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**SERVICES UNDER PROGRAM AND PROJECT OFFICE  
FOR RESULTS TRACKING PHASE II (SUPPORT-II)  
PROGRAM**

**SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT, OPTION YEAR 3**

**Contract No. AID-306-C-12-00012**



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## **I. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Services under Program and Project Office for Results Tracking Phase II (SUPPORT-II) project is implemented by Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. under the terms of USAID Contract No. AID-306-C-12-00012.

SUPPORT-II provides a host of services through USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Program and Project Development (OPPD) to improve the efficiency of activities, programs, and projects implemented by the Mission's Technical Offices. This second Quarterly Activity Report (QAR) under Option Year 3 (OY-3) covers the period October 1 – December 31, 2015. SUPPORT-II services to OPPD include the following:

- Assessments, performance evaluations, and gender analyses;
- Logistical support for hosting conferences, meetings, and workshops;
- Management information and reporting;
- Mapping services and products;
- Performance Management Plan (PMP) and related activities;
- Independent monitoring; and
- Translation and interpretation services.

SUPPORT-II subcontractors include Danish Translation Services, Social Impact Inc., Social Development and Legal Rights, Synergy International Systems, Inc., Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd., and Edinburgh International RMC.

## **II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **2.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

SUPPORT-II successfully accomplished the following activities for USAID Afghanistan's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and monitoring and verification (M&V) goals and objectives:

- Monitored 35 Afghanistan Civic Education Program (ACEP) events for the Office of Democratic Governance (ODG).
- Verified 21 beneficiaries and activities of the Afghanistan Workforce Development Program for the Office of Economic Governance Initiatives (OEGI).
- Visited eight warehouses storing textbooks for the Ministry of Education (MoE), for the Office of Social Sector Development (OSSD).
- Verified 36 events and beneficiaries of the Regional Agriculture Development Program-West for the Office of Agriculture (OAG).
- Continued working on the meta-evaluation of 35 final evaluations of previous USAID projects implemented in Afghanistan for OPPD.
- Completed the data quality assessment (DQA) of seven indicators for OAG's Change Management and Capacity Building Program II.
- Completed the Mission-level DQA, which this year consisted of 141 indicators, for OPPD.
- Completed an assessment for OAG on the sustainability of agribusinesses supported by USAID/Afghanistan.
- Began the DQA of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) for OSSD's Office of Education.
- Began an assessment of the technical capacity of the MoE to design, print, and distribute a large procurement of textbooks for grades 1-12.
- Hosted 12 short-term technical advisors (STTAs) for the abovementioned evaluations and assessments.
- Provided space and logistical support to train 88 enumerators for the EMIS assessment.
- Provided logistical support for Ministry of Economy (MoEc) provincial staff to conduct 26 site visits to on-budget projects.
- Translated 18 documents amounting to 186 pages between the English, Dari, and Pashto languages for STTAs and office use.
- Developed 22 maps for STTAs and office use.
- Filmed 50 beneficiary profiles for the Development Outreach and Communications (DOC) office.

### **2.2 CONSTRAINTS AND CRITICAL ISSUES**

After multiple security incidents in Kabul and country-wide, SUPPORT-II continues to face challenges recruiting expat consultants willing to work in Afghanistan and in conducting field monitoring and verification activities. As various insurgent offensives are reported in the media, SUPPORT-II anticipates continued recruitment and operational challenges.

Compliance with the Afghan government’s request that the salaries of USAID implementing partners’ Afghan staff be at parity with government wages is anticipated to create numerous contractual issues and result in a possible loss of qualified local staff. Reportedly, USAID has agreed to these reductions while other major donors, including DfID and the World Bank, oppose such a policy.

### III. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

#### 3.1 Summary Status of Tasks and Deliverables

A summary page is included in all Quarterly Activity Reports to allow the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and USAID/Afghanistan to track performance and progress against specific tasks and deliverables. The table below will be revised once we receive directions from the COR on specific tasks and deliverables.

<i>TASK</i>	<i>TASK &amp; DELIVERABLE</i>	<i>STATUS OF DELIVERABLE</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>PMP and related activities</b>	DQA work began in November and the team conducted its exit briefing on December 22. Final report will be delivered early Quarter 3. Other activities as determined by the COR.
<b>2</b>	<b>Track results and collect data quarterly</b>	To be determined by COR
<b>3</b>	<b>Analyze Mission’s procedures for generating information for periodic report.</b>	To be determined by COR
<b>4</b>	<b>Third Party Monitoring</b>	As requested by COR. Extension phase underway until Dec 31, 2015.
<b>5</b>	<b>Recommend when program evaluations should be conducted based on third party monitoring</b>	As requested by the COR.
<b>6</b>	<b>Evaluation of Activities, Programs and Projects</b> <b>Deliverable 6.</b> On an annual basis perform at least 15 interim or final evaluations of Mission funded program.	As requested by the COR.
<b>7</b>	<b>STTA to review Mission’s Assistance Objectives</b>	As requested by the COR.
<b>8</b>	<b>Track Mission’s contributions to ANDS</b>	As requested by the COR.
<b>9</b>	<b>Conduct Field Based Assessments</b>	To be determined by COR.
<b>10</b>	<b>Logistical support for conferences</b>	As requested by the COR.
<b>11</b>	<b>Communication &amp; Outreach Support</b>	As requested by the COR.

12	Translation and Interpretation Services	As requested by the COR.
13	Mapping & Information needs	As requested by the COR.

### 3.2 Key Activities Accomplished

The reporting format for our QAR reflects the tasks identified in our Annual Work Plan and the Contract document. All Tasks and Deliverables are tailored to the needs of USAID/Afghanistan and are intended to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Mission’s programs, as well as to improve the Mission’s information and reporting mechanisms, products, and systems.

#### TASK 1 PERFORMANCE MONITORING SUPPORT

The Contractor shall collaborate with OPPD and the Mission’s technical offices to establish a Performance Management Plan (PMP) for the Mission, and revise PMPs at the Assistance Objective and program area levels to respond and adhere to new standard indicators and other relevant guidance for Afghanistan, with final approval by the Mission.

**Deliverable 1:** Revised USAID/Afghanistan PMP 2011-2015 and annual updates for the remaining years of the contract.

**Deliverable 2:** Updates to the Mission’s PMP through the semi-annual portfolio review process to reflect changes in strategy, targets and/or activities. This deliverable is due semi-annually.

**Deliverable 3:** Semi-annual PMP Data Quality Assessment (DQA) Report. This deliverable is due 30 days after each semi-annual portfolio review.

**Deliverable 4:** A report recommending streamlined processes and procedures for generating data and/or information reports that require multiple formats as required by USAID/Washington, the State Department, GIRoA, and other USG agencies as applicable.

**Status:** SUPPORT-II began the annual Mission-level DQA in mid-November. This was the largest DQA undertaken by the Mission, with 141 indicators reported by 45 implementing partners (IPs) in Afghanistan. Due to the large number of indicators, SUPPORT-II hired three STTAs, and its long-term staff began visiting IPs before the STTAs arrived in the country. There were a few problems regarding IPs not yet collecting data on the selected indicators and failing to respond to SUPPORT-II’s requests for information. The exit briefing for the DQA was held on December 22, and a draft final report was submitted on the same date. The report is pending approval by USAID.

#### TASK 2 PROGRAM RESULTS DATA

The Contractor shall collaborate with relevant USAID/Afghanistan staff to track program results against indicators, targets, and baselines in the PMP. The Contractor shall collect data on a quarterly basis from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA), other donors, and public data sources, and shall identify data that needs to be collected and reported by USAID implementing partners (contractors, grantees, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), GIRoA) to establish baselines for all indicators. The

Contractor shall provide guidance to USAID implementing partners on data specifications, and shall provide them with training as needed to ensure that PMP-related data is being captured and reported. The Contractor shall collect, collate, and analyze data presented by USAID implementing partners in their periodic reports and updates.

**Deliverable 1:** This activity is related to Task 1 and will be determined and requested by the COR.

**Status:** There was no activity during this reporting period.

### **TASK 3 INFORMATION REPORTING**

The Contractor shall analyze the Mission's procedures for generating information for periodic reports and data calls, including but not limited to the PPR, OP, Mission Strategic Plan (MSP), and the various formats required for each report. The Contractor shall prepare recommendations on how to streamline management and reporting of the data/information, and use of program information systems to improve efficiency and reduce the amount of time spent on preparing related reports and responding to data calls.

**Deliverable:** Recommendations on how to streamline the management and reporting of data and information and use of program information systems to improve efficiency and reduce the amount of time spent on preparing related reports and responding to data calls. This activity is related to Task 1 and will be determined and requested by the COR.

**Status:** There was no activity during this reporting period.

### **TASK 4 MONITORING**

The Contractor shall provide short- and long-term technical assistance for the purpose of conducting field-based project monitoring. The Contractor shall provide monitoring teams with the necessary skills and experience for USAID/Afghanistan COR concurrence; provide logistical support and quality control to visit project sites in the field and monitor project performance and project activities; facilitate presentations to the Mission, GIRoA, and other donors and partners on the findings, and solicit feedback on recommendations; and finalize monitoring report in coordination with OPPD and the relevant technical office.

**Deliverable:** Field-based monitoring of programs as identified and requested by the COR.

**Status:** During this quarter, SUPPORT-II's Short-Term Objective Monitoring (STOM) team verified 100 activities and beneficiaries of the four projects identified below:

1. A total of 35 civic education events and trainings sponsored by the Afghanistan Civil Education Program (ACEP) in Regional Platforms (RP)-East, West, and North. These included 14 events in October and 21 in November.
2. Twenty-one events organized by the Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP) in RP-East, West, and the North.
3. Eight warehouses belonging to the Ministry of Education (MoE) visited for the Emergency Textbook Printing assignment.
4. Thirty-six beneficiaries and activities of the Regional Agricultural Development Program-West (RADP-W). This included interviewing two lead and 21

neighboring farmers, visiting ten veterinary field units, and attending three plot demonstrations/ farm techniques trainings.

In support of the above Monitoring & Verification (M&V) activities, STOM's female monitors attended an all-female ACEP event in Nangarhar province verified RADP-W activities for women, and interviewed female farmers.

During the reporting period, STOM revised a monitoring report for OSSD of schools visited as part of the monitoring of the Basic Education, Literacy, and Technical-Vocational Training (BELT) program. The report was based on data collected from 229 schools in RP-West regarding the MoE's distribution of textbooks in autumn 2014 and spring 2015.

STOM was scheduled to end December 31, after OPPD had extended the project multiple times. However, another extension was granted on December 9 for third-party monitoring activities to continue until April 30, 2016. Then on December 20, USAID provided written notice that third-party monitoring activities will continue until May 31, 2016. STOM will continue verifying ACEP activities through April. Monitoring of AWDP has ended, but STOM may verify more activities and beneficiaries for RADP-West. STOM awaits a scope of work to monitor RADP-North.

#### **TASK 5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Contractor shall coordinate with OPPD and relevant technical offices to recommend when program evaluations should be conducted based on third-party monitoring. The Contractor shall identify the following situations, which could also trigger the need for an evaluation:

- Performance information indicates an unexpected result (positive or negative) that should be explained (such as gender-differentiated results);
- Informed feedback from customers, partners or others suggests that there are implementation problems, unmet needs, or unintended consequences or impacts;
- Issues of sustainability, cost-effectiveness, or relevance have been cited in the portfolio review or PMP monitoring process; or
- The validity of Results Framework hypotheses or critical assumptions are questioned, due to unanticipated changes in the host country environment.

***Deliverable:*** Recommendations for conducting evaluations based on third-party monitoring findings and conclusions, including the above criteria.

***Status:*** On December 16, 2015 SUPPORT-II presented the following recommendations for consideration by USAID:

1. Organize a training workshop for IPs and on-budget Ministry representatives on the DQA process, with suggestions for strengthening monitoring procedures. This can be performed by SUPPORT-II staff and scheduled for early 2016 at the SUPPORT-II compound and at various ministries.
2. With the Mission's new PMP, assist USAID in following up with CORs whose programs have incomplete PMPs and/or indicator definitions that are substantially

different from USAID's reporting indicators. This can be performed by SUPPORT-II staff and scheduled for early 2016.

3. Provide training sessions for staff of USAID technical offices on drafting evaluation SOWs, to be followed up with advising on specific drafting efforts upon request. This can be performed by SUPPORT-II staff and scheduled for early 2016.

## **TASK 6 EVALUATIONS OF MISSION FUNDED PROGRAMS**

On an annual basis, the Contractor shall perform at least 15 interim or final evaluations of Mission-funded programs, projects and/or activities, analyzing progress made, lessons learned, issues and challenges encountered during implementation, and relevance to USAID/Afghanistan's Assistance Objectives.

**Deliverable:** At least 15 interim or final performance evaluations, including assessments and gender analyses of Mission funded programs.

**Status:** During this reporting period, work on the following four evaluations began or were completed:

1. A meta-evaluation of the final evaluations of 35 USAID projects implemented in Afghanistan began in late summer. The meta-evaluation assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of USAID's Afghanistan portfolio. A draft report of findings will be submitted in the next quarter.
2. A DQA of the Change Management and Capacity Building Program II began in early autumn and a report of its findings was submitted October 20. The report assessed seven program indicators.
3. The Mission-level DQA began in mid-November and a report of its findings was submitted December 22. This year, a team of three STTAs and local consultants assessed 141 indicators reported by 45 implementing partners.
4. A DQA of the MoE's Education Information Management System (EMIS) began in late November. The DQA involves surveying approximately 750 schools throughout the country and assessing the quality of data for six indicators. A report of its findings will be submitted in the next quarter.

The following reports were revised, approved, and uploaded to the Development Experience Clearinghouse during the quarter:

1. The final evaluation of the Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan program on October 5.
2. The BELT report monitoring the distribution of MoE textbooks on November 3, as discussed in Task 4 above.
3. The final evaluation of the Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives-North, East, and West program on November 22
4. The midterm evaluation of the Multi-Input Area Development Global Development Alliance program on November 28
5. The midterm evaluation of the Afghanistan Trade and Revenue project on November 30.

We await further evaluation SOWs to assist the Mission's programmatic decision-making.

#### **TASK 7 ANNUAL REVIEW OF ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES**

The Contractor shall provide short- and long-term technical assistance to conduct and complete annual reviews of each of USAID/Afghanistan's Assistance Objectives, measuring progress of activities against established intermediate results, and analyzing whether the activities under an Assistance Objective are working cohesively to address the Assistance Objective's overall goal. The review shall also include a comprehensive statement of the overall impact of the USAID/Afghanistan-supported program.

**Deliverable:** This task is related to Task 1 and requests for support services and specific deliverables will be identified and requested by the COR.

**Status:** There was no activity during this reporting period.

#### **TASK 8 AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (ANDS) TRACKING TASK**

The SUPPORT-II Contractor shall track USAID's contributions against ANDS benchmarks & timelines, and shall help the Mission to mesh them with USAID's own targets and indicators where it is appropriate to do so.

**Deliverable:** This task is related to Task 1 and requests for support services and specific deliverables will be identified and requested by the COR.

**Status:** There was no activity during this reporting period.

#### **TASK 9 FIELD-BASED ASSESSMENTS**

The Contractor shall conduct field-based assessments, particularly in post-conflict and transitional environments, and draft performance-based SOWs, from which it shall provide short-term technical assistance for accomplishment of the tasks listed above.

**Deliverable:** Draft and obtain approvals for performance based SOWs, recruit and provide STTA to undertaken field based monitoring, and submit report on each activity.

**Status:** During this reporting period, SUPPORT-II completed an assessment for OAG on the sustainability of agribusinesses supported by USAID. The assessment examined the status of 47 agribusinesses that had received support from six USAID/Afghanistan projects. A first draft of the report was submitted December 2.

In mid-December, SUPPORT-II began an assessment of the MoE's technical capacity to design, print, and distribute textbooks for grades 1-12. The assessment will involve a review of the content of textbooks and determine the MoE's ability to implement a large scale, on-budget procurement and printing project of approximately 50 million textbooks. A report of the assessment will be submitted in the next quarter.

#### **TASK 10 LOGISTICAL SUPPORT**

In support of USAID/Afghanistan's training and donor coordination activities, the Contractor shall organize and facilitate workshops, conferences, and meetings for USAID staff and their implementing partners. The Contractor shall also organize presentations on USAID programs for the host country, other donors, and distinguished visitors (VIPs).

When requested, the Contractor shall provide a facilitator. The Contractor's facilities shall be used for donor coordination meetings and the convening of advisory groups responsible for overseeing project implementation.

**Deliverable:** Provide secure conference facilities to the Mission and its Implementing Partners, with a facilitator as required. As requested by the COR, organize presentations as discussed above.

**Status:** The SUPPORT-II conference facilities include one large room, with seating capacity of 40-50 people. SUPPORT-II also provides several smaller meeting rooms. During this reporting period, SUPPORT-II hosted trainings for 88 enumerators for the EMIS project. The trainings were scheduled on December 7-9 and December 13-14.

In October and November, SUPPORT-II provided a driver and vehicle for provincial MoEc staff to conduct M&V site visits, as discussed in Section 4.1.

## **TASK 11 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH SUPPORT**

The Contractor shall maintain website contents publishing and update, as well as writing and editing support on a number of information product tasks.

**Deliverable:** Contract Modification 7 (September 25, 2014) revised the description of this task to include production and dissemination of documentary short films, video and audio productions, and website content or software.

**Status:** SUPPORT-II provides assistance to the Development Outreach and Communications (DOC) office to develop compelling content to help educate the Afghan public on USAID's accomplishments in partnership with the Afghan government. The task order, managed by the SUPPORT-II Task Order Team (TO Team), consists of ten distinct tasks.

The most notable activities during the reporting period include:

- *USAID meetings.* The TO Team met with USAID during the reporting period on October 4 and 15 (conference calls); November 4 and 22; and December 15.
- *Beneficiary profiles.* The TO Team completed a "dry-run" of beneficiary profiles in Kabul and conducted two provincial visits to Bamyan and Mazar-e Sharif for filming. For each of these trips, the TO Team closely coordinated with USAID to identify beneficiaries and took the lead in scheduling and pre-interviewing all participants. By the end of October, the TO Team had completed 13 profiles in Kabul. Throughout the month, the Team edited and presented to USAID nine first-cut videos and obtained feedback to establish a standard structure and format for the videos.

The TO Team traveled to Bamyan November 8 to 24 and returned with raw footage for 18 of 19 confirmed beneficiaries. The TO Team used the remainder of November to finalize editing. In December, the Team presented three Kabul and three Bamyan videos and six photo series to USAID. The Team continued editing of Bamyan videos and photographs throughout December.

The Team traveled to Mazar-e Sharif on December 16, with plans to film 22 beneficiaries. In Kabul, the TO Team hired a second editor to assist with editing the Kabul and Bamyan videos, while the primary editor was in Mazar filming.

The TO Team filmed 53 beneficiaries during the reporting period.

- *Ministry video.* Throughout October, the TO Team worked internally with SUPPORT-II's human resources and senior management to develop and execute a final contract with a design and printing company to record promotional videos for Afghan ministries. The contract was executed formally on November 17. In coordination with the selected video company, the TO Team developed a more detailed treatment, to be presented to USAID, and subsequently to the Ministry of Public Health. On December 2, the TO Team formally submitted to USAID a detailed treatment, which also included a proposed longer-term calendar. On December 14, the TO Team met with USAID to review the treatment, obtain input, and develop a schedule for the remainder of December.
- *Radio profiles.* Throughout the latter half of October, the TO team collected initial information on developing radio profiles. The TO Team updated USAID on its assessment of the radio profiles during the November 4 meeting. It recommended that USAID hire an outside company to manage post-production activities. The TO Team presented an updated assessment to USAID at the November 22 meeting. USAID directed the TO Team to further consider available options.

As part of the further assessment, the TO Team developed an Expression of Interest request to be released to prospective companies, which would provide the TO Team with a more formal set of price quotations, based on a more thorough scope of work (the original assessment was based on informal conversations with companies). The TO Team also released a job description for an audio editor (posted November 25). The TO Team compared the options of hiring a STTA audio editor versus contracting out a company to complete the work. The TO Team presented its recommendations to USAID at the December 15 meeting with USAID.

- *New Home, New Life.* After the Afghanistan Education Production Organization (AEPO) spent most of October conducting a field-based assessment, the TO Team met with AEPO on October 28 to establish basic storyboards for the project. AEPO presented more developed storylines on November 18 and continued to develop these storylines into a detailed script for the remainder of November and into December.
- *Calendars.* The TO Team finalized contracting with its printing company, received a second set of calendar drafts, and submitted its feedback for a final draft in November. The TO Team raised the issue at the November 4 and 22 meeting that it will need to set up a distinct shooting strategy in order to get the requisite photographs. USAID agreed and committed to helping develop a shot list and leads to coordinate with IPs to set up the photography shoots. The TO Team

approved a third mock-up presented by the calendar company. The template will be used for the final product, pending approved photographs and statistics by USAID and the respective ministries.

- *E-newsletter.* The TO Team presented a second mock-up of the e-newsletter at the November 4 meeting. USAID indicated that it was a good template to customize once more concrete content was available. USAID provided further direction for developing an e-newsletter at the December 15 meeting.

## **TASK 12 TRANSLATION SERVICES**

The Contractor shall provide translations of technical and legal documents (into English, Dari, and/or Pashto), and intermittent short-term interpreters available on short notice and able to function in all of these three languages and in the technical areas of the USAID portfolio. They shall accompany Mission staff to official meetings and meetings in the field, have (or easily qualify to obtain) security background checks, and shall be able to accurately discuss development topics in the Mission portfolio in Dari, Pashto, and English.

***Deliverable:*** Translations and/or translators as requested by the COR.

***Status:*** During this reporting period, SUPPORT-II translated 18 documents consisting of 186 pages for STTAs and the STOM team.

## **TASK 13 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

To support the USAID/Afghanistan information management needs, the Contractor shall provide information management services, systems, and other resources that help to effectively manage the demand for information and information products.

***Deliverable:*** Mapping products and other data and/or information as requested by the COR.

***Status:*** Mapping services and mapping products are provided as requested by the Mission and IPs with COR approval. During this reporting period, SUPPORT-II GIS staff developed 22 mapping products for STTAs and the STOM team, and for internal office use.

# **IV. COLLABORATION WITH GIROA AND OTHER PROJECTS**

## **4.1 LINKS WITH GIROA**

As previously mentioned, SUPPORT-II is not a traditional USAID development project. SUPPORT-II's links with GIROA officials are typically limited to contacts made in the course of conducting assessments, evaluations, and gender analyses. However, in this quarter, SUPPORT-II continued USAID's *Tier 3* monitoring and verification capacity building training partnership with the MoEc.

In the previous quarter, SUPPORT-II provided training to staff from six Provincial Departments of Economy (PDE) on the fundamentals and purpose of M&V, developing and using survey tools, and reporting procedures and formats. In this quarter, SUPPORT-II provided logistical support for the PDE staff to conduct site visits for M&V purposes.

In addition, SUPPORT-II's M&E specialists accompanied the staff to provide consulting and expertise.

In October and November, PDE staff from Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Bamyan, and Panjshir conducted 26 site visits to on-budget projects. These consisted of 14 health clinics supported by the System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) and Partnership Contracts for Health (PCH) projects, and 12 schools supported by the BELT project. The Maidan Wardak PDE staff, who were also trained in the previous quarter, did not conduct any sites visits because of insecurity in the province.

SUPPORT-II reviewed 14 of the site visit reports compiled by PDE staff and submitted them to USAID. The remaining 12 reports are being prepared by PDE staff for submission.

No site visits were conducted in December, and the activity was closed out December 31.

#### **4.2 LINKS WITH OTHER DONORS**

SUPPORT-II staff collaborates with DfID (UKAID), World Bank, and UN staff on evolving monitoring and evaluation activities and data acquisition, as appropriate. For example, during this quarter, SUPPORT-II staff members corresponded with GIZ's capacity building team at the MoEc to identify possible synergies for training MoEc staff for M&V activities.

#### **4.3 LINKS WITH OTHER USAID PROJECTS**

The SUPPORT-II Technical Director has corresponded and/or met with staff associated with OPPD's MSP RP-East, MSP-RP-West/South and MSP-North projects and ODG's ALBA and ISLA projects to discuss DQA related issues. In addition, SUPPORT-II establishes appropriate links with all stakeholders, including other USAID projects, during the course of conducting assessments, evaluations, and gender analyses.

### **V. MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION ISSUES**

#### **5.1 ADMINISTRATION**

M&E Team Leader Hoppy Mazier's work permit was extended.

#### **5.2 PERSONNEL**

- Ahmad Sohail Elyassi joined SUPPORT-II as an accountant specialist on November 14.
- Basira Popal was hired as a STOM monitor based in Herat.

A chart showing Level of Effort utilization by labor category is attached to this report.

#### **5.3 SECURITY**

On the evening of December 11, militants reportedly belonging to the Taliban attacked a guesthouse attached to the Spanish Embassy, which is adjacent to SUPPORT-II's compound, with a car bomb. An ensuing stand-off between the militants, who holed up in

the embassy and a neighboring guesthouse, and between Afghan security forces continued into early the next morning. All SUPPORT-II staff and STTAs were moved to a secure location and did not suffer any injuries. SUPPORT-II's compound suffered some damage, including many broken windows.

All LTTA/STTA were accompanied by an Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF)'s mobile security team member while traveling around Kabul city and to adjacent provinces. Checchi continues to use Edinburgh International (EI) to provide Risk Management Consulting services for OY-3. Three RMCs are in-country at a time on a rotating basis. SUPPORT-II continues to rely on APPF guards for external static security and as mobile armed escorts.

#### **5.4 MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

No modifications or amendments were processed during the reporting period.