

Child Protection & Psychosocial Support
for Afghan Children and Youth
Quarterly Program Report, April – June 2003

Submitted to the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund

USAID

By

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) on behalf of the NGO Consortium for the
Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children

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**First Quarter Report (April - June 2003) for USAID
 Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program
 Cooperative Agreement EEE-A-00-03-00019-00
 International Rescue Committee (IRC) - Save the Children – US (SC-US) –
 Christian Children’s Fund(CCF)**

CONSORTIUM-WIDE RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Goals and Objectives	Results	Indicators
<p>Goal: To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved social relationships between children and between children and families. 2. Children experience increased positive feelings. 3. Children engage in increased positive coping and decreased negative coping strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agency-selected indicators of social relationships (e.g. frequency of fighting) are defined through community participation and used to measure social relationships, comparing baseline levels with those that occur during and at the end of the project. (Progress with all Consortium members ongoing) - Agency-selected indicators of positive and negative feelings are defined through community participation and used to measure feelings before, during, and at the end of the project. (Progress with all Consortium members ongoing) - Agency-selected indicators of positive coping (e.g., seeking help when sad) and negative coping (e.g., drug use) are defined through community participation and used to measure coping strategies before, during, and at the end of the project. (Progress with all Consortium members ongoing. Baseline indicators will soon be developed to measure program impact.)

<p>Objective 1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities for child protection programs are selected by NGOs. 2. Common threats to child protection, in partnership with NGOs, are identified common threats to child protection. 3. Communities use participatory child focused methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of communities selected and location (Progress: Consortium members have begun to work in 52 communities and have identified the remaining communities where work is scheduled to begin in the next quarter) - # and location of communities which have identified common threats to local children (Progress: threats have been identified in 43 communities) - # and type of threats documented in partnership with communities using participatory child focused methods (Progress: physical threats and emotional threats have begun to be identified in all of the communities in which work has begun. Threats include lack of friendship, child abuse, early marriage, illiteracy, traffic, open wells, unsafe bridges, lack of economic opportunities, rabid dogs, and others)
<p>Objective 2: Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed and implemented.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities take actions to overcome threats which children and youth have identified 2. NGOs provide training and capacity building opportunities to communities to address child protection threats (trainings may include: participatory child focused methods, psychosocial support, child protection, CRC, child protection monitoring, health education, teacher training, ECD, landmine awareness, community mobilization, parenting practices, peace building and conflict resolution, life skills, child to child, youth leadership) 3. NGOs offer targeted programs for child and youth development (targeted programs may include: vocational training, income generation, child to child, traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of threats addressed by target communities with the assistance of Consortium (Progress: in 43 communities, communities have developed mini action plans and have begun to address some of the physical risks identified) - # of projects undertaken with community contribution (Progress: all of the projects are led by the community, including Child Well Being Committees, Men's groups, Women's groups, Youth groups, etc.) - # and composition of management committees (Progress: all communities have established committees which involve a cross-section of the community) - # and type of trainings

	<p>awareness, recreation, child centered spaces, literacy, infrastructure rehabilitation) 4. Youth participate in management committees for all community based projects</p>	<p>delivered (Progress: foundation trainings delivered to Consortium staff and in all target communities. Topics have included: participatory child focused methods, psychosocial support, child protection, child protection monitoring, community mobilization, and child to child) - measured improvement in children’s psychosocial well being (Progress: measures will be indicated at a later stage of implementation)</p>
<p>Objective 3: Particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities are identified and assisted.</p>	<p>1. Communities identify particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in need of special assistance 2. Communities support these especially vulnerable children and youth (in ways such as small grant provision, input provision) 3. Refer especially vulnerable children and youth to appropriate service providers</p>	<p>- # of vulnerable children, youth and families identified through use of child protection monitoring tool (Progress: work in this area will take place during the next quarter) - # of vulnerable children and families assisted through community mobilization (Progress: will come at a later stage of implementation) - # of vulnerable children and families assisted through direct Consortium inputs (Progress: will come at a later stage of implementation)</p>
<p>Objective 4: Advocacy for action occurs on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.</p>	<p>1. Establishment of child protection coordination fora at provincial and national levels. 2. Capacity building of government and other partners concerned with child protection issues 3. Sharing of organizational learning on best practice among consortium members through written reports and meetings</p>	<p>- # of child protection coordination meetings (Progress: 3 meetings were held by Consortium members to exchange lessons learned and develop joint plans) - # of government and partner representatives trained (Progress: 48 government and partner representatives have been trained on Child Protection themes in a formal setting, while others have been involved in more informal discussions and assessments) - regular consortium meetings (Progress: 3 meetings held in Kabul during the reporting period)</p>

Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program CCF/CFA First Quarter Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: Child Fund Afghanistan	Date: 29 July, 2003
Mailing Address Kululapushta	Contact Person: Frederik Prins
St. Barge Barq House 290	Telephone: 070 203 638
Kabul, Afghanistan	Email: frederikprins@hotmail.com
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this Report: April to June, 2003	
<i>(Briefly summarize the activities undertaken during the reporting period detailing progress made towards achievements of program goals and whether expected results remain unchanged from the original proposal.)</i>	
<p>Three meetings were held with DCOF Consortium partners, in March, April and June, to plan the joint activities timetable, complete the detailed implementation plan (DIP), reach agreement on reporting structures, develop consensus on goals and objectives, share various agency training skills (for future cross-Consortium training), and identify three domains for indicators of children's psychosocial well-being (level of individual risk, increased community capacity to address issues, and increase positive / decrease negative coping mechanisms of children), and articulate processes for collecting indicators for individual projects. This achieved the articulated goals of having regular program learning meetings among Consortium members and the regular sharing of information between Consortium members. It further has established a strong working relationship between members of the Consortium.</p> <p>As an individual agency member of the Consortium, CCF/CFA began community based activities which included identifying community volunteers and locations, establishing male and female Child Well Being Committees in 40 villages across three provinces of the northeastern Afghanistan. In these committees, children used mapping exercises to indicate physical threats to their well-being and presented these threats to their parents in the form of role plays and other interactive techniques. Those communities have already begun to address those physical risks, including the covering of wells, the reconstruction of bridges, the cleaning of waste and other techniques. In addition, literacy courses were established for 10,000 students, and non-formal education was begun in Child Centered Spaces for 3246 school aged children who had no other access to education. Training has begun to assist community members to understand and respond to emotional risks children face. Training has begun with staff to meet the psychosocial and youth development targets of the next phases of this program.</p>	
<p>GOAL: To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.</p>	
<p>Indicator and Current Measure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observed change in psychosocial well-being of children 2. Coping mechanisms of primary and secondary stakeholders improved 	

3. Effects of poverty and protracted conflict reduced

CCF/CFA has identified and selected specific indicators of psychosocial well-being. These indicators are based on previous CCF research. Currently methods for collective baseline information and measuring well-being against indicators are being developed. When these are completed, they will be used with communities to gather and measure against baseline data.

Objective #1: In 40 communities in Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces, children identify and communities agree upon common threats to the well-being of children.

CFA Indicator and Current Measure:

1. 40 communities were selected to participate in the Child Protection Program
2. 12 community mobilizers were trained to assist children and communities in identifying and addressing protection risks
3. 80 maps (2 for each community in a boys and girls group) were produced that clearly indicated the nature and location of the physical risks to children
4. 840 children actively participated in the mapping exercise
5. 800 parents youth and children volunteered to serve on Child Well Being Committees including 320 children, 160 men, 160 women, and 80 young men and 80 young women

Objective #2: Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed and implemented.

CFA Objective: *Child well-being committees, assisted by CFA community mobilizers, overcome physical and psychological threats to child protection.*

CFA Indicator and Current measure:

80 Child Well Being Committees (one male and one female in each community) have organized their communities to take decisions around action plans
35 communities cleared trash from public and private areas;
48 ditches of standing water filled in by local communities;
9 communities repaired 3.2 kilometers of roads;
183 open wells have been covered;
12 communities rebuilt small bridges which had posed risks for children;
2 communities discussed mine awareness issues

CFA Objective: *To improve psychosocial well being through the leading of specialized trainings for community members*

CFA Indicators and Current measure

This training for staff was initiated at the end of this quarter, and activities in target communities are scheduled to begin during the second quarter.

CFA Objective: *To improve livelihood opportunities and the physical infrastructure of target communities*

CFA Indicators and Current measure:

10,000 youth participate in the literacy classes necessary to demonstrate improved literacy and numeracy
3,246 children take advantage of Child Centered Spaces to improve educational abilities and

social interactions with other children

The additional indicators and measures will be reflected in subsequent quarters, as education and vocational training do not produce immediate results but must be measured over time: initial results will be available in the next quarter

Objective #3: Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

CFA Indicator and Current Measure: *No activities begun this quarter, but are anticipated for next quarter. CFA must first train CWBCs in protection monitoring and then through these skills they will be able to identify vulnerable community members.*

Objective #4: Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

CFA specific Indicator and Current Measure:

In accordance with the work plan, these activities are scheduled to begin in the next quarter. Preliminary meetings have been held with all actors --including the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, UNAMA, UNHCR, and district-level government officials -- regarding programmatic activity. Members of the government of accompanied CFA on initial fact-finding missions as well as during assessment of the project activities. Collaboration with government and UN bodies will be continued and deepened in the upcoming quarter.

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Limit to one half page, include the following:)

The program goal is to improve in a sustainable manner the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children in the northeast, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a protracted conflict environment.

The program has three objectives: (1) identification and reduction of threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities; (2) increased engagement of Afghan children, particularly young children and vulnerable groups, including war victims, with their environment in safe, integrated, developmentally appropriate ways; and (3) increased positive engagement of and developmental learning opportunities for Afghan youth, which improves their learning and positive participation in the community. The program provides direct, urgently needed supports in forms such as material assistance to construct latrines; quick impact grants to help repair a shelter or enable economic activity; rapid organization of structured and protective activities for younger and highly vulnerable children. It also mobilizes family and community support for child protection, engages youth in providing material aid and building community structures such as schools, wells, and latrines, organize youth and children in urgently needed child protective activities, support income-generating activities, and support teachers who work with war-affected children.

Beneficiaries

The target communities in the Northeastern provinces of Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar have been selected because they have been heavily affected by war, poverty and are often underserved by the government-run school system. Children throughout this region have been affected by

poverty disfigurement and disability, loss of home, deaths of family members and friends, separation from parents, reductions of economic status, sexual violence, and deprivation of activities such as education that strengthen basic competencies and coping ability.

Locations

Takhar

	<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>
1	Takhar	Bangi	Shikhali	- CWBCs for males and females - CCS - Female Literacy - Ditches filled - Trash cleared - Hygiene messages given to children	April 2003	
2	Takhar	Taloqan	Qaramula	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Ditches filled - Trash cleared - Bridges reconstructed	April 2003	
3	Takhar	Taloqan	Qazaq	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Open wells covered - Ditches filled - Hygiene messages given to children	April 2003	
4	Takhar	Taloqan	Hait Bache	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Trash cleared - Ditches filled	April 2003	
5	Takhar	Taloqan	Dehbash	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Open wells covered - Ditches filled - Trash cleared - Hygiene messages given to children	April 2003	
6	Takhar	Taloqan	Shikhan	- CWBCs for males and females - Open wells covered - Trash cleared - Bridges reconstructed	April 2003	
7	Takhar	Taloqan	Don Qeshlaq	- CWBCs for males and females - Female literacy - Open wells covered - Trash cleared - Ditches filled	April 2003	
8	Takhar	Taloqan	Safiha	- CWBCs for males and females - Open wells covered - Trash cleared - Hygiene messages given to children	April 2003	
9	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Quzulkocha	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and Female literacy	April 2003	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCSs - Trash cleared - Ditches filled - Open wells covered 		
10	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Haji Ghulum Haidar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWBCs for males and females - Male and Female literacy - CCSs - Bridges reconstructed - Open wells covered 	May 2003	
11	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Qalacha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Trash cleared - Ditches filled - Hygiene messages given to children 	May 2003	
12	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Haidar Khjawar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - CCSs - Trash cleared - Open wells covered - Ditches filled 	May 2003	
13	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Oruzbacha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWBCs for males and females - Male and Female literacy - CCSs - Trash cleared - Bridge reconstructed - Hygiene messages given to children 	May 2003	
14	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Espandasht	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Ditches filled - Trash cleared - Open wells covered 	May 2003	
15	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Nowabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWBCs for males and females - Male and Female literacy - CCSs - Open wells covered - Ditches filled - Trash cleared - Hygiene messages given to children 	May 2003	
16	Takhar	Khwaja Ghar	Jundekger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Trash cleared - Open wells covered - Ditches filled 	May 2003	

Kunduz

	<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>
1	Kunduz	Chardora	Dorman	- CWBCs for males and females - CCSs - Ditches filled - Bridges reconstructed - Trash cleared - Mad dogs tied up	April 2003	
2	Kunduz	Chardora	Dubandi	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Trash cleared - Open wells covered - Ditches filled	April 2003	
3	Kunduz	Chardora	Gharaw Qeshlaq	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Roads rehabilitated - Trash cleared - Ditches filled	April 2003	
4	Kunduz	Chardora	Qara Khani	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Open wells covered - Ditches filled - Latrines constructed - Trash cleared - Roads rehabilitated - Mad dogs controlled	April 2003	
5	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	Batash	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Open wells covers - Bridge rehabilitated - Trash cleared - Latrines constructed - Standing water removed from ditches	April 2003	
6	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	Faizabad	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Road repaired - Trash cleared - Ditches filled - Mad dogs tied up	April 2003	
7	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	Ajughan	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Trash cleared - Ditches filled - Open wells covered	April 2003	
8	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	Majar	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Open wells covered	April 2003	

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				- Ditches filled	
9	Kunduz	Ali Abad	Said Ahmad	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Trash cleared - Open wells covered - Ditches filled - Bridge rehabilitated	April 2003
10	Kunduz	Ali Abad	Shena Teppa	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Trash cleared - Ditches filled - Bridges rehabilitated	April 2003
11	Kunduz	Ali Abad	Haji Baba	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Open wells covered - Bridges rehabilitated - Ditches filled	April 2003
12	Kunduz	Ali Abad	Arzbeqi	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Open wells covered - Bridges rehabilitated - Trash cleared - Ditches filled	April 2003
13	Kunduz	Qal-i-zal	Aurtapoz	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Open wells covered	June 2003
14	Kunduz	Qal-i-zal	Joyarsaray	- CWBCs for males and females - Male literacy - Ditches filled - Open well covered	June 2003
15	Kunduz	Qal-i-zal	Aqteppa	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Road rehabilitated - Open wells covered	June 2003
16	Kunduz	Qal-i-zal	Wartaboz	- CWBCs for males and females - Ditches filled - Open well covered	June 2003

Badakhshan

	<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>
1	Badakhshan	Faizabad	Kuri	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Ditches filled - Trashed cleared	May 2003	
2	Badakhshan	Argo	Baghi Shah	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Ditches filled - Discussions on reducing community violence	May 2003	
3	Badakhshan	Argo	Boy Malaci	- CWBCs for males and females - Roads rehabilitated - Ditches filled - Mine consciousness-raising	May 2003	
4	Badakhshan	Argo	Qaraquzi	- CWBCs for males and females - Female literacy - Roads rehabilitated - Ditches filled - Consciousness-raising raising among parents regarding dangers of rushing rivers	May 2003	
5	Badakhshan	Argo	Etachy	- CWBCs for males and females - Female literacy - Roads rehabilitated - Ditches filled	May 2003	
6	Badakhshan	Argo	Jata	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Raised awareness among parents about dangers of early marriage - Ditches filled - Roads rehabilitated	May 2003	
7	Badakhshan	Argo	Ob Sity	- CWBCs for males and females - Male and female literacy - Ditches filled - Roads rehabilitated	May 2003	
8	Badakhshan	Argo	Samidi	- CWBCs for males and females - Female literacy - Ditches filled - Roads rehabilitated	May 2003	

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. Performance

Objective 1

1. Actual Accomplishments

Child Well Being Committees have been established in 40 communities and are highly active in all three provinces. They enjoy considerable popularity with villagers, who are increasingly organizing themselves to support children. Children and youth participate regularly as members of the CWBCs and take an active role in their work. Female committees are as active as the male groups. Children have used mapping exercises to indicate physical threats to their well-being and present these threats to their parents in the form of role plays and other interactive techniques.

Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are being met according to the work plan.

Objective 2

1. Actual Accomplishments

40 target communities have organized to take action to overcome threats which children and young people have identified. Many of them have already removed trash, covered wells, fixed roads and tied up or fenced animals to respond to their children's concerns. Health hazards to children in villages have been reduced through the collection of trash and the filling in of open ditches which collect water and breed mosquitoes. In this way, through this methodology, community bodies have taken an ownership over improving physical for the children.

Youth are participating actively in both male and female Child Well Being Committees.

Child Centered Spaces and literacy programs offer programs targeted to improve children's lives based on their age and stage of development. In addition to formal educational opportunities focusing on mathematics and Dari language skills, CCSs provide psychosocial activities for children in the form of play, music and drama. Literacy programs offer young people an opportunity to gain basic numeracy and literacy skills. Enrichment of the literacy course and CCSs curriculum is planned for the upcoming quarter.

CFA has provided initial training and capacity building opportunities to increase target communities' ongoing capacity to address child protection threats. Community members took a strong interest in reducing the physical threats to children's well-being and thinking through ways to provide a safer and healthier environment for their upbringing. More trainings are planned in the next quarter.

Initial trainings were held to begin the process of identifying and meeting children's psychosocial needs. According to the workplan, this activity will increase and intensify during the next period.

In order to establish appropriate vocational training courses in the target communities, CFA completed a market survey which point towards a series of economic activities which may be viable for vocational trainees. In addition, the selection of competent, community-endorsed

trainers has begun. Other activities to increase economic well being will unfold in subsequent quarters as planned.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

All targets have been met

Objective 3

1. Actual Accomplishments

No activities begun yet this quarter, according to work plan, activities will begin in quarter two.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

No activities begun yet this quarter, according to work plan, activities will begin in quarter two.

Objective 4

1. Actual Accomplishments

CFA met with relevant government officials and UN representatives to share goals and objectives for the program activities and increase their awareness of children's development and protection needs. These meetings have set the stage for developing appropriate practices and mechanisms in the next quarter according to the particular needs of the region.

Monthly consortium meetings have been held to facilitate the sharing of organizational learning among members.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are being met according to the work plan.

B. Success Stories

Mapping exercises by children to explain their concerns to adult members of the Child Well Being Committees have been extraordinarily successful. First, a group of 10 to 12 boys and 10 to 12 girls in each village were asked to draw a map of their village and identify places that were dangerous or where accidents happen. Second, the children were asked to identify two top priorities and present them to their villages by means of a role play which evoked a great deal of discussion about what can be done to address the risks. In many cases, community members hurried to eliminate dangers that children experienced once they learned about them.

“We didn’t know that they were so afraid of those mad dogs! We would have tied them up long ago!”

“We are so happy to help our children to also be happy. The CWBC helps us to be better parents.”

“Even though we are poor and illiterate, we can still take good care of our children.”

“I never knew that I could talk in front of elders, but now I help the community to be clean and take away trash!”

C. Obstacles

Due to the effects of war and isolation, some community members expressed concerns over the motives of outsiders entering the community to bring women and children together and into leadership positions. However, through time and careful introduction of the program, these community members found that the activities introduced through CWBCs were consistent with their long-standing values and traditions. Another problem is that, prior to programmatic implementation, even CCF/CFA's own staff members had little exposure to the ideas and principles underscoring the project. For this reason, it has been necessary to closely monitor staff performance and undertake ongoing trainings.

RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed

(Provide a brief summarization of the resources committed during the reporting period. When appropriate and the output of the program objectives can be readily quantified, such data should be related to unit costs. Include other pertinent financial information including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.)

B. Expenditures - Budget report submitted under separate cover to USAID in Washington.

Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program SC/US First Quarter DCOF report – 10 July 2003

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: Save the Children US	Date: 29 July, 2003
Mailing Address: Darul Aman Main Road Sher Kat Bus Stop, Ayooob Khan Mena District 7, Kabul, Afghanistan	Contact Person: Susan Erb Telephone: 070 298 247 Email: serb@savechildren.org
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this Report: April to June, 2003	

(Briefly summarize the activities undertaken during the reporting period detailing progress made towards achievements of program goals and whether expected results remain unchanged from the original proposal.)

Three meetings were held with DCOF Consortium partners, in March, April and June, to plan the joint activities timetable, complete the detailed implementation plan (DIP), reach agreement on reporting structures, develop consensus on goals and objectives, share various agency training skills (for future cross-Consortium training), and identify three domains for indicators of children's psychosocial well-being (level of individual risk, increased community capacity to address issues, and increase positive / decrease negative coping mechanisms of children), and articulate processes for collecting indicators for individual projects. This achieved the articulated goals of having regular program learning meetings among Consortium members and the regular sharing of information between Consortium members. It further has established a strong working relationship between members of the Consortium.

As an individual agency member of the Consortium, SC/US began community based activities which included identifying community volunteers and locations, holding a refresher training for SC/US staff and community promoters, providing training for community promoters and volunteers, and selecting groups of children and beginning the Child to Child activities in 5 communities.

GOAL: To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Indicator and Current Measure:

4. Observed change in psychosocial well-being of children
5. Coping mechanisms of primary and secondary stakeholders improved
6. Effects of poverty and protracted conflict reduced

SC/US has identified and selected specific indicators of psychosocial well-being. These indicators are based on previous SC/US research, the six month Children of Kabul research project, which sought specifically to identify children's perception of well-being. Currently

methods for collective baseline information and measuring well-being against indicators are being developed. When these are completed, early July, they will be used with communities to gather and measure against baseline data.

Objective #1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure:

6. **Nine communities for child protection programs selected** - Children in nine communities in Kabul have been selected to identify threats to child protection through the Child to Child approach. Child to Child programs have begun in five communities to date: Arzan Qimat – 3 locations, Char Qala/Qala Wazir, and Shi Khan. An additional 4 locations have been identified and programs are anticipated for August: Chehelston Mussahi, Dough Abad Dehdana, Dasht Burchi, and Gul Bagh.
7. **Common threats to child protection, in partnership with NGOs, are identified**– Child to child programs have begun in 5 communities with 640 children by the end of June. Identification of threats focus around issues of friendship, a concern identified by children during the Children of Kabul research project. However, because this activity only started in June, identified threats within the topic of friendship remain under discussion with specific named threats to be compiled during the first fortnight of July.
8. **Communities use participatory child focused methods** – SC/US undertook a variety of activities to ensure that communities are able to successfully use participatory child focused methods to identify threats to children’s child protection. From May 11-31st, SC/US hosted a child protection consultant to train SC/US staff in a refresher course on the Child to Child approach and on participatory child focused methods. This has enabled SC/US staff to increase their ability to provide accurate, up to date and high quality training to community participants. In June, SC/US staff selected and signed contracts with five community based promoters who then participated in five community trainings of 80 Child to Child facilitators. No facilitator is receiving an incentive, only their commitment to working within the community to address issues of child protection. Each promoter will supervise 16 facilitators who will in turn run 2 Child to Child groups of 8 children each, thus reaching 640 children. As the Child to Child groups start meeting regularly, distributions of age, gender and attendance will be gathered.

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure:

1. 9 communities selected in Kabul city
2. # and location of communities which have identified common threats to local children - in process
3. # and type of threats documented in partnership with communities using participatory child focused methods – in process

Objective #2: Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure: no activities begun this quarter, anticipated for next

quarter

1. Communities take actions to overcome threats which children and youth have identified
2. NGOs provide training and capacity building opportunities to communities to address child protection threats (trainings may include: participatory child focused methods, psychosocial support, child protection, CRC, child protection monitoring, health education, teacher training, ECD, landmine awareness, community mobilization, parenting practices, peace building and conflict resolution, life skills, child to child, youth leadership)
3. NGOs offer targeted programs for child and youth development (targeted programs may include: vocational training, income generation, child to child, traffic awareness, recreation, child centered spaces, literacy, infrastructure rehabilitation)
4. Youth participate in management committees for all community based projects

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure: all still in process

1. # of threats addressed by target communities with the assistance of Consortium
2. # of projects undertaken with community contribution
3. # and composition of management committees
4. # and type of trainings delivered
5. # of participants
6. # of caregivers implementing skills delivered during training
7. measured improvement in children's psychosocial well being
8. # of children and youth by age and gender participating in targeted programs
9. # of programs implemented
10. measured improvements in children's psychosocial well being
11. # of youths participating in management committees

Objective #3: Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure: no activities begun this quarter, anticipated for next quarter, however SC/US must first train community promoters and facilitators in protection monitoring and then through these skills they will be able to identify vulnerable community members. It is anticipated that these activities will occur primarily during the final six months of the project when successful group threat reduction has been achieved and a focus on individual case identification and assistance can logically progress.

1. Communities identify particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in need of special assistance
2. Communities support these especially vulnerable children and youth
3. Refer especially vulnerable children and youth to appropriate service providers through the community committees

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure:

1. # of vulnerable children, youth and families identified through use of child protection monitoring tool
2. # of vulnerable children and families assisted through community mobilization

3. # of vulnerable children and families assisted through direct Consortium inputs

Objective #4: Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

SC/US specific Indicator and Current Measure:

1. **Establishment of child protection coordination forum in Kabul** – 12 child focused agencies have been invited to participate in a child protection training to be held in September. This training will serve as the basis for a child protection coordination forum in Kabul.
2. **Capacity building of Kabul based government and other partners concerned with child protection issues through child protection training** – July 1st is the current date for the Children of Kabul launch workshop during which time 40 government and other partners will learn about child protection and children's psychosocial well being, based on the previous Children of Kabul research project.

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure:

1. **One child protection coordination meeting** – On 26th April, UNICEF, Save the Children Alliance members (from Save US, Save UK, and Save Sweden), and Consortium partners agreed to use a common approach to child protection monitoring and response in Afghanistan based on the child protection tool developed by the Save the Children Alliance. Each agency further agreed to act as a child protection focal point in their respective geographic implementation area, implementing child protection projects there, and to capacity build other organizations on child protection and monitoring
2. **# of requests on specialized training and technical assistance on child protection issues** – no action to date
3. **48 of government and partner representatives trained** – Three trainings were carried out in June by SC Alliance members - spearheaded by SC/US. Those trained included 9 members of the Afghan Independent Human Right Commission, two employees of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, 15 participants from UNHCR, seven from the IRC, and other NGO members numbering roughly 15.
4. **joint strategic objectives developed and agreed upon** – no action to date
5. **regular consortium meetings** - Monthly meetings were held in March, April and June with full representation by Consortium members; no meeting was held in May due to partners being on holiday.
6. **Regular reports generation and disseminated among Consortium partners**
Documentation from Consortium meetings has been shared via email between all partners. An SC/US research initiative, the Children of Kabul report on children's psychosocial well being, has also been distributed to all members of the Consortium.

III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Limit to one half page, include the following:)

A. SC/US Program Goal & Objectives – to enhance children’s well being by increasing community based capacity for children’s protection and psycho social support

SC/US has experience in the psychosocial support of children believing that an adequate child protection approach must include both the protection of children’s emotional and social well being. However, protection concerns for Afghan children currently vastly outstrip the current capacity of child-focused agencies in Afghanistan. Recognizing the need to build and expand capacity for children’s protection, SC/US is proposing a new child protection and psychosocial support project for children in the Kabul city. The overall aim of the project is to enhance children’s well being by increasing community based capacity for children’s protection and psychosocial support. The project is designed as a follow up project to a series of information gathering exercises conducted during the six month ‘Children of Kabul’ research project which identified threats to children’s protection and psychosocial well being. The project aims to reduce and resolve these threats by mobilizing children and community members to take action on the issues identified.

A key strategy that SC/US will use in mobilizing children to take action on identified threats is to implement child to child programs, which give children the knowledge to improve their situation, encourage them to become active in changing the situation in their communities and elicit the support of parents in making these changes. So that children involved in these programs can see real changes on the issues they identify, SC/US will mobilize parents and youth committees to support child to child programs through the implementation of practical solutions. While the majority of the proposal will build sustainable community capacity for child protection and psychosocial support, the proposal also includes: an objective for a city wide campaign on one of the threats to child protection identified in the research; an objective to support families and parents in child protection and psychosocial support; and an objective for advocacy on effective child protection policy and practice in the Afghan context.

B. Beneficiaries - 12,650 children – 1,150 children through direct participation in the child to child programs and an additional 11,500 children informed about the child to child topics from direct participants; it is anticipated that each child in the child to child groups will reach an additional 10 children through sharing and implementation of action plans.

C. Locations – 3 districts of Kabul City

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Promoters</i>
Kabul	12	Arzan Qaimat	Promotes and Facilitators trained and CtC groups set up	April 2003		Anticipate 384, still gathering data	Jamila, Toorpakai, Suhila
Kabul	6	Char Qala & Qala Wazir	Promotes and Facilitators trained and CtC groups set up	April 2003		Anticipated 128, still gather data	Karima
Kabul	Shi Khan	Mirachs Kot	Promotes and Facilitators trained and CtC groups set up	April 2003		Anticipated 128, still gathering data	Abdul Safa
Kabul	14	Dashat Barchi	Possible site located				
Kabul	7	Chahilston	“				
Kabul	7	Dehdana	“				
Kabul	Charasyab	Gul bagh	“				

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. Performance

Objective 1

1. Actual Accomplishments

One of SC/US's major goals before actively commencing the Child to Child community based groups was to ensure that its child protection staff was fully versed in participatory child focused methods. To this end, a consultant was brought in from the UK for a period of three during which time a 6 day workshop was held with SC/US staff. One result of this workshop was to provide SC/US staff with a series of resources to enable their child protection training skills. These developed skills were then put to use in June with the training of both facilitators and promoters in the community. This has meant that community trainings included ideas on gathering feedback on both a qualitative as well as quantitative level.

By the end of June, the SC/US child protection staff had begun the process of identifying psychosocial indicators of children's well being. The extensive refresher training done with the consultant has helped SC/US staff develop a fuller understanding of what kind of aspects might be included as indicators and what some ways of developing measurements for these indicators might be.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are being met according to the work plan.

Objective 2

1. Actual Accomplishments

No activities begun yet this quarter, according to work plan, activities will begin in quarter two.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

No activities begun yet this quarter, according to work plan, activities will begin in quarter two.

Objective 3

1. Actual Accomplishments

No activities begun yet this quarter, according to work plan, activities will begin in quarter two.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

No activities begun yet this quarter, according to work plan, activities will begin in quarter two.

Objective 4

1. Actual Accomplishments

Since April, 48 members of government and NGO partner organizations have been trained on child protection monitoring and response skills. Those who have attended the trainings have made commitments on behalf of their organizations to carry on with child protection work. UNHCR has implemented a process by which their field protection monitors trained in Jalalabad and Kabul will incorporate child protection monitoring into their ongoing activities. The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission will train other organizations in their impact areas and plan to take action on serious child protection cases which are referred to them by those using the child protection monitoring tool, developed by SC/US. The organization, Aschiana intends to begin child protection monitoring activities with the street working children they work with.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are being met according to the work plan.

D. Success Stories

Training on the Child to Child approach and participatory methods with children for 80 community based facilitators has been highly successful to date. These facilitators, who will run the children's groups to identify child protection concerns, have had their sessions met with considerable enthusiasm from within the community. Feedback from the 80 participants in the training included the following comments:

- “We have now really understood children’s participation.”
- “I really like the methods for how to do a needs assessment with children”
- “These methods help us get close to children, to access them and be with them.”
- “Thank you so much, the training was unbelievable.”
- “I liked the manners of the trainers a lot.”
- “Now we really know how to help children identify their problems.”
- “I learnt how to have a good group discussion with children.”
- “Many thanks for your patience and sympathy.”
- “I look forward to using these methods with children.”
- “I have a lot to say but mainly this has helped us raise our awareness of children’s needs.”
- “I like the methods for doing a needs assessment with children and it is very participatory.”
- “I really liked learning about children’s participation.”

E. Obstacles

In May, the SC/US Project Coordinator resigned leaving a gap in leadership with his departure at the end of June. While the position has been posted and some candidates have been identified, the hiring procedure will not be completed until end July at the earliest. This may have negative ramifications on timely achievement of goals. However, responsibilities have been delegated amongst the staff, and it is hoped that this short term solution will allow for uninterrupted continuation of work plan goals.

RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed

(Provide a brief summarization of the resources committed during the reporting period. When appropriate and the output of the program objectives can be readily quantified, such data should be related to unit costs. Include other pertinent financial information including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.)

B. Expenditures - Budget report submitted under separate cover.

***Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth
The International Rescue Committee - First Quarterly Report***

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: The International Rescue Committee	Date: 29 July 2003
Mailing Address: Ansari St., District 5, Jad-e-Banke Khun, Herat, Afghanistan	Contact Person: Suzanne Pike
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth	Telephone: +93 70 401 476
Country: Afghanistan	Period covered by report: April – June 2003
<p><i>(Briefly summarize the activities undertaken during the reporting period detailing progress made towards achievements of the program goals and whether expected results remain unchanged from the organizational proposal.)</i></p> <p>Monthly meetings were held with the DCOF partners during the reporting period. In addition, separate meetings were scheduled to discuss special issues such as reporting structure, financial reporting, indicators of psychosocial well-being and monitoring and evaluation. These meetings have resulted in: a common and agreed approach to program implementation; common goals and objectives being shared by consortium members; the identification of domains for measuring impact on psychosocial well-being; the reduction of threats to children’s protection; and the sharing of lessons learned between agencies. These regular meetings and frequent sharing of information via e-mail have resulted in an open and strong working relationship being developed between members of the consortium and has also resulted in improved programming.</p> <p>The IRC began by recruiting the full complement of staff for this program. At the same time the IRC consulted with general program staff, local partners, child focused agencies and government agencies to identify locations for project implementation. A list of locations (see below) has now been identified for inclusion in the project. Work has begun in some locations and is ongoing.</p> <p>A key issue for the IRC has been developing the capacity of all the staff recruited. Extensive training has been given to staff using the SC-US Child Protection Monitoring and Response Training and also in-house training that has been developed by the IRC. Since recruitment has been completed all staff have been receiving training to ensure: that they have the necessary skills to implement high quality programs; that they are able to work for and with communities; that they can empower and mobilize communities to identify and respond to threats to child protection and psychosocial well-being; and to enable them to continually and effectively supervise and monitor program implementation and impact.</p>	

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Limit to one half page, include the following:)

D. Program Goal & Objectives

(Restate the goal and objectives of the program as outlined in the proposal)

Goal:

To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Objectives:

1. Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.
2. Develop community based projects to address child protection threats.
3. Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.
4. Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

E. Beneficiaries

(Profile of the target population and the critical needs identified in the proposal)

11,500 children, their families and communities will benefit from this program. Due to the nature of the post war environment in Afghanistan all children are seen as being vulnerable. The protracted conflict and poverty stricken environment has resulted in a slow degradation in the ability of all families and communities to protect their children. It is true that there are groups of especially vulnerable children (street working children, disabled children, children in contact with the war, etc.) exist, however the numbers are quite small and the situation is not as bad as might be expected. Due to the erosion of family and community coping mechanisms, all children are seen to be at risk and in need of support. This program seeks to improve children's psychosocial well-being and reduce threats to child protection by strengthening family and communities' abilities to protect and support their children, while at the same time addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable cases as they are identified.

F. Locations

(Geographic locations of all major program activities)

In total 12 villages in Herat province and 2 communities in Herat city will be targeted for this program. These are as follows:

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>
Herat	Adraskan	Sange Sia	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Establish Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth	July 2003		Anticipate 350 beneficiaries. Data gathering is still ongoing.

			Groups. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.		
Herat	Adraskan	Barmallan	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Anticipate 350 beneficiaries. Data gathering is still ongoing.
Herat	Adraskan	Kashafi	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Anticipate 350 beneficiaries. Data gathering is still ongoing.
Herat	Adraskan	Shahbed	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Anticipate 350 beneficiaries. Data gathering is still ongoing.
Herat	Enjil	Eshaq Solaiman	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Between 300 and 400 beneficiaries expected. Data gathering is ongoing.
Herat	Enjil	Oqab	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Data collection is ongoing.
Herat	Enjil	Kharghaltan	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of	July 2003	Data collection is ongoing.

			community members in child protection.		
Herat	Enjil	Sarvestan	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Data collection is ongoing.
Herat	Ghorian	Dehran	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Data collection is ongoing.
Herat	Ghorian	Estanoo	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Data collection is ongoing.
Herat	Ghorian	Baran Abad	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Data collection is ongoing.
Herat	Ghorian	Rooshnaneqa laejawhar	Community Mobilizers recruited and trained. Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups formed. Focus Groups discussions. Training of community members in child protection.	July 2003	Data collection is ongoing.
Herat	Ghuzara	Espaqaan	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July.		
Herat	Ghuzara	Khaja Aalem	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July		
Herat	Ghuzara	Qalae Behboudkha	Possible location, final selection to be decided by		

		n	the end of July			
Herat	Ghuzara	Hazarjerib	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Ghuzara	Zeyaratja	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Zendajan	Koshkak	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Zendajan	Siah Aab	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Zendajan	Koopak	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Zendajan	Ghala-e-rig	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Zendajan	Safarkhan	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Zendajan	Ghala-e-garb	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Herat City, District 7	Shalbafan	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Herat City, District 7	Painaw	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			
Herat	Herat City, District 8	Gazergah	Possible location, final selection to be decided by the end of July			

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. Performance

Objective 1

Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.

(Describe the program performance, vis-à-vis the program objectives as outlined in the grant. For each objective, provide the following information:)

1. Actual Accomplishments

(Actual accomplishments compared to stated objectives, indicators and targets established for the reporting period. Provide both supporting quantitative and qualitative information.)

Accomplishments must show both progress made during reporting and cumulative achievements.)

Targeted communities have been selected. The process of recruiting community volunteers and establishing Children's, Women's, Men's and Youth Groups has begun. Once groups have been established focus group discussions will begin. The method of focus group discussions is being used to identify threats to children's protection and psychosocial well-being. Much preparation has gone into designing the format for the focus group discussions, in designing child centered tools for eliciting clear information from children and also into developing tools for use with illiterate communities.

Tools and Activities Developed:

- Happy Face/Sad Face Floor Charts and Daily Home Charts.
- Sunrise/Sunset Daily Activity Plotter.
- Village Mapping Game Chart/Activity.
- Graduated Color Floor Charts and Home Charts
- Focus Group Discussion Map.

The first two months of the program were concerned with developing job descriptions, advertising positions and the recruitment of the full complement of staff for this program. Once all staff were employed the process of training them began. To date the staff have received training on the following topics:

- Child Protection Monitoring and Response;
- Qualitative Research;
- Interviewing Techniques – Adults and Children;
- Individual Interviews and Focus Group Discussions, Group Facilitation Skills;
- Recording information accurately;
- Communicating with Children;
- Qualitative Analysis; and
- Psychosocial Issues for children.

2. *Reasons why targets were not met*

(Reasons why established targets were not met, if applicable, and how it will impact the objective. Discuss how the impact has been, or will be, addressed.)

The targets have not been met, in terms of identifying risks and threats to child protection and psychosocial well-being, as this is a new program for the IRC in Western Afghanistan. The IRC has previously not been working on child protection issues in Herat and its surrounding provinces. In order to begin this program it was necessary to recruit all staff to be involved - expatriate and national staff. All staff were recruited prior to initiating the assessment as it was essential that all staff have the above mentioned training. In recruiting national staff it was very difficult to find candidates with suitable experience and skills. A compromise had to be made between essential qualifications and experience, and experience that could be seen as relevant. Identifying suitable staff took time. In the team that was recruited only one person had previous experience of working on programs dealing with children's well-being and protection. This meant that much time had to be dedicated to staff training

and capacity building. This delayed the progress of the program in terms of initiating focus group discussions and starting direct implementation at field sites. This training has been progressing well: staff know and understand the program; are able to conduct precise, reliable and valid research; and demonstrate a clear understanding of child protection and psychosocial well-being. The program is developing and growing steadily.

Objective 2

Develop community based projects to address child protection threats.

1. Actual Accomplishments

No activities begun in this quarter according to work plan. These activities are due to begin in the second quarter.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

N/A

Objective 3

Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

1. Actual Accomplishments

No activities begun in this quarter according to work plan. These activities are due to begin in the second quarter.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

N/A

Objective 4

Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national level.

1. Actual Accomplishments

The IRC has participated in a national child protection working group meeting and informed them of this project and its expected outcome. The IRC has also met with Provincial Departments of relevant line ministries to make them aware of the project and is establishing a separate Child Protection Coordination Group in Herat. At present, there is no separate forum for child protection issues. The IRC is establishing and chairing this group in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the current line ministry for child protection issues. The IRC will develop the capacity of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to monitor threats to

child protection and psychosocial well-being in order to ensure the sustainability of this program. The main way in which this will be done is through the implementation of training programs.

The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) is an independent group that monitors protection issues and advocates on behalf vulnerable groups. There are ongoing discussions to best determine areas of collaboration on child protection issues – one such area is child and youth drug use. The AIHRC has raised a number of issues that it is concerned about and seeks support on. The IRC has agreed to assist in providing them with training and to develop their capacity in the area of child protection in Western Afghanistan.

Similar discussions have been held with other agencies, including UNHCR, to ensure that all protection programs promote children's well-being and ensure their protection.

2. *Reasons why targets were not met*

Targets are being met in line with planned activities.

F. Success Stories

(Provide Success stories, if available, which illustrates the direct, positive effects of your program on individual children, families or communities.)

G. Obstacles

(Explain how unforeseen circumstances affected overall program performance compared to original assumptions, if applicable. Further, explain how activities were accordingly adjusted or re-targeted.)

A key obstacle to this program has been a lack of qualified and experienced staff in the west of Afghanistan. It had originally been thought that there would be some staff with suitable experience available – qualified teachers, other NGO staff, teacher trainers, etc. The reality is very different, there is a dearth of qualified and professional staff. The recruitment of suitable staff took far longer than expected and ultimately the IRC were unable to find staff that had experience of child protection or even protection issues more generally. This lack of experienced professional staff has been a problem as it has resulted in educated and suitable staff being recruited that can be trained and whose capacity can be developed. While it had been expected that staff training would be an ongoing part of the program, it was not expected that the start of the program would be solely concerned with intensive staff training. Having to focus on extensive staff training has resulted in delays to direct implementation in targeted communities.

IV. RESOURCE USE/EXPENDITURE:

A. Resources Committed

(Provide a brief summary of the resources committed during the reporting period. When appropriate and the output of the program objectives can be readily quantified, such data should be related to unit costs. Include other pertinent financial information including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.)

B. Expenditures

Budget report submitted separately.