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**Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.**

**USAID/DCHA/DG**

**TWELFTH QUARTERLY  
PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

**For the Period July 1 to September 30, 2007**

**Submitted on October 30, 2007, 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

- Afghan Court Administration System (ACAS) was adopted by the Supreme Court.
- Provincial Judicial Conferences held in Bamyan, Ghor, Daykundi and Faryab provinces.
- Completed ARoLP's inaugural summer Academic Legal English Program.
- Provided technical assistance to the Supreme Court at the Rome Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan, July 2 – 3, 2007.
- Prepared a focused training course on the Regulation of Judicial Conduct.
- Completed ARoLP's first Commercial Law Training Program and Alternative Dispute Resolution Training Program.
- Completed a four-week Legislative Drafting Training Program for 105 government officials, including members of Parliament, the Independent Elections Commission and legislative drafters from the Ministries of Justice, Defense and Interior.
- Published 3,100 copies of the second edition of the Judicial Reference Set.
- Established nine new community cultural centers in Parwan, Kapisa and Panjshir provinces.
- Drafted an Afghan National Policy Relating to the Informal Justice Sector at the Ministry of Justice's request.
- Conducted six radio and television roundtables on family dynamics and domestic violence from an Islamic perspective.
- Translated scholarly papers with progressive interpretations of women's rights under Islam from English into both Dari and Pashto.

## Programmatic Trends and Constraints

Following a successful third quarter with the adoption of the Regulation of Judicial Conduct by the Supreme Court, ARoLP's final quarter of the year was no less successful, having received the court's approval of the Afghan Court Administration System (ACAS).

After eighty working group meetings, four review meetings with senior staff from the Supreme Court and nine months of planning, Afghanistan's Supreme Court adopted the ACAS on September 25, 2007. The new case management system provides a simpler, more efficient and accurate way of tracking and finding case files and creates easier access to court and case information for Afghan citizens and law practitioners. The new system features unique case numbers; an index of parties to each case so that litigants, attorneys, clerks and interested citizens can find cases of interest; a numbered file folder for filing cases; and the reduction in the number of case registration books from five to one.

Once implemented, the ACAS will improve records management services in Afghanistan's courts, increase transparency for case processing, create more open access to court and case information, and will make the case-filing system more consistent. All 449 courts in Afghanistan will be using ACAS to track their cases by the end of September 2008.

The ACAS, along with the personnel information compiled at the court with ARoLP's assistance, will give the Supreme Court more information about its operations than any other government agency in Afghanistan. The availability of this information will also have an important impact on the court's ability to plan and budget for its operations.

In addition to the ACAS success, ARoLP also printed 3,100 copies of the second edition of the 17-volume Judicial Reference Sets, which represents 52,700 new legal reference books in the hands of Afghan judges and legal professionals. The set—printed in both of Afghanistan's official languages, Dari and Pashto—is the culmination of four months' work updating the first edition. The second edition includes 15 new laws, including laws on mass media and labor, as well as the newly adopted Regulation of Judicial Conduct, which sets an ethical standard for all of Afghanistan's judges. The set also features the international human rights treaties to which Afghanistan is a party, as well as the Government Employees Law, banking and bankruptcy laws, the Traffic Law, and select property laws and decrees.

ARoLP has been working with other donor organizations, USAID provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) and the Combined Joint Task Force 82 (CJTF-82), ISAF, to distribute the sets to every law and Sharia faculty and each of the 1,280 judges in the country. The 82nd Airborne is also helping to roll out and train judges on the ACAS. The Canadian military is distributing 75,000 ARoLP comic book sets to every school in Kandahar as part of its public outreach campaign in that province.

The project completed a number of additional activities during the quarter—including an eight-week summer Academic English Program, a four-week Commercial Law Training Program and the drafting of a policy on the informal justice sector and a new training course on the Regulation of Judicial Conduct—despite running out of funds in August. All new activities and extra spending planned for September were suspended until new funds were released at the end of the quarter.

Despite the funding freeze, ARoLP continued to plan for the activities outlined in its Work Plan for the new fiscal year starting October 1, 2008. Preparations have been made for the ACAS rollout to 120 courts during the first quarter of FY2008, as well as for the upcoming winter Academic Legal English Program and 2008 Stage Judicial Training Program. ARoLP's second Commercial Law Training Program will soon be underway in Herat, and study tours to the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and the U.S. have been planned and budgeted for.

## COMPONENT 1.A SUPPORT FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

### AR 5: New National Court Administration System Implemented

Description	Baseline As of Sept 2006	Cumulative Total Through Sept 2007	FY 2007 Target	FY 2008 Target
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Adoption of ACAS by Supreme Court	NO	YES	YES	N/A
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number of courts using ACAS	0	0	0	449

#### Progress Toward Activity Results

**Indicator 1:** After nine months of development, the Supreme Court formally adopted the Afghan Court Administration System (ACAS) on September 25, 2007 and approved its implementation in all of Afghanistan's 449 courts. The ACAS is crucial to developing a more simple, open and consistent process for managing cases brought before Afghan courts.

ARoLP worked closely with working groups made up of judges and court administrators at four model courts and eight early implementation courts in the provinces to develop the case-filing system. In addition to the working groups, ARoLP worked with a special committee created by the Chief Justice to make final revisions to the ACAS before presentation to the Supreme Judicial Council. Together with these groups, ARoLP was able to develop a system that features unique case numbers; an index of parties to each case so that litigants, attorneys, clerks and interested citizens can find cases of interest; a numbered file folder for filing cases; and the reduction in the number of case registration books from five to one. The working groups also helped to develop an ACAS procedure manual that will be integral to ACAS' implementation.

Once implemented, the ACAS will improve records management services in Afghanistan's courts, increase transparency for case processing, create more open access to court and case information, and will make the case-filing system more consistent. The more consistent and transparent the courts' processes, the more likely it will be that citizens will understand the judicial process, trust and use the courts. They will also be able to keep judges, clerks and court administrators more accountable to the public.

**Indicator 2:** ARoLP is working with provincial reconstruction teams (PRT's), U.S. military units, ISAF and other organizations to develop an implementation plan for rolling ACAS out to the entire country. The first rollout phase will be concentrated in the eastern and northern regions of Afghanistan. The various task forces in the region have offered significant support services to ARoLP including training facilities, security, travel, supplies, assessments of court infrastructure and workforce capacities, and building modifications/improvements. ARoLP plans to implement ACAS in approximately 120 courts in this region during the next three to four months.

## Description of Activities

### Provincial Judicial Conferences Started

In August, ARoLP began assisting the Supreme Court's effort to improve communications with provincial courts by sponsoring Provincial Judicial Conferences in all 34 Afghan provinces. So far, conferences have been held in Bamyan, Ghor, Daykundi and Faryab. The conferences are just one part of the Afghan Supreme Court's larger plan to curb corruption in Afghanistan's courts and restore public trust in the judiciary. Each conference is preceded by a Supreme Court-mandated court inspection to ensure the courts are working properly. After each inspection, the Court leads a conference for local appeals, urban primary, and district court judges to learn more about Afghanistan's justice system. ARoLP sponsors the Supreme Court's travel to the provinces and the ensuing conferences, which focus on the inspection results, judicial policy issues and changes, and the new ACAS. The conferences also provide an opportunity to train judges in the newly adopted Regulation of Judicial Conduct.



*Justice Behsoudi addresses attendees at the Daykundi Provincial Judicial Conference*

### Supreme Court Capacity Improvement

The Supreme Court, in addition to being the ultimate arbiter of cases filed with the courts, is also the administrative and management body for the judiciary. ARoLP is working with senior administrative managers at the Supreme Court to improve its ability to manage administrative functions so that the judiciary can be in a better position to request additional funding from the international donor community.

As part of this effort, ARoLP has updated and expanded the Supreme Court's personnel system and created a personnel database. ARoLP continues to train Supreme Court staff on how to use and maintain the database and has equipped the court with additional computers. ARoLP has also enrolled 11 Supreme Court IT staff members in a seven-month Diploma in Information Technology program at MRK University. Once the course is complete, these eleven staff members will be eligible for further training in networking, database administration, programming and user support.



*Eleven Supreme Court staff members have been enrolled in a six-month IT training course.*

### Key Events for Next Quarter

- ACAS implementation and training in approximately 120 courts.
- Provide plans for physical modifications to the Supreme Court building to facilitate the ACAS implementation there.
- Conduct additional judicial conferences according to the Supreme Court’s inspection schedule.
- Continue with IT and information-management training for Supreme Court staff.

### Summary of Component Training and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
August to September	“Beginning and Intermediate English”	Judicial Staff – Balkh	13
August to September	Diploma in IT training course fro Supreme Court staff	Supreme Court staff	11

## COMPONENT 1.B&C LEGAL EDUCATION

### AR 5: Formal Legal Education Strengthened

Indicator	Baseline As of Sept 2006	Cumulative Total Through Sept 2007	FY 2007 Target	FY 2008 Target
1. Number of syllabi developed and being taught	0	0	1	8
2. Competency test mechanism in place	No	No	No	Yes
3. Number of articles in Law Journal	11	21	36	40

#### Progress Toward Activity Results

**Indicator 1:** According to ARoLP's third-quarter report, the project expected to have one syllabus completed by the end of FY2007. Unfortunately, the team of faculty advisers working on developing the commercial law course textbook believed the text and the syllabus for the course had to be delivered at the same time. For that reason, the commercial law course syllabus—expected by the end of FY2007—was not given priority over the more extensive and time-consuming task of developing the textbook and ARoLP's legal education component did not reach its activity result target of one syllabus developed and being taught by the end of September.

At the time of writing, ARoLP's legal education component was providing technical assistance to the team of writers tasked with developing the commercial law textbook and syllabus, which will be developed using Kabul University lecture notes and materials, completed text chapters and other available information. So far, the course structure, contents and objects have been agreed upon. An all-inclusive commercial law course syllabus should be completed by the end of November 2007.

**Indicator 2:** At the time of writing, an Advocates law had been reviewed by a committee made up of representatives from both houses of parliament. ARoLP expects the law, which includes mention of a national bar examination, to be signed by President Karzai before the end of the calendar year and to come into effect immediately thereafter. ARoLP will help the International Bar Association (IBA), which assisted in drafting the Advocates Law, implement the law by selecting appropriate test subjects and questions for an eventual bar exam that will assess law and Sharia graduates' competencies before they enter the legal practice. In selecting test subjects, ARoLP will draw on its experience working with Afghan universities on core courses for law and Sharia students and will refer to its analysis of the 2006 and 2007 Stage Judicial Training entrance examination.

**Indicator 3:** ARoLP helped oversee the publication of 21 articles during FY2007 in Kabul University's Law Journal, which ARoLP supports as a way of promoting professional legal writing, research and scholarship. This number fell short of the project's goal of 36 articles in large part because the journal's former editor unexpectedly resigned in January 2007 and a new editor was not found until April. As a result, the journal's publishing schedule was

delayed. The journal's editorial board has approved 11 articles for publication in the next issue of the Law Journal, which should be in print by the end of October.

## Description of Activities

*Note: ARoLP's former Legal Education Adviser, Dr. Quadir Amiryar, resigned in July 2007 and was replaced by Dr. Samson L. Sempasa, who arrived in Kabul in early September. ARoLP Chief of Party James Agee and Training Coordinator Patricia McLaughlin oversaw the component's operations in the interim.*

### **Developing consensus on core courses**

To better prepare all practicing professionals for their work in the justice sector, ARoLP has been working with Afghan faculties of law and Sharia to prepare their students for the Supreme Court's Stage Judicial Training Program and eventually the Bar examination. Previously, efforts were focused on developing and implementing a new curriculum to be taught by both Faculties of Law and Political Science and Faculties of Sharia. While the new curriculum was eventually completed with assistance from the UNDP, the Faculty of Law at Kabul University has not implemented it in the two years since completion and other universities have followed Kabul University's lead, failing to adopt it as well.

For this reason, ARoLP has shifted its focus away from implementing the new curriculum to defining preexisting "core courses" that, with the development of new teaching materials and syllabi, could be jointly taught by both law and Sharia professors and would be required material for all students preparing for the Stage entrance exam and the Bar examination. The goal is to provide law and Sharia students a common academic foundation, regardless of which university or faculty they graduate from. The courses and materials will also provide badly needed teacher resources and guidance where none has existed before.

Since September, ARoLP has been establishing small faculty working committees to act as ARoLP's counterparts at the universities to develop a consensus on which courses should be required for all law and Sharia students and what should be included in those courses' syllabi. So far, the deans and heads of the Faculty of Law and Political Science and the Faculty of Sharia at Kabul University have agreed to assign three faculty counterparts each to work with ARoLP. The project's legal education adviser also visited Balkh University in Mazar-e-Sharif to go over ARoLP's goals and to invite the law and Sharia faculties to participate in the project by forming their own faculty working groups. Similar visits to Herat, Nangarhar and Al Biruni Universities are scheduled for October and November.



*ARoLP Legal Education Adviser Samson Sempasa (second from right) met with Balkh University's Faculty of Law and Faculty of Sharia to discuss developing core courses for law and Sharia students who plan to work legal professionals.*

### **Legal Research Center Put to Good Use**

More than 2,655 law and Sharia students have visited the ARoLP-established Legal Research Center at Kabul University since it opened in May 2007. The center, housed within Kabul University's Faculty of Law and Political Science, has a recently hired IT specialist on staff and 20 networked computers that offer students and professors access to local and international virtual libraries and ARoLP's Afghanistan Legal Document Exchange Center (AfghanistanTranslation.com), which includes Afghanistan's Official Gazette, the constitution, laws, regulations, decrees, international treaties and Conventions and other legal and educational documents.

### **Summer Academic Legal English Program Completed**

On September 4, 2007, 21 professors and 18 students of law and Sharia from Nangarhar University, along with five provincial judges and 12 members of the Ministry of Justice's Taqin Department graduated from ARoLP's inaugural summer Academic Legal English Program. Participants in the eight-week program, which began July 7, received six hours of English training to improve their TOEFL, grammar, vocabulary and writing skills. U.S. law professors also held seminars for the participants on topics such as contract law, alternative dispute resolution and property law. The graduation ceremony, which included speeches by program participants in English, was attended by representatives from the Supreme Court and Ministries of Higher Education and Justice.



*Graduates of AROLP's inaugural summer Academic Legal English Program, which included students and professors of law and Sharia at Nangarhar University, members of the Taqin and provincial judges.*

### Key Events for the Next Quarter

- Assign at least one provincial legal education adviser to facilitate and assist in academic research at Nangarhar University.
- Complete the commercial law textbook and syllabi.
- Hold roundtable discussions with heads of departments in faculties of law and Sharia at Al Biruni, Balkh, Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar Universities, as well as with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court on core courses.
- Assist in the preparation of the fourth issue of the Kabul University Law Journal.

### Summary of Component Trainings and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
July to September	Legal English Course, Kabul University	Kabul University	40
July to September	ESL Course, Al Biruni University, Kapisa	Al Biruni University	20
September	Legal English Course for 2007 Judicial Stage, National Legal Training Center	Supreme Court	210
July to September	Academic Legal English Course, Kabul University	Nangarhar University, Taqin members and provincial judges	60

## COMPONENT 1.D SUPPORT FOR JUDICIAL TRAINING

### AR 3: Opportunities to Improve Judicial Professionalism and Improve Skills

Indicator	Baseline As of Sept 2006	Cumulative Total Through Sept 2007	FY 2007 Target	FY 2008 Target
1. Code of judicial conduct adopted	No	Yes	Yes	N/A
2. Number of judicial training hours offered	404*	239	180	144

#### 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. He appointed a Judicial Conduct and Ethics Working Group to draft a code for adoption by the court. ARoLP worked with, and provided technical support to the working group, the chief justice and the court in drafting the code. On June 19, 2007, the Supreme Court adopted the Regulation of Judicial Conduct for the Judges of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Regulation of Judicial Conduct, prepared by the working group, is a modern code of conduct containing universally recognized ethical standards to govern the conduct of judges. ARoLP completed work during the quarter 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.

**Indicator 2:** Starting with a baseline total of 404 training hours offered by ARoLP in FY2006, the goal for FY2007 was to increase the number of judicial training hours available to or developed by ARoLP by 180 hours. ARoLP has surpassed that goal, adding 239 new hours of judicial training. The breakdown of increased training hours is as follows: new 2007 Judicial Stage Training Program Saturday seminars (10 hours); a new fourth week to the Foundation Training Program (14 hours); a Training of Trainers Program (35 hours); a Regulation of Judicial Conduct Focused Training Course (12 hours); and ARoLP's Commercial Law Training Program (168 hours). These increases are more fully explained in the "Description of Activities" section of this report, except for the Commercial Law Training Program, which is explained in section 1.E Support for Commercial Court Reform.

#### Description of Activities

**Supreme Court ANDS Strategy Presented at Rome Donors' Conference.** With the help of advisers from the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP), Afghanistan's Supreme Court presented a clear, five-year strategic plan to an international conference to develop a coordinated strategy to reform Afghanistan's justice system. Supreme Court Justice Bahauddin Baha presented the strategy—which ARoLP helped draft and was in accordance with the government's Afghanistan National Development Strategy—to the July 2-3, 2007,

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\* Previous quarterly reports reported the September 2006 baseline as "0," which represented the baseline 404 judicial training hours that were already developed and being taught when ARoLP began tracking this indicator in FY2007.

Rome Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan, co-sponsored by Italy, Afghanistan, and the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA).



*ARoLP helped draft a five-year strategy for the Supreme Court, which was one of the main discussion points of the July 2-3, 2007, Rome Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan.*

In preparation for the conference, ARoLP drafted two briefing papers, one addressing gaps in, and objectives for, higher legal education and professional training in Afghanistan, and a second made recommendations regarding the law-drafting process in Afghanistan. ARoLP also helped the UNAMA and the World Bank draft a paper on their proposed National Justice Program, which was submitted to the Rome Conference for review. Separately, ARoLP's senior program coordinator was in Rome as an independent adviser to Justice Baha and the Supreme Court delegation.

**Judicial Training on the Regulation of Judicial Conduct Started.** Following the Supreme Court's June 19, 2007, adoption of the Regulation of Judicial Conduct for the Judges of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, ARoLP began 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. With the help of a retired judge from the United States and a working group of Afghan judges and a Sharia professor, ARoLP completed the focused training course on August 23, 2007. The course is designed to be delivered in a training module of six to 12 hours, depending on the number of hours available in a particular judicial training program. The course consists of a syllabus, course outline and written materials, including lecture notes, hypothetical situations for discussion, and background sources. The materials have been reviewed by judges from the Supreme Court and have been translated into Dari and will soon also be translated into Pashto.

At the time of writing, 156 of the approximately 1,280 sitting judges in Afghanistan have received training on the Regulation. That training has been delivered in the various judicial training programs and conferences supported by ARoLP, including Foundation Trainings 14 and 15 and the Commercial Law Training Program, as well as at the Supreme Court's Provincial Judicial Conferences in Bamyan, Daykundi, Ghor and Faryab. Of the 156 judges trained, 51 were trained using ARoLP's focused training course. The course will be used in future ARoLP training programs and will be made available to other organizations conducting their own judicial trainings. The goal is to train all of Afghanistan's sitting judges by the end of FY2008.



*Supreme Court Justice Behsoudi presents the newly adopted Regulation of Judicial Conduct at a provincial judicial conference in Bamyan.*

Separately, ARoLP has begun work designing an enforcement mechanism for the Regulation. So far, ARoLP advisers have analyzed international best practices applicable to enforcing codes of judicial conduct like the Regulation. ARoLP prepared a comparison of these practices with the current regulation adopted by the Supreme Court for disciplining of judges, which was adopted many years ago and does not meet international standards. The comparison will be presented to the Supreme Court's working group in order to draft an improved enforcement mechanism that includes a citizen complaint procedure, due process protections for judges accused of ethical violations and that emphasizes transparency.

**Stage Judicial Training Program Underway.** The 2007 Stage Judicial Training Program, which started on April 1, 2007, has entered its third trimester. By the time the 36-week program ends on December 27, 2007, more than 200 judicial candidates will have participated in legal training provided by experts from ARoLP, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), IIPeC, and the Max Planck Institute.

ARoLP has provided several two-hour Saturday seminars for the Stage participants during the first and third trimesters. During the first trimester, ARoLP provided lectures in computer-assisted legal research, modern court administration and judicial statistics. Saturday seminars during the third trimester included lectures on legal research, alternative dispute resolution programs, human trafficking, and counter-narcotics efforts. The Saturday legal English classes, organized and presented by ARoLP, have continued into the third trimester as well.

Meanwhile, planning has started for the 2008 Stage. ARoLP has prepared a draft report analyzing past Stage Training Programs that analyzes previous participants' educational backgrounds, their performance levels by subject area and entrance, mid-term and final examination results. The report also considers the curricula of madrassas and of the law and Sharia faculties in Afghan universities and makes recommendations for strengthening these institutions' curricula so students would be better prepared for the Stage and their careers in the judicial sector. A draft of the report will be shared with ARoLP's implementation partners, IDLO, IIPeC, and the Max Planck Institute, and a final report will be presented to the Supreme Court.

**Two more Foundation Judicial Training Programs Completed.** AROLP's Foundation Training Program for judges also continued during the quarter, graduating 33 judges—including three women—from its 14th Foundation Training in Kabul on July 31, 2007, and another 23 judges from its 15th Foundation Training in Herat on September 8. On September 16, AROLP opened the 16th Foundation Training in Kabul, drawing 37 judges—including three women—from Kabul, Ghazni, Daykundi, Logar, Kunar, Kapisa, Parwan, Takhar, Baghlan, Wardak, Panjshir and Paktya provinces.



*Twenty-three judges graduated from AROLP's 15th Foundation Training Program in Herat. Each judge received a certificate of completion and a copy of the second edition of the Judicial Reference Set.*

The Foundation Training program was established in August 2005 to provide intensive substantive law training to those judges who were appointed without having received training at the Stage. Starting with the 16th Foundation Training, AROLP has revised the program's curriculum. The changes, based on participant evaluations and results from entrance and final examinations at previous Foundation Trainings, include replacing police and juvenile law with additional hours on commercial law, commercial procedure and constitutional law. These changes will be incorporated into the eight additional Foundation Training programs scheduled for FY2008, four of which will be held in Kabul and the rest in the provinces. The 17th Foundation Training, scheduled to begin November 17, will be held in Jalalabad.

### Key Events for Next Quarter

- Consideration and approval by the Supreme Court Working Group of a modern mechanism for enforcing the Regulation of Judicial Conduct.
- Completion of the 16th Foundation Training in Kabul and 17th Foundation Training in Jalalabad.
- Completion of the 2007 Stage Judicial Training Legal English Program.
- Submission of AROLP's Stage analysis report to the Supreme Court.
- Sponsorship of a week-long Conference of Chief Judges to be held in Kabul from November 3-8, 2007.
- Completion of a study tour by the Supreme Court's Chief Justice and others to the International Conference on the Training of the Judiciary in Barcelona.
- Completion of a study tour by the Chief Justice and others to Washington, D.C.
- In conjunction with IDLO/Italy, sponsorship of a six-day Training of Trainers Program for 20 judges.

## Summary of Component Training and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
July	14th Foundation Training Program	Judicial Staff	33
August to September	15th Foundation Training Program	Judicial Staff	22
July to August	Commercial Law Training Program	Judicial Staff	37
August	Bamyan Provincial Judicial Conference	Judicial Staff	15
August	Daykundi Provincial Judicial Conference	Judicial Staff	9
August	Ghor Provincial Judicial Conference	Judicial Staff	11
September	Faryab Provincial Judicial Conference	Judicial Staff	29

## COMPONENT 1.E SUPPORT FOR COMMERCIAL COURT REFORM

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

Indicator	Baseline As of Sept 2006	Cumulative Total Through Sept 2007	FY 2007 Target	FY 2008 Target
1. National policy on enforcement developed	No	No	No	Yes
2. Supreme Court clarifies jurisdiction of commercial courts	No	No	Yes	N/A
3. Number of judicial training hours offered to commercial court judges	0	196.5	168	0

### Progress Toward Activity Results

**Indicator 1:** ARoLP continued to work with the Afghan Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on a new national policy for the enforcement of civil and commercial court judgments. However, updating the Law on Acquisition of Rights, which controls the enforcement of civil and commercial court judgments, remains a lower-level priority for the MoJ and its Hoqooq Department. ARoLP hopes that, since this issue has been included in the recently drafted Afghanistan National Justice Policy, more attention will be paid to an improved enforcement policy. In the meantime, ARoLP has partnered with other interested international stakeholders, such as JSSP, to provide the Ministry with a number of policy choices to consider, drawing from previous policy proposals drafted by the Hoqooq.

**Indicator 2:** In July, ARoLP obtained a copy of a draft of the new Law on the Organization and Jurisdiction of Courts, which would clarify the subject-matter of the primary commercial courts. ARoLP had provided a number of proposed amendments to the law to a committee of

Afghan Supreme Court justices that had won the support of the chief justice and head of court administration. Despite this, the draft law did not fully or effectively implement the changes recommended by ARoLP advisers. The project will continue to work with the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice on improving the law.

**Indicator 3:** Thirty-two judges and 25 members of the MoJ's Taqin and Hoqooq Departments graduated from ARoLP's Commercial Law Training Program in Kabul August 3, 2007. The month-long program included lectures by experts from the Afghan judiciary, as well as from Kabul University's Faculties of Law, Sharia, and Economics. The course also included lectures by international experts Professor Theodore Parnall and Dr. Samson Sempasa on international best practice and alternative dispute resolution, respectively.

During the quarter, ARoLP also provided a separate commercial law lunch seminar series and a four-day Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Training Program. The three lunch seminars, taught by Professor Parnall, covered issues such as what core laws are required for a modern commercial legal framework, as well as the role of court decisions in strengthening a commercial legal framework. The series was meant to give members of the Ministry of Justice an overview of how economics and the law can impact investment and development. Meanwhile, the ADR Training Program, provided to 33 supervisors from the MoJ's Hoqooq and Government Cases Departments, included a component on how to train their colleagues in the field on what they learned in class.

## Description of Activities

### **Completion of Commercial Law Training Program**

The Commercial Law Training Program was completed on August 3, 2007. Thirty-two judges appointed by the Supreme Court participated in the training alongside 25 members of the Taqin and Hoqooq, appointed by the MoJ. The program included lectures from distinguished local expert lecturers from the Afghan judiciary, Kabul University Faculties of Law and Political Science, Economics, and Sharia, as well as ARoLP Judicial Training Adviser Dr. Arnaud Janbaz, a commercial law expert. The program also included two days of lectures on the newly adopted Regulation of Judicial Conduct, explained above under the Judicial Training component, and four days of lectures on financial accounting.

Professor Theodore Parnall and Dr. Samson Sempasa lectured on international commercial best practice and alternative dispute resolution, respectively. Professor Parnall also provided three days of lectures to Taqin staff who were unable to attend the month-long Commercial Law Training Program. ARoLP evaluated the results of the initial implementation of the program improvements based on participant feedback.



*ARoLP graduated 32 judges and 25 members of the Ministry of Justice's Taqin and Hoqooq Departments from its Commercial Law Training Program on August 3, 2007.*

### **ARoLP Profile Raised in Ministry of Justice's Hoqooq Department**

ARoLP has made a concerted effort to build closer links with the MoJ's Hoqooq Department, which plays a major role in mediating and filing commercial and civil disputes in the provinces. In August, the MoJ approved a number of proposed ARoLP activities that would improve the Hoqooq's operations, including ongoing ADR training and a new policy and procedures manual for Hoqooq professional staff.

Separately, IDLO/Italy and ARoLP have agreed to work together in providing technical assistance to the Hoqooq. Both partners agreed to combine training activities, as well as share training venues and materials.

### **Study Tour of Philippines Planned**

A proposed study tour of courts in the Republic of the Philippines, originally scheduled for September 2007, has been rescheduled for November 30 to December 7, 2007. Participants include members of the Supreme Court, provincial appeals courts, primary commercial courts, the Hoqooq and members of Kabul University's Faculties of Law and Political Science, Sharia and Economics, who will visit the Philippine Supreme Court Project Management Office, which coordinates donor assistance to the judiciary; the Philippine Judicial Academy, which trains all judicial candidates in the country; the Philippine Graft Court; the University of the Philippines Law School; and the Philippine Commercial Court. The objective of the tour is to show how other courts met challenges that are similar to those the Afghan judiciary faces today and to expose members of the Afghan legal education community to alternative methods of teaching and judicial training.

### **Key Events for Next Quarter**

- Implement the Commercial Law Training Program in Herat, November 3-23, 2007.
- Start commercial law training for members of the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other government entities.
- Begin drafting a Policy and Procedures Manual for the Hoqooq.
- Study tour to the Republic of the Philippines.
- Chair an international working group focusing on changes to the Law on Obtaining Rights.

## Summary of Component Training and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
June 30-July 31, 2007	Commercial Law Training Program	Afghan Supreme Court MoJ Kabul University	32 Judges 25 Professional Staff MoJ
July 26 – 30, 2007	Alternative Dispute Resolution Training Program	MoJ Hoqooq and Government Cases Departments	33
July 22 – August 10, 2007	Commercial Law Lunch Seminar Series	MoJ Hoqooq and Taqin Departments, Office of the President	30 to 35 Hoqooq and Taqin staff; 1 representative from the Office of the President

## COMPONENT 2: LAW REFORM AND LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING

### AR 8: Legislative Process Improved

Indicator	Baseline As of Sept 2006	Cumulative Total Through Sept 2007	FY 2007 Target	FY 2008 Target
1. Number of draft laws sent to the Office of Administrative Affairs by Taqin	N/A	49	45	45
2. Number of agencies with members trained in legislative drafting	1	6	6	1
3. Number of entities distributing Afghan laws, regulations, legal information	1	8	4	10

### Progress Toward Activity Results

**Indicator 1:** ARoLP continued to work with the MoJ to improve its legislative process by helping the Taqin Department meet the benchmarks set out in the MoJ's 1386 legislative agenda. The 1386 agenda originally included 41 documents that would be prepared by the Taqin and presented to the Council of Ministers, via the Office of Administrative Affairs, over the course of the year, including 10 documents during the second quarter of 1386, which ended September 21, 2007. Of these, two documents were presented to the Council of Ministers on time, while an additional four documents not included on the 1386 agenda were also reviewed and delivered.

ARoLP also continued with its work as secretariat of the Law Reform Technical Working Group (LRTWG), commenting on and coordinating donors' comments to various draft laws. At ARoLP's request, the Taqin hosted a meeting of the LRTWG to update the donor community on the status of drafts included in the 1386 legislative agenda and to suggest ways for streamlining comments to the Taqin.

**Indicator 2:** In July 2007, ARoLP, in conjunction with the State University of New York's (SUNY) Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Program conducted two intermediate-level legislative drafting workshops for members of parliament, the Taqin, the Independent Election Commission, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior who had some role or interest in Afghanistan's legislative-drafting process. In all, 105 participants received hands-on, practical experience in how to draft laws, regulations and other types of legislative documents.

**Indicator 3:** Distribution of 3,100 copies of the second edition of the Judicial Reference Sets continued through the end of the fiscal year, with 1,640 sets delivered to date to judges, government ministries and international donors in 20 out of 34 provinces. ARoLP distributed sets to Stage Judicial Training and Foundation Training participants, as well as to the MoJ, the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Kabul. Other donors have also requested the JRS in electronic format to publish their own sets. JSSP and the Max Planck International Institute both received electronic JRS sets to publish their own copies for their constituencies and training programs.

To assist ARoLP reach farther-flung provinces, the Combined Joint Task Force 82 (CJTF-82), ISAF, and USAID provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) agreed to help transport sets to provinces such as Daykundi, Ghor and Ghazni. Plans are underway for these groups to deliver additional sets to courts in Nangarhar, Konar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces.

Along with JRS sets, ARoLP also continued to distribute electronic copies of the Official Gazette. One hundred and thirty-seven DVDs were delivered to judicial candidates at the Stage, government officials and professors and students at Kabul University Faculty of Law and Political Science.

## Description of Activities

### Legislative Drafting Training for Parliament and Taqin Completed

In July, ARoLP, in conjunction with SUNY's Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Program, completed an intensive, four-week Legislative Drafting Training Program for 105 government officials, including members of parliament, the Independent Elections Commission and legislative drafters from the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Justice. Twenty members of the Taqin participated in the training, concluding their third legislative drafting training conducted by ARoLP this year. The head of the Taqin welcomed ARoLP's training support and said he expects the training will benefit his staff as they continue to review the large number of legislative documents on the 1386 legislative agenda. A ceremony was held at Parliament on July 20, where the participants were awarded certificates for successful completion of the training.



*Members of parliament, the Independent Elections Commission, and legislative drafters from the Ministries of Defense, Interior, and Justice graduated from a legislative drafting training course in July.*

### **Work on Dari-Pashto-English Legal Dictionary Continues**

The legal dictionary team—consisting of ARoLP staff, Kabul University law and Sharia professors, and a linguist—continued work on Afghanistan’s first Dari-Pashto-English legal dictionary. By the end of September 2007, the team had defined just over 1,000 criminal, civil and commercial terms. ARoLP has set up and staffed an editorial board, made up of representatives from the Supreme Court, MoJ and Kabul University to review the team’s work. The dictionary’s first edition will be published in January 2008. A second edition with additional terms will be published and distributed in July 2008.



*Members of ARoLP’s legal dictionary team have defined nearly 1,000 criminal, civil and commercial terms in Dari and Pashto.*

### **Plans for Two New Libraries Developed**

After assessing the Supreme Court library’s need for space, a reorganization of its collection and upgraded technology, ARoLP and the Supreme Court’s library director have agreed to expand its collections, provide new furniture and shelving and to introduce a new cataloguing system. At Kabul University, a parallel project is underway to develop a new library for the National Legal Training Center. Working with IDLO, ARoLP’s plans for the new library

include an open-access information center developed around an automated, integrated library system. The library will showcase Afghanistan’s best legal research materials, accessible to the Afghan legal community in print and electronic forms.

## MoJ’s IT Support Program Expanded

ARoLP expanded its IT support to the MoJ in August when it began offering computer training courses not only to the Taqin, but also the Hoqooq and Publications Departments. Twelve members from these two departments are enrolled in daily, intensive computer-skills trainings that include lessons in Microsoft Office, word processing and spreadsheet techniques as well as how to keep and update databases. Building computer skills will help these departments maintain better records, improve communications and store files. Meanwhile, ARoLP continued to help the MoJ Administration Department build and maintain the ministry’s website.

## Key Events for the Next Quarter

- Monitor the MoJ’s progress on the third quarter of the 1386 legislative agenda and assist with the drafting of a new 1387 agenda.
- Host a roundtable between parliamentary representatives, the Office of Administrative Affairs and the Taqin to help streamline and improve the process for adopting laws.
- Continue to conduct English language training for the Taqin.
- Continue with IT training for the MoJ’s Taqin, Publications and Hoqooq Departments.
- Purchase furniture and equipment for the National Legal Training Center library.
- Hire a library director and IT specialist staff for the National Legal Training Center library.
- Re-organize and begin cataloguing the Supreme Court library’s collection.
- Publish issues 700 to 918 of the Official Gazette.
- Launch a searchable database on the MoJ’s website with a basic search template.
- Complete distribution of the second edition of the Judicial Reference Sets to judges and other constituencies.

## Summary of Component Training and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
July 1 to September 30, 2007	“Beginning English”	Ministry of Justice	7
July 1 to September 30, 2007	“Intermediate English” and “Upper Intermediate English”	Ministry of Justice	13
July 1 to September 30, 2007	“Advanced Legal English”	Ministry of Justice, [Judicial Stage Training Course, Kabul University Law and Sharia Faculties and Jalalabad University Law Faculty]	60
July 1 to September	“Basic Computer Skills”	Ministry of Justice and	30

30, 2007		Ministry of Hajj	
July 1 to September 30, 2007	“Workshop on Legislative Drafting Skills, Series II”	Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of the National Assembly); Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of the National Assembly); Ministry of Justice; Independent Election Commission; Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Interior	105

## COMPONENT 3: ACCESS TO JUSTICE/INFORMAL SECTOR

### AR 2: Appropriate Sector for Resolving Disputes

Indicator	Baseline As of Sept 2006	Cumulative Total Through Sept 2007	FY 2007 Target	FY 2008 Target
1. National policy on informal justice sector developed	No	No	No	Yes
2. 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%	21.8%	50%

### Progress Toward Activity Results

**Indicator 1:** ARoLP continued to assist the MoJ develop a national policy on the informal justice sector in Afghanistan. A draft informal justice policy statement was completed, described in more detail below.

**Indicator 2:** New Asia Foundation survey results showed a surprising change in attitudes toward the formal sector, with the number of respondents showing confidence in the formal justice sector more than doubling over last year’s results. Part of this change can be attributed to some subtle changes in the questions asked in this year’s survey, but this is still a strong indication of changed attitudes throughout Afghanistan toward the formal sector. While work on the informal sector should continue, there is an increased need to work with the formal sector to meet the expectations of Afghans to keep this trend going in the right direction.

ARoLP’s contribution in raising Afghan citizens’ awareness of their legal rights and responsibilities within the formal justice sector has clearly had some impact using print, radio, television and videos to educate Afghans on the role of the formal and informal justice sectors. During the quarter, ARoLP distributed 78 audio CDs with radio spots, talk shows, dramas, and quiz shows; 126 video CDs with television spots, dramas, quiz shows, and legal-awareness cartoons; and 28 VHS cassettes. In the fourth quarter, ARoLP also printed 25,212

comic book sets, 11,264 pamphlets, 3,792 bumper stickers, 35 Judicial Reference Sets, 175 women's rights under Islam calendars, and 110 posters of judicial facilities built by ARoLP.

## Description of Activities

### **Informal Justice Policy Statement Drafted**

At the request of the MoJ, ARoLP prepared a draft national policy on relations between the informal and formal justice systems in Afghanistan. The goal is to present the MoJ with a starting point for discussing a national policy. The draft defines the jurisdiction of the informal justice sector as an alternative venue for dispute settlement, working alongside and in support of the formal justice system. Extensive research into Afghanistan's customary law system was conducted as ARoLP prepared the draft, which will be taken to the provinces for review by local community leaders. Ultimate adoption of a national policy in this area will help improve access to justice, improve the manner in which civil disputes are resolved and remove uncertainty with respect to disputants' choice of forum for resolving such disputes.

### **ARoLP Established Nine New Community Cultural Centers**

ARoLP established five community cultural centers in Parwan province's Bayan, Shenwari, Siagerd, Shaikhali and Sorkh districts; one center in Kapisa province's Sherkat district; and three more centers in Panjshir's Kraman, Parian and Kheng districts. The centers were established as part of ARoLP's provincial public outreach initiatives to raise awareness among Afghan citizens of women's rights under Islam, the Afghan constitution, the judiciary and the roles of the formal and informal justice sectors.

To help ARoLP carry out these activities in Kapisa, Panjshir, Parwan and Wardak provinces, ARoLP also delivered projectors, screens, photocopy machines and other digital equipment to all of its 32 community cultural centers. The centers use ARoLP's projectors and screens as part of their Mobile Cinema Units, which screen ARoLP TV spots out in remote villages and for women who cannot participate in public gatherings alongside men. The centers' personnel have also received eight days' legal training on the fundamentals of a fair trial, the Afghan constitution, the judiciary, the role of defense lawyers and human rights, as well as computer-skills and public-outreach training.



*Community cultural center staff from Kapisa, Panjshir, Parwan and Wardak provinces received legal training, as well as courses on public outreach techniques and basic computer training.*

### **ARoLP Outreach Materials Grow in Popularity**

Two years after their first printing, ARoLP's comic book sets remain one of the most popular public outreach tools in Afghanistan for raising citizens' awareness of their legal rights and responsibilities. Due to increasing demand from other donors and the military, ARoLP has reprinted an additional 100,000 comic book sets for distribution in the provinces. In Kandahar, the Canadian military will use the comic books as part of a provincial rule of law awareness campaign, distributing the books to every school in the province.

ARoLP has also continued to produce and broadcast radio and television spots with legal awareness messages. On the national Tolo Television station, a five-minute television spot on marriage rights under Islam was broadcast six times and a six-minute cartoon on bribery and the right to freedom of expression was broadcast four times, both in Dari and Pashto.



*ARoLP comic books like these, with legal awareness messages, will be distributed to every school in Kandahar.*

## Key Events for the Next Quarter

- Production of a radio and TV quiz show on marriage rights under Islam in relation with the customary practices.
- Solicit feedback from local community leaders on a draft informal justice policy statement in Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir and Wardak provinces.
- Reprint and distribute 70,000 comic book sets to Kandahar through the Canadian military.

## Summary of Component Training and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Province	Number of Participants
August 18 to 26	Public Outreach, Legal Referral and Computer Skills Training	AROLP- Checchi and MSI, International Legal Foundation (ILF) and Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)	Parwan Panjshir Kapisa	18

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

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

Indicator	Baseline As of September 06		Cumulative Total through Sept 07		FY 2007 Target		FY 2008 Target	
	Kabul	Provinces	Kabul	Provinces	Kabul	Provinces	Kabul	Provinces
1. Number of dialogue events	0	0	19	0	22	0	22	65
2. Public attitudes on women's rights changed, based on the percentage of Asia Foundation survey respondents who answered positively on questions about women's rights	85%		83%		85%		88%	

### Progress toward Activity Results

**Indicator 1:** ARoLP organized two public discussions and broadcast six roundtables on women's rights issues. Both the public discussions and roundtables are designed to bring both male and female religious thinkers to examine narrow interpretations of Islamic laws, as well as those Afghan customs, traditions and practices that discriminate against women.

The two public discussions focused on articles written by female Muslim scholar Azizah Alhibri and included members of ARoLP's Women's Rights under Islam component's consultative group, made up of religious scholars, civil society representatives, women's rights activists and legal professionals. The first public discussion reviewed Alhibri's article, "The Quranic Foundations of Muslim Women's Rights in the 21st Century," while the

second focused on another article by Alhibri, “An Introduction to Muslim Women’s Rights.” During both discussions, most of ARoLP’s consultative group members agreed that the articles should be published and distributed to Afghan scholars, but a few were critical of the articles’ language.

ARoLP’s six roundtables also featured members of ARoLP’s consultative group and covered two broad topics: a woman’s right to make decisions and domestic violence. The roundtables were broadcast on Afghan National Television, Ayeena Television, *Good Evening Afghanistan* radio and Killid radio in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek. During the live broadcasts, listeners and viewers called in from around the country with questions and comments.

**Indicator 2:** Increasing knowledge of women’s rights in Islam is essential to altering the customs and traditions that restrict the rights of Afghan women. According to a 2007 survey by The Asia Foundation, an average 83% of Afghan survey respondents agreed that women should have equal opportunities to men in education; that women should be allowed to work outside the home; that women and men should have equal rights, including the right to vote; and that women must vote for themselves in elections.

To encourage broader and more moderate perspectives of gender relations in Afghanistan, ARoLP has promoted progressive interpretations of Islamic law by holding public discussions and broadcasting roundtables on national, provincial and local television and radio stations. ARoLP has also reviewed and translated two scholarly papers by female Muslim scholar Azizah Alhibri—“Quranic Foundations of Muslim Women’s Rights in the 21st Century” and “An Introduction to Muslim Women’s Rights”—as well as a third paper by Dr. Ziba Mir Husseini entitled, “Gender Justice in Islam.” ARoLP also worked with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj to encourage mosques to include women’s rights messages in their Friday Khutbas, or sermons. And, finally, to further promote women’s rights under Islam, ARoLP produced radio and television spots in Dari and Pashto on forced marriage and an animated cartoon on women’s education rights.

## Description of Activities

### **Building Links Between Afghan and International Scholars**

In an effort to connect Afghan scholars with progressive Islamic thinkers outside Afghanistan, ARoLP’s senior human rights adviser met with progressive religious scholars, as well as women’s and human rights activists Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Jakarta, Indonesia. ARoLP identified a number of experts whom the project plans to invite to Afghanistan for meetings and networking events with Afghan scholars. ARoLP also used this visit to finalize details for its study tour to Malaysia and Indonesia in November 2007.

### **Collaboration Sought on Women’s Rights Activities**

Because so many nongovernmental organizations and international actors are now working in the women’s rights field and engaging religious scholars in their efforts, ARoLP met with its counterparts in Kabul so that women’s rights activities are coordinated and collaborative. Some of these organizations included: the Independent Human Rights Commission, Counterpart International, Rights and Democracy, the British Council, Human Rights First, Children in Crisis, Medica Mondiale, Women for Afghan Women, the Human Rights

Research and Advocacy Consortium, Afghan Women's Resource Center and the Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan.

### **Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj, Center for Islamic and Cultural Studies Receive Training**

In August, members of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj completed a two-month ARoLP computer training course. Graduates of the course, which included four women and six men, received a total of 50 hours of basic computer training in Microsoft Windows, Word and Excel.

Separately, ARoLP began English language training for a group of 17 young male and female scholars from the Center for Islamic and Cultural Studies in order to prepare them for professional and academic opportunities abroad. The training began October 20, 2007, and will include classes three days a week until April 20, 2008.



*Members of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj receive computer-skills training.*

### **Women's Rights Program Extends to Provinces With Subcontractor**

Under a new subcontract with the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), ARoLP began carrying out its women's rights awareness activities in the provinces in August. IFES' first task was to conduct a national study of tribal laws and practices affecting women's rights to help IFES' plan its provincial workshops, seminars and information campaigns. Working with the Afghan Civil Society Forum, IFES met with local leaders in Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Paktia provinces, all locations where IFES and ACSF plan to hold their events over the coming year. At the end of the study, IFES will provide ARoLP with a report comparing the different regions' social norms and practices and highlighting the most consistent barriers to promoting women's rights in Afghanistan.

### **Support for Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission Staff Salaries**

ARoLP paid \$307,683 to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) to cover the organization's staff salaries for the months of July and August. The subcontract between Checchi & Company Consulting and AIHRC, under which AIHRC's staff salaries

for FY 2007 are paid, was signed in November 2006. This subcontract ended with the final payment being made for August salaries.

### Key Events for the Next Quarter

- Print the translations of three scholarly papers by Drs. Azizah Alhibri and Ziba Mir Hussein with appendices including consultative group members' reviews and comments.
- Conduct two study tours with 14 religious scholars to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Jakarta, Indonesia in November.
- Carry out an assessment of human rights in Afghanistan including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.
- Design and broadcast a TV and radio spot on violence against women.
- Design and broadcast a TV and radio dramas for broadcast on violence against women on End Violence Against Women Day in November.
- Hold five roundtables.

### Summary of Component Training and Workshops

Date	Title	Agencies Involved	Number of Participants
July 5, 2007	Focus group meeting on translated scholarly papers from English to Dari and Pashto	Ulama Council, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Department of Religious Verdicts, Center for Islamic Study and Research, <i>Khateeb</i> s and Imams from different mosques in Kabul, and civil society representatives.	24
July to August	Computer Skills Training	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Haj	10
August 11, 2007	Panel discussion on "Quranic Foundation of the Rights of Women in 21 <sup>st</sup> Century"	Ulama Council, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Department of Religious Verdicts, Center for Islamic Study and Research, <i>Khateeb</i> s and Imams from different mosques in Kabul, and civil society representatives.	27
September 17, 2007	Panel Discussion on "An Introduction to Muslim Women's Rights"	Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <i>Khateeb</i> of Haji Yaqub Mosque	25
September 30, 2007	Focus group meeting evaluating and comparing Islamic sources with Afghan customs and traditions	Department of Religious Verdicts, Center for Islamic and Cultural Studies, Supreme Court	8
October 20, 2007	English Language Training	Center for Religious and Cultural Studies	17