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ACRONYMS

ACCI	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ACD	Afghan Customs Department
AEO	Authorized Economic Operator
AMBiT	Association of International Business and Technologies
ANCA	Afghanistan National Customs Academy
ANSA	Afghanistan National Standards Authority
APTTA	Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement
APTTCA	Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordinating Authority
ARD	Afghanistan Revenue Department
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project
BCP	Border Crossing Point
CAR	Central Asian Republics
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CATF	Central Asia Trade Forum
CBTA	Cross-Border Transport Agreement
CCC	Customs Consultative Council
CHAMP	Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Program
CSO	Central Statistics Organization
DAB	Da Afghanistan Bank
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 Chamber of Commerce and Industries
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HKIA	Hamid Karzai International Airport
ICD	Inland Clearance Depot
ICU	Internal Compliance Unit
IFC	International Finance Corp.
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ITA	Information Technology Agreement
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MEFERIT	Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industries
MOIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PALAD	Policy Analysis and Legal Advisory Department
PCA	Post Clearance Audit
PPQD	Plant Protection and Quarantine Department
PSU	Professional Standards Unit
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
RADP-W	Regional Agricultural Development Program-West
REC	Regional Economic Cooperation project
RKC	Revised Kyoto Convention
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement

TIR	Transports Internationaux Routiers
TPAU	Trade Policy Analysis Unit
UAE	United Arab Emirates
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, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to strengthen Afghanistan's ties in Central Asia. ATAR also supports the Afghan government and Afghanistan's traders in improving linkages with India and Pakistan.

In order to help Afghanistan fulfill its trading potential, ATAR is assisting the government to integrate Afghanistan into the international trading community through membership to the World Trade Organization (WTO), helping the country take advantage of its position on the famed Silk Road, and revamping its customs procedures to reap the full benefits of regional and international trade. This improved business climate will pave the way for private investment, enhanced trade, job creation, and fiscal sustainability in the country.

ATAR is achieving its goal with its institutional partners through three components:

Component 1: Support Trade Policy Liberalization

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

Component 2: Facilitate Enhanced Access to Regional Markets

Under Component 2, ATAR (1) facilitates the development and implementation of regional trade agreements; (2) assists the government 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, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

Component 3: Improved Customs Administration

Component 3 will enhance the Afghan government's capacity to generate revenue by improving customs procedures to increase transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the collection of revenue, performance of core functions, and facilitation of trade.

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Achievements

The Afghan government moved ahead with the final stage of WTO accession. ATAR completed translation of Afghanistan's WTO accession package into Dari and Pashto, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MOCI) submitted the package to the Cabinet of Ministers. The Cabinet approved Afghanistan's WTO accession package, and the accession package will next be submitted to the Parliament's Lower and Upper Houses for ratification and finally for President Ghani's signature. Afghanistan has until June 2016 to ratify the deal and will become an official WTO member 30 days after notification of the acceptance of the protocol of accession. The Cabinet of Ministers also approved Afghanistan's membership to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, which is an international intellectual property convention. Berne Convention approval is one of the requirements for Afghanistan's WTO membership.

The Afghan government accelerated work on WTO-related legislation. Among the major legal developments, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the draft Law on Food Safety, the draft Law on Copyrights, the draft Amendments to the Regulation on Drafting Procedure and Processing of Legal Acts, and the draft Amendments to the Law on Publication and Enforcement of Legislation. The draft Law on Food Safety, draft Amendments to the Law on Publication and Enforcement of Legislation, and the draft Law on Consumer Protection advanced to Parliament. In an unprecedented development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) agreed to move ahead with the Law on Plant Variety Protection after an ATAR presentation highlighting the law's impact on Afghanistan. Furthermore, MOJ made progress in finalizing the draft Law on Integrated Circuits, the draft Law on Safeguards, and the draft Law on Foreign Trade in Goods.

Constraints

Afghanistan's acceptance of the WTO protocol of accession was initially anticipated to occur at the end of 2016 instead of June 30, 2016. Given the tight timeframe, limited human resources, and increased security concerns, the project expects challenges in providing proper support in a timely fashion. In addition, amendments to the Customs Law are pending at the Cabinet of Ministers due to delays caused by the Afghan Customs Department (ACD) and the Ministry of Finance. ATAR also lost one of its senior lawyers after he received a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and the Component 1 Deputy Manager after he received employment with the U.S. government.

Component 2: Facilitate Enhanced Access to Regional Markets

Key Achievements

ATAR worked closely with the Afghan government to strengthen regional trade relationships and increase Afghanistan's exports with neighboring countries. ATAR assisted an Afghan government delegation in participating in the sixth Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) meeting in Islamabad, and both sides agreed to amend the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) to facilitate trade. In addition, as a result of a partnership between ATAR and two

other USAID projects, Afghan traders inked \$2.38 million in deals for Afghanistan's produce at Gulfod in the United Arab Emirates.

ATAR continued work in Central Asia to improve trade with Afghanistan and build capacity in the countries. In support of efforts of Kyrgyz and Tajik customs brokers associations to reach a bilateral cooperation agreement, ATAR assisted in drafting a memorandum of understanding, gaining approval of the Kyrgyzstan Customs Brokers Associations, and sending the document to the Tajikistan Customs Brokers Association for its approval. In Tajikistan, ATAR completed a regulatory impact analysis necessary for Kyrgyzstan's ratification of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). In Turkmenistan, ATAR drafted an official letter regarding possible technical assistance to be sent to the Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval and conducted research for Afghan traders. Finally, in Uzbekistan, the Uzbek Customs Committee confirmed planned training and agreed ATAR will provide risk management and e-declaration training for up to 25 customs officers in May.

Constraints

The Turkmen and Uzbek governments are only open for very limited activities with very lengthy bureaucratic procedures. Constant changes in Central Asian governments and associated formalities for re-introducing project activities have caused delays in certain activities. There was a delay in the launch of the World Customs Organization Revised Kyoto Convention analysis in Kyrgyzstan as the government was not ready to decide whether or not the EuroAsian Economic Community Customs Union customs law should be included in the analysis.

Component 3: Improved Customs Administration

Key Achievements

With ATAR support, ACD and the Afghanistan Revenue Department (ARD) hosted the first trader and taxpayer awareness seminar at the Afghanistan National Customs Academy. About 60 representatives from the trader and taxpayer community attended. Both ACD and ARD delivered presentations followed by a question-and-answer session.

ACD and DAB, supported by ATAR and USAID, agreed to progress the implementation of E-Pay. Though further discussions are required, the agreement will see all locations with the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) implementing the system to allow traders to pay customs taxes at any commercial bank.

Constraints

Due to multiple vacancies, both international and national, prevented ATAR to progress the work plan in key areas. For the majority of the quarter, Component 3 was without four international advisors and eight national specialists. Furthermore, security concerns regarding ACD prevented ATAR's expatriate staff from embedding. The staff conducted short visits and meetings at ACD where possible and relied as necessary on local ATAR staff who continued to work at ACD with intermittent security restrictions.

C. COMPONENT 1: TRADE POLICY LIBERALIZATION

1. Support the WTO Accession Process

Following the WTO's formal adoption of Afghanistan's terms of accession in December 2015, ATAR supported the Afghan government ahead of its ratification of the accession package. Afghanistan has until June 2016 to ratify the deal and will formally become a WTO member 30 days after it notifies the WTO of ratification.

In January, ATAR translated Afghanistan's WTO accession package into Dari and Pashto and supported MOCI in packaging the translated documents, which include a summary of proceedings, Afghanistan's conditions of entry and protocol of accession, and the schedules of market access commitments on goods and services.

ATAR also supported MOCI in revising documents in the WTO accession package, specifically prioritizing Afghanistan's WTO-related legislative activities for the first half of 2016, making changes to Dari and Pashto translations of the accession documents, and updating tariff schedules. ATAR also supported MOCI in preparing a detailed presentation on WTO accession.

In late January, MOCI submitted the package to the Cabinet of Ministers for review and approval. MOCI provided relevant ministries with a copy of the package for their review. Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries Mozammil Shinwari gave the presentation on WTO accession to the Cabinet of Ministers.



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

The Cabinet approved Afghanistan's WTO accession package.

In February, the Cabinet of Ministers approved Afghanistan's WTO accession package, and Afghanistan's Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish was assigned to oversee legislative actions necessary for WTO compliance. The accession package will next be submitted to the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament for ratification and finally for the signature of President Ghani. ATAR assisted MOCI in formatting and printing 300 copies of the accession package in book format for consideration by the Parliament. The government has requested 100 additional copies.

Afghanistan's Recent WTO Milestones

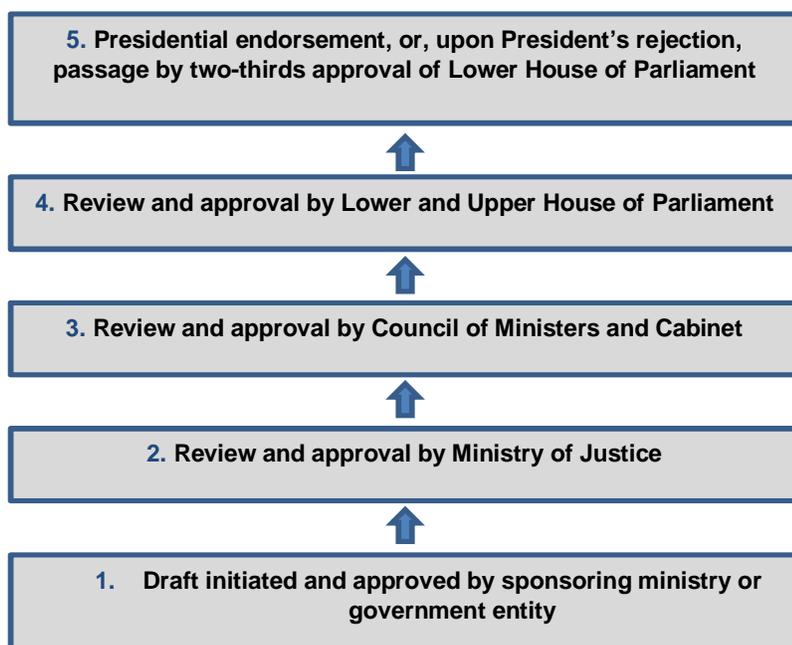
Afghanistan is nearing the end of its long journey toward becoming an official member of the WTO:

- In October 2015, President Ghani gave approval to conclude WTO accession negotiations.
- In November 2015, an Afghan delegation attended its fifth and final Working Party meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. During the meeting, WTO Working Party members approved Afghanistan accession package by consensus, *ad referendum*.
- In December 2015, an Afghan delegation attended the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. At the meeting, the WTO formally adopted Afghanistan's terms of accession.
- In January 2016, Afghanistan's MOCI submitted the accession package to the country's Cabinet of Ministers for approval.
- In February 2016, the Cabinet of Ministers approved Afghanistan's accession package, which will next head to Parliament for ratification.

Throughout the quarter, ATAR arranged and participated in multiple roundtables with different stakeholders including MOJ, the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA), the Ministry of Finance, MAIL, and other ministries to prioritize and further WTO-related legislative actions.

2. Support Legislative Reforms for WTO Conformity

AFGHANISTAN'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



The Afghan government 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.¹

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 continued to assist the Afghan government at every stage of the legislative process from line ministry to Parliament.

The table on the following page 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. Among the highlights of the quarter:

- The Cabinet approved the draft Law on Food Safety, the draft Law on Copyrights, the draft Amendments to the Regulation on Drafting Procedure and Processing of Legal Acts, and the draft Amendments to the Law on Publication and Enforcement of Legislation.
- The draft Law on Food Safety, draft Amendments to the Law on Publication and Enforcement of Legislation, and the draft Law on Consumer Protection advanced to the Parliament.
- The Law on Standards and Technical Regulations and the Amendment to the Patents Law proceeded to MOJ.
- The Law on Protection of Trade and Industry Secret proceeded to the Cabinet.
- ACD adopted the Procedure on Customs Storage Fees.
- MAIL agreed to move ahead with the Law on Plant Variety Protection after an ATAR presentation highlighting the law's impact on Afghanistan. The law will soon proceed from MAIL to MOJ.

¹ 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.

AFGHANISTAN'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR WTO ACCESSION

No.	Legislation	Responsible Government Authority/ ATAR Employee	Status	Stage:	Laws/Regulations Included in MOJ ⁵ Agenda
				1. Sponsoring Ministry ² 2. Ministry of Justice 3. Council of Ministers/Cabinet ³⁴ 4. Parliament 5. President 6. Entry into Force	
1	Amendments to the 2005 Customs Law	Afghanistan Customs Department (ACD) Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	In October 2015, the Council of Ministers held a session under the Second Vice-President. He instructed, based on a decree of President Ghani to review trade-related laws submitted under President Karzai's administration, the law should be reviewed again. Subsequently, ATAR assisted ACD and MOF in preparing changes to the amendments.	Sponsoring Ministry	Yes
2	Procedure on Customs Valuation (including interpretative notes and software and interest charge valuation)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	In January 2016, ACD held a working group to review the procedure in light of staff changes at ACD, including changes in the positions of Director General and other department heads. In February 2016, ACD's Valuation Department held a second working group on the procedure. With ATAR, ACD reviewed almost eight articles and had many recommendations. ATAR began reviewing the recommendations and will provide clarifications on those inconsistent with WTO.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
3	Procedure on Advance Ruling on Binding Decisions (covering advance origin rulings)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	The Ministry of Finance/ACD approved the procedure in July 2015. ATAR updated the English version of the procedure and submitted the document to ACD in September 2015.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
4	Law on Standards and Technical Regulations	Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) Sayed Hashimi Farhat Farhat	Following the WTO Nairobi conference in December 2015, MOCI sent a letter to ANSA to re-send the law to MOJ so MOJ can prioritize it as per the instruction of Chief Executive Officer Abdullah. In late January 2016, ANSA resubmitted the draft to MOJ. In February and March 2016, ATAR supported MOJ's Executive Committee in its review of the law.	Ministry of Justice	Yes ⁶
5	Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine	MAIL Siyar Sahar Luis Flores	In June 2015, the Upper House of Parliament approved the draft law. In July 2015, the law was submitted to the President for signature.	President	Yes
6	Law on Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health	MAIL Sayed Hashimi John Woodford	ATAR continued supporting MOJ's Executive Committee to review the law. MOJ will soon send the law to the Council of Ministers.	Ministry of Justice	Yes

² Procedures remain at the level of sponsoring ministry for adoption by the Minister and do not proceed further.

³ Under the National Unity Government, there is a Council of Ministers and a Cabinet. The Council of Ministers is chaired by Chief Executive Officer Abdullah, and the Cabinet is chaired by President Ghani. Under the prior government, there existed only a Council of Ministers.

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.

⁶ Although not on the agenda, MOJ has agreed to consider the draft Law on Standards and Technical Regulations.

7	Law on Food Safety	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Sayed Hashimi Gary Stefan	In February 2016, the Cabinet approved the law. In March 2016, the law was sent to Parliament. ATAR noticed changes at the level of Cabinet that are questionable under WTO. MOCI was informed and will raise the issues at Parliament.	Cabinet	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 in April 2014.	Entered into force	N/A
9	Amendments to the Law on Supporting the Rights of Inventors and Discoverers of 31 April 2009 (Patents Law)	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	In January 2016, MOCI completed its review of the amendments to the law and sent the amendments to MOJ. In February 2016, MOJ's Legislative Department asked MOCI to provide clarifications on amendments to the law. ATAR assisted MOCI in providing the clarifications. The amendments were submitted to MOJ's Executive Committee. ATAR provided additional clarifications to MOJ's Executive Committee, which completed its review. The amendments to the law are expected to be sent to the Council of Ministers soon.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
10	Amendments to the Law on Trademarks of 1 September 2009	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	In February 2015, the President endorsed the law. In May 2015, the law was published.	Entered into Force	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	ATAR assisted MOJ and MOIC in determining those parts of Afghanistan Development and Peace Research Organization's (ADPRO) proposal consistent with WTO requirements. In January 2016, MOJ included them in the draft and sent the draft to the Cabinet. In February 2016, the Cabinet approved amendments to the law. Meanwhile, President Ghani asked MOJ to highlight ADPRO's insertions in the draft that are consistent with WTO and return it to Cabinet simply for his information. ATAR assisted MOJ in identifying the ADPRO insertions and sent it to the Cabinet. MOJ began translating the draft law into Pashto for submission to Parliament. In March 2016, MOJ finished the Pashto translation and is comparing the Dari and Pashto versions to ensure accuracy. MOJ will soon send the amendments to Parliament.	Cabinet	Yes
12	Law on Geographical Indications	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	The President endorsed the law in August 2015, and it was published in the official gazette in August 2015.	Entered into Force	Yes

13	Law on Industrial Designs	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	In January 2016, a session on the law was held at the Lower House's National Economic Commission. MOCI, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), MOJ and ATAR were invited to provide clarifications and explain the importance of the law.	Parliament (Lower House)	Yes
14	Draft Amendments to the Commercial Code	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	<p>In January 2016, MOJ's Civil Department held its first session on the draft amendments and proposed changes. ATAR reviewed the changes to align them with WTO requirements.</p> <p>On February 2016, the Supreme Court provided recommendations on the draft amendments. ATAR began reviewing the recommendations to ensure consistency with WTO.</p> <p>In March 2016, ATAR worked with MOJ's Civil Department to finalize the draft amendments to ready them for review by MOJ's Executive Committee.</p>	Ministry of Justice	Yes
15	Law on Protection of Trade and Industry Secrets (undisclosed information)	MOCI Siyar Sahar Polly Maier	<p>In January 2016, the Council of Ministers' Legislative Committee discussed the draft law and asked MOJ to simplify the draft. The Council of Ministers introduced two legal professors to MOJ to work on the draft. MOJ invited the professors to review the law, and ATAR assisted in explaining WTO-required provisions. MOJ and the professors changed some of the law's formalities. ATAR reviewed the changes to ensure compliance with WTO.</p> <p>In February 2016, MOJ sent the draft law to the Council of Ministers' Legislative Committee, which approved it with two minor changes.</p> <p>In March 2016, MOJ incorporated the changes and sent the draft law to the Cabinet.</p>	Cabinet	Yes
16	Law on Topography of Integrated Circuits	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	<p>In February 2016, MOJ's legal advisor started a review of the law based on the instruction of the Minister of Justice. ATAR assisted the advisor in the review and delivered a presentation on the law's importance.</p> <p>In March, ATAR continued working with MOJ's Legislative Department to ready it for submission to MOJ's Executive Committee.</p>	Ministry of Justice	No
17	Law on Consumer Protection (provisions on Unfair Competition)	MOCI Sayed Agha Hashimi Polly Maier	In January 2016, the law was sent to Parliament for approval.	Parliament	Yes

18	Law on Plant Variety Protection	MAIL Siyar Sahar William Lesser	<p>In February 2016, ATAR gave a presentation to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to highlight the law's importance. The Deputy Minister accepted the law in principle. The Deputy Minister ordered his team to finalize the draft law as soon as possible as the Cabinet requested the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to finalize the draft and send it to MOJ.</p> <p>ATAR then worked closely with MAIL to progress the law. After meetings with high-level ministerial authorities and technical representatives, the draft was modified to accommodate their concerns. MAIL's concerns related to Afghanistan's capacity to protect plant varieties in the public domain from being registered for private interests. After the technical team revised the draft, the Minister requested a debriefing on the law.</p> <p>In late March, ATAR presented the draft law to the Minister. At the end of the meeting, the Minister requested incorporation of his comments and gave his approval for the submission of the law to MOJ.</p>	Sponsoring Ministry	Yes
19	Amendments to the Law on Publication and Enforcement of Legislation of 1998	MOCI/MOJ Wali Faqirzaad	<p>In January 2016, the amendments were submitted to the Cabinet, which approved them. ATAR assisted MOJ in translating the amendments into Pashto.</p> <p>In March 2016, the Pashto translation was completed, and the amendments on the law were sent to Parliament.</p>	Parliament	Yes
20	Amendments to the Regulation on Drafting Procedure and Processing of Legal Acts	MOCI/MOJ Siyar Sahar	In February 2016, the Cabinet approved the amendments. MOJ began translating the amendments into Pashto.	Cabinet	N/A
21	Law on Foreign Trade in Goods	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	ATAR provided technical support to MOJ's Executive Committee to review the law in line with WTO requirements. Upon completion of the review of MOJ's Executive Committee, the law will be sent to the Council of the Ministers.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
22	Procedure on Import and Export Licensing	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	MOCI finalized the draft, which 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	In February, ACD adopted the procedure.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
24	Regulations of production and importation of medicines and medical equipment of 24 February 2007 (concerning fees)	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Siyar Sahar Farhat Farhat	In October 2015, ATAR met MOPH's Pharmacy Department and explained parts of the regulations inconsistent with WTO. MOPH's Pharmacy Department said it would take those parts into account while preparing changes to the regulation. ATAR followed up on this several times in the past quarter.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A

25	Income Tax Law (concerning unequal treatment of import tax)	MOF Wali Faqirzad Farhat Farhat	ATAR followed up with MOCI several times in the past quarter to request MOF move forward with the law. ATAR intends to meet with the Deputy Minister of Finance to discuss finalizing and sending the law to MOJ.	Sponsoring Ministry	No
26	Law on Safeguards Measures for Domestic Protection	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	MOJ's Executive Committee is at the final stage of completing review of this law with ATAR support.	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 in August 2014. The law is published in the gazette.	Entered into Force	Yes

3. Support Implementation of WTO Laws and Commitments

3.1 Intellectual Property Rights

Membership in Intellectual Property Conventions

In January, the Cabinet of Ministers approved Afghanistan's membership to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. Following the Cabinet's approval of the Berne Convention, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent the Pashto and Dari versions of the convention to Parliament. Following WTO ratification by June 2016, Afghanistan will notify the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which administers the Berne Convention, of its WTO ratification. WIPO will then process Afghanistan's membership to the Berne Convention.

In March, the Minister of Foreign Affairs sent the Pashto and Dari versions of the Singapore Treaty, Paris Convention, and Madrid Protocol to Cabinet for approval. As part of WTO membership, Afghanistan is expected to join all of these intellectual property conventions.

3.2 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Law on Food Safety

During the quarter, ATAR assisted MOPH in holding five working groups to review the draft document on the Food Control Authority, which will help to support implementation of the Law on Food Safety. MOCI, the World Health Organization, and high-level MOPH officials attended the meetings. Following review and approval of the participants, the draft proposal of the Food Control Authority will be submitted to the Administrative Reforms Commission for approval and further submission to the President's Office.

During one of the meetings in January, ATAR was requested by the Deputy Minister of Public Health to conduct research on the current situation of food safety in Afghanistan and identify authorities involved in food safety. As part of the research, ATAR met with the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency, Kabul Municipality, MOCI, MAIL, ACD, and the three general directorates of MOPH. Some challenges that ATAR identified were a lack of an integrated system and institutional framework for official controls of

food safety, a lack of efficient laboratories, and overlapping duties among authorities. The findings are helping guide the working group participants in establishing the Food Control Authority.

In further support of the Law on Food Safety, ATAR conducted two roundtables at MOPH in March with the food regulations working group on proposed regulations on labeling of pre-packaged food and on labeling of food additives offered for sale.

Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine

In February, ATAR assisted MAIL's Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD) in finalizing the draft regulation in support of the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine during multiple working groups.



ATAR supports a working group on food regulations.

The PPQD sent the draft regulation to the MAIL's Plan and Policy Directorate to review and submit to MOJ. In a late February meeting with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, ATAR urged him to accelerate the process. The Deputy Minister asked MAIL's Policy Analysis and Legal Advisory Department (PALAD) to assist in reviewing the draft regulation and send it to MOJ.

In March, ATAR worked with both PALAD and PPQD on the regulation. ATAR incorporated PALAD's comments and reviewed the changes with PPQD during multiple meetings. With ATAR support, PPQD vetted the latest regulation and submitted it to PALAD for its final review. In addition, ATAR assisted the PPQD in introducing further revisions to the 19 draft procedures to adjust to the revised regulation.

New Institutional Structures

The Afghan government approved establishment of the two units at ACD to support the implementation of WTO legislation. In the prior quarter, ATAR provided guidance to ACD in seeking government approval for the two units: 1) an Intellectual Property Border Enforcement Unit, which would help to support implementation of intellectual property laws, and 2) the Advance Rulings Unit, which would help support Afghanistan's Customs Law and the Procedure on Advance Ruling on Binding Decisions.

In March, ATAR assisted MAIL in designing the organizational structure for a national enquiry and notification point that will enable the country to inform WTO members of changes in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, such as those related to food safety and animal and plant health, and to respond to requests for information on such measures. MAIL agreed on the organizational structure and will send it to the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission for final approval.

MAIL's PPQD and Animal Health Directorate and MOPH's Medicine and Food Control Directorate will support the enquiry and notification of all SPS measures. In order to support coordination between the two ministries, ATAR assisted in drafting a memorandum of understanding between them and has submitted the document to both ministries for comment. Upon ATAR's request, MAIL introduced to MOCI two employees who will act as WTO coordination unit staff until the organizational structure is approved and appropriate staff is hired.

4. Build ANSA Capacity

ATAR began looking into a request from ANSA to provide technical and logistics support for a meeting of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization that had been anticipated to occur in Kabul in April 2016.

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

In February, ATAR supported MOCI in developing an updated version of the legislative action plan in Dari and English to present to the Cabinet of Ministers for each relevant ministry and state body to undertake priority reforms prior to the government's ratification of the WTO accession package by June 2016.

ATAR also launched support to assist MOCI and other relevant ministries to prepare WTO notifications due on the date of accession to the WTO. The primary instrument for ensuring transparency in the multilateral trading system is through the filing of notifications made by each WTO member and reviewed by the relevant bodies of the WTO. Governments are required to notify other members, through the WTO Secretariat, of proposed measures that may have a significant effect on other members' trade and that are not based on relevant international standards.

6. Assist in Building Analytical Capacity

ATAR supported MOCI's Trade Policy Analysis Unit (TPAU) in preparation of Afghanistan's tariff schedule based on WTO commitments and the 2015 tariff schedule of Afghanistan. TPAU translated the subsequent changes made in the tariff schedule into Dari to be presented to the President as part of the WTO package. ATAR assisted TPAU in identifying about 580 tariff lines with rates that are above committed WTO bound rates. MOCI will propose these tariff rates be reduced in the next tariff schedule.

ATAR assisted MOCI with preparation of three lists to be discussed for preparation of the 2016 tariff schedule: 1) a list of tariff lines with current tariff rates higher than the WTO bound rate; 2) a list of tariff lines that need be added based on the WTO's negotiated schedule; and 3) a list of tariff lines that exist in Afghanistan's schedule but not in the WTO schedule. The Afghan government postponed publication of the tariff schedule for 2016 from March to June to incorporate changes resulting from WTO accession.

ATAR assisted the TPAU to estimate the impact of the introduction of these changes through the application of economic models. It was estimated the trade of these items will increase more than 5 percent and revenue collection from customs duties will slightly decrease. However, this decrease will be offset by revenue collection from other taxes, meaning total revenue will remain at the same level. Over

the long term, prices on inputs and services will decrease. This will make domestic producers more competitive, and consumer will benefit from lower prices and an increased supply of goods.

ATAR also supported the TPAU in estimating the possible impact on revenue due to implementation of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and elimination of import duties on ITA items. It was estimated the total loss of revenue would be about \$20 million to \$25 million (2.5% of total revenue collected by ACD), that imports of these items will increase by about 5% (due to the price decrease), and that collection of revenue will be partially compensated by an increase in collection of business receipts tax and import tax as well as income tax from the development of the Afghan economy. The ITA provides for country participants to completely eliminate duties on information technology products covered by the agreement.

In addition, ATAR assisted the TPAU in estimating the possible impact on exports due to implementation of WTO requirements and the elimination of trade barriers. The TPAU ran scenarios from a partially developed general equilibrium model applied on products from the agricultural and industrial sectors. ATAR assisted TPAU in the collection of information on tariffs, prices, exports, trade barriers, production, and demand for agricultural and industrial products, such as fruit and nuts, vegetables, seeds, cereals, saffron, cotton, wool, carpets, leather, minerals, and precious stones. With the model, it was estimated that Afghan exports could double from about 30 million Afghanis currently to more than 60 million Afghanis a year by 2021.

Throughout the quarter, ATAR supported MOCI in fulfilling numerous requests to provide data and analysis on transit, transport, regional trade, and total trade. ATAR continued working with the TPAU on preparing its annual trade policy review and assisting in the development of a general equilibrium model.

7. Assist in Building WTO Awareness

ATAR prepared public outreach materials to inform the general public of Afghanistan's WTO accession.

ATAR designed a billboard that will likely be placed near the traffic circle by Hamid Karzai International Airport and near the location of MOCI around the anticipated date of Afghanistan's ratification of WTO accession.



A billboard design informs the public of Afghanistan's WTO accession.

ATAR also prepared a two-and-half minute video in English, Dari and Pashto that incorporates WTO footage taken during Afghanistan's final Working Party meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, and the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The video can be shown on USAID and MOCI social media and websites. ATAR also created a 30-second television spot in Dari and Pashto for possible airing on national television. While USAID has approved the two-and-half minute video in English, MOCI requested changes in music in the Dari and Pashto versions of that video and the 30-second spot.



8. Assist in Implementation of Competition Policy

ATAR will begin this activity later in Year 3.

D. COMPONENT 2: FACILITATE ENHANCED ACCESS TO REGIONAL MARKETS

1. Afghanistan

Support Regional Trade Objectives

In January, ATAR assisted MOCI in preparing for the sixth Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan. ATAR compiled issues and updated action points and assisted MOCI in drafting a letter which emphasized that Afghan transit cargo should get national treatment, as was agreed in the last APTTCA meeting. The letter further emphasized that no more than 5 percent of containers that transit through Pakistan into Afghanistan should be inspected at the Karachi port. ATAR also assisted MOCI in preparing draft amendments to the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) to take into consideration WTO and the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) Convention, which Pakistan recently joined.

On Feb. 14-15, ATAR assisted an Afghan government delegation, led by Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries Shinwari, in participating in the APTTCA meeting. During the meeting, Pakistani and Afghan officials agreed, in accordance with Article 50 of APTTA, the agreement will be amended to further facilitate transit trade. In addition, the Pakistani side promised to provide Afghanistan access to Wagah, which lies on the border with Pakistan and India. Pakistan, in turn, will have access to Tajikistan through Afghanistan. Both sides agreed to organize a pilot run of Afghan trucks from Torkham and Chaman up to Wagah carrying exports to India and Pakistani trucks from Torkham and Chaman carrying Pakistani exports to Sher Khan Bander, which is near the Tajikistan border.

Trade Promotion

Gulfood

In partnership with USAID's Commercial Horticultural and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP), and USAID's Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S), ATAR supported the participation of Afghan businesspeople in Gulfood in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), on Feb. 21-25. ATAR prepared marketing materials for the event, including a booklet showcasing Afghan produce and providing information on the traders, and accompanied traders to help facilitate deals.

Leading up to the event, ATAR and the other projects encountered difficulties in obtaining UAE visas for participants due to UAE restrictions placed on visas for Afghans. In light of the inability of Afghans to receive a visa, ATAR and the other projects involved participants who had an existing UAE visa or who had an office in Dubai.

During the event, Afghan traders signed \$2.38 million in business deals for Afghanistan's produce. The Afghan traders said they expected several more million dollars in deals in coming months as they finalize contracts with buyers they met at the event. Afghan traders have participated in Gulfood since 2011 with USAID support. The traders have signed millions of dollars in deals in past events, expanded their reach in existing markets such as Pakistan and India, and gained access to new markets in the Middle East, Europe, and North America.



Afghan traders interact with potential buyers at the Afghanistan Pavilion at Gulfood in Dubai.

“Made in Afghanistan”

ATAR worked with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to plan for a “Made in Afghanistan” event to be held in New Delhi, India, in the summer of 2016. More than 100 Indian businesses and about 40 Afghan businesses will participate in this event. FICCI will organize participation of Indian businesses, and ATAR will coordinate Afghan participation in consultation with business associations, other USAID projects, and the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan. ATAR and the Kabul Chamber of Commerce and Industries will organize business-to-business meetings.

Training for Businesswomen

In March, ATAR trained about 35 businesswomen, women entrepreneurs, and new university graduates in business skills on March 5-6 in Kabul in partnership with USAID’s Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) and UN Women.



ATAR conducts training for businesswomen, entrepreneurs, and graduates.

Twenty of the participants were business owners, and eight had traveled to Kabul from as far as Takhar, Parwan, Nangarhar, Kandahar, and Herat. The women were trained on methods to start businesses or strengthen existing companies, including topics such as developing marketing plans and preparing balance sheets.

2. Kyrgyzstan

Customs Support

Customs Consultative Council

In January, ATAR, with members of the newly established Alliance of Business Communities in Ancillary Services, assisted in drafting a work plan for the Customs Consultative Council (CCC) and submitted the work plan to the Kyrgyz Customs Deputy Chairman. ATAR helped to create the Alliance in December 2015, and Kyrgyzstan held its first CCC in December 2014 as a result of ATAR's efforts.

In February, ATAR prepared an agenda and participated in a CCC meeting. Participants discussed the draft Eurasian Economic Union Customs Code, in particular the possibility of reducing the amount of security for customs payments from 1 million Euros to an amount acceptable for Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyz Customs promised to work toward a more acceptable amount. CCC participants also agreed record-keeping requirements for customs brokers should be simplified and discussed the work plan.

ATAR distributed among the participants the Resolution of the Government of Kyrgyzstan dated Jan. 27 on "Approving the Procedure on Advance Notification." This issue will be considered at the next CCC meeting in light of contradictions with current laws and regulations.

Ministry of Economy

In February, the head of the Association of Customs Brokers and the co-chairman of the CCC received an official letter from the Ministry of Economy on the issue of security for customs payments. The Ministry indicated customs brokers provide services and conduct activities solely on the territory of Kyrgyzstan, and the Kyrgyz side in the meeting of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission voiced the position that the amount of security for customs brokers shall be determined by the national legislation of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union. The decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission on this issue will be discussed further.

ATAR also met with the head of the Ministry of Economy's Customs Policy Department to discuss the official position of the Kyrgyz government on protecting interests of businesses during the drafting of the new Eurasian Economic Union Customs Code.

Kyrgyz-Tajik Customs Brokers Associations

In March, ATAR supported efforts of the Kyrgyz and Tajik customs brokers associations as they sought to reach a bilateral agreement on cooperation. ATAR assisted in drafting a memorandum of understanding, gaining approval by the Kyrgyzstan Customs Brokers Associations and the deputy chairman of customs, and sending the document to the Tajikistan Customs Brokers Association.

Revised Kyoto Convention

In March, ATAR began translating the national Kyrgyz Customs Code into English for an expert who will perform the World Customs Organization (WCO) Revised Kyoto Convention assessment. ATAR reviewed and modified the translators' work section by section.

Authorized Economic Operators

In February, ATAR gave a presentation on Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) as discussed in the Eurasian Economic Union Customs Code to members of the Kyrgyz business community. ATAR provided the group's comments to Kyrgyz Customs. In March, ATAR hosted a meeting of experts from the CCC and gave a presentation on the best practices in AEO.

Afghanistan Embassy in Kyrgyzstan

In February, ATAR met with the first secretary of the Afghan Embassy to discuss areas in which ATAR might be able to assist. The first secretary appreciated ATAR's interest and agreed to consider the proposal. He also indicated he has good relations with the Kyrgyzstan Chamber of Commerce and Trade and said the embassy does not have a commercial attaché (although he hopes to get one), the embassy does not have a website, and the embassy has few materials for trade promotion.

Trade Facilitation

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

In January, ATAR completed the regulatory reform impact analysis that is necessary for Kyrgyzstan's ratification of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Kyrgyzstan's national law requires that an analysis be conducted on the impact of a specific agreement on businesses. The analysis was submitted to the Ministry of Economy.

In February, ATAR addressed a group of individuals and officials working on the WTO TFA in their countries. ATAR focused on licensing procedures for customs brokers. The event was sponsored by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and included delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

In March, ATAR was informed that the Ministry of Economy sent the TFA to relevant state bodies for comment prior to the start of the ratification process.

Cross Border Transport Agreement

In January and February, ATAR continued to follow up with the Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Transport on the status of Afghanistan's protocol of accession to the Cross Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) between Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

What is WTO TFA?

The WTO TFA, signed at the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013, brings together improved WCO Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) provisions, improved provisions in existing WTO agreements, and new trade facilitation provisions.

In 2015, ATAR worked in Kyrgyzstan to build greater awareness and support for TFA ratification and implementation. As a result of ATAR's efforts, the Ministry of Economy established a TFA working group and held regular TFA-related meetings.

What is CBTA?

The CBTA between Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan helps link East Asia with the Middle East and South Asia.

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan signed the CBTA in December 2010, and Afghanistan signed the protocol to join the CBTA with Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in November 2011. Due to some discrepancies in the English and Russian versions of CBTA, the three countries agreed to re-sign the protocol with the previous dates.

In 2015, ATAR facilitated the re-activation of the process of ratification of Afghanistan's protocol in Kyrgyzstan. During 2015, the CBTA proceeded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Transport.

ATAR met with the head of international relations of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. She said the resolution to accede to CBTA has been prepared again and was sent to relevant ministries on Jan. 11 as the first submission expired before it could be acted upon. The official told ATAR that this process usually takes three months, and she would be able to provide updated information in April.

3. Tajikistan

Customs Support

National Nomenclature

In January, ATAR met with the Tajikistan Customs Service to follow up on its request for support to develop a national nomenclature aligned with WCO. At the request of Tajik Customs, ATAR identified two potential donors to assist with the development, translation, and printing costs involved in the development of the nomenclature. Tajikistan Customs expects ATAR to deliver modules to educate Tajik Customs, partner agencies, and stakeholders on the national nomenclature prior to its formal introduction and to enable discussion on the establishment of an advanced rulings program.

In March, ATAR participated in a roundtable with the Tajik Customs' nomenclature division to confirm its methodology for the development of the new nomenclature and to propose an outreach strategy for the introduction of the nomenclature.

Advance Rulings

In February, ATAR submitted recommendations to Tajik Customs to facilitate the process of instituting advance rulings, also known as binding decisions, on tariff classification and/or assessment of origin accorded to particular goods. The recommendations included a draft customs regulation complementing the draft standard operating procedures and the existing customs legal provisions; draft fact sheets for private-sector awareness; and best practices regarding the application process, observing the right for appeal of a binding decision, and the general publication of a binding decision. These are relevant to WTO TFA provisions.

In March, ATAR met with the Tajik Customs to receive its feedback on the issue of advance rulings. Tajik Customs acknowledged traders are not applying for an advance ruling prior to committing to a transaction, and Tajik Customs is applying binding decisions at the time of arrival and declaration of the goods. Following the meeting, ATAR amended the original submission by highlighting pertinent WCO provisions and proposing a strategy to introduce changes within the advance rulings facility to coincide with the establishment of the legal basis and outreach for the new Tajik nomenclature.

Joint Customs Controls

ATAR concluded its analysis, requested by Tajik Customs, of the Tajik Customs Code and other international cross-border agreements and began developing recommendations for establishing the legal basis and strategy for joint customs controls with ACD at the Shir Khan Bandar and Nijni Pyanj border

crossing points. ATAR's recommendations build upon a feasibility study by USAID's Trade and Accession Facilitation for Afghanistan (TAFAs) project, taking into account the Memorandum of Mutual Understanding in Customs Matters agreed by Afghanistan and Tajikistan in March 2014 and the introduction of electronic data exchange between the two customs administrations.

In February, ATAR translated and submitted the recommendations, incorporating provisions for extra-territoriality within the Tajik Customs Code, defining elements needed in a legal framework for joint customs/border controls, listing major components to be included in a plan for the establishment of a one-stop border post with Afghan counterparts, and re-drafting the memorandum of understanding for the introduction of such controls. These issues are relevant to the provisions of CBTA and the WTO TFA.

Authorized Economic Operators

In March, ATAR met with Tajikistan's customs control division to receive feedback on ATAR's submission regarding establishment of an AEO facility. Officials said they agreed with the principle, but they faced demands from the Tajik government to focus on collecting customs revenue during a time of financial crisis in the country. It was agreed ATAR will submit further analyses of AEO programs that focus on export transactions and supply chain security and will provide a summary of the pilot Australian Trusted Trader program.

Post Clearance Audit and Risk Management

In March, ATAR met with the customs risk management division to receive feedback on ATAR submissions to build capacity in risk management and Post Clearance Audit (PCA) strategies and procedures. Tajik Customs only conducted one audit since ATAR's training in 2015, as the PCA staff focused on other customs investigation priorities. Regarding risk management, officials expressed frustration with a lack of access to a fully operational risk management module with the Tajik Customs' declaration processing system, lack of access to electronic data shared between the Afghan and Tajik Customs in real-time, and an inability to requisition cross-border financial transaction statements from banks. Officials requested that ATAR discuss with other donors, such as GIZ and the International Finance Corp. (IFC), the issue of providing risk management training and support to resolve issues with automated systems.

Customs Code and Customs Publications

ATAR continued to confirm the English translation of the Tajik Customs Code recently published in the Tajik language and annotated amendments due to introduction of a March 2016 law passed regarding customs matters. ATAR also continued to confirm the availability of customs regulations and trader publications on the Tajik Customs web site and to determine their adequacy in reference to ten WTO TFA criteria.

Trade Facilitation

Donor Coordination

In January, ATAR participated in donor coordination meetings on trade facilitation initiatives and enhanced border management between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Participants discussed an overlap of training and infrastructure development programs. As a result, ATAR began working with donors to propose guidelines to catalog and share common training materials.

In January, ATAR met with a delegation of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and discussed the trilateral agreement on cooperation signed in November 2015 between Tajikistan's Association of International Transport Operators, the Tajik Customs Service, and the IRU as well as TIR implementation at the Afghan-Tajik border crossing posts.

In February, ATAR met with a delegation of the World Bank's trade policy division and other donors involved in public-sector development – namely GIZ and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – to discuss their two analyses “Regulatory framework for trading in Tajikistan” and “Preliminary assessment of the impact of the accession to the Eurasian Customs Union.”

Private-Sector Support

In February, ATAR met with the Afghan commercial attaché in Dushanbe, introduced the project, and learned more of Afghan traders in Dushanbe, the issues they face due to the economic crisis in Tajikistan, the inability to negotiate contracts in U.S. dollars and other foreign currency, and difficulties in getting business visas and driver permits to facilitate trade negotiations.

In March, ATAR attended the trilateral exhibition comprising participation by Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan, and had a second meeting with the commercial attaché. He shared a list of eight registered and operational Afghan companies with which he works and said several Afghan traders had closed their business because of difficulties in accessing the Tajik market due to administrative barriers such as tax payment issues and bureaucracy.

4. Turkmenistan

Trade Facilitation

Technical Assistance

In January, ATAR met with the head of the transport and communication department of Turkmen State Institute of Transport and Communication. ATAR and the official discussed the possibility of holding a “Modern Transport and Logistics Seminar” for faculty and students. ATAR drafted an official letter to hold the seminar to be sent to the Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval.

Also in January, ATAR met with the acting head of the international department of the State Turkmen Carpet Association to discuss technical assistance. The official expressed support for ATAR's assistance. Following the meeting, ATAR drafted an official letter regarding possible technical assistance to be sent to the Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval.

ATAR submitted the two letters to USAID Turkmenistan to be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In February and March, ATAR met again with the acting head of the international department of the State Turkmen Carpet Association. He said the association wanted to expand its market in United States and Afghanistan and needed support. He said the chairwoman of the State Turkmen Carpet Association would discuss with the Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs moving ahead with the process of approval of ATAR's proposal.

Research for Afghan Traders

ATAR continued researching the Turkmen dried fruit market to assist USAID's Regional Agricultural Development Program-West (RADP-W) project in Afghanistan with Turkmen market information. In January, ATAR visited local wholesalers to learn more about demand for Afghan products such as nuts, raisin, fruit, and vegetables. ATAR researched retail prices, quality, and potential buyers. ATAR discovered the majority of imported dried fruit come from Uzbekistan. However, the price of Uzbek dried fruits is relatively high, giving Afghan dried fruit a competitive advantage. ATAR also delivered samples of Afghan raisins to Turkmen wholesalers and retailers to determine demand and price competitiveness.

In February, ATAR met with a manager of the Afghanistan Rugs and Carpet Center, who came to Turkmenistan with an Afghan delegation. Participants discussed the potential of exporting Afghan rugs to Turkmenistan, opening up an Afghan carpet store in Ashgabat, and purchasing wool from Turkmenistan. In March, met again with the Afghanistan Rugs and Carpet Center to discuss the potential of cooperation with Turkmen partners.

In March, ATAR visited an exhibition of Turkmen businesses organized by the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan. During the exhibition, ATAR met with local business to discuss business opportunities with Afghan counterparts and possible participation in the next Central Asia Trade Forum in Kazakhstan.

ATAR Country Quarterly Plan

In late March, ATAR prepared and submitted ATAR's quarterly plan for April-June 2016 to USAID Turkmenistan. The plan will be submitted to the Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval.

5. Uzbekistan

Customs Support

In January and February, ATAR and Uzbek Customs Committee representatives identified possible trainings and seminars for Uzbek Customs officials, customs broker companies, and the Association of Customs Brokers. The trainings and seminars covered areas such as risk management, PCA, customs information technology, e-declaration, border management, border enforcement of intellectual property, and advance rulings on origin and classification.

During February and March, the Uzbek Customs Committee confirmed three trainings – border management, e-declaration, and risk management – planned for delivery by ATAR in 2016. The first

customs training on risk management and e-declaration for up to 25 customs officers is planned for the end of May.

Trade Facilitation

In January, ATAR met with stakeholders to determine constraints and legal and regulatory challenges along nodes and stretches of selected routes as part of its Uzbekistan route mapping study. Stakeholders included transport, logistics and freight forwarding companies, freight forwarders associations, business associations, the Afghan and Indian embassies, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

ATAR completed a draft of the trade routes report, which aims to identify optimal and feasible transport routes available for Uzbekistan in reaching the Middle East, in particular Dubai, and South Asia, in particular New Delhi. In February, ATAR sent the first draft of its study to USAID Uzbekistan.

Potential Activities

In February, ATAR met with UNDP, GIZ, and IFC and discussed possible cooperation in Uzbekistan in trade facilitation:

- GIZ's 2016 work plan has been approved. Among the priorities, GIZ indicated a need in developing implementation mechanisms for the newly adopted customs code. ATAR will examine the customs code and identify areas for support.
- As per a discussion between UNDP and ATAR last year, UNDP included activities in its work plan related to the elimination of non-tariff barriers and the streamlining of customs procedures. UNDP is ready to cooperate with ATAR on activities.
- The joint UNDP-Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade (MFERIT) project is helping MFERIT in areas including a review of trade legislation for compliance with international standards. ATAR will continue discussions with UNDP to identify items that could have an impact on trade facilitation.
- IFC launched a trade facilitation project in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. IFC plans a similar project in Uzbekistan for three years and is open to cooperating on activities once funding becomes available.
- ATAR also met with the Association of International Business and Technologies (AMBiT) to discuss possible support to the planned Uzbek Trade House in Mazar-e Sharif. AMBiT submitted the concept to the Uzbek government.

E. COMPONENT 3: IMPROVED CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

1. Support Regional Integration

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to review the MOU on mutual assistance between the UAE and Afghanistan. ATAR awaited an update from ACD on progress on this initiative. Following signature of Afghanistan and the UAE, ATAR will provide assistance on customs matters raised between ACD and UAE, advise on staff exchange proposals, possible funding of equipment by UAE, and training that can be provided by UAE. Furthermore, ATAR will support ACD in attending quarterly meetings in UAE.

2. Organizational Compliance

Following the departure in late 2015 of the advisor who had been working on Internal Compliance Unit (ICU) and Professional Standards Unit (PSU) initiatives, a new expatriate advisor and national specialist will arrive in the upcoming quarter to progress this activity.

ATAR had drafted proposals for the development and implementation an ICU and a PSU. These control mechanisms will provide a framework so ACD can audit compliance with its own internal policies and identify and investigate misconduct, including corruption.

3. Trade Compliance

Post Clearance Audit

Following the departure in late 2015 of the advisor who had been working on PCA initiatives, a new expatriate advisor and national specialist will arrive in the upcoming quarter to progress this activity.

Trade Compliance

ATAR continued to send the risk management snapshot to the Deputy Minister, Director General, and concerned directors to advise them of the current status of risk management at the regional customs sites in which ATAR has a presence. ATAR monitored the release times of consignments allocated to the green lane (immediate release), yellow lane (documentary check), or red lane (physical inspection). The below chart provides the release time in minutes for each month from June 2015 through March 2016.

What is PCA?

Post clearance audit (PCA) is an audit-based customs control performed subsequent to the release of cargo from customs' custody. The purpose of such an audit is to verify the accuracy and authenticity of declarations and covers the control of traders' commercial data, business systems, records, and books.

Month	Herat ICD			HKIA			Jalalabad ICD			Balkh ICD			Aquina ICD			Sher Khan Bandar ICD		
	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Red
June	45	60	180	50	68	75	85	98	130	60	90	120	50	90	120	60	80	150
July	40	60	145	N/A	N/A	N/A	72	90	140	40	70	90	50	90	120	40	70	100
Aug.	50	60	105	N/A	N/A	N/A	55	70	100	50	70	90	50	90	120	40	70	100
Sept.	45	70	90	N/A	N/A	N/A	54	66	100	70	90	120	50	90	120	40	70	100
Oct.	55	100	150	N/A	N/A	N/A	58	72	95	70	90	120	50	90	120	40	70	100
Nov.	55	75	90	64	85	140	52	66	90	40	70	110	50	90	120	40	70	100

Dec	45	85	105	32	50	72	40	60	90	50	80	110	50	90	120	40	70	100
Jan	NA	NA	NA	35	57	144	40	52	75	50	80	110	50	90	120	40	70	100
Feb	45	95	100	25	34	84	42	50	80	50	80	110	50	90	120	40	70	100
Mar	35	105	80	30	41	88	37	50	80	40	60	90	60	100	120	50	80	90

- All time in minutes. NA stands for unavailable.

ATAR regional specialists continued to monitor the current number of procedures at Inland Clearance Depots (ICDs) compared to the national blueprint for streamlined import procedures, which contains thirteen steps. The latest status report is below:

	Kabul ICD	HKIA	Hairatan ICD	Herat ICD	Jalalabad ICD
Non-compliant steps reintroduced	1	6	1	0	0
New steps introduced	4	1	5	3	7
Total additional steps	5	7	6	3	7
TOTAL	18	20	19	15	20

4. ANCA

In January, ACD approved the standard operating procedures that ATAR developed to support Afghanistan National Customs Academy (ANCA) activities and said the procedures will be implemented when ANCA becomes fully operational.

In March, ATAR met with Director Popal of the Afghanistan Revenue Department (ARD) who had been given responsibility for ANCA by the Minister of Finance. The meeting focused on the curriculum and the delivery of a train-the-trainers course to assess the competency of ANCA's customs trainers. The course will include an English test to ascertain English proficiency.

During the quarter, ATAR's expatriate consultant began developing the train-the-trainers course. In March, ATAR's national training and development specialist joined ATAR and will assist ATAR to deliver the train-the-trainers course and "how to deliver" training courses.

5. E-Pay

ATAR continued to encourage ACD and Da Afghanistan (DAB) to progress the electronic payment of customs duties, or E-Pay, which had been implemented in Kabul and Mazar-i Sharif in 2015. ATAR worked throughout the quarter to encourage ACD and DAB to roll out the system on a national basis and to fully automate the process through a software "patch" that would link the DAB and ACD computer systems. Clearance of goods through E-Pay currently requires manual intervention as the two systems are not fully connected.

In late February, ATAR, ACD, DAB, and USAID met to progress E-Pay. All parties agreed to roll out the initiative nationally (all locations at the same time) as opposed to a piecemeal strategy (one location at a time). DAB said it would complete the technical specification for the software upgrade that would fully automate E-Pay by the next meeting.



ACD's Director General hands a certificate of appreciation to an ATAR employee on International Customs Day.

In March, ACD, ATAR, DAB and USAID (via Skype) met again. DAB and ACD agreed the national rollout and press conference would occur on May 1 and that senior-level delegates, such as the Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Finance, and DAB Governor, would speak at the press launch. DAB's technical proposal for the software patch that would automate E-Pay was distributed to participants.⁷

6. Implement Outreach Programs

In January, ATAR supported ACD in celebrating International Customs Day to highlight the importance of customs in Afghanistan's development. This year's theme, set by the WCO in Belgium, focused on digital customs. ACD's Director General distributed WCO certificates of appreciation at the event to exceptional ACD employees as well as to an ATAR employee.

During the quarter, ATAR also prepared marketing materials to help raise awareness of E-Pay and support the rollout of the system. ATAR designed banners that illustrate the E-Pay process for placement at ICDs, DAB, commercial banks, and other related entities; brochures that illustrates the E-Pay process; stickers with the E-Pay logo for banks to place on a wall or window to show they accept E-Pay of

⁷ During subsequent meetings in April, ACD and DAB said they no longer supported a national rollout of E-Pay and instead agreed to roll out E-Pay at one location at a time over the new few months. In addition, ACD and DAB continued to discuss requirements for the software patch that would connect the two systems.

customs duties; and stand banners for ICDs, DAB, commercial banks, and other related entities.

By the end of the quarter, ATAR received final approval from ACD and DAB on all materials and will proceed with printing the materials. ATAR also developed a strategy highlighting responsibilities of ACD and DAB employees in encouraging traders to use E-Pay when they try to pay with cash.

7. Trade Awareness/Education Program

In January, a working group comprising representatives from ACD, ARD, ATAR, and Adam Smith International met to progress the Trader and Taxpayer Awareness Program. Under the program, ACD and ARD will educate traders and taxpayers on subjects such as documents needed for importing and exporting, valuation and tariffs, E-Pay, how to file and pay taxes, taxpayer rights and obligations, and the objection and appeal process for taxes. Traders and taxpayers will have the opportunity to engage with ACD and ARD officials to ask questions, raise concerns, and offer suggestions.

On Feb. 9, ACD and ARD held a press conference on the launch of the Trader and Taxpayer Awareness Program. ACD and ARD senior management attended the launch with the ACCI Deputy Chairman Khan Jan Alokozay. Several media agencies covered the event. During an interview with ATAR, Mr. Alokozay said the program was a welcome initiative that would encourage dialogue between the public and private sector and allow traders and the government to solve problems together.



ACD and ARD hold a press conference on the Trader and Taxpayer Awareness Program.

On Feb. 28, the first trader and taxpayer awareness seminar took place at ANCA. About 60 representatives from the trader and taxpayer community attended. Both ACD and ARD delivered presentations followed by a question-and-answer session. At the end of the seminar, the majority of those attending completed a feedback questionnaire and gave a feedback rating of satisfactory and above.



An ACD Director welcomes participants to the first trader and taxpayer awareness seminar.

ACD presentations included topics such as new reforms, customs valuation, appeals, tariffs, ASYCUDA, and E-Pay. ARD presentations included reasons taxes need to be paid, types of taxes and tax due dates, business receipt taxes, how to file and pay taxes, taxpayer identification numbers, rights and obligations of taxpayers, and tax clearance certificates.

The Trader and Taxpayer Awareness Program working group met to review the first seminar to highlight areas that were done well and those that need to be improved. Overall, it was a success and it was agreed that there would be increased involvement from ACCI to identify and invite representatives from the taxpayer community.

On March 27, ACD and ARD scheduled the second trader and taxpayer seminar. However, the low turnout resulted in the event being cancelled. The acting ACD Director General advised ATAR that an investigation to ascertain what went wrong.

8. Enhancing ACD Human Resources Department

ATAR will begin this activity later in Year 3 upon arrival of necessary staff.

9. Strengthening the Customs Code and Customs Policies

ATAR will begin this activity later in Year 3 upon arrival of necessary staff.

10. Strengthening the Capacity Building of ACD Managers

ATAR regional staff continued to draft content for management standards and a template for management and site risk profiles. In March, ATAR's regional staff met with Component 3 managers to discuss progress. Each staff member gave an overview of the draft site profiles for their locations and discussed the management profile template. The staff will complete the site profile in late April and present it to ACD in May.

This is part of ATAR's initiative to support the capacity of ACD managers through the implementation of management standards, management profiles, and site profiles, which will allow managers to continually review their current capabilities against the perceived risk to customs and how to treat those risks.

11. Strengthening the Capacity of ACD Valuation Department

ATAR will begin this activity later in Year 3 upon arrival of necessary staff.

F. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

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

No.	Indicator/Milestone	Baseline	Life-of-Project Target	Project Achieved (Nov. 2013 - March 2016)	Year 3 Targets/Achievements								Year 3 Total Target (Nov. 2015 to Nov. 2016)	Year 4 Total Target (Nov. 2016 - Nov. 2017)	Assumptions	Definition/Notes
					Q1 Target Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q1 Achieved Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q2 Target Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q2 Achieved Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q3 Target April 2016 - June 2016	Q3 Achieved April 2016 - June 2016	Q4 Target July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Q4 Achieved July 2016 - Sept. 2016				
A. GOAL: 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, and transit) (Contractual)	AFN 382,848 million in 1391 excluding transit	12%	11.00%	0%	NA	0%	1.60%	0%		0.0%		1.3%	1.3%	As per the contract, this indicator is tracking only and Chemonics will set expected targets for reporting purposes; indicators used for tracking purposes only show at a higher level whether efforts in the sector by many contributors are producing results. Changes in these indicators cannot be attributed to the efforts of one donor only and can be caused by factors outside the control of any one donor. These targets also assume that transit data is not available for monitoring. The value of trade may not grow as much in Year 3 and Year 4 due to falling energy prices, noting that energy accounts for more than 15% of total imports. Statistics are in AFN as reported by ACD	Trade volume is defined as the licit trade value of goods brought into Afghanistan (import), the value of Afghan goods sold in a 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 1394 was AFN 420,157 million based on ACD data, including imports (AFN 387,460 million) and exports (AFN 32,697 million) – representing 11% growth over the baseline. Transit volume statistics were unavailable.
2	Value of goods imported to the United States taking advantage of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). (Contractual)	AFN 6.175 million (1391)	AFN 9 million	AFN 24 million	0	NA	0	AFN 24 million	0		0		AFN 7.5 million	AFN 9 million	ATAR was requested by USAID not to work on GSP although it is an illustrative activity in Section C. No other project is supporting in this regard.	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.
3	Export (4.2-10c)	AFN 16,328 million (1391)	AFN 40,000 million	AFN 32,694 million (1394)	0	NA	0	AFN 32,697 million (1394)	0		0		AFN 36,000 million	AFN 40,000 million	As per the contract, this indicator is tracking only and Chemonics will set expected targets for reporting purposes; indicators used for tracking purposes only show at a higher level whether efforts in the sector by many contributors are producing results. Changes in these indicators cannot be attributed to the efforts of one donor only and can be caused by factors outside the control of any one donor.	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. As per the contract, this indicator is tracking only. Growth of exports is expected to increase 3% annual as per the contract. 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. Statistics are as reported by ACD.
4	Import (4.2-10c)	AFN 366,519 million (1391)	AFN 410,000 million	AFN 387,460 million (1394)	0	NA	0	AFN 387,460 million (1394)	0		0		AFN 394,000 million	AFN 410,000 million	These targets are set at a higher level, because efforts in the sector by many contributors are producing results. Changes in these indicators cannot be attributed to the efforts of one donor only and can be caused by factors outside the control of any one donor.	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. As per the contract, this indicator is tracking only. Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. Statistics are as reported by ACD.
5	Change in World Bank's Doing Business ranking for trading across borders indicator. (Contractual)	184 (Doing Business Annual Report 2014)	177	174 (Doing Business Annual Report 2016)	0	174 (Doing Business Annual Report 2016)	0	174 (Doing Business Annual Report 2016)	0		0		180	177	These targets are set at a higher level, because efforts in the sector by many contributors are producing results. Changes in these indicators cannot be attributed to the efforts of one donor only and can be caused by factors outside the control of any one donor.	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 and 184 out of 189 in 2014, and 184 out of 189 in 2015. According to the 2016 report, Afghanistan is ranked 174 out of 189 countries. This is an annual indicator and ATAR reports once a year against this indicator.

⁸ Annual statistics gathered by the Afghan government are reported according to the Afghan solar calendar, in which 1392 corresponds to March 2013-March 2014, 1393 corresponds to March 2014-March 2015, and 1394 corresponds to March 2015-March 2016, etc.

No.	Indicator/Milestone	Baseline	Life-of-Project Target	Project Achieved (Nov. 2013 - March 2016)	Q1 Target Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q1 Achieved Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q2 Target Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q2 Achieved Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q3 Target April 2016 - June 2016	Q3 Achieved April 2016 - June 2016	Q4 Target July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Q4 Achieved July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Year 3 Total Target (Nov. 2015 to Nov. 2016)	Year 4 Total Target (Nov. 2016 - Nov. 2017)	Assumptions	Definition/Notes
IR1: Capacity of Afghan government to formulate and implement liberal policy framework for trade and investment strengthened																
Sub IR1.1: WTO accession process finalized																
Milestone 1.1.1 Adoption of Afghanistan's WTO Accession Package x																
Milestone 1.1.2 Ratification of WTO accession by the Afghan Parliament x																
6	Number of WTO related legal acts adopted through the legislative process with ATAR support. (Custom)	0	24	6	0	0	2	2	5		5		12	8	This depends on political will and the pace of the legislative process as local authorities and stakeholders need to assume ownership of drafts.	Bringing main aspects of the legal framework in line with the WTO agreements is a pre-condition for becoming a WTO member. The legislative process for draft laws (including amendments) and sublegal acts (regulations, procedures) move from one stage to another. This indicator will monitor the legal acts once they have completed this process and are adopted into law. This indicator was revised in Y3 to replace the word "advanced" to "adopted" to better monitor progress toward actual adoption. The legal acts in the results are: 1. Procedure on Intellectual Property Border Enforcement 2. Law on Trademarks 3. Procedure on Advance Ruling on Binding Decisions 4. Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine 5. Procedure on Customs Storage Fees 6. Regulation on Drafting Procedure and Processing of Legal Acts
Sub IR 1.2: WTO implementation process developed and executed																
7	Number of WTO related institutional reforms supported by ATAR. (Custom)	0	12	9	0	0	0	0	1		1		2	1		Acceding to the WTO requires the establishment of new institutions or restructuring of existing institutions as well as development of new institutional processes/procedures related to customs, trade, and other areas. This indicator captures these types of institutional reforms supported by ATAR. The reforms in the project's results are: 1. Institutional proposal accepted by MOCI for establishing a safeguard unit 2. 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 4. Institutional proposal accepted by MAIL PPQD for establishing three pest risk assessment units 5. Voluntary copyright registration mechanism established at MOIC
8	Number of draft legislative items (including regulations, procedures and amendments) prepared by the Working Group at Ministerial Level with ATAR support. (Custom)	0	50	39	0	0	0	0	3		4		7	4		This indicator captures the 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. The project's results include: 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 Dec. 2014 to March 2015 3. One procedure related to Food Safety Law drafted and agreed by working group at MOPH during April-June 2015 4. Draft regulation for implementing Law on Animal Health finalized 5. Seven procedures for implementing the Law on Animal Health prepared by the working group at MAIL 6. Five additional procedures implementing the Law on Animal Health prepared by the working group at MAIL during Nov. 2014-March 2015 7. Four additional procedures implementing the Law on Animal Health prepared by the working group at MAIL during April-June 2015 8. Draft regulation to implement Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine prepared by working group at MAIL during April-June 2015 9. Four draft procedures for implementing Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine finalized during April-June 2015 10. Draft copyrights coordination procedure finalized during April-June 2015

No.	Indicator/Milestone	Baseline	Life-of-Project Target	Project Achieved (Nov. 2013 - March 2016)	Q1 Target Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q1 Achieved Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q2 Target Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q2 Achieved Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q3 Target April 2016 - June 2016	Q3 Achieved April 2016 - June 2016	Q4 Target July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Q4 Achieved July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Year 3 Total Target (Nov. 2015 to Nov. 2016)	Year 4 Total Target (Nov. 2016 - Nov. 2017)	Assumptions	Definition/Notes
Sub IR 1.3: Private sector awareness of new opportunities for trade-related business development increased																
9	Number of awareness events held targeting the private sector. (Custom)	0	40	39	0	3	4	2	4		4		12	4	During Year 3 and 4, GIROA will start leading most awareness programs and implementing them on their own	<p>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> <p>The project's awareness seminars to date include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WTO awareness seminar for MOCI in Feb. 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/Aimaty 5. Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) awareness seminar at MAIL in Feb. 2014 6. Awareness training seminar on trademarks for the private sector in Feb. 2015 7. Awareness training seminar on procedures for trademark registration for the private sector in Feb. 2015 8. Awareness training seminar on trademarks for the legal community in Feb. 2015 9. Two training seminars on geographical indications for the private sector in March 2015 10. Two awareness seminar on patents for private sector 11. Three awareness seminar on trademarks for academia 12. TIR awareness workshop for transport operator (ACCI) 13. Three WTO awareness events in September 2015 14. WTO: Implications for Afghanistan Wheat and Flour Trade seminar in Oct. 2015 15. Copyrights publishers awareness event in Nov. 2015 16. TIR awareness Oct. 2015 17. Two Plant Variety Protection/UPOV awareness roundtable at MAIL (Jan-Mar 2016)
Sub IR 1.4: Understanding and support for benefits of WTO and regional and bilateral trade agreements increased																
Milestone 1.4.1 General Equilibrium Model tested																
X																
10	Number of instances in which GIROA requests for trade policy research and analysis can be provided by TPAU (Contractual)	0	8	12	0	4	1	8	0		1		2	2	This depends on the number of requests which will be made by MOCI management	<p>This indicator tracks the capacity of the TPAU, by monitoring the research and analysis provided to MOCI. This indicator was added to the contract in Modification 7 signed Dec. 21, 2015. ATAR will begin monitoring this output-level result starting from Year 3 and retroactively report based on available project data.</p> <p>In Year 1 and Year 2, the following policy research and analysis were requested from the TPAU in support of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction in SAFTA sensitive list 2. Educating on the impact of WTO accession 3. Analyzing agricultural production (juices, beverages, wheat, flour, fruits, vegetables, nuts) for the purpose of tariff policy evaluation 4. Analyzing tariff policy for import of vehicles 5. Application WTO bound rates ITA, and CA (revenue effect) 6. Comparison of current tariff schedule 2015 with WTO negotiated tariff schedule 7. Impact on exports due to WTO Accession 8. Wheat and wheat flour market and prices 9. Seasonal fluctuation of imports and exports of fruits nuts and vegetables 10. Transport sector, share GDP, number of vehicles, cost/revenue 11. Transit of goods via Iranian vs Pakistan sea ports 12. Reports on trade statistics by products and countries
11	Reduction in discrepancy between the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and ACD on trade statistics. (Custom)	27%	9%	11%	0	NA	0	11%	0		0%		15%	9%		It is crucial to have reliable trade-related data. ATAR supports ACD and CSO to harmonize trade-related data between the two organizations. The difference between values reported by ACD and CSO divided by the average of the two values, shown in percentage.

No.	Indicator/Milestone	Baseline	Life-of-Project Target	Project Achieved (Nov. 2013 - March 2016)	Q1 Target Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q1 Achieved Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q2 Target Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q2 Achieved Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q3 Target April 2016 - June 2016	Q3 Achieved April 2016 - June 2016	Q4 Target July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Q4 Achieved July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Year 3 Total Target (Nov. 2015 to Nov. 2016)	Year 4 Total Target (Nov. 2016 - Nov. 2017)	Assumptions	Definition/Notes
12	Number of awareness documents prepared to educate about WTO and regional integration. (Custom)	0	40	40	0	7	2	3	3		3		8	2		<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> <p>Project results included:</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 APITTA 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 regarding bilateral trade issues with Pakistan 15. Note for President Ghani regarding transit trade issues with Pakistan 16. Awareness materials on geographical indications 17. Awareness materials on trademarks 18. Awareness materials on patents 19. Ten WTO awareness presentations and two WTO Fact sheets 20. 10-page summary covering WTO status and merits of accession, regional implications, government procurement, and competitiveness 21. A note on the road to the Nairobi Ministerial Conference 22. A note on WTO and manufacturing in Afghanistan 23. A note on the dispute settlement process and transit 24. A note on benefiting from WTO membership 25. WTO rules and commitments of Afghanistan and detailed clarifications on commitments and service commitments 26. WTO on wheat flour 27. WTO billboard Jan-Mar 2016 28. WTO poster Jan-Mar 2016 29. WTO press release Jan- Mar 2016
13	Change in public perception towards trade (Contractual)	91%	95%	N/A	0%	NA	0%	NA	0%		0%		0%	95%		<p>This indicator monitors the change in perception of trade through targeted survey. ATAR intervention, through the development and dissemination of outreach/awareness materials and awareness-raising events reaching the public and private sector, has the expected outcome-level result of an increase in the positive perception of trade in Afghanistan and its benefits.</p> <p>ATAR has not reported on this indicator as of Year 3, as it was anticipated to conduct a third-party national public survey but funding was not available for this purpose. ATAR instead will conduct a survey on targeted populations engaged in trade-related issues at both the public and private sector. ATAR will use as a baseline the "knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) Survey of Afghanistan towards Trade" sponsored by USAID/TAFSA and conducted by AIR Consulting in September 2010. Specifically, for this indicator, the baseline reports percentage agreement (91%) with the question, "Do you think increased trade creates more jobs, wealth, and economic opportunities?" ATAR will also analyze other survey questions, such as "Do you think that international /regional trade agreements benefit Afghanistan?" which 94% of respondents answered yes in 2010.</p>
IR2: Regional and global integration enhanced																
14	Bilateral and regional agreements are advanced at meetings (Contractual)	0	10	7	0	0	0	0	1		1		2	1		<p>This depends on interests and political will of other countries and Afghanistan</p> <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 bilateral and regional agreements (including MOUs and protocols) advanced at meetings. Advanced indicates some type of tangible result, such as signature, implementation, public launch, removal of a trade barrier, etc., with ATAR support. This indicator name was revised in Y3 to reflect the contract. Previous indicator was: "Number of initiatives on regional integration disaggregated by signed and launched."</p> <p>The results include:</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 (PATTITA) 6. India allowed Afghan trucks to unload cargo in Indian territory 7. Lapis lazuli Trade and Transit Agreement launched (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and Turkmenistan)

No.	Indicator/Milestone	Baseline	Life-of-Project Target	Project Achieved (Nov. 2013 - March 2016)	Q1 Target Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q1 Achieved Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2015	Q2 Target Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q2 Achieved Jan. 2016 - March 2016	Q3 Target April 2016 - June 2016	Q3 Achieved April 2016 - June 2016	Q4 Target July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Q4 Achieved July 2016 - Sept. 2016	Year 3 Total Target (Nov. 2015 to Nov. 2016)	Year 4 Total Target (Nov. 2016 - Nov. 2017)	Assumptions	Definition/Notes																		
15	Percentage share of Afghan trade with regional partners. (Contractual)	38% - 1391	60%	See Notes section	0%	NA	0%	38.80%	0%		0%		50%	60%	The level of trade with regional partners has been around 40% for the past 4 years. Overall trade with regional partners is not likely to dramatically increase. Most imports from Central Asia are energy based products, noting the fall in the prices of fuel. This will reduce the value of trade with regional partners. Further, with increase in purchase power and access to new markets, Afghanistan will be likely trading more with non-regional countries in the future. Note that if China and Iran are considered in addition to CAR, India, and Pakistan the percent of regional is presently at 70%.	This indicator will capture the share Afghanistan trade with the regional partners. As per the contract, this indicator is tracking only. ACD trade statistics for 1394 show the following: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Country</td> <td>Percent Total Trade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>4.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kyrgyzstan</td> <td>0.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kazakhstan</td> <td>5.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pakistan</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tajikistan</td> <td>0.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turkmenistan</td> <td>3.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Uzbekistan</td> <td>3.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Trade with neighboring Countries</td> <td>38.8%</td> </tr> </table>	Country	Percent Total Trade	India	4.6%	Kyrgyzstan	0.2%	Kazakhstan	5.6%	Pakistan	21%	Tajikistan	0.4%	Turkmenistan	3.6%	Uzbekistan	3.4%	Total Trade with neighboring Countries	38.8%
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Sub IR2.1: Enabling environment for enhanced access to regional markets established																																		
16	Number of interactions between businesses (and other relevant groups) with government entities in the region involving policy reform dialogues. (Custom)	0	30	29	0	6	1	2	2		2		5	4		This indicator will capture the number of interactions and dialogues between businesses and government organizations in the region on policy reform issues. Results include: 1. Two trade facilitation workshops in the Kyrgyzstan 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 Kyrgyzstan in May 2014 7. Two roundtables in Kabul with private sector to discuss problems with APTTA 8. Transport and Logistics workshop held in Kyrgyzstan on Dec. 22, 2014 9. Three public-private roundtables in Dushanbe on PATTIA in Feb. and March 2015 10. One public-private forum in Bishkek on the WTO TFA in March 2015 11. A session led MOCI to finalize SAFTA sensitive list in consultation with private sector, ACD, and other ministries 12. Seminar on "Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia" entailed significant dialogue between 80 businesses and government officials 13. A roundtable in Bishkek on trade facilitation involving Ministry of Economy, border agencies, and traders on April 21, 2015 14. Roundtable in Tajikistan on Aug. 21, 2015 on AEO 15. Co-planned the IRU TIR Roundtable on Aug. 23, 2015 and the TIR National Capacity Building Workshop in Kabul, on Aug. 24-25, 2015. 16. Roundtable with private transport sector in MOCI on TIR, Kabul, on Aug. 10, 2015 17. Roundtable at MOCI with private sector in Aug. 2015 concerning APTTCA meeting 18. Global Supply Chain Forum in Kabul in October 2015 19. Customs Consultative Council on customs security in Bishkek in Oct. 2015 20. Global Supply Chain on Oct. 13, 2015 21. Customs consultative council in Kyrgyzstan in Oct. and Dec. 2015 22. EU regional trade conference in Tajikistan 23. Customs valuation training Nov 2015 24. Two customs consultative council in Kyrgyzstan in Feb 2016																		
17	Percentage of respondents reporting improved climate for trade. (Custom)	33.3% 2013 (ACCI/GIZ)	35%	19.3% (2015)	0	19.30%	0	NA	0		0%		34%	35%		This indicator monitors the outcome-level result of the improved climate for Afghan trade, based on ACCI Business Tendency Survey Report, in cooperation with GIZ. The survey asks the managing directors of businesses for their opinions on the current business situation, with disaggregated data on trade, and their expectations for the next six months. This indicator was added to the ATAR M&E results framework during Year 3 of implementation to monitor the outcome of interventions in the trade environment (harmonization, trade facilitation, regulations, procedures, trade/transit agreements), and baseline figure is from the first report from April 2013 Note: The ACCI and GIZ have not yet made updated data available																		

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18	Number of proposals accepted to harmonize customs procedures or documents on transit corridors. (Custom)	0	20	12	0	0	1	0	1		2		4	4		<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, including TIR. The indicator will track proposals (documents, procedures, recommendations, etc.) that are accepted. Accepted is defined as a tangible result, such as barriers removed or solved, enactment or implementation of proposals, public launch of initiatives, memorandums signed, or recommendations accepted. This indicator was revised in Year 3 to replace the term "discussed" to "accepted".</p> <p>ATAR launched a number of customs harmonization initiatives, including risk management and PCA that are ongoing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum on information exchange and trade facilitation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan Memorandum on mutual exchange of risk management information in customs matters (Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan) Modality for single border stop between Afghanistan and Pakistan Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Afghanistan Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Kyrgyz Republic Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Tajikistan Recommendations on advance rulings in Kyrgyz Republic Recommendations on AEO for Uzbekistan Recommendations to improve coordinated border management in Tajikistan Recommendations to Tajik Customs regarding institutional settings for effective management of post clearance audits and linking audit findings to the risk management system Proposal for establishing AEO in Tajikistan presented to Tajik Customs Modality for Afghan customs operating at Karachi port presented to ACD
Sub IR 2.2: Benefits from enhanced market access expanded																
19	Number of firms receiving USG capacity building assistance to export (4.2.2-3)	0	850	1046	0	163	9	70	9		10		28	9		<p>ATAR was requested to no longer support export promotion events in Year 3 and Year 4</p> <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. ATAR will specifically report on the number of firms sponsored in international trade events, with the outcome tracked in indicator 20.</p> <p>ATAR helped build the capacity of firms detailed below:</p> <ol 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 Oct 2014 training to prepare for participation in CATF/World Food: 13 Feb/Mar 2014 preparatory meetings for CABOC in Afghanistan: 40 20 business attended two trainings on exports in Kabul 110 businesses 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 5 businesses participated in World Food Exhibition in Kyrgyzstan 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 22 businesses participated in access to finance for trader conference 23 businesses participated in trade finance training 80 private exporters participated in "Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia" in May 2015 25 carpet producers and exporters business-to-business event co-organized with ABADE 42 Central Asian Trade Forum participants (Afghan firms) in Kyrgyzstan in Oct. 2015 84 Global Supply Chain Forum participants in Afghanistan in Oct. 2015 37 businesses participated in Women and Trade: Opportunities and Challenges in Afghanistan 15 Gulf food orientation Baron in Kabul Feb 2016 22 business skill Baron in Kabul Mar 2016 33 trade and awareness program
20	Estimated self-reported value of new deals by ATAR supported participants in trade events (Custom)	0	AFN 680 million	AFN 980 million	0	NA	0	AFN 164 million	0		0		AFN 476 Million	AFN 204 Million		<p>ATAR is focusing more on women business in year three. Women have traditionally exported less than men.</p> <p>This indicator tracks the outcome results from ATAR-supported firms in international trade events, recorded by the value of self-reported new deals as well as the actual signed deals. This indicator was added in Year 3 to report on the outcome of ATAR sponsorship and support in such events. This indicator was added in Year 3 to monitor the outcome of ATAR supported participants, reported under indicator 19.</p> <p>Afghan traders signed AFN 164 million in business deals for Afghanistan's agricultural produce at the renowned Gifood exhibition in the United Arab Emirates in February 2016</p>

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IR3: Revenue generation for fiscal sustainability strengthened through reforms and anti-corruption measures in customs and taxation																
21	Growth in customs revenue (overall and per border crossing). (Contractual)	AFN 49,460 Million in 1392	3%	24%	0%	NA	0%	24%	0%		0%		3%	3%		This indicator tracks the overall growth of customs revenue as an expected outcome from implemented reforms and anti-corruption measures. A customs duty and tax refers to tax on the importation and exportation of goods collected by custom houses. ATAR will report on this indicator, but will not be held accountable for achieving specific results. Statistics are as reported by ACD. Customs revenue in 1394 shows 24% growth. ACD reports customs revenue in 1394 AFN 55,510 million. In 1393 customs revenue was reported AFN 44,846 million.
22	Revenue collection by electronic means. (Contractual)	0%	75%	1%	22%	0.75%	32%	0.40%	43%		0%		53%	75%	To include the collection of revenue via e-payments at rollout spots.	This will monitor the collection of revenue by E-Pay as a percentage of total revenue collected. It will be reported in locations where E-Pay is available and will be disaggregated by location and include new locations as they are available. Afghanistan's total customs revenue in the Afghan year 1394 was 55,510 million AFN. ATAR does not have customs revenue available by quarter. Therefore, ATAR has divided the total customs revenue by 4 to determine average quarterly customs revenue: 55,510,000,000/4=13,877,500,000. E-Pay has been implemented in three locations to date (Kabul ICD, HKIA, and Mazar-e Sharif), but has only been used in HKIA. In the fourth quarter of 2015, total customs revenue collected by E-Pay at HKIA was AFN 104 million, which is 0.75% of Afghanistan customs revenue during that time period. In the first quarter of 2016, total customs revenue collected by E-Pay at HKIA was AFN 55 million, which is 0.40% of Afghanistan customs revenue collected during that time period. Since E-Pay began in May 2015, 505.7 million AFN was collected through E-Pay, which is about 1% of Afghanistan's total customs revenue for 1394.
23	Revenue leakages due to undervaluation of cargo are reduced. The overall goal is a 50% increase in accuracy in classification and 25% increase in revenues resulting from proper valuation. (Contractual)	TBD	50%	TBD	TBD	0%	TBD	0	TBD		TBD		TBD	TBD		ATAR will field a consultant to research this new indicator to provide a precise definition and a meaningful target. As per the contract, this indicator is tracking only. This indicator was added in Year 3 as per the contract. The ATAR international advisor and national specialist will be appointed in May 2016. It is unlikely that there will be any progress in the quarter April - June 2016, as a review will be performed on the current valuation section / procedures and training developed. On deployment of the advisor and specialist milestones and targets will be produced.
24	Ratio of customs revenue collected to GDP (Contractual)	7.5% World Bank (2012)	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0%		0%		10%	20%	Trade continuing to increase. Revenue continues to increase. Customs and other tax collection agencies are compliant.	This indicator tracks the overall growth of customs revenue collected as a percentage of overall GDP. ATAR will report on this indicator, but will not be held accountable for achieving specific results. This indicator was added in Year 3 as per the contract. The government has not yet made updated data available.
25	Increase in customs (non-tax) revenue (Contractual)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	0%	TBD	0	TBD		TBD		TBD	TBD		This indicator tracks the overall growth of customs (non-tax) revenue as an expected outcome from implemented reforms and anti-corruption measures. Customs duties only make up a portion of overall revenue collected by ACD. This indicator aims to measure only the collection of customs duties apart from business receipt tax and other taxes collected by ACD. ATAR will report on this indicator, but will not be held accountable for achieving specific results. This indicator was added in Year 3 as per the contract. The government has not yet made updated data available.
Sub IR 3.1: Customs procedures to increase transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the collection of revenue, performance of core functions, and facilitation of trade improved																
Milestone 3.1 MoU on Mutual Customs Matters signed between Afghanistan and UAE																
26	Number of declaration forms processed in each ICD in Afghanistan. (Contractual)	(As of 2012) Hairatan: 66,851 Imports: 2,734 Exports Torquandi: 43,209 Imports: 542 Exports Sher Khan Bandar: 16,199 Imports: 4,050 Exports Torgham: 175,770 Imports: 32,451 Exports Welsh: 35,166 Imports: 2,167 Exports	2%	NA	0%		0%	NA	0%		0%		2%	2%	ACD's five-year strategic plan projects that the main import products will increase per year by 2%. All quarterly figures will show a 2% increase. However, this will depend on continuing increase in trade, the security situation and ACD becoming more effective in dealing with imports.	This indicator refers to the number of declarations processed, paying custom duties, disaggregated by import/export and ICD. The contract stipulates the number of laden vehicles. ATAR is recording declaration forms as laden vehicle data was limited. ATAR will report on this indicator, but will not be held accountable for achieving specific results. The government has not yet made updated data available.

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27	Average customs processing time (Contractual)	Herat: 6 hours 17 minutes Hairatan: 3 hrs 43 min Jalalabad: 4 hrs, 18 min Sher Khan Bandar: 2 hrs, 13 min Aquna: 3 hrs, 21 min	2 hours	Herat: 1 hour and 18 minutes Mazar (Balkh ICD): 1 hour 20 minutes Jalalabad 1 hour 03 minutes HKIA 51 mins Sher Khan Bandar 1 hours 10 minutes Aquna 1 hours 27 minutes	5 Mins	See note. End of Dec. figures stated.	5 Mins	See the note	5 Mins		5 Mins		20 Mins	20 Mins		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)" ICD Green Yellow Red Mazar (Balkh ICD) 40 mins 1hr 1hour 30 mins Aquna ICD 60 mins 1 hr 40 mins 2 hours Sher Khan Bandar 50 mins 1 hr 20 mins 1 hour 30 mins Herat 35 mins 1 hr 45 mins 1 hour 20 mins Jalalabad 37 mins 50 Mins 1hour 20 mins HKIA 30 mins 41 mins 1 hour 28 mins ATAR is not working at Kabul ICD due to security. This indicator encompasses contractual result indicator "time at border reduced"
28	Number of documents required to export/import goods across borders decreased (4.2.1-17) (Contractual)	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2014)	Tracking only	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2016)	Tracking only	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2016)	Tracking only	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2016)	Tracking only		Tracking only		Tracking only	Tracking only	ACD will reduce this through paperless declarations using ASYCUDA World.	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 2016 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.
29	Number of steps reduced or streamlined at border (Contractual)	0	13	13	0	remains at 13	0	remains at 13	0		0		13	13	ACD will implement single window and other border initiatives such as Joint border crossings / one stop shop. This will be done in consultation with the World Bank initiative.	The number of steps reduced or streamlined is related to the implementation of the national blueprint decree of 13 total steps and working with the Director General and regional directors to ensure that any extra steps are removed. This indicator will report at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs), but the main focus will be at the ICDs where ATAR is working to implement risk management strategies, so that compliant traders are routed to green and those that are non-compliant / higher risk go either to yellow or red lane. It is expected that another implementing partner (or the World Bank) will implement the single window concept at BCPs. This will impact on reducing time at BCPs. This indicator was added in Year 3 as per the contract. ATAR is awaiting confirmation of when the World Bank project will start to ascertain if this will impact on reviewing the number of steps.
30	Time to export/import (days). (4.2.1-16)	85 days, import, 81 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2014)	Tracking only	18 days, import, 12 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2016)	Tracking only	18 days, import, 12 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2016)	Tracking only	18 days, import, 12 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2016)	Tracking only		Tracking only		Tracking only	Tracking only	ACD will become compliant. Capacity building initiatives by ATAR and the World Bank will see an improvement in efficiency and effectiveness through internal governance, internal compliance, effective use of resources, tackling corruption and implementing a more robust risk-based selectivity criteria.	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 compares 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 two 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. 2016 Doing Business reports time of import and export as follow: Time to export: Border compliance (hours 48) Time to export Documentary compliance (hours 243). Time to import: Border compliance (hours 960) Time to import Documentary compliance (hours 336). Total number of hours divided by 24.
31	Number of customs systems in line with international best practices adopted. (Custom)	0	15	3	2	0	3	0	3		3		11	1	ACD will implement systems in areas agreed with ATAR	Systems refer to valuation, risk management, E-Pay, appeals, simplified import procedures, and the national hotline. Those implemented under ATAR are according to international best practice. 1. E-payment has been implemented at two locations. 2. Hotline has been re-activated. 3. ANCA Standard Operating Procedures agreed with ACD During the quarter ATAR lacked resources to progress the work plan. The main focus was on the implementation of E-Pay. The training curriculum has been forwarded to ACD and ATAR awaits comment before implementation. International Advisors and Nationals Specialists will be appointed in May 2016. It is expected that work will progress in areas such as PCA, Internal Compliance, Professional Standards, Valuation, Risk Management, Transit and Customs Procedures

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32	Number of risk management procedures adopted at customs depots. (Custom)	0	10	1	2	0	2	0	2		2		8	1	ACD will implement procedures in areas agreed with ATAR	A procedure refers to risk awareness self-assessments, risk profiling, risk registers, and management controls as part of roll-out of risk management. 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. International Advisors and Nationals Specialists will be appointed in May 2016. It is expected that work will progress in the next quarter. However, work is already progressing on site profiles, management profiles which are to be submitted in May 2016.
33	Number of training modules developed by ATAR. (Custom)	0	45	26	4	0	4	0	4		4		16	3	ATAR will provide the technical support	This indicator captures number of modules ATAR developed in support of ANCA. Training modules developed: 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; 9. Mobile Verification Team; 10. Vehicle Search; 11. Coach Search; 12. Airport; 13. Freight; 14. Compliance and Risk Management; 15. Audit Procedures and Working Papers; 16. PCA process; 17. Operational and Tactical Audit Planning; 18. Time Management Planning; 19. Problem Solving Advanced; 21. Effective Meetings-Participating and Chairing; 22. Management Presentation Skills; 23. Leadership; 24. Influence; 25. Decision Making; 26. Staff Motivation; 26. Management Delegation. ATAR did not have an International Advisor and National Specialist until mid-March. In addition, other International advisors will not arrive until May 2016. The original deployment date was early January 2016.
34	Number of audit cases selected using risk-based criteria (Contractual)	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	1		4		5	35	ACD will implement PCA as a compliance function. The legislation will be changed to show this. ACD staff will be competent to perform such audits.	All post clearance audit will be selected using risk-based criteria. This indicator was added in Year 3 as per the contract. The National Specialist deployed mid-April, and the International Advisor will be deployed in May.
35	Share of cases yielding additional assessment (revenue) to cases selected for audit (Contractual)	0	30%	0	0%	0	0%	0	100%		0%		50%	50%	ACD will implement PCA. ACD will assign audits as per risk based selectivity criteria.	This indicators states percentage. ATAR will also track additional revenue collected during the risk-based audits. This indicator was added in Year 3 as per the contract. The National Specialist deployed mid-April, and the International Advisor will be deployed in May.
Cross-cutting And Gender Indicators																
36	Person hours of training completed in trade and investment enabling environment supported by USG assistance. (4.2.1-19)	0	166 trainings 1,660 participants	157 trainings (3,104 participants including 2,476 male and 628 female) 23,290 person hours of training	5	18 trainings (455 participants including 294 male and 161 female) 2,971 person hours of training	7	4 trainings (154 participants including 119 male and 35 female) 769 person hours of training	4		4		15	0		This indicator tracks all USG-supported trainings under ATAR. 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. This indicator encompasses contractual indicator "Number of US supported training events held that relate to improving the trade and investment environment, number of participants (female/male), and person days of training". For accuracy, ATAR is reporting on training hours instead of days, as well as USAID Standard F indicator 4.2.1-19.
37	Person-days of training of key personnel in trade and customs regulation. (Custom)	0	213 days	186	4	0	5	0	4		5		18	0	ANCA is fully funded and operational. Participants are identified and will attend.	This indicator tracks only the trade related customs trainings in number of days as per Afghan info requirement. These trainings are also reported under indicator #36. During this quarter, there was no training for ACD key personal
38	Percentage of participants reporting increased knowledge and skills in trade, transit, or customs (Custom)	0%	95%	85%	95%	0%	95%	95%	95%		95%		95%	95%	ANCA is fully funded and operational. Appropriate participants selected, participants answer honestly, etc.	This indicator tracks the outcome of ATAR training events that are substantial in capacity building and duration. The project will monitor increased knowledge and skills through pre-/post-testing where applicable, or through self-reported post-surveys. This indicator was added in Year 3 to strengthen the monitoring of the outcomes of training events This quarter includes 25 women who participated in business skills training for businesswomen.
39	Number of public events held to discuss trade and business policy matters with stakeholders, the public and the private sector. (Contractual)	0	280	237 events (participants include 2,159 males, 366 female)	0	6 events (participants include 38 males 0 females)	15 events 150 participants	23 events 150 participants 140 male and 10 female	15 events 150 participants		15 events 150 participants		45 events	26 events, 280 participants		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.

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40	Number of consultative processes with private sector as a result of U.S. government assistance. (Contractual)	0	24	20	0	2	1	1	1		1		3	4		<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> <p>The results to date include:</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 Kabul Chamber of Commerce and Industries regarding customs valuation practices 5. Working group for development of implementing regulations for food safety law 6. Consultations by the MOPI 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 8. Consultative meeting on sensitive list with stakeholders 9. Consultative meeting with Afghan Marble Association on problems faced by marble sector 10. Consultative meeting with the Ministry of Transport on revising transport laws in the context of TIR 11. Consultative meeting with MOCI on reactivation of TIR 12. Customs Consultative meeting in Bishkek between customs and traders on June 18 13. Consultative working group on trade facilitation Lake Issyk-Kul June 15-16 14. Roundtable in Tajikistan on Post Clearance Audit in Sept. 2015 15. Roundtable with private transport sector in Ministry of Commerce and Industries on TIR, Kabul, on 10 August 2015 16. Consultative process Aug 15 with Afghan Marble Association on removing ban on export of marble in rough form. 17. Roundtable at MOC with private sector early August concerning APTCA meeting 18. Customs consultative Council on customs security in Bishkek in Oct. 2015 19. Customs consultative council in Kyrgyzstan in Oct. and Dec. 2015 20. Customs consultative council in Kyrgyzstan Feb. 2016
41	Number of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/programming. (GNDR-3 F indicator)	0	200	0	0	NA	0	25	0		0		110	90		<p>This indicator measures the percentage of females who report increased self-efficacy through post-surveys of GIROA internships and possibly other substantial trainings, to also monitor the effectiveness of the Gender Action plan. This indicator was added in Year 3.</p> <p>ATAR project trained 35 businesswomen and new university graduate in business skill in Kabul in partnership with FAIDA, March 2016. 25 of the participants filled out the post survey form and stated that training was beneficial to them.</p>
42	Number of permanent professional positions allocated for women within MOCI, ACD, ANSA, MAIL and MOPH. (Contractual)	173 female in ACD and MOCI	175	3	0	0	0	3	0		0		90	85	<p>The MoF / ACD Tashkeel will highlight positive discrimination to identify a minimum number of positions for females MOCI allocated 30% of positions for women in 1395</p> <p>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. Originally, this indicator was tracking only positions at ACD, but has been revised in Y3 to include all ATAR-related counterpart ministries and departments. This indicator was revised in Year 3 to expand from monitoring permanent positions at ACD to all ATAR counterparts.</p> <p>The recruitment of females is dictated by the Ministry of Finance tashkeel. During this quarter, ACD hired 4 women in ACD</p>	
43	Number interns completing a six-month internship at GIROA. (Contractual)	20	100	35	0	16	21	0	0		21		42	43	<p>Based on receptivity of counterparts, female applicants, appropriateness for placement, tashkeel, etc.</p> <p>ATAR will support GIROA to implement an internship program at counterpart ministries and departments for university women. The internships will be headquarter-based rotational placements for a period of six months. Originally, this indicator was tracking only internships at ACD, but has been revised in Y3 to include all ATAR-related counterpart ministries and departments. This indicator was revised in Year 3 to track all interns, disaggregated by gender, from just ACD to all counterparts.</p> <p>None were hired during quarter. Interns are hired every six months. The next batch to be deployed in May 2016.</p>	
44	Percentage of Afghan long-term female staff employed on ATAR (Custom)	8%	20%	11% (Total long term staff during this quarter 55 - male 49 and female 6)	0	12% (Total long term staff during this quarter 58 - male 51, female 7)	0	11% (Total long term staff during this quarter 55 - male 49, female 6)	0		0%		15%	20%	<p>Qualified female applicants will apply.</p> <p>As part of the gender action plan, ATAR is focusing efforts to increase the representation of women on its professional staff to increase capacity building in trade and customs related activities and project management. This indicator will monitor the percentage of female professional staff as part of all ATAR professional staff. This indicator was added in Year 3.</p>	

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45	Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to trade (social, economic, and political) opportunities (GNDR 4 F-indicator)	59% *placeholder baseline based on KAP survey	65%	N/A	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	65%		As part of the gender action plan, ATAR recognizes that comprehensive gender integration may be a new area of intervention for some counterparts. As such, in order to successfully initiate change, increasing understanding and awareness of gender equality issues within the trade sector in Afghanistan will be imperative. This indicator will track the outcomes of the gender action plan with attitudes about equal access for males and females to trade opportunities. It is also a USAID standard F-indicator for gender. As a placeholder for the baseline, ATAR is citing the "Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) Survey of Afghanistan towards Trade" sponsored by USAID's Trade Accession and Facilitation for Afghanistan (TAF) project in September 2010. Specifically, for this indicator, the survey reports a percentage agreement of 59% with the question, "Would you do business with a female trader?" without reservation (an additional 20% said yes if they know the female trader). This indicator was added in Year 3.
46	Percentage of participants reporting increased understanding and knowledge of gender-related issues in trade (Custom)	0%	100% (TRC)	N/A	85%	0%	85%	0	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	100%	ACD will continue with the gender awareness program, advised by ATAR, when ANCA is fully funded and operational.	As part of the gender action plan, ATAR recognizes that comprehensive gender integration may be a new area of intervention for some counterparts. As such, in order to successfully initiate change, increasing understanding and awareness of gender equality issues within the trade sector in Afghanistan will be imperative. This indicator will track the outcomes of the gender awareness trainings as presented in the gender action plan. Through post-surveys, the indicator will report the percentage of participants reporting an increased understanding and knowledge of gender-related issues in trade. This indicator was added in Year 3. An ATAR Gender Specialist will be hire next quarter.
47	Number of outreach materials developed and disseminated on gender-related issues in trade, transit, or customs (Custom)	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	ACD will continue with the gender awareness program, advised by ATAR, when ANCA is fully funded and operational.	As part of the gender action plan, ATAR recognizes that comprehensive gender integration may be a new area of intervention for some counterparts. As such, in order to successfully initiate change, increasing understanding and awareness of gender equality issues within the trade sector in Afghanistan will be imperative. This indicator will track the number of outreach and awareness materials on gender-related issues in trade as part of the gender action plan. This indicator was added in Year 3. An ATAR Gender Specialist will be hire next quarter.

G. COLLABORATION

Links with Relevant Afghan Government Ministries

ATAR's success is dependent on its close relationship with the Afghan government, specifically MOCI, ACD, and other ministries and government agencies relevant to Afghanistan's WTO accession and trade environment. ATAR had staff embedded at ACD and MOCI to work with the entities regularly, but the staff faced frequent security challenges. ATAR's expatriate staff was unable to embed at ACD due to security restrictions; the expatriate staff conducted meetings and short visits as possible and relied on local staff that remained embedded with intermittent restrictions.

Despite the security issues, ATAR continued working closely with ACD, MOCI, MOJ, and other relevant ministries and related entities such as MAIL and MOPH by 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).

Links with Other Donor Agencies

In support of the project's activities in Central Asia, ATAR continued to work with other donor agencies. For example, in Kyrgyzstan, ATAR addressed a regional group of individuals and officials working on WTO TFA at an event sponsored by GIZ. In Tajikistan, ATAR identified two potential donors to assist with the development, translation, and printing costs involved in the development of a national nomenclature. ATAR also liaised with GIZ, UNDP, IFC, and other donors on potential activities.

In Afghanistan, ATAR worked with UN Women to hold a business skills training for businesswomen. ATAR also began work with UN Women to support the participation of businesswomen in Gulfood in Dubai. Due to visa restrictions, UN Women was unable to send the businesswomen it supports and had to pull out of the collaboration.

Links with Other USAID Projects

In partnership with USAID's CHAMP and USAID's RADP-S, ATAR supported the participation of Afghan businesspeople in Gulfood. ATAR began partnering with CHAMP, RADP-S, and Turquoise Mountain to prepare for a "Made in Afghanistan" event to be held in India in the summer of 2016.

In Central Asia, ATAR was co-located with USAID's REC project at the Chemonics' office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and continued to coordinate on regional trade activities. In Turkmenistan, ATAR researched the market for Afghan exporters working with USAID's RADP-W.

H. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Personnel

Recruitment for the Component 1 Team Manager was pending as of the end of the quarter. The Component 1 Deputy Team Manager position resigned during the quarter to take up employment with the U.S. government in Kabul. ATAR is currently recruiting for a new Deputy Team Manager.

Modifications and Amendments

ATAR's contract was not modified or amended during the quarter.

ANNEX A: PRESS RELEASE



USAID LEADERSHIP

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NEWS & INFORMATION - PRESS RELEASES - AFGHAN TRADERS SCORE MORE THAN \$2 MILLION DURING GULFOOD EXHIBITION IN DUBAI

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AFGHAN TRADERS SCORE MORE THAN \$2 MILLION DURING GULFOOD EXHIBITION IN DUBAI

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Kabul, Afghanistan – Afghan traders inked \$2.38 million in deals and are negotiating potential deals of about \$10 million for Afghanistan's agricultural products as a result of their participation in the renowned Gulfood show Exhibition in Dubai, which was held February 21 to 25.

Gulfood is the world's largest annual food and hospitality event, where buyers can see high-quality products from all over the world. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Afghanistan's participation in 2015 Gulfood, thereby allowing thousands of international buyers to learn about Afghanistan's agricultural bounty, including pomegranates, saffron, apples, apricots, melons, grapes, nuts, and raisins.

The Afghan traders said they are expecting several more million dollars in deals in the coming months as they finalize contracts with the buyers they met at the event.

Mahmood, the marketing director of Afghan Red Pomegranate, signed the largest contract in his company's history to export Kandahar pomegranates to South Korea. Sumaria Rahamati of Herat Saffron confirmed a deal of \$700,000 from a Saudi buyer and she expects to execute it within two months.

"More and more international buyers are seeing the quality of Afghan produce. New and profitable markets are opening for the country every year as a result of events like this – and as a result of the superior taste of the country's fruit and nuts," said Hanif Sufizada, private sector director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock.

Mustafa Sadiq, of the Omid Bahar Fruit Processing Company (which was established with USAID support), said that Gulfood provided a great platform for Afghan producers and processors to introduce their agricultural products in international markets and to expand their business.

With USAID's support, Afghanistan has participated in Gulfood since 2011. Traders have signed millions of dollars in deals at these events, they have expanded their reach in markets such as Pakistan and India, and they have gained access to new markets in the Middle East, Europe, and North America.

USAID's Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project, Commercial Horticultural and Agricultural Marketing Program, and Regional Agricultural Development Program-South supported Afghanistan's participation in Gulfood this year.

- [Press Release - Afghan Traders Score More than \\$2 Million during Gulfood Exhibition in Dubai \(Dari\)](#)