

MONTHLY REPORT, May , 2014

Justice & Governance Eastern Afghanistan (JGEA) Project (Logar, Khost, Paktia)



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Introduction:

General Information	Project Start Date	04 July 2012
	Project Completion Date	03 July 2014
	Project Name	Justice & Governance in Eastern Afghanistan (JGEA)
	Organization	The Liaison Office
Project Location	Logar, Paktia and Khost	
Project Status	Contract Signed	04 July 2012
	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Cancelled	
	Completed	

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Justice & Governance Eastern Afghanistan (JGEA) project focuses on the establishment of Commission on Conflict Mediation (CCMs) in Logar, Paktia and Khost. Building on past experiences, TLO will facilitate the establishment of dispute resolution shuras committees called CCMs. The CCMs include traditional elders that reflect and represent the population of their provinces, and seek to resolve disputes and, especially at the regional level, develop policy recommendations. Working with respected elders already known to TLO and relevant government officials in each target province, TLO will establish a transparent process to select 20 persons to form a body comprising traditional elders, local religious leaders, and other individuals that can contribute to the enduring resolution of disputes.

Each CCM is balanced to reflect the province’s tribal and ethnic makeup helping to ensure province-wide reach and promote collaboration. Each has met regularly with its respective provincial government (provincial governor or representative, Department of Justice and Department of economy), both benefitting from, and complementing, government dispute resolution efforts. Previous CCM decisions have received the stamp of the provincial governor.

TLO has not sought to impose this requirement here, but has worked with each CCM to develop appropriate cooperation modalities in its province.

The main tasks to establish the CCMs implied recruiting project staff in each location; securing the approval of each provincial government; establishing a transparent process to select CCM members that are representative of the population; selecting CCM members; developing CCM working procedures; and operationalizing the CCMs.

Once operational, TLO reviewed and analyzed both each case the CCMs decided upon, and the cases as a group in order to help identify major conflict actors, patterns, and trends, as well as to provide some (more-or-less real-time) insight into the CCMs' successes or shortcomings; TLO, as possible and only with the prior consent of the CCMs will also post CCM decisions on the Project website, in order to increase transparency and accountability. Project records and CCM decisions, finally, provide a solid foundation on which to base an evaluation of CCM procedures at the end of this first year.

Because CCM set-up and operation in year one proved generally successful, the main task of year two have been to review CCM members' lists and revise them as necessary. TLO by no means expects significant members' list revision, but will take the opportunity to "tweak" membership of each CCM to ensure maximum impact and performance. At the end of year two, TLO, as possible and only with the prior consent of the CCMs¹, will also post CCM decisions on the Project website.

On the longer-term, the RCCM could become a forum to bring together a broader group of ADR providers to discuss important issues and enhance their capacity in areas such as the rights of women and minority rights, and how to improve the functioning of ADR, including how to better support the Afghan government and its initiatives.

Based upon the specific request of RCCM members, TLO has provided increased resources to the RCCM in year two. More concretely, while the RCCM met twice in year one, during year two it met on a quarterly basis.

Major activities included consultative meetings to select regional CCM members and topics; the conduct of Regional CCM meetings; the recordation, analysis, and, as possible, promulgation of Regional CCM decisions; and the evaluation of Regional CCM operations and procedures.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

¹ TLO's experience has been that most dispute parties will not object to the resolution of their dispute being recorded, or even publicized. However, especially if a dispute implicates significant issues of honor or family governance, dispute parties will often resist publicization, or even recordation, vigorously.

This report covers the Tasks set out below are taken directly from the JGEA Project Work Plan – July 4, 2013 to July 3, 2014. A summary of the main achievements against each of the Tasks, Indicators and Targets presented below in table 1. The structure of the main report is designed to describe the achievements under each of the indicators given in the work plan.

Table 1: Tasks, Indicators, Targets and Actual Achievement

No	Task	Task Status	Indicators	Targets	Target Status	Actual Achievement during period	Actual Achievement During Life of Project
1	Task 1: Regular CCM Meetings	On going	<p>1.number of CCM meetings held</p> <p>2.number of conflicts resolved by the CCMs</p>	(at least) 16 CCM meetings during each project year 2	97%	<p>2 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Khost CCM</p> <p>2 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Paktia CCM</p> <p>2 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Logar CCM</p> <p>2 conflicts resolved by Khost CCM</p> <p>2 conflicts resolved by Paktia CCM</p> <p>2 conflicts resolved by Logar CCM</p>	<p>22 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Khost CCM</p> <p>21 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Paktia CCM</p> <p>21 bi-weekly meetings have been conducted by Logar CCM</p> <p>32 conflicts resolved by Khost CCM</p> <p>33 conflicts resolved by Paktia CCM</p> <p>44 conflicts resolved by Logar CCM</p>
2	Task 4: Promulgate CCM Decisions	Completed	<p>1.number of CCM decisions posted to project website</p> <p>2. number of CCM</p>	<p>1.The creation of one project website (as part of TLO website)2.Posting most CCM decisions</p>	100%	<p>The website has been created in close consultation and coordination between the donor and TLO.</p> <p>During this period, TLO</p>	<p>A total of 109 CCM decisions have been recorded so far in the three target provinces.</p> <p>The summary of</p>

No	Task	Task Status	Indicators	Targets	Target Status	Actual Achievement during period	Actual Achievement During Life of Project
			decisions recorded	to that website 3.Preparation and submission of two summaries of CCM decisions		received a presentation of the website from its developer, and agreed on a structure to the website.	the 109 CCM decisions have been prepared in English language. Template for the website is prepared and revised and a copy in pdf was sent to the donor for revision.
3	Task 3: Conduct Regional Commission	On going	number of RCCM outputs	1.Four RCCM meetings 2.Four RCCM output reports	98%	sixth RCCM meeting is scheduled After second round of election, on the 28 th of June, 2014 by Kabul project staff	On going
4	Task 3: Hold initial meetings with Kabul official	On going	The receipt of an informal agreement for general cooperation with the CCMs from Kabul officials	(At least) four meetings with Kabul officials (one with TLO staff, and three with provincial delegations)	90%	The RCCM is will hold a meeting with the Border and Tribal Affairs ministry after their internal meeting on June 28 th , 2014	On going
5	Task 5: Evaluate and analyze CCM decisions	On going	1.number of CCM decisions receiving commentary from formal justice officials 2. number of CCM decisions violating Sharia or statutory law	Knowledge of conflict factors and trends among CCM members and local government personnel	50%	A total of 75 CCM decisions have received comments in the target provinces (Logar, Paktia and Khost) and the rest of the CCM decisions are pending for the	25 CCM decisions received comments in each provincial office (Logar, Paktia and Khost)

No	Task	Task Status	Indicators	Targets	Target Status	Actual Achievement during period	Actual Achievement During Life of Project
						comments by the justice officials.	
6	Task 6: Evaluate /analyze the role of women on the CCMs	Completed	elders' perceptions of/ reactions to women's engagement on the CCMs	1.The role of women in each provincial CCM is analyzed 2.The role of women is compared between the provincial CCMs	100%	The role of women on each provincial CCM (Logar, Khost, Paktia) was reviewed and compared between the CCMs	Each provincial CCM reviewed its Women engagement strategy and produced a two page compiled document from the three CCMs and sent it to the donor

III. Summary of Project Activities

In the month of May, 2014, the Khost, Paktia, and Logar CCMs each met twice. ***During these meetings, the Khost CCM resolved two conflicts, the Paktia CCM resolved two conflicts and the Logar CCM resolved two conflicts.***

IV. ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST EACH INDICATOR

Task 1: Regular CCM meetings

Indicator: 1.1 Number of CCM meetings held

1.2 Number of conflicts resolved by the CCMs

Achievements:

In the month of May, 2014, each provincial CCM conducted two additional bi-weekly meetings in its target province; ***as a result, the CCMs have resolved an additional six conflicts.*** Most of the resolved disputes were related to rain-fed, forest and irrigated lands, and included family disputes and criminal violence. The total number of conflicts solved by each CCM is listed in Table 1, updated in every monthly report.

Table 1: Number of conflicts resolved by each CCM in three provinces

Province	# of conflicts resolved	Type of conflict
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Khost	32	Irrigated and rainfed lands, family disputes, inherited land, and verbal fight
Paktia	33	Irrigated and rainfed lands, family disputes, criminal, forest, and micro-hydro power
Logar	44	Irrigated and rainfed lands, family disputes, criminal, inherited land, and related to cash
Total	109	

Task 4: Promulgate CCM Decisions

Indicator: 1.1 number of CCM decisions posted to project website

1.2 number of CCM decisions recorded

The TLO office and its staff will manage a website that publishes, under the condition of the agreement of CCM member, CCM information. This aims at increasing transparency and accountability of decisions, as well as knowledge of conflicts in the Southeast/Center and the informal justice's dispute resolution system. In the month of May, 2014 the website has been created in close consultation and coordination between the donor and TLO. In the current month, the developer presented the website to TLO program staff, and took their comments and suggestions for incorporation in the website.

A total of 109 CCM decisions have been recorded in the target provinces (Logar, Paktia and Khost) since the beginning of the JGEA project. The summary of these 109 CCM decisions were prepared in English and submitted to the donor.

Task 3: Evaluate/analyze the role of women on the CCMs

Indicator: 1.1 the role of women in each provincial CCM is analyzed

1. 2 The role of women is compared between the provincial CCMs

In the month of May, 2014 TLO has facilitated a series of consultations between CCMs and local government officials, women's civil society leaders, and *spinsari* ("white haired" female community elders). These consultations have helped the CCMs further develop their strategy for engagement with women to take an even more active part in CCM tasks and activities so each provincial CCM has reviewed their strategies for women's engagement so as to identify what steps should be taken forward in order to support women in playing a more active role in the CCMs' tasks and activities. There was a general consensus among the CCM members during the review, as they underlined women have been serving as peace educators for generations, both in their families and in their communities. They notably mentioned women have proved instrumental in "building bridges rather than walls". They thus presented the following recommendations;

- As women represent at least half of the members of every community, and given the importance and amount of tasks in building peace, it is indispensable to view women as partners in the process of peace building/ conflict resolution.
- As women are pivotal in management of daily affairs and major events important in the life of the family in many of Afghanistan's diverse cultures, the oppression and victimization of women negatively impacts everyone in a community. Women should therefore not be excluded from peace building/ conflict resolution.
- Because women are excluded from public decision-making, leadership, and educational opportunities in many communities around the country, it is important to create special programs to empower women to use their gifts in peace-building initiatives, to sit on CCMs, and cooperate with male CCM members
- Because women and men have different experiences of violence and peace, women must be allowed and encouraged to bring their unique insights and gifts to peace-building processes.

While the Paktia CCM suggested working with its Women's Liaison Officer to aid in women-related disputes, but without including women as members of the CCM as such, both the Logar and Khost CCMs promoted the idea to incorporate female members within their CCMs, at parity with CCM male members (as opposed to the much more limited current women's CCM membership).

Background:

Towards the end of year one, each CCM had suggested the creation of a provincial women's CCM. The idea seems to have originated within the Logar CCM and, facilitated by RCCM meetings, spread to Paktia and Khost.

To develop these plans, TLO has facilitated a series of consultations between CCMs and local government officials, women's civil society leaders, and *spinsaris* ("white haired" female community elders), as well as Departments of Women's Affairs (DoWAs) in these provinces (Logar, Paktia and Khost) in year 2. Most of these institutions emphasized the dire need to engage women in peace building processes in order to address family issues in particular, and women related rights in general.

The Khost and Logar CCMs then actively engaged the female member included in each of their CCMs, and observed the effectiveness women in contributing to positive solutions. Indeed, in both these provinces, women's participation in the resolution of women-related conflicts along with male CCM members was very positive. In both provinces, the female CCM members contributed to building links between the DoWA, of which each is the provincial head, and women in communities. Positive results were thus achieved through women's participation in disputes resolved recently concerning family issues and marriage-related issues (which represent over 15% of the total cases presented to the CCMs), including mistreatment of wives, disagreement between husband and wife, baad, badal, etc.

Following these observations, CCMs in Logar and Khost highlighted the importance of taking steps towards the engagement of women within the CCMs. They explained being ready to

include 20 women elders (spinsaris) to sit on each CCM along with male CCM members in order to better address women related conflicts (baad, badal, divorce, inheritance rights and property rights) within the communities. The Paktia CCM, however, still insists on creating of separate women's CCM, albeit with male CCM members assisting and supporting their female counterparts in conflict resolution processes, such reaching out the conflict parties both in provincial center and in the districts.

Given the cultural context in Paktia, elders from the Paktia CCM insisted that, under current circumstances, interaction between male and female elders remained impossible and potentially damaging for the reputation of the CCM. However, they expressed their desire to cooperate with a separate CCM for women, through the intervention of the current Women's Liaison Officer.