



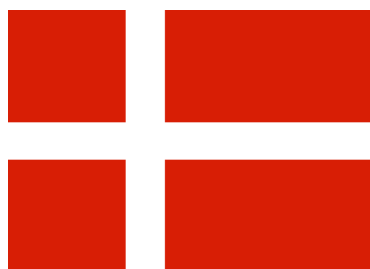
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JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN PROJECT

2015, 1st Quarterly Project Progress Report



DONORS



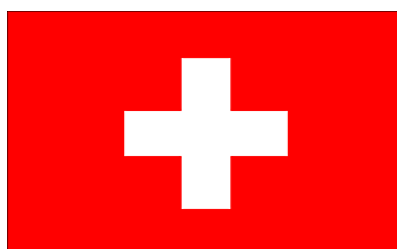
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project ID: 00068012

Duration: January 2013 – December 2015

Strategic Plan Component: Rule of Law

CPAP Component: Access to Justice, Human Rights

ANDS Component: Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights

Total Project Budget: USD 34,402,039

Annual Budget 2014: USD 6,466,530

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Responsible Agencies: Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, Attorney General's Office, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan Independent Bar Association, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish Institute of Human Rights, National Legal Training Centre Herat, UNDP

Chief Technical Advisor: Dr. Doel Mukerjee

Head of Rule of Law Unit: Dawn Del Rio

COVER PAGE: A young woman from Herat with her Legal Aid Grand Facility (LAGF) lawyer. The 20-year-old was able to divorce her abusive husband because of assistance received through the LAGF. **Credit:** UNDP, January 2015.

ACRONYMS

AIBA	Afghanistan Independent Bar Association
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
ASGP	Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Project
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CPC	Criminal Procedure Code
CBDR	Community-based dispute resolution
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil society organization
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FRU	Family Response Unit
GBV	gender-based violence
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HRSU	Human Rights Support Unit
<i>Huquq</i>	MOJ Legal Affairs Department
LAGF	Legal Aid Grant Facility
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NLTC	National Legal Training Centre
NPP	National Priority Programme
NTA	National Technical Assistant
PLAU	Public Legal Awareness Unit
PPD	MOJ Planning and Policy Department
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PSC	Project Steering Committee
ROLIS	Rule of Law Indicators Study
RNAP	Recommendation National Action Plan
<i>Shura</i>	Community gathering
<i>Taqnin</i>	MOJ Institute for Legislative Drafting and Legal Research
TCC	Technical Coordination Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan
UNCAT	United Nations Convention against Torture
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the first quarter of 2015, JHRA continued to contribute to outputs on (i) establishing functional high-level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ); (ii) establishing functional mechanisms to provide quality justice services to vulnerable groups through Afghan counterparts; and, (iii) establishing public participation processes and knowledge bases for improving access to justice and human rights compliance.

Output 1:

Work on the Rule of Law Indicator Study (ROLIS), which is to provide a baseline for the justice sector in Afghanistan, made significant strides this quarter as the National Rule of Law Working Group accepted the findings from the focus group discussions (FGDs) and expert interviews conducted in six provinces as well as the structure for the final report. The final ROLIS report is expected to be finalised during the next quarter.

As the result of feedback at legislative coordination workshops facilitated by JHRA in previous years, the *Taqnin* (the MOJ's Institute for Legislative Drafting and Legal Research) has developed a plan to train legal advisors in 50 government institutions on how to draft legislation. This is expected to greatly improve the quality of legislation received by the legislative drafting department from line ministries and other institutions.

Following the passage of the Human Rights Support Regulation last year, the Human Rights Task Force met for the first time this quarter. Among the most important actions taken at the meeting was the approval of the Recommendation National Action Plan (RNAP). Also as a result of the meeting, a network of human rights focal points from 25 ministries and other institutions was established.

Activities focusing on women's rights in this output have included the work on the Law on Obtaining Rights and the Family Law.

Output 2:

The Legal Aid Grant Facility (LAGF) continued operating in 2015. A total of 237 cases were undertaken by lawyers in four provinces, going a significant way to accomplishing the annual target of 1,000 instances of legal support provided. Of these cases, 26 belonged to female clients. In addition, there is now a total of 306 lawyers registered with the facility. 82 of these lawyers are female.

Progress was also made this quarter in the area of the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW). JHRA continued advocacy efforts towards the establishment of a specialized EVAW court, and support for the proposal was garnered from civil society organizations (CSOs) and several high-level officials. JHRA's support of the EVAW Unit in

Helmand has resulted in an increase of cases being reported to the unit. 12 cases were reported to the unit in just two months, a significant improvement on last year, during which only 18 cases were reported over six months.

Output 3:

As a result of the street vendor mapping exercise earlier this year in Kabul, vendor representatives from 10 major markets have been identified. JHRA will coordinate meetings between these representatives to provide a platform to air vendor grievances and provide input vendor input into the decisions being made at the TCCs.

A JHRA-funded report on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms has revitalized the process to develop a national policy on cooperation between the formal and informal justice systems. A MOJ committee has been appointed to revise the draft Jirga-Shura law, and plans have been made for the expert who wrote the report to assist in this. Work on the Jirga-Shura law has included a strong focus on women's rights in the non-State justice system.

Output 4:

During this quarter, an annual workplan (AWP) which included a human resources plan, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans, risk assessment and provincial and gender-based budgets, was developed and approved. Further efforts to leverage donor funding for JHRA continued. Also during this quarter the planning process on internal discussions for JHRA's successor project was launched. It is expected that the JHRA successor project will be aligned to the UNDP Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and will address government priorities in the areas of justice and human rights as expressed in the government's Realizing Self-Reliance paper.

A major challenge to implementation this quarter has been the change of government in the country. A lack of leadership has produced delays in decision making in justice sector institutions, but it is expected that the appointment of a new cabinet will speed this up. Meanwhile, the question of whether or not NTAs will be absorbed into the government Tashkeel (organizational structure) has resulted uncertainty as to the sustainability of activities after the end of the project. It is hoped that the NTA review planned with the government will resolved this issue.

II. RESULTS:

OUTPUT 1: High level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards are established and functional in State justice institutions

Output 1 focuses on increasing the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GORIA) to produce informed and compliant high-level policy documents and legislation by strengthening key departments of the MOJ, including their coordination with line ministries and institutions. This output is aligned with NPP (National Priority Programme) 5: Law and Justice for All, particularly Component 1 on “Improving the Legislative Process”, and NPP 6: Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities. It is expected that at the end of the project period, the results of this output will provide the MOJ with mechanisms to coordinate the development of policy and legislative documents with the Permanent Legislative Committee, which is chaired by the second vice-president’s office with ministries, and improve coordination between the Policy and Planning Department (PPD) of the MOJ, *Taqnin* (including Translation Board) and the Human Rights Support Unit (HRSU).

1.2. Increase justice institution capacity to monitor progress and performance of justice sector delivery (through ROLIS).

Indicator 1.2: Existence of baseline on rule of law.

The annual target for this activity result is “ROLIS conducted and baseline established.” Significant progress was made this quarter towards that goal, and the project is on schedule to deliver this target in Q2 of this year.

During this quarter, the consulting company, ATR, delivered the final provincial reports incorporating data from FGDs and expert interviews. Consequently, the findings from the reports as well as the structure for the final ROLIS report were presented to the National Rule of Law Working Group. Both were accepted by the working group. Approval at this critical stage again underlines the strong national ownership of the study, which has been a strong feature throughout the ROLIS process. As a result, national counterparts now have a stake in measuring and improving their institutions’ performance.

Following the workshop, an international expert financed by JHRA is in the process of drafting the final report, and the project is planning to organize a national conference to present the study, which is expected to be completed in Q2 of this year.

1.3. Increase the MOJ’s capacity to effectively reform law through the Taqin, including the Translation Board.

Indicator 1.3 Number of (outdated) laws revised/drafted/repealed in line with national and international standards (including involving a consultative process).

The annual target for this activity result is “four legislative documents reviewed for compliance with international standards and through expert consultation.” It aims to increase the compliance of laws enacted by the GIROA with international standards. Work on four key laws, the Law on Obtaining Rights, Family Law, Jirga-Shura Law and Labour Law, was undertaken in the 1393 legislative calendar. These laws will be carried over to the 1394 Legislative Calendar and HRSU will continue to work with the *Taqin* until the drafts are completed and submitted to the Council of Ministers. The Law on Obtaining Rights has been completed, and work on the Jirga-Shura Law and Labour Law is underway. It is expected that in the Q2 work will be undertaken to review the draft of the Family Law.



JHRA staff and government counterparts take part in a meeting of the national working group on the Rule of Law Indicator Study in Mazar.

Credit: **UNDP**, March 2015

The impact of JHRA’s work in the area of legislative drafting became evident this quarter when the *Taqin* informed the project that it plans to train legal advisors in 50 government institutions on how to draft legislation. This plan was developed as a direct result of the feedback received by the *Taqin* at previous legislative coordination workshops facilitated by JHRA in 1392 and 1393, in which legislative focal points complained that they did not have the expertise to draft quality legislation for their institutions. The training is

expected to increase coordination between line ministries and the *Taqin* on legislative drafting and improve the quality of laws developed in Afghanistan.

This quarter also saw the completion of work by the *Taqin* committee on the Law on Obtaining Rights on a more gender sensitive draft of the law. This new draft resulted from feedback received at a conference on the law organized by JHRA in Herat last year. Several recommendations on the rights of woman in marriage and divorce were incorporated into the draft law by the committee, and a separate chapter on the rights arising from marriage and the roles and responsibilities of a husband and wife was included.

Work on the Jirga-Shura Law progressed this quarter, as the leadership of the MOJ formed a committee to review recommendations on the law made by the Hamida Barmaki Organisation for the Rule of Law and JHRA. The Labour Law also moved forward, as Component Three of the JHRA project provided technical input into the draft law through the Kabul Technical Coordination Committee (TCC). Input was aimed at expanding the definition of the informal labour economy within the law. With regards to the draft Family Law, JHRA has completed an agreement with UN Women for that agency to provide technical assistance on the draft.

Finally, with the technical support received from the Translation Board by the *Taqnin* on the legislative drafting process, the MOJ has planned to develop a law on translation and confirmation of official documents which is expected to make the Translation Board more relevant in the ministry and the government overall.

1.4 Strengthen human rights institutions' capacity to track, monitor and report on the implementation of human rights commitments.

Indicator 1.4.1 Percent of legislative documents identified by the MOJ for HRSU/UNDP support reviewed for human rights compliance.

Indicator 1.4.2 Existence and functionality of a formal coordination mechanism between HRSU, MOFA, AIHRC and CSOs to follow up on recommendations from international human rights bodies.

The annual targets for this activity result are: 100% of legislative documents identified by MOJ for HRSU/UNDP support reviewed for human rights compliance and formal coordination method activated (evidenced for instance by inter-ministerial agreements on follow up actions to recommendations from international human rights bodies). With the release of the legislative calendar for 1394 (expected in the early part of Q2), HRSU will be identifying revised targets for legislative review. HRSU has already undertaken review on various pieces of legislation and the Human Rights Task Force has been activated. JHRA is therefore on schedule to achieve this target.

This quarter saw the lobbying efforts of JHRA and HRSU come to fruition as the recently formed inter-ministerial Human Rights Task Force held its first meeting on 19 January. The task force was established by the Regulation on Support of Human Rights in Government Administration, which JHRA, in cooperation with HRSU, expended significant effort on getting passed in 2014. The task force is to make decisions on human rights issues for government. It will meet at least four times a year. Among the key decisions by the task force at its first meeting were that human rights priorities should be included in state budgets and that both the Supreme Court and CSOs should be represented at the task force. HRSU, with

the support of JHRA, will assist in the implementation of the decisions of the taskforce.

In addition, the first meeting of the task force resulted in the approval of the RNAP. Consequently, the RNAP was officially sent to relevant government institutions for implementation. It contains prioritized human rights recommendations for the country based on the 2009 and 2013 Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

As a result of another decision made at the January meeting, a formal network of human rights focal points has been established across the government. This network will support the implementation of the decisions made by the task force across the government and assist HRSU with the collection of data on human rights issues. Twenty-five focal points from ministries and other state institutions were appointed this quarter. This represents an important achievement because it formalizes cooperation between HRSU and government ministries and institutions. An introductory meeting for the focal points was planned for Q2.

Informed by a workshop which was conducted this quarter for nine HRSU staff, HRSU is developing indicators for four ratified treaties based on global human rights indicator standards. The indicators will enable HRSU to better measure the progress of the country on implementing the treaties.

Work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) neared completion as the directorate finalised the Dari draft of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) and submitted it for translation into English. It is expected that the final steering committee meeting to approve the UNCAT for submission will be held shortly after the new cabinet is in place.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During Q1 2015, a total of USD 225,320 were spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

Table 1: Q1 Progress for Output 1

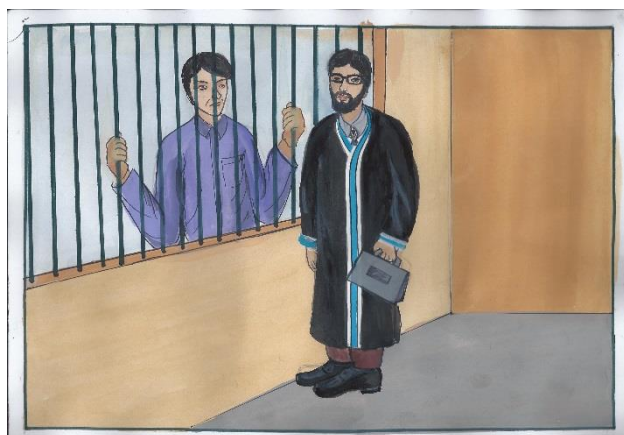
2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
1.2 No results-oriented and evidence-based M&E systems in place in MOJ.	1.2 ROLIS conducted and baseline established	Provide technical expertise to national ROLIS working group to finalise ROLIS and Conduct national conference to present ROLIS findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports with data from provinces received; national workshop to present the findings held. • National working group agreed to the provincial findings and requested ROLIS expert to start drafting report. 	On target.
1.3 Penal Code, Child Act, Jirga/Shura Law, and Law on Obtaining Rights working groups established.	1.3 Four legislative documents reviewed for compliance with international standards and through expert consultation.	Provide legislative drafting expertise and means for consultations on Family Law (with UN Women), Jirga-Shura Law, Penal Code, Law on Obtaining Rights, and the Labour Law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women to provide technical assistance to the government on the Family Law. • MOJ committee formed to review recommendations of the Hamida Barmaki Organization for the Rule of Law and JHRA/UNDP on the Jirga-Shura law. • National consultant to draft provisions for Penal Code engaged. • The MOJ committee completed and submitted second draft of Law on Obtaining of Rights to the <i>Taqnin</i>. 	On target.
		Support to Translation Board for the development of legal translations to MOJ and other government institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Q1, the Translation Board translated four laws and regulations, two draft laws and 16 other documents. Translations of two other laws were edited. 	On target.
1.4.1 70 % reviewed (7 out of 10 laws identified) and working groups established on Penal Code, Child Act, Jirga-Shura Law, and Law on Obtaining Rights 1.4.2 Formal coordination mechanism exists but not functional: Human Rights Support Regulation was passed 4 Aug by the Council of Ministers thereby formalizing and establishing an inter-	1.4.1 100 % reviewed Formal coordination mechanism activated (evidence for instance by inter-ministerial agreements on follow up actions to recommendations from international human rights bodies) 1.4.2 Formal coordination mechanism activated (evidence for instance by inter-ministerial agreements on follow up	Provide capacity and training support to finalise the UNCAT State report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNCAT State Report has been finalised and is being translated into English. It is expected to be released upon approval by the steering committee in Q2. 	On target.
		Provide technical expertise and financial support to AIHRC on south partnerships GBV programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One regional conference to address GBV is being discussed with the AIHRC. 	On target.
		Establish regular liaison between HRSU, AIHRC and CSOs for legislative review, coordination and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions are ongoing for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the AIHRC and HRSU. 	On target.
		Review legislation from a human rights perspective to ensure compliance with human rights standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in this area is ongoing; HRSU translated several international conventions and reviewed national laws and draft laws for compliance with international human rights commitments. 	On target.

2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
<p>ministerial task force to follow up on recommendations from international human rights bodies.</p>	<p>actions to recommendations from international human rights bodies)</p>	<p>Develop information management systems to track and manage data on the State's application of UN international human rights obligations and recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised RNAP, received approval from the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce, and distributed to government institutions for implementation. • Nine HRSU staff attended a one-week training conducted by an OHCHR/UPR expert; consequently staff are developing indicators for ratified treaties based on global human rights indicators standards. 	<p>On target.</p>
		<p>Organize regular trainings, events, sensitization and information sessions for State officials on application of State human rights obligations, including the development of tailored training materials and curricula</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in this area is ongoing; an assessment was completed on Kabul prisons and training and curriculum on human rights was developed for various government institutions. • The unit conducted the first Inter-Ministerial Taskforce meeting at the MOJ on 19 January. Several decisions on human rights were undertaken. • Human rights focal points from state institutions appointed. 	<p>On target.</p>
		<p>Provide technical support and oversight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRSU received two interns for one and half months. 	<p>On target.</p>
		<p>Provide operational support to HRSU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JHRA continued to provide operational support to make local purchases and organize workshops. 	<p>On target.</p>

OUTPUT 2: Mechanisms for providing quality access to justice services to vulnerable groups are established and functional

Output 2 aims to enhance the Afghan public's access to quality justice services through the improvement and provision of legal representation, increasing the number and capacity of trained justice officials at the sub-national level, and improving service delivery on EAW. This output supports NPP 5 component 3 ("Increasing meaningful access to justice") and component 4 ("Building institutional capacity to strengthen justice delivery"), and includes working with the service providers of the justice institutions – courts, prosecutors' offices, EAW Units, *Huquq* Departments, Family Response Units (FRUs), Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) chapters, and National Legal Training Centres (NLTCs).

2.1. Legal Aid Grant Facility increases access to justice through free legal representation, particularly for detainees, women and children.



A Legal Aid Grant Facility lawyer visits a client in prison in an illustration created for a Public Legal Awareness Unit brochure. Credit: UNDP/MOJ

Indicator 2.1.1: Number of cases supported through LAGF disaggregated by criminal, civil, detention and women's cases

Indicator 2.1.2 Number of cases monitored

Indicator 2.1.3 Number of legal clinics supported under the LAGF

The annual targets for this activity result are "1,000 cases supported," "250 cases monitored," and "three legal clinics supported." JHRA and its partners are well on their way to achieving these targets.

Building on the success of the LAGF in 2014, 237 cases have been distributed this year across the four provinces (Balkh, Helmand, Herat and Nangarhar) where the facility operates. 26 of these cases belonged to female clients. In addition, 306 lawyers are now registered with the facility, including 82 females. At the end of 2014, this number was 265, including 73 female.

To facilitate improvement of LAGF services, an independent expert in legal aid visited Afghanistan this quarter and produce a mid-term evaluation on the facility. The recommendations of the report are currently being considered by the LAGF committee.

In order to further improve procedures at the LAGF, JHRA is in the process of recruiting a monitoring and evaluation agency, which will undertake independent monitoring of the quality of case handling within the LAGF.

This quarter also saw the activation of the Nangarhar law clinic. 30 students underwent training on various topics and will be deployed to provide free legal advice to women, children and indigent men through the LAGF. A law clinic was established in Helmand in 2014, and a proposal has been submitted by Herat University for the establishment of a clinic in that province.

2.2. Increase women's access to justice on issues of gender based violence by assisting the AGO/Government to implement the EAW law and to design pilot EAW courts

Indicator 2.2: Existence of national plan on special EAW court

The annual target for this activity result is “national plan on EAW court established.” The groundwork for the court has been laid, and progress has been made towards building a critical mass of support for the establishment of the court. Therefore, this target is on schedule.

Advocacy sessions held this quarter have garnered significant support among high-level justice sector officials for the establishment of the court. The chief justice of the Supreme Court and the head of the Women Judges Association have expressed their support for idea. Currently, cases of violence against women are often a low priority for the courts and are not decided upon in a timely manner. The proposal for the court has been shared with the legal advisor for the MOWA and should soon be submitted to the EAW commission.

Case Study 1: Legal Aid Grant Facility

Though she was pregnant at the time, Fahima (not her real name), was forced by her husband to crawl on all fours with the family's dogs. It was just one of the ways she was abused during her one year marriage. He also beat her with sticks, yelled obscenities at her and poured boiling water on her hands.

"It was such a bad life. You can't imagine. I couldn't see a good future for me or my child," Fahima said quietly, sitting in the corner of a room at the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) in Herat.

Fahima was assigned a free defence lawyer through LAGF. Despite receiving personal threats from Fahima's husband, the lawyer processed the case, and eventually she was able to obtain a divorce. She says she is grateful for the assistance that she received from the lawyer.

Until the LAGF started accepting cases in mid-2014, there was limited legal assistance available in Herat through lawyers working for NGOs and the government's Legal Aid Department. The opening of LAGF has helped increase access to legal assistance in the province.

"The LAGF is a step in the right direction to provide increased access to legal services to the poor, marginalised and women in Afghanistan," said Zabihullah Karimullah, access to justice coordinator for JHRA.



20-year-old Fahima along with her LAGF lawyer. Credit: UNDP, January 2015.

JHRA's support for the ERAW Unit in Helmand this quarter resulted in a marked increase in the number of women seeking assistance from the unit. Early this year, JHRA supported the appointment of two female legal assistants to the unit. There were previously no women working there.

The hiring of female staff has greatly assisted in providing a safe and culturally sensitive environment for women to pursue their cases. 12 cases have been reported to the unit in the two months since the women came on board, a significant improvement on 2014, during which only 18 cases were reported the entire year. Cases reported to the ERAW unit during this year have included one suicide, one kidnapping, and three murders.

2.3. Enhance the Professional Capacity of State Justice providers including respect for due process through establishment of NLTC

Indicator 2.3: Number of National Legal Training Centre chapters operational

The annual target for this activity result is “one additional NLTC chapter established.” With the groundwork laid for the establishment of the chapter, this target is on schedule.



A recent graduate of Herat University attends the signing of the framework for the establishment of the NLTC in Herat. The centre will provide training for graduates like her to take qualifying exams. Credit: **UNDP**, January 2015.

On 27 January, JHRA, the Ministry of Higher Education and Herat University agreed on a framework for the establishment of the NLTC in Herat. Other preparations for the launch of the centre have also been undertaken; a curriculum for the centre was finalised, and a mission to Herat will take place in April in order to complete a needs assessment on equipment required to activate the centre.

The aim of the NLTC is to give law and sharia graduates and judiciary staff an opportunity to develop

their skills through systematic, structured training. This is the first effort to establish coordinated, comprehensive and continuous platform for training in the province. Previous training has been ad hoc. According to the plan for the centre, recent law and sharia graduates will receive training for the stage, or qualifying exams, while staff of justice sector institutions will receive short term capacity building training in 2015. Longer term programs will be instituted in the future. It is expected that the centre will be established and training sessions will start in Q2.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During Q1 2015, a total of USD 134,664 were spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

Table 2: 2014 Progress for Output 2

2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
2.1.1 522 cases supported through LAGF	2.1.1 1,000 cases supported	Activate case monitoring through government and/or CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAGF mid-term evaluation carried out. Balkh province: 113 cases distributed (7 F); 107 defense lawyers registered (77 M, 30 F) Helmand province: 60 cases distributed (3 F); 17 lawyers registered (all male) Nangarhar province: 21 cases distributed (11 F); 80 defense lawyers registered (21 F, 59 M) Herat province: 43 cases distributed (5 F); 102 defense lawyers registered (31 F, 71 M) 	On target; recruitment of M&E agency is ongoing.
2.1.2 Zero cases monitored	2.1.2 250 cases monitored.			
2.1.3 Two Legal clinics	2.1.3 3 total legal clinics supported.			
		Support 3 law clinics to train students on legal aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nangarhar law clinic activated; 30 students trained. Discussions underway for the establishment of a Herat legal clinic. 	On target.
2.2 No Special EAW court in place	2.2 Nation plan on EAW court established	Orientation of judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers on indictments, settlements, CPC, EAW law and EAW courts, Law and Order Trust Fund of Afghanistan, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), GEP joint programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of EAW consultant underway. 	On target.
		Advocacy to EAW Units/Commissions and Supreme Court for the formal establishment of EAW Courts through joint programming with UNAMA, UNWMEN, GEP, UNFPA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultative meetings held with CSOs; advocacy meetings held with Supreme Court, head of Women Judges Association and MOWA legal advisor. 	On target.
2.3 One NLTC chapter operational in Kabul	2.3 One additional NLTC chapter established	Support for the activation of NLTC (Herat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum drafted and being finalised NLTC charter drafted. Micro capacity assessment is under process. Letter of agreement (LOA) is being drafted. 	On target.

OUTPUT 3: Public participation processes and knowledge base for improving access to justice and human rights compliance successfully established.

Output 3 focuses on strengthening the ability of Afghan citizens to understand, engage with and influence the State justice system through the promotion of legal literacy, civic education, and policy development, largely through and for civil society. This output supports Components 1 and 3 of NPP 5, which focus on “improving the legislative process” and “increasing meaningful access to justice,” and works primarily with the MOJ Public Legal Awareness Unit (PLAU), CSOs, media, and think tanks. The key purpose of this component is to build outreach to citizens using channels such as workshops, literature and media to inform them about their legal rights and build mechanisms for their protection.

3.1 Empower male and female street vendors through recommendations and advocacy for policy change

Indicator 3.1.1: Number of draft laws with legal inputs provided for rights of street vendors to the MOJ.

Indicator 3.1.2 Number of Technical Coordination Committees established and functional in select provinces

The annual targets for this activity result are “at least two laws with specific legal provisions on rights of street vendors drafted by MOJ based on JHRA’s technical inputs” and “TCCs established and fully functioning and generating outreach materials for street vendors.” The TCCs have continued to meet this quarter and input was provided by a JHRA-supported international consultant for two draft laws. Therefore, these targets are on schedule.

During this quarter, JHRA provided technical and organizational support for meetings of TCCs in Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kunduz and Mazar. It was through the TCC framework that a JHRA-supported international consultant provided proposals for amendments to the Labour Bill and the Traffic Bill. The proposed amendments aim to promote the legal recognition of street vendors and their economic rights, with the right to work at the core of this. Three other draft laws have also been identified as relevant to the legal recognition of street vendors: the Food Bill, the Consumer Protection Bill and the Municipalities Bill.

Case Study 2: Radio Series on Street Vendors

The first of a series of radio programs on street vendor rights was broadcast across the country on 4 March. JHRA coordinated with Radio Bayan to facilitate the broadcast of the show, which focused on the right to association.

Three vendors and the head of the Department of Social Unions and Political Parties of the Ministry of Justice appeared on the show for an hour-long discussion on the advantages of associating and the rules for doing so in an attempt to increase awareness about street vendors' rights.

"When people come together and have cohesion they can communicate with the government properly about their problems," said Mohammad Nasir Hafizi, head of the department.

Shafi Ahmad, a street vendor in Kabul who appeared on the show, said he believes registering an association with other vendors in his area will bring many benefits.

"Because all the street vendors are working separately, everyone is his own boss. But by obtaining a license from the MOJ we can become a cohesive group and appoint a representative to share our problems with the government."

Shows focusing on vendors and police and women vendors are in the works.



Mohammad Nasir Hafizi (left) head of the MOJ associations department with street vendors at Radio Bayan. **Credit:** UNDP, March 2015.

Meanwhile, JHRA also contributed to the setting up of a representative body for street vendors. This group in part aims to provide vendors a voice at the TCCs. Following Q1's street vendor mapping exercise in Kabul, representatives of vendors in the 10 largest markets of the city were identified. Some markets already had representatives, while areas that did not previously have representatives nominated them. Plans were made by JHRA to bring this group of 10 representatives together for the first time in early April. The group will provide direct vendor input into the dialogue with decision makers taking place at the TCCs and serve as a forum for vendors to air the grievances that the TCCs aim to address. Members of this group will nominate a representative to attend TCC meetings. Monthly meetings between them will also promote peer to peer sharing and offer an opportunity to educate vendors on their rights.

With the backing of the TCCs and to fulfill the TCCs' aim of producing outreach materials for street vendors, the project coordinated with Radio Bayan to produce a show on street vendors' constitutional right to

association. This was first in a series of shows on vendor rights which will be undertaken with the station. The show attracted several callers who were themselves vendors, demonstrating that the show had reached its target audience. The radio station reaches an area that includes 85% of the population of Afghanistan.

3.2 Consolidate communication and coordination between State and non-State justice providers through recommendations and advocacy for policy change

Indicator 3.2.1 Existence of a national policy or legislation on State/non-State cooperation in the justice sector.

Indicator 3.2.2 Number of districts that have State/non-State justice coordination mechanism.

The annual targets for this activity result are “one draft law has recommendations on coordination with State and non-State justice providers” and “mechanisms for coordination of cases between State and non-State justice providers at district levels established in four provinces.” Work in this area is on target.

This quarter a comprehensive report on the boundaries within which informal justice actors can be employed to resolve civil cases was finalised and submitted to the MOJ. By providing substantive suggestions on how cooperation between the informal and formal sector should occur, the report has kick-started progress towards a government policy on State/non-State coordination, a key achievement for the project. Progress in this area had been stagnant since the 2009 Jirga-Shura Law stalled in the Council of Ministers due to concerns by MOWA, AIHRC (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission) and the Afghan Women’s Network. However the JHRA-supported report’s recommendations on how to resolve these prompted the acting minister to form a committee to revise it. It is expected that the 1394 government Legislative Workplan will call for a revised law to be drafted in Q2 by a MOJ working group made up of members of civil law department of *Taqnin* and with the involvement of the Hamida Barmaki Organisation on Rule of Law and JHRA.

Following the formation of the committee, the international consultant who wrote the report was scheduled to visit Kabul in late April. While here, he will provide technical support to the legislative committee assigned to re-draft the law. In July, he will present the proposed amendments to a JHRA-supported national conference on the law.

Also as the consequence of JHRA efforts, informal and formal justice sector actors in four districts in Helmand province now have a mechanism to facilitate coordination between them. At a two-day training session in the province at the end of March, representatives of the two groups agreed to meet on a monthly basis in each district. The workshop aimed to bring the groups together to boost case referral from the formal to the informal sector, but also included training on civil law, human rights and Sharia. The monthly meetings planned

are expected to greatly increase the number of cases referred. A similar workshop will take place in Mazar in mid-April and sessions will occur in Herat and Jalalabad later this year.

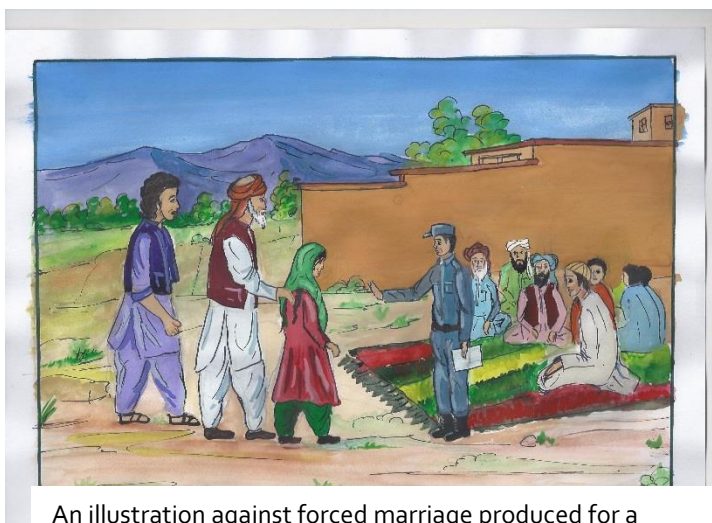
3.3 Strengthen the public’s awareness of human rights and the role of the justice system through the MOJ Legal Awareness Unit and media institutions

Indicator 3.3: Action plan of MOJ Communication Strategy operational.

The annual target for this activity result is “action plan operationalized in five provinces.” With the action plan approved and plans now underway to begin outreach campaigns in these provinces, JHRA is on schedule to achieve this target.

A five-month program of capacity building training for PLAU staff was completed this quarter. As a result of this training, provincial PLAU staff from Balkh, Nangarhar, Herat and Kabul were able to design outreach campaigns in line with the MOJ’s Communication Strategy. While staff have undertaken campaigns in the past, this is the first time these units have been able to lead the design process themselves. The campaigns, which will focus on the roles and responsibilities of citizens and rights of suspects and the accused, will be implemented next quarter.

Also this quarter, three public service announcements (PSAs) on girls’ right to education, women’s right to land inheritance and legal aid were produced and are currently being aired in Helmand province. The outreach effort in Helmand was a pilot project, and in cooperation with GEP, initial steps have been taken to expand the number of provinces where the PSAs are airing. Initial feedback from students and community members on the ads has revealed that they were useful in informing listeners that the AIBA provides legal aid and that wives, as well as daughters, can receive inheritance.



An illustration against forced marriage produced for a Public Legal Awareness Unit brochure supported by JHRA. Credit: UNDP/MOJ

As part of Component 3’s overall efforts to ensure that the voice of civil society is heard by policy makers, JHRA sponsored a conference on 4 February to assist in the operationalization of the Access to Information Law, which was approved by the president last year. The conference directly addressed the component’s output statement on increasing public participation in policy formation and brought together 74 representatives of government, civil society and media to discuss

C Case Study 3:

Herat Media Raises Human Rights Awareness

It was because of the training he received from JHRA that reporter Mohammad Rafi Ceena has been able to raise awareness about formal justice and human rights in his province.

Since JHRA hosted workshop for reporters and producers, 18 radio stations across the country who participated in the training have produced shows on human rights issues. The Herat radio station Ceena works for, Radio Zohal, is one of those.

Since attending the workshop in September 2014, Ceena has been involved in producing at least 10 programs on human rights for the station, including round tables with local justice officials.

For one recent story, the reporter interviewed a local man embroiled in a land dispute that had been before the local traditional courts for three years.

"When I interviewed the man, I informed him of the formal justice sector and that he could seek justice there," said Ceena.

Acting on the information he received the man took his case before the court.

"The last time he came to Herat I spoke to him and he was very happy because his land had been returned to him. This was a major human rights success."

Ceena says justice officials he has spoken to report that the number of people seeking information about the formal justice system has increased.

"The number of people coming to the formal justice system is increasing daily and I think it is because of the awareness we have created," said the reporter.

how to operationalize the new law. The law, which follows the principle of maximum disclosure tempered by minimum exceptions, establishes a supervisory commission on access to information made up of representatives from government and civil society. Officials who violate the law are subject to disciplinary action, which can include salary deductions. Participants at the workshop agreed that the next step towards the activation of the law should be the establishment of an implementation cell to develop terms of reference (TOR) for the supervisory commission. JHRA will continue supporting discussions between government and civil society to assist in the operationalization of the law.

Finally, JHRA is starting to see results from the workshop on human rights conducted for community radio stations in September 2014. The workshop contribute to Activity Result 3.3, which is to "strengthen the public's awareness of human rights and the role of the justice system," by encouraging media coverage of human rights issues. Journalists who participated in the workshop were interviewed by JHRA, and it was determined that following the workshop, 18 radio stations had run programs on various human rights issues.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During Q3 2014, a total of USD 167,288 were spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

Table 3: 2015 Progress for Output 3

2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
3.1 No national policy or legislation protecting and recognizing street vendors' rights 3.2.1 Four Technical Coordination Committees fully established (in Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar)	3.1 At least two laws with specific legal provisions on rights of street vendors drafted by MOJ based on JHRA's technical inputs. 3.2.1 Five technical Coordination Committees established and fully functioning and generating outreach materials for street vendors.	Provide technical and advisory support for policy and legal direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and advisory support provided for TCC meetings in Kabul and provinces; legal direction provided on the draft Labour Law, and Traffic Law. 	On target.
		Facilitate discussions on the development of a policy framework to improve the legal and socio-economic conditions of street vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five laws crucial for the legal recognition of street vendors identified for technical advisory support: Traffic Law, Labour Law, Food Law, Consumer Protection Law, and Municipal Law. 	On target.
		Undertake a legal review of the business rights of street vendors with a specific focus on how to integrate them into the formal economy and provide technical advisory support to enhance national legal frameworks for the protection of street vendor rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business rights of street vendors have been addressed in the proposed amendments to the draft Labour, Municipal, and Consumer Protection Laws. 	On target.
Mon3.2.1 No national policy or legislation on cooperation between the State/non-State justice sector. 3.2.2 Limited mechanisms in place	3.2.1 One draft law has recommendations on coordination with State/non-State justice providers 3.2.1 Mechanisms for coordination of cases	Support the production and dissemination of public awareness materials about the rights of street vendors through local municipalities and Technical Coordination Committees (TCCs) including community policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 4 March the project facilitated the participation of the MOJ and street vendor representatives in a radio show on the right of street vendors to form associations. 	On target.
		Support the organization of an inclusive national conference to discuss modalities to link the State and non-State justice systems Provide opportunities for State and non-State justice providers at the sub-national levels (4 provinces) to further consultations on the draft law and rights-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment report on traditional dispute resolution submitted to the MOJ in February 2015; national conference is planned for Q3. • Two-day training session held in Helmand in March bringing together formal and informal actors from four districts. 	On target. Work in Mazar, Herat and Jalabad was delayed to Q2

2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
to link State and non-State justice.	between State and non-State justice providers at district levels established in four provinces.	based Community-Based Dispute Resolution (CBDR) processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mission to Mazar will be conducted in mid-April to conduct similar training. 	in consultation with MOJ.
		Provide research and technical inputs to develop draft legislation on coordination of State and non-State justice systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JHRA consultant will provide technical inputs to the MOJ <i>Taqnin</i> legislative committee set up to review and re-draft the 2009 Jirga Shura law in Q2. 	On target.
		Identify entry points for policy development on land rights - UNAMA/UNDAF/CPD/Pro Doc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land rights specialist engaged to conduct stakeholder analysis and propose actions. • Final report discussed at UN Results Group 	On target.
		Conduct a social audit on <i>Huquq</i> referral mechanisms through engagement with select CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity was removed from the plan in January in consultation with Rule of Law Unit. 	Activity removed in consultation with country office.
3.3 No action plan for MOJ Communication Strategy.	3.3 Action plan operationalized in four provinces.	Support the MOJ through the development and dissemination of informed communications materials on women's rights, legal aid, land rights and CBDR processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plan to operationalize communication strategy produced. • PSAs on girls' right to education, women's right to inheritance, legal aid were aired in Helmand Province. Expansion to other provinces is planned. 	On target.
		Support the MOJ through capacity development on the communications strategy, media monitoring and campaign execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five-month training program for PLAU staff completed. • PLAUs in Balkh, Nangarhar, Herat and Kabul designed campaigns to be implemented in Q2. 	On target.
		Provide technical, advisory and financial support to select CSOs that use innovative public outreach methods to raise public legal awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In agreement with the UNDP Country Office, the project will channel support to selected CSOs within the framework of the LAGF. 	Activity redefined in consultation with country office.
		Facilitate partnership between PLAU and select CSOs through capacity development interventions/trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop held with CSOs and government to discuss implementing the Access to Information Law. 	Further activities planned for Q2.

2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
		Facilitate partnerships between PLAU and media companies to raise public legal awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public legal awareness campaign with three PSAs are being planned across eight provinces with GEP. 	On target.

OUTPUT 4: Monitoring and evaluation capacity in place

Monitoring and evaluation is an embedded concept and an essential requirement of every project or program design. More specifically, in a situation where resources are increasingly limited, M&E is of paramount importance. JHRA emphasizes the importance of M&E in the second phase of the project in an aim to compile lessons learned, establish best practices, increase internal and external accountability of resources used and results obtained, and make informed decisions on the future of the project.

Nevertheless, as was noted in the mid-term evaluation, the monitoring and evaluation framework of JHRA Phase II is still weak. This has partly to do with the fact that data collection, analysis and transparency is weak in Afghanistan. JHRA Phase II has therefore invested considerably in the development of data collection processes through the ROLIS, capacity assessments and other surveys. It is expected that as a result, any successor project will have a much stronger M&E framework.

JHRA Phase II has also invested, thorough programmatic and mid-term evaluations, to ensure lessons learned are captured and followed up on. The evaluations, based on the data gathered from monitoring, inform strategic decisions, in turn will improve the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the JHRA project.

4.1. JHRA implementation is conducted in an accountable, effective and efficient manner

Indicator 4.1.1: Approved project budget in Atlas

Indicator 4.1.2: End-term evaluation reports

Indicator 4.1.3: Number of project steering committee meetings convened during the year

Indicator 4.1.4 Number of MTE recommendations implemented related to project management

Indicator 4.1.5 Strengthened PSC and TCC TORs/Rules of Procedure

The annual targets for this activity result are:

- 1) Project Plans (AWP, HR, Procurement, M&E) and budgets are prepared, reviewed and revised on a timely basis.
- 2) End-term evaluation conducted
- 3) Quarterly Project Board meetings held on schedule
- 4) 70 percent of MTE recommendations implemented related to project management
- 5) Revised PSC and TCC TORs and new ROPs developed by end quarter 1 2015 and approved by Project Board (Q2)

JHRA is on schedule to achieve these targets by the end of the year.

The AWP, which included a human resources, procurement and M&E plans as well as a risk matrix and gender budget, was developed and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) this quarter.

JHRA is working hard to act on the feedback provided by the mid-term evaluation of the project last year. Of the 45 recommendations that were accepted by the UNDP management, action has been taken on 10 recommendations. Action on seven others is ongoing.

Meanwhile, planning for JHRA's successor project is underway. Internal brainstorming sessions and consultations with JHRA's government counterparts are planned for Q2 to ensure alignment with government priorities. Broader consultations with other stakeholders and potential donors are also being planned.

4.2. Strategic direction informed and refined through analysis using robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes

Indicator 4.2.1 The percentage of AWP, HR, Procurement and M&E plan implementation

Indicator 4.2.2 Quality and timeliness of project progress reports

Indicator 4.2.3 Number of AWP approved by Project Board in advance of changes

Indicator 4.2.4 Updated PMD indicators & implementation plans maintained and shared with UNDP CO SM / ROL unit.

Indicator 4.2.5 Strengthened baselines and indicators for 2015 AWP

Indicator 4.2.6 Improved quarterly reporting format

Indicator 4.2.7 Strengthened TORs/work planning, and integration of regional coordinators

Indicator 4.2.8 Number of National Technical Assistant (NTA) positions aligned with 2015 AWP

The annual targets for this activity result are:

- 1) 80 % implementation rate
- 2) 100 % of project progress reports produced and disseminated on schedule
- 3) 100 percent revisions to AWP, results and budgets approved by project board prior to changes
- 4) Bi-monthly meetings held with UNDP Country Office senior management and Rule of Law Unit where implementation plans are reviewed and progress assessed against PMDs on quarterly.
- 5) Increase in quantitative indicators across AWP 2015 (Q1)
- 6) Revised quarterly reporting format perceived as improved by JHRA donors (Q2 2015)
- 7) 4 meetings per year with regional coordinators, integration into implementation plans reviewed quarterly
- 8) 80 percent alignment (post June)

JHRA is on track to achieve these targets by the end of the year.

As stated above, a PSC meeting was held in March. As recommended in the mid-term evaluation, the number of quantitative indicators in the AWP presented was increased over

last year's AWP in an effort to improve monitoring of the project's results. While last year's plan included 10 quantitative indicators, this year's plan includes 13.

Detailed discussions were also undertaken in Q1 with the stakeholders to access the results of the project for the annual report for 2014. The report was submitted to the JHRA donors in a timely manner prior to the first PSC.

In order to facilitate communication between JHRA and the country office, more frequent meetings have been held bringing JHRA management, UNDP senior management and the Rule of Law Unit together. On the recommendation of the mid-term review, meetings between JHRA's regional coordinators and component leaders have been instituted in order to tighten coordination on activities in the provinces.

On the recommendation of the mid-term review, a monthly newsletter is now being produced to keep donors updated about activities and successes on a more regular basis.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During Q3 2014, a total of USD 216,903 were spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

Table 4: 2014 Progress for Output 4

2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
4.1.1: 2015 project budget not yet approved in Atlas 4.1.2: Mid evaluation conducted	4.1.1: Project Plans (AWP, HR, Procurement, M&E) and budgets are prepared, reviewed and revised on a timely basis.	Develop JHRA successor project in consultation with stakeholders and with strong RBM and governance structure, input based budget, and adequate staffing (MTR recommendation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for the JHRA successor project is underway; an action plan is currently being developed; this information was shared at the PSC in March. • The alignment workshop will assist in providing direction for the JHRA successor project. 	On target.
4.1.3: Two PSC meetings held in 2014 4.1.4 10 MTE recommendations for project management 4.1.5 Existing ToRs/no RoPs	4.1.2: End-term evaluation conducted 4.1.3: Quarterly Project Board meetings held on schedule 4.1.4 70% of MTE recommendations implemented related to project management 4.1.5 Revised PSC and TCC TORs and new ROPs developed by end quarter 1 2015 and approved by Project Board (Q2)	Complete and implement AWP; M&E, implementation and Human Resource and Procurement Plans and facilitate monthly JHRA staff and weekly JHRA management meetings (MTR recommendation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWP, human resources, procurement and M&E plans as well as risk matrix and gender budget were developed and approved by the PSC on 18 March. • 45 recommendations were provided by the mid-term evaluation; 10 have been undertaken and seven ongoing. • Conducted mid-term evaluation on LAGF, resulted in 37 recommendations which are expected to be adopted by the LAGF committee and at the tripartite meeting between the JHRA, AIBA and MOJ in Q2. 	On target.

2015 Baseline	2015 Annual Targets	Q1 2015 Planned	Q1 2015 Actual	Comments
<p>4.2.1: 2015 AWP, HR, Procurement and M&E plans not yet implemented</p> <p>4.2.2: Project progress reports delivered in a timely and quality fashion</p> <p>4.2.3 Some revisions to AWP without prior approval of Project Board</p> <p>4.2.4 No implementation planning</p> <p>4.2.5 2014 AWP</p> <p>4.2.6 2014 reporting formats</p> <p>4.2.7 2014 TORs, # [3] of meetings</p> <p>4.2.8 2014 NTA alignment</p>	<p>4.2.2: 100 % of project progress reports produced and disseminated on schedule</p> <p>4.2.3 100 percent revisions to AWP, results and budgets approved by Project Board prior to changes</p> <p>4.2.4 Bi-monthly meetings held with UNDP CO SM / ROL unit where implementation plans are reviewed and progress assessed against PMDs on quarterly.</p> <p>4.2.5 Increase in quantitative indicators across AWP 2015 (Q1)</p> <p>4.2.6 Revised quarterly reporting format perceived as improved by JHRA donors (Q2 2015)</p> <p>4.2.7 4 meetings per year with regional coordinators, integration into implementation plans reviewed quarterly</p> <p>4.2.8 80 percent alignment (post June)</p>	<p>Completion of monthly, quarterly and annual reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report 2014 has been completed. • Instead of a monthly report a monthly newsletter is being produced to assist in communication. 	On target.
		Ensure effective project facilities and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised security risk assessment has been undertaken and based on that upgrades are being made. • Security upgrading is ongoing; CCTV have been installed and four additional guards have been implemented; JHRA is also in the process of building a new guards room and procuring of additional security equipment. • Planning to paint building; procurement is still ongoing. 	On target.

III. GENDER-SPECIFIC RESULTS

JHRA works to ensure that gender priorities are not only included in all project programming, but that they are implemented in a way that takes into account the fundamental differences in the way women and men function within society, receive information, and are able to transfer skills through their unique networks. Therefore, many gender considerations have been integrated into the activities reported on in other programmatic areas of this report. In addition to integrated gender mainstreaming, often separate programming is required to address the particular needs of women that stretch beyond JHRA's standard activities. The project works hard with other units within UNDP and its government counterparts to address any new or exceptional needs for women as they arise.

In this quarter a leadership trainer for MOJ women was recruited to fulfill a request from the ministry to provide leadership and negotiation skills training to its female employees. This training is expected to complement the computer and English classes that women staff have undergone to strengthen their overall professional capacity.

Also during this period, JHRA responded to the MOJ's request to provide support to the Family Law drafting process by developing an agreement with UN Women for that agency to provide technical input into the law.

Further, in the ROLIS, care has been taken to ensure that there are indicators and questions included in the FGD sessions that address the concerns of violence against women and how the justice sector institutions are combating this as a priority issue.

With the establishment and activation of the LAGF, JHRA has worked with AIBA and the MOJ Legal Aid Department to ensure that cases involving women, particularly cases of gender-based violence, are prioritized among the cases selected for subsidy through the facility. This quarter 26 cases of women clients were distributed to lawyers across the four provinces of the LAGF. 82 lawyers registered with the facility were female.

During this quarter, JHRA also lobbied high level government officials for their backing on the proposed EVAW court. Overwhelming support was received for the idea. JHRA is now awaiting feedback from the MOWA on the proposal, after which the plan will be presented to the EVAW Commission.

Finally, as detailed under Output 2, JHRA's support for the Helmand EVAW Unit resulted in an increase of women reporting cases to the unit.

IV. PARTNERSHIPS

- **MOJ**

Activities including workshops and training sessions, continued with the MOJ based on the 2014 letter of agreement. The 2015 letter of agreement is being drafted based on the approved AWP 2015 to provide the necessary technical and financial support to the *Taqnin*, PPD, HRSU, and PLAU.

- **AIBA**

JHRA continued its partnership with AIBA this year as lawyers from the association continued to take up cases through the LAGF.

- **Municipal Governments**

JHRA continued its work with the municipal governments of Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif in this quarter. TCC meetings were conducted on the legal empowerment of street vendors which incorporated municipal officials in each of these cities. A national conference to develop a country-wide policy on street vendors incorporating mayors from 10 provinces is planned.

- **UN**

JHRA worked with several other agencies of the UN, leveraging synergies between them in order to further its work. JHRA is coordinating with UN Women to ensure that their NGO partners are fully aware of the services available through the LAGF in order to increase the number of cases submitted involving women detainees and women in shelters. Agreement has also been made with the agency to work together on the draft Family Law. HRSU is also working with UN Women to implement the specific recommendations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. As per the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation on the LAGF, the project is preparing to assist to the Gender Equality Project of UNDP by providing assistance to their legal help centres. Meanwhile, with the United Nation Assistance Mission to Afghanistan's (UNAMA) Rule of Law Unit, JHRA continued to implement ROLIS.

V. ISSUES

- **Uncertain financial sustainability**

Financial constraints continue to pose challenges for project delivery. Earmarking of funds by donors forces the project to base priorities on availability of funds rather than on strategically focus on areas which have shown programmatic success. As was pointed out in the mid-term evaluation, less than 50% of the funding originally envisioned for the project has been secured, leaving JHRA unable to accomplish certain objectives envisioned at the onset of the project. One way this shortfall has expressed itself is the fact that the project has only been able to extend National Technical Assistance (NTA) contracts to June.

- **NTA Staff Review**

The National Technical Assistance (NTA) salaries are available up to June 2015. In late 2014, discussions were undertaken with the MOJ to review NTA positions based on how national priorities are to be addressed through JHRA and the AWP 2015. The MOJ has agreed to undertake joint review of the positions with JHRA to identify a long term sustainable solution to the support provided by JHRA to the HRSU, Translation Board and the PPD.

- **Security**

Security continues to present an ongoing issue for JHRA, especially given the project's work in remote areas.

- **Change of Government**

The delays in the change of government have produced a vacuum in the decision making process in some of the key justice institutions. The fact that a new cabinet is still not in place has resulted in challenges in defining and understanding strategies in government for JHRA as a government partner and produced in overall delays. For example, the AGO has not yet committed to standard operating procedures drafted last year to guide cooperation between the EAW Units and the FRUs of police. It is expected that once the new administration is in place pending activities can be sped up and new directions will emerge.

- **Policy decisions on legal aid**

Other projects have impacted JHRA's LAGF. Policy decisions at the level of the Legal Aid Department are making slow progress in anticipation of the development of the legal framework under the Justice Service Delivery Project (JSDP) which seems to have been delayed in its implementation. At the design stage, JHRA's LAGF was built around the legal aid work of the JSDP, therefore certain strategic decisions have been delayed.

- **Design of JHRA Phase III**

Brainstorming meetings on the design of the next phase of the project have taken place with JHRA and UNDP Rule of Law Programme Unit staff, and consultation meetings are planned with government counterparts. However, there is a need to accelerate this process so that the design for the next phase of the project is completed by the end of the year.

VI. RISKS

- **Security**

Security remains an issue affecting the extent to which JHRA can deliver programming, particularly in more remote areas of the country. While ongoing monitoring of the security situation is required, JHRA has mitigated many movement restrictions by using multiple contracting and engagement strategies to deliver programming. Through its National Regional Coordinators, JHRA has increased the coordination and oversight the project is able to maintain with counterparts in the regions, and NTA or external contracts provide for fewer restrictions on movement due to UNDP security advisories. Several missions had to be cancelled due to the security related issues.

- **Government support for all components of the project**

The extent to which GIROA supports the development efforts of UNDP varies depending on the focus area where stakeholders are involved. JHRA's first mitigation strategy is to further involve governmental counterparts in the PSC to promote ownership and ensure the project meets the priorities of the Afghan Government. The project's second mitigation strategy consists of establishing working groups for all major activities, including the ROLIS, HRSU, LAGF and Public Legal Awareness Coordination Board, to ensure greater programmatic outputs. When a new cabinet is put in place JHRA will need to work particularly closely with government counterparts to ensure continuity of project activities, which are based on emerging government priorities.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED

- **Monitoring and coordination**

Monitoring and coordination of activities is of the utmost importance, especially when provincial level engagements are being undertaken. Coordination with justice sector institutions and project partners requires constant dialogue and coordination to ensure streamlining of processes and reduce duplication of actions. Field missions, discussion with stakeholders, and regular desk review of projects based on established benchmarks are an essential part of project implementation and management. M&E also supports the project in undertaking decision making for individual activity results and as output areas.

In particular this quarter, a mid-term evaluation was conducted on the LAGF by an independent expert in legal aid. His report provided 37 recommendations on improving the procedures of the LAGF, which are currently being considered by the LAGF committee.

- **Coordinating with similar projects**

JHRA has strengthened its coordination with other projects, agencies and institutions in order to maximize the impact of its activities. Working across projects extends the reach of JHRA programming throughout the Afghanistan government system, and encourages deeper entrenchment of priorities in the State. JHRA has worked closely with the UNDP Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Project (ASGP) on its work with municipal governments for the legal empowerment of street vendors. This tie-in allows for continued work in the regions with municipal officials, as well as the involvement of the governors' offices and provincial councils in target provinces. This will encourage expansion of this initiative throughout the provinces and regions and broaden support and input for a national policy increasing the legal protection for those working in the informal sector.

JHRA continues to implement the ROLIS through coordination with the UNAMA Rule of Law unit. All meetings, coordination of consultant's action plans, and key deliverables are worked out jointly.

JHRA will continue to tighten its work with other projects whenever necessary to strengthen the delivery of its programming for the men and women of Afghanistan.

- **Facilitating consultations and creating dialogue**

To ensure that programming remains relevant and is delivered and/or supported in a way that best contributes to the work undertaken by the government, JHRA holds regular consultations with government, donor, international agencies, and civil society partners to discuss realized and anticipated progress. This allows the project to re-gauge its planned support and tailor engagements to the needs as they emerge and respond to the political

situation in Afghanistan. The ROLIS working group, LAGF Committee, the Technical Committee for UNCAT are some of the groups that have been meeting on a regular basis to undertake substantive discussions and ensure consensus building.

- **Regular staff, management meetings with UNDP**

To overcome implementation challenges, regular operations meetings are conducted within JHRA and in coordination with the UNDP Country Office teams. Weekly engagements with UNDP Human Resources, Procurement and Finance Units, and all operations teams at one-stop-shop solutions meetings, have helped JHRA increase its effectiveness. Further areas which require escalation have been undertaken jointly with the Rule of Law Unit and senior management where necessary.

VIII. FUTURE PLANS

JHRA continues to build upon its current activities to achieve the expected outcomes of the project. In Q3, JHRA-supported activities will include:

- Hold national workshop on final ROLIS report
- NTA staff joint review with MOJ
- Initiate strategic planning process with Supreme Court
- Provide leadership training to female MOJ staff
- Facilitate legislative coordination workshops on Jirga- Shura law, law on obtaining rights, draft articles on land usurpation for penal code
- Expand LAGF to 7 provinces.
- Initiate procurement process to identify M&E firm for LAGF
- Engage international consultant on EAW court work and continue advocacy work and sharing of best practices for special EAW court
- Establish NLTC in Herat through inauguration and first training programme.
- Hold national mayors conference on street vendors rights
- Hold monthly meetings for street vendors representatives
- Continue radio series on street vendors rights
- Execute outreach campaigns drafted by PLAU staff
- Expand PSA campaign to eight provinces
- Work on project design for JHRA Phase III

IX. ANNEXES

A. ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL TABLE

The Interim Donor Report for the period ended 31 March 2015 for (JHRA II)

Annex 1. Financial Table

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PAST YEARS RECORD			CURRENT YEAR (2015)						FUTURE EXPENSES		TOTAL RECEIVABLE		
	Commitment (a)	Revenue Collected 31/12/2014 (b)	Expenses 31/12/2014 (c)	IPSAS Adjustment (d)	Opening Balance E=(b - c+d)	Contribution Revenue (f)	Other Revenue (g)	Expenses (h)	Closing Balance I=(e+f+g - h)	Commitments (Unliquidated Obligations) (j)	Undepreciated of fixed Assets and Inventory (k)	(Future Due) L=(a-b-f)	(Past Due) (m)	Available Resources N=(i- j-k-m)
DENMARK	845,688	845,724	619,485		226,239	-	-	59,885	166,354	14,871	(74)	-	-	151,557
DFAIT	320,224	320,224	316,930		3,294	-	-	(1,261)	4,555	-	-	-	-	4,555
ITALY	2,010,871	2,010,880	1,837,284		173,596	-	-	21,228	152,368	27,257	(74)	-	-	125,185
NETHERLAND	249,223	249,223	213,798		35,425	-	-	-	35,425	-	-	-	-	35,425
NETHERLAND	4,490,000	2,098,842	1,794,890	4,867	308,819	2,391,176	-	251,215	2,448,780	77,203	(41)	-	-	2,371,617
NORWAY	13,372	13,372	13,371		1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
SDC	769,991	769,991	766,080		3,911	-	-	-	3,911	-	-	-	-	3,911
SDC	3,000,000	2,700,006	1,496,268		1,203,738	-	-	158,233	1,045,505	183,450	-	300,000	-	862,055
UNDP	3,470,676	2,970,676	2,970,676		-	500,000	-	221,672	278,328	69,317	(8,263)	-	-	217,274
UNDP BCPR	450,000	327,224	327,224		-	122,777	-	33,203	89,574	-	-	-	-	89,574
Grand Total	15,620,045	12,306,162	10,356,007	4,867	1,955,022	3,013,953	-	744,175	4,224,800	372,099	(8,452)	300,000	-	3,861,153

Note:

i) Data contained in this report is an extract of UNDP financial records. The accounting period (Jan - March 2015) for the report is an open period and data from some accounting processes may not have been processed.

Financial data provided above may not be complete, and it is provisional.

ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of Exchange applied.

B. ANNEX 2: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

The Interim Donor Report for the period ended 31 March 2015 for (JHRA II)

Annex 2. Expenses by Output

Project Output ID and Description	2015 Budget (AWP)	Cumulative Expenses (Jan - March 2015)	Delivery Rate	Remarks
Output 1: (00085458) High-level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards are established and functional in State justice institutions.	1,729,182	225,320	13%	
Sub-total Output 1	1,729,182	225,320	13%	
Output 2: (00085459) Mechanisms to provide quality justice services to vulnerable groups are established and functional (NPP 5, component 1)	1,316,272	134,664	10%	
Sub-total Output 2	1,316,272	134,664	10%	
Output 3: (00085460) Public participation processes and knowledge base for improving access to justice and human rights compliance established.	1,428,316	167,288	12%	
Sub-total Output 3	1,428,316	167,288	12%	
Output 4: (00085461) Project Support Unit: Internal oversight, monitoring and evaluation capacity in place.	646,648	216,903	34%	
Sub-total Output 4	646,648	216,903	34%	
Grand Total	5,120,417	744,175	15%	

C. ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR

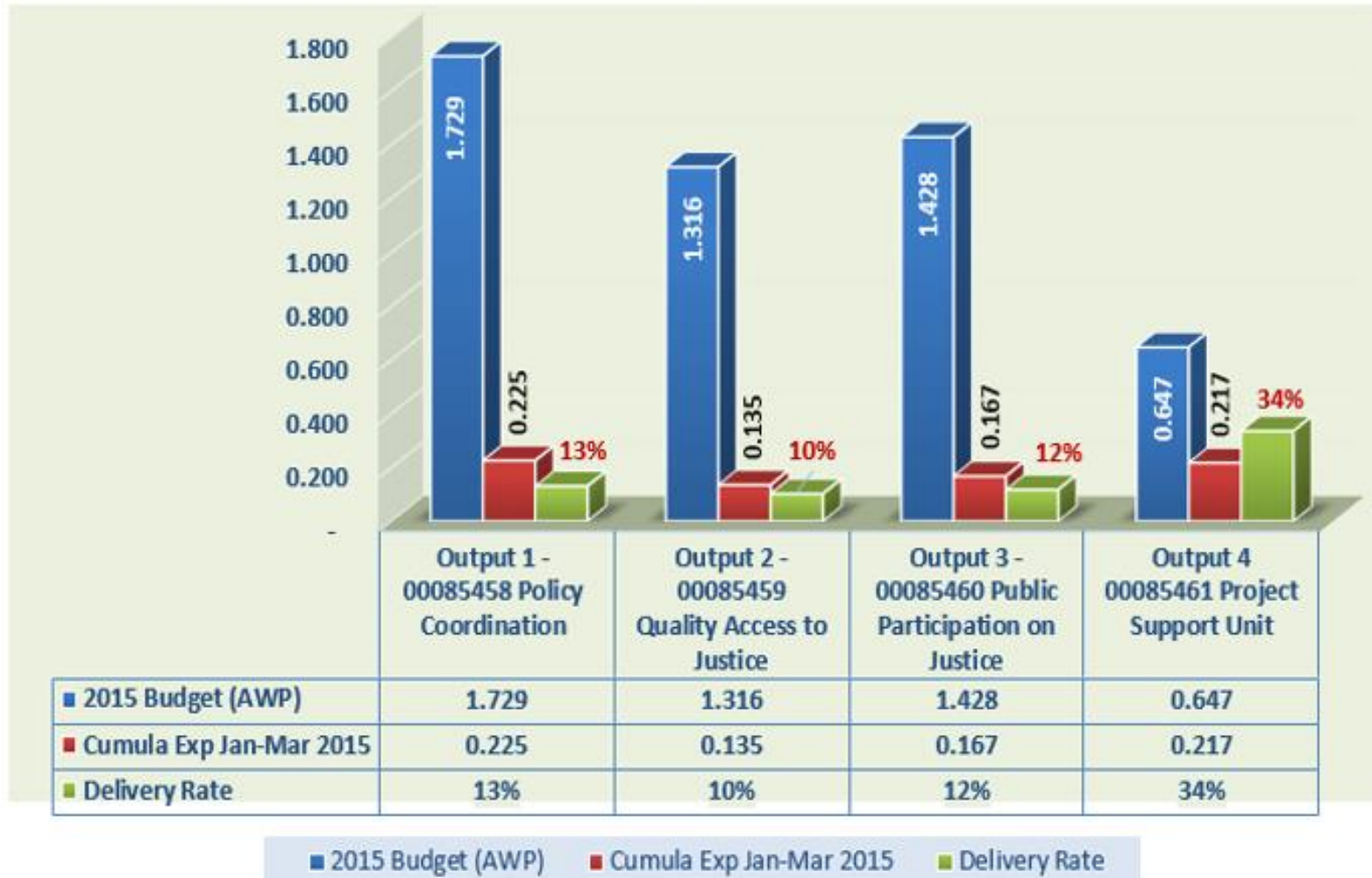
Donor Name	Project Output ID and Description	2015 Budget (AWP)	Cumulative Expenses (Jan - March 2015)	Delivery Rates
DENMARK	Output 1: (00085458) High-level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards are established and functional in State justice institutions.	-	8,858	0%
	Output 2: (00085459) Mechanisms to provide quality justice services to vulnerable groups are established and functional (NPP 5, component 1)	174,615	41,682	24%
	Output 3: (00085460) Public participation processes and knowledge base for improving access to justice and human rights compliance established.	41,599	9,345	22%
Sub-Total		216,214	59,885	28%
ITALY	Output 1: (00085458) High-level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards are established and functional in State justice	-	5,240	0%
	Output 2: (00085459) Mechanisms to provide quality justice services to vulnerable groups are established and functional (NPP 5, component 1)	173,021	15,988	9%
Sub-Total		173,021	21,228	12%
NETHERLANDS	Output 1: (00085458) High-level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards are established and functional in State justice	1,473,382	190,262	13%
	Output 2: (00085459) Mechanisms to provide quality justice services to vulnerable groups are established and functional (NPP 5, component 1)	955,335	64,637	7%
	Output 3: (00085460) Public participation processes and knowledge base for improving access to justice and human rights compliance established.	84,390	-	0%
	Output 4: (00085461) Project Support Unit: Internal oversight, monitoring and evaluation capacity in place.	159,148	(3,683)	0%
Sub-Total		2,672,255	251,215	9%
UNDP BCPR	Output 1: (00085458) High-level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards are established and functional in State justice	109,406	20,960	19%
	Output 2: (00085459) Mechanisms to provide quality justice services to vulnerable groups are established and functional (NPP 5, component 1)	13,300	12,243	92%
Sub-Total		122,706	33,203	27%
SDC	Output 1: (00085458) High-level coordination mechanisms for developing policy and legislation in accordance with international and national standards are established and functional in State justice institutions.	146,394	-	0%
	Output 3: (00085460) Public participation processes and knowledge base for improving access to justice and human rights compliance established.	1,289,828	157,923	12%
	Output 4: (00085461) Project Support Unit: Internal oversight, monitoring and evaluation capacity in place.	-	310	0%
Sub-Total		1,436,222	158,233	11%

DFAIT	Output 4: (00085461) Project Support Unit: Internal oversight, monitoring and evaluation capacity in place.	-	(1,261)	0%
Sub-Total		-	(1,261)	0%
UNDP	Output 2: (00085459) Mechanisms to provide quality justice services to vulnerable groups are established and functional (NPP 5, component 1)	-	115	0%
	Output 3: (00085460) Public participation processes and knowledge base for improving access to justice and human rights compliance established.	12,500	20	0%
	Output 4: (00085461) Project Support Unit: Internal oversight, monitoring and evaluation capacity in place.	487,500	221,537	45%
Sub-Total		500,000	221,672	44%
Grand Total		5,120,417	744,175	15%

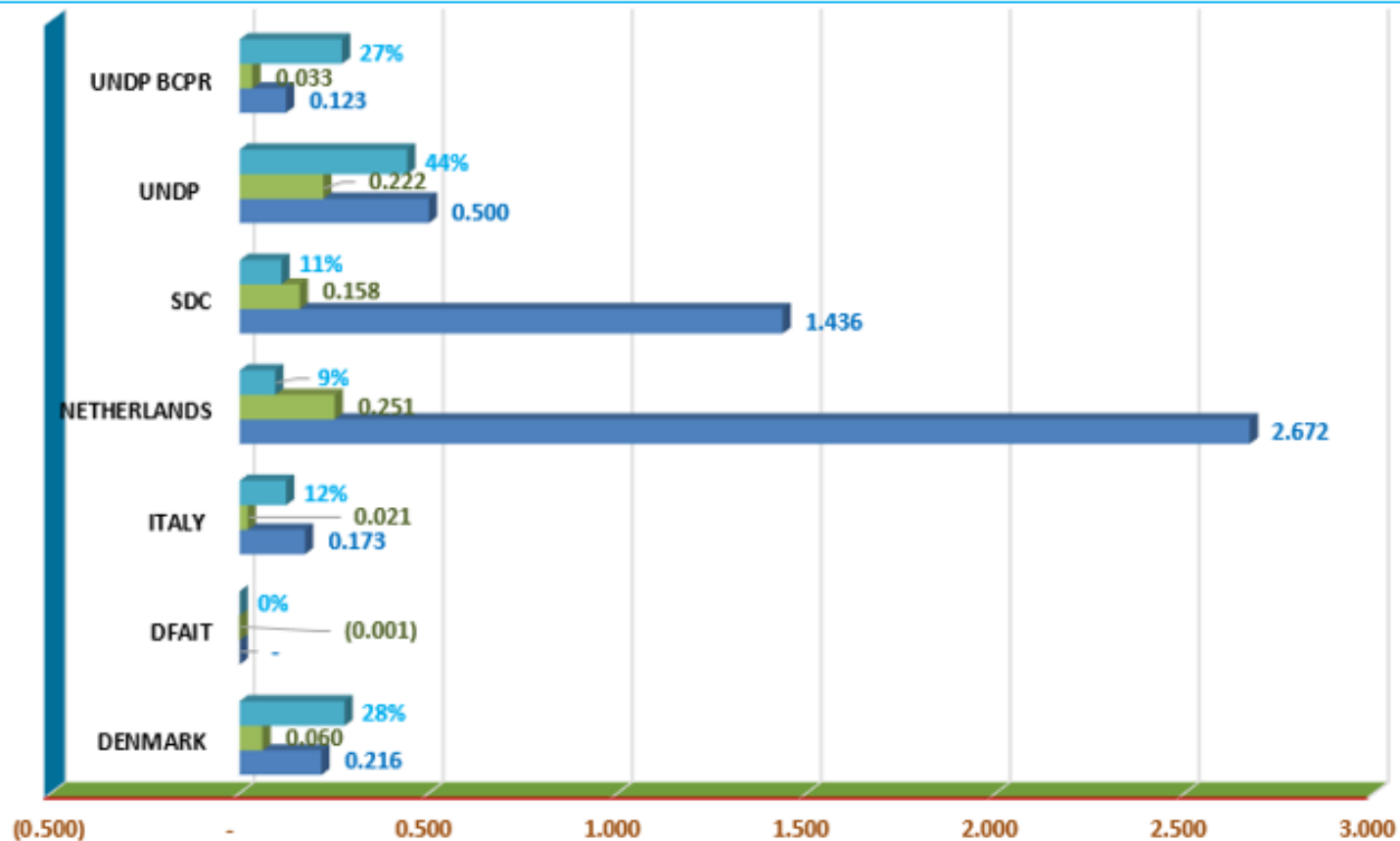
Note:

- i) The negative expenses reflected under Netherlands and DFAIT donors are due to the staff cost recovery of last year made in system in 2015 accounting period.
- ii) The expenses with no budget under Denmark, Italy, SCD and UNDP donors are due to clearance of last year's pending commitments(POs) in 2015 accounting period.

2015 Plan vs Expense in \$ million - by Output as of 31st March



2015 Plan vs Expense in \$-million by Donor as of 31st March



	DENMARK	DFAIT	ITALY	NETHERLANDS	SDC	UNDP	UNDP BCPR
Dlrvy	28%	0%	12%	9%	11%	44%	27%
Exp	0.060	(0.001)	0.021	0.251	0.158	0.222	0.033
Budget	0.216	-	0.173	2.672	1.436	0.500	0.123

D. ANNEX 4: RISK LOG

#	DESCRIPTION	DATE IDENTIFIED	TYPE	IMPACT & PROBABILITY	COUNTERMEASURES/MNGT. RESPONSE	OWNER	SUBMITTED BY	STATUS
1	Lack of security	ongoing	Environmental Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential risk of injury or death to project staff and contractors • Potential impact on activities – delayed or rescheduled activities • Lack of security in provinces and districts in which UNDP-JHRA will carry out programming continues to impede project implementation. • Subsequently, in addition to implementation, the security situation has also particular impact on the project’s ability to monitor activities through field assessments. <p>I: 2 P: 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with UNDSS security arrangements • Contract security services for physical security. • Obtain security clearances for internal travel • Conduct conflict assessment as part of selection of districts • Contract external organizations where required 	National Project Manager, CTA	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JHRA worked closely with UNDSS to monitor the security situation in Kabul and the provinces for all missions. • JHRA used ANP armed escorts for road missions and additional security for large events. • Security did affect programming as Mission planning consumes large amounts of time and coordination between various agencies. • Workshops at the district level have been postponed due to security advisory. Data collection on State and non-State cooperation in the justice sector could not take place in Herat.
2	Extent of GIROA support for all components of the Project	ongoing	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will require political support and coordination with several GIROA institutions <p>I: 4 P: 4</p>	GIROA counterparts involved in the PSC to promote ownership and ensure the project meets GIROA priorities	CTA, Project Manager and Rule of Law Unit Program Officer	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSC and Technical Coordination Committee.

#	DESCRIPTION	DATE IDENTIFIED	TYPE	IMPACT & PROBABILITY	COUNTERMEASURES/MNGT. RESPONSE	OWNER	SUBMITTED BY	STATUS
3	Recruitments/ Risk of delays in recruitment of key project staff	ongoing	Ops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays in appointment of key staff will delay the implementation of technical activities, and limit project oversight of other activities I: 3 P: 3	Project recruitment plan listing planned recruitments and target dates will be followed up closely.	CTA, Project Manager/ Human Resources Assistant	CTA/ Human Resources Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project is currently almost fully staffed. Much of this was the result of lengthy internal processes.
4	High LoA staff turnover: With the implementation of the NTA salary scale, there is a huge risk of losing qualified staff at the Translation Board and HRSU.	After development of NTA salary scale started	Ops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Losing staff at the Translation Board and the HRSU will risk the achievements of annual targets. I: 3 P: 3	A robust capacity development plan would mitigate some of the staff turnover amongst the NTA salaried staff in 2015.	National Project Manager/ Human Resources Assistant	HRSU/ Translation Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster leadership both at HRSU, Translation Board and PPD. Delays in processing of NTA salaries due to technical reasons.
5	Sensitivity surrounding Gender Mainstreaming	Q2	Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited gender programming I: 3 P: 4	Project implementation is based on national priorities such as the National Action Plan on Women in Afghanistan.	CTA, National Project Manager, component managers, key staff	staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop for female staff at the MOJ was followed up on with the recruitment of trainers in fields where capacity development is required (English language, computer literacy). Gender mainstreaming is ensured in all activities under each component.

E. ANNEX 5: ISSUE LOG

#	DESCRIPTION	DATE IDENTIFIED	IMPACT/PRIORITY	COUNTERMEASURE/MNGT RESPONSE	OWNER	STATUS
1	Financial Sustainability	2013	Impact = 5 Priority = 5	Increase ownership and thus efficiency	CTA & Program Officer	Unresolved
2.	NTA Review	Q1 2015	Impact=5 Priority = 5	Review NTA staff structure to alignment with AWP 2015 priorities	CTA and Program Officer	Unresolved
3	Coordination between LAGF stakeholders	2014	Impact = 3 Priority = 4	Facilitate discussions between stakeholders.	CTA & Access to Justice Coordinator	Resolved
4	Change of office premises for security reasons	2014	Impact = 5 Priority = 5	Swift coordination with all actors involved, Cooperate closely with UNDP country office.	National project manager,	Resolved
5	Security Incidences	September 2013	Impact = 4 Priority = 3	Cooperation with UNDSS	All JHRA staff	Partially resolved