Council of Ministers by MOJ 2. Law on animal health and veterinary public health submitted to MOJ by MAIL 3. Law on indication of production place submitted to Council of Ministers by MOJ 4. Law on trademarks approved by Council of Ministers and submitted to Parliament 5. Amendments to the 2005 customs law submitted to Council of Ministers by MOJ 6. Amendments to the patents law submitted to Councils of Minister by MOJ 7. Procedure on intellectual property border enforcement submitted to the Minister of Finance for signature. 8. Procedure on intellectual property border enforcement adopted and came into force on April 12, 2014 9. Draft copyright law submitted on July 27, 2014, by MOJ to the Council of Ministers. 10. Draft law on animal health and veterinary public health submitted by MAIL to MOJ 11. Draft law on indication of production place submitted to the Parliament in Oct. 11, 2014 12. Draft law on trademarks approved by Lower House and submitted to Upper House of Parliament in Oct. 29, 2014 13. Trademark law approved by Upper House. 14. Trademark law endorsed by President. 15. Topography of integrated circuits law sent to MOJ.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
12	Number of WTO-related institutional reforms supported by ATAR	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Ministry partner	Project records	Quarterly	0	7	7	10	<p>Acceding to the WTO requires the establishment of new institutions or restructuring of existing institutions as well as development of new institutional processes related to customs, trade, and other areas. This indicator captures these types of institutional reforms supported by ATAR.</p> <p>The reforms in the project's results are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional proposal accepted by MOCI for establishing a safeguard unit 3. Five ISO mirror committees established: petroleum products and lubricants; food products; textiles; gas cylinders; concrete, reinforced concrete and pre-stressed concrete 3. Mechanism for coordination and cooperation between ANSA and other government entities on enquiry/notification

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
13	Number of draft legislative items (including regulations, procedures, and amendments) prepared by the Working Group at Ministerial level with ATAR support	Output USAID requested indicator	Ministry partner	Project records, MOCI	Quarterly	0	29	8	12	<p>This indicator captures the number of new draft laws and sublegal acts prepared at the Ministerial level with ATAR support. This mainly refers to the first draft finalized at the Ministerial level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twelve procedures related to food safety drafted and agreed by working group at MOPH. 2. Three procedures related to food safety law drafted and agreed by working group at MOPH during December 2014 to 31 March 2015. 3. Draft regulations for implementing law on animal health finalized 4. Seven procedures for implementing the law on animal health prepared by the working group at MAIL 5. Draft regulations to implement law on plant protection and quarantine prepared by working group at MAIL 6. Five additional procedures implementing the law on animal health prepared by the working group at MAIL during period Nov. 2014-March 2015
PIR 1.2: WTO implementation process developed and executed										
14	Number of public events held to discuss trade and business policy matters with stake-holders, the public, and the private sector	Output Required by Prime Contract	Province, gender of participants	Project records	Monthly	0	166 events (participants include 1,414 males, 300 females)	85 events (850 participants include 711 males, 139 females)	60	A public event is defined as an ATAR-led and/or supported trade-related activity such as conference, seminar, trade forum, presentations to university students, trade campaign, presentation to Parliament or Ministries, working group meetings, roundtable discussions, and other trade gathering.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
PIR 1.3: Private sector awareness of new opportunities for trade-related business development increased										
15	Number of awareness events held targeting the private sector	Operational Indicator Output	Gender of participants	Project records	Monthly	0	25	5	30	<p>The private sector is the main beneficiary of WTO accession. It is critical to educate the private sector about opportunities resulting from WTO accession and other trade agreements in order to enable necessary adjustments. ATAR will assist MOCI in undertaking a nationwide awareness campaign, including delivery of WTO seminars in key regions targeting the private sector, particularly small to medium enterprises and women-owned businesses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WTO awareness seminar for MOJ in February 2014 2. Awareness about regional opportunities (Dushanbe business-to-business event) June 2014 3. Fourteen awareness events about food control authority and the legal authority contained in the draft food law and its supporting regulations 4. Three events in October 2014 on building awareness of trade opportunities under CATF and World Food/Almaty 5. SPS awareness seminar at MAIL (Feb. 2014) 6. Awareness training seminar on trademarks for the private sector (Feb. 2015) 7. Awareness training seminar on procedures for trademark registration for the private sector (Feb. 2015) 8. Awareness training seminar on trademarks for the legal community (Feb. 2015) 9. Two training seminar on geographical indications for the private sector (March 2015)

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
16	Number of awareness documents prepared to educate about WTO and regional integration	Operational Indicator Output USAID requested indicator	Province	Project records	Quarterly	0	15	2	10	<p>This indicator will capture any type of awareness material developed with ATAR support in educating the private sector on WTO and trade opportunities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document for President Karzai office on WTO 2. Presentation developed for WTO awareness seminar for MOJ 3. Awareness materials on TIR 4. Copyrights general pamphlet 5. Copyrights music pamphlet 6. Copyrights publishers pamphlet 7. Copyrights awareness article 8. Educational materials on indication of production of place 9. Presentation to educate Tajik public and private sector about APTTA 10. Note to President Ghani on Afghanistan's WTO Accession 11. Strengthening food safety in Afghanistan 12. Good hygiene practices for businesses 13. SPS agreement awareness power point 14. Note for President Ghani re bilateral trade issues with Pakistan 15. Note for President Ghani re transit trade issues with Pakistan
PIR 1.4: Understanding and support for benefits of WTO and regional and bilateral trade agreements increased										
17	Change in public perception toward trade	Outcome/Imp act Required by Prime Contract	Province, gender, age	Perception survey	Annual	To be determined (TBD) from perception survey	TBD from perception survey	TBD from perception survey	40% increase	Increased understanding and support of the benefits of regional and bilateral trade agreements and WTO accession are vital. ATAR will conduct a survey to determine knowledge and perceptions among the general population and stakeholders.
PIR 2: Regional and global integration enhanced										

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes																																												
18	Percentage share of trade with regional partners	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	Country	National statistics of respective countries	Annual	TBD	See the notes column	N/A (to be provided end of 2015)	Tracking only	<p>This indicator will capture the share of Afghanistan's trade with regional partners. The regional partners are Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Country</th> <th colspan="2">2013</th> <th colspan="2">2014</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Import</th> <th>Export</th> <th>Import</th> <th>Export</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>2.5</td> <td>22.5</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>27.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kazakhstan</td> <td>3.7</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>5.6</td> <td>0.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kyrgyzstan</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pakistan</td> <td>21.1</td> <td>35.4</td> <td>19.2</td> <td>32.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tajikistan</td> <td>0.7</td> <td>2.4</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>5.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turkmenistan</td> <td>9.3</td> <td>3.0</td> <td>6.6</td> <td>1.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Uzbekistan</td> <td>5.3</td> <td>1.9</td> <td>5.6</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Country	2013		2014		Import	Export	Import	Export	India	2.5	22.5	2.2	27.6	Kazakhstan	3.7	0.4	5.6	0.8	Kyrgyzstan	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	Pakistan	21.1	35.4	19.2	32.9	Tajikistan	0.7	2.4	0.3	5.9	Turkmenistan	9.3	3.0	6.6	1.3	Uzbekistan	5.3	1.9	5.6	0.5
Country	2013		2014																																																			
	Import	Export	Import	Export																																																		
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Turkmenistan	9.3	3.0	6.6	1.3																																																		
Uzbekistan	5.3	1.9	5.6	0.5																																																		

Sub-IR 2.1: Enabling environment for enhanced access to regional markets established

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
19	Number of signed initiatives on regional integration (Disaggregated by signed and launched)	Output USAID requested indicator	Type of initiative	Project records, MOCI	Quarterly	0	6	2	8	<p>Afghanistan is interested in deepening and expanding regional integration through new and existing agreements on trade, investment, economic cooperation, transport, and transit. This indicator will capture initiatives such as agreements, memorandums of understanding, and protocols launched or signed with ATAR support.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transit and Transport Agreement with Azerbaijan launched 2. Mutual Assistance Agreement on Customs between Afghanistan and Tajikistan signed 3. Protocol of Accession of Afghanistan to the CBTA-5 signed by the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan 4. Trade and transit agreement with Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkmenistan launched 5. Pakistan Afghanistan Tajikistan Transit Trade Agreement (PATTTA) 6. India allowed Afghan trucks to unload cargo in Indian territory

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
20	Number of interactions between businesses (and other relevant groups) with government entities in the region involving policy reform dialogues	Output USAID requested indicator	N/A	ATAR project records	Annual	0	14	7	24	<p>This indicator will capture the number of interactions and dialogues between businesses and government organizations in the region on policy reform issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two trade facilitation workshops in the Kyrgyz Republic in April and June 2014 2. A session during the Dushanbe business-to-business event related to policy reform involving businesses and government representatives 3. A session led by MOCI/EPPA on March 19, 2014, with women businesses 4. A session at MOCI on July 16, 2014, regarding para-tariffs under SAFTA 5. A session at MOCI on July 17, 2014, regarding issues related to rules of origin 6. Session on regional trade challenges and practices under an export development course in the Kyrgyz Republic in May 2014 7. Two roundtables in Kabul with private sector to discuss problems related to APTTA 8. Transport and Logistics workshop held in Kyrgyzstan on Dec 22, 2014 9. Three public-private roundtables in Dushanbe on PATTTA in Feb. and March 2015 10. One public-private forum in Bishkek re the WTO TFA in March 2015

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
21	Number of proposals discussed to harmonized customs procedures or documents on transit corridors	Output USAID requested indicator	BCP	ATAR project records	Annual	0	9	9	20	<p>This indicator will capture the modernization and harmonization of customs rules and procedures with international standards on transit corridors to reduce border crossing costs and delays. ATAR launched a number of customs harmonization initiatives, including risk management and post clearance audit, that are ongoing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memorandum on information exchange and trade facilitation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan 2. Memorandum on mutual exchange of risk management information in customs matters (Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan) 3. Modality for single border stop between Afghanistan and Pakistan 4. Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Afghanistan 5. Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Afghanistan 6. Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Kyrgyz Republic 7. Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Tajikistan 8. Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Turkmenistan 9. Recommendations on advance rulings in Kyrgyz Republic

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
22	Number of firms receiving USG capacity building assistance to export	Output USAID requested indicator	Type of firm/ participants/ gender	Project records, EPPA	Monthly	0	663 firms	330 firms	400 firms	<p>Capacity building assistance refers to market research, short-term technical assistance to government and/or private-sector beneficiaries, study tours and international trade fairs/exhibitions, exporter training sessions, networking and training supported by ATAR.</p> <p>ATAR helped build the capacity of 645 firms, as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2014 Dushanbe business-to-business event: 45 Afghan businesses, 60 Tajik businesses, 50 Kyrgyz businesses, • 107 businesses from Dushanbe business-to-business event • July 2014 EPAA seminar series on market research and international markets: 10 • July 2014 seminar series on global logistics: 8 • October 2014 training and roundtables to prepare for participation in CATF/World Food: 13 • February/March 2014 preparatory meetings for CABOC in Afghanistan: 40 • 20 business attended two trainings on export in Kabul • 110 business attended TIR conference in Kyrgyzstan • 81 businesses attended two roundtables and one seminar on export credit • 7 businesses were assisted to participate in Domotex • 15 businesses participated in India Stone Mart • 9 businesses were assisted to participate in Gulfood • 9 business participated in Aahar exhibition • 10 business were trained on Letter of Guarantee (LOG) • 5 businesses were assisted to participate in World Food Exhibition in Kazakhstan in Nov. 2014 • 13 businesses were assisted to participate in a craft selling exhibition in Italy • 51 businesses comprising of businesses and government officials participated in TIR awareness seminar in Kabul

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
Sub-IR 2.2 Benefits from enhanced market access expanded										
23	Cost to travel 500 KM per 20 ton (\$)	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Corridor 5 Corridor 6	CARE Corridor Performance Management and Monitoring (CPMM)	Annual	\$ 1,580 Corridor 5, \$ 719 Corridor 6	\$2,393 Corridor 5 (2013)	\$2,393 Corridor 5 (2013)	Tracking only	The total cost to travel here refers to a cargo truck traveling 500 km per 20 ton of goods. Both official and unofficial payments are included.
24	Number of laden vehicles crossing Afghanistan border in each direction	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	By Torqundi, Hairatan, Sher khan Bandar, Torkham and Weish	ACD	Annual	(As of 2012) Hairatan: 66,851 Imports 2,734 Exports Torqundi: Imports: 43,209 Exports 542 Sher Khan Bandar: Imports 4,050 Exports 16,199 Torkham: Imports 175,770 Exports: 32,451 Weish: Imports 35,166 Exports 2,167	Will be reported next quarter	Will be reported next quarter	Tracking only	This indicator refers to the number of declarations and number of vehicles paying custom duties.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
25	Average cost of crossing borders (\$)	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Corridor 5 Corridor 6	CPMM	Annual	\$157 (2012)	\$235 (2013)	\$235 (2013)	Tracking only	The average of total expenses (\$) to move cargo from an exit point of a country to the entry point of another country. The entry and exit points are typically a primary control center where customs, immigration, and quarantine are done. Both official and unofficial payments are included. This indicator is normalized at 500 km as a basis of unit, so that average cost between long and short corridors is comparable.
PIR 3: Revenue generation for fiscal sustainability strengthened through reforms and anti-corruption measures in customs and taxation										
26	Growth in customs revenue (overall and per border crossing)	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Per border crossing	ACD	Annual	\$694 million in 1391	\$875 million 1392	\$875 million 1392	Tracking only	A customs duty and tax refers to tax on the importation and exportation of goods collected by custom houses.
PIR 3.1: Customs procedures to increase transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the collection of revenue, performance of core functions, and facilitation of trade improved										
27	Number of permanent professional positions allocated for women within ACD that have been staffed	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Gender, age, education level	ACD	Quarterly	77	1 (58 ACD)	0	175	In line with the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the National Action Plan for Women, ATAR will support ACD in meeting benchmarks related to increasing female participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of governance to 30 percent by 2020.
28	Number of female interns completing a six-month internship in ACD	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Gender, age, education level	ACD	Quarterly	20	0	0	100	ATAR will support ACD to implement an internship program at ACD for university women. The internships will be headquarter-based rotational placements for a period of six months. 1. For the period Nov 13 – Sep 14, 2 female interns were appointed. 2. For the period Jan – Mar 2015, no interns were employed. The next intern campaign will be during the period May – June 2015.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes																																
29	Average number of days required to trade goods across borders (average of export/import time)	Outcome/Impact Required by Prime Contract	Province	ACD World Bank Doing Business report	Annual	Herat: 6 hours 17 minutes Hairatan: 3hrs 43 minutes Jalalabad 4 hours 18 minutes Sher Khan Bandar: 2 hours 13 minutes Aquina: 3 hours 21 minutes	Herat: 3 hours and 30 minutes Hairatan: 2 hours 40 minutes Jalalabad 3 hours 30 minutes Shir Khan Bandar: 2 hours 30 minutes Aquina: 2	Average Herat: 1 hour and 35 minutes Hairatan: 1 hour 33 minutes Jalalabad 1hours 55 minutes Shir Khan Bandar: 1 hour 37 minutes Aquina: 1 hour and 27 minutes	2 hours	This Sub IR indicator is from the World Bank's annual Doing Business report (see the indicator table in the back of the publication). It is a component of the "trading across borders" section, and is comprised of the components called "time to export (days)" and "time to import (days)" <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ICD</th> <th>Green</th> <th>Yellow</th> <th>Red</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mazar (Balkh ICD)</td> <td>1hr</td> <td>1hr 30min</td> <td>2hr 10min</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aquina ICD</td> <td>50min</td> <td>1hr 30min</td> <td>2hrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SKB</td> <td>1hr</td> <td>1hr 20min</td> <td>2hrs 30min</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Herat</td> <td>45min</td> <td>1hr</td> <td>3hrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jalalabad</td> <td>1hr 33min</td> <td>1hr 50min</td> <td>2hrs 30min</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HKIA</td> <td>40min</td> <td>56min</td> <td>1hr 6min</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kabul ICD</td> <td>50 min</td> <td>1hr 13 min</td> <td>1hr 45min</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ICD	Green	Yellow	Red	Mazar (Balkh ICD)	1hr	1hr 30min	2hr 10min	Aquina ICD	50min	1hr 30min	2hrs	SKB	1hr	1hr 20min	2hrs 30min	Herat	45min	1hr	3hrs	Jalalabad	1hr 33min	1hr 50min	2hrs 30min	HKIA	40min	56min	1hr 6min	Kabul ICD	50 min	1hr 13 min	1hr 45min
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Aquina ICD	50min	1hr 30min	2hrs																																							
SKB	1hr	1hr 20min	2hrs 30min																																							
Herat	45min	1hr	3hrs																																							
Jalalabad	1hr 33min	1hr 50min	2hrs 30min																																							
HKIA	40min	56min	1hr 6min																																							
Kabul ICD	50 min	1hr 13 min	1hr 45min																																							
30	Number of documents required to export/import goods across borders decreased as a result of USG assistance	Outcome/Impact Required by Prime Contract	Import, export	The current source is the World Bank Doing Business report. ACD has not yet confirmed numbers	Annual	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2014)	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	Tracking only	Reduction in the number of documents required to trade goods across borders as imports or exports; change in the total number of documents required as per World Bank Doing Business Indicator, confirmed by the Mission. Reducing the number of different documents required in cross border trade is key to maximizing the improved efficiency that trade generates as a basis for faster economic growth and poverty reduction. Business report. Based on the 2015 report, Afghanistan requires 10 documents for import and 10 for export while the average document required for South Asia is 8 for import and 10 for export.																																

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
31	Time to export/import	Outcome/Impact USAID requested Indicator	Import, export	The current source is World Bank's Doing Business report. ACD has not yet confirmed numbers	Annual	85 days, import, 81 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2014)	91 days, import, 86 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	91 days, import, 86 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	Tracking only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. The time necessary to comply with all procedures required to export goods. If a procedure can be accelerated for an additional cost, the fastest legal procedure is chosen. Doing Business compiles procedural requirements for exporting a standardized cargo of goods by ocean transport. Documents associated with every official procedure are counted—from the contractual agreement between the 2 parties to the delivery of goods—along with the time and cost necessary for completion. For exporting goods, procedures range from packing the goods at the warehouse to their departure from the port of exit. The time and cost for ocean transport are not included. Payment is made by letter of credit, and the time, cost and documents required for the issuance or advising of a letter of credit are taken into account. The ranking on the ease of trading across borders is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators.
32	Number of customs systems in line with international best practices adopted	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	ICD	ATAR project records	Annual	0	6	6	15	Systems refer to valuation, risk management, E-Pay, appeals, simplified import procedures, and the national hotline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Simplified Procedures is constantly being reported on. It has been proposed that a review takes place due to the implementation of ASYCUDA World. 2) Post Clearance Audit has not been implemented under international best practice. ATAR is supporting ACD, through a STTA, to assist in this area. 3) E-Payment is not fully implemented but should be later this year. 4) ATAR has submitted an implementation paper for a Professional Standards Unit 5) ATAR has submitted an implementation paper for an Internal Audit Unit 6) National Hotline is being reviewed by ATRA / ACD and should be reactivated later this year.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
33	Number of risk management procedures adopted at customs depots	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	ICD	ATAR project records	Annual	0	0	0	10	A procedure refers to risk awareness self-assessments, risk profiling, risk registers, and management controls as part of roll-out of risk management. Note: This will be a priority in the next period. ATAR will undertake an informal review of the current systems in place for risk profiling, risk management profiles (part of internal audit unit review to improve internal compliance), risk registers etc.
34	Number of training modules developed by ATAR	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	None	ATAR project records	Annual	0	8	5	45	This indicator captures number of modules ATAR developed in support of ANCA <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic Risk Management 2. Intermediate Risk Management 3. Risk Profiling 4. Valuation Fraud 5. Valuation (Basic) 6. Professional Standards 7. PCA Awareness / Implementation 8. Compliance for Senior Management
35	Revenue collection by electronic means	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	ICD	ACD	Annual	0	0	0	75%	The collection of revenue by electronic means relates to the amount of ICDs that have ASYCUDA and the percentage of declarations processed through ASYCUDA compared to the total of declarations received at all ICDs.
36	Person hours of training completed in trade and investment enabling environment supported by USG assistance	Operational indicator Output Required by Prime Contract	Gender, Topic	Project training records	Monthly	0	99 trainings (1,849 participants including 1,558 male and 291 female) 1,4631 person days of training	33 trainings (625 participants including 515 male and 110 female) 5,330 person days of training	120 trainings/ 1,200 participants	This indicator uses the following equation to express the number of USG-supported training hours that were completed by training participants: Hours of USG supported training course x Number of people completing that training course Support from the USG: This indicator counts training hours that were delivered in full or in part as a result of USG assistance. This could include provision of funds to pay teachers, providing hosting facilities, or other key contributions necessary to ensure training was delivered.

Cross-Cutting Indicators

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
37	Number of consultative processes with private sector as a result of U.S. government assistance	Operational Indicator Output Required by Prime Contract	Province, gender of participants	Project records	Quarterly	0	7	0	24	<p>Negotiating and implementing agreements requires intense coordination and cooperation among ministries and state bodies as well as with the private sector and civil society. Working groups for consultations on developing trade policies, negotiation strategies, trade procedures, and draft legislation with private sector will be captured under this indicator.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultative meeting on Feb. 22 with fruit and vegetable businesses 2. Consultative meeting on March 3 with handicraft, carpet, gemstones, and marble businesses 3. Consultative group with representatives of chambers from four regional counties (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan) to establish a sustainable mechanism for cooperation across the region 4. Consultative meeting with KCCI regarding customs valuation practices 5. Working group for development of implementing regulations for food safety law 6. Consultations by the MOPH with private sector regarding changes to fees for import of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment 7. Working group on developing implementing legislation for the law on animal health
38	Person-days of training of key personnel in trade and customs regulation	Output USAID requested indicator	Province, Gender	Project records	Monthly	0	30 days	58 days	70 days	<p>Government, private sector participants, days, hours in trainings of trade and customs regulation.</p> <p>Note: All events that ATAR conducts are trade-related for this indicator ATAR just considers customs events.</p>

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from Start (Nov. 2013 to March 2015)	Project Achievement from Nov. 2014 to March 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
39	Number of laws, policies, or procedures drafted, proposed or adopted to promote gender equality at the regional, national or local level (GNDR-1)	Output USAID requested indicator	By law, policy, or procedure	project/program reporting	Annual	0	New indicator	0	Tracking only	<p>Any law, policy, or procedure designed to promote or strengthen gender equality at the regional, national or local level, which was developed or implemented with USG assistance. To be counted, the law, policy, or procedure should have as its objective or intent one or more of the following: reducing an aspect of social, economic, or political inequality between women and men, girls and boys; ensuring that women and men, girls and boys, have equal opportunities to benefit from and contribute to social, political, economic, and cultural development; to realize their human rights; or to have access to/control over resources necessary to survive and thrive; or preventing gender-related discrimination or compensating for past gender-related discrimination or historical disadvantage. A law, policy, or procedure may be designed to promote or strengthen gender equality at regional, national, sub-national, or community levels, and affect either formal or informal groups or institutions. Illustrative examples for this indicator include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws—USG assistance for civil society to draft and advocate for passage of a law eliminating a barrier to women's effective political participation. • Policies—USG support for adoption of a comprehensive policy on sexual harassment by the local police force. • Procedures—USG assistance for host government agency implementation of procedures for gender-sensitive survey design and data collection. <p>Indicator narratives should include the name of the law, policy or procedure and should specify whether it was developed or implemented at the regional, national, sub-national, or community level (e.g. draft law on public financing for women political candidates developed by national civil society, municipal police force begins systematic implementation of existing policy to provide joint male-female patrols in critical areas, etc.). Items counted may include regulations, constitutional amendments or components, provisions to peace agreements, or other provisions designed to carry the force of law, official mandate, or authority. Numerator: Number (count) of relevant laws, policies, and procedures developed or implemented with USG assistance during the reporting period. Operating units may count a law, policy, or procedure only once in each stage of development or implementation; operating units may not report on the same law, policy, or procedure across multiple reporting periods unless it has advanced to the next stage (e.g. law drafted in one reporting period, law presented for legislative action in the next reporting period).</p>

G. COLLABORATION

Links with relevant GIROA ministries

ATAR's success is dependent on its close relationship with GIROA, specifically ACD, MOCI, MOJ and other ministries relevant to Afghanistan's WTO accession. ATAR had staff embedded at MOCI, MOJ, and EPAA to work with staff regularly.

Due to security restrictions, ATAR's expat staff was unable to embed at ACD. However, the expatriate staff conducted meetings and short visits where possible and relied on local staff who remained embedded at ACD as necessary.

ATAR worked closely with relevant ministries and related entities during the quarter, including MAIL, MOPH, and ANSA, conducting meetings, trainings, and working groups to ensure that government officials were part of the decision-making process and had a thorough understanding of topics such as WTO activities (including draft laws, regulations, and procedures) and international standards.

Links with other donor agencies

In support of the project's activities in Central Asia, ATAR continued to work with donor agencies including UNDP, GIZ and its Regional Trade Facilitation project, and the World Bank. In Afghanistan, ATAR worked with EPAA to promote the idea of the export fund and presented the concept to Harakat, an Afghan non-profit organization, as well as the IFC and the DFID.

Links with other USAID projects

In Central Asia, ATAR co-located with USAID's REC project at the Chemonics' office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and continued to work with REC on regional trade activities.

In Afghanistan, ATAR liaised with USAID's CHAMP in supporting Afghanistan's participation in Gulfood and researching trade and transit issues with Pakistan. ATAR also worked with FAIDA to hold a trade finance roundtable in March.

H. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Personnel

As a result of temporary budgetary restrictions, the Component 1 Team Manager position remained open. Recruitment for Component 1, Component 2, and Component 3 Deputy Team Managers is ongoing.

Adaption of the activity

No major changes to the project's statement of work were made during the reporting period.

Modifications and Amendments

There were no modifications or amendments to the contract.



USAID
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AFGHANISTAN

SNAPSHOT

Afghan Produce Scores \$2.3 Million in Deals

Afghan agri-businesses signed \$2.3 million in contracts with buyers from across the world at Gulfood in Dubai.



Mr. Mohammad Nawab Azimi of Benazir Saffron talks with potential buyers who examine his company's saffron.

“This is the best and biggest opportunity for Afghan traders, because there are people from all over the world,” said Mr. Mohammad Nawab Azimi, who participated in Gulfood for the third time.

U.S. Agency for International Development
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Afghanistan's fruit, saffron, and nuts won over taste buds at an international exhibition, impressing buyers to the tune of \$2.3 million in confirmed deals with buyers hailing from countries as diverse as Sweden and Syria to Italy and India.

With support from USAID and the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA), 16 Afghan traders, including two women, displayed their agricultural products at Gulfood from Feb. 8-12 in Dubai. Gulfood, the world's largest annual food and hospitality trade show, attracted almost 4,800 exhibitors and about 85,000 visitors – linking buyers and sellers from more than 100 countries.

“This is the best and biggest opportunity for Afghan traders, because there are people from all over the world,” said Mr. Mohammad Nawab Azimi of Benazir Saffron.

He said his company signed deals with buyers in France and South Korea and has potential deals with India and Oman. He said Gulfood allows Afghan companies like his to prove the quality of their produce to a wide audience from lucrative markets.

“Our main problem is that we cannot travel to other countries for marketing – cost-wise and because of visa problems,” said Mr. Azimi. “This Gulfood is an opportunity to bring all traders from around the globe together.”

The traders took in displays of brands such as Heinz and Del Monte to learn about marketing and visited Dubai's wholesale markets to make deals and understand buyer requirements.

“Since we are new to these global events, we have some challenges,” said Ms. Sana Siddiqi of the Kaweyan Export Import Co. “The things that we see from other countries we learn and we implement our learning in future activities, such as packaging, dealing with clients, decorating our booth, so in the future we are competitive with the others.”

The companies are following up on \$5.9 million in potential deals, with one trader in talks with a major regional supermarket chain for the upcoming fruit season. USAID and EPAA surveyed the traders to record deals and will help them execute and pursue orders.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

SNAPSHOT

Traders Snag Millions in Carpet Deals

Afghan carpet producers scored \$3.6 million in deals at a carpet show and are pursuing millions more in possible deals.



Visitors at Domotex in Hannover, Germany, admired Afghan carpets on display.

"I don't want the benefit to go just to me," said Mr. Hafeezullah Rahman Qul. "I want the benefit to go to the women who make the carpets too, so they can be part of Afghanistan's economy."

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

Seven of Afghanistan's carpet producers signed \$3.6 million in deals with buyers from the United States, Turkey, and Europe at a carpet exhibition in Germany in January, and they are working on concluding millions in potential deals.

Domotex, a flagship fair for carpets and floor coverings, offered Afghan companies the opportunity to showcase their carpets to the world. About 40,000 visitors visited the booths of more than 1,300 exhibitors from 63 countries, including Afghanistan.

"With Afghan participation in Domotex, carpet exports this year will experience a good upward trend," said Ms. Najlla Habibyar, the chief executive officer of the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA), which promotes Afghan products by supporting traders' participation in international exhibitions such as Domotex.

In addition to scoring millions of dollars in deals at the event, two of the Afghan companies were nominated for the award of best traditional carpet design. However, the success wasn't a surprise to any of the traders, whose families have been in carpet production for generations.

"Carpets are in my blood," said Mr. Hafeezullah Rahman Qul, the co-owner of Haji Rahman Qul Ansari Ltd. and a fourth generation carpet trader. "I am a doctor of carpets."

Mr. Qul and other participants are filling orders and following up on millions more in potential deals resulting from relationships forged at Domotex. Many deals are signed following such events after the buyer confers with management and negotiates with the trader.

Mr. Qul is hopeful he can hire more workers to meet the high demand he encountered at Domotex. The company now relies on 150,000 women in Afghanistan to make the carpets from start to finish – including shearing wool from sheep, washing and spinning the wool, and weaving the carpets.

"I don't want the benefit to go just to me," said Mr. Qul. "I want the benefit to go to the women who make the carpets too, so they can be part of Afghanistan's economy."

USAID's Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project and EPAA supported Afghanistan's participation in Domotex. EPAA collected information on the participants' deals through a survey designed by ATAR.

ANNEX B: AFGHAN INFO ACTIVITY REPORT

ATAR Activities List in Afghan Info					
Province	District	Village	Start Date	End Date	Activity Description
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	5-Jan-15	6-Jan-15	ATAR held a training explaining the criteria for trademark registration. ATAR delivered the training to staff of the trademark section of the MOCI's ACBR-IP.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	15-Jan-15	ATAR assisted ACBR-IP in developing awareness materials for trademark registration.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR worked with MOJ and MOPH to review the draft food safety law and the procedures that will support implementation of the law.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	15-Jan-15	ATAR assisted MOJ's Finance and Economic Department in conducting three working group meetings to review the draft law, which MOPH has submitted to MOJ for further legislative processing.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR assisted MOPH in conducting four working group meetings to review procedures on food category systems to support the food safety law.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting four working group meetings to review procedures related to the veterinary control of import and export regulation.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	27-Jan-15	27-Jan-15	ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting a seminar regarding the regulation of animal health for the directorate's technical staff.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR worked closely with ANSA to design a certification mark for export products and internally manufactured products that meet standards and requirements.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	7-Jan-15	7-Jan-15	ATAR conducted a workshop on ISO 17025, which details the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR held consultative meetings with MOCI's Director General regarding the sustainability of MOCI's TPAU and to discuss continuing capacity building and the education of current personnel.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	26-Jan-15	27-Jan-15	ATAR held two trainings at the CSO.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR collected preliminary annual import, export, and revenue data for 2014 from ACD. Preliminary analysis showed that imports to Afghanistan in 2014 increased by 2 percent to 3 percent, but revenue collected by ACD decreased by 8.3 percent.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR completed translation in Dari and Pashto of the "Annual Review on Trade Policy" that was prepared by MOCI's TPAU with ATAR support. ATAR is training the TPAU to clean and finalize ACD data for preparation of MOCI's next annual trade review.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR facilitates the development and implementation of regional trade agreements.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR assisted the Afghan government to support measures needed to implement regional trade agreement.
Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan	1-Jan-15	2-Jan-15	In Pakistan. ATAR helped prepare an Afghan delegation for the fifth meeting of the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority APTTCA in Islamabad. Acting Minister of Commerce and Industries Mozammil Shinwari headed the delegation.
Dubai	Dubai	Dubai	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR supported EPAA in developed its annual work plan, and EPAA submitted the work plan to MOCI for approval.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR developed a carpet catalogue for this exhibition and assisted EPAA in inserting an advertisement in Hali, an international carpet magazine, to coincide with the show.
India	India	India	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR assisted the Afghan companies and organizations in participating in Stone Mart, which is the largest international exposition on the stone industry.
India	India	India	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	ATAR organized a factory visit for eight Afghan marble traders who saw marble cutting and polishing techniques used in India.

Kyrgyz	Kyrgyz	Kyrgyz	25-Jan-15	26-Jan-15	In Kyrgyz Republic, ATAR participated in a two-day CAREC Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) workshop.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	In Tajikistan. ATAR facilitated the deployment of the Tajik delegation to the PATTTA tri-lateral meetings in Islamabad. Following the delegation's return.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	In Tajikistan. ATAR provided a Russian version of a training course on conducting qualitative import risk analyses to the Tajik State Veterinary Inspection Service.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	1-Jan-15	31-Jan-15	In Tajikistan. ATAR completed the translation of the assessment of the Turkmen customs code with WTO agreements and the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention and shared the Russian version with USAID/Ashgabat.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	10-Jan-15	10-Jan-15	ATAR delivered a train-the-trainers course in gender awareness to seven ANCA trainers.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	17-Jan-15	17-Jan-15	ATAR conducted gender awareness for 21 male participants at Afghanistan National Customs Academy.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	21-Jan-15	21-Jan-15	ATAR held a training for MOTCA on letters of guarantee.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	15-Feb-15	In support of implementation of the trademark law, ATAR delivered, in partnership with MOCI's ACBR-IP, two trademark trainings to the private sector and two trademark trainings to the legal community.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	8-Feb-15	8-Feb-15	ATAR and ACBR-IP held a one-day training titled "Awareness Training Seminar on Trademarks for the Private Sector."
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	9-Feb-15	9-Feb-15	ATAR and ACBR-IP held a one-day training called "Procedure for Trademarks Registration" for the private sector.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	10-Feb-15	10-Feb-15	ATAR and ACBR-IP held a one-day training called "Trademarks for the Legal Community" to the legal community.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	22-Feb-15	22-Feb-15	ATAR delivered a one-day training called "Trademarks for Justices" to six judges, including one woman, and one public prosecutor in Kabul.

Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	In February, ATAR began translation of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Madrid Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	15-Feb-15	In the first half of February, ATAR worked with Kabul University to finalize a curriculum for a course called “Afghanistan’s Agriculture Import/Export Markets and Plant Health Standards.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	ATAR supported MOPH in conducting three working group meetings in February to review the procedure on food category systems to support the draft food safety law. Participants included representatives of MOPH, MOCI, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), EPAA, ANSA, the private sector, and Kabul University.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	During February, ATAR assisted MAIL’s Animal Health Directorate in conducting five working group meetings in support of the law on animal health and veterinary public health.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	22-Feb-15	22-Feb-15	ATAR facilitated two roundtable discussions in support of the law on animal health and veterinary public health.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	23-Feb-15	23-Feb-15	ATAR supported a roundtable for managers of MAIL’s Animal Health Directorate and livestock managers on the draft model animal health regulation
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	ATAR assisted ANSA in developing documentation needed to operate its food testing laboratory, including drafting standard operating procedures (SOPs) based on international standards for specific product tests as well as the procedures for a quality manual in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	18-Feb-15	18-Feb-15	ATAR conducted training on Feb. 18 called “Best Practices of Laboratory Skills and Operations” for 11 technical staff from ANSA’s food laboratory, MOPH food laboratory, and MAIL’s veterinary laboratory.

Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	2-Feb-15	3-Feb-15	ATAR held four trainings at the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) in partnership with three staff members from TPAU. These trainings focused on the application of software in statistics and analysis to help eliminate discrepancies in the reporting of data by ACD, MAIL, EPAA, and CSO.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	9-Feb-15	10-Feb-15	ATAR held four trainings at the CSO focused on the application of software in statistics and analysis to help eliminate discrepancies in the reporting of data by ACD, MAIL, EPAA, and CSO.
Dubai	Dubai	Dubai	8-Feb-15	12-Feb-15	In Dubai, ATAR organized the Afghan pavilion at Gulfood 2015 held from Feb. 8-12 in Dubai. The 16 Afghan participants reported more than \$2.3 million in confirmed deals and \$5.9 million in potential deals.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	15-Feb-15	ATAR began working with EPAA to organize a seminar called “Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia – Opportunities and Challenges” in Kabul.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	15-Feb-15	ATAR began working with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), its Central Asian offices, and the Indian Embassy to organize an investment conference in Kabul in September 2015.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	ATAR developed the concept of an export fund for EPAA that would provide financial and non-financial benefits to build the capacity of Afghan exporters and help increase Afghanistan’s exports.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	18-Feb-15	18-Feb-15	ATAR conducted a roundtable on the fund for representatives from MOCI and EPAA. Based on the recommendation of the participants, ATAR also worked with EPAA to promote the idea and presented the concept to Harakat, an Afghan organization that works to improve Afghanistan’s business environment.
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	8-Feb-15	10-Feb-15	In Almaty, Kazakhstan, ATAR participated in a wheat flour vitamin fortification working meeting in Almaty Kazakhstan, on Feb. 8- 10 with the USAID Mission for Central Asia and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	15-Feb-15	In the latter half of February, ARA worked with the Afghan Marble Association (AMA) to discuss a recently imposed ban on the export of marble blocks and its effect on Afghanistan's marble industry.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	10-Mar-15	14-Mar-15	ATAR worked with EPAA to prepare for the participation of 11 Afghan agribusinesses in the Aahar International Food and Hospitality Show in New Delhi, India.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	ATAR assisted EPAA in identifying Afghan exhibitors who could benefit from participation in the show.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	ATAR conducted two training sessions for participants and designed the pavilion and created marketing materials.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	ATAR developed product-specific export promotion strategies for Afghan products for India. This strategy paper contains an analysis of six products and includes product description, global market overview, market, and proposed branding strategies for each of the products.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	ATAR and MOCI participated in a PATTTA roundtable in February at MOCI. Participants reviewed APTTA and develop proposed alternatives and official negotiating positions for Afghanistan for the upcoming PATTTA negotiations.
Kyrgyz	Kyrgyz	Kyrgyz	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	In Kyrgyz, ATAR prepared a draft agenda for a roundtable discussion of implementation of the WTO's TFA and discussed it with the Ministry of Economy. ATAR also made recommendations on participants for a TFA roundtable to be held in the second half of March
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	In Tajikistan, ATAR drafted an agreement on mutual exchange of risk management information in customs matters and proposed the agreement for the trilateral adoption of ACD, the Tajikistan State Customs Service, and the Kyrgyzstan Customs Service.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	In Tajikistan, ATAR delivered two awareness sessions in Tajikistan for the public and private sector to discuss the proposed PATTA.

Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	25-Feb-15	25-Feb-15	In Tajikistan, ATAR delivered an awareness session in MEDT hosted by Association of International Transport Operators of Tajikistan (ABBAT) for 15 participants and delivered an awareness session
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	26-Feb-15	26-Feb-15	ATAR conducted a PATTA awareness session.
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	In Turkmenistan, ATAR completed the translation of the assessment of the Turkmen customs code with WTO agreements and WCO Revised Kyoto Convention and shared the Russian version with USAID/Ashgabat.
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	In Uzbekistan, ATAR prepared an outline for one week of training on customs risk management and authorized economic operators to be delivered to Uzbek customs. The outline was shared with USAID/Tashkent for further transmission through a diplomatic note to Uzbek authorities.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	28-Feb-15	In consultation with ACD, ATAR finalized the draft policy and procedure manual for the implementation and operation of an IAU in ACD.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	1-Feb-15	15-Feb-15	In the first half of February, ATAR delivered two trainings to ANCA trainers on how to develop presentation templates and themes. This included the creation and use of appropriate visual aids, such as graphs and charts within PowerPoint.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	3-Mar-15	3-Mar-15	ATAR and EPAA organized a trade finance roundtable in Kabul to increase traders' access to financial mechanisms that can help them grow their businesses and increase exports.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	11-Mar-15	11-Mar-15	ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting a working group to review a procedure in support of the animal health law
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	15-Mar-15	15-Mar-15	ATAR held a one-day training covering basic laboratory skills and laboratory safety for more than 32 laboratory technicians and supervisors from ANSA, MOPH, and MAIL.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	2-Mar-15	2-Mar-15	ATAR held a training seminar on geographical indications and registrar rules for MOCI staff.

Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	10-Mar-15	10-Mar-15	ATAR conducted working group on the regulation on food category systems used with food additives.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Tajikistan	13-Mar-15	13-Mar-15	In Tajikistan, ATAR delivered an awareness session in Tajikistan for the public and private sector to discuss the proposed PATTTA. The session, supported by Tajikistan's MEDT, was delivered to private-sector members of the Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	16-Mar-15	16-Mar-15	ATAR conducted a study tour of Omaid Bahar Fruit Processing Ltd., which is ISO 9001, ISO 22000 and HACCP-certified.
India	India	New Delhi	10-Mar-15	14-Mar-15	ATAR supported Afghanistan's participation in the Aahar International Food and Hospitality Fair.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	16-Mar-15	16-Mar-15	ATAR conducted a plant protection and quarantine working group meeting.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	17-Mar-15	17-Mar-15	ATAR held a food regulation working group on food category system used with food additives.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	18-Mar-15	18-Mar-15	ATAR conducted a working group on animal health regulations.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	23-Mar-15	23-Mar-15	ATAR held a plant protection and quarantine working group meeting.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	25-Mar-15	25-Mar-15	ATAR held one-day awareness training seminar on geographical indications for the private sector.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	25-Mar-15	25-Mar-15	ATAR held a working group on animal health regulations.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	25-Mar-15	25-Mar-15	ATAR conducted training on laboratory internal audit checklists.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	26-Mar-15	26-Mar-15	ATAR held an awareness training on geographical indications for private sector.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	29-Mar-15	29-Mar-15	ATAR conducted training workshop on study tour on "Central Veterinary and Animal Public Health Lab."
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	31-Mar-15	31-Mar-15	ATAR held food regulation working group on food category system used with food additives.
Kabul	Kabul	Kabul	10-Mar-15	10-Mar-15	ATAR and MOCI's Regional Trade Department held a working group meeting to reduce and finalize the sensitive list that will be provided to SAARC.

