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**SEVENTEENTH QUARTERLY
PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

For the Period October 1 to December 31, 2008

Submitted on January 31, 2009 by

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INTRODUCTION

The contract between Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. (Checchi) and USAID/DCHA/DG for the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP) was signed on September 28, 2004, and its implementation began on October 1, 2004. ARoLP supports the Afghan Justice Sector Institutions with assistance in areas of: 1) strengthening court systems and the education of legal personnel; 2) law reform and legislative drafting; 3) access to justice/informal sector; 4) support for commercial court reform; and 5) human rights and women's rights under Islam.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

- ARoLP assisted the Supreme Court in developing a court information system requirements plan.
- Non-judicial personnel PRR proposal submitted to High Council and Civil Service Commission for review and approval.
- Five core curriculum syllabi developed and being taught in Law and Sharia Faculties.
- Furnished Moot Courtrooms for Law and Sharia Faculties at Kabul University.
- Completed the 23rd Foundation Training program in Jalalabad.
- Completed a Criminal Justice Program in Kabul for judges responsible for cases in CSTC-A Focused District Development (FDD) program districts.
- Completed a two-day training program in Special Criminal Laws for public security and criminal division judges.
- Final draft of Law on Obtaining Rights was adopted by MoJ and submitted to the MoJ Taqin Department.
- Community Cultural Center established in Baghlan province.
- Held 12 roundtable discussions and talk shows on different women's rights related issues on radio and television stations and broadcast women's rights spots on Afghan television.

PROGRAMMATIC TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS

During the reporting period the USAID-funded ARoLP project received a request to plan for a second extension through the end of March 2009, this time with additional funds that would permit the completion of many long-term activities. The additional time and funding allowed for completion of the Foundation series of trainings, the nationwide rollout of the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS), and the human resources development proposal for non-judicial employees of the Supreme Court. The additions also meant that the project could plan for a more comprehensive women's access to justice campaign in Nangarhar province and the third Academic Legal English program, a highly successful English and law training program for law professors and students.

Significant energy was spent developing a work plan for the second extension and preparations for activities to take place during the extension. The planning and hiring process for the third ALE program usually takes over a month, and this was compressed into less than two weeks. Six law professors and English teachers were recruited, over 1,000 professors and students tested, and logistics for an eight-week training program for 150 was set up during this period. Preparations for the Nangarhar program to take place in the next quarter also took up much of the last month of the quarter with the design of different types of outreach materials and the production of thousands of brochures, comic books and giveaways.

ARoLP is also working closely with USAID to explore new programming areas that are to become major foci of the follow-on to ARoLP. During the quarter, ARoLP recruited a new Legal Aid Advisor to explore ways to increase the number of lawyers providing legal aid to women and low-income populations in targeted communities and the number of legal aid centers providing legal aid to women in targeted



communities. ARoLP also recruited replacement Judicial Training and Commercial Court Advisors to replace advisors whose contracts had come to an end and who had made other commitments for FY 2009.

While ARoLP successfully focused on extending its activities beyond Kabul to Afghanistan’s provinces, security remained a major obstacle. In 2008, record numbers of foreign aid workers have been kidnapped or killed, while attacks against U.S. and NATO military targets continue to reach all-time highs. Last quarter, we reported that provinces around Kabul had become dangerous and in the closing days of this quarter even Kabul became threatening. A specific threat notice was issued which warned of an attack against USAID project offices in the district of Kabul where ARoLP’s office is located. While ARoLP continued working and meeting with counterparts, there were increased burdens placed upon project resources to put into place additional guards and move the staff of a small satellite office into the main office compound.

Added to the security threats, ARoLP office infrastructure is feeling the dual strain of time and use. Major systems including generators and computer networks failed during the quarter, requiring temporary fixes that are not entirely satisfactory and necessitating unanticipated additional expenditures.

Still, despite these challenges, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRoA) and ARoLP are making progress toward improving the rule of law in Afghanistan with major achievements in long-running efforts expected in the next quarter.

COMPONENT 1.A SUPPORT FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

AR 5: New National Court Administration System Implemented

Description	Baseline As of September 30, 2006	FY2007 Total	FY 2008 Total	FY 2009 Target
1. Adoption of ACAS by Supreme Court	NO	YES	N/A	N/A
2: Number of courts using ACAS	0	0	356	400 ¹

Progress Toward Activity Results

Indicator 1: ACAS was adopted by the Supreme Court on September 25, 2007.

Indicator 2: ARoLP made significant progress toward implementing the ACAS in all functioning courts in the country. Judges and court administrators from courts in every province have now received ACAS training.

Implementing ACAS throughout Afghanistan was an enormous undertaking. Beginning with the vision of the Chief Justice for a simplified and standardized case tracking system, ARoLP has worked closely with senior Supreme Court staff, judges, and administrators first to develop and then implement the system. The design and development process took 9 months. Initially, as ARoLP and the Supreme Court worked

¹ The Supreme Court continues to transfer/assign judges to courts that previously had no staff and were not considered an active court. The 400 court target represents active court as of 31 December 2008.



through the many issues involved with process re-engineering (and re-thinking) of the Court's case tracking procedures, the goal was to have ACAS working in 14 courts by the end of 2008. However, as the judicial staff worked to develop the system, it became clear that a judiciary-wide implementation should and could be accomplished. Thus, when the Supreme Court adopted the ACAS as its case registration and tracking system, ARoLP and the Court began developing a plan for implementing the system in all 400 courts.

Initial implementation took place in the courts in and around Kabul. Planning the implementation beyond the Kabul region basically followed geography and weather so as to maximize the number of participants who could attend training as well as allow for the delivery of ACAS related materials, i.e. lockable files shelf units, preprinted case file jackets, party index cards and drawers, registry books, and out cards. As implementation moved to the south and west, security issues came to the forefront. Rather than travel to the provinces to conduct training and expose judges and court administrators to increased risks, ARoLP arranged for them to travel to Kabul for training. Training for administrators included classroom-type instruction followed by several days of hands-on training in mentor courts. Judges received the same classroom training along with day-long trainings in the regulations of judicial conduct, women's rights under Islam, legal research, and forensics.

Feedback from judges and administrators was extremely positive. The ACAS was the first change made to the judiciary's case processing system in nearly 40 years. Since judges and administrators were the ones who directly developed the system with technical assistance from ARoLP that focused on best practices and future expandability, ACAS was readily accepted and embraced throughout the country. Courts began requesting training and wanted the system implemented in their courts. Even as ARoLP began to implement ACAS in some relatively remote areas with difficult terrain and travel problems, judges and administrators continued to attend the trainings. Some traveled days and praised the system and expressed their appreciation for a more simple process of case registration and file management.

The ACAS implementation process was eventually stalled for approximately two months during the summer of 2008 when budget issues required ARoLP to suspend training. This had a ripple effect later in the year as weather created further training suspensions due to snow and travel disruptions. Still, training was scheduled and judicial staff attended trainings late in the year at locations such as Badakhshan and Takhar. In December, ARoLP held its largest training in Jalalabad where 287 judges and administrators attended ACAS training over three sessions. By the end of December, judges and administrative staff from courts from every province had received ACAS implementation training. While ACAS was implemented in 90% of the courts, there remain about 50 courts still to be trained. ARoLP will conduct an additional (and final) training session in early 2009 to ensure that every court is using ACAS. ARoLP will also begin a follow-up process in 2009 that will introduce caseload and statistical reporting procedures based on data captured by the ACAS.

The hard work and dedication by Afghanistan's judicial staff was a direct result of the commitment of the Chief Justice to see ACAS implemented throughout the country. Time and again, the Supreme Court authorized and instructed court staff to travel and attend ACAS training. This was at times a complicated process as schedules changed and the Supreme Court worked with ARoLP to maximize training attendance. In addition, the Supreme Court more than once publicized ACAS in public forums and their judicial publications. Ultimately, the Chief Justice presented the ACAS to the President who then issued a public statement endorsing the Supreme Court's efforts at modernizing their administrative systems and encouraging continued improvements. From the beginning, through the design and development and into the implementation, the ACAS initiative has been built by the Afghan judiciary for the Afghan people, with assistance from ARoLP.



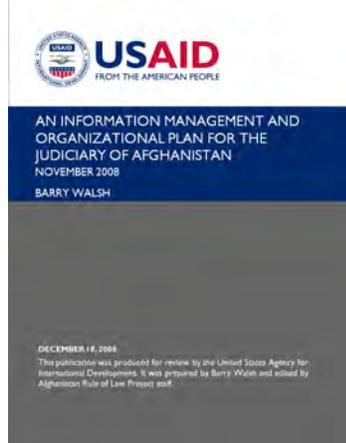
Description of Activities

Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS) ARoLP trained judges and court administrators from 56 courts in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces in the largest provincial ACAS training since the ACAS rollout process began in November 2007. 373 judges and 231 administrators from 150 courts attended the trainings. The trainings included classroom style instruction on ACAS procedures as well as several days of hands-on work with cases filed at the mentor courts. (Mentor courts are the provincial courts of appeal and the urban primary courts at the training locations that received special week-long trainings so that staff from the outlying districts could receive additional practice using ACAS with actual cases.) An added benefit is that the mentor courts receive additional resources to convert and manage their respective caseloads. To date, 826 judges and 898 administrators from 356 courts in all 34 provinces have received ACAS training.



Judges and administrators from 56 courts in the largest provincial ACAS training.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategic and Operational Plan



On December 25, 2008, ARoLP submitted to USAID the final draft of “An Information Management and Organizational Plan for the Judiciary of Afghanistan,” a report prepared by international court management consultant Barry Walsh, that provides strategic planning guidance to assist the Supreme Court in achieving its management information system goals over the next 5 years.

The report evaluates the needs of the Afghanistan court system according to recently published standards of the International Framework for Court Excellence, recommending a four-stage strategy for the coordinated development of information systems.

This strategy provides management information system solutions for the Supreme Court’s highest priority management information needs over the next 5 years. The report recommends that the Supreme Court follow this

study with a survey of current IT usage within the Court and an assessment of the Supreme Court’s technical capacity, including establishment of hardware and software specifications and operational policies.

Priority Restructuring Reform (PRR) for Supreme Court Non-judicial Personnel On December 24, 2008, one year after Chief Justice Azimi established the Supreme Court’s non-judicial personnel PRR



ARoLP HR Advisor Liz Johnson facilitating the presentation of the final draft of the PRR proposal.

Advisory Committee, the Committee presented its final draft proposal to implement modern human resources (HR) systems in the courts to Dr. Kamawi, the Director of General Administration of the Judiciary, and to Mr. Zurmati, the Civil Service Commission’s Liaison to the Justice Sector. Dr. Kamawi scheduled a formal presentation of the final report to the Supreme Court High Council for January 6, 2009. Following High Council review and approval, the proposal will be forwarded to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for its formal review.



The 500-page PRR proposal includes a narrative overview of the Court’s reorganization objectives, solution and implementation plan, and annexes providing project details, including proposed organization charts, terms of reference for each department, job descriptions for an estimated 1,800 administrative staff, staffing recruitment plan, interim budget estimates, relevant legislation, and documentation of the existing system and the analytical process conducted by the Committee.

Afghanistan Justice Sector Reform Project (AJSRP): Implementation of the \$27M first phase of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)/World Bank (WB) Afghanistan Justice Sector Reform Project (AJSRP) began in earnest during the last calendar quarter of 2008, as ARoLP staff facilitated development of Supreme Court capacity to assume substantial responsibility for staffing and management of the Court’s component of the project. During this reporting period, the Supreme Court’s Program Unit (PU) initiated and completed projects accounting for nearly \$6M or 75% of the funds allocated to the Court for projects to be conducted during the two-year term of Phase I.

Key Events for Next Quarter

- ACAS training to ensure all active courts have implemented the system.
- ACAS follow-up activities will begin; this includes refresher instruction of proper ACAS procedures and the introduction of caseload and statistical reporting based on ACAS data.
- Development of system requirements and database design for migrating ACAS to an automated system at the Supreme Court.
- Publication and dissemination of the Information and Communications Plan.
- Non-judicial personnel PRR proposal approved by the Supreme Court High Council and the Civil Service Commission, PRR implementation publicly launched, and RIMU proposal approved by the High Council and the Civil Service.
- Update remaining 40% of personnel records for Supreme Court personnel; issue ID cards to all remaining judges and non-judicial staff in Afghanistan.
- Publish first comprehensive collection of all Afghanistan judicial administrative policies and procedures.
- Certification of up to 20 graduates of advanced IT training program at IQRA University.
- IT users survey complete and IT assessment conducted.
- Complete design of Supreme Court facilities database.

Summary of Component Training Programs and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
November	ACAS orientation and training	Judges and staff from Badakhshan, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar	250
December	ACAS orientation and training	Judges and staff from Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Khost	354



COMPONENT 1.B. & C LEGAL EDUCATION

AR 5: Formal Legal Education Strengthened

Description	Baseline as of September 30, 2006	FY 2007 Total	FY 2008 Total	FY2009 Target
1. Number of core course syllabi developed and being taught	0	0	3	6
2. Competency test mechanism in place	No	No	No	No
3. Number of articles in Law Journal (cumulative)	11	21	46	56

Progress Toward Activity Results

Indicator 1: By supporting the creation of new syllabi and teaching materials for the 11 courses that make up Afghanistan's new core curriculum for all law and Sharia university students, ARoLP promotes both the standardization of course content throughout Afghan universities and the introduction of new teaching techniques that promote participatory and interactive learning. The 11 agreed-upon courses are as follows: Introduction to Law, Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, Principles of Fiqah (Islamic Jurisprudence), Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Commercial Law, Commercial Procedure, Civil Procedure, Civil Law/Civil Code, and Professional Responsibility and Ethics for Lawyers (Criminal Law and Civil Law are general subjects comprised of 11 sub-courses so total core curriculum will include materials for 20 courses). Each syllabus is developed by a working subcommittee made up of principal subject matter experts and assistants drawn from faculties around the country. Each syllabus is reviewed and approved by a plenary committee made up of academic experts and members of the faculty working committees from the appropriate law and Sharia faculties from all of the provincial universities in Afghanistan and ARoLP advisors. Once approved by the plenary committee, the syllabus is used to teach the subject in law and Sharia faculties of provincial universities, and is also used to develop the new textbook for that subject. The textbook is authored by the principal subject matter expert or experts and their assistants.

To date, 4 of the 11 core course syllabi have received plenary committee approval and are being used to teach Commercial Law, Introduction to Law, Human Rights Law, and Constitutional Law. The following syllabi have been approved by the plenary committees for sub-courses of Civil and Criminal Law, including: Family Law, Inheritance Law, Islamic Criminal Law, and Forensic Medicine. The plenary committee for the core course, Principles of Fiqah, has prepared an abridged syllabus of courses that have been taught over several semesters in Sharia faculties and is suitable for use in law faculties. The syllabus has been circulated to the law faculties for comment. In addition, IDLO, in cooperation with ARoLP has taken principal responsibility for the development of syllabi and textbooks for the core course of Commercial Procedure and the following sub-courses of Criminal Law: General Criminal Law and Criminology and Penology. Syllabi have been completed for the courses for which IDLO has taken responsibility and are being used in the classroom.

In total, six syllabi for substantive core courses and seven syllabi for sub-courses in Civil and Criminal Law have been completed. Use of the syllabi in classrooms depends on when courses are offered and on



specific university faculties' processes for changing their curricula. The topic of use is one which is expected will be addressed at the second National Conference on the Core Curriculum which will be held in Kabul in January 2009. In addition to syllabi, textbooks have been completed for four core courses and five sub-courses in Civil and Criminal Law, as described below in the Description of Activities Section.

Indicator 2: The Advocate's Law, signed by President Karzai in November 2007, came into effect on March 17, 2008. It contains provisions to establish a national bar association, the Independent Afghanistan Bar Association (IABA). The IABA will be responsible for developing a national standard of competence for those lawyers wishing to become licensed advocates. The inaugural General Assembly of the IABA took place July 27-30, 2008. The Assembly approved the bylaws and elected members of the IABA's leadership council, executive board, and monitoring board. There are still unresolved issues as to the scope of IABA's statutory mandate and the extent of government regulation over its activities. IABA has stopped registering lawyers for membership until these legal issues are resolved.

ARoLP has been working with the International Bar Association (IBA) to advise the MoJ and the IABA in setting up an IABA Committee on National Bar Examinations that will be responsible for determining requisite qualifications and standards for becoming a licensed advocate in Afghanistan. ARoLP planned to work with the IABA to design a new competency test mechanism, drawing on ARoLP's two years' experience preparing the Supreme Court's Stage entrance examination and assessing those examination results. Although ARoLP remains ready to begin work on the test mechanism, realistically, the IABA will not be able to address these qualification and competency issues during the life of the project.

Indicator 3: ARoLP anticipates that a fifth issue of the Kabul University Law Journal with at least 10 articles will be published by the end of February 2009. The publication of issues of the journal is dependent on receiving enough articles suitable for publication and the editor's ability to edit them in a timely fashion. Not enough suitable articles were received in time to edit and publish a journal issue this quarter.

Description of Activities

More Core Curriculum Syllabi Finalized and Textbooks Printed

Significant progress has been made this quarter in developing common syllabi for core courses. Plenary committee meetings for Islamic Criminal Law, Forensic Medicine, and Inheritance Law produced agreement on common syllabi for these courses. The plenary committee for Principles of Fiqah, comprised of Sharia scholars, met and prepared a syllabus for an abbreviated version of the course that is suitable for teaching in law faculties. This syllabus is being circulated to law faculties for comment.

Progress has been made in producing modern textbooks for core courses. This quarter, textbooks have been printed and are ready for distribution for courses on Introduction to Law, Commercial Law, and Constitutional Law and the sub courses of Family Law and Forensic Medicine.



Course professors discussing Islamic Criminal Law Course syllabus.



In cooperation with ARoLP, IDLO has produced textbooks for the sub-courses of General Criminal Law and Penology. IDLO expects in the near future to complete a textbook for the Commercial Procedure core course and the Criminology sub-course. Printed textbooks for several of the completed core and sub-courses will be available for inspection at the Second National Conference on Core Curriculum in January 2009.



Study tour participants in a teaching methodology class.

International Study Tour to the Philippines

In November, ARoLP advisors led a study tour comprised of law and Sharia professors and students to Manila. There they met with representatives of 3 top Philippine law schools and with representatives of the Philippine Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Committee. The group also visited the Philippine Senate, House of Representatives, and Supreme Court and attended a lecture by a member of the War Crimes Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia. The purpose of the tour was to expose the professors and students to learning opportunities that empower law students such as moot court competitions, legal aid clinics, and student Bar Association activities. The study tour was warmly received by the Philippine hosts who were generous with their knowledge sharing.

ARoLP furnishes Moot Courtrooms for Law and Sharia Faculties at Kabul University

Moot Courtrooms in the law and Sharia Faculties at Kabul University were completed in December. The rooms will be available for students as they begin the spring semester. Platforms, judges' desks, witness boxes, counsel tables, seating for the audience, and a deliberation room for use by judges were included. Similar courtrooms are planned in the provincial universities. The facilities will offer students realistic venues to practice oral presentation skills.

Model Instructional Classroom at Kabul University Law School Completed

Two Instructional Classrooms in the law and Sharia faculties at Kabul University were completed in December. Similar classrooms will be installed in faculties in the other provincial universities in the coming months. The classroom is equipped with modern teaching equipment such as a projector for power point presentations and slides, screens, and white boards. The classrooms will be the venues for presentations by the authors and assistants who developed modern textbooks for the core courses and will be valuable resources for teaching faculties.

Key Events for Next Quarter

- Work will continue on syllabi and textbooks for core courses.
- Second National Conference on Core Curriculum will be held in January 2009
- Workshop on teaching methodology will be held for law and Sharia professors in conjunction with the National Conference.
- Third Winter Academic Legal English program will be held from January to March 2009.
- Installation of Instructional Classrooms in law and Sharia faculties of Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat, and Al Biruni Universities will be complete.
- Teaching methodology demonstrations to introduce new teaching methods in classroom instruction using the new instructional classrooms will be held at the Provincial Universities.



Summary of Component Training Programs and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
May – Dec 2008	Computer Training	Al Biruni University School of Law and Sharia	27
Sept. 22, 2008	Plenary Workshop on Family Law Course Outline	Law and Sharia Faculty professors teaching the Family Law course	11
Nov 20, 2008	Plenary Workshop on Islamic Criminal Law	Sharia Faculties professors teaching the Islamic Law course	7
Oct 28, 2008	Plenary Workshop on Forensics Law	Physicians from Medical faculties teaching the Forensics Medicine Course	7
Dec. 25, 2008	Plenary Workshop on Principles of Fiqah	Sharia faculty professors teaching the Principles of Fiqah course	7

COMPONENT 1. D SUPPORT FOR JUDICIAL TRAINING

AR 3: Opportunities to Improve Judicial Professionalism and Improve Skills

Description	Baseline as of September 30, 2006	FY2007 Total	FY2008 Total	FY2009 Target
1. Code of Judicial Conduct Adopted	NO	YES	YES	N/A
2. Number of Judicial Training Hours Offered	404	239	174	294

Progress Toward Activity Results

Indicator 1: To fight endemic judicial corruption, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court supported the adoption by the Court of a modern code of judicial conduct, and appointed a Judicial Conduct and Ethics Working Group, supported by ARoLP, to draft a code for adoption by the court. In June 2007, the Supreme Court adopted the Regulation of Judicial Conduct for the Judges of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Regulation is a modern code of conduct containing universally recognized ethical standards to govern the conduct of judges.



Since ARoLP completed work on a focused training course to put Afghan judges on notice of the Regulation's standards and to train them on their meaning and importance as the first step toward its implementation. Since the adoption of the Regulation, 1,021 of the 1,408 sitting judges, including the graduates from the 2007 Stage class that received judicial appointments by the President, have received training on the Regulation; 923 of those judges have been trained using ARoLP's focused training course materials.

The Code of Conduct in itself cannot have its most effective impact as an ant-corruption force unless it is accompanied by an effective enforcement mechanism. The second quarter of 2009 must see an increased effort to adopt the enforcement regulation presently pending before the Supreme Council (See "Activities," below). Following adoption of the disciplinary regulations, a renewed effort must be made to offer training in the disciplinary component as well as to train the remaining judges who have not been introduced to the basic regulation. Following adoption of the disciplinary regulations, a single course for Stage classes and those judges not previously trained in the new Code would provide instruction in both the basic regulation and the disciplinary component. In addition, a training introducing the disciplinary component, which includes a brief review of the basic regulation, should be designed for those judges who have previously completed training in the basic regulations, but have not been introduced to the disciplinary regulations.

Indicator 2: ARoLP aims to increase the number of hours of judicial training course offerings, primarily through the development of focused training courses on various subjects. These courses have been developed for ARoLP and other judicial-training programs, as well as for the Supreme Court, which ARoLP expects will use the materials as part of a sustainable continuing judicial education program.

During this quarter, the Supreme Court gave final approval for publication and distribution of ARoLPs judicial training courses on Afghan Constitutional Law, Work of the Judge and Legal Research, Commercial Law, Commercial Procedure Law, Penal Law – General Principles, and Private Penal Law. Pending final Supreme Court review and approval are courses in Criminal Procedure and Special Criminal Laws (anti-money laundering, anti-corruption, counter-narcotics, and crimes against internal and external security). A course on Family Law has been completed in Dari this quarter and is being translated into Pashto.

Description of Activities

Mechanism for Enforcing Regulation of Judicial Conduct

On June 10, 2008, the Supreme Council of the Supreme Court adopted a regulation for disciplining judges. The regulation was the result of a concerted effort by the Chief Justice-appointed working group assigned to develop a mechanism for enforcing the Regulation of Judicial Conduct with technical assistance from ARoLP.

After months of detailed discussions with ARoLP, the Supreme Court working group drafted a regulation that includes an enforcement mechanism in-line with internationally-accepted standards, making room for the inclusion of a citizen complaint procedure, requirements for confidential investigations to determine probable cause, public hearings in cases where probable cause has been determined, and due process rights for judges alleged to have committed violations of the Regulation of Judicial Conduct. The draft was submitted to the Supreme Council.



It is clear that the Supreme Court intends to enforce the ethical standards set forth in the Regulation of Judicial Conduct. The new regulation provides for an initial confidential investigation to determine whether there is sufficient basis to proceed with a hearing, and does not prohibit citizen complaints. The Council deleted those articles in the working group's draft regulation that established a citizen complaint procedure, that required a public hearing in cases where probable cause has been determined, and that specified the due process rights of the accused judges.

ARoLP raised the action of the Supreme Council at a meeting with the Chief Justice and Dr. Kamawi, the Director of General Administration of the Judiciary. Following separate meetings with Dr. Kamawi and Justice Rashid, who chairs the working group, the chair called the working group back together for a meeting in November. At that meeting, the working group agreed to present to the Chief Justice and the Supreme Council amendments to the disciplinary regulation designed to bring the regulation more in conformity with international standards. ARoLP prepared those amendments and submitted them to the chair of the working group.

2008 Stage Judicial Training Program

During the first quarter, the Max Planck Institute provided financial and technical support to the Supreme Court for delivery of the 2008 Judicial Stage Training Program for International Law (MPIL) and the French International Institute for Comparative Studies (IIPEC). ARoLP continued to provide its English language classes to the Stage students and Supreme Court administrators. ARoLP's financial and technical support will begin again in the second quarter, as MPIL and IIPEC have now concluded their part of the Stage.

Foundation Training Program

Since August 2005, ARoLP has offered month-long intensive skills training to sitting judges who did not receive Stage training. The Foundation Training Program covers core subjects, including penal law and criminal procedure, commercial law and commercial procedure, civil law and civil procedure, and Afghan constitutional law, as well as instruction on the Regulation of Judicial Conduct, women's issues, and legal research techniques. Judicial training materials prepared by ARoLP are used to teach many of the subjects.

During the first quarter, ARoLP graduated one class of Foundation Training participants. Thirty-three judges from Khost (1), Kunar (5), Laghman (2), Nangarhar (19), Nuristan (5), and Panjsher (1) attended Foundation Training 23, which was held at the UNODC Provincial Justice Center in Jalalabad. To date, there have been over 800 participants in the Foundation Trainings. To ensure that all remaining sitting judges who did not receive Stage training are given the opportunity to attend a Foundation Training, a final training began in Kabul on December 15th. Twenty-six judges from Badakshan (5), Bamiyan (2), Day Kundi (2), Ghazni (2), Jawzjan (1), Kabul (2), Kapisa (1), Kunar (1), Kunduz (2), Laghman (1), Logar (1), Nangarhar (2), Samangan (1), Sari Pul (1), Takhar (1), and Wardak (1) Provinces, are attending the training, which is being held at the Polytechnic.

Criminal Justice Program

A two-week Criminal Justice Program for judges responsible for criminal cases from districts identified by the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (CSTC –A) in cycles 1 – 6 of its Focused District Development (FDD) program got underway in Kabul on October 25th. Through the FDD program, CSTC – A is training the Afghan National Police in the selected FDD districts in law enforcement procedures. To complement the CSTC-A effort, ARoLP is sponsoring criminal justice training for the judges responsible for criminal cases in those districts, and JSSP is training the prosecutors. The first Criminal Justice Program was conducted in Herat in May, and was attended by five



judges from three FDD districts. Attending the second program in Kabul were 20 judges assigned to primary courts in or responsible for criminal cases from the following FDD districts, listed by province: Baghlan (Bahlan Jadid District) (2), Farah (Bala Bolok District) (1), Ghazni (Deh Yak District) (2), Hilmand (Nar Saraj, Nawzad, and Washair Districts) (3), Kandahar (Arghandab, Daman, and Panjwai Districts) (4), Kapisa (Tagab District) (1), Kunduz (Char Dara District) (1) Nangarhar (Bati Kot, Chaparhar, and Kama Districts) (2), Paktya (Zadran and Zumat Districts) (1), Uruzgan (Dehraood District) (1), and Zabul (Jaldak and Sha Joi Districts) (2). The two-week program covered the following courses: Afghan Constitutional Law, Penal Law-General Principles, Private Penal Law, Criminal Procedure, including principles of fair trial and police law, and Special Criminal Laws (anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, counter-narcotics, and crimes against internal and external security). The judicial training course materials prepared by ARoLP in these subjects were used at the training, which was presented by experienced judges and law professors.

Financial Investigation Techniques and Special Criminal Laws Training

The United States Treasury Department, in partnership with USAID and INL, conducted a workshop in Kabul from November 15-18 on financial investigative techniques (FIT) for prosecutors and investigators. A separate workshop was held for judges on November 19-20. ARoLP supported the FIT training by securing the attendance of four investigators from the Supreme Court and 34 judges, including three women, from the following provinces: Kabul (20), Kapisa (1), Kunar (2), Kunduz (2), Laghman (1), Nangarhar (7), and Wardak (1). ARoLP provided financial support for the attendance of the investigators and judges. The judges were selected by the Supreme Court on the basis of their current assignment in the criminal and public security divisions of the primary and appeals courts. To provide the judges with background for the FIT workshop, ARoLP presented a two-day training on November 17 and 18 on the following special criminal laws: the Anti-Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Law (2004), the Afghanistan Law on Combating the Financing of Terrorism (2004), the Counter Narcotics Law (2005), the Law on Crimes against Internal and External Security (1987), and the Supervision Law on Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategy (2008).

Selection of Judges to be Future Judicial Trainers

Choosing to take direct ownership in the judicial education process, the Supreme Court, with assistance from ARoLP, agreed to interview 23 judges from which trainers will be selected for future judicial training programs. The interview committee, consisting of two Supreme Court Justices, a judge from the Supreme Court Security Department and a representative from ARoLP, expect to complete the selection process during the first week of January 2009. Three of the 23 judges have already been offered training in teaching methodology sponsored jointly by ARoLP and IDLO Afghanistan, and those ultimately selected will be offered similar training to be followed by more advanced training in teaching methodology. The Supreme Court has been encouraged to adopt a systematic program to select and formally train judges who will function as a training faculty to teach in judicial education programs, and to also participate as instructors in training programs supported by ARoLP.



Women's Legal Professionals Workshop

Afghan women are afforded limited opportunities to advance their education and achieve prominence in most fields, including the legal profession. Those who have earned judicial, professorial or prosecutor's posts have demonstrated exceptional perseverance and overcome significant obstacles while rising to these positions. Women entering professional legal positions are for the most part graduates of law faculties. Their education may have been enhanced by additional training, such as Foundation or Stage courses, or donors' study tours. However, programs for women-only audiences addressing professional women's work-life balance issues are non-existent in Afghanistan. To fill this gap, ARoLP presented a workshop from December 15-18 to 177 women from 11 provinces. Participants included 96 judges, 48 prosecutors, 2 law professors, 21 MoJ staff, 6 MoWA staff, and 2 JSSP staff. The training was designed to enable participants to develop skills in communication and a context for self-expression and discussion of work-life balance.



177 women attend ARoLP's Women's Legal Professionals Workshop

Key Events for Next Quarter

- Consideration by the Supreme Council of amendments to the disciplinary regulation for judges designed to bring the regulation in conformity with international standards.
- Continuation of Regulation of Judicial Conduct Training for judges.
- Support for Judicial Stage and Stage Practicum.
- Completion of the 24th Foundation Training Program.
- The final Criminal Justice Program for judges from the FDD districts.
- Two additional Criminal Justice Programs in provincial centers for public security and criminal division judges.
- An anti-corruption judicial training program.
- Final Supreme Court approval of focused judicial training courses on Criminal Procedure, Special Criminal Laws, and Family Law and their publication
- Distribution to all judges, Law and Sharia Faculties, law libraries, and interested ministries and organizations of three bench books, one containing course and resource materials on the Regulation of Judicial Conduct, Afghan Constitutional Law, and Work of the Judge and Legal Research; a second containing course and resource materials on Commercial Law, Commercial Procedure Law, and Family Law; and a third containing course and resource materials on Penal Law – General Principles, Private Penal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Special Criminal Laws.
- ToT trainings for judges selected by the Supreme Court to act as instructors in future judicial training programs.
- A two-week study tour to the United States for judges and administrators identified as playing a future role in continuing judicial education at the Supreme Court.



Summary of Component Training Programs and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
November	23 rd Foundation	Judicial Staff	33
October/November	Criminal Justice Program	Judicial Staff	20
November	Special Criminal Laws	Judicial Staff	30
November	Financial Investigative Techniques (support to U.S. Treasury)	Judicial Staff	34
October-December	English Language	Judicial Candidates	203
October-November	English Language	Court Administrators	5
December	Women Legal Professionals Network	Judges Prosecutors MoJ, MoWA, JSSP staff	96 48 29

COMPONENT 1.E SUPPORT FOR COMMERCIAL COURT REFORM

AR 6: Foundation for Effective Resolution of Commercial Disputes in Place

Description	Baseline as of September 30, 2006	FY2007 Total	FY2008 Total	FY2009 Target
1. National policy on enforcement developed	No	No	Yes	N/A
2. Supreme Court clarifies jurisdiction of commercial courts	No	Yes	No	No
3. Number of judicial training hours offered to commercial court judges	0	197	197	269

Progress Toward Activity Results

Note: ARoLP's commercial courts adviser left the project in mid-December.

Indicator 1: ARoLP successfully assisted the GIROA in its drafting of a national policy and a law for the reform and modernization of how civil judgments are enforced in Afghanistan.

While the national policy is going to be implemented through a new law, we were disappointed over the speed with which the MoJ moved on the drafting of the law. The intention of developing a policy was



to explain in a short, succinct document what the GIRoA planned to do with regard to the enforcement of civil judgments. This policy document was intended to be the basis of public and inter-agency discussions of the policy that would be the basis not only for an improved policy but also a starting point for a law that would be implemented. ARoLP has not had much involvement in the drafting of actual laws, focusing instead on training legislative drafters. While training legislative drafters the project realized that without the further development of the legislative process, the newly trained drafters would not be as effective as hoped. While the MoJ agreed to the development of a policy paper prior to drafting the implementing law, there was almost no discussion of the policy paper and in the end, even with massive inputs from ARoLP the law did not sufficiently reflect the agreed upon policy. While not the subject of this component, more needs to be done to address the legislative process in Afghanistan if the country is to have laws that can be implemented and meet the needs of the people.

Indicator 2: ARoLP did not meet its FY2008 objective for this indicator. The Supreme Court failed to include ARoLP-suggested amendments in its recent amendments to the Law on the Organization and Jurisdiction of the Courts. The Supreme Court has yet to understand the complications that may arise with a poorly defined subject matter jurisdiction such as is contained in the current Commercial Code. This realization may have to await a more sophisticated Bar and more complex litigation. For this reason, ARoLP does not expect that the Supreme Court will clarify the jurisdiction of the commercial courts in the near future, although the project still plans to engage the Supreme Court on this issue through the end of the project.

Indicator 3: No new judicial training hours were offered to commercial court judges during the quarter. The Supreme Court has not focused on developing commercial courts for two reasons. First, the Supreme Court faces many more basic challenges in the areas of basic human resource development and a lack of infrastructure. Second, low levels of commercial activity and subsequent commercial litigation require little judicial attention or sophistication. With the transfer of responsibility for commercial courts from Justice Baha to Justice Behsodi, there is renewed interest in the development of the commercial courts. ARoLP has been working with Justice Behsodi to select and train a cadre of commercial court judges who will be tapped to fill new openings in commercial courts throughout the country. Based on these discussions, at least one additional commercial law training will be offered before the end of the project.

Huqooq and the Law on Obtaining Rights

During this reporting period, a final draft of the Law on Obtaining Rights was adopted by the legal advisors and leadership of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and submitted to the MoJ Taqin Department. Once enacted by Presidential Decree in the coming months as expected, this new law – which sets forth in greater detail the authorities, obligations, and practices of members and directors of the Huqooq nationwide – will enhance the mediation and enforcement of judgments' work of those working inside the Huqooq Department of the MoJ.

Commercial Law Training

Late in this quarter, Justice Behsodi agreed to work with ARoLP to move toward the opening of new commercial court venues in numerous places including Ghazni and Bamiyan. This follows some reticence on the part of the Supreme Court to endorse the introduction of new commercial court venues. A prerequisite to the introduction of additional commercial courts is training and equipping additional judges to transition into these court venues. ARoLP began planning for a commercial law training program to be held in Kabul in February 2009. After gaining the agreement of the Supreme Court for the



subjects to be delivered during this training program, much has been completed by ARoLP to ensure a successful program in February. This program will likely be replicated in the months and years ahead.

Key Events for Next Quarter

- Training for commercial court judges in Kabul

Summary of Component Training Programs and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
None			

COMPONENT 2: LAW REFORM AND LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING

AR 8: Legislative Process Improved

Description	Baseline as of September 30, 2006	FY2007 Total	FY2008 Total	FY2009 Target
1. Number of draft laws sent to the Office of Administrative Affairs by Taqin	N/A	49	70	45
2. Number of agencies with members trained in legislative drafting	1	6	6	0
3. Number of entities distributing Afghan laws, regulations, legal information	1	8	14	10

Progress Toward Activity Results

Indicator 1: During the fourth quarter, ARoLP did not provide directive legislative-drafting support to the Taqin. Also, the MoJ's Law Reform Technical Working Group, of which ARoLP is a member, did not call a meeting to provide donors with an update on the Taqin's legislative progress. The Taqin told ARoLP that 21 legislative documents were prepared and sent to the Council of Ministers, via the OAA.

Indicator 2: Because of the interest shown in providing legislative-drafting training to the Taqin and others by the U.S. Department of State and the Canadian government, ARoLP will not pursue in-country legislative drafting training in FY2009. This decision is reflected in ARoLP's approved Work Plan.



Indicator 3: ARoLP has distributed some additional 250 copies of the 17-volume Judicial Reference Set. Extra copies were sent to judges in various provinces including Ghazni and Nangarhar, to those judges who were either new or did not receive their copy when the laws were originally sent to their provincial courthouse. Another 45 copies were distributed to participants of the Nangarhar Foundation training, in addition to DVDs of the Official Gazette. ARoLP worked with the MoJ IT staff to update its online searchable legal database. More than 20 new issues were added to the database, making it current through issue 960, the latest available issue in electronic format.

While ARoLP encourages the reproduction of Afghanistan's laws, legal materials, and training materials collected and published by the project, few private or public organizations ask for digital copies of the laws to reprint themselves. At the project's inception, it was assumed that other organizations would recognize an opportunity to develop small and perhaps even large-scale legal publishing operations. While a few international donors have requested assistance publishing select laws -- for example, JSSP, GTZ, and UNDP have all asked for hard-copy or digital copies of laws to reprint for their own publications or training classes -- a for-profit or non-profit market for publishing laws outside the project has not developed. Demand, however, remains high for laws and legal materials, the World Bank-funded AJSRP will address this unmet need by studying the feasibility of establishing a printing unit within the MOJ. For the duration of ARoLP's extension period, the project will continue to work toward increasing access to Afghanistan's laws, publishing legal materials in hard copy and electronic formats and online at AfghanistanTranslation.com, www.moj-research.gov.af, and on the Supreme Court's website at www.supreme-court.gov.af.

Description of Activities

Digitization of Afghan Law

The head of the Ministry of Justice Publications Department requested copies of all of the Official Gazettes that ARoLP has digitized and formatted, as well as pre-Official Gazette laws of the Osolnamas and Nezamnamas. The project's publication staff copied issues 1-960 to DVDs for the MoJ, with the intention of publishing and distributing these 30,000+ pages of laws in Dari and Pashto as part of the World Bank funded AJSRP. MoJ has not developed a collection of its own digitized, formatted laws, and is missing some Official Gazette issues. The MoJ has also requested the pre-Official Gazette laws on DVD, which ARoLP is collecting, digitizing, and formatting. Seven missing issues of Nezamnamas dating from the 1930s have finally been located after months of project staff searching in a variety of government institutions and private bookstores. At least another 10,000 pages of these archive laws will be put into electronic format suitable for printing, and then copied to DVD for use by the MoJ.

INLTC Library

Law library staff at the INLTC continue to develop library collections and skills. Since the law library at the INLTC opened in August 2008, the library staff has focused on collection acquisitions, cataloging those acquisitions, and encouraging legal professionals to learn how to research the library's print and electronic resources. Staff have overcome many obstacles, such as creating original cataloging records in Dari and Pashto languages. (Libraries worldwide generally copy-catalog their records from a national library; U.S. libraries use the Library of Congress for this purpose.). Library staff have also created a legal research workshop, a two-hour program which guides users through print and electronic research materials. Because legal research is not a part of law school curriculum, the staff are currently developing workshop materials that will be published as a legal research manual at the end of January 2009 and distributed to law students and legal professionals throughout the country.



New INLTC Library Catalog Developed and Online

In order to resolve continuing difficulty cataloging the law library collection, library consultant Stephanie Schmidt, Technical Services Supervisor at Zayed University in Dubai worked with ARoLP staff for 10 days in October. Her expertise in original cataloging in Arabic and Persian languages assisted staff with identifying open source software that could read Dari and Pashto, as well as developing criteria for creating original records searchable in both languages. Schmidt also helped staff classify the collection by subject area according to Library of Congress classification rules, also used by Kabul University's main library and the library at Parliament. The library staff is well on its way to creating cataloging records in Dari and Pashto for each title held in its collection of approximately 4,000 hard-copy volumes of Afghan laws, foreign and international laws, and legal commentaries. The catalog will be available in February 2009 on the library's web site, recently launched at www.inltclawlibrary.org.

Legal Research Manual

In December, library staff began development of a legal research manual that has grown from training conducted for various project activities, most recently last quarter for 11 Afghan legal staff from provincial reconstruction teams serving Combined Joint Task Force 101 (CJTF-101). Training included a tour of the INLTC law library, a presentation on researching using hard-copy and electronic sources to search Afghan laws in Dari and Pashto languages, and a hands-on component that walked users through Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, and other websites providing legal research resources. Workshop attendees are given the training presentation and a DVD including all laws of the Official Gazette. The library staff's training manual will expand upon this workshop, providing a curriculum for identifying a law and how to find it, with practical research problems that can be adapted to classroom instruction.

Key Events for Next Quarter

- Publish and distribute 4,000 copies of the Dari-Pashto Dictionary of Legal Terminology.
- Publish and distribute 100 complete sets of Official Gazette laws of Afghanistan (issues 1-953 from 1964 through current).
- Publish and distribute 4,000 copies of the first volume of Supreme Court decisions.
- Publish and distribute 3,100 copies of the Judicial Reference Set (2nd Edition) Supplement.
- Publish and distribute 5,000 copies of the Afghan Legal Research manual in Dari and Pashto languages.
- Purchase at least 1,000 additional volumes of hard copy materials for INLTC law library to reach and surpass its 5,000-volume goal.
- Make INLTC law library catalog accessible via its website at www.inltclawlibrary.org.
- Distribute 126 remaining copies Judicial Reference Sets (2nd Edition).



COMPONENT 3: ACCESS TO JUSTICE/INFORMAL SECTOR

AR 2: Appropriate Sector for Resolving Disputes

Description	Baseline as of September 30, 2006	FY2007 Total	FY2008 Total	FY 2009 Target
National policy on informal justice sector developed	No	No	No	No
Change in public attitudes toward the formal justice sector, based on the percentage of Asia Foundation survey respondents who said they went to state courts to resolve disputes	20.1%	46%	N/A	N/A

Progress Toward Activity Results

Indicator 1: At the MoJ's request, ARoLP authored a draft policy on the informal justice sector in late FY2007. The goal is for the MoJ to develop an informal justice policy statement that defines the authority and jurisdiction of the informal justice sector as an alternative venue for dispute settlement, working alongside the formal justice system. The policy was also to encompass ways in which the informal justice sector can support the formal justice system. In November, ARoLP submitted its draft policy to the MoJ for its review. The draft was based on substantial research and consultation with government officials and other justice-sector stakeholders and is intended to provide recommendations to the government as it moves forward in developing its own official policy on the subject. The MoJ has reviewed the draft policy and agreed with much of its content, sharing it with Supreme Court Chief Justice Azimi.

ARoLP planned and took the draft policy to the provinces for review by local leaders in the formal and informal justice sectors. This activity was suspended during the third and fourth quarters due to budget constraints and UNIFEM resistance to any policy on Afghanistan's informal sector. During this quarter, ARoLP held meetings with local leaders from the 32 ARoLP-supported community cultural centers in the 27 districts of Kapisa, Panjshir, Parwan, and Maidan-Wardak provinces and obtained input on the draft policy. The feedback report and the draft policy will be delivered to the ministry of justice in January. Then ARoLP will organize a meeting of stakeholders in Kabul by February and discuss the collected community feedbacks and the draft policy further for receiving more input to provide to the ministry of justice. The project will also carry out an additional provincial pilot survey on the linkages between the formal and informal justice sectors at the district level to get more details and deliver to MOJ by March. This feedback and the input collected from other national and international stakeholders, such as the United States Institute of Peace and UNIFEM, will be used and incorporated into the final ministry's official draft policy on the informal justice sector. Due to delays, it is unlikely that the policy will be adopted before the end of the project in March 2009.

Indicator 2: According to the 2007 Asia Foundation Survey report, 46 percent of Afghans who could not resolve a dispute on their own turned to the formal justice sector, up from 21.1 percent reported in the 2006 survey. As more and more Afghans turn to the formal justice sector for help, ARoLP continues to produce and disseminate public outreach materials to educate citizens on the roles of the formal and informal justice sectors in Afghanistan.



The next Asia Foundation survey will not be released until after the project end, but ARoLP will continue with its outreach activities, such as developing community cultural centers and distributing outreach materials throughout the country to increase Afghan awareness of the formal justice sector.

Description of Activities

Local Discussions Held on Informal Justice Sector Draft Policy

At the MoJ's request, ARoLP, along with the U.S. Institute for Peace, developed a draft policy on the informal justice sector that will serve as a basis for the MoJ's own policy on the informal justice sector. During the quarter, ARoLP presented this draft to local leaders at the 32 ARoLP-supported community cultural centers in Maidan-Wardak, Parwan, Kapisa and Panjshir provinces for feedback. In general the local leaders polled said a policy that recognizes the informal justice sector and its relationship to the formal justice sector is important because the informal sector plays a very important role in their provinces. Participants also suggested that leaders in the informal justice sector receive training on Afghan secular and Islamic religious laws. Some participants recommended court oversight of the informal justice sector's handling of certain cases. ARoLP will provide a report on the local leaders' feedback to the MoJ for possible inclusion in the policy on the informal justice sector.

Community Cultural Center Established in Baghlan



ARoLP established a new community cultural center in Baghlan province.

ARoLP expanded its public outreach activities further in the north by establishing a 34th community cultural center in Baghlan province. The project outreach team traveled to Baghlan province and met with provincial authorities including the provincial deputy governor and appeals court chief judge to present the ARoLP community public legal awareness plan. The team also met with independent

community leaders including elders and educated community activists to discuss the use of the community cultural center.

The project identified and specified a strong team of community leaders, opinion leaders, and educated individuals who volunteered to run a community cultural center. ARoLP provided the center with digital equipment such as a computer, projector, screen, printer, scanner, loudspeakers, an amplifier, along with a 100 KW generator to facilitate power for the public outreach purposes by the center. The center's staff was trained by ARoLP's outreach team on public outreach and computer skills to better carry out outreach activities in Baghlan province. Training on legal referral skills to help communities access justice will be held by the end of February 2009.

MoJ Legal Aid Office and Legal Assistance Efforts

During this quarter, ARoLP contributed to a series of weekly meetings to help coordinate the efforts of all international partners who are interested in the development of legal aid services for indigents. This is an active time for those in the international community who are working with the Legal Aid Department at the MoJ, as the Independent Legal Aid Board has held its inaugural meeting and adopted new bylaws to direct its operations, and the Secretariat employees charged with the responsibility of administering the policies and directives of the Board are expected to start work early in 2009.



Key Events for Next Quarter

- Organize informal justice conference among national and international stakeholders to discuss feedback from local leaders of Kapisa, Panjshir, Parwan, and Wardak provinces on the draft policy on the informal justice sector.
- Design and carry out an informal justice pilot survey in districts of selected provinces.
- Establish a community cultural center in Kunduz province.
- Carry out public outreach campaign in Baghlan and Kunduz provinces.
- Develop 3 new comic books on women's access to justice.
- Produce a radio and television quiz show on women's access to justice.

Summary of Component Training Programs and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
October 21-23	Community feedback on AROLP-drafted informal justice policy paper	Afghanistan Rule of Law Project, Maidan-Wardak informal justice actors and AROLP-funded community cultural centers.	20
26-28 October, 1-7 November,	Community feedback on AROLP-drafted informal justice policy paper	Afghanistan Rule of Law Project, Panjshir informal justice actors and AROLP-funded community cultural centers.	20
9-20 November	Community feedback on AROLP-drafted informal justice policy paper	Afghanistan Rule of Law Project, Parwan informal justice actors and AROLP-funded community cultural centers.	20
23-25 November	Community feedback on AROLP-drafted informal justice policy paper	Afghanistan Rule of Law Project, Kapisa informal justice actors and AROLP-funded community cultural centers.	20
27-31 December	Public Outreach and computer training	Afghanistan-Rule of Law Project (ARoLP)	10



COMPONENT 4. HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNDER ISLAM

AR 1: Knowledge of Women's Rights in Islam Increased

Indicator	Baseline As of Sept 2006		FY 2007 Total		FY2008 Total		FY 2009 Target	
	Kabul	Provinces	Kabul	Provinces	Kabul	Provinces	Kabul	Provinces
1. Number of dialogue events	0	0	26	41	34	89	N/A	N/A
2. Public attitudes on women's rights changed, based on percentage of Asia Foundation survey respondents who gave positive responses to questions about women's rights	85%		83%		83%		N/A	

* The total number of dialogue events was 25, exceeding the target of 22.

Progress Toward Activity Results

Indicator 1: During the quarter, ARoLP organized a two-week media campaign to mark the International 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence. The media campaign included roundtables, call-in shows, and broadcast of television spots highlighting customs and traditions that are degrading and discriminatory to women. A second media campaign was organized from December 7 to December 30 to mark International Human Rights Day. Message development was finalized for ARoLP's Nangarhar Access to Justice Campaign.

ARoLP's Women's Rights under Islam program exceeded its outreach target by holding 3 more public dialogues on women's rights issues. Feedback received from participants suggests that people have some degree of information on women's rights, but that does not necessarily mean that women's rights and roles, both personally and socially, are respected. Comments raised by participants in our discussions indicate that changes in attitudes and behavior toward women will require much more time.

Indicator 2: Continuing its efforts to provide a space for exchange of views and knowledge on issues related to women's rights under Islam, ARoLP funded several events, including a public discussion on polygamy in Islam and a joint seminar with the Center for Law and Islamic Jurisprudence of the



Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan. Separate trainings were held for 334 judges participating in ACAS and Foundation trainings in Kabul, Kunduz, and Nangarhar provinces.

Work continued on developing new outreach materials on women's access to justice. ARoLP will use print materials and media outlets to reach out to as many people as possible in Nangarhar province. Since the next Asia Foundation survey will not be released before the end of the project we will evaluate the impact of the campaign by tracking cases filed by or on behalf of women in the provincial courts.

Description of Activities

Five-week Media Campaign on Women's Rights

A two-week media campaign was organized to mark the International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence and International Human Rights Day. ARoLP's consultative group members participated in 12 roundtables, including live call-in shows on Saba television, Radio Killid, Good Evening Afghanistan, and Radio Voice of Afghan Women. Topics discussed at the roundtables included women's role in decision-making; women's right to maintenance, property ownership, and inheritance; polygamy; women's right to education; and consent to marriage. Feedback from Radio Voice of Afghan Women listeners were very positive. The radio station received several calls from Logar, Parwan, and Kapisa provinces asking them to invite the speakers to future programs and to expand the time of these shows. The issues of women's role in decision-making and polygamy attracted the greatest number of listeners and the most debate as different interpretations of Islamic laws pertain to these issues.

Television spots highlighting negative reactions to the birth of a girl child, the practice of forcing parents to agree to a proposal of marriage by bringing a Quran to the girl's family home, and the issue of harassment of girls and women in public from an Islamic perspective were broadcast 24 times on Tolo, Ariana, Ayeena, Noor, Noorin, Saba, Afghan, Lemar, and Shamshad television stations.

Joint ARoLP-Center for Law and Islamic Jurisprudence Seminar

Fifty participants, including moderate and conservative men and women from different departments of the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan, government officials from the Ministries of Interior, Labor and Social Affairs, Higher Education, Women's Affairs, and civil society representatives participated in a discussion comparing women's rights and respect for women's dignity in the Quran to the discriminatory and often degrading treatment of women in Afghan traditions. President Hamid Karzai sent a message expressing his support for the seminar which was delivered by the General Director of the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan. President Karzai said that working to promote and defend women's right is a valuable and honorable endeavor.

Public Discourse on Women's Rights Issues

ARoLP's Women's Rights under Islam held 6 dialogues with judges from Kabul, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Nangarhar, Panjsher, Kunar, Nuristan, and Khost provinces on women's right to public life, education, and marriage. Judges from Nuristan and Kunar showed the most interest in the topics and asked ARoLP to share materials on women's rights issues with them. Judge Mirza Mohammad Sediqi from Nuristan, also the Imam of a Nuristan mosque, thanked ARoLP for providing him with an opportunity to expand his knowledge of women's rights. He promised to share the issues that were discussed in the training in his Friday Khutba (sermon) in the mosque. Judge Sediqi said most Nuristanis are unaware of the most basic women's rights and that it is the responsibility of



Judges participate in seminar on women's rights and dignity.



those who participate in such trainings to share that knowledge with others.

A judge from Laghman thanked ARoLP for organizing the discussion. He said he wished that the information presented by the ARoLP trainers was more readily available. He also said such dialogues are very important in opening in raising awareness about women's rights.

Preparations Made for Women's Rights Campaigns

In preparation for ARoLP's upcoming national campaign promoting women's rights under Islam, ARoLP completed the production of 4 public service announcements (PSA) and a television spot highlighting women's right to access justice. The PSAs highlight equality before the law and demonstrate that seeking legal redress in the courts is not a shameful act. The television spot highlights women's right to inherit and own property. Printing of pamphlets, posters, stickers, school notebooks, canvas bags, and school backpacks has begun. The leading theme of the campaign is that going to court is neither disgraceful nor shameful.

Subcontract Signed to Provide Support to AIHRC

ARoLP signed a three-month subcontract with the AIHRC in November. Under the subcontract, the AIHRC will procure office and audio-visual equipment for its headquarters and provincial offices. The subcontract also supports AIHRC's week-long campaign planned in celebration of International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2008, as well as two-day conferences in Herat and Nangarhar provinces to be held before the end of January 2009.

Key Events for Next Quarter

- Hold one public discussion in Kabul on divorce in Islam.
- In collaboration with the Center for Law & Islamic Jurisprudence, hold a one day seminar in Nangarhar province on women's right to seek justice and participate in public life
- Publish public outreach materials for the Nangarhar women's access to justice campaign and distribute in Nangarhar province.
- Broadcast 4 newly produced public service announcements and television spots on radio and television stations airing in Nangarhar province.
- Conduct seminars for judges attending Foundation and ACAS training.



SUMMARY OF COMPONENT TRAINING PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
October 30	Public Discussion on Polygamy	Ministry of Hajj; Department of Religious Verdicts; Center for Islamic and Cultural Studies; Supreme Court; Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC); civil society organizations; participants from 8 provinces	29
November 6	Public discourse on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from Foundation Training (Kabul)	19
November 17	Seminar on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from ACAS Training (Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar)	46
November 19	Seminar on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from ACAS Training (Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar)	56
November 29	Seminar on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from ACAS Training (Nangarhar, Kunar, Khost, Nuristan, and Panjsher)	31
December 14	Women's Dignity in Islam vs. Women's Treatment in Afghan Culture	Ministry of Interior, Labor & Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Higher Education, Police Academy, Kabul University, Civil Society organizations	50
December 15	Seminar on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from ACAS Training (Nangarhar, Kunar, Khost, Nuristan and Panjsher)	90
December 17	Seminar on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from ACAS Training (Nangarhar, Kunar, Khost, Nuristan and Panjsher)	78
December 22	Seminar on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from Foundation Training	21
December 31	Seminar on Women's Rights under Islam in Kabul	Judges from Foundation Training	21

