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IQC Periodic Progress Report

Instability, Crisis and Recovery Programs (ICRP) IQC

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Quarterly Report (January-March 2008)

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SECTION 1: CONTRACT PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

TASK ORDER NO. 1: SERBIA CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC SECURITY PLANNING (SCOPES)

Progress of Major Activities in Process in Relation to the Requirements of the Contract

- **Component 1 – Preparedness and Planning**

Building Disaster Resilience in Target Municipalities and Surge Capacity

During the reporting period, the Preparedness and Planning Team continued to focus on municipal interventions by intensifying the direct technical assistance and training to selected local governments. The team has continued to expand the number of municipalities they are working with, and have now reached a total of 41. Highlights of the Preparedness and Planning Team achievements during the reporting period include:

- 125 people attended a training on “Local Communities Communication, Coordination and Prevention in Disaster,” which was organized at the initiative of Kragujevac’s disaster management in February 2008. The results of the training were apparent only a few weeks later when Kragujevac was struck by a powerful wind storm. The response time needed to complete a damage assessment was significantly improved over the response time needed after a similar incident last summer;
- The project issued a *SCOPES Program Internal Procedures Manual on Surge Capacity*. The manual incorporates lessons learned from Surge Capacity Activities so far, including the flood response donation experience described the last reporting period, and describes SCOPES’ disaster and emergency management operational framework.

Other achievements to date include:

- 20 municipalities now have standing disaster management bodies empowered by municipal assembly decisions;
- A total of 23 municipalities have produced all-hazards planning documents
- 321 crisis responders from 29 municipalities have been trained in program subjects to improve municipal disaster management

Monitoring changing risks of social or political instability

The SCOPES team continued to produce monitoring and situation reports to USAID, including daily situation and analytical reports in the aftermath of Kosovo’s declaration of independence. In total, SCOPES produced 22 reports this period.

Summary of SCOPES Crisis Monitoring and Reporting, October 2007-March 2008

Date	Report	Topics
Jan. 22, 2008	Research	Voting statistics for Presevo and Bujanovac in all elections since 2004
Jan. 31, 2008	Monthly	Out-of-Kosovo voting, influence of Albanian regional political parties, component activities
Feb. 19-Mar. 5, 2007	12 daily situation reports	Response to Kosovo declaration of independence: impact on program activities, general policy/security issues, humanitarian issues, organized public response, status at border crossings
Feb. 29, 2008	Situation report	Response to Kosovo declaration of independence: intimidation of members of national and religious minorities, journalists, persons expressing dissenting opinion
Feb. 29, 2008	Monthly	Municipal protests in response to Kosovo declaration of independence
Mar. 12, 2008	Situation report	Response to Kosovo declaration of independence: description of situation of Kosovo IDPs in Serbia
Mar. 18, 2008	Research/recommendations	Summary of humanitarian debate on vulnerability, 1999-present
Mar. 19, 2008	Situation report	Response to Kosovo declaration of independence: impact on local governments near the border
Mar. 21, 2008	Situation report	Earthquake in Cacak
Mar. 26 (rev. Mar. 31), 2007	Situation report	Response to Kosovo declaration of independence: impact on reservists' protests
Mar. 31, 2008	Monthly	Monthly Kragujevac disaster management process, component activities

- **Component 2 – Economic Development/Economic Security**

The Economic Security Team has continued to build on the success from the prior reporting period. The team has cumulatively assisted 392 companies in seven targeted municipalities, providing companies tailored technical and financial assistance aimed at enabling businesses to grow and become more competitive. This assistance has resulted in the creation of 130 new jobs.

Through various types of assistance, the Economic Security Team has reached out to 1,997 direct beneficiaries. These beneficiaries have received a combination of business training, direct investments and opportunities to make business linkages. Of the total number of beneficiaries, some 40 % are youth. Due to their high unemployment rate and high

percentage of population in ES targeted municipalities, youth are considered to be the most important population group for the program.

The Economic Security Team has continuing to conduct training programs in which 1,028 people have participated to date. These trainings are aimed at improving business knowledge of entrepreneurs and business owners, as well as tailored technical needs of companies.

To date, 58 grants worth a total of \$669,210 have been provided in support of the ES Team's objectives. Of this total, private companies have been recipients of 39 grants totaling \$424,075. More than 60% of the total grants disbursed has been provided directly to private companies in order to help them improve efficiency, product quality and business performance.

- **Surge Capacity Option**

The surge capacity contract option was not utilized during the reporting period. Although the project closely monitored a number of events that could have resulted in a surge response (such as Kosovo's Unilateral Declaration of Independence, the Cacak earthquake, the Kragujevac wind storm and a chemical factory explosion in Zemun) the Mission, in consultation with the project, decided that none of these events warranted a surge response.

Problems Encountered and Remedial Actions /

Trends and Constraints

Kosovo's Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) resulted in some program implementation delays. With the Preparedness and Planning work, some municipalities requested a delay or cancellation of some training activities. The United States' support for Kosovo's UDI was highly unpopular among the local population, as a result, even some of the program's staunchest supporters felt the need to distance themselves from being associated with the project (and by extension U.S. foreign assistance) for a period of time. This adjustment period lasted approximately one month. Many of the trainings that were canceled were able to be rescheduled in the first part of the following quarter (April).

Kosovo's UDI also led to the temporary evacuation of non-essential personnel and dependents (after the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade was attacked, broken into and the consular section set on fire, an evacuation was ordered on February 22). This resulted in the delay of the revision of the Economic Security strategy (which required in-country presence), as both the CTO and the Economic Security team leader, who were key to this process, were on evacuation status for a period of time.

The other most significant problem encountered during the reporting period was the continued decline of the U.S. Dollar versus both the Euro and the Serbian Dinar (RSD). The Dollar has declined by approximately 25% against the Euro since the beginning of the project. This decline adversely affects the project in that it has forced management to scale back or cancel a number of activities. Most significantly, although it was originally envisioned that the program would be able to reach 15 to 20 municipalities with its Economic Security activities, now management believes that the next round of expansion

from 7 municipalities to 12 or 13, will be the last expansion. The project plans to submit a full budget realignment to the RCO for consideration in the first part of the next quarter which will fully reflect the full impact of the dollar devaluation.

TASK ORDER NO. 2: LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (LGCD) PROJECT IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONS OF AFGHANISTAN

Progress of Major Activities in Process in Relation to the Requirements of the Contract

Component 1 – Support to Local Public Administration and Governance

LGCD Capacity Development activities continue to achieve results throughout southern and eastern Afghanistan with the strong support and cooperation of central and sub national government officials and in close partnership with IROA's Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG). LGCD Capacity Development interventions are designed to improve stability by increasing the capability, responsiveness and accountability of provincial and district government institutions to improve the delivery of essential services to citizens.

LGCD Civil Service Training in Public Administration and Management

Phase I of the Civil Service Training in Public Administration launched in December 2007 in close partnership with the CSC successfully concluded in mid-March followed by the launch of Phase II. Training attendance rates have been remarkably high, averaging 80%, with many participants requesting that courses be extended. The Afghan Civil Society Forum (ACSF) and ACSF partner NGOs continue to be reliable implementing partners, as does the CSC. The CSC plays a leadership role by determining training policy, curriculum, materials, and overseeing the selection of training participants and, most importantly, providing the public face for all training activities, thereby boosting CSC legitimacy in the eyes of public servants and citizens alike.

Partner NGOs are currently delivering training in General Public Administration & Management (which includes Financial Management, Human Resources Management, Conflict Resolution, Leadership, Project Management, Procurement, and Communications), Basic English and IT skills. Trainings are provided to civil servants selected from provincial line ministry departments, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Offices of the Provincial Governors. Phase I of training targeted 20 senior level civil servants per province for a total of 200 civil servants. Phase II expands the number of courses delivered (to now also include IT and English) and the total number of training participants increases to 400. An important outcome of these capacity development efforts is the successful collaboration between ACSF partner NGOs and IROA officials on the ground. This sets a positive example for effective civil society – government collaboration and helps reduce mutual distrust between the two sectors.

LGCD Technical Assistance to Provincial and District Government institutions

Complementing LGCD's formal Civil Service Training are 38 LGCD Technical Advisors (TAs) embedded in key provincial government institutions throughout Southern and Eastern Afghanistan. LGCD TAs bolster existing personnel, office systems and operations by

transferring knowledge and skills through “learning by doing.” This “on-the-job-training” is linked to ongoing IARCSC public sector reform and restructuring efforts. In this reporting period, LGCD finalized their selection of government counterparts and updated their Institutional Development Action Plans tailored to the needs of their IRoA counterparts. These plans determine the specific skills set and knowledge base which TAs transfer to their counterparts over a defined period and are designed to improve certain aspects of service delivery in each institution. Improvements in services delivery performance are measured on a quarterly basis. TAs also organize joint formal trainings for provincial and district level officials to improve intergovernmental relations.

In order to ensure LGCD Governance staff and Technical Advisors have the capacity to transfer the required knowledge and skills to IRoA counterparts, the LGCD Governance team invest heavily in their professional development. In this reporting period, LGCD conducted Public Administration and Management workshops for 40 Technical Advisors.

LGCD Public Administration and Management Training for District Governors

To date, 90 district governors, 5 district officials and 6 Provincial Administrative Directors have received the LGCD Training in Public Administration and Management. These trainings were well received by District and Provincial Governors and Provincial Reconstruction Teams alike. The purpose of the training is to build the capacity of district governors to be more effective leaders and managers who ensure basic services are delivered more effectively to Afghan citizens. District Governors play an essential role in ensuring delivery of essential services because they are often the only point of contact between the majority of Afghan citizens and their government. The training also targets Provincial Administrative Directors who are responsible for supporting DGs and therefore plays an important role in improving relations between the provincial and district level governments.

The DG Trainings receive extensive media coverage and CSC, PRT and UNAMA staff is present to observe. DG Trainings provide participants with basic knowledge of public sector management and administration that is tailored to the specific needs and priorities of district governors. The topics covered during these workshops include: District Governors Roles and Responsibilities; Basic Principles of Public Sector Administration and Management; Administrative Procedures for District Governor Offices; Leadership and Team Building Skills; Accountability Mechanisms, including the IRoA Law on Public Procurement and the Civil Service Law; Communications and Public Relations.

LGCD Provincial Development Planning Workshops

In close cooperation with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy Office, LGCD designed a training program on Provincial Development Planning for Provincial Development Committee members launched in March 2008. LGCD Regional and Provincial Governance Advisors and Technical Advisors embedded in the PDC Secretariats attended a Training of Trainers event February 23 through 27 in Kabul. ANDS representatives provided briefings on the status of the Provincial Development Plans and next steps. The PDP Training program is designed to improve PDC operations; link PDC members more closely with the ANDS; impart skills in provincial budgeting, development planning, project cycle management and proposal writing. This training is timed to enable PDC sector committee members to design concrete project proposals for priority projects contained in the Provincial Development Plans. The first PDP Training was held in Zabul on March 15th -17th. Of the 32 participants trained, 22 represented line ministries.

LGCD Human Capital Development for Strengthened Governance Program

The NGO Future Generations Afghanistan is implementing project activities in 5 priority districts in Ghazni Province designed to link communities with their local government service providers and build stability through improved governance. Activities include health, literacy, income generation/vocational training, and improved agriculture services that enhance services delivery through citizen participation, collective decision-making and collective action. Building on this empowerment at the community level (in the process linking Community Development Councils with GIRoA institutions to enhance CDC stability), the project supports inter-community cooperation across ethnic lines and stronger linkages with GIRoA departments for improved socio-economic development and strengthened GIRoA legitimacy.

To date, the project has opened offices in Waghaz, Nawur, Jaghoori and Malistan (with Ajristan activities managed out of the Malistan office); 131 staff have been hired (of which 65 are female); over 28 line ministry officials have been engaged in project implementation (representing MoE, MAIL, MoH & Women Affairs, Provincial and District Governor Offices); 76 training course are ongoing in literacy and health with a total of 2084 participants (of which 1861 are women).

LGCD Training for Agriculture Extension Workers in the Southeast Region

LGCD signed four grants totaling \$243,728 with FLAG International, LLC. This project is aimed at providing MAIL extension trainings in the provinces of Paktya, Paktika, Khost and Ghazni. The grants will support a 60-day training program for extension workers in the four provinces and work towards contributing towards goals of both the LGCD Program and the Community Development Agriculture-P2K project being implemented by VEGA (ACDI/VOCA, CNFA, Winrock International and the Grand Council of Kuchis). The initial preparations to launch this project have been completed and the first trainings begin early April 2008.

Component 2– Community Mobilization and Development

In all three DAI/LGCD target regions, there has been a marked improvement in sub project identification, implementation and completion. The Community Small Grant program has identified 100 sub projects for CDCs (Community Development Committees) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations) in strategic districts and communities. Through a streamlined approval process that enables DAI to work directly with the CDCs, these small grants are improving stability in the regions and linking the communities in DAI's Priority Districts with Government Officials and Line Ministries.

During this quarter, DAI has fully staffed expatriate in all of the regions. This has increased the cooperation and communication between DAI, the FPOs, and PRT has increased tremendously. Linkages between all four DAI/LGCD Components improved during this quarter because of DAI's continual coordination with the Provincial and District Governments and the contracting of technical consultants for the Line Ministries. At the request of USAID's Field Program Officers (FPOs) and the Provincial Reconstruction teams PRTs, DAI conducted detailed Situational Agriculture Assessments and studies in Paktya and Kunar Provinces. The results were shared and are important for the PRTs and FPOs in Identifying viable sub projects in strategic areas of the provinces. The data collected and the

strategic importance of the Agriculture assessments prompted FPOs and PRTs in the East and South regions to requests similar studies in Nuristan, Zabul, and Uruzgan.

During this period DAI, developed several important manuals with crucial information relating to DAI/LGCD's sub project implementation. DAI's Priority District Rapid Assessment Report provided essential data from 56 DAI/LGCD priority districts to the PRT's and USAID. The data included square Kilometer per district; district population; district population density; kilometers of road per hectares number of household's district households per school; district households per clinic; IRoA district employees per 1000 population; Community Development Councils; summer and winter agricultural production and other important data that is critical for the strategic planning and coordination of LGCD sub projects. Other key manuals and documents include: a) Progress and Success Stories Illustrated Publication; b) Monthly LGCD Program Summary including detailed maps, comparative graphs and subproject tracker updates; c) a sub-project process flow chart; d) a DAI/LGCD Financial Manual; e) a detailed Engineering Training Handbook; and f) an Engineering Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plan. Development staff, Expatriate and National, which resulted in the accelerated implementation and completion of the Community Development projects in the East region.

Component 3– Local Stability Initiatives

In the last quarter, new projects under the Component 3 Local Stability Initiatives component have been implemented across the regions as part of the CTO's priority projects.

Six LSI sub-projects have been implemented in the Panjwai district area. They are comprised of four road improvement projects, one canal improvement project, and one Ablution center construction project. Two additional projects were identified by the USAID/FPO for Zahri district area. These projects will improve a 600-meter existing trail to a single vehicle road, cement culverts, road side drainage repair and irrigation gates. This project is currently in the concept development stage.

USAID has just recently approved DAI/LSI SR to develop project concepts for two projects in the Shah Wali Kot district area. The projects will be conducted entirely at the community level. The projects involve repair of a failing wall in a health clinic and road improvement to an important throughway.

The School Supplies and Equipment project for Musa Qala District were delivered on schedule.

There are currently 13 LSI sub-projects approved for Kandahar province, of these 13 sub-projects, six have been approved for Panjwai district and seven approved for Zhari district. A request for a Community Development Assistant has been identified and approved by USAID for the Musa Qala District.

There is one LSI sub-project in the Southeast. The Shkin Border Control Point was approved in early April is being built and scheduled to be completed on time. The creation of this border-crossing checkpoint will extend the IRoA's reach and allow it to better monitor border activities in an unstable region.

In Panjwai district, six sub-projects including are primarily improvements to existing roads, canals, and water points. All Panjwai projects are pending subcontractor bids towards for survey design.

In Zhari district, seven sub-projects consist of road improvements, canal and drainage repair and irrigation control gates. All Zhari projects are with the DAI Kandahar Engineering Team for the development of survey, design and BoQ.

There are currently 15 LSI sub-projects approved for Helmand province: two sub-projects approved for Lashkar Gah district, three sub-projects approved for Nahr-e-Saraj district, one sub-project approved for Nawa district, seven sub-projects approved for Sangin district, and two sub-projects approved for Musa Qala district.

In Lashkar gah district, two sub-projects are demolition, new construction, and furnishing of the courthouse and refurbishment and furnishing of the community center.

In Sanfin district, seven sub-projects are canal clean up, canal improvement, bazaar clean up, and government procedural training.

In Musa qala district, two sub-projects provided furnishings, books, and supplies to set up and outfit the district school and the combined district center Jirgha hall.

On February 10, 2008, all school supplies were delivered successfully and turned over to ISAF at camp Bastion. ISAF completed the final delivery to the school.

In Panjwai, during a Local Stability Initiatives (LSI) subproject survey there was a security incident involving the Taliban. One of the subcontractor engineers subsequently dies in the attack. This again highlights the insecure environment in which DAI LGCD works.

March 6, 2008 the Field Program Advisor (FPA) traveled to Shahre Safa, to meet with several district government officials in the priority district of Tarnak Wa Jaldak, in Zabul province. The purpose of these meetings served as both a general introduction as well as to discuss security issues. The FPA introduced the small community grants and followed-up with the two Community Development Council (CDC) concepts submitted by the LNGO and ADA. Participants included the District Governor, District Chief of Police, and District Administrative Assistant. They welcomed DAI to Sharhe Safa, and promised full cooperation. A follow-up meeting to develop the small community grants proposals is being planned.

Several small LSI projects are under consideration for Panjway and Zhari districts in Kandahar province. Subcontractors were identified and the request for proposal (RFP) was issued for seven subprojects in the Zharai district.

The seven LSI Zhari sub-projects have been combined into one subproject (KA019). The contract has been signed and the contractor is ready to start work. Grants, Sub-contracts and Procurement officer has requested the task number and held a meeting with the contractor on 1 April to explain the milestones.

Four LSI subprojects are underway in Uruzgan province:

Oshay Road Rehabilitation subproject, Oshay School equipment provision subproject, Pasaw Road Rehabilitation subproject, and Pasaw Dosang Resettlement subproject.

In the East, Tahir Khalil joined the team as regional LSI coordinator. Tahir Khalil continues to move subprojects through the pipeline from technical preparation to implementation. In Nangarhar, the first of 9 LSI proposals has been approved by the CTO and the remaining eight projects are under technical review by DAI/LGCD Kabul engineering team; pending USAID approval on all 9 projects within 30 days. In Kunar first of three LSI proposals has

been completed and pending USAID approval will move from technical preparation to ongoing; of the remaining two projects one is under technical review by the DAI/LGCD Kabul engineering and the second has been recommended for cancellation to the FPO. Under the direction of USAID FPOs, the regional LSI coordinator will work with communities to identify community small grant projects, which will complement the previously identified LSI projects to sustain the engagement with these extremely vulnerable populations and promote stability.

A request for PRT assistance was identified by the Eastern region DEVAD.

The PRT proposed to mitigate a long-standing tribal conflict through a canal irrigation project. DAI/LGCD has completed an initial assessment of the conflict between the Kamdesh and Kushtozi tribes in the Kamdesh district of Nuristan and identified tribal leaders on either side of the conflict. DAI/LGCD proposed to USAID to identify a small Afghan NGO with expertise in conflict mitigation and tribal mapping to lead the assessment process, which would begin with engaging both tribes in discussion, to listen to their views on the situation and to facilitate their development of conflict mitigation through community development strategies for the district. Rebuilding of houses, de-mining, and a major canal (CERP funded technical survey underway). Ideally, such interventions will connect communities with Government services and structures, decrease competition for precious resources, lessen tensions between the warring tribes and thereby improve stability in Kamdesh district. Tribal liaison office (TLO) began assessing the conflict between the Kamdesh and Kushtozi tribes of Kamdesh district LGCDNU015 on March 21, 2008; community interview and focus groups with tribal Shuras aim to identify projects to mitigate the long-standing conflict. DAI/LGCD East local governance team coordinated the conflict assessment with the provincial Governor who informed DAI/LGCD that president Karzai has also sent representatives to Kamdesh to assess the conflict. TLO has been instructed to coordinate with this team and the results of both assessments will be combined when solutions are identified.

Component 4– Provide Sector Expertise in Subjects that Support the Mandate of the PRTs

In the east, the FPA, together with the DEVAD, is in communication with the PRT to design a process to support DDAs and implement CDC level projects. Task Force Bayonet is looking at the feasibility of expanding Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) Focused District Development (FDD) and TF Bayonet's Afghan National Police (ANP) immersion training programs to include all areas of development; the FPA together with FPO and DEVAD have discussed this strategy with TF Bayonet. DAI/LGCD will recruit a consultant for such technical support pending a formal request from TF Bayonet.

A request for PRT assistance was identified by the Eastern region DEVAD. The PRT has proposed to mitigate a long-standing tribal conflict through a canal irrigation project. DAI/LGCD has completed an initial assessment of the conflict between the Kamdesh and Kushtozi tribes in the Kamdesh district of Nuristan and identified tribal leaders on either side of the conflict. These leaders will be confirmed through the Governor to ensure that the right players are brought to the table for discussions. DAI/LGCD proposed to USAID to identify a small Afghan NGO with expertise in conflict mitigation and tribal mapping to lead the assessment process, which would begin with engaging both tribes in discussion, to listen to their views on the situation and to facilitate their development of conflict mitigation through community development strategies for the district. Rebuilding of houses, de-mining, and a

major canal (CERP funded technical survey underway). Ideally, such interventions will connect communities with Government services and structures, decrease competition for precious resources, lessen tensions between the warring tribes and thereby improve stability in Kamdesh district.

In consultation with the acting Eastern region DEVAD, the Eastern region local Governance advisor briefed the DAI/LGCD governance component and ongoing sub-project activities to Task Force Bayonet. Because of this information sharing, TF bayonet adjusted their plans away from implementing district governance capacity building and scheduled a follow-on Eastern region coordination meeting with the LGCD, CSC, IDLG, UNAMA and MRRD. Component 4 support to TF bayonet is complete.

February 10, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Captain Jamie Bates Team Leader, Civil Affairs and Gulab Mangal the Governor of Laghman. The MoU demonstrates meaningful collaboration and unity of effort between the Governor and the PRT to support the legitimate authority of the provincial government in participating in and overseeing development activities in the province, and to uphold transparency and public accountability in identifying, designing, implementing, and monitoring publicly funded projects. As a condition of the MOU, the Governor will establish a Governor's Technical Unit (GTU) to assist the provincial government in identifying, designing, implementing, and monitoring projects inside of the province. The GTU will have three subcommittees:

- Design Committee: assists each department in preparing Project Proposals, Statements of Work (SOW), Project Designs, and BoQ
- Bidding Committee: Three engineers from GTU and three engineers from the PRT to evaluate bids, announcement and posts results participate in and provide input during contract negotiation/signing.
- Monitoring Committee: Two engineers from Government and two from the PRT

The MoU articulates that project proposals received by the PRT will be channeled through the concerned Government department and GTU. After approval, the project will be submitted to the related PDC sectoral TWG for design, preparation of BoQ and SOW.

A rapid agricultural assessment, for Jaji District was conducted by DAI agricultural specialist Dr, Ghulam Bahram. The results of the assessment were presented to the FPO and PRT on March 31, 2008.

The STTA for an initial feasibility Assessment of the Palto Dam project arrived in Kabul on March 11, 2008 to begin a six-week consultancy in support of the PRT. DAI has been requested to study the feasibility of the proposed Palto River Dam Project currently in preliminary and illustrative design directly by USAID and to study the feasibility of the proposed Zama Wadi Dam project currently in preliminary design by the US military – Task Force Eagle.

STTA for Paktya, Jaji Potato - Commercial Agricultural Assistance. Dr. Ghulam Bahram, Agronomist with DAI/LGCD traveled to the Paktya PRT on March 31, 2008 to present the results of Agricultural Situation Assessment of Jaji District of Paktya Province. Dr. Ghulam presented a brief on the situation to the PRT Commander, the USAID FPO and representatives of Paktya Maneuver Team. The presentation included analysis of the current situation as well as recommendations for agricultural interventions within the district. A full report was submitted to all stakeholders.

This report includes information on items such as crop mixes, watering cycle, irrigation application rates, capacity of reservoir, etc. He will travel to Pakitka in early April to continue

his comparison study of the Palto and Gol Kowt Dam sites. LGCD has also initiated another subproject to complement this activity- Technical/Social Assessment of Sharana Irrigation Scheme under Palto River, which is meant to gather and analyze socio-economic data in support of the Palto River Dam feasibility assessment.

Problems Encountered and Remedial Actions / Trends and Constraints

1. SECURITY SUMMARY

As expected in January there was a slight rise in the overall number of reported security incidents when compared to December, however this also remained significantly lower than the average levels seen in the late autumn of 2007. Other statistical measures such as the number of attacks and operations causing higher casualties were low, suggesting that the type of violence, which did take place, was not generally at a high intensity.

A particularly severe patch of winter weather, which caused hundreds of fatalities, was undoubtedly a contributing factor to this period of relative quiet. However, there is also a sense that tactically the insurgency was choosing to launch a few more serious and carefully selected attacks rather a greater number of less effective ones. These include: a complex ambush of a road construction convoy in Nimroz in which there was at least 12 fatalities; a coordinated assault on an Army/International Forces patrol base in Kunar which apparently included the use of artillery January 18; the January 14, direct attack on the Serena Hotel in KABUL by an insurgent cell that left a reported eight people dead including one American citizen; and January 31, assassination of the Deputy Governor of Helmand by suicide PBIED.

In some respects, February was a quiet month with continuing severe winter weather, especially in the first two weeks, leading to a low overall number of reported security incidents. However, in a more strategic sense it was an important month with several influential developments taking place in the south of Afghanistan and Pakistan. These included two mass casualty suicide attacks in Kandahar Province; a declaration of ceasefire between Government and Islamist militants in Pakistan's northern areas; and the Pakistan general election which took place February 18, 2008. The final week of the month saw a sharp statistical rise in violence, which was probably attributable to an improvement in weather, particularly in the far east of Afghanistan (Kunar and Khost).

As expected, following an improvement in the weather during March there were growing levels of violence in most areas of Afghanistan. Statistically these have increased consistently since the start of February with the exception of the second last week of March, which included Afghan New Year (Naw Ruz) celebrations, and would have predictably seen less incident reporting and less insurgent action.

In addition to the insurgency, there was an increase in reports related to criminal and factional activity, especially in the northern and western areas of Afghanistan. This too was most likely related to improving weather with localized long-standing rivalries being renewed following a winter break. There was also protesting in several cities related to the re-

publication of a Danish cartoon and the announcement of the release of a Dutch lawmaker's film, which are both considered offensive towards Islam. Despite fears that these protests would become violent, similar to those seen in 2005 when allegations were made that the Koran had been desecrated in Guantanamo Bay, in the event they were entirely peaceful and well handled by police.

2. ADMINISTRATION

1. New Positions Staffed—During this quarter, new staff members joined the project to fill positions required as we ramp up the implementation of the project. The new positions are:
 - a. Rajan Gill, Regional Director, Kandahar
 - b. Faisal Amin, former Community Development Specialist was elevated to Regional Director, Eastern Region
 - c. Martin Best, Senior Procurement Manager
 - d. Erika Isaac, Community Development Advisor, Gardez
 - e. Serena Williams, Field Program Advisor, Jalalabad
 - f. Jesus Zamora, QA/QC Engineer

LGCD also had short-term consultants and visits from the DAI home office in Kabul:

- i. Chris Seeley – DAI Home Office Practice Area Manager visited Kabul to assist with the Two Year Workplan and the PMP.
- ii. Sarah Weatherby –DAI Home Office Project Associate visited Kabul to assist the finance and contracts teams in Kabul and provide support to the regional offices.
- iii. Laurie Peirce – Consultant visited Kabul to assist with the Two Year Workplan.
- iv. Pia Chesnais – Consultant joined the Contracts, Subcontracts and Procurement team to assist with expediting critical Purchase Orders and pulling together subcontract packages for USAID approval.
- v. Tim Whittington – Hired to assist the PRTs with dam engineering
- vi. Mitra Khaleghian— to work with the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
- vii. Joe Blubaugh – to work with the Grants department

SECTION 2: CONTRACT FINANCIAL REPORT

New Task Orders	
None	
Ongoing Task Orders	
Task Order Number:	1
Name of Task Order:	Serbia Contingency Planning and Economic Security Program
Period of Performance:	May 31, 2006 – May 30, 2011
Ceiling Price:	\$29,369,415
Current Incremental Funding:	\$12,440,158
Modifications to TO:	<p>Modification 1: Increased total obligated amount by \$2,000,000, from \$3,690,158 to \$5,690,158. Effective 2/23/07.</p> <p>Modification 2: Increased total obligated amount by \$5,150,000, from \$5,690,158 to \$10,840,158. Effective 3/27/07.</p> <p>Modification 3: Modifies section A.5 of the Task Order related to grants funding. Effective 5/31/2006.</p> <p>Modification 4: Increased total obligated amount by \$1,600,000 from \$10,840,158 to \$12,440,158. Effective 9/19/07.</p> <p>Modification 5: Exercises option activity 1.2 entitled "Surge Capacity"; increases the Task Order Ceiling Price by \$9,991,911 from \$19,377,504 to \$29,369,415; Make other administrative changes detailed on the continuation pages. Effective 12/3/07.</p>
Task Order Number:	2
Name of Task Order:	Local Governance and Community Development (LGCD) Project in Southern and Eastern Regions of Afghanistan
Period of Performance:	October 2, 2006 – October 1, 2009
Ceiling Price:	\$ 164,726,649
Current Incremental Funding:	\$101,726,071
Modifications to TO:	<p>Modification 1: Increased the obligated amount by \$6,902,335, from \$18,000,000 to \$24,902,335.</p> <p>Modification 2: Increased the obligated amount by \$2,492,889, from \$24,902,335 to \$27,395,224.</p> <p>Modification 3: Increase TO ceiling from \$95,247,483 by \$68,830,847 to \$164,078,330. Revise the statement of work. Realigning the Core TO and budget.</p>

	<p>Modification 4: Increased the obligation amount by \$5,500,000 from \$96,226,071 to \$101,726,071.</p> <p>Modification 5: Changed the statement of work.</p>
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