

SIGAR

Special Inspector General for
Afghanistan Reconstruction

JAN 30
2016

QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS





The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-181) established the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR).

SIGAR's oversight mission, as defined by the legislation, is to provide for the independent and objective

- conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
- leadership and coordination of, and recommendations on, policies designed to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of the programs and operations, and to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in such programs and operations.
- means of keeping the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of such programs and operation and the necessity for and progress on corrective action.

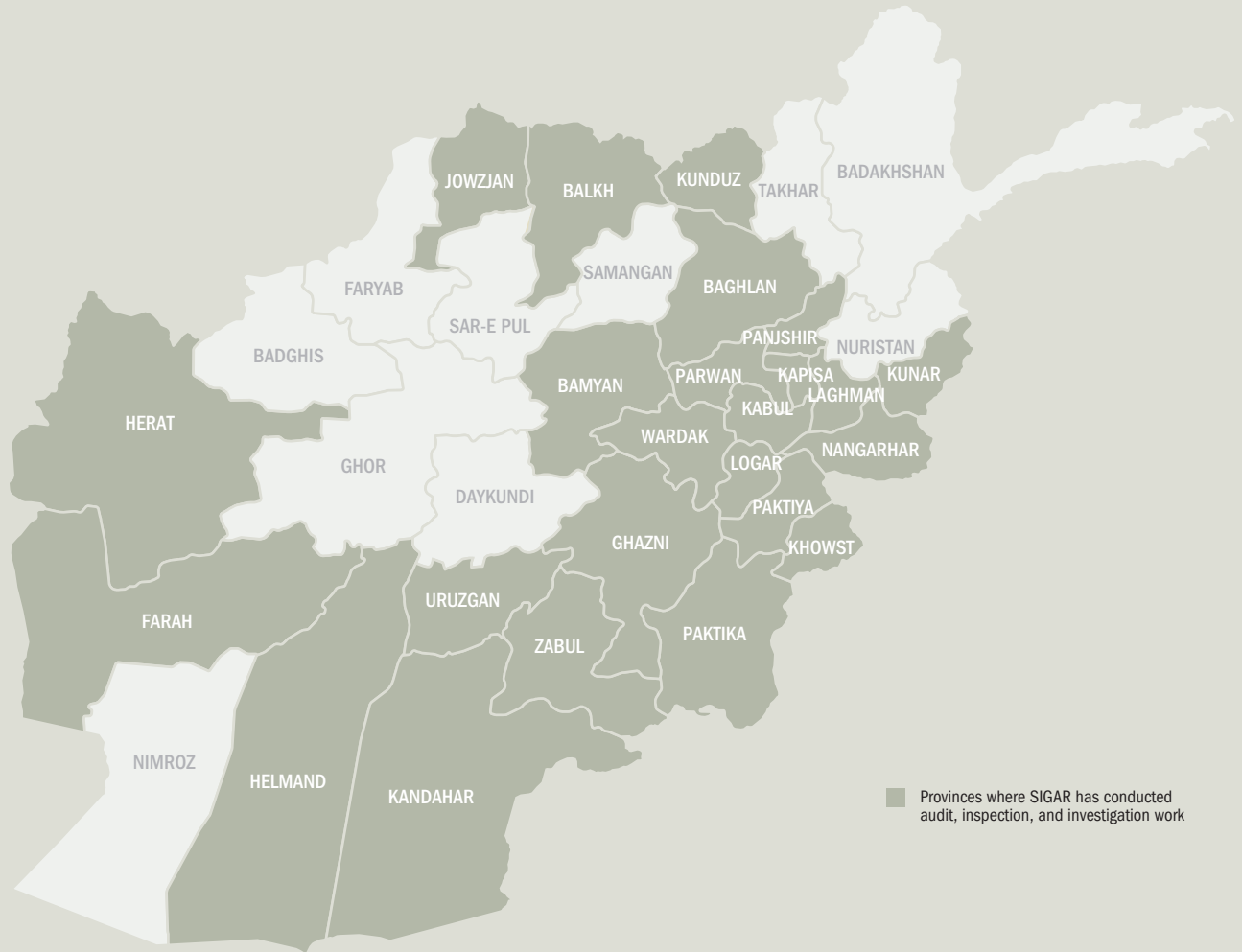
Afghanistan reconstruction includes any major contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism entered into by any department or agency of the U.S. government that involves the use of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Source: Pub. L. No. 110-181, "National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008," 1/28/2008.

(For a list of the congressionally mandated contents of this report, see section 3.)

Cover photo:

Members of the DOD Task Force on Business Stability Operations (TFBSO) sometimes stayed at rented villas like this one in Kabul. (Former TFBSO employee photo)



■ Provinces where SIGAR has conducted audit, inspection, and investigation work



SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR
AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION

I am pleased to submit to Congress, and the Secretaries of State and Defense, SIGAR's 30th quarterly report on the status of the U.S. reconstruction effort in Afghanistan.

This quarterly report focuses on the Afghan economy, but as the essay in Section 1, "Growing an Economy in Stony Ground," concludes, developing Afghanistan's economy may depend more on improving security, the business climate, and the educational system than on implementing specific economic programs. However, in this reporting period, Afghanistan proved even more dangerous than it was a year ago. The Taliban now controls more territory than at any time since 2001. Vicious and repeated attacks in Kabul this quarter shook confidence in the national-unity government. A year after the Coalition handed responsibility for Afghan security to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), American and British forces were compelled on several occasions to support ANDSF troops in combat against the Taliban.

The lack of security has made it almost impossible for many U.S. and even some Afghan officials to get out to manage and inspect U.S.-funded reconstruction projects. This quarter the dangers of absent oversight were exposed when a task force appointed by President Ashraf Ghani reportedly found that millions of dollars were being embezzled while Afghanistan pays for numerous nonexistent "ghost" schools, "ghost" teachers, and "ghost" students.

Notwithstanding these obstacles, SIGAR, the largest U.S. oversight organization in Afghanistan, has managed to continue its work of overseeing U.S. programs and projects, partly through the creative use of local Afghan national staff. This quarter, SIGAR issued 11 audits, inspections, alert letters, and other products. SIGAR work to date has saved over \$2 billion for the U.S. taxpayer.

A SIGAR performance audit examined the United States' \$488 million effort to develop Afghanistan's oil, mineral, and gas industries. The audit determined that 11 Task Force for Business and Stability Operations and two U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs had mixed success due to challenges in dealing with the Afghan government. Another performance audit this quarter found that despite U.S. training efforts, the Afghan National Army's National Engineer Brigade is incapable of operating independently.

SIGAR completed five financial audits this quarter of U.S.-funded contracts and cooperative agreements to rebuild Afghanistan. SIGAR also announced five new financial audits of Defense and State Department contracts and grants with combined incurred costs of more than \$122.5 million, bringing the total number of ongoing financial audits to 23 with more than \$2.7 billion in auditable costs.

During the reporting period, SIGAR investigations achieved significant results. A civil settlement agreement totaled \$1.45 million; cost savings to the U.S. government amounted to over \$100,000; and, fines, forfeitures, and restitutions amounted to \$110,000. Additionally, there was one indictment, one conviction, and two sentencing. SIGAR initiated 17 new investigations and closed 14, bringing the total number of ongoing investigations to 309.

The accomplishments of the quarter bring the cumulative total in criminal fines, restitutions, forfeitures, civil settlement recoveries, and U.S. government cost savings from SIGAR's ongoing investigations to over \$946.2 million.

This quarter, SIGAR's suspension and debarment program referred seven individuals and 10 companies for suspension or debarment based on evidence developed as part of investigations conducted by SIGAR in Afghanistan and the United States. Three of these individuals were referred for suspension based upon criminal charges being filed against them alleging misconduct related to or affecting reconstruction contracting in Afghanistan. These referrals bring the total number of individuals and companies referred by SIGAR since 2008 to 697, encompassing 368 individuals and 329 companies to date.

SIGAR continues to provide vigorous oversight of reconstruction projects and programs, while examining Afghanistan reconstruction as a whole for lessons learned to be used in future contingency operations. My staff and I look forward to working with Congress and other stakeholders in the New Year to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of U.S. funds appropriated for reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John F. Sopko', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes SIGAR’s oversight work and updates developments in the three major sectors of Afghanistan’s reconstruction effort from October 1 to December 31, 2015.* It also includes an essay on Afghanistan’s growing economic crisis, the barriers to private-sector economic growth, and options for bolstering the country’s economic prospects. During this reporting period, SIGAR published 11 audits, inspections, alert letters, and other reports assessing the U.S. efforts to build the Afghan security forces, improve governance, and facilitate economic and social development. These reports identified a number of problems, including a lack of accountability, failures of planning, deficiencies in internal controls, and noncompliance issues. The cost savings to the U.S. government from SIGAR’s investigative work amounted to over \$100,000; civil settlement recoveries totaled \$1.45 million; and fines, forfeitures, and restitutions amounted to \$110,000. SIGAR investigations also resulted in one indictment, one conviction, and two sentencing. Additionally, SIGAR referred seven individuals and 10 companies for suspension or debarment based on allegations that they engaged in fraud and contract nonperformance.

SIGAR OVERVIEW

AUDITS

SIGAR produced two performance audits and five financial audits.

The **performance audits** found:

- Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs to develop Afghanistan’s oil, mineral, and gas industries had mixed success due to challenges in dealing with the Afghan government.
- Despite U.S. training efforts, the Afghan National Army’s National Engineer Brigade is incapable of operating independently.

The **financial audits** identified nearly \$1.8 million in questioned costs as a result of internal-control deficiencies and noncompliance issues. These deficiencies and noncompliance issues included, among other things, failure to follow competitive procurement procedures, purchase of materials from restricted sources, overcharging due to utilization of improper currency exchange rates, lack of sufficient documentation to support costs incurred, and billing for ineligible tax fines and penalties.

NEW AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

This quarter, SIGAR initiated one new performance audit to assess the administration, monitoring, and reporting of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. This brings the total number of ongoing performance audits to 15.

SIGAR also announced five new financial audits of Department of Defense and Department of State awards with combined incurred costs of more than \$122.5 million, bringing the total number of ongoing financial audits to 23 with more than \$2.7 billion in auditable costs.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

During this reporting period, the Office of Special Projects issued three products, including one inquiry letter and one review letter addressing issues including:

- TFBSO’s decision to spend nearly \$150 million, or nearly 20% of its budget, on private housing and private security guards for its U.S. government employees in Afghanistan, rather than having those employees live on U.S. military bases.
- The operating conditions of and inaccuracies in the geospatial coordinates for 32 USAID-funded public-health facilities in Kabul Province.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INVESTIGATIONS

During the reporting period, SIGAR investigations resulted in cost savings to the U.S. government of over \$100,000; fines, forfeitures, and restitutions amounted to \$110,000; and civil settlement recoveries totaled \$1.45 million. Criminal investigations resulted in one indictment, one conviction, and two sentencings. SIGAR initiated 17 new investigations and closed 14, bringing the total number of ongoing investigations to 309. SIGAR's suspension and debarment program referred seven individuals and 10 companies for suspension or debarment.

Investigations highlights include:

- A U.S. Army sergeant pled guilty to conspiracy to receive and accept illegal bribes by a public official and was sentenced to 24 months' incarceration, followed by 12 months' supervised release.
- Another U.S. Army sergeant pled guilty to the same charge and was sentenced to 12 months and one day of incarceration, followed by one year's supervised release, and was ordered to forfeit \$10,000.
- An investigation of an alleged contract bid-rigging scheme led to a civil settlement recovery of \$1.45 million. In a related criminal investigation, four individuals were sentenced for their roles in the scheme and were debarred from doing business with the U.S. government.
- An investigation confirmed a duplicate payment made under the National Afghan Trucking contract, resulting in a cost savings to the U.S. government of more than \$100,000.
- A U.S. Army captain pled guilty to solicitation and receipt of a gratuity of \$50,000 in return for facilitating the award and payment of transportation contracts to an Afghan trucking company.

* SIGAR may also report on products and events occurring after December 31, 2015, up to the publication date.



Special Inspector General John F. Sopko prepares to testify before a subcommittee hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee on January 20, 2016. The hearing dealt with SIGAR's work on the Task Force for Business Stability Operations, a former DOD component that operated nearly \$800 million in programs and projects in Afghanistan. (SIGAR photo by Alex Bronstein-Moffly)

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“Significant amounts of Afghan private capital are being held outside the country—probably tens of billions of dollars—which could be repatriated and invested productively in Afghanistan, but this cannot be expected to happen unless there is greater confidence in the future, a more effective NUG [National Unity Government], and prospects for reduction of violence and progress of reconciliation.”

—*United States Institute of Peace*

1 GROWING AN ECONOMY IN STONY SOIL



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A vehicle travels under lights powered by a new transmission line from Uzbekistan that has boosted electricity in Kabul from 4-hour to 24-hour availability. (Asian Development Bank photo)

GROWING AN ECONOMY IN STONY SOIL

AFGHAN ECONOMY REMAINS IN CRISIS: RECONSTRUCTION FOCUS NEEDS TO CHANGE

Intractable insurgents, cutbacks in foreign military personnel, persistent emigration of people and capital, and a slowing global economy are shifting Afghanistan's economic prospects from troubling to bleak.

President Ashraf Ghani recently summarized both the impact of the reduced foreign presence and the stubborn persistence of poverty in Afghanistan:

Hundreds of thousands of people lost their jobs as a result of the [Coalition] troop withdrawals. In the transport sector alone, which constituted roughly 22 percent of GDP [gross domestic product], at least 100,000 jobs were lost. Construction of the military facilities was a major driver, with the service sector connected with it comprising an amazing 40 percent of gross domestic product. In addition, the large sum of funds that were provided in annual assistance did little to alleviate poverty, because the government did not focus on the poor. Today, 70 percent of the population still live on less than \$1.75 a day.¹

Afghanistan recently scored poorly in the "High Alert" and "Worsening" lists of the United Nations-supported Fund for Peace's empirically driven *Fragile States Index 2015*, with particularly bad marks in areas like demographic pressure, refugees, poverty and economic decline, and security.² The Fund noted that its data were drawn from 2014 sources. Facts emerging from 2015 reports touching on security, health, and education are unlikely to brighten the picture. SIGAR's authorizing statute directs it to call attention to deficiencies in U.S. reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and to suggest corrective actions.³ Afghanistan's economic travails clearly demand corrective actions.

The governments of Afghanistan and the United States share an urgent interest in spurring growth to raise Afghans from their pervasive poverty, offset the decline in foreign spending, and boost the Kabul regime's fiscal soundness and legitimacy. But even seemingly simple steps to promote farming and small business may founder in the country's overgrown

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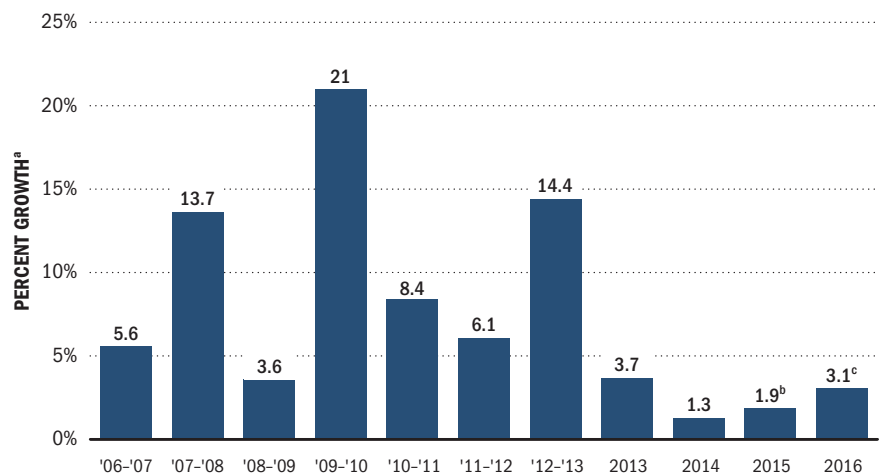
thickets of insecurity, favoritism, corruption, and other obstacles to conducting business and trade.

The reduced military presence of the United States and other foreign nations has trimmed cash flows and business opportunities for Afghan individuals and businesses who provide everything from bottled water to cargo transport for Coalition forces. International aid continues, but a recent report from the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) warns that “offsetting the negative demand shock of declining international military spending and aid will be impossible.” One reason, USIP notes, is that “significant amounts of Afghan private capital are being held outside the country—probably tens of billions of dollars” that are unlikely to return without better security and governance.⁴

With the sharp contraction in foreign presence, formerly robust Afghan GDP growth rates slowed from 14.4% in 2012 to 3.7% in 2013 and to 1.3% in 2014, according to the World Bank.⁵ (See Figure 1.1.) The slowdown, according to the USIP report, “also reflects loss of business and consumer confidence, lack of private investment, very low public investment, and deepening uncertainty over the political transition and security outlook,” as well as concerns about “the slow start and continuing weaknesses of the national unity government.”⁶

FIGURE 1.1

RATES OF INCREASE, AFGHAN REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, 2006–2016 (PERCENT)



Note:

^a Figures exclude opium income.

^b Estimate.

^c Estimate, conditioned on security and reform improvements.

Source: For 2006 through 2015, The World Bank, “Afghanistan: Emerging from Transition,” presentation, Senior Officials Meeting, Kabul, 9/4–5/2015, pp. 6, 10; for 2016, The World Bank, “Afghanistan Overview,” <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/afghanistanoverview>, 10/20/2015.

Private investment, the World Bank recently reported, has shown “strong signs of slowdown,” while registrations of new firms have declined by nearly half since 2012. The Bank says Afghanistan’s medium-term outlook is “unfavorable,” with “sluggish growth” of 1.9% projected for 2015, and a mild recovery in real (inflation-adjusted) GDP growth to 3.1% in 2016 and 3.9% in 2017. But that modest forecast carries a caveat—“conditioned on improvements in the security environment and strong reform momentum.”⁷

Even a return to real growth in the 3% range would do little to lift Afghanistan from the ranks of the world’s most impoverished countries. The nation’s population growth for the years 2011–2014 has run around 3%.⁸ Consequently, per capita GDP—a standard measure of economic well-being—would remain essentially unchanged. Per capita GDP is, moreover, an average that does not indicate whether income disparities are growing or shrinking. Uneven growth could deepen the hardships of the population if the scope and delivery of government services cannot mitigate them.

That is not an idle concern. A 2015 study of the Afghan private sector by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) concludes that “The significant amount of aid and vast international military spending post-2001 has re-ingrained a culture of aid-rentierism: the Afghan elite competes internally for political rents from the international community. . . . The little wealth there is in the country is inequitably distributed, and the rich-poor gap has been widening.”⁹ (Rentier states rely heavily or principally on aid, resource sales or royalties, transit fees and other external funds rather than domestic revenues, with possible consequences for government receptiveness to change and attentiveness to citizens’ well-being.¹⁰)

Neither Afghanistan’s security outlook nor its economic prospects are doing anything to inspire confidence among the population. The Asia Foundation’s 2015 public-opinion survey of more than 9,500 Afghans in all 34 provinces found optimism at a low: “Afghans are particularly concerned about security, and the proportion who fear for their personal safety is at the highest point in the past decade.” The survey determined that the economy and unemployment are also major concerns, especially for women and young people.¹¹

Considering the choices before them, many young Afghans are voting with their feet. The past year, according to the Asia Foundation, has found the Kabul Passport Office issuing more than 2,000 passports a day, six times the pace of a year earlier.¹² Afghans accounted for 20% of the million-plus migrants to the European Union in 2015, second only to Syrians fleeing their own civil war.¹³

Even more worrisome, the emigrants may be disproportionately drawn from the younger, educated ranks of Afghans. “It’s a huge loss,” says economist Ahmed Siar Khoreishi, chief executive of Ghazanfar Bank. “The majority of these people are under the age of 30. This is really scary, we have very limited qualified, specialist people. . . . The brains are leaving.”¹⁴

GROWING AN ECONOMY

The potential for a larger exodus seems real. The latest Asia Foundation public-opinion survey indicates nearly 40% of Afghans would leave the country if they could.¹⁵

Emigrants from Afghanistan take with them more than financial assets. They take away knowledge, skills, and other forms of human capital. Afghanistan can ill afford to suffer such losses. “There is a critical shortage of skilled labor in Afghanistan,” according to the U.S. State Department (State), partly because the literacy rate for ages 15 and up is only 32%.¹⁶ Harvard researchers have observed that “human capital is underdeveloped” in Afghanistan: business operators complained in interviews that architects, engineers, managers, plumbers, and electricians were hard to find.¹⁷

On a more positive note, State says “The Afghan government recognizes that the development of a vibrant private sector is crucial to the reconstruction of an economy impaired by decades of conflict and mismanagement.”¹⁸

MANY BARRIERS IMPEDE PROGRESS

Recognizing needs and realizing results are, of course, separate issues. The State Department says the Afghan government’s ability to advance a private-sector growth agenda has been limited by weak institutional capacity, economic “rent-seeking behavior” (individuals or firms obtaining special status, favored treatment, and legal prerogatives that could not be obtained in an open market), and lack of political will to undertake reforms.¹⁹

State’s list of obstacles to growth in Afghanistan is sobering.

Problems include:

- “Underdeveloped and irregularly implemented” legal and regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, all troubled by corruption
- Unofficial “taxes” and bureaucratic delays
- Anticompetitive behaviors aided by wealth and social connections
- Weak property-rights protection, commercial-court incapacity, and corruption
- “No serious enforcement of intellectual property rights”
- “Systemic corruption at border crossings”
- Lack of criminal prosecution or penalties for official corruption²⁰

In a similar vein, another USIP report observes that “The ambivalence of government officials, which is due to a combination of ideology and self-interest, has delayed, suppressed, or hijacked implementation of liberalization policies.”²¹

Economists broadly agree that the design, operation, and incentive structure of a society’s institutions are a critical factor in economic growth. For settings like Afghanistan, however, it is important to note that institutions include more than ministries, courts, and regulatory agencies. “Institutions,” said economic historian Douglass C. North in his Nobel Prize acceptance



Afghan man shops at the main market in Kabul: a strong retail sector can support local jobs and boost revenues for public purposes. (Asian Development Bank photo)

lecture, “are the humanly devised constraints that structure human interaction. They are made up of formal constraints (rules, laws, constitutions), informal constraints (norms of behavior, conventions, and self-imposed codes of conduct), and their enforcement characteristics. Together they define the incentive structure of societies and specifically economies.”²²

In that sense, widespread practice and expectations of corruption, traditional gender roles, some religious dictates and prohibitions, and patronage networks are among the institutions that can be detrimental to economic growth.

Because of the many barriers to growth that exist in Afghanistan, the country’s circumstances require more—and more effective—action to spur development.

DEVELOPMENT MAY TAKE MANY FORMS

Deciding what action to take is a judgmental challenge, for as the World Bank has observed, “There is no known formula for stimulating economic growth.”²³

Governments have tried many ways to stimulate economic development. They may involve “industrial policy,” directed investment in specific sectors of the economy such as public investment in steel mills or cement plants. “Value-chain” development can include building processing capability to capture value added that is foregone when raw products are shipped out of the country for finishing and shipment.

Import-substitution policies encourage domestic production of goods or services that are normally imported. Export-promotion policies focus on developing and marketing exportable goods to create new jobs and earn foreign exchange. Another stimulative effort might simply involve boosting the supply of money and credit, although particularly in Afghanistan, that could lead to more purchases of imports, as opposed to boosting domestic demand.²⁴

British economist John Weiss notes that developing countries may still be attracted to industrial-policy interventions, which theoretically could be helpful, but adds, “Paradoxically, one can argue that where such interventions are most needed (in the lowest-income countries with thin markets and a small private sector) the capacity to introduce them is weakest.”²⁵ Afghanistan, with its widely reported shortages of skilled civil servants, weaknesses in ministerial capacity, and prevalence of corruption (not to mention its low fiscal capacity and the prospect of declining foreign assistance) could well be one of those cases.

Much of the foreign financial assistance that has flowed into Afghanistan since 2001 has been directed into projects that can provide foundational support for growth and development. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), for example, has invested more than \$2 billion to

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build and expand more than 2,000 kilometers of roads; has helped develop 172 megawatts of electric generation and increased the portion of the Afghan population linked to the electric grid from 6% in 2002 to 28% today; and has funded construction of more than 500 schools and 600 health facilities.²⁶ U.S. funding of electrical-sector projects in Afghanistan via USAID and contributions to the Afghan Infrastructure Fund exceed \$3 billion.²⁷

Within the Department of Defense, the now-closed Task Force for Business Stability Operations (TFBSO) conducted 11 initiatives costing \$215.4 million aimed at developing Afghanistan's minerals and hydrocarbons potential by restoring productive capacity across industrial sectors, stimulating economic growth, and catalyzing private investments.²⁸ (SIGAR has, however, documented serious shortcomings in some TFBSO initiatives; see Section 2, "SIGAR Oversight," in this and previous quarterly reports for discussions.)

Other efforts aimed at developing and growing the Afghan economy involve more targeted geographic-, function-, or sector-specific projects and programs. They take many forms, and are funded, directed, and executed by many actors, including the United States, United Kingdom, European Community, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and other multilateral funds, and assorted non-governmental organizations (NGO).

Some of the reported outcomes may be less solid than they appear. As noted in many reports by SIGAR and other U.S. and international oversight organizations, development projects vary widely in the soundness of their conception, appropriateness to the Afghan context, adherence to schedule, sustainability, and success in attaining desired outcomes. A new RAND Corporation report prepared for the U.S. Secretary of Defense, for example, concludes that TFBSO "had problems implementing large, complicated infrastructure investments." Causes included "a naïve view of the risks and difficulties of implementing a project or a lack of appreciation of local or market conditions."²⁹

In any case, despite more than a decade of these reconstruction and development efforts, the Afghan economy remains in fragile and worsening condition. As a recent report from the SIPRI concludes,

Amid contracting aid resources and ongoing insecurity, post-transition economic instability is likely [in Afghanistan]. A toxic set of conditions has created a deadlock: the government can neither kick-start the economy nor provide the core public goods and services [e.g., roads, literacy, security] necessary for the formal private sector to blossom.³⁰

MEASURING RESULTS IS ANOTHER CHALLENGE

Even if development initiatives—whether led by Afghan, international, or nongovernmental organizations—have optimized their chances of success

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by taking appropriate account of local environments, security threats, impediments to movement, conflicts of interest, staffing, sustainability, and vulnerabilities to corruption, there is another great difficulty. That is the challenge of monitoring programs and projects, and of collecting and using the information needed for decisions to expand, modify, redirect, relocate, or terminate a program.

A number of SIGAR products have documented the difficulty of determining the conceptual soundness, quality of execution and oversight, and actual impact of donor-funded projects in Afghanistan. For example,

- A 2015 audit of U.S. approaches to developing Afghanistan's extractives industry to exploit large reserves of minerals, oil, and natural gas found divergent approaches and a lack of overall strategy, poor coordination and limited information sharing, and an inability of Kabul's Ministry of Mines and Petroleum to handle contract research, awards, and management on its own.³¹
- A 2014 inquiry into the Gereshk Cold and Dry Storage Facility in Helmand province, a \$2.89 million facility funded by the Department of Defense's TFBSO, found it to be apparently well built, but never used, and with no private-sector interest in evidence.³²
- A 2014 inspection of the USAID-funded Gorimar Industrial Park in Balkh Province found a lack of required documentation for contracts, task orders, and payments; power and water systems inoperable for lack of fuel; and an occupancy rate of less than 20%.³³
- A 2013 audit of USAID's Stability in Key Areas Program, which aimed to have contractors award "quick delivery" grants for projects like graveling roads, building culverts, and lining canals, found that the program had disbursed none of its \$47 million six months after the program started, and had reached no formal agreement with Afghan government partners until nine months after the first contract was signed.³⁴

USAID has funded many reconstruction projects in Afghanistan that aim to promote growth. Its efforts include establishing 125 business associations, including women-owned operations; facilitating marble exports; helping more than 2,700 Afghan firms obtain business loans; and providing management training and marketing assistance.³⁵

USAID's Office of the Inspector General recently audited the agency's strategy for monitoring and evaluating its programs in Afghanistan. The audit made a number of troubling observations. The USAID/Afghanistan mission could show only one instance out of 127 contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements where prescribed multi-tier monitoring was being used. Reasons included lack of site access, making office visits and reading reports rather than going to work sites, and relying on software that could not centralize collected data.³⁶



A truck rolls along near Kandahar: the lack of good transportation infrastructure is a challenge in Afghanistan. (USACE photo by Karla Marshall)

Further, the USAID/Afghanistan mission provided plans for only six of its 127 project activities; none explained how USAID could decide how much monitoring was needed. Mission offices also had no annual monitoring plans, as required, to guide the work of contract third-party monitors, even though USAID has spent more than \$242 million on their services since 2006.³⁷

Given the mixed results of development efforts, the difficulties of assessing government- and NGO-funded initiatives, and the prospect of declining international assistance, it may be incumbent on Afghanistan and its international partners to sharpen the focus of their efforts to promote private economic activity.

WHAT SHOULD AFGHANISTAN DO?

“Afghanistan’s economy has a complex mix of informal, formal, illicit and aid-sustained elements,” according to the SIPRI, with the formal private sector accounting for only 10–12% of GDP.³⁸ By way of contrast, formal private-sector activity in the United States accounts for about 82% of GDP.³⁹

“In its current state,” SIPRI says, “the Afghan private sector is not the engine of economic growth or instrument of social inclusion it has the potential to be.”⁴⁰ In addition, individuals and firms operating outside the formal economy may be paying few or no taxes, worsening Afghanistan’s vast fiscal gap between revenues and expenditures.

Stimulating the private sector toward spontaneous activity seems more likely to bolster Afghanistan’s economic standing than focusing on development projects that are closely tied to government operations. “Afghanistan can be characterized as a weak rentier state, subsisting on aid,” Dutch development scholars have written. They warn, “‘State building’ in this context cannot be successful,” for “more aid ‘ownership’ and a strengthening of the Afghan bureaucracy will simply consolidate aid rentierism rather than reverse-engineer a market democracy.”⁴¹

The focus on facilitating private activity makes sense. “The private sector holds the key,” a World Bank investment-climate report explains, “as 9 out of 10 jobs are created in the private sector. Consequently, a predictable and business-friendly investment climate stands as an integral component of the policy framework for job creation.”⁴²

From that point of view, Afghanistan would benefit from business-climate change.

The World Bank’s *Doing Business 2016* report on regulatory quality and efficiency ranks Afghanistan 177th of 189 countries compared. It stands ahead of countries like Haiti, Chad, South Sudan, and last-place Eritrea, but trails some of its neighbors: Uzbekistan ranks 87th, Iran 118th, and Tajikistan 132nd.⁴³

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Afghanistan's only high mark is in ease of starting a business: 34th. Ease of paying taxes (89th) and getting credit (97th) are middling. Afghanistan standing in seven other categories includes 156th for obtaining electricity, 172nd for enforcing contracts, and a last-place 189th for protecting minority investors.⁴⁴

The World Bank points out that “The economies performing best in the *Doing Business* rankings . . . are not those with no regulation but those whose governments have managed to create rules that facilitate interactions in the marketplace without needlessly hindering the development of the private sector.”⁴⁵

The World Bank notes that many factors apart from the regulatory setting affect the growth and efficiency of private enterprises, including access to finance and managerial and technological capacities. In addition, the *Doing Business* ratings do not directly reflect matters of security, market size, macroeconomic stability, financial system, corruption, or labor-force training and skills. The Bank says it “focuses on the rules and regulations that can help the private sector thrive—because without a dynamic private sector, no economy can provide a good, and sustainable, standard of living for people.”⁴⁶

Statistical research bears out the *Doing Business* message. World Bank economist Jamal Ibrahim Haidar's team assembled five years of data from 172 countries and found “robust support for the claim that business regulatory reforms are good for economic growth,” each reform being correlated with an average 0.15% increase in the GDP growth rate.⁴⁷

Another argument for business-climate reform comes from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). “High levels of regulation and red tape are used as a means of extracting bribes and other [economic] rents, in corrupt contexts,” DFID says. “For firms seeking to enter the market, this imposes an onerous bureaucratic process” that may persuade some firms to stay in or withdraw to the informal sector, with consequent reduced access to the financial and legal systems.⁴⁸

For those who may be skeptical that growth can emerge in a sparse-resource, low-capital setting like Afghanistan, New York University economist Paul M. Romer has noted that “Taiwan started with little of either and still grew rapidly.” He argues that investments in education, intellectual- and real-property protection, and avoidance of heavy regulation and high marginal tax rates can produce real benefits.⁴⁹ The Asian Development Bank has likewise pointed out the “need and urgency of growth-friendly reforms in developing Asia,” especially regarding human capital, research and development, and institutions.⁵⁰

Focusing national and provincial efforts on basic education could be one of the most powerful growth stimuli realistically within Afghanistan's reach. Stanford University scholar Eric Hanushek points to empirical research findings that “Cognitive skills of the population—rather than



Exhibitors at a Kabul furniture fair show their chairs: promoting more local trades could reduce Afghanistan's heavy reliance on imports. (USAF photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez)

school attainment [years of attendance] are powerfully related to individual earnings, to the distribution of income, and most importantly to economic growth.” He adds that the lower technological levels of developing countries may entail a stronger demand for basic as opposed to high-level skills.⁵¹



About 40% of Afghan primary-school-aged children are not in school: low literacy rates, especially among girls, are a drag on economic growth. (Asian Development Bank photo)

Afghan officials and foreign donors have heard the education message. A World Bank presentation at the September 2015 Senior Officials Meeting in Kabul included the message that “Investment in adult literacy and skills could improve mobility and productivity of existing labor force, enhance participation of the poor in the growth process, and better equip them to participate in civil society processes and initiatives.”⁵²

Unfortunately, the outlook for an education boost to Afghan growth is clouded. UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, reported in 2015 that most of the world’s out-of-school children live in South Asia, and that Afghanistan has the highest percentage of such children in the region. Some 4.2 million Afghan primary-school-age children, or nearly 43% of that age group, have either never enrolled in school or have dropped out. The group with the greatest likelihood of being out of school are girls in the poorest fifth of the income distribution.⁵³

The Tolo News organization reported on January 2 that an Afghan presidential task-team had issued a report describing hundreds of nonexistent “ghost” schools, thousands of “ghost” teachers, Ministry of Education projects falsely reported as complete, large discrepancies in numbers of students reported in school, inflated salaries, and millions embezzled.⁵⁴ SIGAR has previously raised concerns on some of these issues; if the official release of the report bears out the Tolo News description, it would be another large and troubling development both for the use of American taxpayers’ dollars and for the future of the Afghan people.

Afghanistan’s civil, social, and economic future requires not only improving cultivation of cognitive skills, but getting more children—including girls—to school in the first place, and in keeping them there longer. It is a basic goal, and a daunting challenge.

CAVEATS AND QUESTIONS

The realities of a large informal sector, a large insurgency, capacity constraints, and corruption suggest the following caveats regarding attempts to bolster Afghanistan’s economic prospects:

- Continued and worsening security may depress both Afghans’ and foreigners’ willingness to invest or expand in the country, reducing GDP growth.
- Reforms may trigger special-interest and bureaucratic opposition, and/or create new opportunities for corruption and rent-seeking behaviors.

GROWING AN ECONOMY

- Even effective structural reforms may not bring many informal businesses into the formal, tax-paying structure because most are low-productivity, low-margin firms with poorly educated managers who cannot bear the added costs of formal operations.⁵⁵

With those caveats and the likelihood of declining aid in mind, the most promising path for economic development—assuming some level of security is maintained—is to focus on helping Afghans do things for themselves. U.S. lawmakers and policy makers might therefore wish to review American policy and operations from the standpoint of these questions:

- Are the U.S. military presence and security-assistance programs in Afghanistan providing appropriate enabling contributions essential to helping the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces achieve the operational battlefield effectiveness necessary to suppress the insurgency that threatens all other objectives?
- Are U.S. plans and programs rendering appropriate and effective support, including outreach to Afghan opinion leaders, essential for President Ghani's anticorruption and counternarcotics campaigns?
- Are U.S. plans and programs effectively assisting the Afghan government in systematically improving public services like education, health care, water, and electricity that not only support humanitarian objectives, but also promote business growth?
- Are U.S. plans and programs providing appropriate and useful guidance and support for improving Afghanistan's public economic institutions' capacity to manage policy, business regulation, and investment climate?
- Are U.S. plans and programs appropriately conceived and conducted to increase the Afghan government's ability to provide fair, efficient, and transparent justice for all citizens?
- Are U.S. strategies, plans, and programs being continuously reviewed for possible modification in light of new developments and facts on the ground?

Economic development in Afghanistan requires more than aid, technical advice, training programs, subsidies, and trade fairs. It requires more than plunking down new projects and programs. It requires attention to growth-enabling fundamentals including improved security and honest governance, as well as energy, health, and education, spurred by recognition of a bedrock reality: fear, injustice, and corruption spur emigration, inhibit entrepreneurial impulses, and deter both domestic and foreign investment.

Achieving business-climate reform and expanding education could be force multipliers for Afghan growth. But placing new furniture in a house gains little if the foundation is crumbling and the roof is rotten.

“Oversight is mission critical. If we don’t learn that lesson, I can safely predict to you, based upon my 30 years watching Washington government bureaucracies, that we will be doomed to repeat history.”

—*Special Inspector General John F. Sopko*

2 SIGAR OVERSIGHT



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Discarded material awaits repurposing behind an Afghan health facility.
(Integrity Watch Afghanistan photo)

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

This quarter SIGAR issued 11 audits, inspections, alert letters, and other products. SIGAR work to date has saved the U.S. taxpayer over \$2 billion.

A performance audit reviewed 11 Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) projects and two of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) three programs intended to develop Afghanistan's extractive industries. The audit determined that these projects and programs had mixed success due to challenges in dealing with the Afghan government. Another performance audit this quarter found that despite U.S. training efforts, the Afghan National Army's (ANA) National Engineer Brigade (NEB) is incapable of operating independently.

SIGAR completed five financial audits this quarter of U.S.-funded contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to rebuild Afghanistan. SIGAR also announced five new financial audits of USAID awards with combined incurred costs of more than \$122.5 million, bringing the total number of ongoing financial audits to 23 with more than \$2.7 billion in auditable costs.

This quarter, SIGAR's Office of Special Projects wrote to the Secretary of Defense to request information concerning TFBSO's decision to spend nearly 20% (\$150 million) of its budget on private housing and private security guards for its U.S. government employees in Afghanistan, rather than have the employees live on military bases.

Additionally, the Office of Special Projects wrote to USAID to provide the results of recent site inspections conducted by SIGAR to verify the accuracy of USAID locational data and operating conditions at 32 USAID-funded public-health facilities in Kabul.

During the reporting period, SIGAR investigations achieved significant results. A civil settlement agreement totaled \$1.45 million; cost savings to the U.S. government amounted to over \$100,000; and fines, forfeitures, and restitutions amounted to \$110,000. Additionally, there was one indictment, one conviction, and two sentencing. SIGAR initiated 17 new investigations and closed 14, bringing the total number of ongoing investigations to 309.

The accomplishments of the quarter bring the cumulative total in criminal fines, restitutions, forfeitures, civil settlement recoveries, and U.S. government cost savings from SIGAR's ongoing investigations to over \$946.2 million.

TESTIMONY GIVEN

- Testimony 16-14-TY: DOD Task Force for Business and Stability Operations in Afghanistan: Preliminary Results Show Serious Management and Oversight Problems

COMPLETED PERFORMANCE AUDITS

- Audit 16-11-AR: Afghanistan's Oil, Gas, and Minerals Industries
- Audit 16-15-AR: Afghan National Engineer Brigade

COMPLETED FINANCIAL AUDITS

- Financial Audit 16-6-FA: USAID's Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan Project
- Financial Audit 16-8-FA: USAID's Stability in Key Areas South Program
- Financial Audit 16-10-FA: USAID's Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support Program
- Financial Audit 16-12-FA: DOD's Energy Support Services Program
- Financial Audit 16-13-FA: DOD's Strategic, Technical, and Analytical Support Services in Traditional and Alternative Energy Sectors

COMPLETED SPECIAL PROJECT PRODUCTS

- Inquiry Letter 16-05-SP: TFBSO Security
- Letter 16-06-SP: Acknowledgement of DOD Response to TFBSO Security Letter
- Review Letter 16-09-SP: USAID-Supported Health Facilities in Kabul

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Performance audits: provide assurance or conclusions based on an evaluation of sufficient, appropriate evidence measured against stated criteria. Performance audits provide objective analysis so that management and those charged with governance can use the information to improve the program performance and operations, reduce costs, and facilitate decision-making by parties with responsibility to oversee or initiate corrective action for public accountability. Performance audits are conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS) and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General.

Inspections: are systematic and independent assessments of the design, implementation, and/or results of an agency's operations, programs, or policies. SIGAR conducts inspections, in accordance with CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, to provide information to Congress and the public on the quality of construction of facilities and infrastructure throughout Afghanistan; and generally, to provide an assessment of the extent to which the facilities were constructed in accordance with the contract requirements, used as intended, and are being maintained.

Financial audits: provide an independent assessment of and reasonable assurance about whether an entity's reported condition, results, and use of resources are presented in accordance with recognized criteria. SIGAR performs financial audits in accordance with GAGAS, which includes both requirements contained in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Statements on Auditing Standards and additional requirements provided in GAGAS. SIGAR also reviews financial audits conducted by independent public accountants (IPA). When an IPA conducts a financial audit, SIGAR conducts reasonable procedures to ensure compliance with GAGAS, based on the intended use of the IPA's work and degree of responsibility accepted by SIGAR with respect to that work.

This quarter, SIGAR's suspension and debarment program referred seven individuals and 10 companies for suspension or debarment based on evidence developed as part of investigations conducted by SIGAR in Afghanistan and the United States. Three individuals were referred for suspension based upon criminal charges being filed against them alleging misconduct related to or affecting reconstruction contracting in Afghanistan. These referrals bring the total number of individuals and companies referred by SIGAR since 2008 to 697, encompassing 368 individuals and 329 companies.

AUDITS

SIGAR conducts **performance audits, inspections, and financial audits** of programs and projects connected to the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. Since its last report to Congress, SIGAR has issued two performance audits and five financial-audit reports. This quarter, SIGAR also began one new performance audit, bringing the total number of ongoing performance audits to 15.

One published performance-audit report examined the United States' \$488 million effort to develop Afghanistan's oil, gas, and minerals industries. A second report was conducted to assess U.S. efforts to increase the ANA's effectiveness through the creation of a National Engineer Brigade. The performance audits made two recommendations. The financial audits identified nearly \$1.8 million in questioned costs as a result of internal-control deficiencies and noncompliance issues.

Performance Audit Reports Published

This quarter SIGAR published two performance audit reports. One report examined the United States' \$488 million effort to develop Afghanistan's oil, gas, and minerals industries. A second report was conducted to assess U.S. efforts to increase the ANA's effectiveness through the creation of an NEB.

Audit 16-11-AR: Afghanistan's Oil, Gas, and Minerals Industries \$488 Million in U.S. Efforts Show Limited Progress Overall, and Challenges Prevent Further Investment and Growth

The U.S. government estimates Afghanistan has more than \$1 trillion in reserves of minerals, oil, and natural gas—collectively referred to as “extractives”—that could generate more than \$2 billion in annual revenues for the Afghan government. Since 2009, the Department of Defense's (DOD) TFBSO and USAID have obligated nearly \$488 million on efforts designed to develop the extractive industries in Afghanistan.

This is the second of two SIGAR reports focused on the U.S. efforts to develop Afghanistan's extractive industries. In SIGAR's April 2015 report, the agency found that TFBSO and USAID pursued divergent approaches

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

to guide their projects; the U.S. Embassy in Kabul did little to coordinate interagency activities aimed at developing Afghanistan's extractive industries because embassy officials lacked policymaking authority; and TFBSO generally did not coordinate with other agencies beyond perfunctory efforts. We also reported that TFBSO, at the conclusion of TFBSO activities in Afghanistan in December 2014, transferred all remaining projects to the Afghan Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MOMP), and no U.S. agency in Afghanistan had any plans to provide continued monitoring, evaluation, or support for TFBSO extractive projects.

Most TFBSO and USAID assistance to Afghanistan's extractive industries has been directed toward developing capacity at the MOMP and its component organizations, and toward making regulatory reforms to attract private sector investment. TFBSO pursued short-term projects seeking immediate results, while USAID pursued longer-term capacity development efforts. Both the efforts of TFBSO and USAID in this area produced mixed results.

Responding to SIGAR's April 2015 report on TFBSO, USAID assessed the projects TFBSO transferred to the MOMP and estimated the costs to continue them. USAID concluded that it does not have the funding to support those projects. Separately, SIGAR determined that USAID's own programs had mixed results because of the lack of MOMP commitment to reforms, and other challenges in Afghanistan's operating environment.

SIGAR evaluated the results of TFBSO's 11 projects, worth a total of \$215.4 million, to determine: (1) whether the programs achieved their stated programmatic objectives before the conclusion of TFBSO activities in Afghanistan, and (2) the extent to which these programs will be sustainable based on the observed capabilities of the Afghan government. SIGAR did not attempt a cost-benefit analysis. TFBSO's projects were intended to, among other things, develop extractive resources, enhance access to energy resources, and strengthen institutional and technical capacity at the MOMP. As noted above, TFBSO's 11 projects achieved mixed results, with three of those projects showing little to no appreciable results. For example, while TFBSO spent \$46.5 million towards building capacity for mineral tender support, not a single tender resulted in a signed contract, largely because of delays created by the Afghan central government.

SIGAR reviewed two of USAID's three programs intended to develop Afghanistan's extractives industries—the USAID Office of Inspector General plans to review the third program—and determined that these programs had mixed success due to challenges in dealing with the Afghan government. Specifically, the Mining Investment and Development for Afghan Sustainability (MIDAS) program, which aimed to build institutional capacity to develop and regulate Afghanistan's extractive industries, fully met five, partially met two, and did not meet four of the 11 key performance indicators for fiscal year 2014. The Sheberghan Gas Generation Activity (SGGA), which was intended to provide training and technical assistance

COMPLETED PERFORMANCE AUDITS

- Audit 16-11-AR: Afghanistan's Oil, Gas, and Minerals Industries
- Audit 16-15-AR: Afghan National Engineer Brigade

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

in support of Afghanistan's hydrocarbons industry, completed only seven of its 24 program objectives for fiscal year 2014, partially met or was still working on 11, and cancelled or abandoned six objectives. Although other factors also played a role in USAID not meeting its program objectives, SIGAR's review found that the MOMP's management lacks the commitment to make necessary reforms to absorb on-budget assistance—funding that is channeled through the Afghan government's core budget. For example, five of the 11 key performance indicators for MIDAS were either partially met or not met because of the delayed passage of the 2014 Minerals Law, staffing issues with the MOMP, and USAID's eventual decision not to release on-budget funding for the MIDAS program due to capacity issues. USAID has recognized the problems within the MOMP and responded by reducing, and then in December 2014, discontinuing on-budget assistance under MIDAS to the MOMP. Neither the MOMP nor its component organizations have demonstrated the capacity to responsibly manage on-budget funding or a seriousness in addressing transparency and anti-corruption concerns, as called for by USAID guidance.

Despite the issues highlighted above, U.S. government assistance to the MOMP has resulted in several positive developments. The Afghan government now has updated geological data for several dozen areas of interest, which it can use to attract investors. According to nongovernmental organizations monitoring the extractive industries in Afghanistan, the Minerals Law, while still deficient in several critical areas, has been amended to be more investor-friendly and conform better to internationally accepted best practices. Afghan government officials stated that the MOMP has begun to transition away from a centralized planning model for its extractive industries and towards a private sector-led model. Additionally, the MOMP and its component organizations have developed both greater capacity and greater confidence to market, negotiate, and regulate competitive contracts with some level of transparency. However, significant problems remain in the areas of corruption, infrastructure, security, and regulation.

Corruption has been a major obstacle for sustainable growth in Afghanistan's extractive industries. In particular, unregistered and illegal artisanal and small-scale mining operations continue to be a source of civil strife, unrealized government revenues, and lost economic output. One senior official in the Afghan government stated that many mines in Afghanistan operate illegally because of the inefficient and often corrupt registration process. Integrity Watch Afghanistan estimates that 1,400 mines operate illegally throughout Afghanistan, with 710 mines operating illegally in the Kabul area alone. By contrast, the Afghan government reports that only 200 mines are licensed to operate and paying taxes. Additionally, despite the 2014 Minerals Law's prohibition on granting mining licenses to employees of the Ministries of Defense and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, as well as senior members of the national government, many

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

mining operations are still controlled by political elites, warlords, military personnel, and the police. According to non-governmental organizations monitoring the growth of Afghanistan's extractive industries, if the rampant corruption and disregard for central government oversight in the artisanal mining sector continues, there is a risk that it will cause Afghanistan's security situation to further deteriorate, resulting in a resource conflict.

Afghanistan's road and rail networks remain generally inadequate to support the needs of its mining industry. The Afghan government notes that many roads are not easily passable by motor vehicles, and only half are serviceable throughout the year, making it difficult to move necessary equipment to often remote mining sites. Further, Afghanistan's rail network is almost nonexistent, and according to representatives from TFBSO, the few lines that do exist use gauges that are incompatible with each other. Low-value bulk commodities, like Afghanistan's iron and copper, generally require transport by rail to customer or port to be economically feasible. Further, although crude oil can be profitably transported by truck, representatives from the Department of State stated that this is not economically feasible given current global prices for crude. Even if prices were to rise, USAID subject matter experts say that Afghanistan lacks the infrastructure necessary to refine and load oil onto trucks. TFBSO and USAID officials agreed that transportation of Afghanistan's natural gas will require updates to and expansion of its existing pipeline infrastructure.

Afghanistan's poor security environment is another ongoing challenge for the extractive industries. According to both Afghan and U.S. government officials, mineral- and hydrocarbon-rich areas are often located in remote areas outside of government control, rendering them dangerous to explore and develop. Other areas are contaminated by landmines and unexploded ordinance that will need to be cleared before these areas are suitable for exploration. Security issues will likely constrain Afghan government personnel working in the extractive industries. For example, Afghan geologists and hydrologists may not be willing or able to conduct field studies, and government inspectors may not be willing or able to conduct investigations of mines and wells suspected of violating Afghan laws and regulations in insecure areas.

According to ECC Water & Power LLC, USAID's MIDAS implementing partner, there are several ways in which the 2014 Minerals Law needs to be improved. Specifically, the law's categorization of "rare earth elements" includes minerals that are not generally considered rare by the international scientific community, creating additional burdens for potential investors. Also, the Afghan Minerals Law requires that a tender process be used to award mining exploration licenses. However, according to MIDAS, most countries award licenses based on when applications are received because the tender process, except in very specific cases, is viewed as both cost and time prohibitive.

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

SIGAR is making two recommendations to USAID. SIGAR recommends that the USAID administrator (1) using the results of the assessments done to date, develop a plan with the MOMP and its component organizations addressing the structural reforms needed at the ministry and establishing milestones for achieving them; and (2) condition any future on-budget assistance to the MOMP on the ministry achieving the milestones in the agreed-upon plan.



An ANA soldier gets acquainted with the controls of the bulldozer during training to provide soldiers with basic skills necessary to use the bulldozers for construction operations in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Sergeant Thomas Gerkhe)

Audit 16-15-AR: Afghan National Engineer Brigade

Despite U.S. Training Efforts, the Brigade is Incapable of Operating Independently

To improve the ANA's effectiveness, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) determined that the ANA should have an NEB equipped with engineering equipment and vehicles. As a result, the NEB was established in December 2013 and envisioned as the ANA's natural-disaster emergency-response unit with the capability to, among other things, build bridges and dig wells. As of November 2014, the NEB consisted of about 950 ANA soldiers.

USFOR-A had responsibility for training the NEB, while the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) had responsibility for ordering the brigade's equipment and vehicles. In addition, U.S. sub-commands, including Joint Task Force (JTF) Trailblazer, JTF Sapper, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25, and NMCB 28, trained the NEB in such areas as plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, masonry, and the operation of heavy equipment. Plans called for the NEB to receive at least \$29 million in engineering equipment and vehicles. USFOR-A's original goal was to establish a "fully capable" NEB for the ANA by October 1, 2014. However, in May 2014, USFOR-A lowered its goal to that of establishing only a "partially capable" NEB by December 31, 2014. USFOR-A was unable to achieve this goal, largely due to delays in basic soldier training and providing engineer equipment needed for training.

To track the training progress, USFOR-A rated the NEB's capability on a monthly basis. USFOR-A assessments for the period April 2014 through October 2014 showed that the NEB was rated overall as "developing," the second lowest of five possible ratings, in each of the monthly rating periods during that seven-month period. In its explanation for the October 2014 "developing" rating, USFOR-A noted that the NEB was "reactionary and unable to forecast requirements 72 hours before execution." The explanation also noted the NEB lacked initiative and only planned when USFOR-A advisors urged them to do so. Most significantly, the explanation noted that the NEB was not capable of carrying out its mission.

Although USFOR-A had developed a detailed training plan for the NEB, delays in basic training, which is required before soldiers are selected for the engineer school, delayed the start of engineer training by about 45 days. Many of the same issues that delayed basic training—army staff on leave for holidays, political events, low literacy levels, and security concerns—also

delayed NEB training. In addition, a Joint Task Force Trailblazer official told us that training was delayed by the fact that the ANA did not know who would be reporting for duty on any given day.

Delays in receiving engineering equipment also hindered training efforts. Much of the NEB's heavy engineering equipment was not available until August 2014. Adding to the problem, the NEB had only one of its authorized 30-ton cranes and none of its tractor trucks delivered by October 2014. Further, a Joint Task Force Trailblazer official told us that the Afghan Central Supply Depot could not account for all of the NEB's equipment and some of the equipment was assigned to other areas of the ANA.

In April 2015, SIGAR followed up with CSTC-A to determine what progress the NEB had made in developing its capabilities. In March and April 2015, the NEB participated in its first engineer mission using bulldozers to clear roadways in Helmand Province. However, due to missing equipment, the NEB still lacked the capability to provide natural-disaster relief. According to CSTC-A, the NEB had not been supplied with the required equipment—including hauling, heavy transport, and well drilling equipment—to increase its capabilities.

SIGAR is not making any recommendations.

New Performance Audits Announced This Quarter

This quarter SIGAR initiated one new performance audit. It will assess the administration, monitoring, and reporting of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF).

Administration, Monitoring, and Reporting of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund

The ARTF, administered by the World Bank, is a partnership between the international community and the Afghan government that aims to improve the effectiveness of the reconstruction effort. Established in March 2002, the ARTF was to initially serve as a short-term source of on-budget funding for Afghanistan's non-security related operating budget until the Afghan government could raise enough revenues to cover its own operating costs. However, the life of the fund has been extended twice since its initial closing date of June 30, 2006, and now has a projected closing date of June 30, 2020. As of September 2015, international donors have pledged approximately \$9 billion to the ARTF. The United States, through USAID, has pledged approximately \$2.8 billion, or 31%, of this amount. According to a World Bank financial report, as of September 22, 2015, at least \$6.8 billion has been disbursed to 20 ARTF-identified development projects.

Although USAID does not independently oversee the use of U.S. contributions to the fund, per its grant agreement with the World Bank, the agency has limited rights to audit U.S. contributions to ensure the funds are used for their intended purposes.

NEW PERFORMANCE AUDITS

- Administration, Monitoring, and Reporting of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

A previous SIGAR audit on the ARTF found limitations in the mechanisms the World Bank uses to administer, oversee, and report on the uses and results of donor funding. SIGAR also found that Afghan ministries had generally increased their ability to manage and account for government finances, including ARTF funds. SIGAR made two recommendations to the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan to urge the World Bank to take steps to ensure that site visits to the provinces are conducted, on a sample basis, to verify the eligibility of the Afghan government’s operating expenditures and enhance reporting to donors on ARTF-funded project results.

This follow up audit will assess the extent to which the World Bank and the Afghan government (1) monitor and account for U.S. contributions to the ARTF; (2) evaluate whether ARTF-funded projects have achieved their stated goals and objectives; and (3) utilize and enforce any conditionality on ARTF funding.

Financial Audits

SIGAR launched its financial-audit program in 2012, after Congress and the oversight community expressed concerns about oversight gaps and the growing backlog of incurred-cost audits for contracts and grants awarded in support of overseas contingency operations. SIGAR competitively selects independent accounting firms to conduct the financial audits and ensures that the audit work is performed in accordance with U.S. government auditing standards. Financial audits are coordinated with the federal inspector-general community to maximize financial-audit coverage and avoid duplication of effort.

This quarter, SIGAR completed five financial audits of U.S.-funded contracts and cooperative agreements to rebuild Afghanistan. SIGAR also announced five new financial audits of DOD and State awards with combined incurred costs of more than \$122.5 million, bringing the total number of ongoing financial audits to 23 with more than \$2.7 billion in auditable costs, as shown in Table 2.1. These audits help provide the U.S. government and the American taxpayer reasonable assurance that the funds spent on these awards were used as intended. The audits question expenditures that cannot be substantiated or are potentially unallowable.

SIGAR issues each financial-audit report to the funding agency that made the award(s). The funding agency is responsible for making the final determination on **questioned amounts** identified in the report’s audit findings. Since the program’s inception, SIGAR’s financial audits have identified nearly \$282.2 million in **questioned costs** and \$289,880 in unremitted interest on advanced federal funds or other revenue amounts payable to the government. As of January 30, 2016, funding agencies had reached a management decision on 51 completed financial audits and over \$16.7 million in questioned amounts are subject to collection. It takes time for funding agencies to carefully consider audit findings and recommendations. As a result,

TABLE 2.1

SIGAR’S FINANCIAL AUDIT COVERAGE (\$ BILLIONS)	
64 Completed Audits	\$4.3
23 Ongoing Audits	2.7
Total	\$7.0

Note: Numbers have been rounded. Coverage includes auditable costs incurred by recipients of U.S.-funded Afghanistan reconstruction contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.

Source: SIGAR Audits and Inspections Directorate.

Questioned amounts: the sum of potentially unallowable questioned costs and unremitted interest on advanced federal funds or other revenue amounts payable to the government.

Questioned costs: costs determined to be potentially unallowable. The two types of questioned costs are ineligible costs (violation of a law, regulation, contract, grant, cooperative agreement, etc., or an unnecessary or unreasonable expenditure of funds) and unsupported costs (those not supported by adequate documentation or proper approvals at the time of an audit).

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

agency management decisions remain to be made for several of SIGAR's issued financial audits. SIGAR's financial audits have also identified and communicated 208 compliance findings and 245 internal-control findings to the auditees and funding agencies.

SIGAR's financial audits have four specific objectives:

- Express an opinion on whether the **Special Purpose Financial Statement** for the award presents fairly, in all material respects, revenues received, costs incurred, items directly procured by the U.S. government, and balance for the period audited in conformity with the terms of the award and generally accepted accounting principles or other comprehensive basis of accounting.
- Evaluate and obtain a sufficient understanding of the audited entity's internal controls related to the award; assess control risk; and identify and report on significant deficiencies including material internal-control weaknesses.
- Perform tests to determine whether the audited entity complied, in all material respects, with the award requirements and applicable laws and regulations; and identify and report on instances of material noncompliance with terms of the award and applicable laws and regulations.
- Determine and report on whether the audited entity has taken adequate corrective action to address findings and recommendations from previous engagements.

A list of completed and ongoing financial audits can be found in Appendix C of this quarterly report.

Financial Audits Published

This quarter, SIGAR completed five financial audits of U.S.-funded contracts and cooperative agreements to rebuild Afghanistan. These financial audits identified nearly \$1.8 million in questioned costs as a result of internal-control deficiencies and noncompliance issues. These deficiencies and noncompliance issues included assignment of employees to incorrect labor categories above requisite qualification levels, failure to submit timesheets for consultant labor charges, and incomplete and inadequately supported contractually mandated quarterly expenditure reports.

Financial Audit 16-6-FA: USAID's Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan Project

Audit of Costs Incurred by the Wildlife Conservation Society

On April 22, 2010, USAID issued a three-year, \$8 million cooperative agreement to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to support the Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan project. The project was intended to encourage community

Special Purpose Financial Statement: a financial statement that includes all revenues received, costs incurred, and any remaining balance for a given award during a given period.

COMPLETED FINANCIAL AUDITS

- Financial Audit 16-6-FA: USAID's Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan Project
- Financial Audit 16-8-FA: USAID's Stability in Key Areas South Program
- Financial Audit 16-10-FA: USAID's Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support Program
- Financial Audit 16-12-FA: DOD's Energy Support Services Program
- Financial Audit 16-13-FA: DOD's Strategic, Technical, and Analytical Support Services in Traditional and Alternative Energy Sectors



Band-e-Amir National Park: A contract to implement a USAID project to encourage community development by training Afghans in sustainable natural resource management, including at this park, was the subject of a SIGAR financial audit this quarter. (USAID photo by Lorene Flaming)

Unsupported costs: not supported with adequate documentation or that did not have the required prior approval

Ineligible costs: prohibited by agreement, applicable laws, or regulations

Source: SIGAR Audits and Inspections Directorate.

development by training Afghans in sustainable natural resource management in Bamyan and Wakhan, and strengthening ties with provincial and national government departments. After eight modifications, the period of performance was extended from April 9, 2013, to December 30, 2014, and program funding was increased to \$14 million. SIGAR's financial audit, performed by Davis and Associates Certified Public Accountants, PLLC (Davis), reviewed \$4,641,256 in expenditures charged to the cooperative agreement between July 1, 2013, and December 30, 2014.

Davis identified one material weakness in WCS's internal controls and one instance of material noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement. These two accounting deficiencies resulted from the same finding. Specifically, Davis identified that outside consultants were paid without being required to submit documentation to support the services provided. Additionally, WCS did not require these consultants to submit timesheets or other substantiating documentation to keep track of their work on the project. Therefore, Davis questioned the full amount of consultant labor charged to the project.

As a result of the internal-control deficiency and instance of noncompliance, Davis identified \$1,148,573 in total questioned costs, consisting entirely of **unsupported costs**. Davis did not identify any **ineligible costs**.

Davis identified one prior review pertinent to WCS's financial performance under the cooperative agreement. In July 2014, USAID Office of Inspector General issued an audit of WCS's incurred costs that had two findings related to the Special Purpose Financial Statement. Specifically, WCS did not keep accurate timesheets for all their employees working under the cooperative agreement. Additionally, WCS charged the salaries of some U.S.-based employees as direct labor costs instead of indirect costs. Davis followed up these findings and concluded that WCS had taken adequate corrective action to address them.

Davis issued a modified opinion on WCS's Special Purpose Financial Statement due to unsupported program costs.

Based on the results of the audit, SIGAR recommends that the responsible agreement officer at USAID:

1. Determine the allowability of and recover, as appropriate, \$1,148,573 in total questioned costs identified in the report.
2. Advise WCS to address the report's internal-control finding.
3. Advise WCS to address the report's noncompliance finding.

Financial Audit 16-8-FA: USAID's Stability in Key Areas South Program

Audit of Costs Incurred by AECOM International Development Inc.

In 2012 and 2013, USAID awarded two contracts to AECOM International Development Inc. (AECOM) to implement the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) South program. The primary goal of the program was to promote

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES



As part of the SIKA South program, community forums were conducted for more than 3,000 members of the district development assembly and community development councils in 14 districts in the south. A USAID contract to implement the program was the subject of a SIGAR financial audit this quarter. (USAID photo)

stabilization in the southern region of Afghanistan by increasing the provision of basic services and implementing community-led initiatives in coordination with provincial governments. On April 10, 2012, USAID awarded an 18-month, \$58.7 million contract to AECOM. In May 2013, due to a bid protest, USAID terminated this contract for convenience, and AECOM's SIKA South program operations ceased on July 31, 2013. In total, \$15,936,927 in expenses were charged to the contract. USAID re-competed the contract and, on March 4, 2013, awarded a second 18-month contract for \$60.2 million to AECOM. After five modifications, the contract period was extended through March 3, 2015. SIGAR's financial audit, performed by Williams, Adley & Company-DC LLP (Williams Adley), reviewed all expenses charged to the first contract, and \$32,690,570 in expenses charged to the second contract from March 4, 2013, through September 3, 2014.

Williams Adley did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in AECOM's internal controls, or instances of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the SIKA South program contracts. As a result, Williams Adley did not identify any questioned costs, which would have included unsupported costs or ineligible costs.

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Williams Adley obtained and reviewed prior audit reports and other assessments that could have a material impact on the Special Purpose Financial Statement. Williams Adley identified seven audit findings from three prior SIGAR financial audits related to the scope of this audit: (1) SIGAR, *USAID's Stabilization in Key Areas East Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by AECOM International Development Inc.*, Financial Audit 15-76-FA, July 20, 2015; (2) SIGAR, *USAID's Stabilization in Key Areas West Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by AECOM International Development Inc.*, Financial Audit 15-75-FA, July 20, 2015; and (3) SIGAR, *USAID's Afghanistan Social Outreach Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by AECOM International Development Inc.*, Financial Audit 14-94-FA, September 3, 2014. All seven findings from the prior audits concerned document retention. After reviewing and assessing documentation, Williams Adley determined that AECOM had taken adequate corrective actions that addressed these findings.

Williams Adley issued an unmodified opinion on AECOM's Special Purpose Financial Statement, noting that it presents fairly, in all material aspects, revenues received, costs incurred, and the balance for the period audited. Williams Adley did not report any findings related to the SIKA South program. Therefore, SIGAR is not making any recommendations.



IRD provided quality-assurance services for this new power substation in Kandahar. IRD's contract with USAID was the subject of a SIGAR financial audit this quarter. (USAID photo)

Financial Audit 16-10-FA: USAID's Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support Program Audit of Costs Incurred by International Relief and Development Inc.

On April 20, 2011, USAID awarded a one-year, \$96.8 million contract to International Relief and Development Inc. (IRD) to support the Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support (EQUALS) program. The program was intended to help ensure that USAID construction projects in Afghanistan met prescribed standards and contract specifications, and to provide capacity building support to key Afghan ministries involved in the energy, roads, and water sectors. After 17 modifications, the period of performance was extended from April 17, 2012, to April 17, 2016, and program funding was increased to \$126.3 million. SIGAR's financial audit, performed by Crowe Horwath LLP (Crowe), reviewed \$63,144,114 in expenditures charged to the contract from January 1, 2013, through March 31, 2015.

Crowe identified two material weaknesses and one significant deficiency in IRD's internal controls, and four instances of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the contract. Specifically, Crowe found that IRD may have overcharged the government by \$614,676 by billing employees under categories for which they may not have been qualified. For example, Crowe found that two of 25 tested employees were assigned to incorrect labor categories, resulting in \$72,635 in possible overcharges. Crowe also noted that IRD reports submitted to USAID were incomplete and did not show

evidence of supervisory review. Finally, Crowe found that IRD overcharged the government \$3,610 as a result of currency conversion errors.

As a result of the internal-control weaknesses and instances of noncompliance, Crowe identified \$618,286 in total questioned costs, consisting entirely of ineligible costs. Crowe did not identify any unsupported costs.

Crowe obtained and reviewed 13 prior audit reports and other assessments that could have a material impact on the Special Purpose Financial Statement. In these reports, Crowe identified and followed up on nine audit findings related to the scope of this audit. After reviewing and assessing documentation, Crowe determined that IRD had not taken adequate corrective actions on four findings related to inventory reconciliation, insufficient supporting documentation, and overcharges. Crowe noted similar findings concerning supporting documentation and overcharges in this audit. For example, two prior audits found that IRD did not support exchange rates with adequate documentation and incorrectly identified transaction dates for certain conversions, resulting in overcharges to the government. Although IRD modified its foreign currency conversion procedures and issued a standard operating procedure to document the process, Crowe found similar errors in currency conversions in the Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support program.

Crowe issued an unmodified opinion on IRD's Special Purpose Financial Statement, noting that it presents fairly, in all material respects, revenues received, costs incurred, and balance for the indicated period audited.

Based on the results of the audit, SIGAR recommends that the responsible contracting officer at USAID:

1. Determine the allowability of and recover, as appropriate, \$618,286 in questioned costs identified in the report.
2. Advise IRD to address the report's three internal-control findings.
3. Advise IRD to address the report's four noncompliance findings.

Financial Audit 16-12-FA: DOD's Energy Support Services Program

Audit of Costs Incurred by Zantech IT Services Inc.

On December 14, 2010, the Department of the Interior, on behalf of the Department of Defense, awarded a 1-year, \$4 million contract to Zantech IT Services Inc. (Zantech) to support TFBSO's Energy Support Services program. The program was intended to support TFBSO's energy programs by creating efficient, low-cost, and economically viable energy development opportunities for Afghanistan. After 19 modifications, the total cost of the contract was increased to \$17.8 million, and the period of performance was extended to September 27, 2012. SIGAR's financial audit, performed by Williams Adley, reviewed \$17,793,003 in expenditures charged to the contract from December 14, 2010, through September 27, 2012.

Williams Adley did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in Zantech's internal controls or instances of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the Energy Support Services program contract. As a result, Williams Adley did not identify any questioned costs, which would have included unsupported costs—costs not supported with adequate documentation or that did not have required prior approval—or ineligible costs—costs prohibited by the contract, applicable laws, or regulations.

Williams Adley obtained and reviewed prior audit reports, assessments, and reviews of Zantech that were applicable to the scope of the audit. Williams Adley found no prior findings or recommendations that could have a material impact on the Special Purpose Financial Statement.

Williams Adley issued an unmodified opinion on Zantech's Special Purpose Financial Statement, noting that it presents fairly, in all material respects, revenues received, costs incurred, and the balance for the period audited.

Financial Audit 16-13-FA: DOD's Strategic, Technical, and Analytical Support Services in Traditional and Alternative Energy Sectors

Audit of Costs Incurred by Zantech IT Services Inc.

On September 12, 2012, the Department of the Interior, on behalf of the Department of Defense, awarded a 1-year, \$14.8 million contract to Zantech IT Services Inc. (Zantech) to support the TFBSO Strategic, Technical, and Analytical Support Services in Traditional and Alternative Energy Sectors program. The program was intended to support TFBSO's energy programs by creating efficient, low-cost, and economically viable energy development opportunities for Afghanistan. After 14 modifications, the total cost of the contract was increased to \$31.2 million, and the period of performance was extended to March 27, 2015. SIGAR's financial audit, performed by Williams Adley, reviewed \$12,083,931 in expenditures charged to the contract from September 28, 2012, through September 27, 2013.

Williams Adley did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in Zantech's internal controls or instances of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the Strategic, Technical, and Analytical Support Services in Traditional and Alternative Energy Sectors program contract. As a result, Williams Adley did not identify any questioned costs, which would have included unsupported costs—costs not supported with adequate documentation or that did not have required prior approval—or ineligible costs—costs prohibited by the contract, applicable laws, or regulations.

Williams Adley obtained and reviewed prior audit reports, assessments, and reviews of Zantech that were applicable to the scope of the audit. Williams Adley found no prior findings or recommendations that could have a material impact on the Special Purpose Financial Statement.

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Williams Adley issued an unmodified opinion on Zantech's Special Purpose Financial Statement, noting that it presents fairly, in all material respects, revenues received, costs incurred, and the balance for the period audited.

Status of SIGAR Recommendations

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, requires SIGAR to report on the status of its recommendations. This quarter, SIGAR closed 12 recommendations contained in seven audit and inspection reports. Five of the reports contained recommendations that resulted in the recovery of \$107,810 in ineligible or unsupported contract costs paid by the U.S. government.

From 2009 through December 2015, SIGAR published 208 audits, alert letters, and inspection reports and made 619 recommendations to recover funds, improve agency oversight, and increase program effectiveness. SIGAR has closed over 83% of these recommendations. Closing a recommendation generally indicates SIGAR's assessment that the audited agency has either implemented the recommendation or otherwise appropriately addressed the issue. In some cases, a closed recommendation will be the subject of follow-up audit work.

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, also requires SIGAR to report on any significant recommendations from prior reports on which corrective action has not been completed. In this quarter, SIGAR continued to monitor agency actions on recommendations in 39 audit and five inspection reports. In this quarter, for all recommendations over 12 months old, the agencies have produced a corrective-action plan that SIGAR believes would resolve the identified problem or have otherwise responded to the recommendations. However, there are 13 audit reports over 12 months old where SIGAR is waiting for the respective agencies to complete their agreed-upon corrective actions.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

SIGAR's Office of Special Projects was created to examine emerging issues and deliver prompt, actionable reports to federal agencies and the Congress. The team conducts a variety of assessments, producing reports on all facets of Afghanistan reconstruction. The directorate is made up of auditors, analysts, investigators, lawyers, subject-matter experts, and other specialists who can quickly and jointly apply their expertise to emerging problems and questions.

This quarter, SIGAR's Office of Special Projects wrote to the Secretary of Defense to request information concerning TFBSO's decision to spend nearly 20% (\$150 million) of its budget on private housing and private security guards for its U.S. government employees in Afghanistan, rather than have the employees live on military bases.

COMPLETED SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Inquiry Letter 16-05-SP: TFBSO Security
- Letter 16-06-SP: Acknowledgement of DOD Response to TFBSO Security Letter
- Review Letter 16-09-SP: USAID-Supported Health Facilities in Kabul

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Additionally, the Office of Special Projects wrote to USAID to provide the results of recent site inspections conducted by SIGAR to verify the accuracy of USAID locational data and operating conditions at 32 USAID-funded public-health facilities in Kabul.

Inquiry Letter 16-05-SP: TFBSO Security

On November 25, 2015, SIGAR wrote to the Secretary of Defense to request information concerning TFBSO's decision to spend nearly \$150 million, or nearly 20% of its budget, on private housing and private security guards for its U.S. government employees in Afghanistan, rather than having those employees live on U.S. military bases. It is unclear what benefit the United States received as the result of TFBSO's decision to rent private housing and hire private security contractors, or if TFBSO conducted any cost-benefit analysis of the decision.

Letter 16-06-SP: Acknowledgement of DOD Response to TFBSO Security Letter

SIGAR wrote to DOD on December 8, 2015, to acknowledge DOD's response to SIGAR's TFBSO Security Letter (16-05-SP).

Review Letter 16-09-SP: USAID-Supported Health Facilities in Kabul

On January 5, 2016, SIGAR wrote to the USAID administrator to inform her of the results of recent site inspections conducted by SIGAR to verify the locations and operating conditions at 32 (of 42 total) USAID-funded public-health facilities in Kabul Province. This is the second in a series of health-facility inspections SIGAR is conducting in provinces throughout Afghanistan.

In the Kabul site inspections, SIGAR found substantial inaccuracies in the geospatial coordinates USAID provided for many of the 32 facilities, and observed that not all facilities had access to electricity and running water. All 32 facilities were funded by USAID's \$259.6 million Partnership Contracts for Health (PCH) program that began in July 2008 and ended in June 2015. A key component of the PCH program was the use of detailed geospatial location information to ensure health facilities were in the appropriate locations and providing the local population with needed health services. Since 2014, SIGAR has expressed concern regarding the oversight of facilities supported by PCH, including the accuracy of the geospatial coordinates.

At each of the 32 site visits, SIGAR took a minimum of 34 time, date, and location-stamped photographs where possible; SIGAR also completed an overall assessment of the facility; recorded, among other things, geospatial coordinates of the facility, whether the facility appeared to be open and operational, and whether the facility had



SIGAR's site inspections of health facilities in Kabul revealed basic structural concerns at most facilities, such as cracked walls. (SIGAR photo)

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

reliable access to electricity and water and an on-site pharmacy; and conducted interviews with a facility staff member and a member of the community served by the health facility.

The site inspections revealed that the geospatial coordinates for 22 of the 32 facilities were within one kilometer of the actual facility location, three were within one to five kilometers, and seven were more than five kilometers away. All 32 health facilities were open and operational, and, of the 31 community members interviewed, 28 perceived the facilities to be in good working order. The site inspections noted some basic structural concerns at most facilities, including cracked walls, leaking roofs, broken doors, and broken windows. Additionally, 16 facilities disposed of medical waste in open-air kilns (some of which were publicly accessible), five did not have running water, three appeared not to have electricity, and eight may not have had adequate or consistent power required for proper lighting and refrigeration for pharmaceuticals and vaccines. This raises concerns that USAID is paying for services that the implementing partners are not providing.

Also of concern is the documentation provided by USAID to identify the location and existence of the remaining 10 facilities (inaccessible to SIGAR due to security conditions). The files provided by USAID as evidence of the location and basic operations of the health facilities include only two to four photos for each facility; none included any embedded geospatial data. None of the USAID files included any site visit reports or other supporting documentation.

LESSONS LEARNED

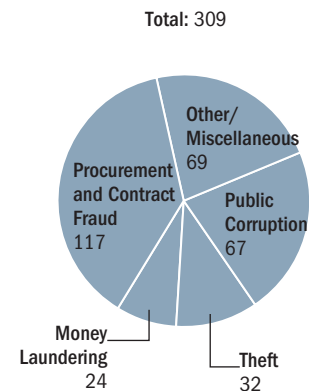
SIGAR created the Lessons Learned Program (LLP) to identify comprehensive lessons and best practices from Afghanistan reconstruction efforts from 2001 to the present. The LLP currently has five projects underway: interagency strategy and planning, coordination of international donor aid, U.S. perceptions of and responses to corruption, counternarcotics interventions, and private-sector development and economic growth.

INVESTIGATIONS

During the reporting period, SIGAR investigations achieved significant results. Cost savings to the U.S. government amounted to over \$100,000; a civil settlement agreement totaled \$1.45 million; and fines, forfeitures, and restitutions amounted to \$110,000. Additionally, there was one indictment, one conviction, and two sentencing. SIGAR initiated 17 new investigations and closed 14, bringing the total number of ongoing investigations to 309, see Figure 2.1.

FIGURE 2.1

SIGAR INVESTIGATIONS: NUMBER OF OPEN INVESTIGATIONS, AS OF JANUARY 12, 2016



Source: SIGAR Investigations Directorate, 1/17/2016.

The accomplishments of the quarter bring the cumulative total in criminal fines, restitutions, forfeitures, civil settlement recoveries, and U.S. government cost savings from SIGAR's ongoing investigations to over \$946.2 million. Investigative outcomes include 103 arrests, 137 criminal charges, 102 convictions, and 80 sentencing.

Two U.S. Military Members Sentenced for Bribery Scheme

On December 10, 2015, in the Western District of Kentucky, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Ramiro Pena was sentenced to 24 months' incarceration, followed by 12 months' supervised release and a special assessment of \$100. In addition, Pena entered an agreement to forfeit a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, a Rolex watch, and \$100,000. On July 2, 2015, Pena pled guilty to a one-count **criminal information** charging him with conspiracy to receive and accept illegal bribes by a public official.

On October 1, 2015, in the Northern District of New York, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Louis Bailly was sentenced to 12 months and one day incarceration, followed by one year's supervised release and ordered to forfeit \$10,000. On June 4, 2015, Bailly pled guilty to a one-count criminal information charging him with conspiracy to receive and accept illegal bribes by a public official.

Both individuals were the subjects of a bribery investigation focusing on Afghan contractors paying bribes to U.S. military personnel in return for government contracts associated with the Humanitarian Aid Yard (HA Yard) at Bagram Airfield (BAF) in Afghanistan. The HA Yard functions as a storage facility for large quantities of clothing, food, school supplies, and other items available to military units in support of humanitarian aid for the Afghan people. The HA Yard, through the Commander's Emergency Response Program, enables U.S. military commanders to respond to urgent humanitarian relief needs.

Pena was project purchasing officer at the HA Yard and accepted approximately \$100,000 in illegal bribes and a Rolex watch worth approximately \$25,000 from Afghan vendors. Pena sent approximately \$22,000 of the bribe money home in greeting cards addressed to his wife, who resided at Fort Campbell. He would send three to four bills totaling \$300 to \$400 in each card at a time so as to not call attention to the envelope at the post office. Further, Pena used bribe money to purchase a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and to pay his and his family's personal expenses.

Bailly, in his position as a project purchasing officer at the HA Yard, accepted approximately \$12,000 in illegal bribes from Afghan vendors to ensure successful approval and processing of replenishment contracts to restock supplies.

Criminal Information: a written accusation made by a public prosecutor, without the participation of a grand jury. The function of a criminal information is to inform the defendant of the nature of the charge made against him, and the act constituting such a charge so that he can prepare for trial and to prevent his being tried again for the same offense.

Source: *Black's Law Dictionary*.

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Investigation Results in Civil Settlement of \$1.45 Million Associated with a Contract Bid-Rigging Scheme

PAE Government Services Inc. (PAE) and RM Asia Limited (RM Asia) agreed to pay the United States \$1.45 million to resolve allegations that they engaged in a bid-rigging scheme that resulted in false claims for payment under a U.S. Army contract in Afghanistan. PAE provides integrated global mission services and RM Asia provides motor vehicle parts and supplies.

In 2007, the U.S. Army awarded PAE a contract to provide vehicle maintenance capabilities and training services for the Afghanistan National Army at multiple sites across Afghanistan. PAE partnered with RM Asia to supply and warehouse vehicle parts. The government alleged that former managers of PAE and RM Asia funneled subcontracts paid for by the U.S. government to companies owned by the former managers and their relatives by using confidential bid information to ensure that their companies would beat out other, honest competitors.

In a related SIGAR criminal investigation, former PAE program manager Keith Johnson; Johnson's wife, Angela Gregory Johnson; RM Asia's former project manager, John Eisner; and deputy project manager Jerry Kieffer have been sentenced for their roles in the scheme.

Additionally, Keith and Angela Johnson and two of their companies were debarred in February 2014 for a period of eight years. Kieffer was debarred in February 2014 for a period of six years and, in March 2014, Eisner and his company were debarred for a period of six years.

Investigation Results in \$103,614 Savings to the U.S. Government

A savings of \$103,614 for the U.S. government was realized after an investigation confirmed a duplicate payment had been made under the National Afghan Trucking contract.

On July 25, 2015, SIGAR received information alleging a duplicate payment had been made to Aria Target Logistics (ATL). Special agents conducted a comparative analysis of the documentation and identified approximately 18 fuel missions for which ATL had submitted two separate invoices on two separate occasions to two different U.S. Army contracting entities. As a result, ATL received duplicate payments for the same 18 fuel missions.

On July 27, 2015, SIGAR contacted members of the Regional Contracting Office at BAF and provided the same documentation to contracting officials. On November 2, 2015, SIGAR provided officials at BAF with a letter detailing some of the investigative findings with respect to the duplicate payment.

Subsequently, contracting officials verified that in fact the U.S. Army had made a duplicate payment to ATL in the amount of \$103,614. On November 4, 2015, SIGAR received notice from the contracting officer that a demand letter had been sent to ATL demanding payment of \$103,614.



In November 2015, SIGAR Special Agent Doug Wethington provided fraud-awareness training to members of the Afghan National Procurement Authority. (SIGAR photo by Steve Mocsary)

U.S. Army Captain Pleads Guilty

On November 5, 2015, in the Eastern District of North Carolina, U.S. Army Captain David A. Kline, pled guilty to one count of solicitation and receipt of a gratuity, and aiding and abetting the same. A criminal information was filed on September 9, 2015.

Kline, while serving as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and stationed at Kandahar Airfield, sought and accepted \$50,000 in gratuities from a contractor doing business with the U.S. military. Specifically, from January 2008 to April 2009, then-Lieutenant Kline was deployed as a member of the 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and served as the officer-in-charge of the Movement Control Team.

As the officer-in-charge, Kline oversaw the handling of transportation movement requests, which are the means by which a military unit in the field submits a request for the transport of military items, to include fuel and equipment, food, and other supplies, from one location to another across Afghanistan.

Although contracting procedures technically did not permit the authorizing officer to specify the particular Afghan trucking company that would perform the transportation, in practice, Kline and others were able to designate the Afghan company of their choice. Kline admitted he sought and accepted \$50,000 in U.S. currency from an Afghan national who owned a trucking company doing business on government contracts at Kandahar Airfield, in return for Kline's facilitation of the award and payment of numerous transportation contracts.

The case was investigated by SIGAR, the Defense Criminal Investigation Service, Army Criminal Investigation Command, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Suspensions and Debarments

This quarter, SIGAR's suspension and debarment program referred seven individuals and 10 companies for suspension or debarment based on evidence developed as part of investigations conducted by SIGAR in Afghanistan and the United States. Three of these individuals were referred for suspension based upon criminal charges being filed against them alleging misconduct related to or affecting reconstruction contracting in Afghanistan. These referrals bring the total number of individuals and companies referred by SIGAR since 2008 to 697, encompassing 368 individuals and 329 companies, see Figure 2.2.

As of the end of December 2015, the efforts of SIGAR to utilize suspension and debarment to address fraud, corruption, and poor performance in Afghanistan have resulted in a total of 129 suspensions, 374 finalized debarments, and 28 **special entity designations** of individuals and companies engaged in U.S. funded reconstruction projects. An additional 14 individuals and companies have entered into **administrative compliance agreements**

Special entity designations: exclusions in the General Services Administration's System for Award Management based upon identifications by the CENTCOM commander of individuals and entities that are or have the potential to engage in contracting and have provided material support to insurgent or terrorist groups in accordance with Section 841 of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. Special entity designations are for an indefinite period and act as notice that contracts and subcontracts awarded to individuals and entities identified by the CENTCOM commander may be restricted, terminated, or voided as a matter of public policy.

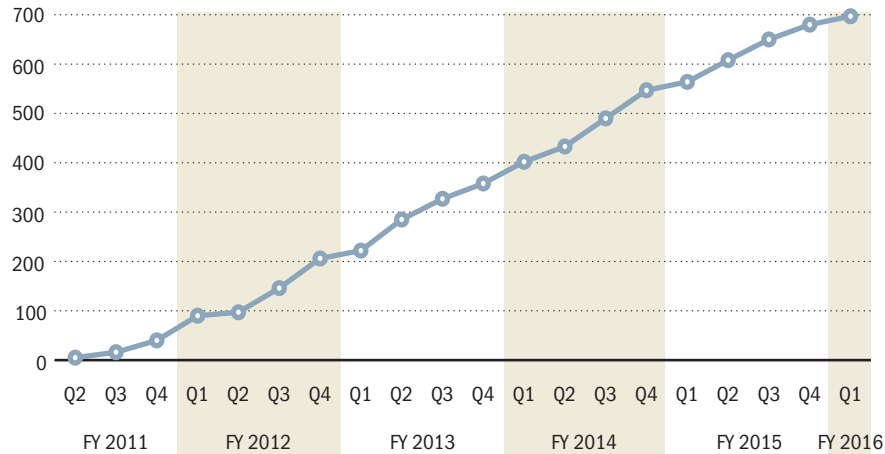
Administrative compliance agreements: entered into in lieu of debarment as the result of negotiations between suspension and debarment officials and contractors.

Source: SIGAR Suspensions and Debarments.

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

FIGURE 2.2

SIGAR INVESTIGATIONS: CUMULATIVE REFERRALS FOR SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT, Q2 FY 2011–Q1 FY 2016



Source: SIGAR Investigations Directorate, 1/14/2016.

with the government in lieu of exclusion from contracting since the initiation of the program. During the first quarter of 2016, SIGAR’s referrals resulted in two suspensions and eight finalized debarments of individuals and entities by agency suspension and debarment officials.

Suspensions and debarments are an important tool for ensuring that agencies award contracts only to responsible entities. SIGAR’s program addresses three challenges posed by U.S. policy and the contingency contracting environment in Afghanistan: the need to act quickly, the limited U.S. jurisdiction over Afghan nationals and Afghan companies, and the vetting challenges inherent in the use of multiple tiers of subcontractors. SIGAR continues to look for ways to enhance the government’s responses to these challenges through the innovative use of information resources and investigative assets both in Afghanistan and the United States. SIGAR makes referrals for suspensions and debarments—actions taken by U.S. agencies to exclude companies or individuals from receiving federal contracts or assistance because of misconduct—based on completed investigations that SIGAR participates in. In most cases, SIGAR’s referrals occur in the absence of acceptance of an allegation for criminal prosecution or remedial action by a contracting office and are therefore the primary remedy to address contractor misconduct. In making referrals to agencies, SIGAR provides the basis for a suspension or debarment decision by the agency as well as all of the supporting documentation needed for an agency to support that decision

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

should it be challenged by the contractor at issue. Based on the evolving nature of the contracting environment in Afghanistan and the available evidence of contractor misconduct and/or poor performance, on occasion SIGAR has found it necessary to refer individuals or companies on multiple occasions for consideration by agency suspension and debarment officials.

SIGAR's emphasis on suspension and debarment is exemplified by the fact that of the 697 referrals for suspension and debarment that have been made by the agency to date, 670 have been made since the second quarter of 2011. During the 12 month period prior to January 1, 2016, referrals by SIGAR's suspension and debarment program resulted in the exclusion of 88 individuals and companies from contracting with the government. SIGAR's referrals over this period represent allegations of theft, fraud, poor performance, financial support to insurgents, and mismanagement as part of reconstruction contracts valued at approximately \$599.9 million.

Debarment of Three Individuals for Attempted Theft of a Fire Truck and an Armored Truck from Bagram Airfield

On November 12, 2015, the Army suspension and debarment official debarred Krishan Kumar, Janak Raj, and Roop Singh from contracting with the government based on their attempted theft of a fire truck and an armored truck from the Defense Logistics Agency's Disposition Services Office at BAF. Specifically, Kumar, Raj and Singh while employed by ECOLOG International worked at the Maintenance and Repair Yard on BAF, a location used to store surplus military items, including vehicles, generators and other equipment gathered from various locations on the airfield as part of the retrograde of units from Afghanistan. During August 2014, all three approached informants working for SIGAR with offers to sell up-armored vehicles, heavy machinery, septic tanks, generators, copper wire, and other electrical equipment, as well as to provide the paperwork necessary to move these items off BAF so that they could be sold to third parties. As a result of an undercover operation involving SIGAR and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, Major Procurement Fraud Unit, all three were arrested following their attempt to sell a fire truck and an armored truck to investigators in exchange for a cash payment of \$30,000. Following their arrest, all three individuals were barred from BAF by order of the installation commander, resulting in their departure from Afghanistan to their home country, India. Based on their actions, the Army suspension and debarment official debarred each of them for a period of five years, ending on May 14, 2020.

OTHER SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER

SIGAR Testifies on TFBSO Before Senate Armed Services Subcommittee

On January 20, Special Inspector General John F. Sopko testified before the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support about SIGAR's completed and ongoing work examining DOD's TFBSO in Afghanistan. The nearly \$800 million task force was DOD's principal vehicle for stimulating private-sector growth and investment in Afghanistan's war-torn economy. Unfortunately, SIGAR's cumulative work to date has shown that TFBSO's investment in Afghanistan has generally not delivered on its stated goals.

Over the past two years, SIGAR has received more complaints of waste, fraud, and abuse relating to TFBSO activities than for any other organization operating in Afghanistan. Since SIGAR began investigating TFBSO activities, the agency has conducted more than 50 interviews with former TFBSO officials and contractors, and several dozen more with other U.S. and Afghan government officials with knowledge of TFBSO activities. In addition, SIGAR obtained documents and records related to TFBSO activities, in part, through subpoenas. As a result of this work, SIGAR has issued several reports and initiated a number of active criminal investigations.

One of SIGAR's most recent TFBSO reviews examined a TFBSO-funded compressed natural gas (CNG) filling station in the city of Sheberghan, Afghanistan. The reported cost of \$43 million for this project far exceeded the cost of building CNG filling stations elsewhere. Moreover, it appears that TFBSO never examined the feasibility of the filling station prior to committing millions of dollars to its construction. This project is a glaring example of TFBSO projects SIGAR has examined that were ill-conceived, poorly planned, or left unfinished.

Further, Sopko told the subcommittee, it appears that TFBSO's activities in Afghanistan were stymied by a lack of strategy, leadership, and coordination. For example, SIGAR found that there was no overarching, government-wide strategy for the development of Afghanistan's extractive industries—even though developing this sector constituted 36% of TFBSO's total contract obligations and had been identified as vital to Afghanistan's long-term economic development and viability. SIGAR's April 2015 report examining TFBSO investments in Afghanistan's extractives industries also found that senior TFBSO officials claimed uncertainty around TFBSO's annual budget and high turnover among its leadership led to frequent shifts in TFBSO's organizational direction. TFBSO and its counterparts, including State and USAID, also failed to coordinate their activities in several critical sectors, including extractives. As a result, nearly all of TFBSO's large extractive projects remained incomplete when TFBSO concluded activities

TESTIMONY GIVEN

- Testimony 16-14-TY: DOD Task Force for Business and Stability Operations in Afghanistan: Preliminary Results Show Serious Management and Oversight Problems

in Afghanistan on December 31, 2014, and not one TFBSO initiative in the extractives sector was transferred to State or USAID.

Since April 2015, DOD has stated that since Congress ended funding for TFBSO, the department does not have the expertise, authority, or funding to respond to investigations related to TFBSO activities in Afghanistan. DOD's inability to respond to SIGAR's inquiries raises some questions, as it appears that several former TFBSO officials, including the most recent director of the task force, Dr. Joseph Catalino, still work for the department and other former TFBSO employees remain in the military and under the general purview of DOD. SIGAR is concerned that DOD has yet to provide any evidence that TFBSO reduced violence or increased stability despite its expenditure of nearly \$800 million.

SIGAR's ongoing review of TFBSO activities in Afghanistan raises several key questions that remain unanswered and should be considered by Congress and any administration contemplating such TFBSO-like programs in the future. For example:

- Should DOD be leading these types of economic-development activities in future contingency operations?
- What impediments inhibited TFBSO, State, and USAID coordination and ultimately led to duplicative and sometimes competing activities, and how can they be addressed in the future?
- How much private-sector direct investment did TFBSO's \$760 million obligation yield and how does that compare to traditional reconstruction models using USAID and State?
- What impact did TFBSO projects and programs have on stabilizing Afghanistan, even at the local level, and can any of its successes be sustained?
- Were there systemic problems with DOD's management and oversight of TFBSO activities that need to be addressed?

Members of Congress Ask SIGAR to Investigate Sexual Abuse

A bipartisan, bicameral group led by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Thomas J. Rooney (R-FL) and 91 additional Members of Congress in December asked SIGAR to conduct an inquiry into the U.S. government's experience with allegations of sexual abuse of children committed by members of the Afghan security forces. The inquiry will also look into the manner in which the Leahy amendment prohibiting DOD and the State Department from providing assistance to the units of foreign security forces that have committed gross violations of human rights is implemented in Afghanistan. SIGAR's inquiry will complement a review initiated in October by the DOD Inspector General of the issue of child sex abuse by members of the ANDSF. The congressional request came in the wake of articles in the *New York Times* that sexual abuse of children by members of Afghan military and police forces has been rampant and that U.S. soldiers and Marines had been instructed not to intervene.

SIGAR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Deputy Inspector General Speaks at NATO Lessons Learned Conference

On November 11, 2015, Deputy Inspector General Gene Aloise spoke at the NATO Lessons Learned Conference in Lisbon. Aloise provided a brief history of inspectors general in the United States and highlighted some of SIGAR's work in Afghanistan. The presentation also discussed SIGAR's newly established Lessons Learned Program and articulated the seven key questions SIGAR created to better guide policy makers in current and future reconstruction efforts.

Special Inspector General Speaks at Watson Institute for International Studies

Special Inspector General Sopko spoke on November 18, 2015, at the Watson Institute for International Studies in Providence, Rhode Island, about the importance of learning from, and improving upon, the 14-year reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. Sopko explained the unique characteristics of SIGAR, highlighted the breadth of the agency's work, and articulated specific, persistent challenges that are detrimental to the reconstruction mission. The special inspector general concluded with an overview of lessons learned, and reiterated the importance of noting the challenges faced in Afghanistan.

SIGAR BUDGET

SIGAR is funded through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. The funding level of \$56.9 million is the same as fiscal year 2015. The budget supports SIGAR's oversight activities and products by funding SIGAR's (1) Audits and Inspections, (2) Investigations, (3) Management and Support, and (4) Research and Analysis directorates, as well as the Special Projects team and the Lessons Learned Program.

SIGAR STAFF

SIGAR's staff count remained steady since the last report to Congress, with 193 employees on board at the end of the quarter. At the end of the quarter, 29 SIGAR employees were at the U.S. Embassy Kabul and two others were at BAF. SIGAR employed seven local Afghans in its Kabul office to support the Investigations and Audits directorates. In addition, SIGAR supplements its resident staff with personnel assigned to short-term temporary duty in Afghanistan. This quarter, SIGAR had four employees on temporary duty in Afghanistan for a total of 40 days.



Special Inspector General Sopko shows the Kandahar deputy provincial governor SIGAR's October 2015 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, which featured an interview with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. (SIGAR photo by Steve Mocsary)

“Ordinary Afghans feel the pressure of a weakening economy acutely. This year 29.7% of respondents say their household financial situation has grown worse, the highest percentage since the survey began.”

—*The Asia Foundation*

3 RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE



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Photo on previous page

Demining operations along the Afghan-Tajik border are managed and coordinated by the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre, supported by the United Nations. (UN Development Programme photo)

RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

OVERVIEW

General John F. Campbell, commander of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan, reported that a U.S. investigation into the October 3, 2015, U.S. air strike on the Doctors Without Borders hospital in the northern city of Kunduz determined that the contributing causes for the accident were avoidable human error compounded by process and equipment failure, along with fatigue and high operational tempo. Some U.S. personnel were suspended and could face disciplinary action as a result of the incident. The United Nations reported an Afghan delegation submitted a report to the Afghan National Security Council on the temporary fall of Kunduz to the Taliban in September, although the findings were not released publicly.

The reporting period saw an upsurge in insurgent activity from various terrorist groups across Afghanistan. *Foreign Policy* magazine reported that the Taliban now control more Afghan territory than at any time since 2001. The UN reported the presence of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K) remains a concern, particularly in Nangarhar Province. In October 2015, the Afghan National Army conducted a large military operation against a new al-Qaeda group that formed in Afghanistan last year.

After the *New York Times* reported that U.S. forces had been instructed to ignore the rape of young boys by members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, members of Congress asked SIGAR to investigate the U.S. government's experience with allegations of Afghan forces sexually abusing children. The inquiry will also look into the manner in which the Leahy amendment, which prohibits the Departments of Defense and State from providing assistance to units of foreign security forces that have committed gross violations of human rights, is implemented in Afghanistan.

On January 14, 2016, the U.S. State Department announced the designation of ISIL-K, based in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region, as a foreign terrorist organization. Persons, groups, or companies that knowingly provide, attempt, or conspire to provide material support or resources to ISIL-K will be subject to sanctions under U.S. law.

This quarter, President Ashraf Ghani announced one component of the Jobs for Peace program, a 24-to-30-month, jobs-focused stimulus and

stabilization program. The overall program is meant to provide short-term, labor-intensive employment in rural and urban areas. The initial cost of the first component is expected to be \$100 million, growing to approximately \$350 million as it expands to all provinces. The Afghan government initially estimates the entire Jobs for Peace program will cost approximately \$1.18 billion, though some components still require budget estimates. In December, the United States announced plans to contribute \$50 million to support the Afghan government's job-creation efforts.

On January 11, Afghan, Pakistani, U.S., and Chinese officials met in Islamabad in an effort to lay the groundwork for new talks with the Taliban. The Quadrilateral Coordination Group emphasized the immediate need for direct talks between representatives of the Afghan government and Taliban groups. Pakistani officials recommended that the Afghan government not demand concessions from Taliban leaders before beginning talks. Additionally, Pakistani officials said threats against Taliban members who refused to join the talks would be “counterproductive.”

In December, the Asia Foundation released their 2015 *Survey of the Afghan People*. The survey found that in 2015, 36.7% of respondents nationwide say their country is moving in the right direction, down from 54.7% in 2014. This represents the lowest level of optimism recorded over the past 10 years, following last year's record high during the presidential runoff election. Among the 57.5% of Afghans who say their country is moving in the wrong direction, the most frequently cited reason is insecurity (44.6%, up six percentage points from 2014), followed by unemployment (25.4%), corruption in general (13.0%), a bad economy (12.4%), and bad government (11.4%).

Afghanistan's economy did not recover as expected in 2015. The World Bank projected real GDP to grow 1.9% and to remain sluggish over the medium term. Deteriorating security, low investor and consumer confidence, declining investment, and the government's struggle to deliver anticipated reforms have resulted in weak economic activity. The economic benefits associated with the once large international troop presence have waned, leading to tens of thousands of jobs lost and negatively impacting domestic demand. Meanwhile, the strength of the insurgency has caused the government to spend more on the military and less on job-creating investments. Afghanistan's domestic revenues paid for 40% of budget expenditures through the first 11 months of fiscal year 1394. The country's large budget deficits and trade imbalances will require substantial donor aid for the foreseeable future.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is working with the Afghan government on its macroeconomic policies and structural reform agenda through a Staff-Monitored Program, said Afghan authorities are aware of the challenges. This quarter, the IMF reported Afghanistan's performance as satisfactory, but the deteriorating security environment

and delays in forming a government complicated implementation efforts. Afghanistan also made progress on structural benchmarks, albeit slower than planned. The IMF said Afghanistan's economy is dependent on the government's commitment to reforms, improved security conditions, and donor support.

In December, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published the *Afghanistan Opium Survey* noting that opium cultivation levels had decreased for the first time since 2009: the area under cultivation decreased 19% to 183,000 hectares from 2014's estimate. However, the UNODC calls for caution when interpreting the results. A change in methodology used to measure cultivation levels may have the effect of making changes more significant. The survey also reported that eradication levels increased 40% to 3,760 hectares over the prior year's results and opium production decreased 40% from the 2014 level to 3,300 tons.

The Afghan government's new counternarcotics strategy, the National Drug Action Plan (NDAP), was presented this quarter at meetings for the UN Partners for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries as well as the Paris Pact Consultative Group. The United States is updating and revising its counternarcotics strategy for Afghanistan to support the goals and objectives outlined in the NDAP.

Domestic drug dependency remains a large and growing problem. Addiction to opiates and heroin remain high and the population dependent on crystal meth has risen significantly in recent years. If not addressed, Afghanistan's rising addiction rates may overwhelm efforts to combat the illicit drug economy. Interdiction results declined again this quarter, a likely outcome of the reduced military coalition presence. Nevertheless, the United States is reducing its support to all drug-treatment centers.

On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, funding the U.S. government for the rest of the fiscal year and increasing cumulative funding for Afghanistan reconstruction to approximately \$113.1 billion. When this report went to press, final FY 2016 allocations for Afghanistan from State and USAID accounts were still being determined. Total FY 2016 funding levels will increase when these amounts are finalized. Of the total cumulative amount appropriated for Afghanistan reconstruction, \$95.7 billion went to the seven major reconstruction funds featured in the Status of Funds subsection of this report. As of December 31, 2015, approximately \$11.5 billion of this amount remained in the pipeline for potential disbursement.

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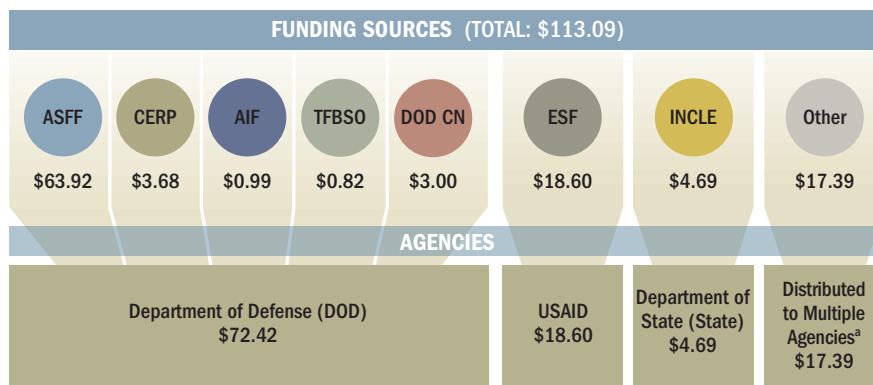
To fulfill SIGAR’s legislative mandate, this section details the status of U.S. funds appropriated, obligated, and disbursed for reconstruction activities in Afghanistan. As of December 31, 2015, the United States had appropriated approximately \$113.09 billion for relief and reconstruction in Afghanistan since FY 2002. This total has been allocated as follows:

- \$68.44 billion for security (\$4.40 billion for counternarcotics initiatives)
- \$31.79 billion for governance and development (\$3.96 billion for counternarcotics initiatives)
- \$2.93 billion for humanitarian aid
- \$9.94 billion for civilian operations

Figure 3.1 shows the major U.S. funds that contribute to these efforts.

FIGURE 3.1

U.S. FUNDS SUPPORTING AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS (\$ BILLIONS)



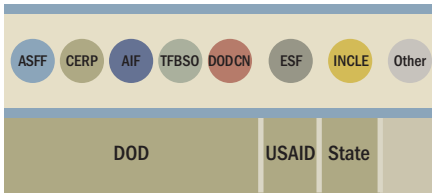
- ASFF:** Afghanistan Security Forces Fund
- CERP:** Commander’s Emergency Response Program
- AIF:** Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund
- TFBSO:** Task Force for Business and Stability Operations
- DOD CN:** DOD Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities
- ESF:** Economic Support Fund
- INCLE:** International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement
- Other:** Other Funding

Note: Numbers have been rounded. Final FY 2016 appropriation amounts for State and USAID were still being determined when this report went to press.

^a Multiple agencies include DOJ, State, DOD, USAID, Treasury, USDA, DEA, Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), and SIGAR.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 12/29/2015, 10/22/2012, 10/14/2009, and 10/1/2009; State, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 1/11/2016, 10/20/2015, 4/15/2015, 4/15/2014, 6/27/2013, 10/5/2012 and 6/27/2012; Treasury, response to SIGAR data call, 7/9/2015; OMB, response to SIGAR data calls, 4/16/2015, 7/14/2014, 7/19/2013 and 1/4/2013; USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/11/2016, 10/15/2010, 1/15/2010, and 10/9/2009; DOJ, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/30/2015 and 7/7/2009; USDA, response to SIGAR data call, 4/2009; DFAS, “AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts December 2015,” 1/16/2016; Pub. L. Nos. 114-113, 113-235, 113-76, 113-6, 112-74, 112-10, 111-212, 111-118.

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The amount provided to the seven major U.S. funds represents more than 84.6% (nearly \$95.71 billion) of total reconstruction assistance in Afghanistan since FY 2002. Of this amount, over 89.5% (more than \$85.66 billion) has been obligated, and nearly 83.4% (over \$79.79 billion) has been disbursed. An estimated \$4.47 billion of the amount appropriated for these funds has expired.

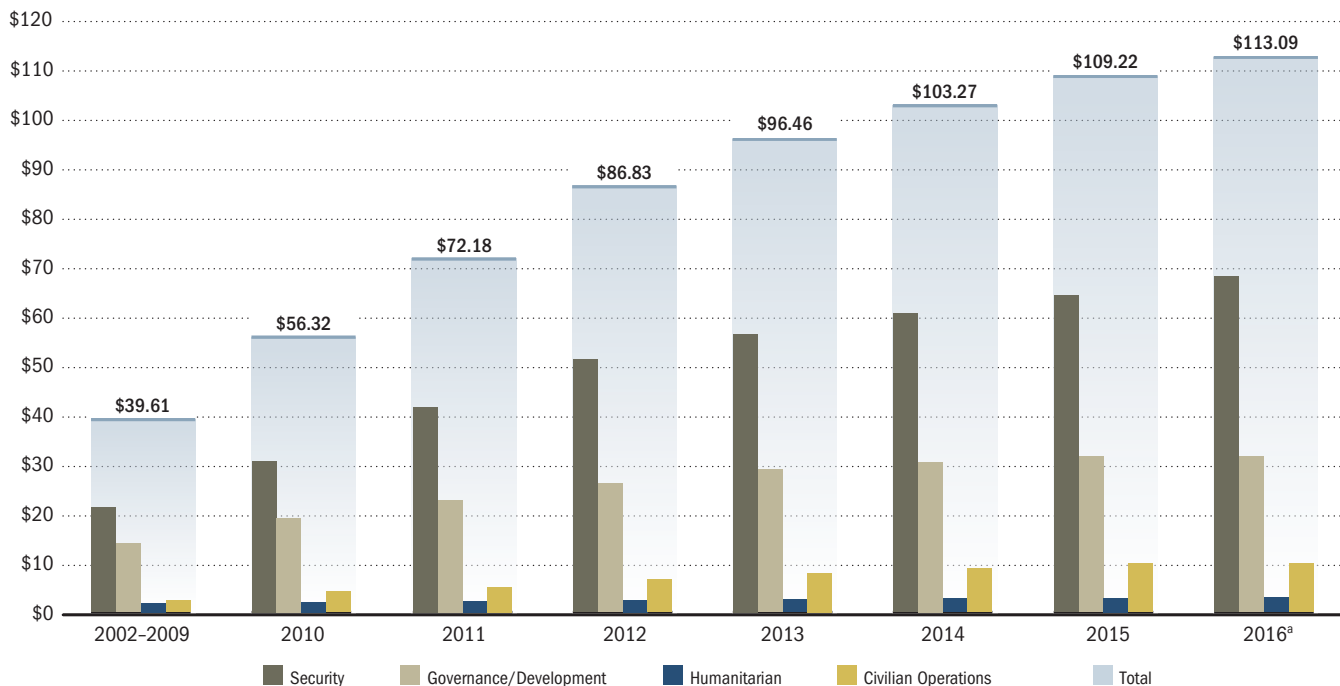
U.S. RECONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR AFGHANISTAN

As of December 31, 2015, cumulative appropriations for relief and reconstruction in Afghanistan totaled approximately \$113.09 billion, as shown in Figure 3.2. This total can be divided into four major categories of reconstruction funding: security, governance and development, humanitarian, and oversight and operations. Approximately \$8.36 billion of these funds support counternarcotics initiatives which crosscut both the security (\$4.40 billion) and governance and development (\$3.96 billion) categories. For complete information regarding U.S. appropriations, see Appendix B.

On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, funding the U.S. government for the rest of the fiscal year. When this report went to press, final FY 2016 appropriation amounts for State and USAID accounts were still being determined. The amount reported as appropriated for FY 2016 will increase from the

FIGURE 3.2

CUMULATIVE APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNDING CATEGORY, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 (\$ BILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. DOD reprogrammed \$1 billion from FY 2011 ASFF, \$1 billion from FY 2012 ASFF, and \$178 million from FY 2013 ASFF to fund other DOD OCO requirements. ASFF data reflects the following rescissions: \$1 billion from FY 2012 in Pub. L. No. 113-6, \$764.38 million from FY 2014 in Pub. L. No. 113-235, and \$400 million from FY 2015 in Pub. L. No. 114-113. DOD transferred \$101 million from FY 2011 AIF, \$179.5 million from FY 2013 AIF, and \$55 million from FY 2014 AIF to the ESF to fund infrastructure projects implemented by USAID.

^a Final FY 2016 appropriation amounts for State and USAID accounts were still being determined when this report went to press.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 12/29/2015, 10/22/2012, 10/14/2009, and 10/1/2009; State, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 1/11/2016, 10/20/2015, 4/15/2015, 4/15/2014, 6/27/2013, 10/5/2012 and 6/27/2012; Treasury, response to SIGAR data call, 7/9/2015; OMB, response to SIGAR data calls, 4/16/2015, 7/14/2014, 7/19/2013 and 1/4/2013; USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/11/2016, 10/15/2010, 1/15/2010, and 10/9/2009; DOJ, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/30/2015 and 7/7/2009; USDA, response to SIGAR data call, 4/2009; DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts December 2015," 1/16/2016; Pub. L. Nos. 114-113, 113-235, 113-76, 113-6, 112-74, 112-10, 111-212, 111-118.

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\$3.87 billion shown in Figure 3.3 when funding levels for these accounts are known.

The United States aims to channel at least 50% of its development assistance on-budget to the Government of Afghanistan.⁵⁶ This assistance is provided either directly to Afghan government entities or via contributions to multilateral trust funds that also support the Afghan government's budget.⁵⁷ Since 2002, the United States has provided more than \$9.88 billion in on-budget assistance. This includes about \$5.57 billion to Afghan government ministries and institutions, and more than \$4.31 billion to three multinational trust funds—the World Bank's Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the United Nations Development Programme's Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA), and the Asian Development Bank's Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF). Table 3.1 shows U.S. on-budget assistance disbursed to the Afghan government and multilateral trust funds.

TABLE 3.1

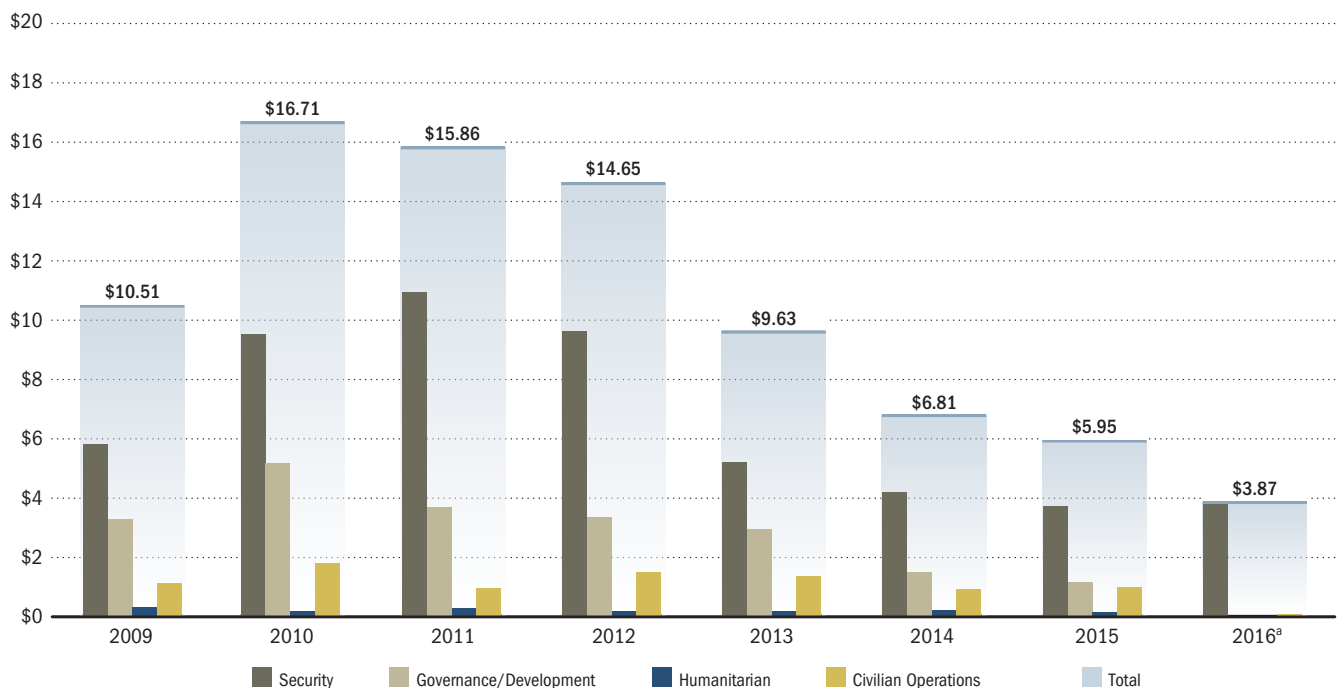
U.S. ON-BUDGET ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN, SINCE 2002 (\$ MILLIONS)	
Government-to-Government	
DOD	\$4,946
State	92
USAID	530
Multilateral Trust Funds	
LOTFA	\$1,527
ARTF	2,681
AITF	105

Note: Numbers have been rounded. Figures reflect amounts the United States has disbursed in on-budget assistance to Afghan government entities and multilateral trust funds. As of December 31, 2015, USAID has obligated approximately \$1.3 billion for government-to-government assistance.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 6/25/2015; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016; World Bank, "ARTF: Administrator's Report on Financial Status as of December 21, 2015 (end of 12th month of FY 1394)," p. 5; UNDP, response to SIGAR data call, 1/19/2016.

FIGURE 3.3

APPROPRIATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR, AMOUNT, AND CATEGORY (\$ BILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. DOD reprogrammed \$1 billion from FY 2011 ASFF, \$1 billion from FY 2012 ASFF, and \$178 million from FY 2013 ASFF to fund other DOD OCO requirements. ASFF data reflects the following rescissions: \$1 billion from FY 2012 in Pub. L. No. 113-6, \$764.38 million from FY 2014 in Pub. L. No. 113-235, and \$400 million from FY 2015 in Pub. L. No. 114-113. DOD transferred \$101 million from FY 2011 AIF, \$179.5 million from FY 2013 AIF, and \$55 million from FY 2014 AIF to the ESF to fund infrastructure projects implemented by USAID.

^a Final FY 2016 appropriation amounts for State and USAID accounts were still being determined when this report went to press.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 12/29/2015, 10/22/2012, 10/14/2009, and 10/1/2009; State, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 1/11/2016, 10/20/2015, 4/15/2015, 4/15/2014, 6/27/2013, 10/5/2012 and 6/27/2012; Treasury, response to SIGAR data call, 7/9/2015; OMB, response to SIGAR data calls, 4/16/2015, 7/14/2014, 7/19/2013 and 1/4/2013; USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/11/2016, 10/15/2010, 1/15/2010, and 10/9/2009; DOJ, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/30/2015 and 7/7/2009; USDA, response to SIGAR data call, 4/2009; DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts December 2015," 1/16/2016; Pub. L. Nos. 114-113, 113-235, 113-76, 113-6, 112-74, 112-10, 111-212, 111-118.

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AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION FUNDING PIPELINE

Since 2002, Congress has appropriated more than \$113.09 billion for Afghanistan relief and reconstruction. Of this amount, \$95.71 billion (84.6%) was appropriated to the seven major reconstruction funds, as shown in Table 3.2.

FIGURE 3.4

CUMULATIVE AMOUNT REMAINING TO BE DISBURSED (\$ BILLIONS)

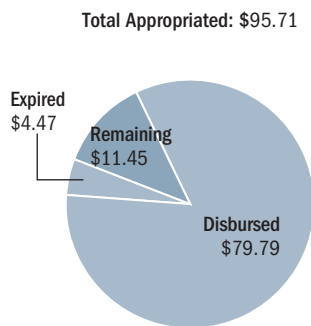


TABLE 3.2

CUMULATIVE AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED, OBLIGATED, AND DISBURSED FY 2002–2016 (\$ BILLIONS)				
	Appropriated	Obligated	Disbursed	Remaining
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF)	\$63.92	\$57.71	\$56.20	\$5.90
Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP)	3.68	2.28	2.27	0.02
Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF)	0.99	0.65	0.48	0.17
Task Force for Business & Stability Operations (TFBSO)	0.82	0.75	0.64	0.12
DOD Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities (DOD CN)	3.00	2.88	2.88	0.11
Economic Support Fund (ESF)	18.60	17.06	13.72	4.17
International Narcotics Control & Law Enforcement (INCLE)	4.69	4.31	3.60	0.95
Total 7 Major Funds	\$95.71	\$85.66	\$79.79	\$11.45
Other Reconstruction Funds	7.45			
Civilian Operations	9.94			
Total	\$113.09			

Note: Numbers have been rounded. Amount remaining reflects the total disbursement potential of the seven major reconstruction funds after deducting approximately \$4.5 billion that expired before being obligated. Obligated and disbursed DOD CN funds reflect amounts transferred to the military services and defense agencies to be spent for Afghanistan. Figures reflect transfers, rescissions, and reprogramming activity to date.

Source: SIGAR, analysis of appropriating legislation and quarterly obligation and disbursement data provided by DOD, State, and USAID, 1/19/2016.

As of December 31, 2015, approximately \$11.45 billion of the amount appropriated to the seven major reconstruction funds remained for possible disbursement, as shown in Figure 3.4. These funds will be used to train, equip, and sustain the ANDSF; complete on-going, large-scale infrastructure projects, such as those funded by the AIF and ESF; combat narcotics production and trafficking; and advance the rule of law, strengthen the justice sector, and promote human rights.

On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, funding the U.S. government for the rest of the fiscal year. The bill provided an additional \$3.65 billion for ASFF, \$141.26 million for DOD CN, and \$5 million for CERP. The amounts allocated to Afghanistan from ESF and INCLE will not be finalized until State completes the 653(a) congressional consultation process. While the AIF

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hasn't received additional funding since FY 2014, the bill allows DOD to obligate up to \$50 million of ASFF funds to complete existing AIF projects.

Congress appropriated nearly \$5.63 billion to the seven major reconstruction funds for FY 2014. Of that amount, more than \$1.29 billion remained for possible disbursement, as of December 31, 2015, as shown in Table 3.3 and Figure 3.5.

TABLE 3.3

FY 2014 AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED, OBLIGATED, AND DISBURSED (\$ MILLIONS)				
	Appropriated	Obligated	Disbursed	Remaining
ASFF	\$3,962.34	\$3,959.86	\$3,702.31	\$257.55
CERP	30.00	6.62	6.44	0.19
AIF	144.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TFBSO	122.24	106.82	84.94	21.88
DOD CN	238.96	238.96	238.96	0.00
ESF	907.00	836.13	11.68	824.45
INCLE	225.00	224.74	33.81	190.93
Total Major Funds	\$5,629.54	\$5,373.12	\$4,078.13	\$1,294.99

Note: Numbers have been rounded. Amount remaining reflects the total disbursement potential of the seven major reconstruction funds after deducting approximately \$256 million that expired before being obligated. Obligated and disbursed DOD CN funds reflect amounts transferred to the military services and defense agencies to be spent for Afghanistan. Figures reflect transfers, rescissions, and reprogramming activity to date.

Source: SIGAR, analysis of appropriating legislation and quarterly obligation and disbursement data provided by DOD, State, and USAID, 1/19/2016.

Congress appropriated more than \$4.80 billion to four of the seven major reconstruction funds for FY 2015. Of that amount, almost \$2.51 billion remained for possible disbursement, as of December 31, 2015, as shown in Table 3.4 and Figure 3.6.

TABLE 3.4

FY 2015 AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED, OBLIGATED, AND DISBURSED (\$ MILLIONS)				
	Appropriated	Obligated	Disbursed	Remaining
ASFF	\$3,709.33	\$2,840.26	\$2,280.14	\$1,429.20
CERP	10.00	3.36	1.18	2.18
ESF	831.90	0.00	0.00	831.90
INCLE	250.00	8.06	6.03	243.97
Total Major Funds	\$4,801.23	\$2,851.69	\$2,287.34	\$2,507.25

Note: Numbers have been rounded. Amount remaining reflects the total disbursement potential of the seven major reconstruction funds after deducting approximately \$7 million that expired before being obligated. Obligated and disbursed DOD CN funds reflect amounts transferred to the military services and defense agencies to be spent for Afghanistan. Figures reflect transfers, rescissions, and reprogramming activity to date.

Source: SIGAR, analysis of appropriating legislation and quarterly obligation and disbursement data provided by DOD, State, and USAID, 1/19/2016.

FIGURE 3.5

FY 2014 AMOUNT REMAINING TO BE DISBURSED (\$ BILLIONS)

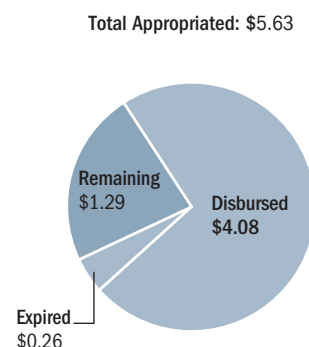
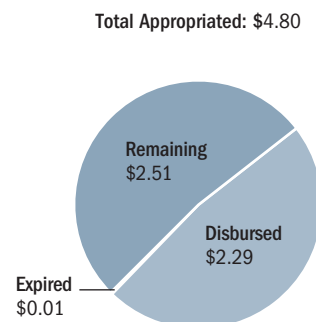
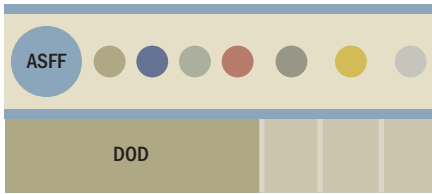


FIGURE 3.6

FY 2015 AMOUNT REMAINING TO BE DISBURSED (\$ BILLIONS)



STATUS OF FUNDS



ASFF FUNDS TERMINOLOGY

DOD reported ASFF funds as appropriated, obligated, or disbursed

Appropriations: Total monies available for commitments

Obligations: Commitments to pay monies

Disbursements: Monies that have been expended

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 4/13/2010.

AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND

The Congress created the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) to provide the ANDSF with equipment, supplies, services, training, and funding, as well as facility and infrastructure repair, renovation, and construction.⁵⁸ The primary organization responsible for building the ANDSF is the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.⁵⁹ A financial and activity plan must be approved by the Afghanistan Resources Oversight Council (AROC) before ASFF funds may be obligated.⁶⁰

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, appropriated more than \$3.65 billion for the ASFF for FY 2016, increasing total cumulative funding to more than \$63.92 billion.⁶¹ As of December 31, 2015, more than \$57.71 billion of total ASFF funding had been obligated, of which nearly \$56.20 billion had been disbursed.⁶² Figure 3.7 displays the amounts made available for the ASFF by fiscal year.

DOD reported that cumulative obligations increased by nearly \$795.71 million over the quarter, and cumulative disbursements increased by more than \$410.31 million.⁶³ Figure 3.8 provides a cumulative comparison of amounts made available, obligated, and disbursed for the ASFF.

FIGURE 3.7

ASFF APPROPRIATED FUNDS BY FISCAL YEAR (\$ BILLIONS)

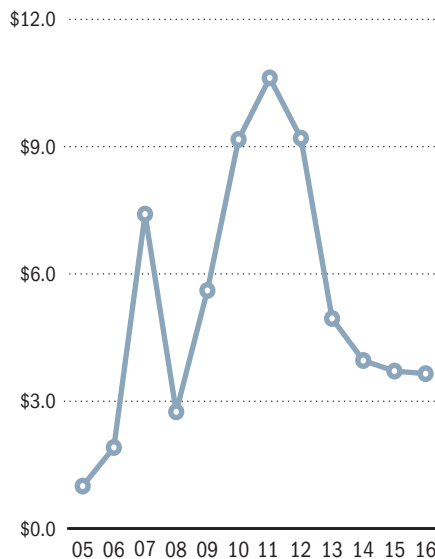
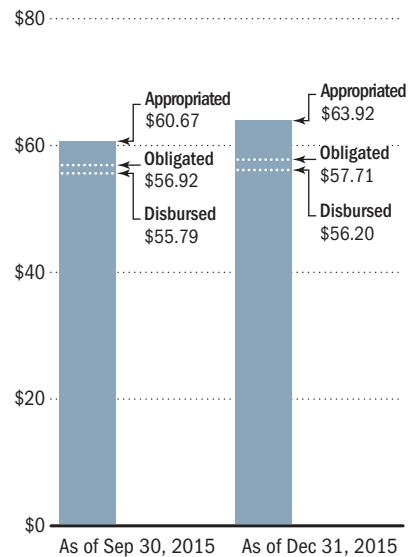


FIGURE 3.8

ASFF FUNDS, CUMULATIVE COMPARISON (\$ BILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. Data reflects reprogramming actions and rescissions. DOD reprogrammed \$1 billion of FY 2011, \$1 billion of FY 2012, and \$178 million of FY 2013 out of the ASFF to fund other DOD requirements. Pub. L. No. 113-6 rescinded \$1 billion from FY 2012. Pub. L. No. 113-235 rescinded \$764.38 million from FY 2014. Pub. L. No. 114-113 rescinded \$400 million from FY 2015.

Source: DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts December 2015," 1/16/2016; DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts September 2015," 10/13/2015; Pub. L. Nos. 114-113, 113-235, 113-76, and 113-6.

STATUS OF FUNDS

ASFF Budget Activities

DOD allocates funds to three budget activity groups within the ASFF:

- Defense Forces (Afghan National Army, ANA)
- Interior Forces (Afghan National Police, ANP)
- Related Activities (primarily Detainee Operations)

Funds for each **budget activity group** are further allocated to four **sub-activity groups**: Infrastructure, Equipment and Transportation, Training and Operations, and Sustainment.⁶⁴ The AROC must approve the requirement and acquisition plan for any service requirements in excess of \$50 million annually and any non-standard equipment requirement in excess of \$100 million.⁶⁵

As of December 31, 2015, DOD had disbursed nearly \$56.20 billion for ANDSF initiatives. Of this amount, more than \$37.59 billion was disbursed for the ANA, and nearly \$18.22 billion was disbursed for the ANP; the remaining \$37.44 billion was directed to related activities.⁶⁶

As shown in Figure 3.9, the largest portion of the funds disbursed for the ANA—nearly \$15.51 billion—supported ANA troop sustainment. Of the funds disbursed for the ANP, the largest portion—nearly \$7.48 billion—also supported sustainment of ANP forces, as shown in Figure 3.10.⁶⁷

Budget Activity Groups: categories within each appropriation or fund account that identify the purposes, projects, or types of activities financed by the appropriation or fund

Subactivity Groups: accounting groups that break down the command's disbursements into functional areas

Source: DOD, *Manual 7110.1-M Department of Defense Budget Guidance Manual*, accessed 9/28/2009; Department of the Navy, *Medical Facility Manager Handbook*, p. 5, accessed 10/2/2009.

FIGURE 3.9

ASFF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE ANA BY SUBACTIVITY GROUP, FY 2005-DEC 31, 2015 (\$ BILLIONS)

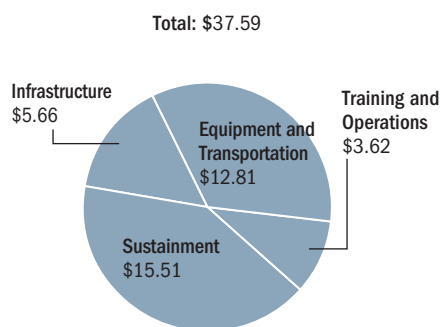
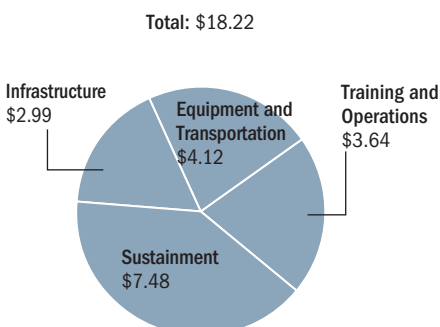


FIGURE 3.10

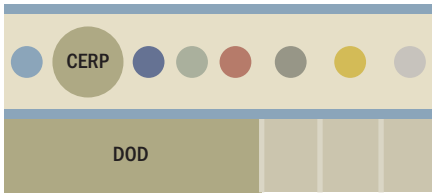
ASFF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE ANP BY SUBACTIVITY GROUP, FY 2005-DEC 31, 2015 (\$ BILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts December 2015," 1/16/2016.

STATUS OF FUNDS



CERP FUNDS TERMINOLOGY

DOD reported CERP funds as appropriated, obligated, or disbursed

Appropriations: Total monies available for commitments

Obligations: Commitments to pay monies

Disbursements: Monies that have been expended

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 4/14/2010.

COMMANDER'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

The Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) enables U.S. commanders in Afghanistan to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements in their areas of responsibility by supporting programs that will immediately assist the local population. Funding under this program is intended for small projects that are estimated to cost less than \$500,000 each.⁶⁸ CERP-funded projects may not exceed \$2 million each.⁶⁹

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, appropriated \$5 million for CERP, increasing total cumulative funding to more than \$3.68 billion.⁷⁰ Of this amount, DOD reported that more than \$2.28 billion had been obligated, of which nearly \$2.27 billion had been disbursed as of December 31, 2015.⁷¹ Figure 3.11 shows CERP appropriations by fiscal year, and Figure 3.12 provides a cumulative comparison of amounts appropriated, obligated, and disbursed for CERP projects.

FIGURE 3.11

CERP APPROPRIATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR
(\$ MILLIONS)

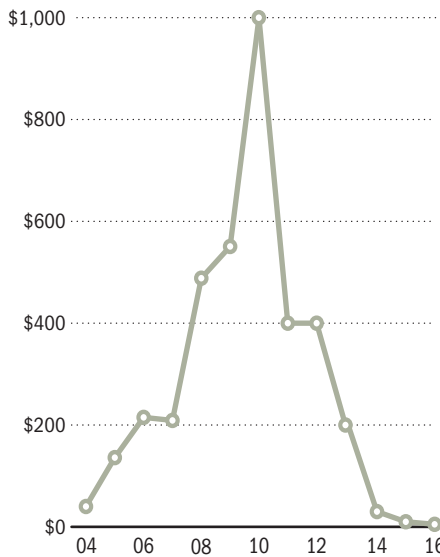
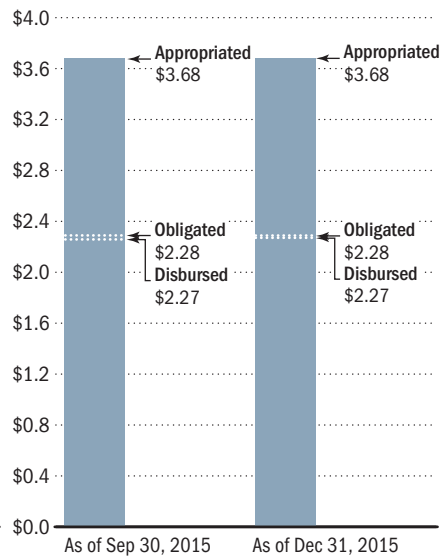


FIGURE 3.12

CERP FUNDS, CUMULATIVE COMPARISON
(\$ BILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. Data may include interagency transfers.

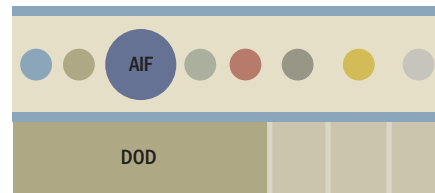
Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/19/2016 and 10/15/2015; OMB, response to SIGAR data call, 1/4/2013; Pub. L. Nos. 114-113, 113-235, 113-76, 113-6, 112-74, 112-10.

AFGHANISTAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was established in FY 2011 to pay for high-priority, large-scale infrastructure projects that support the U.S. civilian-military effort. Congress intended for projects funded by the AIF to be jointly selected and managed by DOD and State. Each AIF-funded project is required to have a plan for its sustainment and a description of how it supports the counter-insurgency strategy in Afghanistan.⁷² The AIF received appropriations from FY 2011 through FY 2014. Although the AIF no longer receives appropriations, many projects remain in progress. DOD may obligate up to \$50 million from FY 2016 ASFF to complete existing AIF projects.⁷³

The AIF received cumulative appropriations of over \$1.32 billion; however, \$335.50 million of these funds were transferred to the Economic Support Fund (ESF) for USAID's power transmission lines projects, bringing the cumulative amount remaining in the AIF to \$988.50 million.⁷⁴ Figure 3.13 shows AIF appropriations by fiscal year. Figure 3.14 shows AIF appropriations by fiscal year.

As of December 31, 2015, nearly \$779.75 million of total AIF funding had been obligated, and nearly \$484.51 million had been disbursed, as shown in Figure 3.14.⁷⁵



AIF FUNDS TERMINOLOGY

DOD reported AIF funds as appropriated, obligated, or disbursed

Appropriations: Total monies available for commitments

Obligations: Commitments to pay monies

Disbursements: Monies that have been expended

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 4/13/2012.

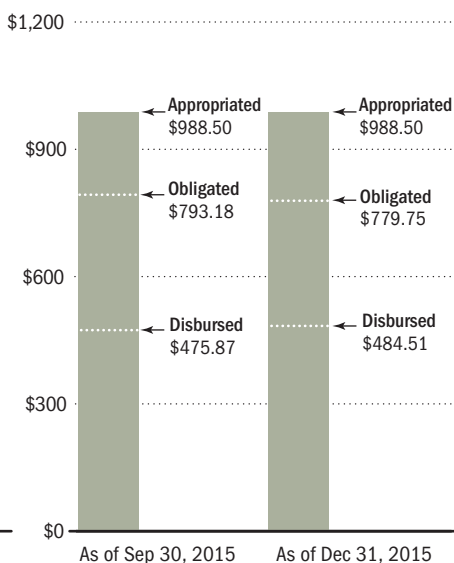
FIGURE 3.13

AIF APPROPRIATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR
(\$ MILLIONS)



FIGURE 3.14

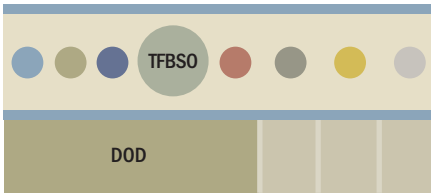
AIF FUNDS, CUMULATIVE COMPARISON
(\$ MILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. Updated data resulted in a lower obligated figure than reported last quarter. Data reflects the following transfers from AIF to USAID's Economic Support Fund: \$101 million for FY 2011, \$179.5 million for FY 2013, and \$55 million for FY 2014.

Source: DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts December 2015," 1/16/2016; DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts September 2015," 10/13/2015; Pub. L. Nos. 113-76, 113-6, 112-74, and 112-10.

STATUS OF FUNDS



TFBSO FUNDS TERMINOLOGY

DOD reported TFBSO funds as appropriated, obligated, or disbursed

Appropriations: Total monies available for commitments

Obligations: Commitments to pay monies

Disbursements: Monies that have been expended

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 4/13/2010.

TASK FORCE FOR BUSINESS AND STABILITY OPERATIONS

In 2010, the Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) began operations in Afghanistan aimed at stabilizing the country and countering economically motivated violence by decreasing unemployment and creating economic opportunities for Afghans. TFBSO authorities expired on December 31, 2014, and the TFBSO concluded its operations on March 31, 2015. TFBSO projects included activities intended to facilitate private investment, industrial development, banking and financial system development, agricultural diversification and revitalization, and energy development.⁷⁶

Through December 31, 2015, the TFBSO had been appropriated more than \$822.85 million since FY 2009. Of this amount, nearly \$754.50 million had been obligated and more than \$638.50 million had been disbursed.⁷⁷ Figure 3.15 displays the amounts appropriated for TFBSO by fiscal year, and Figure 3.16 provides a cumulative comparison of amounts appropriated, obligated, and disbursed for the TFBSO and its projects.

FIGURE 3.15

TFBSO APPROPRIATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR
(\$ MILLIONS)

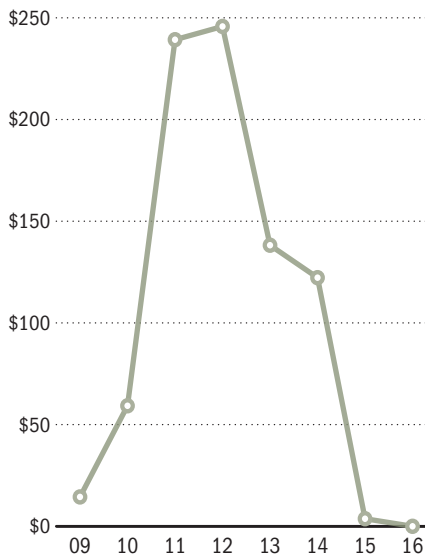
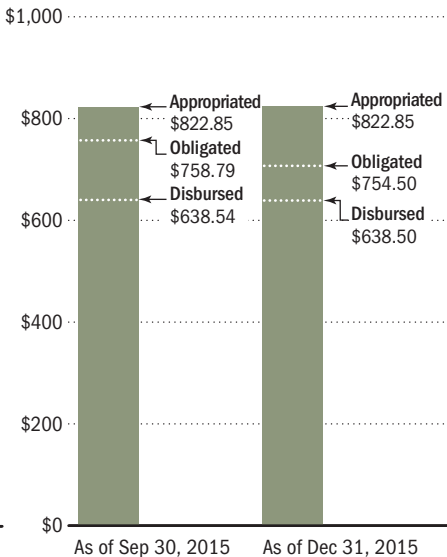


FIGURE 3.16

TFBSO FUNDS, CUMULATIVE COMPARISON
(\$ MILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. Updated data resulted in lower obligated and disbursed figures than reported last quarter. Of the \$822.85 million appropriated for the TFBSO, \$366.05 million was from the Operations and Maintenance, Army, account to pay for the sustainment of U.S. assets, civilian employees, travel, security, and other operational costs; all FY 2015 funding was from this account.

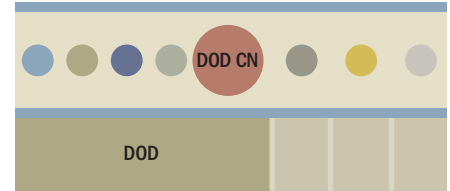
Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 10/16/2015, and 10/4/2011; Pub. L. Nos. 113-76, 113-6, 112-74, 112-10.

DOD DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES

DOD Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities fund (DOD CN) support efforts to stabilize Afghanistan by combating the drug trade and related activities. DOD uses the DOD CN to provide assistance to the counternarcotics effort by supporting military operations against drug traffickers; expanding Afghan interdiction operations; and building the capacity of Afghan law enforcement bodies—including the Afghan Border Police—with specialized training, equipment, and facilities.⁷⁸

DOD CN funds are appropriated by Congress to a single budget line for all military services. DOD reprograms the funds from the Counter-narcotics Central Transfer Account (CTA) to the military services and defense agencies, which track obligations of the transferred funds. DOD reported DOD CN accounts for Afghanistan as a single figure for each fiscal year.⁷⁹

DOD reported that DOD CN received nearly \$141.26 million for Afghanistan for FY 2016, bringing cumulative funding for DOD CN to nearly \$3 billion since FY 2004. Of this amount, more than \$2.88 billion had been transferred to the military services and defense agencies for DOD CN projects, as of December 31, 2015.⁸⁰ Figure 3.17 shows DOD CN appropriations by fiscal year, and Figure 3.18 provides a cumulative comparison of amounts appropriated and transferred from the DOD CN CTA.



DOD CN FUNDS TERMINOLOGY

DOD reported DOD CN funds as appropriated, obligated, or disbursed

Appropriations: Total monies available for commitments

Obligations: Commitments to pay monies

Disbursements: Monies that have been expended

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 4/13/2010.

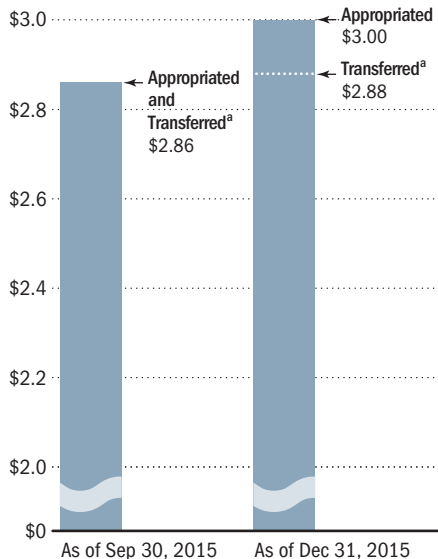
FIGURE 3.17

DOD CN APPROPRIATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR
(\$ MILLIONS)



FIGURE 3.18

DOD CN FUNDS, CUMULATIVE COMPARISON
(\$ BILLIONS)

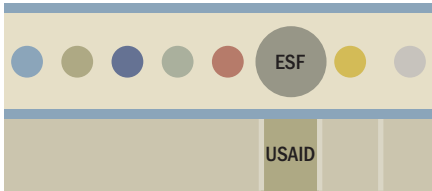


Note: Numbers have been rounded. Prior-year adjustments are done periodically to reflect deobligation and/or realignment of multi-year procurement funding. DOD reprogrammed \$125.13 million out of FY 2015 DOD CN due to several requirements for the Afghanistan Special Mission Wing being funded from the ASFF instead of DOD CN.

^a DOD reprograms all funds to the military services and defense agencies for obligation and disbursement.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/29/2015 and 10/8/2015. OSD Comptroller, 15-23 PA: Omnibus 2015 Prior Approval Request, 6/30/2015, p. 42.

STATUS OF FUNDS



ESF FUNDS TERMINOLOGY

USAID reported ESF funds as appropriated, obligated, or disbursed

Appropriations: Total monies available for commitments

Obligations: Commitments to pay monies

Disbursements: Monies that have been expended

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 4/15/2010.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

Economic Support Fund (ESF) programs advance U.S. interests by helping countries meet short- and long-term political, economic, and security needs. ESF programs support counterterrorism; bolster national economies; and assist in the development of effective, accessible, independent legal systems for a more transparent and accountable government.⁸¹

When this report went to press, final FY 2016 funding levels for the ESF had not been determined. USAID reported that cumulative funding for the ESF amounted to nearly \$18.60 billion, including amounts transferred from AIF to the ESF for USAID’s power transmission lines projects. Of this amount, more than \$17.06 billion had been obligated, of which more than \$13.72 billion had been disbursed.⁸² Figure 3.19 shows ESF appropriations by fiscal year.

USAID reported that cumulative obligations as of December 31, 2015, decreased by \$639,026 and cumulative disbursements increased by nearly \$184.85 million from the amounts reported last quarter.⁸³ Figure 3.20 provides a cumulative comparison of the amounts appropriated, obligated, and disbursed for ESF programs.

FIGURE 3.19

ESF APPROPRIATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR
(\$ BILLIONS)

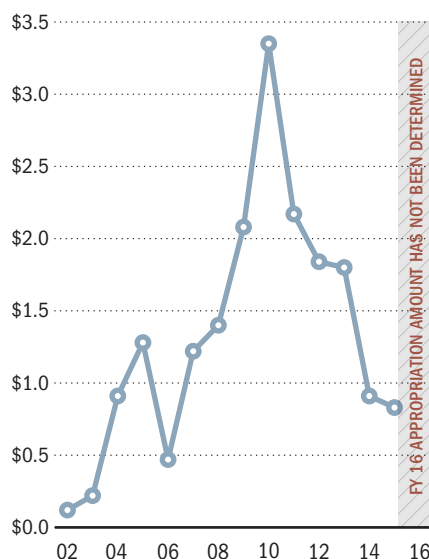
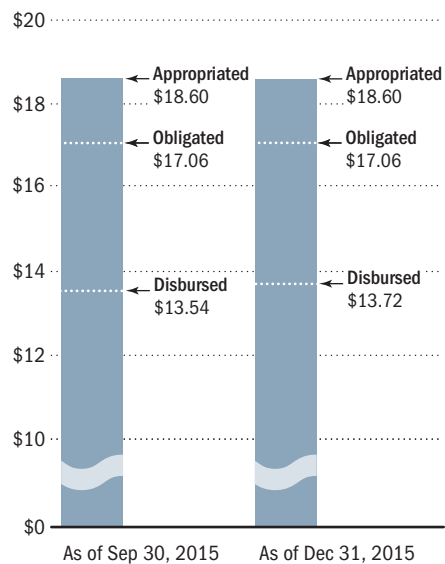


FIGURE 3.20

ESF FUNDS, CUMULATIVE COMPARISON
(\$ BILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. Data reflect the following transfers from AIF to the ESF: \$101 million for FY 2011, \$179.5 million for FY 2013, and \$55 million for FY 2014. FY 2016 ESF appropriation amount will be determined after State completes the 653(a) congressional consultation process.

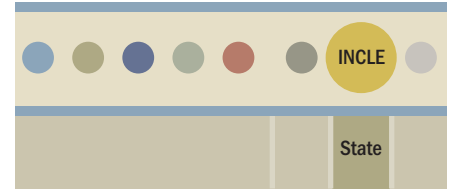
Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/11/2016 and 10/13/2015; State, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 10/20/2015, 4/15/2015, and 4/15/2014.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) manages the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) account which funds projects and programs for advancing rule of law and combating narcotics production and trafficking. INCLE supports several INL program groups, including police, counter-narcotics, and rule of law and justice.⁸⁴

When this report went to press, final FY 2016 funding levels for INCLE had not been determined. State reported that cumulative funding for INCLE amounted to more than \$4.69 billion. Of this amount, more than \$4.31 billion had been obligated, of which, nearly \$3.60 billion had been disbursed.⁸⁵ Figure 3.21 shows INCLE appropriations by fiscal year.

State reported that cumulative obligations as of December 31, 2015, decreased by nearly \$21.54 million compared to cumulative obligations as of September 30, 2015. Cumulative disbursements as of December 31, 2015, increased by nearly \$63.91 million over cumulative disbursements as of September 30, 2015.⁸⁶ Figure 3.22 provides a cumulative comparison of amounts appropriated, obligated, and disbursed for INCLE.



INL FUNDS TERMINOLOGY

INL reported INCLE and other INL funds as appropriated, obligated, or disbursed

Appropriations: Total monies available for commitments

Obligations: Commitments to pay monies

Disbursements: Monies that have been expended

Source: State, response to SIGAR data call, 4/9/2010.

FIGURE 3.21

INCLE APPROPRIATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR
(\$ MILLIONS)

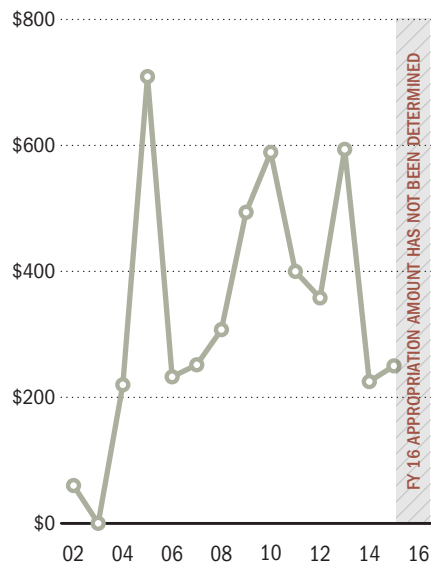
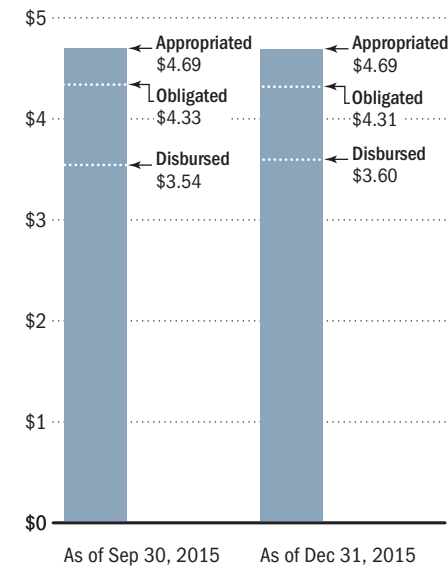


FIGURE 3.22

INCLE FUNDS, CUMULATIVE COMPARISON
(\$ BILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. Data may include interagency transfers. Updated data resulted in a lower obligated figure than reported last quarter. FY 2016 INCLE appropriation amount will be determined after State completes the 653(a) congressional consultation process.

Source: State, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016 and 10/13/2015.

STATUS OF FUNDS

INTERNATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR AFGHANISTAN

In addition to assistance provided by the United States, the international community provides a significant amount of funding to support Afghanistan relief and reconstruction efforts. Most of the international funding provided is administered through trust funds. Contributions provided through trust funds are pooled and then distributed for reconstruction activities. The two main trust funds are the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) and the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA).⁸⁷

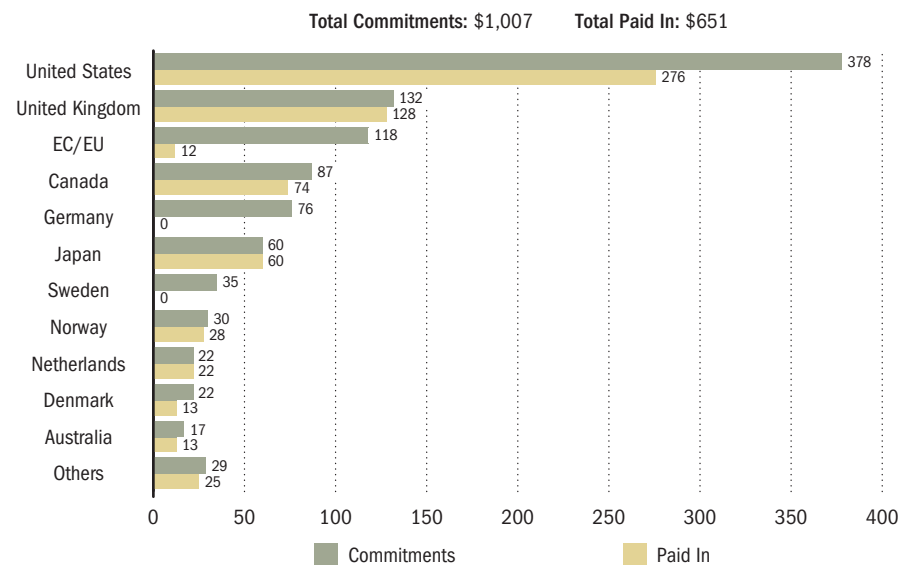
Contributions to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund

The largest share of international contributions to the Afghan operational and development budgets comes through the ARTF. From 2002 to December 21, 2015, the World Bank reported that 34 donors had pledged nearly \$8.94 billion, of which more than \$8.58 billion had been paid in.⁸⁸ According to the World Bank, donors had pledged nearly \$1.01 billion to the ARTF for Afghan fiscal year 1394, which ran from December 22, 2014 to December 21, 2015.⁸⁹ Figure 3.23 shows the 11 largest donors to the ARTF for FY 1394.

As of December 21, 2015, the United States had pledged more than \$2.78 billion and paid in more than \$2.68 billion since 2002.⁹⁰ The United

FIGURE 3.23

ARTF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FY 1394 BY DONOR, AS OF DECEMBER 21, 2015 (\$ MILLIONS)



Note: Numbers have been rounded. FY 1394 = 12/22/2014–12/21/2015.

Source: World Bank, ARTF: Administrator's Report on Financial Status as of December 21, 2015 (end of 12th month of FY1394), p. 1.

STATUS OF FUNDS

States and the United Kingdom are the two biggest donors to the ARTF, together contributing nearly 49% of its total funding, as shown in Figure 3.24.

Contributions to the ARTF are divided into two funding channels—the Recurrent Cost (RC) Window and the Investment Window.⁹¹ As of December 21, 2015, according to the World Bank, more than \$3.73 billion of ARTF funds had been disbursed to the Afghan government through the RC Window to assist with recurrent costs such as salaries of civil servants.⁹² The RC Window supports the operating costs of the Afghan government because the government’s domestic revenues continue to be insufficient to support its recurring costs. To ensure that the RC Window receives adequate funding, donors to the ARTF may not “preference” (earmark) more than half of their annual contributions for desired projects.⁹³

The Investment Window supports the costs of development programs. As of December 21, 2015, according to the World Bank, more than \$4.15 billion had been committed for projects funded through the Investment Window, of which nearly \$3.26 billion had been disbursed. The World Bank reported 21 active projects with a combined commitment value of nearly \$2.82 billion, of which more than \$1.92 billion had been disbursed.⁹⁴

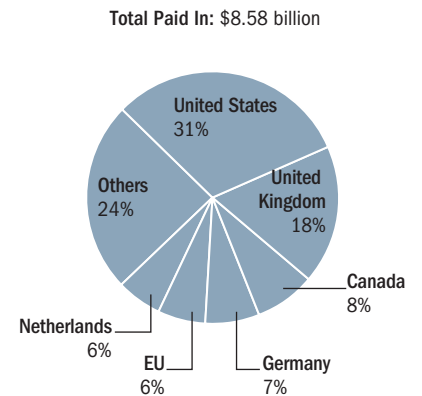
Contributions to the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) administers the LOTFA to pay ANP salaries and build the capacity of the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOIA).⁹⁵ Since 2002, donors have pledged nearly \$4.53 billion to the LOTFA, of which nearly \$4.17 billion had been paid in, as of December 31, 2015. UNDP reported that the United States had committed more than \$1.64 billion since the fund’s inception and had paid in nearly \$1.53 billion of the commitment.⁹⁶ Figure 3.25 shows the four largest donors to the LOTFA since 2002. From January 1, 2015, through September 30, 2015, UNDP had transferred AFN 20.74 billion—approximately \$348.45 million—to the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to pay for ANP and Central Prisons Directorate (CPD) staff.⁹⁷

The LOTFA’s eighth phase began on July 1, 2015. The phase has an initial estimated budget of \$883.56 million and is planned to run through December 31, 2016. The Phase VIII budget is divided between two individual projects. Over \$850.56 million is for the Support to Payroll Management (SPM) project, which aims to develop the capacity of the Afghan government to independently manage all nonfiduciary aspects of its pay budget for the ANP and CPD staff by December 31, 2016. While capacity building is an important aspect of the project, most SPM project funding—nearly \$842.44 million—will be transferred from the UNDP Country Office to the MOF for ANP and CPD staff remunerations.⁹⁸ The MOIA and Police Development (MPD) project is budgeted the remaining \$33 million. The MPD project focuses on institutional development of the MOIA and police professionalization of the ANP.⁹⁹

FIGURE 3.24

ARTF CONTRIBUTIONS PAID IN BY DONORS, 2002–DECEMBER 21, 2015

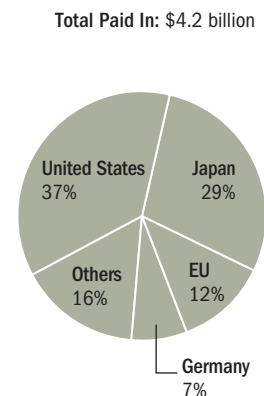


Note: Numbers have been rounded. EU = European Union. "Others" includes 28 donors.

Source: World Bank, *ARTF: Administrator's Report on Financial Status as of December 21, 2015 (end of 12th month of FY1394)*, p. 5.

FIGURE 3.25

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOTFA SINCE 2002, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015



Note: Numbers have been rounded. EU = European Union. "Others" includes 24 donors.

Source: UNDP, response to SIGAR data call, 1/19/2016.

SECURITY CONTENTS

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SECURITY

As of December 31, 2015, the U.S. Congress had appropriated more than \$68.4 billion to assist the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). This accounts for 61% of all U.S. reconstruction funding in Afghanistan since FY 2002. Congress established the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) to build, equip, train, and sustain the ANDSF, which comprises all security forces under the Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the Ministry of Interior (MOI). Most U.S.-provided funds were channeled through the ASFF and obligated by either the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) or the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. Of the \$63.9 billion appropriated for the ASFF, \$57.7 billion had been obligated and \$56.2 billion disbursed.¹⁰⁰

This section discusses assessments of the Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan National Police (ANP), and the Ministries of Defense and Interior; gives an overview of how U.S. funds are used to build, equip, train, and sustain the Afghan security forces; and provides an update on efforts to combat the cultivation of and commerce in illicit narcotics in Afghanistan.

KEY ISSUES AND EVENTS THIS QUARTER

State Department Designates ISIL-Khorasan as a Foreign Terrorist Organization

On January 14, 2016, the U.S. State Department (State) announced the designation of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K) as a foreign terrorist organization under U.S. law. The designation includes a prohibition against knowingly providing, or attempting or conspiring to provide, material support or resources to this organization.¹⁰¹ Sanctions include denying the group access to U.S. financial systems.¹⁰²

ISIL-K announced its formation on January 10, 2015. The group is based in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region and is composed primarily of former Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan and Afghan Taliban members.

The White House has granted the Pentagon legal authority to target the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Afghanistan, according to a January 19, 2016, article in the *Wall Street Journal*. Under Operation Freedom's Sentinel, military action by U.S. forces in Afghanistan was limited to targeting al-Qaeda. This is the first authorization given for military action against ISIL outside Iraq and Syria.

Source: *Wall Street Journal*, "U.S. Clears Path to Target Islamic State in Afghanistan," 1/19/2016.

UN Reports Afghanistan Continues to Face Formidable Security Challenges

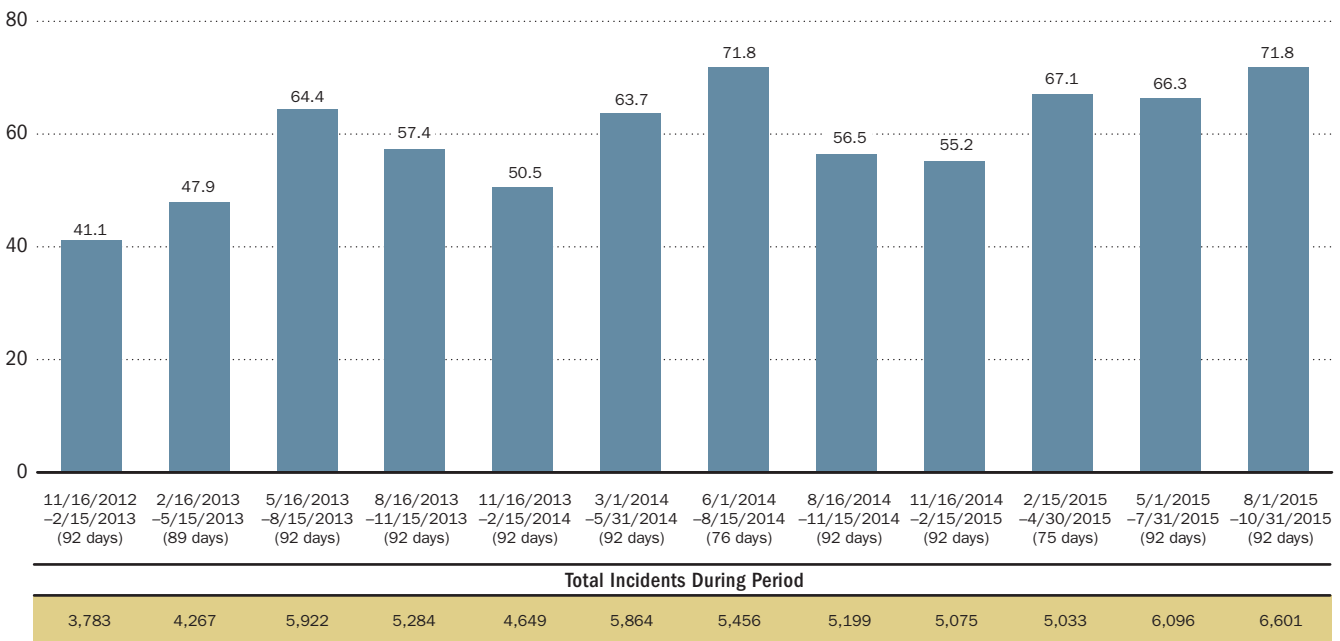
According to the latest report of the UN Secretary-General, security developments combined with slow economic growth, growing political pressures, and expressions of public discontent underlined the challenges faced by the Afghan government and security forces in maintaining stability.¹⁰³

The UN reported the overall level of security incidents increased and intensified from August 2015 through the end of October, with 6,601 incidents as compared to 5,516 incidents (19% increase) during the same period in 2014.¹⁰⁴ The 6,601 security incidents reported were the most since SIGAR began reporting in November 2012, and the average daily number of incidents that occurred equaled the number in the summer of 2014, as reflected in Figure 3.26.

The Taliban temporarily seized Kunduz City, a provincial capital, as well as 16 district centers, primarily across the north during the period.¹⁰⁵ While the ANDSF were able to regain control of Kunduz City and 13 of the district centers, the UN reports approximately 25% of districts remained contested throughout the country at the end of October.¹⁰⁶

FIGURE 3.26

AVERAGE NUMBER OF REPORTED SECURITY INCIDENTS PER DAY



Source: UN, reports of the Secretary-General, *The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for International peace and security*, 12/10/2015, p. 5; 9/1/2015, p. 4; 6/10/2015, p. 4; 2/27/2015, p. 4; 12/9/2014, p. 5; 9/9/2014, p. 6; 6/18/2014, p. 5; 3/7/2014, p. 5; 12/6/2013, p. 6; 9/6/2013, p.6; 6/13/2013, p. 5; and 3/5/2013, p. 5.

While the majority (62%) of security incidents were in the south, south-east, and east, the UN reported a notable intensification in the north and northeast with Sar-e Pul, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kunduz, and Takhar provinces being the most volatile.¹⁰⁷ The UN reported the presence of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), particularly in Nangarhar Province, and of unconfirmed reports of clashes between ISIL affiliates and the Taliban.¹⁰⁸

The UN reported armed clashes and incidents involving improvised-explosive devices continued to account for the majority (68%) of the security incidents, a 20% increase over the same period in 2014.¹⁰⁹ Among the incidents, 22 involved suicide attacks and 447 involved assassinations and abductions.¹¹⁰ Seventy-four incidents involving attacks against humanitarian personnel, assets, and facilities were registered with the UN and resulted in 21 humanitarian workers killed and 48 injured. The U.S. forces' mistaken attack on the Doctors Without Borders hospital was the deadliest, killing at least 30 persons and injuring at least 37.¹¹¹

Between August 1 and October 31, 2015, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan documented 3,693 civilian casualties (1,138 persons killed and 2,555 injured), a 26% increase over the same period in 2014.¹¹² Between January and September 2015, some 235,000 individuals were displaced, excluding the 17,000 families temporarily displaced during the Kunduz crisis, an increase of nearly 70% compared to the same period in 2014. The UN believes 2015 may have been the worst year for conflict-induced displacement in Afghanistan since 2002.¹¹³

The UN reported the breakdown in the rule of law in Kunduz during the insurgent attack. Their occupation created an environment in which arbitrary killings, violence, and criminality occurred with impunity. The fear of violence was a key factor in the mass displacement of women from Kunduz City and the temporary suspension of services protecting women in several adjacent provinces.¹¹⁴ Attacks on schools decreased from 41 in the prior period to 22. The offensive in Kunduz led to the temporary closure of all 497 schools. In addition, the UN reported the forced closure of six schools in Nangarhar and the departure of education personnel after receiving threats and intimidation.¹¹⁵

Due to the increased risks posed by the conflict, particularly in urban areas, the UN and other civilian actors curtailed program activities and temporarily relocated staff from Kunduz, Baghlan, Badakhshan, and Faryab Provinces.¹¹⁶

Calling the ANDSF a good investment to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a terrorist safe haven with an international reach, the Secretary-General and the NATO foreign ministers recommitted support for the ANDSF at a meeting in Brussels on December 1, 2015.¹¹⁷ The Coalition will maintain its 12,000 force strength in Afghanistan through 2016 and continue to finance the current ANDSF authorized force level of 352,000 members through 2017.¹¹⁸ The Department of Defense (DOD) will also continue to

“When you go from 100,000 troops down to about 10,000, there should be no surprise that there’s a consequence in the security situation.”

—Andrew Wilder, *U.S. Institute of Peace*

Source: *Foreign Policy*, “Mapped: The Taliban Surged in 2015, but ISIS Is Moving In on Its Turf,” 1/4/2016.

provide funding for the authorized force level of 30,000 Afghan Local Police (ALP) during this period.¹¹⁹ A campaign to finance the ANDSF from 2018 through 2020 will be addressed at a NATO summit in July.¹²⁰

Results of the U.S. Investigation into the Air Strike

DOD reported in December 2015 that the October 3, 2015, air strike on a Doctors Without Borders trauma center in the northern city of Kunduz resulted in the death of 30 staff and patients and injury of 37 others.¹²¹ Since then, Doctors Without Borders has informed DOD that the number of victims was significantly higher. DOD continues to work with Doctors Without Borders to identify all those affected by this tragedy and to offer appropriate condolences and compensation using the Commanders Emergency Response Program (CERP) authority.¹²² General John Campbell, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said a U.S. investigation determined that the proximate cause of the incident was avoidable human error compounded by process and equipment failure. Fatigue and high operational tempo, together with system and process failures, also contributed to the incident. These included:

- Loss of electronic communication systems on the aircraft
- The nature of the planning and approval process employed during operations
- The lack of a single system to vet proposed targets against a no-strike list¹²³

The investigation also produced specific recommendations to enable U.S. forces to avoid repeating such mistakes.¹²⁴ General Campbell announced some U.S. personnel were suspended and could face disciplinary action as a result of the incident.¹²⁵

However, the results of the investigation were not made public and Doctors Without Borders said its own investigation found that at least 42 people had been killed in the strike. Doctors Without Borders has demanded that an international investigation of the incident take place under the Geneva Conventions.¹²⁶ The UN reported an Afghan delegation submitted a report on the factors that led to the fall of Kunduz to the Afghan National Security Council, although the findings were not released publicly.¹²⁷ U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) reported that the delegation presented their findings to the President of Afghanistan and that a declassified version of the 200-page report, with accompanying 1,800 pages of supporting documents, is expected to be released in the next few months.¹²⁸ USFOR-A said the Resolute Support (RS) mission did not conduct a comprehensive review separate from that conducted by the Afghan government.¹²⁹

U.S. FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

According to DOD, approximately 8,950 U.S. forces were serving in Afghanistan as of December 30, 2015, along with approximately 6,650

INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's stability largely depends on whether the ANDSF can maintain security gains won through U.S. and Coalition military assistance over the last several years. This quarter saw a worrisome upsurge in insurgent activity.

In late December 2015, the deputy governor of Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan publicly rebuked President Ashraf Ghani in a Facebook post, claiming that he was unable to contact the president and that without immediate assistance Taliban fighters were positioned to take control of the province. British forces were rushed to assist the ANA in the crucial district of Sangin, which the Taliban seemed close to taking over.¹³⁰ In January, U.S. air support helped clear a town in Helmand of insurgents; one U.S. Special Forces soldier died in the battle.¹³¹

On December 21, 2015, roughly 30 miles north of Kabul, outside of Bagram Air Base, six U.S. Air Force personnel were killed in the most deadly attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan since 2012. Approximately two weeks after that, a bomb containing an estimated 3,000 pounds of explosives was detonated in the Afghan capital near the U.S. Embassy compound, killing two and wounding dozens more. The Taliban took credit for both attacks.¹³²

With the Taliban stepping up attacks long after the typical fighting season, other groups, such as al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS)—a relatively new offshoot of al-Qaeda that operates primarily in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India—and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan Province (ISIL-K) expanded their presence. In late October, Army General John Campbell disclosed a multi-day operation in Kandahar Province that involved 200 Special Operations forces and targeted what was “probably the largest” al-Qaeda training camp ever found in Afghanistan, a sprawling complex that covered over 30 square miles. On January 8, 2016, a provincial council official warned the ISIL-K presence in five Nangarhar districts may lead to the provincial takeover if the insurgents are not stopped. That same day, a drone

strike reportedly killed 15 ISIL-K members in the Achin District of Nangarhar.¹³³

USFOR-A reports that approximately 71.7% of the country's districts are under Afghan government control or influence as of November 27, 2015. Of the 407 districts within the 34 provinces, 292 districts are under government control or influence, 27 districts (6.6%) within 11 provinces are under insurgent control or influence, and 88 districts (21.6%) are at risk.¹³⁴ In a report issued in December, DOD stated that the security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated. There are more effective insurgent attacks and more ANDSF and Taliban casualties. However, DOD remains optimistic that the ANDSF continues to improve its overall capability as the capabilities of the insurgent elements remain static.¹³⁵

The insurgency in Afghanistan has achieved some success this past year by modifying its tactics. The most notable example is the Taliban's brief capture of Kunduz in September. The insurgency is spreading the ANDSF thin, threatening rural districts in one area while carrying out ambitious attacks in more populated centers. The ANDSF has become reactive rather than proactive, DOD has reported.¹³⁶

While DOD remains outwardly confident its mission to train, advise, and assist will build the ANDSF's capacity, lawmakers in Afghanistan's *Wolesi Jirga* (lower house) are growing concerned. Recently they summoned high-ranking officials within the ANDSF and National Directorate of Security (NDS) to answer questions about the spate of high-profile threats.¹³⁷

RS Commander General Campbell told *USA Today* he is reassessing the situation. In an interview this past December, General Campbell said, “My job as commander on the ground is to continually make assessments. ... If I don't believe that we can accomplish the train, advise and assist and the [counterterrorism] missions, then I owe it to the senior leadership to come back and say, ‘Here's what I need.’ If that's more people, it's more people.”¹³⁸



Secretary Ashton Carter and acting Afghan Defense Minister Masoom Stanekzai during a press conference at Forward Operating Base Fenty in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on December 18, 2015. (DVIDS photo by Staff Sergeant Tony Coronado)

“They are forward deployed with Afghan commando units and they are very much in the thick of these fights. (U.S.) Special operations forces are going to be in the thick of this coming battle whether we want to talk about that or not.”

—Lieutenant General David W. Barno, U.S. Army, Retired

Source: Tolo News, “U.S. Forces Increasingly Drawn Back into Afghanistan’s Battles,” 1/9/2016.

personnel from other Coalition nations. The U.S. force level includes approximately 6,800 military personnel contributing to the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.¹³⁹

Since the RS mission began on January 1, 2015, through January 5, 2016, 11 U.S. military personnel were killed in action, in addition to 10 non-hostile deaths, for a total of 21 U.S. military deaths. During this period, 79 U.S. military personnel were wounded in action.¹⁴⁰ These numbers include the six U.S. service members killed and two wounded in a suicide attack near Bagram Airfield on December 21, 2015, and the loss of one U.S. service member and wounding of two others in an operation in Helmand Province on January 5, 2016.¹⁴¹ The attack near Bagram Airfield was reported as the deadliest on Coalition troops in four months.¹⁴² Seven U.S. civilians or contractors were killed in action, in addition to nine non-hostile deaths, for a total of 16 DOD, U.S. civilian, or contractor deaths. Eight DOD, U.S. civilian, or contractors were wounded in action during this period.¹⁴³

Four insider attacks against U.S. forces occurred from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, killing three and wounding 15 soldiers.¹⁴⁴ A fifth attack resulted in the death of one U.S. contractor.¹⁴⁵

This quarter, there were several reports of U.S. Special Forces fighting alongside Afghan security forces. While the United States has two non-combat missions—training Afghan forces and supporting counterterrorism operations against the remnants of al-Qaeda—U.S. forces are also being drawn into fighting the Taliban.¹⁴⁶ The Helmand Province operation in January was not the first time U.S. forces partnered with Afghans in fighting the Taliban. During the Kunduz siege in October, General Campbell reported U.S. forces engaged in heavy fighting for five consecutive days and nights.¹⁴⁷

ESSENTIAL FUNCTION TRAIN, ADVISE, AND ASSIST HIGHLIGHTS

Key areas of the RS mission are organized under eight Essential Functions (EF). This quarter’s EF highlights include the following:

- **EF-1 (Multi-Year Budgeting and Execution):** Both the MOD and MOI demonstrated significant progress in identifying unexecuted funds and proposing how to use the funds. Significant challenges exist in procurement and output remains slow. RS created a plan to improve contract execution by setting a deadline for prioritizing procurement plans before the FY 1395 procurement approval board convenes.¹⁴⁸
- **EF-2 (Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight):** The MOI and MOD demonstrated progress in directing senior leaders to take active roles in countering corruption and mismanagement. MOI and MOD inspectors general (IGs) showed improvement on conducting inspections. The MOI IG referred corruption cases to the Attorney General’s Office for criminal investigation and the MOD IG’s inspection

of the Central Supply Depot revealed significant issues with inventory accuracy and a lack of qualified staff.¹⁴⁹

- **EF-3 (Civilian Governance of Afghan Security Institutions):** EF-3 is focused on providing training, advice, and assistance to the MOD and MOI on developing processes to prevent, track, investigate, and prosecute gross violations of human rights and significant acts of corruption. RS arranged for the U.S. Defense Institute of International Legal Studies to provide training on the law of armed conflict, human rights, investigations, and fighting corruption during a five-day workshop in November. The ANA is using an Afghan mobile-training team to train ANA corps personnel.¹⁵⁰
- **EF-4 (Force Generation):** The RS Police Institutional Advisory Team's work with the MOI Training General Command resulted in a plan to train 22,300 ANP and new recruits by June 2016. RS also developed training materials and instructions for transitioning Afghan security personnel from the Soviet-design AK-47 rifle to the U.S. M-16 rifle.¹⁵¹
- **EF-5 (Sustainment):** RS focused on right-sizing the ANDSF's vehicle fleets to improve sustainability, effectiveness, and affordability by December 2016. RS is also working on procedures to integrate the Afghans into the long-term planning processes for spending ASFF funds and using DOD's foreign military sales program as well as establishing relationships between U.S. commodity program managers and their MOD and MOI counterparts.¹⁵²
- **EF-6 (Strategy and Policy, Planning, Resourcing, and Execution):** This function has two components. For EF-6.1, RS works at the ministerial level.¹⁵³ RS partnered with Afghans to develop documents that inform subordinate planners on strategic focus, threats, and resources. The MOI Strategic Planning Directive was signed by the Minister in October and the MOD Minister signed the National Military Strategy in December.¹⁵⁴ For EF-6.2, RS works from the ministerial level through operational- and tactical-level execution. RS established 24-hour advisor support to the National Military Command Center, and the Joint Intelligence Operation Center opened a facility in Kabul.¹⁵⁵
- **EF-7 (Intelligence):** Afghan intelligence planning and analytic support to multi-pillar, multi-corps ANDSF operations has continued to improve through the creation of intelligence fusion cells. RS transitioned training on conducting credibility assessments based on portable lie-detection tests and on using cellular-exploitation machines that analyze portable electronic devices, to the MOD and MOI in October. RS also made progress on transitioning other training programs at the ministries' Intelligence Training Centers to Afghan instructors.¹⁵⁶
- **EF-8 (Strategic Communications):** RS assisted President Ghani's communication directorate in establishing a crisis communications/rapid response protocol, which was later implemented. The MOI

Members of Congress Ask SIGAR to Investigate Sexual Abuse

A bipartisan, bicameral group led by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Thomas J. Rooney (R-FL) and 91 additional members of Congress in December asked SIGAR to conduct an inquiry into the U.S. government's experience with allegations of sexual abuse of children committed by members of the Afghan security forces.

The inquiry will also look into the manner in which the Leahy amendment prohibiting DOD and the State Department from providing assistance to units of foreign security forces that have committed gross violations of human rights is implemented in Afghanistan. See Section 2, p. 40, of this report for more information.

At the Program Management Review (PMR) session held October 26–30, 2015, in Arlington, Virginia, U.S. and Afghan officials discussed ANDSF requirements and capabilities as well as priorities to address program challenges for equipping and arming Afghan forces. The PMR resulted in an Afghan commitment to assume more responsibility for logistics, life-cycle sustainment processes, and the overall health of its vehicle fleet. Participants recognized the importance of ensuring the ANDSF requirements are affordable and sustainable. Officials also discussed the Afghan ability to use the U.S. foreign military sales process effectively.

Source: CSTC-A, response to SIGAR data call, 12/4/2015; OSD-Policy, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/15/2016.

communications directorate executed all fiscal year (FY) 1394 budget requirements and, for the first time, met the FY 1395 requirements submission date.¹⁵⁷

- **Gender Office:** Three women were selected for the ANP rank of brigadier general and 389 ANP women graduated from a Turkish police academy.¹⁵⁸

ANDSF STRENGTH PULLED DOWN BY ANP DECREASES

This quarter, ANDSF assigned force strength was 322,638 (including civilians), according to USFOR-A.¹⁵⁹ As reflected in Table 3.5, this is 89.6% of the ANDSF target force strength of 360,004, counting MOD civilian employees. (The commonly cited end-strength goal of 352,000 does not count MOD civilians.) The new assigned-strength number reflects a decrease of 2,078 since July 2015 and 9,306 since May 2015.¹⁶⁰

The ANP bore the brunt of the decrease this quarter with a loss of 2,270 personnel, while the ANA posted an increase of 192 personnel, as shown in Table 3.6.¹⁶¹

However, a January Associated Press report alleged that the actual number of ANDSF security forces is far less because the rolls are filled with nonexistent “ghost” soldiers and police officers. In that report, a provincial council member estimated 40% of the security forces in Helmand do not exist, while a former provincial deputy police chief said the actual number was “nowhere near” the 31,000 police on the registers, and an Afghan official estimated the total ANDSF number at around 120,000—less than half the reported 322,638.¹⁶² The success of military operations is at risk, because as one Afghan soldier in Helmand said, they do not have enough men to protect themselves. Additionally, an Afghan lawmaker claimed the government is not responding to the crisis because a number of allegedly corrupt parliamentarians are benefiting from the “ghost” security forces salaries.¹⁶³

TABLE 3.5

ANDSF ASSIGNED FORCE STRENGTH, OCTOBER 2015						
ANDSF Component	Approved End-Strength Goal	Target Date	Current Assigned as of October 2015	% of Target Authorization	Difference Between Current Assigned and Approved End-Strength Goals	Difference (%)
ANA including AAF ^a	195,000	December 2014	169,718	87.0%	(25,282)	(13.0%)
ANA Civilians including AAF Civilians	8,004	-	6,894	86.1%	(1,110)	(13.9%)
ANA + AAF Total	203,004		176,612	87.0%	(26,392)	(13.0%)
Afghan National Police	157,000	February 2013	146,026	93.0%	(10,974)	(7.0%)
ANDSF Total with Civilians	360,004		322,638	89.6%	(37,366)	(10.4%)

Note: AAF = Afghan Air Force; ANA = Afghan National Army; ANDSF = Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces.

^a The total “ANA including AAF” numbers for October 2015 is not fully supported by the detailed numbers in the USFOR-A response to SIGAR data call; Trainee, Transient, Holdee, and Students (TTHS) may represent all or part of the unreconciled portion.

Source: DOD, *Report on Progress Toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, 12/2012, p. 56; USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data call, 12/14/2015.

TABLE 3.6

ANDSF ASSIGNED FORCE STRENGTH, FEBRUARY 2014–OCTOBER 2015								
	2/2014	5/2014	8/2014	11/2014	2/2015	5/2015	7/2015	10/2015
ANA including AAF ^a	184,839	177,489	171,601	169,203	174,120	176,762	176,420	176,612
ANP ^b	153,269	152,123	153,317	156,439	154,685	155,182	148,296	146,026
Total ANDSF	338,108	329,612	324,918	325,642	328,805	331,944	324,716	322,638

Note: ANDSF = Afghan National Defense and Security Forces; ANA = Afghan National Army; AAF = Afghan Air Force; ANP = Afghan National Police. ANA and AAF numbers include civilians; available data for ANP do not indicate whether civilians are included.

^a The total “ANA including AAF” numbers for July 2015 and October 2015 are not fully supported by the detailed numbers in the USFOR-A response to SIGAR data call; Trainee, Transient, Holdee, and Students (TTHS) may represent all or part of the unreconciled portion.

^b Reported November 2014 ANP number appears to double-count some Afghan Uniformed Police; actual number may be 151,272.

Source: CSTC-A response to SIGAR data calls, 3/31/2014, 7/1/2014, and 10/6/2014; RS, response to SIGAR request for clarification, 3/14/2015; USFOR-A, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/10/2015 and 7/12/2015; USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/28/2014, 3/24/2015, 6/29/2015, 9/11/2015, and 12/14/2015.

SIGAR has questioned the validity and reliability of Afghan security-personnel numbers (see “Questionable ANSF Numbers Thicken Fog of War in Afghanistan” in SIGAR’s April 2015 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, pages 3–15). The Associated Press report underscores long-standing concerns that the reported ANDSF personnel numbers are not valid or reliable.

This quarter, details of ANDSF force strength at corps level and below remained classified. SIGAR will report on them in a classified annex to this report.

ANDSF attrition rates are holding steady, according to reports provided to RS by the MOD and MOI. The ANA had a monthly attrition rate of 3.0% in October 2015, up from the 2.4% rate in July 2015. The October rate is, however, below the average monthly attrition rates of 3.52% in February 2013 and 3.62% in February 2014.¹⁶⁴

The ANP’s monthly average attrition rate was reported to have increased to a 2.5% rate in October from the 1.9% rate of May through July.¹⁶⁵

DOD reports the total cost to sustain the ANDSF at an end-strength of 352,000 in FY 2016 is approximately \$5 billion, for which the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act appropriated \$3.65 billion to DOD for that purpose.¹⁶⁶

ANDSF ASSESSMENT

USFOR-A reports that U.S. advisors participating in the RS train, advise, and assist mission have little or no direct contact with ANDSF units below the ANA corps and ANP zone headquarters level.¹⁶⁷ This situation contrasts dramatically from the previous International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission, when many Coalition advisors were embedded with ANDSF units. Now the smaller troop strength of the RS mission requires Coalition advisors to rely almost exclusively on data provided by the Afghan ministries to evaluate the operational readiness and effectiveness of the ANDSF. The

consistency, comprehensiveness, and credibility of data varies among ANA corps and ANP zone headquarters.¹⁶⁸ USFOR-A said improving the quality of data is a priority for Coalition advisors. Capability gaps are identified and vetted by the advisors during train, advise, and assist activities; through analysis of Afghan data; and through direct reporting by and discussions with Afghan leaders.¹⁶⁹

The year 2015 found the ANDSF operating with sharply reduced Coalition military support compared to the preceding decade. However, the UN assesses that Afghan security forces have largely withstood the mounting pressures and shown the ability to retake those areas temporarily under control of the insurgency.¹⁷⁰ DOD's December 2015 report, *Enhancing Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, noted the Afghan government retains control of Kabul, major transit routes, provincial capitals, and nearly all district centers.¹⁷¹

The December 2015 report of the UN Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan assessed the ANDSF response to the October siege in Kunduz. The report highlighted critical deficiencies in ANDSF logistics, planning, intelligence, and air support capabilities. The UN Secretary-General also reported the Afghan government needs to strengthen the working relationships between the security and civilian authorities, which were reported to have been strained in Kunduz prior to the fall of the city.¹⁷²

USFOR-A assesses the ANDSF performance as uneven, with numerous, high-profile tactical and operational setbacks detracting from its overall success in preventing the Taliban insurgency from achieving its strategic goals. ANDSF capability gaps in aviation, intelligence, logistics, maintenance, operational planning, and leadership persist. DOD assessed that the ANDSF continued to improve integration of indirect fire and close-air attack capabilities, but that the ANDSF's capacity to hold areas after initial clearing operations is uneven: they remain in a primarily defensive posture that limits their agility across the country.¹⁷³

DOD reports that although Afghans, especially in rural areas, think checkpoints and a fixed ANDSF presence, rather than patrols or a rotational presence, are important to maintaining area security, the ANDSF reliance on defending static checkpoints has resulted in increased ANDSF casualties. Insurgents, however, can choose to fight when they have the tactical advantage. DOD assesses that on occasion the insurgent tactic of massing forces, certain ANDSF units are being out-maneuvered by an overall numerically inferior insurgent force.¹⁷⁴ Furthermore, USFOR-A assesses the large number of vulnerable checkpoints severely limits the security forces available for operations.¹⁷⁵

USFOR-A assesses the ANA corps formations of a headquarters kandak, three to four infantry brigades, and various specialty kandaks, are capable of rapid employment in offensive operations. Critical to preparing the ANA for the 2016 fighting season is establishing an operational readiness cycle to

replenish the corps' personnel and equipment, improve unit-level training, and increase recruitment and retention.¹⁷⁶

DOD reports that after a number of large-scale, multi-corps, and cross-pillar operations, such as in northern Helmand and on the Zabul-Ghazni border early in the year, ANDSF offensive operations tended to be much smaller later in the year. A majority of operations were conducted at the kandak and brigade level and were characterized by the need for stronger cross-pillar coordination and intelligence sharing.

USFOR-A assesses that the Afghan Air Force (AAF) has been critical to the success of the ANDSF in combating the Taliban. However, taking on primary responsibility for close air support, which has elevated operational tempo, has presented a challenge for the AAF.¹⁷⁷

Although the current focus of the ANP is to combine its capabilities with the ANA to fight the insurgency, DOD reports the long-term goal for the ANP is to transition to a traditional community police force. The ANP forces are often on the front lines during the “hold” phase of counterinsurgency operations. However, they are not sufficiently trained or equipped for traditional counterinsurgency tactics: they have limited crew-served weapons (a weapon that requires more than one person to operate); anti-armor weapons; armored vehicles; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.¹⁷⁸

DOD reports the ANP commanders must become more adept at translating ministerial-level guidance into operational plans for the ANP to execute and coordinate with their ANA counterparts. Furthermore, the overall deficiencies in the ANP planning process reflect the challenges associated with the MOI decentralized structure and its various force pillars.¹⁷⁹

USFOR-A reports the 2015 fighting season appears likely to end in stalemate, while the outcome of the 2016 fighting season is predicated on the ability of the ANDSF to institutionalize the lessons learned this season, provide effective wide-area security, and successfully project force into traditional Taliban safe havens and operating areas.¹⁸⁰

The Monthly ANDSF Assessment Report (MAAR) is one tool used by RS advisors to inform RS leaders of the collective assessment of capacity-development progress. USFOR-A reported the percentage of ANDSF units rated as “capable” or better in the MAAR increased from 73% in January 2015 to 88% (86% if Afghan Special Security Force units are removed) by November 2015.¹⁸¹ USFOR-A reported that while the MAAR assessments of the ANDSF's performance throughout the year reflect improvements, capability gaps persist and will remain a focus of RS advisors. The trials imposed by an insurgency with years of experience fighting a professional, well-equipped Coalition military force, revealed the ANDSF's uneven performance and deficiencies during a difficult first fighting season of the RS mission.¹⁸² However, USFOR-A assessed that the ANDSF, while leading counterinsurgency operations, has persevered, proven their willingness to

“If we don’t stay engaged here to build their capacity to fight this, keep sanctuary down, it’s coming back to the homeland. So it’s pay a little bit now, build the capability, and keep this an away game as opposed to a home game.”

—RS Commander,
General John Campbell

Source: *USAToday.com*, “Top U.S. general may seek more troops for Afghanistan,” 12/29/2015.

fight, developed the capacity to learn from mistakes, and prevented insurgents from achieving their strategic objectives.¹⁸³

This quarter, SIGAR will report on the classified aspects of the ANDSF assessment in the classified annex to this report.

MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND INTERIOR

Each RS Essential Function (EF) directorate and the Gender Advisor office use the Essential Function Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM) to assess the essential-function capabilities of the offices in the ministries of Defense and Interior.¹⁸⁴ MOD offices are assessed on 45 milestones; MOI offices are assessed on 40 milestones.¹⁸⁵ The milestones are assessed using a five-stage rating system displayed in Table 3.7.¹⁸⁶ Milestone assessments are combined to determine the overall assessment of a department. Department assessments are then combined to determine the assessment of the overall ministry.¹⁸⁷

The five ratings reflect the degree to which Afghan systems are in place, functioning, and being used effectively. The highest rating, “sustaining capability,” indicates an Afghan ministry can perform a specific function without Coalition advising or involvement.¹⁸⁸ This quarter the first “sustaining capability” assessment rating was achieved by the MOI for an EF-5 (Sustainment) milestone.¹⁸⁹ In addition, two MOI milestones—one in EF-4 (Force Generation) and another in EF-5—sustained a “fully capable” rating since last quarter; however, that actually is a capability reduction as both offices had achieved two “fully capable” ratings last quarter.¹⁹⁰ Within the MOD, a “fully capable” rating for two EF-5 milestones was sustained since last quarter and another “fully capable” rating was achieved for an EF-6 (Strategy and Policy, Planning, Resourcing, and Execution) milestone.¹⁹¹

This quarter, the RS assessment indicates the MOD has slightly increased the percentage of its “sustaining capability,” “fully capable,” or “partially capable” development milestones from 55.6% to 57.8%, whereas the MOI has increased its ratings, with 65% of its development milestones at “sustaining capability,” “fully capable,” or “partially capable” compared to 59.5% last quarter.¹⁹²

For a third consecutive quarter, RS revised its forecast by lowering the expected capacity levels the MOD and MOI will achieve by the end of 2016.¹⁹³ USFOR-A reported that due to continued changes in the operating environment, the EF directorates again refocused the plans and reassessed the end-of-mission forecast.¹⁹⁴ RS now forecasts that 62% of MOD functions are predicted to be “sustaining” or “fully capable” (the highest and second-highest ratings), a drop from the 69%, 74%, and 90% forecasts in the last three quarters.¹⁹⁵ Lower expectations were forecast for the MOI, where 51% of the functions are expected to be “sustaining” or “fully capable,” reduced from previous quarters’ forecasts of 57%, 68%, and 86%.¹⁹⁶

SECURITY

TABLE 3.7

MINISTRY MILESTONE ASSESSMENT USING NATO SYSTEM, AS OF NOVEMBER 2015																																	
RATING MEANING	EF1			EF2			EF3			EF4			EF5			EF6			EF7			EF8			Gender			Total					
	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-	Q3	Q4	+/-			
Ministry of Defense Assessment																																	
Rating 5 Sustaining Capability	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=
Rating 4 Fully Capable/Effective	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	2	2	=	0	1	+	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	2	3	+
Rating 3 Partially Capable/Effective	2	2	=	0	0	=	4	4	=	5	5	=	9	9	=	1	1	=	2	2	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	23	23	=
Rating 2 Initiated (In Development)	4	4	=	4	4	=	0	0	=	1	1	=	1	1	=	2	1	-	1	1	=	0	3	+	2	2	=	15	17	+			
Rating 1 Scoped/Agreed	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	1	+	3	0	-	1	1	=	4	2	-			
Rating 0 Not Scoped/Agreed	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	1	0	-	0	0	=	0	0	=	1	0	-			
EF Total	6	6	=	4	4	=	4	4	=	6	6	=	12	12	=	3	3	=	4	4	=	3	3	=	3	3	=	45	45	=			
Ministry of Interior Assessment																																	
Rating 5 Sustaining Capability	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	1	+	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	1	+
Rating 4 Fully Capable/Effective	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	2	1	-	2	1	-	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	4	2	-
Rating 3 Partially Capable/Effective	3	3	=	0	1	+	2	2	=	2	3	+	9	9	=	2	2	=	0	1	+	0	2	+	0	0	=	18	23	+			
Rating 2 Initiated (In Development)	3	3	=	2	2	=	2	2	=	0	0	=	1	1	=	0	0	=	3	2	-	0	1	+	2	2	=	13	13	=			
Rating 1 Scoped/Agreed	0	0	=	1	0	-	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	1	1	=	2	1	-
Rating 0 Not Scoped/Agreed	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	=
EF Total	6	6	=	3	3	=	4	4	=	4	4	=	12	12	=	2	2	=	3	3	=	0	3	+	3	3	=	37	40	+			

Note: EF = Essential Function; ASI = Afghan Security Institutions; EF1 = Multi-Year Budgeting and Execution; EF2 = Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight; EF3 = Civilian Governance of the ASI; EF4 = Force Generation; EF5 = Sustainment; EF6 = Strategy and Policy, Planning, Resourcing, and Execution; EF7 = Intelligence; EF8 = Strategic Communications. Quarter-to-quarter changes: same =, gain +, loss -. Q3 = August 25, 2015; Q4 = November 24, 2015.

Source: USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data calls, 9/4/2015 and 12/4/2015; USFOR-A, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/13/2016.

After the backlash following the security breakdown in Kunduz City, Ghani filled numerous ANP vacancies, appointing eight regional commanders and five provincial police chiefs.¹⁹⁷ However, the MOD minister position remains filled by an individual in an acting capacity, as local officials and former administration officials claim the national-unity government agreement to split appointments between President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah's political parties had the unintended consequence of undermining the fight against the Taliban and creating chaos in the chain-of-command.¹⁹⁸

EF-8 reports the Afghan government lacks an effective lead spokesperson, a unifying anti-insurgent narrative, and an effective communications plan. Weaknesses include the ability to align communications assets, empower subordinates with guidance and priorities, and messaging that can reach and influence the Afghan populace and the ANDSF members at the corps/zone/province level.¹⁹⁹ The MOD hired an experienced civilian strategic communications advisor this quarter, which according to RS, will bolster an underperforming office.²⁰⁰

MOD and MOI Literacy Training Contracts Continue to Await National Procurement Agency Approval

This quarter USFOR-A reported the MOD and MOI literacy contract packages submitted last year still await final approval by the National Procurement Agency. In the interim, the ANA and ANP are conducting literacy training with internal assets.²⁰¹

USFOR-A reports all ANA and ANP officers and noncommissioned officers are expected to be literate to hold their positions.²⁰² ANA policy requires officer applicants to be fully literate—able to read, write, and grasp the idea of a topic—and requires noncommissioned officer applicants to be able to read and write.²⁰³

Afghan Local Police

Afghan Local Police members, known as “guardians,” are usually local citizens selected by village elders or local power brokers to protect their communities against insurgent attack, guard facilities, and conduct local counterinsurgency missions.²⁰⁴ Effective June 15, 2015, the ALP transitioned to command and control by the Afghan Uniform Police (AUP). However, the ALP was not absorbed into the AUP tashkil (staff roster) and, even though the AUP is one of the ANP’s pillars, the ALP tashkil will remain independent of the ANP’s total authorized strength.²⁰⁵

As of October 22, 2015, according to the NATO Special Operations Component Command-Afghanistan (NSOCC-A), the ALP has 26,946 guardians, 20,980 of whom were fully trained.²⁰⁶ NSOCC-A expects a significant decrease in untrained ALP guardians by the end of the winter training surge in May 2016.²⁰⁷

According to Afghan reporting, 2.4% of ALP guardians were killed in action from January through November 2015. An additional 5.7% have been dropped from the rolls, 0.06% became disabled, and 2.3% were injured, yielding an aggregate attrition rate of 10.5%.²⁰⁸ During the first seven months of 2015, approximately 93% of the ALP guardians renewed their contracts.²⁰⁹

NSOCC-A reports the FY 2016 cost to support the ALP at its target end-strength of 30,000 is \$117 million. The United States expects to fund approximately \$112.5 million, with the Afghan government contributing the remaining \$4.5 million.²¹⁰ CSTC-A reports the total cumulative amount

of ASFF obligated in support of the ALP through September 28, 2015, was \$308.7 million, of which \$219.9 million had been expended.²¹¹ NSOCC-A reports, however, that there are no Coalition advisors outside the Kabul-capital region that maintain consistent situational awareness of the ALP.²¹²

As of November 2015, MOI completed an internal assessment of 164 of the 170 districts in which the ALP operates, according to NSOCC-A. Subsequently the Minister of Interior issued 49 reforms focused on personnel recruiting, training, pay, as well as equipment fielding and maintenance.²¹³

One of the most critical discrepancies identified in the assessment was misallocation and personnel reported as present for duty but unaccounted for. To remedy such personnel problems, tashkil positions were removed or reallocated to districts that use ALP guardians appropriately. Additionally, all the ALP tashkil were added to the Afghan Human Resources Information Management System (AHRIMS) in an effort to improve personnel accountability and allow payroll auditing.²¹⁴ Another finding identified salary payments processed through bank branches in rural areas lacked the transparency and accountability available through an electronic funds transfer (EFT) process. An initiative to implement EFT in Kapisa Province produced such positive results that efforts are now under way to replace the trusted-agent system in Parwan and Kandahar Provinces with an EFT payment process.²¹⁵

Because the assessment indicated the ALP has a higher casualty rate in engagements in remote terrain where other ANDSF elements are sparse, the MOD and MOI coordinated an effort to distribute 30,000 sets of personal protective equipment to better protect the ALP guardians.²¹⁶ Other recommendations were to develop an enduring ALP district-level assessment plan and to implement a readiness-reporting system to maintain accountability of personnel, training, and equipment readiness.²¹⁷

DOD reported the most successful ALP units are in areas where the former ISAF mission maintained a persistent Coalition presence alongside local security forces.²¹⁸

Afghan Public Protection Force

The Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF), a state-owned enterprise under the authority of the MOI, was established to provide fixed-site, convoy, and personal security on a fee-for-service basis. The APPF assumed security roles previously performed by private security companies, which were disbanded by Afghan Presidential Decree 62 in August 2010. The APPF has four directorates:²¹⁹

- government projects
- nongovernmental projects
- international projects
- protection and convoy security

Essential Function 1 (Multi-Year Budgeting and Execution) reports significant progress, in conjunction with the Afghan Ministry of Finance, toward implementing a Mobile Money program for paying the Afghan Local Police salaries. For more information, see pp. 70-72 of this section.

CSTC-A reported that through September 29, 2014, the United States had spent more than \$51 million on the APPF.²²⁰ Any additional funding DOD may provide to the APPF is for payment of security services rendered to DOD organizations or contractors. This is the last update SIGAR will be reporting on the APPF. USFOR-A does not conduct a train, advise, and assist mission for the APPF and therefore does not have access to report on APPF status.²²¹

AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated \$38.6 billion and disbursed \$37.6 billion of ASFF funds to build, train, equip, and sustain the ANA.²²²

ANA Military Personnel Increase Slightly

As of October 20, 2015, the overall assigned strength within the MOD, including the ANA, the AAF, and civilians, was 176,612 personnel, according to USFOR-A.²²³ This is an overall increase of 192 ANA personnel since last quarter, when the July 2015 assigned end strength was reported at 176,420.²²⁴ The number of ANA civilians decreased by 154; the number of ANA military personnel increased by 346.²²⁵ ANA assigned military personnel are at 87% of the approved end strength.²²⁶

During the month of October 2015, the ANA attrition rate was 3%, with the AAF attrition at 1.5%. ANA and AAF attrition during July 2015 were 2.4% and 0.6%, respectively.²²⁷

RS EF-4 (Force Generation) advisors and recruiters from the U.S. Army Recruiting Command conducted a roadshow in November 2015 with their ANA Recruiting Command counterparts and ANA 201st Corps leaders to learn the challenges and issues experienced by the ANA recruiting force and to advise on recruiting, attrition, and reenlisting.²²⁸ The joint Afghan-U.S. team also partnered with their National Afghan Volunteer Center (NAVC) counterparts to identify inefficiencies in current NAVC operations in order to give ANA leaders ways to improve recruitment.²²⁹

This quarter, details of ANA troop strength and attrition at corps level and below remain classified. SIGAR will report on them in a classified annex to this report.

ANA Sustainment

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated \$16.2 billion and disbursed \$15.5 billion of ASFF for ANA sustainment.²³⁰ The most prominent use of ASFF sustainment funding is for salaries and incentive payments; other uses include items such as ammunition, organizational clothing and individual equipment (OCIE), aircraft operations and maintenance, and vehicle maintenance.²³¹ CSTC-A reported the

Recent news-media reporting questions the validity and reliability of ANDSF personnel numbers. For more information, see pp. 72–73 of this section.

total amount expended for all sustainment requirements in FY 2015 was \$552.9 million.²³²

In mid-December, the new computer and server hardware for the ANDSF's inventory and logistics information-management system known as CoreIMS arrived in-country.²³³ The CoreIMS logistics system tracks and monitors OCIE stock, among other types of equipment and parts. CoreIMS is updated when OCIE is received in-country and before the equipment is shipped to national supply warehouses. CSTC-A reported approximately 1,700 types of OCIE items were inputted into CoreIMS to enable the national and regional supply centers to account for the OCIE.²³⁴

The enhancements for the demand-based supply capability will be implemented at the national and regional logistics centers once the CoreIMS hardware is installed.²³⁵ CSTC-A reported 92 of 130 authorized Afghan logistical specialists are now employed at the national and regional centers providing training and assistance to the ANDSF in learning CoreIMS, developing computer skills, and cataloging items.²³⁶

ANA Salaries and Incentives

As of September 28, 2015, CSTC-A reported the United States had provided \$2.83 billion through the ASFF to pay for ANA salaries, food, and incentives since FY 2009.²³⁷ CSTC-A reported the funding required for ANA base salaries, bonuses, and incentives will average \$682 million annually over the next five years, with \$676.2 million required in FY 2016.²³⁸ During Afghan solar year 1394 (2015), the U.S. provided \$207.7 million in on-budget support to the MOD for ANA salaries and contractor pay, with the significant majority of the funding, \$138.2 million, applied toward officer base pay. An additional \$69.1 million was used for noncommissioned officers and soldier pay, and \$.4 million for ANA contractors' base pay.²³⁹

To incentivize the MOD to use electronic-payment systems, CSTC-A plans to provide 100% funding only for those authorized tashkil positions being paid electronically, once the automated pay system is ready for use in 2016; pay for other positions will be 80% funded.²⁴⁰ USFOR-A reports as of November 27, 2015, that the MOD has input 99% of the ANA forces into AHRIMS with 97% of the force slotted into an approved FY 1394 tashkil position.²⁴¹ However, as USFOR-A does not have the applicable AHRIMS access to create the report SIGAR requested on attrition and educational data by rank and province, USFOR-A requested the data from the MOD. Additionally, USFOR-A explained AHRIMS is an MOD- and MOI-owned system and the requested data may or may not be available in AHRIMS at this time as the initial data input effort is prioritizing other key data fields, such as name, rank, identification number, next of kin, and banking information required for electronic salary payments. Additional information pertaining to ANDSF members will be inputted incrementally.²⁴²

USFOR-A also reported that AHRIMS will transition to the Afghan Personnel Pay System (APPS) in 2016, to provide greater accountability of personnel present for duty, properly assigned to a tashkil position, and paid the proper entitlements. However, SIGAR did not receive clarification if APPS will replace AHRIMS in its entirety or if APPS will replace only some of its functionality.²⁴³

ANA Equipment and Transportation

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated and disbursed \$12.8 billion of ASFF for ANA equipment and transportation.²⁴⁴ Most of these funds were used to purchase vehicles, aircraft, communication equipment, weapons, and related equipment. Approximately 49.5% of U.S. funding in this category was for vehicles and related parts, as shown in Table 3.8.

Since last quarter, the total cost of equipment procured for the ANA increased by over \$530 million, not including the Special Mission Wing (SMW) aircraft costs of \$766.9 million that were realigned from the ANP when the SMW transferred from the MOI to the MOD.²⁴⁵ There was no change in the amount of equipment transferred to the ANA since the last CSTC-A reporting of June 30, 2015. The vehicles “remaining to be procured” amount changed since the June reporting from “to be determined” to \$604.4 million.²⁴⁶

Equipment purchased for the ANA that was later determined to no longer be required by the ANDSF or was damaged before transfer to the Afghan government can be transferred to DOD for disposition, after USFOR-A considers alternative dispositions and the U.S. Congress is notified. DOD notified SIGAR that no notification was processed during this reporting period, so the cumulative value remains at \$215 million.²⁴⁷

TABLE 3.8

COST OF U.S.-FUNDED ANA EQUIPMENT, AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2015			
Type of Equipment	Procured	Procured and Fielded to the ANA	Remaining to be Procured
Weapons	\$642,032,285	\$522,370,326	\$19,045,740
Vehicles	7,293,934,837	6,440,981,649	604,435,625
Communications	840,433,973	703,298,191	82,830,726
Aircraft	2,139,192,713	1,342,811,508	327,131,596
Ammunition	2,469,192,080	2,180,830,996	380,830,461
Transportation Services	40,000,000	13,459,569	0
C-IEDs	418,150,056	341,550,056	0
Other	884,304,375	773,658,682	1,005,377
Total	\$14,727,240,319	\$12,318,960,977	\$1,415,279,525

Note: C-IEDs = Counter-improvised explosive devices. Equipment category amounts include the cost of related spare parts. This quarter aircraft costs, which had been procured for the Special Mission Wing (SMW), were transferred to the ANA as the SMW was transferred from the MOI to the MOD.

Source: CSTC-A, response to SIGAR data call, 1/13/2016.

DOD reports that during the past year the ANDSF have increased usage of their close-air support and lift assets, protected mobility vehicles, mortars and howitzers, and direct-fire systems.²⁴⁸ A review in early 2015 determined the SMW had intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities that the ANA and AAF did not. This gap is being addressed with the fielding in early 2016 of unmanned aerial vehicles, an additional surveillance tower and aerostat systems (lighter-than-air aircraft such as balloons).²⁴⁹

EF-5 (Sustainment) is analyzing the solar year 1394 equipment tashkil, or roster of authorizations of on-hand and required equipment and weapons, to use in identifying the requirements of the upcoming solar year equipment tashkil. The data will be used to “right-size” the ANDSF equipment tashkils through 2024.²⁵⁰

ANA Infrastructure

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated \$6.0 billion and disbursed \$5.7 billion of ASFF for ANA infrastructure such as military head-quarter facilities, schoolhouses, barracks, air fields, and roads.²⁵¹

As of November 30, 2015, the United States had completed 372 infrastructure projects valued at \$5.2 billion, with another 22 projects valued at \$183.9 million ongoing, according to CSTC-A.²⁵² The largest ongoing ANA infrastructure projects this quarter are the second phase of the Marshal Fahim National Defense University (MFNDU) in Kabul (at a cost of \$76.3 million), to be completed in December 2017, and the Logistics Officers Branch School in Kabul (\$33.6 million) and the fourth phase of the Kabul Military Training Center in Kabul (\$19.7 million), both to have been completed in December 2015.²⁵³



Construction of the Marshal Fahim National Defense University Joint Service Academy building in Kabul. (CSTC-A photo)

SIGAR AUDIT

An ongoing SIGAR audit will review DOD’s support to the ANA’s portion of the Technical Equipment Maintenance Program (A-TEMP). Specifically, SIGAR plans to determine (1) the extent to which the ANA A-TEMP is meeting its stated goals and (2) whether key ANA A-TEMP contract requirements are being met.

In addition, three projects were completed at a cost of \$173 million, including the brigade garrisons for the 2nd Brigade of the 201st Corps in Kunar (\$115.7 million), and phases IIIA and IIIB of the MFNDU at a cost of \$38 million and \$19.3 million respectively.²⁵⁴

The transfer of the new MOD Headquarters facility to the Afghan government occurred with high-level interest and media attention. A ceremonial passing of the key between the CSTC-A chief engineer and the Afghan chief of the Construction Property Management Division occurred on November 25, 2015.²⁵⁵ That was followed by an inauguration event on December 28, 2015, with the President of Afghanistan, the Chief Executive, the acting MOD minister, and RS Commander General Campbell in attendance. The 700-room building took 10 years to build and cost approximately \$160 million.²⁵⁶

Of the five contracts awarded this quarter at a cost of \$7.7 million, one was for various regional logistical-support centers (\$4 million) and another to construct barracks for females (\$1.7 million).²⁵⁷ Of the 16 projects (\$190.5 million) in the planning phase, three projects are to construct facilities for females (\$30.1 million) and two projects are to construct facilities for the AAF.²⁵⁸

The ASFF-funded national operations and maintenance contract provides maintenance for 24 MOD facilities including the presidential palace, training and higher-learning facilities, a justice center, a detention center, and a hospital.²⁵⁹

The FY 1394 MOD financial-commitment letter required the Afghan government to provide CSTC-A a transition and sustainment plan, including the infrastructure security plan, for the facilities constructed with U.S. funding and transferred to the Afghan government.²⁶⁰ CSTC-A reports that while \$29 million in conditional funding was withheld because the MOD did not provide the plan, the MOD has signed a plan to divest 90 excess facilities and has divested 22 facilities. The draft FY 1395 financial-commitment letter withholds an estimated \$3 million pending the validated divestments of the 90 facilities and a plan for divesting the remaining 68 excess facilities.²⁶¹

ANA and MOD Training and Operations

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated and disbursed \$3.6 billion of ASFF for ANA and MOD training and operations.²⁶²

CSTC-A reported 21 ongoing U.S.-funded training programs: 17 focusing on technical training, one on professional military education, two on basic training, and one on English language.²⁶³

During this quarter, the EF-4 (Force Generation) Army Institutional Advisory Team (AIAT) developed three new officer training courses:

- **Kandak Pre-Command Course:** a two-week course for newly appointed kandak commanders that includes combined-arms operations, cross-pillar coordination, air-to-ground integration,

SIGAR AUDIT

A January 2016 SIGAR audit, conducted to assess U.S. efforts to increase the ANA's effectiveness through the creation of a National Engineering Brigade, determined the brigade was incapable of operating independently. For more information, see Section 2, pp. 22-23.

operational readiness, and training management. Trained ANA instructors will teach the course with U.S. and UK advisors observing. The course will be held four times a year for approximately 20 students. The first course was held in December 2015.²⁶⁴

- **Brigade Pre-Command Course:** a two-week course for newly appointed brigade commanders is to cover the kandak pre-command course topics from a more senior commander's perspective. The course will be held twice a year for approximately 10 students. The first course is scheduled for February 2016.²⁶⁵
- **The Leader's Course:** a two-week leadership course for officers assigned to or moving to senior positions in the ANDSF or other government departments. The course, developed by members of the U.S. Army War College and the UK Defense Academy, was modeled after a UK program. The first course started at the end of November 2015.²⁶⁶

Afghan Air Force and the Special Mission Wing

Between FY 2010 and FY 2015, the United States has obligated approximately \$2.4 billion to develop the AAF, including over \$912 million for equipment and aircraft.²⁶⁷ Since last quarter, DOD realigned its FY 2015 funding applied to the AAF from \$683.3 million to \$925.2 million; the amount applied toward sustainment rose from \$437.6 million to \$780.4 million.²⁶⁸ Additionally, the FY 2016 request is for \$548.3 million, with the significant majority of the funds for training and sustainment.²⁶⁹

According to USFOR-A, this quarter, the AAF aircraft inventory, includes:²⁷⁰

- 11 Mi-35 helicopters
- 49 Mi-17 helicopters (three less than last quarter)
- 16 MD-530 helicopters
- 24 C-208 airplanes (two less)
- 4 C-130 airplanes

Of these aircraft, 33 of the Mi-17s and all of the MD-530s, C-208s, and the C-130s were procured using ASFF.²⁷¹ Additionally, 20 A-29 Super Tucanos, a light-attack aircraft for counterinsurgency, close-air support, and aerial reconnaissance, have been purchased. DOD said the first four arrived in-country on January 15, 2016.²⁷² The pilots receive basic flight maneuvers and instrument training in a Beechcraft/Raytheon T-6 Texan II basic trainer aircraft, followed by more advanced fighter tactics, bombing, and strafing training in the A-29s. USFOR-A reports using this two-plane training structure is an efficient methodology that provides the greatest probability of graduating A-29 pilots.²⁷³ On December 17, the first eight pilots and twelve maintainers graduated from A-29 training at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Two other Afghan maintainers who were also scheduled to graduate went missing on December 8.²⁷⁴ As of January 13, 2016, one of the two maintainers was found; a U.S.

SIGAR SPECIAL PROJECT

In February 2015, SIGAR conducted a fact-finding visit on the A-29 Super Tucanos at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. SIGAR will conduct ongoing monitoring of the program's roll-out and the training of the Afghan pilots.

Department of Homeland Security spokesman said the search for the other continues.²⁷⁵

USFOR-A stated that an additional 12 MD-530s are being purchased and are scheduled for delivery in 2016.²⁷⁶ In a September 2015 *New York Times* article about the MD-530 helicopters, an AAF corps commander stated that the helicopters were inadequate and dangerous. He claimed that the helicopters did not have the proper range to engage the Taliban, while an AAF pilot complained that the mounted .50-caliber machine guns would often jam.²⁷⁷ In response to the AAF's criticism, USFOR-A said the initial operational challenges were overcome and the armed MD-530 is a capable aircraft. DOD determined the armed MD-530 was the only suitable alternative to address the close-air support gap that would exist following the end of Operation Enduring Freedom and the fielding of the A-29 Super Tucanos and the Mobile Strike Force Vehicles with 90 mm direct-fire weapons.²⁷⁸

The MD-530's operational capability has allowed the AAF to increase air raids against insurgent groups and is in great demand to provide close-air support to the ANDSF during combat operations.²⁷⁹ AAF leadership reportedly now understands the capability and value of the MD-530, according to USFOR-A.²⁸⁰

On December 25, 2015, during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Afghanistan, the Prime Minister presented the AAF with three Russian-made Mi-25 assault helicopters, with a fourth to be delivered later.²⁸¹ DOD reports this agreement was made strictly between the governments of Afghanistan and India. DOD advised the Afghan government that U.S. funds would not be available to sustain these aircraft due to sanctions concerns. Afghanistan is actively seeking bilateral support from other regional partners.²⁸² However, USFOR-A reported that Coalition advisors, who have supported the AAF's Mi-17 and Mi-35 programs for several years, could train, advise, and assist the AAF in sustainment of the Mi-25.²⁸³

CSTC-A reported that between FY 2012 and FY 2015, the United States has invested over \$1.8 billion in the development of the SMW, obligating roughly \$991.1 million of that amount for equipment and aircraft.²⁸⁴ According to CSTC-A, the SMW fleet of 59 fielded aircraft comprises Mi-17 helicopters and PC-12 turboprop planes that have intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.²⁸⁵ Of these aircraft, 30 of the Mi-17s and all of the PC-12s were procured using ASFF.²⁸⁶ According to NSOCC-A, the SMW has 509 members, of which 108 are pilots, all part of the MOD. Fifty-four additional personnel are undergoing entry, English-proficiency, and security background checks.²⁸⁷

AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated \$18.7 billion and disbursed \$18.2 billion of ASFF funds to build, train, equip, and sustain the ANP.²⁸⁸

ANP Strength

As of October 22, 2015, the overall assigned end strength of the ANP, including the Afghan Uniform Police, Afghan Border Police, Afghan National Civil Order Police, and MOI Headquarters and Institutional Support (MOI HQ & IS), was 146,026, according to USFOR-A.²⁸⁹ This is a decrease of 2,270 ANP personnel since last quarter, when the July 2015 assigned end strength was reported at 148,296, and 10,974 below the authorized end strength of 157,000, as reflected in Table 3.9.²⁹⁰ Police officers represent the largest component of the ANP with 70,886 members, 49,872 noncommissioned officers, and 25,268 officers.²⁹¹

During the months of August, September, and October, the ANP experienced a 2.35%, 2.32%, and 2.5% attrition rate, respectively. The prior three months' attrition rate was approximately 1.94%.²⁹² Within the ANP, the Afghan National Civil Order Police continues to endure the highest attrition rates: 4.69%, 4.36%, and 5.53% over the three months.²⁹³

The UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict reported two verified cases of the ANP and ALP recruiting children in a June 2015 report.²⁹⁴ CSTC-A reported the ANP Inherent Law, dated October 2010, requires that no recruits be under the age of 18.²⁹⁵ While restricting child police/soldier recruitment is not a condition for U.S. funding in the annual CSTC-A financial-commitment letters, USFOR-A says advisors will forward any human-rights violations to the RS Mission Legal Office.²⁹⁶

Recent news-media reporting questions the validity and reliability of ANDSF personnel numbers. For more information, see pp. 72–73 of this section.

TABLE 3.9

ANP Component	Authorized			Assigned		
	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Quarterly Change	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Quarterly Change
	AUP	90,139	91,000	861	86,754	85,976
ABP	22,955	23,313	358	21,775	21,520	(255)
ANCOP	15,223	16,200	977	15,169	14,511	(658)
MOI HQs & IS	28,523	26,487	(2,036)	24,598	24,019	(579)
ANP Total (as reported)	156,840	157,000	160	148,296	146,026	(2,270)

Note: Quarters are calendar-year; Q3 2015 data as of 7/2015; Q4 2015 data as of 10/2015. AUP = Afghan Uniformed Police; ABP = Afghan Border Police; ANCOP = Afghan National Civil Order Police; MOI = Ministry of Interior; IS = Institutional Support personnel.

Source: USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data calls, 9/11/2015 and 12/14/2015.

ANP Sustainment

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated \$7.7 billion and disbursed \$7.5 billion of ASFF for ANP sustainment.²⁹⁷ This includes contributions to the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA), which pays for ANP salaries, the most prominent ASFF sustainment funding. Other uses of ANP sustainment funding include vehicle and radio maintenance; organizational clothing and individual equipment; and ammunition.²⁹⁸

The U.S. contribution to LOTFA for calendar year 2015 was \$112.3 million to fund salaries, incentives, and the UN Development Programme management fee.²⁹⁹ CSTC-A reports the U.S. funding required for LOTFA over the next five years will depend on the contributions of Coalition partners. The estimated annual expenses range from a high of \$616.3 million to a low of \$608.1 million, for an average of \$613.2 million.³⁰⁰

The CSTC-A financial-commitment letter to the MOI for Afghan FY 1394 includes the LOTFA Steering Committee mandate for the MOI to provide 100% of ANP salaries through electronic funds transfer.³⁰¹ To incentivize the MOI to use electronic payment systems, CSTC-A is to provide funding only for those authorized tashkil positions being paid electronically, once the automated pay system is ready for use later in 2016.³⁰²

USFOR-A reports as of November 22, 2015, that the MOI has input 90.8% of the ANP forces into AHRIMS.³⁰³ However, USFOR-A does not have the applicable AHRIMS access to create the report SIGAR requested on attrition and educational data by rank and province and, therefore, requested the data from the MOI. USFOR-A explained AHRIMS is a MOD- and MOI-owned system and the requested data may or may not be available at this time because the initial data-input effort is prioritizing other key data fields, such as name, rank, identification number, next of kin, and banking information required for electronic salary payments. Additional information pertaining to ANDSF members will be inputted incrementally.³⁰⁴

USFOR-A additionally reported that AHRIMS will transition to the APPS in 2016, to provide greater accountability of personnel present for duty, properly assigned to a tashkil position, and paid the proper entitlements. However, SIGAR did not receive clarification if APPS will replace AHRIMS in its entirety or if APPS will replace only some of its functions.³⁰⁵

ANP Equipment and Transportation

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated and disbursed \$4.1 billion of ASFF for ANP equipment and transportation.³⁰⁶ Most of these funds were used to purchase vehicles, aircraft, ammunition, weapons, and communication equipment as shown in Table 3.10. More than 68% of funding in this category was used to purchase vehicles and vehicle-related equipment.

Since last quarter, the total cost of equipment procured for the ANP increased to over \$76.6 million, all within the weapons and vehicle

TABLE 3.10

COST OF U.S.-FUNDED ANP EQUIPMENT, AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2015			
Type of Equipment	Procured	Procured and Fielded to the ANA	Remaining to be Procured
Weapons	\$291,495,548	\$205,851,400	\$19,045,740
Vehicles ^a	3,468,042,669	3,109,856,026	164,435,625
Communications	230,376,282	224,995,225	11,588,547
Ammunition	738,345,011	419,352,362	0
Transportation Services	20,026,263	7,770,471	0
C-IEDs	115,581,810	115,581,810	2,165,915
Other	243,097,382	91,438,300	14,412,160
Total	\$5,106,964,965	\$4,174,845,594	\$211,647,987

Note: C-IEDs = Counter-improvised explosive devices. Aircraft costs are no longer shown for the ANP: The Special Mission Wing (SMW) for which they were procured has been transferred to the ANA, moving from MOI to MOD control.

^a Vehicle costs includes vehicles and parts.

Source: CSTC-A, response to SIGAR data call, 1/4/2016.

categories.³⁰⁷ As with the ANA, there was no change in the amount of equipment that had been transferred to the ANP since the last CSTC-A reporting dated June 30, 2015.³⁰⁸ The weapons “remaining to be procured” amount changed since the June reporting from “to be determined” to \$19 million. In addition, the vehicles “remaining to be procured” amount changed since the June reporting from “to be determined” to \$164.4 million.³⁰⁹

In early 2015, DOD approved a CSTC-A plan to transition the ANP to U.S. standard weapons.³¹⁰ The plan will transition up to 78,000 of the MOI’s AK-47 supply to the M-16A4 over the next several years. CSTC-A will develop a plan with the Afghans to consolidate, demilitarize, and ensure proper accountability of weapons turned in, consistent with DOD’s response to SIGAR’s July 2014 audit report, *Afghan National Security Forces: Actions Needed to Improve Weapons Accountability* (14-84-AR).³¹¹ CSTC-A will not transfer any new weapons until the Afghan ministries meet the turn-in, turnover, and demilitarization conditions.³¹²

Equipment purchased for the ANP that was later determined to no longer be required by the ANDSF can be transferred to DOD for disposition, after the U.S. Congress is notified. DOD notified SIGAR that no notification was processed during the quarter, so the cumulative value of ANP equipment transferred to DOD remains at \$18.4 million.³¹³

ANP Infrastructure

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated \$3.1 billion and disbursed \$3.0 billion of ASFF for ANP infrastructure.³¹⁴

As of November 30, 2015, the United States had completed 729 infrastructure projects valued at \$3.7 billion, with another four ongoing projects valued at \$73.5 million, according to CSTC-A.³¹⁵ The largest ongoing ANP



Newly inaugurated MOI Headquarters building in Kabul. (CSTC-A file photo)

infrastructure projects this quarter are the remaining facilities at the MOI headquarters complex in Kabul that began in March 2012 and are expected to be completed in February 2016, and two compounds for females in Nangarhar and Kabul (\$6.4 million and \$3.4 million respectively).³¹⁶

While no projects were completed this quarter, the President of Afghanistan, the Afghan Minister of Interior, and RS Commander General Campbell presided over the formal inauguration of the new Ministry of the Interior building in Kabul on December 21, 2015.³¹⁷ Three contracts were awarded at a cost of \$10.1 million, including the two compounds for females and a fueling point at a regional logistics center in Nangarhar (\$273 thousand).³¹⁸ In addition, CSTC-A reports 13 projects are in the planning phase (\$52.75 million).³¹⁹

The ASFF-funded national operations and maintenance contract provides maintenance for five MOI facilities including the MOI headquarters and national and regional logistics centers. CSTC-A reports maintenance for four facilities is scheduled to transition to the MOI by the end of March 2016, and for the MOI headquarters by the end of February 2017.³²⁰

ANP Training and Operations

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had obligated \$3.7 billion and disbursed \$3.6 billion of ASFF for ANP and MOI training and operations.³²¹

CSTC-A reported six ongoing U.S.-funded training programs: five focused on technical training and one focused on basic training.³²² The largest U.S.-funded training includes operational-specialty training, such as special-operations intelligence, vehicle maintenance, counter-improvised-explosive-device procedures, explosive-ordnance disposal, and radio operation and maintenance.³²³

STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ANDSF

This quarter RS reported 3,728 women serving in the ANDSF, a slight decrease from the 3,753 reported last quarter.³²⁴ However, with the overall decrease in the ANDSF end strength, the percentage of women serving in the ANDSF stayed constant at 1.16%.³²⁵ Of the total, 2,802 were serving with the ANP: 1,208 officers, 1,258 NCOs, 1,119 soldiers, and 143 cadets.³²⁶ The number of women in an officer position increased by 381 since last quarter, not including three additional MOI females who were selected to the rank of brigadier general.³²⁷

The Women in Security Advisory Committee—General Campbell chairs and first lady Rula Ghani is an honorary member—provided strategic input to several initiatives. One proposal was to increase overseas training options as a way to increase recruiting and training capacity, as in-country training is limited to 485 women annually. The committee also contributed to the dialogue for national-level endorsement for female police officers to carry weapons.³²⁸

RS also reported the draft FY 1395 gender commitment letter will require the MOD to create 5,000 positions for women by the end of solar year 1395. These ANA tashkil positions are deemed essential to provide career-advancing pathways for women.³²⁹ However, the ANDSF has not met its recruitment goals for women once in the 14 years the Coalition has been in Afghanistan.³³⁰

ANDSF MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE

While the overall number of doctors and other medical staff increased this quarter, according to CSTC-A, the number of physician vacancies also increased due to the increase in the number of authorized positions.³³¹ As of November 25, 2015, CSTC-A reports there are 911 physicians and 2,678 other medical staff within the ANDSF health-care system.³³²

This quarter CSTC-A reported two accomplishments within the ANDSF health-care system. The first was the Afghan presidential decree approving the formation and charter of the Afghan Medical Council on November 12, 2015. The council serves the function similar to a U.S. state medical board, setting and enforcing medical standards, hospital accreditation, and physician licensing and education.³³³ The second accomplishment was a policy changing the maximum age of new hires, which should help to alleviate the personnel shortages at ANDSF hospitals. In November, the MOD approved hiring physicians above age 27, with an exception for physician specialists over age 40. The accession policy also eliminated the age restriction for hiring physician assistants and nurses.³³⁴

CSTC-A reports RS is to purchase critical medical equipment that the MOD and MOI were unsuccessful in purchasing on-budget last year.³³⁵

REMOVING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

The Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) manages the conventional-weapons destruction program in Afghanistan to enhance the security and safety of the Afghan people. Since FY 2002, State has provided \$328.3 million in weapons destruction and humanitarian mine-action assistance to Afghanistan. PM/WRA has two-year funding, and the majority of FY 2015 funds have been obligated. FY 2016 funds have not yet been made available for obligation.³³⁶

State directly funds five Afghan nongovernmental organizations (NGO), four international NGOs, and one U.S. government contractor. These funds enable the clearance of areas contaminated by explosive remnants of war (ERW) and support the clearance of conventional weapons used by insurgents to construct roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices. As of September 30, 2015, State-funded implementing partners have cleared more than 177 million square meters of land (approximately 68.3 square miles) and removed or destroyed approximately 7.7 million landmines and other ERW such as unexploded ordnance, abandoned ordnance, stockpiled munitions, and home-made explosives since 1997 (see Table 3.11).³³⁷

The estimated total area of contaminated land continues to fluctuate as clearance activities reduce hazardous areas while ongoing survey activities find new contaminated land. At the beginning of this quarter, there were 213.1 square miles of contaminated minefields and battlefields. During the quarter, 1.8 square miles were cleared. However, ongoing surveys identified 4.6 square miles of additional contaminated areas, bringing the known contaminated area to 220.4 square miles at the end of the quarter. PM/WRA defines a minefield as the area contaminated by landmines, whereas a contaminated area can include both landmines and other ERW.³³⁸

TABLE 3.11

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION PROGRAM METRICS, FISCAL YEARS 2009–2015						
Year	AT/AP Destroyed	UXO Destroyed	SAA Destroyed	Fragments Cleared	Minefields Cleared (m ²)	Estimated Contaminated Area Remaining (m ²)*
2010	13,879	663,162	1,602,267	4,339,235	39,337,557	650,662,000
2011	10,504	345,029	2,393,725	21,966,347	31,644,360	602,000,000
2012	11,830	344,363	1,058,760	22,912,702	46,783,527	550,000,000
2013	6,431	203,024	275,697	10,148,683	25,059,918	521,000,000
2014	12,397	287,331	346,484	9,415,712	22,071,212	511,600,000
2015	2,134	33,078	88,798	4,062,478	12,101,386	570,800,000
TOTAL	57,175	1,875,987	5,765,731	72,845,157	176,997,960	570,800,000

Note: AT/AP = anti-tank/anti-personnel ordnance. UXO = unexploded ordnance. SAA = small arms ammunition. Fragments are reported because their clearance requires the same care as for other objects until their nature is determined. There are about 4,047 square meters (m²) to an acre.

* Total area of contaminated land fluctuates as clearance activities reduce hazardous areas while ongoing survey identifies and adds new contaminated land in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.

Source: PM/WRA, response to SIGAR data calls, 4/1/2015, 6/26/2015, and 12/29/2015.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), provides services for victims and survivors of mines and ERW, as well as for civilians affected by conflict and persons with disabilities, through the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP). The goal of this project is to mitigate the short-term and long-term impact of conflict on civilians, including victims of mines and ERW. UNMACA draws on its wider network under the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), which consists of 50 international and national organizations, to access beneficiaries and communities. One of those organizations, the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), collects casualty data on mine/ERW victims to help prioritize its clearance activities. According to USAID, ACAP funding will allow MACCA to expand its victim-assistance activities beyond service provision and data collection to include immediate assistance for individual survivors and their families. The \$30.2 million ACAP program has expended \$9.6 million to date and will conclude in February 2018.³³⁹

COUNTERNARCOTICS

As of December 31, 2015, the United States has provided \$8.4 billion for counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan since 2002. Congress appropriated most of these funds through the DOD Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities (DOD CN) Fund (\$3 billion), the ASFF (\$1.4 billion), the Economic Support Fund (ESF) (\$1.6 billion), and a portion of the State Department's International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) account (\$2.2 billion). USAID's alternative-development programs support U.S. counternarcotics objectives by helping countries develop economic alternatives to narcotics production. In addition to reconstruction funding, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) receives funding through direct appropriations to operate in Afghanistan.³⁴⁰ (See Appendix B.)

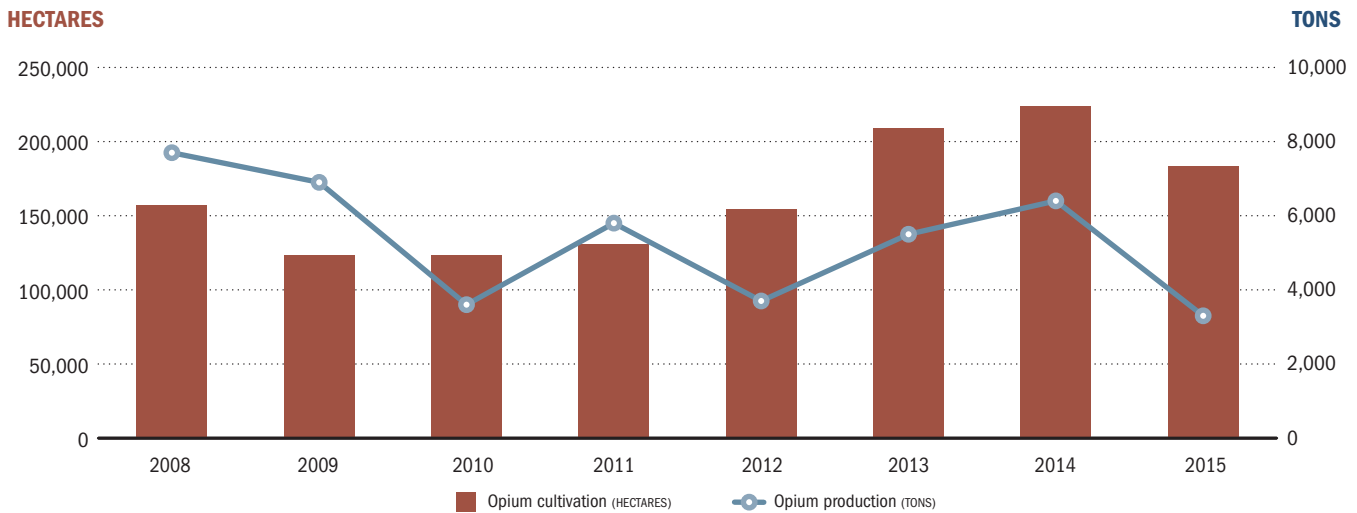
In October 2015, the Afghan government approved its National Drug Action Plan (NDAP), developed in collaboration with the U.S. government. State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) said it will support the NDAP by using available resources and future funding requests to bolster counternarcotics efforts. The United States is updating and revising its counternarcotics strategy for Afghanistan to support the goals and objectives outlined in the NDAP.³⁴¹

In December 2015, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published its *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015*. UNODC estimated that the area under cultivation was 183,000 hectares, a 19% decrease from the previous year. Afghan opium production (3,300 tons) also decreased 48% from its 2014 level. However, UNODC cautioned that it changed its methodology between 2014 and 2015, which could make changes appear larger than they actually were. The decreases do not result from a single factor

SECURITY

FIGURE 3.27

AFGHAN OPIUM CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION SINCE 2008



Source: UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008*, 11/2008, p. 5; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009*, 12/2009, p. 5; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2010*, 12/2010, p. 7; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2011: Summary Findings*, 10/2011, p. 1; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*, 12/2013, p. 12; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2014: Cultivation and Production*, 11/2014, p. 7; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015: Cultivation and Production*, 12/2015, p. 8.

The Partners for Afghanistan and

Neighboring Countries: Also referred to as the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, it was created in December 2011 by the UN to combat illicit drug and opium production and cultivation in the region. The program fosters cooperation, information sharing, networking, and partnerships between the countries in the region through a strategic framework.

Source: UNODC, *Regional Programme for Promoting Counter Narcotics in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, Semi-Annual Progress Report Issue No. 5, January–June 2014*, pp. 5, 6, and 10.

or policy measure and do not represent a downward trend. According to UNODC, the declines are mainly a consequence of repeated crop failures in the southern and southwestern regions of Afghanistan. Production and cultivation results had been rising for the past decade, as illustrated in Figure 3.27.³⁴²

In December 2015, INL took part in two UNODC international meetings, the High-Level Meeting of **Partners for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries** and the **Paris Pact** Consultative Group Meeting. The NDAP was presented at both. At these meetings, the United States reaffirmed support for counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan and encouraged international commitments to the NDAP. During a recent winter visit to Afghanistan, the UNODC regional representative for Afghanistan and neighboring countries told Special Inspector General John F. Sopko that regional and international coordination is critical to achieve sustainable reductions in drug production. According to the regional representative, the UN was best suited to coordinate efforts to improve the efficiency of donors' assistance.³⁴³

Drug Demand Reduction

Although INL itself reports in its 2015 *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report* that “the prevalence of addiction and severity of

consumption [in Afghanistan] is the highest documented in the world,” INL is reducing funding to all treatment centers.³⁴⁴

In January 2015, INL transitioned its first group of 13 treatment programs to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) responsibility. Another 15 treatment centers will begin transitioning in January 2016; the remaining 69 treatment centers will be transitioned by the end of 2019. INL reduced funding to all facilities (including the original MOPH portfolio of 23 centers and the 13 that were in transition during 2015) by approximately 20% in 2015. According to INL, further cuts are necessary in the coming year.

During 2015, the MOPH and INL’s implementing partner, the **Colombo Plan**, collaborated to transfer the clinical staff from the first group of treatment centers onto the Afghan government payroll. According to INL, this will be complete by January 2016. A total of 67 clinical staff members were trained between January and March 2015 by the Colombo Plan; additional staff were hired this quarter and 25 trained in December 2015. In 2015, UNODC provided training to 140 staff on new treatments and the MOPH provided “train the trainer” training to 120 staff on treatment methodologies.³⁴⁵

During the quarter, INL began working with the Ministry of Higher Education on the possibility of establishing an addiction studies department at Kabul University and continued its efforts with the Ministry of Education on preventative drug education teacher training.³⁴⁶

INL contributed over \$4.6 million to the Colombo Plan in April 2015 and \$12.9 million during 2015 for drug treatment and education programs. In 2014, INL contributed \$7.6 million to the Colombo Plan and \$9.4 million for drug treatment and education programs. SIGAR has written in previous quarterly reports about the insufficient number of treatment centers to address Afghanistan’s growing domestic addiction problem. In addition to the significant number of heroin and opiate users, Afghanistan has seen a rise in methamphetamine (crystal meth) users. The first crystal meth seizure was in 2008 in Helmand. In 2015, there were seizures in 14 provinces. Although Iran is the leading producer of crystal meth in the region, its manufacture is on the rise in Afghanistan. The meth seized in Afghanistan is of high quality, 90% or higher purity. This recent phenomenon has prompted the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) to urge stronger legal penalties for trafficking in methamphetamine.³⁴⁷

If the numbers of crystal meth users and local manufacturing labs continue to rise, it will intensify the challenge of addressing the country’s already robust illicit drug economy.

Counter Narcotics Community Engagement

INL funds the nationwide Counter Narcotics Community Engagement (CNCE) program, which focuses on discouraging poppy cultivation,

The Paris Pact: The partnership of several countries and international organizations to combat illicit opium traffic from Afghanistan. It originated from a meeting of various ministers held in Paris in 2003 on central Asian drug routes. It aims to reduce opium-poppy cultivation and production, and global consumption of heroin and other opiates, and establish a broad international coalition to combat illicit traffic in opiates.

Colombo Plan: Instituted as a regional intergovernmental organization to further economic and social development, it was conceived at a conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), in 1950 with seven founding member countries, and has expanded to 26 member countries. INL continues to support the Colombo Plan’s Asian Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals (ACCE), a training unit of treatment experts to assist governments in developing a professional certification process for addiction professionals in Asia and Africa.

Source: Paris Pact, “What is it?” www.paris-pact.net, accessed 7/16/2014; The Colombo Plan Secretariat, “History,” www.colombo-plan.org, accessed 4/7/2014; State, INL, *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report: Volume I, Drug and Chemical Control*, 3/2013, p. 20.

preventing drug use by raising public awareness, and encouraging licit crop production. Since 2013, INL has expended \$9.18 million on the program. The program was extended for one year on April 4, 2015, with an additional cost of \$1.55 million. The program has a total cost of \$9.7 million.³⁴⁸

The program pays an Afghan company, Sayara Media Communications, to place 42 reporters in Afghan provinces, to gather information and gauge perceptions of counternarcotics policies and messaging. Sayara assesses the effectiveness of campaigns and seeks to identify the provincial drivers of drug trafficking, opium cultivation, and public sentiment. According to INL, activities during the quarter focused on the 2016 preplanting-season campaign as well as numerous public outreach events, to include print, television and radio campaigns organized by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN).³⁴⁹

Sayara monitors counternarcotics-related items in the media and evaluates any changes on a monthly basis. The effectiveness of this media campaign is unclear. INL said some areas exposed to counternarcotics media experienced a decrease in opium cultivation, while in other areas where security and governance remain a challenge, cultivation numbers increased or remained the same. An independent evaluation of the INL-funded messaging program has not taken place since early in the program's implementation, but a 2008 evaluation of a similar campaign concluded that "public CN [counternarcotics] awareness campaigns cannot be effective in isolation and, to increase the chances of success, need to be (i) coordinated with the development of the licit rural economy to provide alternatives to opium poppy cultivation, and (ii) accompanied by credible threats of punishment (including eradication)."³⁵⁰

Independent Directorate of Local

Governance (IDLG): Created in 2007, the IDLG was established with the mandate of transferring civilian responsibilities of the Ministry of Interior to an independent entity. IDLG supports the provincial councils and is responsible for local governance.

Its strategic plan is carried out in the national priority program on subnational governance. IDLG has developed the mentioned program for the purpose of strengthening subnational governance with the cooperation of relevant entities and agreement of the international partners.

Source: Government of Afghanistan, Independent Directorate of Local Governance website, "History," accessed 1/11/2016.

Governor-Led Eradication Program

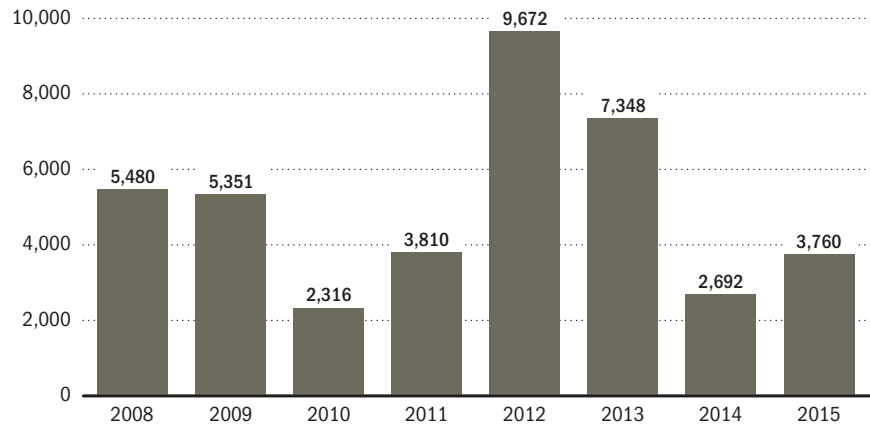
INL funds the Governor-Led Eradication Program (GLE) program, which reimburses provinces for the cost of eradicating poppies. Since 2007, INL has contributed \$10 million to the MCN for the GLE program, which accounts for less than 2% of INL's annual counternarcotics budget for Afghanistan. The MCN tracks cumulative results—which are verified by UNODC. According to UNODC, a total of 3,720 hectares were eradicated in 2015, a 40% increase from last year's results.³⁵¹

Eradication results have been declining over the past few years, as shown in Figure 3.28. There were few security incidents during eradication, which UNODC attributes to improved coordination between the MCN, MOD, MOI and the **Independent Directorate of Local Governance**. Eradication took place near active military operations in Helmand and Kandahar, which reportedly improved security but also underscored the lack of government control in those areas.³⁵²

This quarter, INL made no GLE payments to the ministry. After UNODC verified the 2015 results in September, INL requested that the MCN fully

FIGURE 3.28

GOVERNOR LED OPIUM-POPPY ERADICATION, 2008–2015 (HECTARES)



Note: Program results are based on UNODC-verified eradication figures.

Source: UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008*, 11/2008, p. 5; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009*, 12/2009, p. 5; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2010*, 12/2010, p. 7; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2011: Summary Findings*, 10/2011, p. 1; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*, 12/2013, p. 12; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2014: Cultivation and Production*, 11/2014, p. 7; *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015: Cultivation and Production*, 12/2015, p. 8.

account for advances it paid to provinces during 2015 and reconcile unearned advances by provinces from previous years. INL said it will disburse final payment once this occurs. The MCN has not finalized its 2016 eradication plans, which are expected to align with milestones laid out in the recently adopted National Drug Action Plan.³⁵³

Good Performer's Initiative

INL's Good Performer's Initiative (GPI) is a program implemented by the MCN that seeks to incentivize provincial counternarcotics performance. As of November 30, 2015, a total of 253 GPI projects with a value of more than \$119.5 million have been approved. Some 195 projects have been completed, 56 were ongoing, and two were nearing completion.

Under the terms of the original GPI, which ran through August 30, 2014, a province was eligible for financial support of GPI development projects for each year that it achieved UNODC-verified poppy-free status or reduced cultivation by more than 10% compared to the previous year's levels. In September 2014, the MCN began implementing a redesigned GPI to encourage more integrated counternarcotics action and provide more focused support for rural alternative livelihoods. Under the new GPI (GPI II), the award categories for "good performers" were expanded to include progress in public outreach and law enforcement, in addition to cultivation. The

new program will continue to link action with rewards: provinces must demonstrate verifiable counternarcotics achievements against defined standards to receive awards.³⁵⁴ Negotiations on GPI II between the Afghan Government and U.S. Embassy Kabul are ongoing.³⁵⁵

INL ensures that projects proposed under the GPI program do not conflict with other U.S. government work through interagency consultation. INL and its implementing partners consult with USAID to avoid pitfalls such as duplicative work with the same beneficiaries or offering competing activities, and to develop complementary activities where possible. State's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan hosts regular counternarcotics working groups to bring together interagency personnel from State, DOD, DEA, USAID, and other relevant agencies to maintain coordination on multiple programs.³⁵⁶

Ministry of Counter Narcotics Capacity Building

The memorandum of understanding between INL and the MCN that provided funding for 24 Afghan advisors to help build capacity expired in September 2015. It was not extended due to the poor security conditions that limited the ability of U.S. advisors to access the MCN and hampered oversight of the program. To date, INL has obligated \$331,479 and spent \$126,491 on capacity-building items and \$742,549 on the salaries of advisors.³⁵⁷

INL shifted from providing capacity-building support through embedded advisors to offering skills-based training to ministry staff and integrating the Asian University for Women fellows into the work of the MCN.³⁵⁸

In April 2015, INL published its independent risk assessment of the MCN's public financial-management system, which identified significant deficiencies that increased the potential for misstatements in financial reporting, inefficient and ineffective operations, and noncompliance with laws and regulations. Areas of particular concern were internal control, program management and monitoring, and fixed-asset management. INL said it is procuring a contractor to implement the remediation plan.³⁵⁹

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT/ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD

USAID's alternative-development programs support U.S. counternarcotics objectives by helping countries develop economic alternatives to narcotics production. INL funding supports supply-reduction and alternative-development programs. INL told SIGAR it coordinates regularly with USAID to ensure that INL-supported alternative-development efforts complement past and ongoing investments by USAID in licit livelihoods and rural development in Afghanistan.³⁶⁰

TABLE 3.12

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS					
Agency	Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
State (INL)	Strengthening Afghan Governance and Alternative Livelihoods (SAGAL)	7/21/2014	1/20/2016	\$11,884,816	\$7,321,345
USAID	Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing Program (CHAMP)	2/1/2010	12/30/2016	45,296,184	45,081,411
USAID	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East, and West (IDEA-NEW)	3/2/2009	9/30/2015	159,878,589	156,401,307
USAID	Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ)	7/31/2013	8/30/2016	27,695,788	20,530,000
USAID	Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP)-South	10/7/2013	10/6/2018	125,075,172	45,241,343
USAID	Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP)-North	5/21/2014	5/20/2019	78,429,714	13,710,191
USAID	Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP)-West	8/10/2014	8/9/2019	69,973,376	14,038,692

Note: USAID programs listed are not necessarily funded from the agency's Alternative Development Fund.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 12/28/2015; USAID, *Quarterly Pipeline Analysis Report as of 12/31/2015*, 1/11/2016; INL, response to SIGAR data call, 12/23/2015.

Strengthening Afghan Governance and Alternative Livelihoods

The nongovernmental Aga Khan Foundation and its partners implement activities across 16 provinces under INL's \$11.9 million Strengthening Afghan Governance and Alternative Livelihoods (SAGAL) grant. The implementers favor activities, rather than stand-alone projects, with the following five objectives:

- improve agricultural yields of high-potential licit crops
- increase economic return for licit crops
- improve farmers' access to financing
- reduce vulnerability of at-risk populations to engage in the illicit economy
- improve subnational governance

According to INL, SAGAL activities will complement past and ongoing investments in licit livelihoods and rural development by the U.S. government, including support for GPI II. Where possible, SAGAL will support a more decentralized GPI II project-selection and nomination process to improve the recognition of rural community needs. SAGAL has expended \$7.3 million to date and will conclude in January 2016.³⁶¹

Table 3.12 provides summary financial information on SAGAL and other alternative livelihood programs.

Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ)

The Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) is a three-year, \$27.7 million, USAID alternative livelihood project, implemented by International Relief and Development Inc. under a joint strategy and in close coordination with INL. KFZ is designed to identify and address the drivers of poppy cultivation in targeted districts of Kandahar Province through grants for activities that improve community infrastructure, strengthen alternative livelihoods, and support small businesses.³⁶² KFZ expended \$2.15 million between July

and September 2015. During year two, KFZ completed the construction or rehabilitation of 12 canals; conducted surveys and designs for another four canals; identified and awarded contracts for building greenhouses; and conducted training for recently hired staff to conduct village surveys to identify new infrastructure projects and identify the drivers of poppy cultivation. Cumulative disbursements, since the program's inception in 2013, total \$20.5 million as of December 31, 2015. For funding information on this alternative livelihood program, please refer to Table 3.12 on page 99 of this report. More information on KFZ is available in SIGAR's October 30, 2015, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*.³⁶³

Regional Agricultural Development Program

The Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) is intended to help Afghan farmers achieve more inclusive and sustainable economic growth. RADP projects are under way in the southern, western, and northern regions of Afghanistan. The projects focus on strengthening the capacity of farmers to improve the productivity of wheat, high-value crops, and livestock. Using a **value chain** approach, these projects work with farmers and agribusinesses to overcome obstacles hindering production, processing, sales, and overall development of agricultural value chains.³⁶⁴ As of December 31, 2015, USAID has made cumulative disbursements of \$32.6 million to RADP-North, \$30.9 million to RADP-South, and \$28.0 million to RADP-West.

RADP-North is a five-year, \$78.4 million program covering Baghlan, Balkh, Jowzjan, Kunduz, and Samangan provinces. This quarter, the program conducted a short-message service (SMS or "text message") marketing campaign to farmers and suppliers. The program also sponsored 22 agribusinesses to participate at the October Kabul International Agricultural Fair and provided training for the November 2015 "WorldFood Kazakhstan" industry exhibition.³⁶⁵

The purpose of RADP-South is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, and Uruzgan. It began in October 2013 and is scheduled to end in October 2018 with an estimated cost of \$125 million. Between October 2014 and October 2015, RADP-South's key accomplishments included teaching over 22,000 farmers new production and productivity practices for wheat, high value crops, and livestock; providing new cooling techniques, improving packing materials and practices, which increased product shelf life for more than 3,100 high-value-chain farmers; and providing nutrition as well as entrepreneurship training for over 3,100 women, in addition to supporting 58 veterinary field units.³⁶⁶ The training for farmers involved on-farm and field demonstrations as well as classroom sessions to improve management practices and use of new techniques to increase crop yield.³⁶⁷

The implementing partner noted that insecurity presents challenges for monitoring project activities in the field. As a result, RADP-South will

Value chain: the range of goods and services necessary for an agricultural product to move from the farm to the final customer or consumer. It encompasses the provision of inputs, actual on-farm production, post-harvest storage and processing, marketing and transportation, wholesale and retail sales.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2015.

explore options for third-party monitoring by partners with a significant presence in southern provinces. As of October 1, RADP-South suspended all activities with Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, the key implementing partner in Helmand Province, as instructed by USAID's Office of the Inspector General. USAID said after the suspension, it deployed a support team to ensure logistical and operational continuity.³⁶⁸ The project's intended outcomes are to

- increase agricultural productivity and profitability
- increase and sustain the adoption of licit crops
- increase profitability of small, medium and large agribusinesses
- increase women's participation in agriculture value chain activities

In July 2015, SIGAR published a financial audit of the Southern Regional Agricultural Development (SRAD) program which ended in 2012. The audit revealed two material weaknesses and one internal control deficiency resulting in \$28.4 million in questionable costs. SRAD, the precursor to RADP-South, focused its activities on cash-for-work temporary employment activities and agricultural voucher packages, to develop the region into a sustainable and prosperous agricultural economy. Prior SIGAR *Quarterly Reports to the United States Congress* (see July 30, 2012, for instance) addressed the waste and mismanagement under the \$65 million SRAD program.³⁶⁹

The \$160 million Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West (IDEA-NEW) ended September 30, 2015. RADP-East, which is scheduled to start around March 2016, will pursue similar activities in the region as IDEA-NEW. USAID told SIGAR it foresees no negative impact despite the time gap between the end of IDEA-NEW's activities and the start of RADP-East. As with most agriculture projects, RADP-East alternative livelihood activities will be more intense during nonwinter months.³⁷⁰

IDEA-NEW had partnered with micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises on the demand and supply sides of high-growth value chains; it also provided matching grants and promotional-activity grants that benefited the enterprises. According to USAID, RADP-East will leverage these partnerships and accomplishments to increase the impact of its activities. RADP-East will continue three successful IDEA-NEW interventions:

- Use short message service (SMS) or "text message" marketing to deliver key information (i.e., crop-specific timing of fertilizer and pesticide application, availability of agriculture inputs, location of provider-sponsored farmer field days and training activities) to targeted farmers.
- Employ "radio-based marketing and extension" through live radio shows that will be supported through the cost-share approach with suppliers. With limited reliance on donor funding, useful **agricultural extension** information is disseminated, while linking suppliers and existing/prospective buyers.

Agricultural extension: refers to the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. Agricultural extension has now become recognized as an essential mechanism for delivering information and advice as an "input" into modern farming. In the less developed countries, the main focus remains on agricultural (mainly food) production.

Source: FAO, *Improving Agricultural Extension, A Reference Manual*, 1997, Chapter 1, www.fao.org/docrep/w5830e/w5830e00.HTM, accessed 1/5/2016.

- Conduct “farmer field days,” where food processors and suppliers demonstrate and provide samples (fertilizers, tree saplings, farm equipment) to farmers.³⁷¹

RADP-West focuses on helping rural Afghans in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, and Badghis. Despite security challenges during its first year, the program trained 603 wheat farmers in Herat and Badghis in harvesting, threshing, and storage; enabled private enterprises to contract with over 4,400 farmers to plant 100 metric tons of wheat; provided high value crops to beneficiaries; and established a sustainable vegetable-seedling production center in Herat. The program supported and trained 16 veterinary field units in Herat and Badghis. RADP-West also enabled several farmers to contract with a food processing company in Herat to supply 12 metric tons of yellow carrots. Other activities resulted in establishing 21 female-operated vegetable plots and training 25 female workers on livestock disease, care, and food security.³⁷²

For summary information on this alternative livelihood program, see Table 3.12 on page 99 of this report.³⁷³

Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program

The Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing (CHAMP) program is a \$45.3 million USAID program designed to boost agricultural productivity and food security, provide market opportunities, and decrease poppy production. As of December 31, 2015, USAID has disbursed \$45.1 million for CHAMP projects. CHAMP works to reduce poverty among rural Afghan farmers by helping them shift from relatively low-value subsistence crops, such as wheat and corn, to high-value crops such as fruits and vegetables.³⁷⁴

CHAMP has worked in half of the provinces of Afghanistan, providing training in agricultural best practices, building storage facilities, and helping grape farmers convert from traditional ground-level vineyards to higher-output trellis systems. The program has been extended from its earlier end date of December 2014 until December 2016 to reinforce gains made in the export sector and increase Afghan exports to regional supermarkets by up to 10,000 metric tons annually.

CHAMP is carrying out activities throughout six main value chains (apples, apricots, almonds, grapes, melons, and pomegranates). The program focuses on improving horticultural and marketing practices to produce high-quality fruit for high-value markets such as the United Arab Emirates and India.³⁷⁵

Since 2010, CHAMP's various achievements include training 109,000 farmers, including 3,400 women, to improve agricultural techniques; planting nearly three million saplings and root cuttings benefitting 19,500 farmers; and exporting 38,000 tons of produce valued at \$40.5 million to

international markets. CHAMP enabled the construction of over 230 storage facilities and created over 7,600 full-time jobs in agribusiness.³⁷⁶

During the third quarter of 2015, CHAMP provided training to over 1,500 farmers, including 174 women, at established farmer field schools in Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Parwan, Logar, and Wardak provinces. At CHAMP farmer field schools, participants learn new agricultural practices such as orchard or trellis management and receive modern agricultural tools. In July 2015, CHAMP arranged training on food safety, hazard analysis, and critical control points. The program also arranged linkage meetings between farmers and traders during the export season. During the third quarter of 2015, the program facilitated deal negotiations resulting in the export of 86 metric tons of apricots, melons, and grapes to the United Arab Emirates and India.³⁷⁷

Between July and September 2015, CHAMP provided training to

- 174 women grape producers from the provinces of Kabul, Kapisa, and Parwan on winter-season practices such as composting, pruning, and fertilizer application
- 305 women from Kabul and Parwan provinces in raisin-drying training
- 478 women on sulphur drying of apricots³⁷⁸

For summary financial information on this program, see Table 3.12 on page 99 of this report.³⁷⁹

Interdiction Operations and Results

The Counternarcotics Police of Afghanistan consists of regular narcotics police and specialized units across the country. The specialized units include the Sensitive Investigation Unit (SIU), National Interdiction Unit (NIU), and the Intelligence Investigation Unit. Nearly half of the CNPA's 2,800 personnel are assigned to Kabul. The INL interdiction program supports the maintenance of NIU/SIU and DEA facilities and a judicial wire intercept unit.³⁸⁰

DOD reported that from October 1 to December 16, 2015, Afghan security forces and law-enforcement agencies conducted 25 drug-interdiction operations and detained 45 individuals. These operations included routine patrols, cordon-and-search operations, vehicle interdictions, and detention operations. DOD is currently working with INL and DEA to relocate personnel to the international zone to enable DEA to continue mentoring and training the CNPA's specialized investigative units. U.S. interdiction activities in Afghanistan throughout 2015 were minimal, as only one counternarcotic operation was conducted in April.³⁸¹

Most interdiction activities occurred in the eastern and capital regions. In the past, interdictions were concentrated in southern regions, where the majority of opiates are grown, processed, and smuggled out of Afghanistan. DOD said the Coalition drawdown has had a negative impact on the CNPA and other Afghan counternarcotics agencies. The impact is most

SECURITY

TABLE 3.13

INTERDICTION RESULTS, FISCAL YEARS 2008–2016										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*	TOTAL
Number of Operations	136	282	263	624	669	518	333	265	25	3,115
Detainees	49	190	484	862	535	386	441	391	45	3,383
Hashish seized (kg)	241,353	58,677	25,044	182,213	183,776	37,826	19,088	24,784	114,466	887,227
Heroin seized (kg)	277	576	8,392	10,982	3,441	2,489	3,052	2,845	332	32,386
Morphine seized (kg)	409	5,195	2,279	18,040	10,042	11,067	5,925	505	–	53,462
Opium seized (kg)	15,361	79,110	49,750	98,327	70,814	41,350	38,307	26,083	3,531	422,633
Precursor chemicals seized (kg)	4,709	93,031	20,397	122,150	130,846	36,250	53,184	234,981	–	695,548

Note: The significant difference in precursor chemicals total seizures between 2014 and 2015 is due to a 12/22/2015 seizure of 135,000 liters (L) of precursor chemicals.
* Results for period 10/1–12/16/2015 only.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 9/24/2015 and 12/29/2015.

pronounced in the provinces of Helmand and Kandahar where the Coalition surge was focused and the subsequent withdrawal has had the greatest impact. According to DOD, the decrease of overall counterdrug missions is likely a result of less frequent partnering of U.S. and Coalition forces with Afghan forces and the need to use counternarcotic forces for general security roles due to the country’s declining security situation.³⁸²

In 2015, given the U.S. military’s reduced capabilities in Afghanistan, DOD created a Regional Narcotics Interagency Fusion Cell (RNIFC) to combat the regional drug trade. The RNIFC, located in Bahrain, tracks and interdicts the illicit movement of Afghan heroin and other illicit commodities on dhows (traditional sailing vessels) destined for the Middle East and East Africa. In addition to the CNPA, Afghan organizations contributing to interdiction activities include the Afghan Border Police, ANP, AUP, and the General Command of Police Special Unit.³⁸³

Afghan operations during this period also resulted in the reported seizures of the following narcotics contraband:

- 3,531 kg of opium
- 331.5 kg of heroin
- 114,465.5 kg of hashish/marijuana

There were no precursor chemicals seizures this quarter.³⁸⁴

As noted in previous SIGAR reports, interdiction results have been declining since 2012, as shown in Table 3.13.

Aviation Support

Between September and December 2015, State’s Air Wing counternarcotics support to INL consisted of 45.7 flight hours, 187 sorties, 529 personnel transported, and 25,217 pounds of cargo moved. Air Wing support to DEA (air shuttle and National Interdiction Unit movements) consisted of

Precursor chemical: a substance that may be used in the production, manufacture and/or preparation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Source: UNODC, “Multilingual Dictionary of Precursors and Chemicals,” 2009, viii.

23.3 flight hours, 45 sorties, 406 personnel transported, and 19,650 pounds of cargo moved.³⁸⁵

INL's ability to support tactical operations in the south and southwest regions of the country has been constrained since the June 2015 closure of INL's base at Kandahar Airfield. NIU personnel continue to staff the regional law enforcement centers in Kandahar, Herat, and Kunduz. Additionally, NIU personnel occasionally support other MOI operations outside of Kabul. INL continues to assist the NIU and SIU with enablers, including operations and maintenance, while NIU typically uses the Special Mission Wing (SMW) for aviation support. See pages 85–86 of this report for more information on the SMW.³⁸⁶

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GOVERNANCE

As of December 31, 2015, the United States had provided nearly \$31.8 billion to support governance and economic development in Afghanistan. Most of this funding, more than \$18.6 billion, was appropriated to the Economic Support Fund (ESF) administered by the State Department (State) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The fiscal year (FY) 2016 ESF appropriation for Afghanistan was still being determined when this report went to press.

KEY EVENTS

This quarter, President Ashraf Ghani announced one component of the Jobs for Peace program, a 24-to-30-month, jobs-focused stimulus and stabilization program. The overall program is meant to provide short-term, labor-intensive employment in rural and urban areas. The initial cost of the first component is expected to be \$100 million, growing to approximately \$350 million as it expands to all provinces. The Afghan government initially estimates the entire Jobs for Peace program will cost approximately \$1.18 billion, though some components still require budget estimates.³⁸⁷ In December, the United States announced plans to contribute \$50 million to support the Afghan government's job-creation efforts.³⁸⁸

On January 11, Afghan, Pakistani, U.S., and Chinese officials met in Islamabad in an effort to lay the groundwork for new talks with the Taliban. The Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) emphasized the immediate need for direct talks between representatives of the Afghan government and Taliban groups. Pakistani officials recommended that the Afghan government not demand concessions from Taliban leaders before beginning talks. Additionally, Pakistani officials said threats against Taliban members who refused to join the talks would be “counterproductive.”³⁸⁹

In December, the Asia Foundation released their 2015 *Survey of the Afghan People*. The survey found that in 2015, 36.7% of respondents nationwide say their country is moving in the right direction, down from 54.7% in 2014. This represents the lowest level of optimism recorded over the past 10 years, following last year's record high during the presidential runoff election. Among the 57.5% of Afghans who say their country is moving

in the wrong direction, the most frequently cited reason is insecurity (44.6%, up six percentage points from 2014), followed by unemployment (25.4%), corruption in general (13.0%), a bad economy (12.4%), and bad government (11.4%).³⁹⁰

Despite government efforts to curb corruption, 89.9% of Afghans say that corruption is a problem in their daily lives, the highest percentage reported in a decade, with 61.1% saying it is a major problem and 28.8% saying it is a minor problem. This year, over half (53.3%) of Afghans who had contact with police within the past year say they paid a bribe, up from 45.1% in 2014. The frequency of bribes paid to officials in the municipality/district office (66.0%), judiciary and courts (63.4%), customs office (61.2%), provincial governor's office (60.9%), state electricity supply (54.9%), Afghan National Police (ANP) (53.3%), public health services (52.6%), and Afghan National Army (ANA) (43.2%), and when applying for a job (58.7%), and for admissions to school/university (43.0%) all rose in 2015.³⁹¹

On January 18, the elections commission announced that parliamentary and district council elections would occur on October 15. A spokesman for Chief Executive Abdullah responded that the election commission lacks legitimacy and that election reform is a precondition for elections. The elections commission chairman further stated that the Afghan government does not have the authority to remove elections commissioners. Abdullah, however, promised that a new commission will carry out the elections.³⁹²

NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

Refreshed Mutual Accountability

On September 5, international donors and the Afghan government met in Kabul for the second Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). The meeting was a continuation of the annual high-level meetings to follow up on mutual commitments from the July 2012 Tokyo Conference. The purpose of the SOM was to review progress on the Afghan reform program, discuss key policy issues, and to jointly decide the way forward.³⁹³

As a result of the September SOM, the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF) has superseded the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF). The SMAF will now guide the activities of the Afghan government and the international community at least to the end of the term of the present government. The SMAF covers six areas: (1) improving security and political stability (with three associated indicators); (2) anticorruption, governance, rule of law, and human rights (14 indicators); (3) restoring fiscal sustainability and integrity of public finance and commercial banking (nine indicators); (4) reforming development planning and management, and ensuring citizens' development rights (three indicators); (5) private-sector development and inclusive growth and

GOVERNANCE

TABLE 3.14

STATUS OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT SMAF SHORT-TERM DELIVERABLES (DUE BY THE END OF 2015)	
Short-Term Deliverable	Completed?
Appoint an attorney general; fill vacant deputy minister and governor posts	No
Five revenue-based ministries (Finance, Mines and Petroleum, Commerce and Industries, Transport and Civil Aviation, Communication and Information Technology) prepare anticorruption plans	No
An approved National Action Plan for Women Peace and Security implementation plan, including consultation with donors	No
Development councils approved and functioning to manage different sectors	No
Memorandum of understanding between government and civil society approved	Yes
Launch national program to survey informal settlements and provide 100% coverage of land tenure certificates in cities of Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-e Sharif, and Jalalabad	No
Launch program to provide 5,000+ rural communities with funds for labor-intensive works to repair agricultural infrastructure	Yes
Launch pilot program for market gardening in urban peripheries	No
Complete new power-distribution systems to provide electricity to 40,000 poor households	No

Source: USAID, OPPD, response to SIGAR data call, 12/28/2015.

development (four indicators); and (6) development partnerships and aid effectiveness (eight indicators).³⁹⁴ In addition to the SMAF indicators, there are 39 short-term deliverables across the same six areas that are collectively due to be completed by the end of 2016.³⁹⁵

As shown in Table 3.14, nine SMAF short-term deliverables were due to be completed by the end of 2015. According to USAID, as of December 28, 2015, only two were complete.³⁹⁶

Overall, SOM donors reaffirmed their Tokyo commitment of providing \$16 billion to Afghanistan through 2015, and sustaining support through 2017 at or near the levels of the past decade.³⁹⁷ USAID said that although it cannot identify funds that may be awarded or withheld directly related to compliance or noncompliance with SMAF targets and indicators, noncompliance with SMAF indicators could erode donor confidence and reduce aid contributions.³⁹⁸

Electoral Reform Challenges

According to State, the Afghan government made some progress on electoral reform this quarter. On December 16, President Ghani issued a presidential decree announcing the seven members of a selection committee that will decide on the candidates for the new Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Central Complaints Commission (CCC) commissioners. The IEC will establish the timeline for parliamentary and district-council elections, as well as administer and supervise the elections. On December 21, the Special Elections Reform Commission (SERC) presented its final electoral-system recommendations. The SERC proposed that the IEC and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) be merged, that election violations be prosecuted, and that a special court for election disputes be established.³⁹⁹

On December 26, the lower house of parliament rejected President Ghani's electoral decree. This threw the status of the electoral selection committee into confusion; the head of the IEC supported parliament's move, while the deputy of the selection committee accused the IEC of having lost its credibility.⁴⁰⁰ Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, reacting to parliament's move, insisted that new commissioners would be appointed to the IEC and ECC.⁴⁰¹

The 2014 presidential elections, which international monitors noted had experienced substantial fraud, highlighted Afghanistan's continuing need for electoral reforms.⁴⁰² As the United Nations Secretary-General observed in June, "Comprehensive electoral reforms will be crucial for restoring the faith of the Afghan people in the democratic process."⁴⁰³

Overhauling the electoral process was a central part of the power-sharing deal brokered by the United States between President Ghani and his former election rival, current Chief Executive Abdullah, after the troubled presidential elections. The September 2014 agreement that led to formation of the national-unity government called for the immediate establishment of a special commission for election reform with the aim of implementing reform before the 2015 parliamentary elections, and distribution of electronic identity cards to all Afghan citizens as quickly as possible.⁴⁰⁴

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT BUDGET

Summary of On-Budget Agreements

To improve governance and align development efforts with Afghan priorities, international donors at the 2010 Kabul Conference committed to increase to 50% the proportion of civilian development aid delivered **on-budget** through the Afghan government.⁴⁰⁵ Donors, including the United States, reiterated this pledge at the July 2012 Tokyo Conference and again at both the December 2014 London Conference and the September 2015 SOM.⁴⁰⁶

As shown in Table 3.15, USAID expects to spend \$1.07 billion on active direct bilateral-assistance programs. It also expects to contribute \$1.9 billion to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), on top of \$1.37 billion disbursed under the previous grant agreement between USAID and the World Bank. USAID has disbursed \$105 million to the Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF).⁴⁰⁷

The U.S. government announced in March 2015 that it intends to seek funding to support the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), including the army and police, at the authorized force level of 352,000 personnel through at least 2017.⁴⁰⁸ The Department of Defense (DOD) was appropriated \$3.7 billion to support the ANDSF for fiscal year (FY) 2016.⁴⁰⁹

On-budget assistance: encompasses donor funds that are aligned with Afghan government plans, included in Afghan government budget documents, and approved by the parliament and managed by the Afghan treasury system. On-budget assistance is primarily delivered either through direct bilateral agreements between the donor and Afghan government entities, or through multidonor trust funds.

Off-budget assistance: encompasses donor funds that are excluded from the Afghan national budget and not managed through Afghan government systems.

Source: SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, 7/30/2014, p. 130; Ministry of Finance, "Aid Management Policy for Transition and Beyond," 12/10/2012, p. 8; State, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/14/2016.

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TABLE 3.15

USAID ON-BUDGET PROGRAMS							
Project/Trust Fund Title	Afghan Government On-Budget Partner	Special Bank Account?	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)	
Bilateral Government-to-Government Projects							
Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity Project (PTEC)	Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS)	Yes	1/1/2013	12/31/2018	\$670,000,000	\$66,354,254	
Partnership Contracts for Health Services (PCH) Program	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	Yes	7/20/2008	12/31/2015	259,663,247	233,127,964	
Kajaki Unit 2 Project (Installation of Turbine Generator Unit 2 at Kajaki Dam Hydropower Plant)	DABS	Yes	4/22/2013	12/31/2015	75,000,000	38,078,735	
Afghanistan Workforce Development Project (AWDP)	Ministry of Education (MOE)	Yes	9/18/2013	4/3/2016	30,000,000	1,321,456	
Basic Education, Literacy, and Training (BELT) - Textbooks Printing and Distribution	MOE	Yes	11/16/2011	12/31/2015	26,996,813	24,970,742	
E-Government Resource Center (EGRC)	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MOCIT)	Yes	8/28/2013	6/1/2016	3,900,000	405,000	
Multi-Donor Trust Funds							
Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) (current award)*	Multiple	No	3/31/2012	3/31/2017	1,900,000,000	1,061,302,620	
Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF)**	Multiple	No	3/7/2013	3/6/2018	113,670,184	105,000,000	

Note:

* USAID had a previous award to the ARTF that concluded in March 2012 and totaled \$1,371,991,195 in disbursements. Cumulative disbursements from the two ARTF awards are currently \$2,433,293,815.

** On October 9, 2014, USAID de-subobligated \$179,500,000 from the AITF.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

At the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago, the United States, NATO allies, and other coalition partners announced an agreed vision for the ANDSF and committed to providing adequate funding for this force. This vision included a drawdown of the 352,000 ANDSF “surge” force by the end of 2015. This drawdown was predicated upon an improving security environment that would then allow for an enduring force of 228,500 ANDSF personnel at an estimated cost of \$4.1 billion by the end of 2017. The summit participants agreed, however, to continue to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan to evaluate conditions on the ground, making adjustments as needed. According to DOD, security conditions have not yet warranted such a drawdown. As a result, in March 2015, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced that DOD would seek funding for the 352,000 authorized force level through at least 2017.⁴¹⁰ At a December meeting in Brussels, Belgium, NATO foreign ministers agreed to begin steps to secure international funding for the ANDSF through the end of 2020.⁴¹¹

For 2016, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) expects the U.S. to contribute \$114 million for police salaries via the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA).⁴¹²

At press time, DOD's commitment letter for direct contributions to MOD was not finalized. DOD expects to contribute approximately \$412 million in direct contributions to the MOI.⁴¹³

SIGAR AUDIT

This quarter, SIGAR initiated a follow-up audit of the ARTF. In July 2011, SIGAR found that the World Bank and the Afghan government had established mechanisms to monitor and account for ARTF contributions, but that several limitations and challenges should be addressed. This audit will assess the extent to which the World Bank and the Afghan government (1) monitor and account for U.S. contributions to the ARTF; (2) evaluate whether ARTF-funded projects have achieved their stated goals and objectives; and (3) utilize and enforce any conditionality on ARTF funding.

Civilian On-Budget Assistance

USAID provides on-budget civilian assistance through (1) bilateral agreements with four Afghan government entities and (2) contributions to two multidonor trust funds, the ARTF and the AITF.⁴¹⁴ According to USAID, all bilateral-assistance funds are deposited in separate bank accounts established by the Ministry of Finance for each program.⁴¹⁵

The ARTF, administered by the World Bank, provides funds to both the Afghan government's operating and development budgets in support of Afghan government operations, policy reforms, and national-priority programs.⁴¹⁶ The AITF, a multidonor trust fund administered by the Asian Development Bank, coordinates donor assistance for infrastructure projects in Afghanistan.⁴¹⁷ According to USAID, the majority of on-budget funding has been and will continue to be directed through the multidonor trust funds, particularly the ARTF.⁴¹⁸

Last quarter, USAID released the first \$100 million tranche of funds for the \$800 million, USAID-administered New Development Partnership (NDP). The NDP utilizes already budgeted or requested funding and is delivered via the ARTF.⁴¹⁹ The NDP contains its own, independent conditions that were negotiated bilaterally between the U.S. and Afghan governments.⁴²⁰ In August, the U.S. and Afghan governments signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) governing the NDP that proposed 40 development results that the Afghan government will be expected to achieve. Currently, 31 development results and indicators have been agreed to with nine to be determined. USAID noted that the results and indicators for 2017 and beyond may be modified given Afghanistan's uncertain future. The Afghan government will receive \$20 million through U.S. funds provided via the ARTF's recurrent-cost window for achieving each development result.⁴²¹

The Afghan government met several NDP indicators due by the end of 2015. The results partially met this quarter include the following indicators to justify the release of \$80 million: (1) the issuance of a legislative decree from President Ghani on the ratification of the new banking law; (2) the development and approval of a salary scale for certain Afghan government civil servants as well as a salary scale for externally funded project staff; (3) the issuance of a preventative measure regulation by the central bank that complied with the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) action plan; (4) verification that 87.5% of senior Afghan government officials who are required by

the Afghan constitution to declare their assets have done so; and (5) submission of an approved anti-harassment regulation for the public sector. The NDP indicators that were not completed by the December 31 deadline include: (1) legal amendments to the 2015 budget to increase revenues, including mobile phone top-ups and business receipt tax and (2) implementation by the customs department of an effective cash courier regulation for airports.⁴²²

In December 2014, the U.S. Embassy Kabul negotiated direct access to the Afghanistan Financial Management Information System (AFMIS) as one of two conditions for the accelerated release of \$25 million to address a severe Afghan government budget gap. Direct AFMIS access was intended to give U.S. officials the ability to analyze Afghan government expenditures in real time. Technical issues, however, continue to prevent the U.S. Embassy Kabul from connecting to AFMIS. According to USAID, embassy personnel receive fiscal data on the Afghan government's budgets but are unable to generate more detailed, customized reports such as Afghan government revenue broken out by province and source.⁴²³ State, however, questions the value of having U.S. government personnel review the raw AFMIS data saying, "we are not certain the raw data in [AFMIS] will be of significant benefit to U.S. government officials without devoting full time staff who are trained in the use of the database and tracking the data over time on a regular basis."⁴²⁴

On-Budget Assistance to the ANDSF

A large portion of on-budget U.S. assistance is for the Afghan security forces. DOD provides on-budget assistance to the Afghan government through (1) direct contributions from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) to the MOD and the MOI, and (2) ASFF contributions to the multi-donor LOTFA.⁴²⁵ Administered by the UNDP, LOTFA primarily funds Afghan National Police (ANP) salaries and incentives.⁴²⁶ Direct-contribution funding is provided to the Ministry of Finance, which allots it incrementally to the MOD and MOI, as required.⁴²⁷

In February 2011, the Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller authorized the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) to provide direct contributions to the Afghanistan government from ASFF to develop ministerial capacity and capability in the areas of budget development and execution, acquisition planning, and procurement. CSTC-A administers all contributions of ASFF resources to the MOD and MOI. CSTC-A monitors and formally audits the execution of those funds to assess ministerial capability, ensure proper controls and compliance with documented accounting procedures, and compliance with the provisions in the annual commitment letters.⁴²⁸

The commitment letters express CSTC-A's conditions for MOD and MOI assistance.⁴²⁹ MOD and MOI compliance with the conditions in the FY 1394 commitment letters has been mixed, CSTC-A said. The ministries have shown satisfactory progress toward a majority of conditions—35 for MOI

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TABLE 3.16

NUMBER OF FY 1394 MOD AND MOI COMMITMENT LETTER CONDITIONS		
Status	Number of MOD-specific conditions	Number of MOI-specific conditions
Satisfactory progress to date	35	32
Insufficient progress due to MOD (or MOI) failure with no financial penalty	4	4
Insufficient progress due to MOD (or MOI) failure with a financial penalty	2	2
Insufficient progress due to factors beyond the control of MOD (or MOI)	3	5
Unresolved	0	0

Source: CSTC-A, response to SIGAR data call, 12/31/2015.

and 32 for MOD—to date. Table 3.16 provides the number of conditions by status as assessed by CSTC-A.⁴³⁰

According to CSTC-A, the conditions requiring the MOI and MOD to input personnel information into the Afghan Human Resources Information Management System (AHRIMS) were examples of successful conditionality. According to CSTC-A, both the MOI and MOD made significant progress towards inputting 100% of personnel data in AHRIMS following, in the MOI's case, imposition of progressively increasing penalties. After the MOI missed a March 1 deadline to have all police records loaded into AHRIMS, CSTC-A levied a 1% penalty on MOI operations-and-maintenance funds for March and April, and a 5% penalty in May. CSTC-A has now shifted its focus to validating the data loaded into AHRIMS.⁴³¹

However, as reported on pages 78–88 of this report, the AHRIMS database appears incomplete, lacking data on attrition, province of origin, and educational levels for MOI and MOD personnel.

For the commitment-letter conditions that were not met or enforced, CSTC-A deemed the circumstances were outside of MOD or MOI control. Generally, these conditions fell into one of three areas:

- conditions based on assumptions about Afghan capacity and capability that did not mature as anticipated
- conditions based on metrics or conditions that were not measurable or assessable as originally anticipated
- conditions whose enforcement as written would have been overly detrimental to key capabilities required during the 2015 fighting season⁴³²

This quarter, CSTC-A concluded new commitment letters with the MOD and MOI to cover FY 1395. There were several new requirements for the Afghan government. MOI is required to jointly develop an anticorruption plan with CSTC-A by April 2016, load all personnel records into AHRIMS by March 2016, develop a plan by June 2016 for divesting excess facilities, ensure that untrained Afghan police do not represent more than 5% of the

total force, and develop a randomized schedule for assessing each Afghan Local Police district at least once per year to check for “ghost” personnel.⁴³³

Ghani’s effort to reduce procurement-related corruption has slowed procurement and created what CSTC-A has labeled the “[Afghan fiscal year] 1394 Procurement Crisis.”⁴³⁴ According to CSTC-A, of the 648 MOD contract requirements, 544 have been submitted to the MOD acquisition agency and 285 contracts have been awarded, an increase from the 136 contracts awarded as of last quarter. The MOI is experiencing a similar backlog with 925 defined requirements, 378 of which have been submitted to the MOI procurement directorate, and 83 contracts have been awarded. According to CSTC-A, the procurement backlog significantly limits the opportunities to successfully transition off-budget contracts to on-budget procurement.⁴³⁵

NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

Capacity-Building Programs

USAID capacity-building programs seek to improve Afghan ministries’ ability to prepare, manage, and account for on-budget assistance. These programs also provide general assistance to support broader human and institutional capacity-building of Afghan government entities.⁴³⁶ As shown in Table 3.17, active programs include USAID’s \$38 million Leadership, Management, and Governance Project that aims to strengthen Afghanistan’s financial-management systems and the capacity of the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education to meet requirements set at the 2010 Kabul International Conference for increased on-budget aid.⁴³⁷ USAID is also funding the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MOWA) Organizational Restructuring and Empowerment (MORE) project, a \$14 million project that, among other things, assists the ministry to improve its financial management, as required for future on-budget assistance.⁴³⁸

This quarter, MORE provided 70 scholarships for MOWA staff to attend private Afghan universities, supported MOWA’s development of a five-year

TABLE 3.17

USAID CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL						
Project Title	Afghan Government Partner	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)	
Leadership, Management, and Governance Project (LMG)	Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education	9/25/2012	12/31/2015	\$38,341,106	\$37,674,506	
Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)	Parliament	3/28/2013	3/27/2018	24,990,827	12,966,693	
Ministry of Women's Affairs Organizational Restructuring and Empowerment (MORE)	Ministry of Women's Affairs	12/20/2012	12/19/2015	14,182,944	8,037,128	

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

strategy, and conducted a communications campaign on women's rights and gender-based violence.⁴³⁹

National Assembly

Despite a constitutional requirement to hold elections 30–60 days prior to the expiration of the *Wolesi Jirga* (the lower house) term, the lower house's term expired on June 22, 2015, with no elections held. President Ghani granted an extension to the lower-house members, but critics called that unconstitutional. Within parliament there were increased political tensions between the two houses, with members of the upper house questioning the legitimacy of the lower house due to the lack of new parliamentary elections.⁴⁴⁰ On January 18, the elections commission announced that parliamentary and district council elections would occur on October 15.⁴⁴¹

Recently, the lower house rejected several presidential decrees covering a draft law to impose tax on mobile-phone recharge cards, an amendment to the customs laws, the establishment of a presidential economic advisory unit, and an amendment to allow acting security ministers to stay in their posts beyond their temporary appointments.⁴⁴² Additionally, on December 21, the lower house rejected the government's draft 2016 budget. On January 18, almost a month after the start of the new budget year, the parliament approved a revised budget.⁴⁴³

Parliament has traditionally faced challenges with achieving a quorum. Since the start of the current parliamentary session, the lower house achieved a quorum in 40% of its sessions; the upper house achieved a quorum in 77% of its sittings. The occurrence of two major Afghan holidays during this time affected attendance.⁴⁴⁴

USAID funds the \$25 million Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan project (ALBA) to help Afghanistan's parliament operate as an independent and effective legislative, representative, and oversight body.⁴⁴⁵ ALBA provides assistance through the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API). The API conducts specialized training for members of parliament and support staff as needed. According to USAID, API conducts daily training for approximately 300 participants from the staff of the upper and lower houses, members of parliament, and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs staff in legal English, French, and Arabic and on information technology.⁴⁴⁶

In June, USAID issued a contracted midterm performance evaluation of ALBA. The evaluation found that ALBA's support to legislative capacity building often took the form of direct technical assistance by ALBA staff rather than teaching parliamentary personnel the skills needed to perform legislative analysis, drafting, and amendment functions unaided. The result was capacity substitution rather than capacity building.⁴⁴⁷ According to USAID, ALBA is now focused on teaching parliamentary commission staff—rather than providing direct support—to ensure they enhance Afghan government institutional capacity.⁴⁴⁸



Afghan senators conducted an oversight trip to Balkh Province. (USAID photo)

SUBNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

Rural Stabilization Programs

USAID has conducted several stabilization programs aimed at helping the Afghan government extend its reach into unstable areas and building local governance capacity. The only programs active this quarter are the Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI) program and the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program III (ACAP III).⁴⁴⁹ Table 3.18 summarizes total program costs and disbursements to date.

Last quarter, SIGAR reported on the work of the Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Initiatives (MISTI) program, a three-year, \$19 million effort to measure and map changes in stability over time as well as evaluate the impact of USAID stabilization programs in key areas of Afghanistan.⁴⁵⁰ MISTI published the results of its data collection in 107 districts between September and November 2014 that builds upon previous surveys. According to MISTI, stability is an aggregate measure of whether participatory local-development projects succeed in strengthening perceptions of good governance and effective service delivery, thereby improving citizens' lives and addressing local grievances that might otherwise contribute to support for insurgents. Resilience, on the other hand, measures how well local leaders are able to mobilize their communities to solve local problems with or without government support.⁴⁵¹

MISTI found that villages that received USAID stability programming registered lower scores for stability—comparing surveys from June 2014 with the final survey that ended in November 2014—than those villages that did not receive assistance. MISTI characterized the period surveyed as one of “deep political uncertainty and unseasonable violence” and hypothesized that the villages selected to receive assistance were initially relatively stable, with higher expectations that were frustrated due to the violence and uncertainty surrounding the presidential elections. MISTI also found that villages receiving Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) assistance registered lower perceptions of Afghan government performance but higher perceptions of traditional-leader performance.⁴⁵² USAID responded that while it agrees that expectations in villages receiving assistance were likely higher, it does not believe that the lower stability scores were exclusively

SIGAR AUDIT

SIGAR has an ongoing audit of the MISTI project. This audit plans to (1) assess the extent to which the MISTI contractor provided third-party monitoring services in accordance with the terms of the contract; (2) assess the extent to which USAID considered MISTI program results in planning and implementing stabilization programs; and (3) identify challenges in MISTI, if any, with USAID using third-party monitoring to evaluate stabilization reconstruction programs, and the extent to which USAID has addressed those challenges.

TABLE 3.18

USAID SUBNATIONAL (RURAL) PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Afghanistan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP III)	4/20/2015	2/14/2018	\$30,223,597	\$9,644,000
Community Cohesion Initiative (North, West)*	9/10/2013	12/2015	29,569,265	22,426,599

Note: * As of 12/28/2015.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/28/2015 and 1/11/2016.

MISTI's finding that USAID stability programming in Taliban-controlled villages increased support for the Taliban was based on analysis of the 72 villages MISTI determined were both (1) under Taliban control and (2) recipients of USAID stability assistance. These 72 villages were a subset of 860 villages that received USAID stability programming. According to the report, there was "a large average increase" in Taliban support in five of these 72 villages and a substantial boost in Taliban local popularity in 13 of the 72 villages. This finding was apparently significant enough for MISTI to highlight in the executive summary and to argue that the policy implication is that projects should not be implemented in areas under Taliban control. USAID and MISTI—in a later-added addendum—have said that the "five villages were not representative of the large majority of villages where stabilization programming took place between 2012 and 2014." However, the report does not describe the stability outcomes of the other villages covered by MISTI's two-factor determination.

Source: Management Systems International, *MISTI Stabilization Trends and Impact Evaluation Survey Analytical Report, Wave 5: Sep 28 – Nov 3, 2014 (Updated with Addendum)*, 11/25/2015, pp. xxiii, 9, 14, 323–333, 357; USAID, OAPA, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/20/2016.

due to USAID's stability projects. USAID and the MISTI report cited external factors, such as general insecurity and political instability, as possible causes for the lower scores; however, these external factors would have affected all villages, not exclusively villages that received USAID stability assistance.⁴⁵³

USAID has publicly responded that the finding of increased Taliban support was **only in a few villages**, and the evaluation shows that "the vast majority of villages we worked in either increased or maintained support for the Afghan government."⁴⁵⁴ The MISTI report, on the other hand, says district-level stability scores—containing the results for villages that received USAID assistance as well as those that did not—remained largely flat since September 2012. The report further states that while the overall opinion of the Afghan government has improved since September 2012, confidence varies at the local level at which USAID implemented its programs.⁴⁶⁴

Additionally, the report found that across all the villages MISTI surveyed, including those that received USAID assistance and those that did not, Afghans generally support the Taliban less than the Afghan government. Despite this, MISTI found that the majority of survey respondents are "on the fence" and have roughly equal support for both the Taliban and the Afghan government, or, conversely, are indifferent to both. MISTI did not find that relative support for one side over the other shifted significantly over the five surveys MISTI commissioned.⁴⁶⁵

While MISTI does say that stabilization programming has a negative impact on support for the Taliban, this appears to be contradicted by the village-level results comparing the most recent survey results with the previous survey results.⁴⁶⁶ In order to determine the impact of USAID stability projects, MISTI examined the differences in responses between villages that received USAID assistance with similar villages that did not receive USAID assistance.⁴⁶⁷ Using this method, MISTI reported that villages that received USAID assistance showed a marked decrease in their stability scores relative to the overall decrease in stability scores for both villages that did and those that did not receive USAID assistance. According to MISTI, the lower score for villages that received USAID assistance may be the consequence of villages having expectations raised while discussing project ideas, but having them dashed when implementation challenges followed.⁴⁶⁸

Stability in Key Areas

MISTI recently issued its final performance evaluation for the SIKA programs, which collectively spent \$306 million from 2011 to 2015. According to MISTI, the SIKA programs "did not, generally speaking, improve stability or good formal governance."⁴⁶⁹

The programs did, however, improve community cohesion, resiliency, and perceptions of local leaders, albeit at the expense of government

USAID CEASES STABILITY PROGRAMMING

Since 2003, USAID has spent at least \$2.3 billion on stability programs meant to engage and support at-risk populations, extend the reach of the Afghan government to unstable areas, provide income generation opportunities, build trust between citizens and their government, and encourage local populations to take an active role in their development.⁴⁵⁵

This quarter, when SIGAR asked USAID whether the goals and/or approaches of stability programming no longer apply to the Afghanistan contingency, USAID responded simply that they have no plans to continue stabilization activities, and that they have not received resources from Congress for peace and security programming for FY 2015.⁴⁵⁶ Stability, however, remain central to U.S. goals for a secure, stable, and unified Afghanistan that can prevent the emergence of future threats.⁴⁵⁷

The findings of a USAID-contracted, third-party evaluation program on the impacts of its stabilization projects raise worrying questions. The MISTI program reported, for example, that villages receiving USAID stability projects scored lower on stability—an aggregate measure of whether the projects strengthened perceptions of good governance and effective service delivery—than similar villages that received no such assistance. And some villages reportedly under Taliban control that received USAID stability projects subsequently showed greater pro-Taliban support.⁴⁵⁸

SIGAR has not attempted to validate these findings, nor does it maintain that MISTI’s methodology is the only or best way to assess stability outcomes. Nonetheless, these findings point to a more general weakness in U.S. implementing agencies’ use of economic tools for stability. If the United States aims to increase stability as part of a whole-of-government effort to defeat an extremist threat, project impacts must be assessed against these political outcomes.⁴⁵⁹

USAID stability projects are not the only ones advancing stability-related outcomes. According to the U.S. Foreign Assistance for Afghanistan Post Performance Management Plan (2010–2015), even initiatives as diverse as public health, governance, education, and agriculture shared common security and stability goals. These goals included building active support for

the government (health), supporting and reinforcing efforts to improve security in Afghanistan (governance), increasing the legitimacy of the Afghan government (education), and increasing confidence in the Afghan government and “undercutting the appeal of the insurgency to potential recruits by offering economic alternatives and providing stability to communities that are on the frontlines of the war” (agriculture).⁴⁶⁰

USAID appears to have made no effort to assess the political outcomes for these other non-stability programs other than to reference national-level surveys like the Asia Foundation’s *Survey of the Afghan People*.⁴⁶¹ However, it is unclear whether shifting Afghan perceptions have any appreciable impact on pro- or anti-government behaviors. For example, the survey firm employed by both MISTI and the Asia Foundation for their respective surveys recently wrote:

More than 90 percent of the Afghans surveyed do not want to return to Taliban rule, but they are caught between a government stating that they will punish any that assist the anti-government elements and the Taliban stating they will kill those who do not provide assistance.⁴⁶²

USAID appears to be largely indifferent to the implications of the MISTI findings. Last quarter and this quarter, SIGAR asked USAID for its perspective on two recent MISTI reports and the implications of the conclusions, but USAID did not express any opinion. For example, when SIGAR asked for USAID’s view of a key finding that the SIKA program “did not, generally speaking, improve stability or good formal governance,” despite SIKA’s goal to expand Afghan government authority and legitimacy, USAID responded by supplying an unrelated paragraph from the report that said, among other items, that SIKA “improved the perceptions of local leaders, albeit at the expense of government officials.” In another instance, USAID responded simply that SIGAR should read the report.⁴⁶³

It may be that MISTI’s approach was not precise or accurate enough to measure stability changes over time. However, SIGAR is concerned that USAID does not appear to have an alternative means of defining and measuring stability.



High school students in Badghis Province paint for peace thanks to support from the USAID Community Cohesion Initiative. (USAID photo)

officials. The SIKA programming method reportedly had the unintended effect of causing local residents to generally credit local, informal leaders for project benefits instead of formal government institutions. Part of the challenge MISTI identified is that SIKA projects were implemented in a number of districts (1) where there was only a token security apparatus and no functional district government, (2) where district governments lost authority and territory to insurgents and, (3) in some cases, where districts were under total insurgent control.⁴⁷⁰

According to MISTI, how SIKA local Afghan staff managed to implement project activities in these areas is still an open question, as expatriate monitoring and evaluation specialists were unable to personally monitor or verify what was being reported by local staff.⁴⁷¹ USAID responded that “local staff were able to conduct regular phone calls and skype monitoring as well as initiate and verify with [Afghan government] counterparts on monitoring and communications regarding projects.”⁴⁷²

MISTI recommended that stabilization programming adhere to an explanatory “theory of change” that reflects the program’s strategic objective.⁴⁷³ In the case of the SIKA programs, the strategic objective was for Afghans to have increased confidence in their district government, leading to the expansion of Afghan provincial government authority and legitimacy.⁴⁷⁴ According to MISTI, “a fundamental fault of each SIKA project was the inability to focus on the strategic objective, instead choosing to focus on intermediate results that, when combined, did not fulfill the strategic objective.” MISTI also recommended that USAID require thorough and outcomes-based monitoring and evaluation, saying that senior implementing partner management and USAID personnel need to “take [monitoring and evaluation] results seriously when assessing programming effects.”⁴⁷⁵

MISTI concluded that although the “SIKA projects performed considerably well in executing their contracts, implementing all four intermediate results, and building up the capacity of [Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development]-developed institutions, ... the success of each SIKA project was measured not only in each [implementing partner’s] ability to execute its contract, but also in each project’s ability to contribute towards achievement of the stated USAID program and strategic objectives ... which the SIKA program as a whole was unable to achieve.”⁴⁷⁶

Community Cohesion Initiative

USAID’s Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI) program supports creating conditions for stability and development in conflict-prone and other priority areas of Afghanistan by (1) increasing cohesion within and between communities, (2) supporting peaceful and legitimate governance processes and outcomes, and (3) countering violent extremism.⁴⁷⁷

As of September, CCI has focused on operational, administrative, and financial closeout processes. All CCI activities were fully implemented by early November.⁴⁷⁸

In November, the CCI independent monitoring unit (IMU) issued a report on Afghan government perspectives of CCI programming. The IMU interviewed 90 Afghan government officials in northern and western Afghanistan. According to the report, Afghan officials had a good understanding of CCI, its goals, and detailed knowledge of many CCI activities. The vast majority (85%) of Afghan government officials believed CCI programming to be organized well, transparent, and successful in achieving its objectives. Most Afghan government officials (90%) agreed that CCI programming contributed positively to community security and stability, and to improving relationships between the general public and the Afghan government. As one Afghan official in Herat Province stated

Of course this project to some extent helped in bringing solidarity and improving security. This has also helped to bring smiles and happiness on the faces of the people who are most part of the years busy in earning money for their families or busy in agriculture. The smile on their face is huge support in reaching to the objectives which are stability, conflict resolutions, disputes resolving and improving overall security situation.⁴⁷⁹

Jobs for Peace

In November, President Ashraf Ghani announced the first portion of the Jobs for Peace program, a 24-to-30-month jobs-focused stimulus and stabilization program that the Afghan government initially estimates will cost approximately \$1.18 billion, though some components of the program still require budget estimates. The program is meant to provide short-term, labor-intensive employment in rural and urban areas.⁴⁸⁰ It not only aims to create short-term employment, but will also focus on political aspects of unemployment by targeting areas and populations that are especially susceptible to destabilization and insurgent recruitment.⁴⁸¹ In December, the United States announced plans to contribute \$50 million to support the Afghan government's job-creation efforts.⁴⁸²

The Afghan government proposed the following initiatives as part of the Jobs for Peace program:

- **Rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure:** This program would provide block grants to Community Development Councils (CDCs) that they could use to rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure, in particular water-resource management (irrigation, drainage) and field leveling to prepare farms for the coming year. Labor-intensive road and canal maintenance through the existing national roads and irrigation programs to work with CDCs would also be included. These programs are already up and running as they build upon the National Solidarity Program (NSP). This is estimated to cost approximately \$350 million.



The Afghan Department of Education's sports manager opens a volleyball tournament supported by the USAID Community Cohesion Initiative in Faryab Province. (USAID photo)

GOVERNANCE

- **Labor intensive urban cleanup and repair:** Following the survey of urban settlements, this NSP urban program would release small block grants for labor-intensive cleanup, drainage, and greening programs in poor urban neighborhoods. Urban programming can also include useful job opportunities for restive, educated youth, such as social work, field monitoring, contract teaching, and collective organizing for neighborhood improvement. This is estimated to cost approximately \$200 million.
- **Fortifying urban peripheries:** This initiative would involve establishing a civilian conservation corps to plant trees, form parks, and patrol the mountains around all of Afghanistan's large cities. It will employ large numbers of at-risk youth and provide security benefits for the vulnerable urban peripheries. The program would also support market gardening for women and girls. This is estimated to cost approximately \$80 million.
- **Micro-grants for female heads of households:** This initiative would provide women producers small grants to buy farming inputs and productive equipment such as greenhouses, nurseries, or tools. Additionally, the Afghan government would aim to purchase products produced by poor women. Poor women, particularly female heads of households, will also be given employment maintaining community public infrastructure. This is estimated to cost approximately \$50 million.
- **Housing finance:** This program would use a state-owned enterprise to construct (through contracting) a large quantity of housing in at-risk urban peripheries, primarily Kabul. The program's overall objective is to produce 200,000 units of affordable housing. This is estimated to cost \$500 million.
- **Cash transfers against stunting and malnutrition:** This program would provide a cash transfer and a health packet or (in urban areas) food vouchers for providing nutrition to stunted or malnourished children. No budget has yet been estimated.
- **Rebuilding the civil service:** Under this program, the Afghan government would work with International Monetary Fund specialists to weed out underqualified, "legacy" Afghan civil servants and offer training to new recruits. The target groups of civil servants would include teachers, city police, urban managers, and community health workers.
- **Refugee return and migrant labor:** This set of programs plans to use existing Afghan refugee-repatriation systems but to couple those with preferential refugee access to housing and certain types of job opportunities. Additionally, these programs aim to build up skills and systems that will allow family members thinking about migration to find employment in-country or through legal employment in the countries of the Middle East or Asia.⁴⁸³

Several of the Afghan government's proposed Jobs for Peace initiatives build on the NSP and aim to advance stabilization goals. As SIGAR reported

previously, USAID used to “preference” (earmark) funds to the NSP, via the ARTF, to advance counterinsurgency objectives in areas newly under Afghan government control. To its credit, USAID stopped preferencing funds to NSP after reviewing documents, including a 2011 SIGAR audit, that found that NSP is implemented in very insecure areas but does not mitigate violence or improve attitudes toward the government in those areas. USAID acknowledged a lack of evidence that NSP increases stability in insecure parts of Afghanistan and adjusted its funding accordingly. Prior to the change, USAID had preferenced a total of \$865 million directly for NSP.⁴⁸⁴

Provincial and Municipal Programs

USAID recently started two subnational programs focused on provincial centers and municipalities: the Initiative to Strengthen Local Administrations (ISLA) and Strong Hubs for Afghan Hope and Resilience (SHAHAR) programs. Table 3.19 summarizes total program costs and disbursements to date.

TABLE 3.19

USAID SUBNATIONAL (PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL) PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Strong Hubs for Afghan Hope and Resilience (SHAHAR)	11/30/2014	11/29/2017	\$73,499,999	\$9,675,134
Initiative to Strengthen Local Administrations (ISLA)	2/1/2015	1/31/2020	62,364,687	4,064,477

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

Initiative to Strengthen Local Administrations

The ISLA program is meant to enable the Afghan government to improve provincial governance in the areas of fiscal and development planning, representation of citizens, and enhanced delivery of public services. ISLA aims to strengthen subnational systems of planning, operations, communication, representation, and citizen engagement. This should lead to services that more closely respond to all citizens’ needs in health, education, security, justice, and urban services.⁴⁸⁵

ISLA will operate from five regional hubs: Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif, Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Herat. Pending agreement with the Afghan government, it plans work in 16 provinces: Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Herat, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Parwan, Wardak, and Zabul.⁴⁸⁶

Strong Hubs for Afghan Hope and Resilience

The objective of the SHAHAR program is to create well-governed, fiscally sustainable Afghan municipalities capable of meeting the needs of a growing urban population. Targeted support to municipal governments, as well as to the General Directorate of Municipal Affairs and municipal advisory

Regional Economic Zones: areas within Afghanistan that have the potential to develop into geographic centers of increased production and commerce, promising high and inclusive economic growth. The zones are expected to act as catalysts for improved food security, economic development, job creation, and increased regional trade, by targeting investments in key sectors that are considered to be drivers of economic growth.

Source: USAID, "Draft REZ Strategy," 12/3/2013.

boards, aims to improve municipal financial management, urban service delivery, and citizen consultation. The program will focus on 16 small and medium-sized provincial capitals located within USAID's three designated **Regional Economic Zones**, as well as the four regional-hub provincial capitals of Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif, and Jalalabad.⁴⁸⁷

RECONCILIATION AND REINTEGRATION

According to the United Nations Secretary-General, the peace process is "at an impasse" with the Taliban showing no commitment to resuming direct talks with the Afghan government.⁴⁸⁸

In early December, Pakistan hosted a Heart of Asia summit attended by President Ghani, senior Chinese officials, and a U.S. delegation led by the Deputy Secretary of State. The summit was a forum for regional players to discuss their commitments to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. According to State, Afghan officials were generally pleased by the positive statements issued by their Pakistani hosts. Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif later followed up with a visit to Kabul on December 27. On December 29, the Afghan Presidential Palace announced the four-way talks with Pakistan, the United States, and China that took place in the first week in January.⁴⁸⁹

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program

The Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) is an Afghan-led program to reintegrate low-level insurgent fighters and their commanders into Afghan civil society.⁴⁹⁰ The APRP is the only institutional mechanism within the Afghan government with capacity to pursue both high-level reconciliation negotiations and provincial-level reintegration of insurgent fighters.⁴⁹¹ For more information, see SIGAR's October 2014 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, pages 149–151.

According to State, as of September 30, the APRP has facilitated a total of 10,578 reintegrees, 988 of whom were reportedly "commanders." A total of 143 reintegrees were documented recidivists.⁴⁹² Since September 30, there have been an additional 396 reintegrees processed.⁴⁹³

Nangarhar (156 reintegrees), Ghor (49 reintegrees), Badghis (42 reintegrees), and Farah (39 reintegrees) provinces dominated the results since September. The top five reintegration provinces for 2015 are Badghis (1,646 reintegrees), Baghlan (1,211 reintegrees), Herat (813 reintegrees), Nangarhar (766 reintegrees), and Ghor (569 reintegrees).⁴⁹⁴

According to State, reintegration efforts likely slowed because of intensified insurgent violence in the latter part of 2015.⁴⁹⁵ Continued violence diminishes the credibility of the APRP to promise a secure future for potential reintegrees and denies APRP personnel the space to advance the program's objectives for peace and reconciliation.⁴⁹⁶

GOVERNANCE

The Afghan High Peace Council has reported to State that information gathered from the APRP reintegree program has contributed to a broader understanding of insurgent leadership, structure, operations, sanctuaries, hideouts, funding resources, supporting countries, recruitment methods, goals and objectives, relationships with international and regional terrorist organizations, ideological narrative, and sympathizers.⁴⁹⁷

In March, the United States announced that it will provide up to \$10 million to UNDP to support APRP. According to State, this assistance is meant to support APRP's provincial efforts in the event of peace talks and improve APRP's strategic-communications capacity.⁴⁹⁸

RULE OF LAW AND ANTICORRUPTION

Project Summary

The United States has assisted the formal and informal justice sectors through several mechanisms. These include the State Department's Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP), and Justice Training Transition Program (JTTP). These and other rule-of-law and anticorruption programs are shown in Table 3.20.

In the area of anticorruption, USAID has a cooperation arrangement with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development to fund the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC). USAID support funds the MEC's monitoring, analysis, and reporting activities, including its vulnerability-to-corruption assessments.⁴⁹⁹

This quarter, USAID modified the Afghanistan Electoral Reform and Civic Advocacy (AERCA) program to focus on anticorruption matters. AERCA is developing a work plan to identify reform efforts to (1) strengthen Afghan civil society organizations' ability to perform

TABLE 3.20

RULE OF LAW AND ANTICORRUPTION PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Justice System Support Program II (JSSP II)	6/16/2010	2/29/2016	\$224,142,053	\$203,431,814
Electoral Reform and Civic Advocacy (AERCA)*	7/13/2009	6/30/2017	51,302,682	36,857,948
Corrections System Support Program (CSSP III)	1/1/2015	2/29/2016	22,161,965	12,939,270
Justice Training Transition Program (JTTP)	1/2/2013	3/31/2016	47,435,697	47,435,697
Delegated Cooperation Agreement (DCAR) with the Department for International Development (DFID) for Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)	5/19/2015	8/31/2020	3,000,000	500,000

Note: * On November 1, 2015, USAID extended the AERCA award beyond the planned December 31, 2015, end date, added \$12.6 million in estimated costs, and incorporated additional anticorruption activities into the program description. The information in the table refers to the entire award, not simply the new anticorruption portion covered by the modification.

Source: State, INL, response to SIGAR data call, 12/23/2015; USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/28/2015 and 1/11/2016.

watchdog functions and (2) support the Afghan government in implementing reforms that will combat corruption. AERCA aims to increase the demand from civil-society organizations to spur the Afghan government's efforts to reduce administrative corruption while building a foundation of lawfulness that can over time chip away at what the World Bank has called "grand corruption." USAID is also designing a new, five-year anticorruption program—AMANAT (Afghanistan's Measure for Accountability and Transparency)—that will build upon the anticorruption activities carried out under AERCA.⁵⁰⁰

The State Department's JSSP objectives include continuing to develop a case-management system (CMS) to track cases throughout Afghanistan's justice system and to build the capacity and administrative skills of ministry officials.⁵⁰¹

The CMS is used to monitor criminal cases on an individual or aggregated basis from the time of arrest until the end of confinement. All ministries in the formal criminal-justice sector have access to the CMS. The CMS is used to demonstrate inefficiencies in the criminal-justice system by identifying when cases are not being processed in a statutory manner.

Ministries routinely utilize the CMS to analyze and understand the function of the formal justice sector. For example, the CMS can help identify an individual prosecutor's case load and conviction rates, information that is useful for determining promotion eligibility. In addition to using the CMS to conduct criminal background checks on internal and external employment applicants, the MOI generates a weekly report of arrests in Kabul by the type of crime.⁵⁰² From 2013 to December 2015, JTTP has reviewed 2,724 CMS cases of which 91% were found to be accurate. In the provinces, Balkh Province had the lowest amount (66%) of correct CMS files to date.⁵⁰³

The State Department's JTTP provides regional training to justice-sector officials on a wide range of criminal-justice topics.⁵⁰⁴ JTTP aims to increase the confidence of Afghan citizens in their justice sector and to achieve two outcomes: (1) increase the capacity and competencies of Afghan justice sector professionals in delivering justice according to Afghan law, and (2) ensure that Afghan justice institutions are capable of managing the sustainable implementation of training programs.⁵⁰⁵

JTTP undertakes limited trial observation, focusing on cases within the criminal division jurisdiction at provincial and district levels. JTTP looks only at proceedings and appeals of cases that are subject to the Criminal Procedure Code. JTTP's observation and reporting are narrowly focused to collect objective comparative data on a single fair-trial indicator (i.e., whether trials are deemed to be "open" in accordance with the procedure set out under the code). JTTP has reported to State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) many instances in the formal-justice proceedings where attorneys and judges have increasingly applied the correct laws and sentencing requirements.⁵⁰⁶

JTTP legal advisors visit courtrooms of judges who have graduated or will graduate from JTTP courses. If the legal advisors are granted access to the courtroom for a given trial, the trial is reported as “open.” If they are not permitted access to a courtroom for a given trial, and there is no permissible reason for the restriction, the trial is reported as “closed.”⁵⁰⁷

From 2013 to December 2015, JTTP observed a total of 808 trials, of which 93% were open. In the provinces, Nangarhar Province had the lowest overall percentage of open trials to date (39%).⁵⁰⁸

The Supreme Court and the Formal Justice Sector

According to the SMAF, short-term deliverables related to the justice sector include the launch of a justice-sector reform plan and a draft of a revised penal code, both to be completed December 2016.⁵⁰⁹

In a statement issued last quarter, the MEC said, “The justice sector remains largely incapable of investigating and prosecuting corruption cases, especially against well-connected individuals who operate with near impunity, secure in the knowledge that they are effectively above the law.”⁵¹⁰

Afghan Correctional System

According to State, the inmate population of Afghanistan’s prisons managed by the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Centers (GDPDC) has increased by an average of 6.51% annually over the past five years. As of October 31, the GDPDC incarcerated 25,823 males and 713 females, while the Ministry of Justice’s Juvenile Rehabilitation Directorate (JRD) incarcerated 888 male juveniles and 101 female juveniles. These incarceration totals



Parliamentarians reviewed prisoner sentences and prison conditions during an oversight trip to Herat Province. (USAID photo)

do not include detainees held by any other Afghan governmental organization, as INL does not have access to their data.⁵¹¹

Overcrowding is a persistent, substantial, and widespread problem within GDPDC facilities for adult males, although state-funded prison construction has added some new prison beds and presidential-amnesty decrees have reduced the prison population significantly. As of October 31, the total male provincial-prison population was at 190% of capacity, as defined by the International Committee of the Red Cross's (ICRC) minimum standard 3.4 square meters per inmate. The total female provincial-prison population was at 50.5% of the ICRC-recommended capacity. The JRD's juvenile-rehabilitation centers' population was at 72% of ICRC-recommended capacity.⁵¹²

According to State, the GDPDC made tremendous strides over the past two years in the implementation of an industries program with the assistance of the Correction System Support Program (CSSP), which is meant to assist in the development of Afghanistan's national corrections system. This quarter, GDPDC remodeled a large hangar at the central prison to provide space for the mechanized production of uniforms and boots for corrections officers. Thirteen provincial prisons will function as satellite uniform production facilities, using industrial sewing machines and boot-making equipment procured by CSSP for GDPDC. Remodeling of the hangar at the central prison was financed by GDPDC with money generated from the industries programs. With materials donated by CSSP, the industries program can produce as many as 12,000 uniforms per year for GDPDC officers.⁵¹³

Anticorruption

This quarter, serious anticorruption questions were raised when senior Afghan government officials announced a partnership with one of the key figures from the Kabul Bank scandal. In November, Khalilullah Ferozi—who was sentenced to 10 years in prison—was introduced by senior Afghan government officials as a business partner in an Afghan government township project.⁵¹⁴ Additional details appear on pages 144–146 of this report.

Afghan Attorney General's Office

The Afghan government has yet to nominate a new attorney general.⁵¹⁵ The appointment of a new attorney general by the end of 2015 is a SMAF short-term deliverable.⁵¹⁶

Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

The MEC was formally established in March 2010 by presidential decree. The MEC's mandate is to develop anticorruption recommendations and benchmarks, to monitor efforts at fighting corruption, and to report on

these efforts. It comprises three Afghan members and three international members and is led by an Afghan executive director. The MEC has approximately 20 staff, but USAID notes that the MEC may increase its staff since President Ghani has increasingly sought analytical products from it.⁵¹⁷

According to State, the MEC continues to demonstrate administrative competence and technical capacity. State notes, however, that despite demonstrating the political will to address some of the toughest corruption-related questions confronting Afghanistan, the MEC lacks the authority to do more than illuminate poor or corrupt practices.⁵¹⁸ In November, President Ghani issued a decree confirming two new international commissioners for the MEC.⁵¹⁹

According to USAID, President Ghani has shown interest in expanding the MEC's work beyond its current monitoring framework.⁵²⁰ However, the *Wall Street Journal* reported in December that donors have threatened to stop funding the MEC following accusations of irresponsible spending, abusing travel policies, and ignoring salary guidelines. The MEC executive director was quoted as saying he is resigning because "There was no oversight over the roles and activities of the committee." Another resigning MEC member said that despite his hope that anticorruption would be a priority of the Afghan government, "Basically everything is standing still."⁵²¹

This quarter the MEC issued reports on a selection of foreign assistance programs, a vulnerability to corruption assessment of the Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP), corruption associated with the World Food Program's distribution initiatives with the Ministry of Education, and conflicts of interest among government officials.

In the review of selected foreign assistance programs report, the MEC found that there is a lack of consensus on what truly constitutes a worthwhile, effective project in Afghanistan. According to the MEC, many respondents believed that aid effectiveness was implicit in program alignment with Afghan government developmental goals and objectives. Additionally, divergent strategies, lack of consensus, and unprecedented volume of projects compromised true donor coordination. According to MEC, the relationship between the donor community and the Afghan government is still evolving, with donors becoming increasingly aware of the need to employ Afghans, where possible, but still hesitant to do so because of the widespread corruption that affects many Afghan government agencies.⁵²²

The MEC review of the World Bank-supported EQUIP concluded that although 72 schools funded by EQUIP were of good quality, the program's myriad failures counterbalanced this achievement. According to the MEC, poor planning, unrealistic budgeting, and inadequate monitoring combined to create a toxic synergy that led to failed projects and misspent funds. The lack of trained personnel, nepotistic recruiting practices, substandard reporting policies, and no investigation or punishment of wrongdoers

only served to worsen these structural flaws. Widespread corruption has led to the misuse or wasting of funds representing almost 30-40% of the project's \$517 million budget and has prevented EQUIP from meeting its expectations.⁵²³

The MEC's review of the World Food Program's (WFP) efforts to increase school enrollment by distributing food items to students found that while enrollment increased, weak oversight, inadequate monitoring, and instances of mismanagement allowed corrupt actors to embezzle funds and abscond with items intended for the students, and profit from the sale of those items. According to the MEC, the Afghan Ministry of Education (MOE) was insufficiently transparent in its administration of the program and often failed to submit to WFP any reports on MOE activities in remote provinces. WFP officials admitted to the MEC that there was at least 20% "wastage" caused by corruption in the food-distribution process administered by the MOE. MEC reports that recent WFP actions to mitigate corruption in the food-distribution process are apparently effective; however, no actions have been taken on the wrongdoing and profiteering which has occurred thus far.⁵²⁴

Finally, in a report on conflicts of interest among high-ranking Afghan government officials, the MEC found that the Afghan government's procurement system is riddled with corruption. According to the MEC, an official from the Afghan National Procurement Authority said that pilot studies indicate about 80% of bids and contracts during the past 13 years were affected by corruption. Multiple senior officials interviewed by the MEC also indicated that contracts were either sold by a successful bidder to another bidder, or distributed among several bidders who were operating as part of a cartel. While the current Afghan administration has sought to centralize procurement in the hope of reducing corruption, the MEC notes that centralized procurement offices are not without risks of their own.⁵²⁵

High Office of Oversight and Anticorruption

The High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOO) was established in July 2008 by presidential decree to oversee and coordinate implementation of the Afghan government's anticorruption strategy. The HOO collects corruption complaints through a hotline and complaint boxes installed in several ministries and other public-service delivery institutions, and conducts the initial investigation of corruption allegations that it receives before referring allegations to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) for further investigation and possible prosecution. According to USAID, these investigations seldom lead to prosecution. Mutual recrimination between AGO and HOO is common.⁵²⁶

A SMAF short-term deliverable includes the requirement for 90% of government officials required to declare their assets to do so by mid-2016.⁵²⁷ In November, the HOO announced that President Ghani, Chief Executive

Abdullah, second Vice President Sarwar Danish, and Special Representative for Reform and Good Governance Ahmad Zia Massoud had registered their assets.⁵²⁸

Security Services

According to DOD, both the MOD and MOI began developing ministry-specific counter- and anticorruption plans following President Ghani's direction at the September Senior Officials Meeting. These plans are to be implemented no later than the end of 2016. CSTC-A has included a requirement in the 1395 MOD and MOI commitment letters for these plans to be completed by April 2016.⁵²⁹

Ministry of Defense

Three active forums are currently addressing corruption issues within the MOD: the Counter Corruption Working Group (CCWG), the Senior High Level Committee on Anti-Corruption (SHCAC), and the newly formed Senior Leader Counter Corruption Panel (SLCCP).

This quarter, DOD reports that the CCWG has shown improvement through regular, monthly meetings and review of corruption cases. The SHCAC mechanism demonstrated its value as a decision-making body with the resolution of a long-standing weakness of the corps-level Transparency and Accountability Committees (TAC). At the last SHCAC meeting, the deputy minister of defense ordered that members of the TACs must be excluded from procurement committees to remove conflicts of interest. The SLCCP, chaired by the minister of defense, held its first meeting in November.⁵³⁰

Ministry of Interior

Two quarters ago, the Afghan government removed the former MOI Inspector General (IG) and appointed Major General Rahimullah to the post.⁵³¹ According to DOD, the new MOI IG has yet to start reforming the role, structure, and composition of his office. The MOI IG has focused on inspecting fuel processes, accountability, and inventories. These inspections will expand to 10 provincial police headquarters, an Afghan National Civil Order Police headquarters, the border police, and an MOI special forces unit over the next two months.⁵³²

HUMAN RIGHTS

Refugees and Internal Displacement

As of November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that at least 236,342 Pakistanis continue to reside in Afghanistan's Khowst and Paktika Provinces since the June 2014 Pakistan military operations in neighboring North Waziristan. According to State, it

SIGAR AUDIT

Last quarter, SIGAR issued an audit of State's efforts to assist Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran, and Afghan returnees. The audit found that the UNHCR and State are unable to independently verify the number of Afghan refugees reported by the Pakistani and Iranian governments. The audit also found that the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation—the ministry responsible for coordinating refugee and returnee affairs with other ministries and international organizations—has limited capacity to fulfill its obligations or to work with other ministries, and had been beset by allegations of corruption.

is unlikely that there will be significant returns to Pakistan until 2016 due to the reconstruction needs in North Waziristan.⁵³³

According to the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, in 2015 more than 150,000 Afghans have left and sought asylum in Europe. Of those having left Afghanistan, approximately 3,000 returned.⁵³⁴

According to State, 58,412 Afghan refugees returned from Pakistan and Iran as of December. Many returned refugees have felt pressured to return to Afghanistan due to reported arrests, detention, extortion, and harassment by local Pakistani authorities following the December 2014 Peshawar school attacks and the Pakistani security response. While the rate of refugee returns from Pakistan are significantly higher than 2014, the returns from Iran are 35% lower than the previous year.⁵³⁵

As of November, UNHCR recorded a total of 1,116,546 conflict-affected internally displaced persons. During the first ten months of 2015, approximately 270,000 individuals in Afghanistan were displaced by conflict, far surpassing total internal displacement in 2014 (188,766) and representing an increase of approximately 104% compared to the same period during 2014. According to State, the surge in instability and fighting between armed groups and the Afghan security forces—particularly in northeastern Afghanistan—is the main cause for increased internal displacement.⁵³⁶

Gender

The largest gender-focused initiative in USAID's history is the Promote partnership that aims to assist over 75,000 Afghan women in achieving leadership roles over five years in all parts of society, including business, academia, politics, and public policy.⁵³⁷ As shown in Table 3.21, USAID has committed \$216 million to Promote and hopes to raise an additional \$200 million from other international donors.⁵³⁸ However, no donors have committed to contribute funds to Promote.⁵³⁹

In August, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a memorandum with USAID agreeing to cooperate on efforts that work towards advancing equality for women in Afghanistan. This partnership includes leadership training for Afghan female police recruits.⁵⁴⁰

This quarter, the Promote Women in Government (WIG) program is negotiating with the Afghan Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission to identify the first 200 interns to receive civil service training and certification. According to USAID, Afghan government ministries have expressed interest in accepting 1,428 WIG interns in the first two years of the program.⁵⁴¹ The Promote Women's Leadership Development program is currently preparing 679 trainees for graduation in January 2016.⁵⁴²

The SMAF includes several short-term deliverables related to women's rights, including the requirement for a national action plan for women peace-and-security implementation and financing plan approved by the

GOVERNANCE

TABLE 3.21

USAID GENDER PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Afghan Women's Leadership in the Economy	7/1/2015	6/30/2020	\$71,571,543	\$1,906,692
Women's Leadership Development	9/23/2014	9/22/2019	41,959,377	7,251,508
Promote: Women in Government	4/21/2015	4/20/2020	37,997,644	1,969,805
Promote: Women's Rights Groups and Coalitions	9/2/2015	9/1/2020	29,534,401	522,141
Promote: Economic Empowerment of Women in Afghanistan	5/8/2015	5/7/2018	1,500,000	300,000
Promote: Scholarships	3/4/2015	3/3/2020	1,247,522	1,247,522

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

end of 2015, with implementation starting by mid-2016; an antiharassment regulation for improving working environments for public-sector women, to be issued by mid-2016; and dedicated violence-against-women prosecution units established in 26 provinces by December 2016.⁵⁴³ As of December, the requirement for an implementation and financing plan was not met.⁵⁴⁴

This quarter, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) issued two women's rights-focused reports: a 1394 update on violence against women and a report on forced gynecological exams.

According to the AIHRC, "violence against women is the most serious human rights violation in Afghanistan." AIHRC found at least 2,579 registered cases of violence against women in the first six months of 1394, a 7% increase over the same period the previous year. Of the 190 cases in which a woman was killed, the perpetrators of 51 cases (26.84% of all the cases) were arrested and their files forwarded to the court.⁵⁴⁵

In a related report, the AIHRC interviewed 53 female detainees from 12 provinces held on charges of adultery to determine the extent to which women are subjected to virginity tests. According to AIHRC, while Afghan law is not clear on the legal status of compulsory virginity tests, such tests without the victim's consent are a violation of human rights. Of the 53 female detainees, 48 were subjected to virginity tests with only nine reporting they did so willingly to refute accusations. The AIHRC called on the Afghan government to end virginity tests for moral crimes.⁵⁴⁶

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

As of December 31, 2015, the U.S. government has provided more than \$31.8 billion to support governance and economic and social development in Afghanistan. Most of these funds—nearly \$18.6 billion—were appropriated to the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Economic Support Fund. Of this amount, \$17.1 billion has been obligated and \$13.7 billion has been disbursed.⁵⁴⁷ The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, provided additional funding for the Economic Support Fund, but the total amount designated for Afghanistan will not be known until the State Department (State) completes the fiscal year (FY) 2016 congressional notification process.

KEY EVENTS

This quarter saw several developments that could affect Afghanistan’s prospects for economic and social development:

- Afghanistan began FY 1395 (December 22, 2015–December 21, 2016) without an approved budget, but parliament approved a \$6.6 billion budget on January 18, 2016.⁵⁴⁸
- Domestic revenues collected in the first 11 months of FY 1394 (December 22, 2014–December 21, 2015) rose 21.1% above the same period in FY 1393, covering 40% of total expenditures. Expenditures increased 1.1% compared to the same period last year.⁵⁴⁹
- On December 17, 2015, World Trade Organization (WTO) trade ministers approved Afghanistan’s terms of accession. Afghanistan has until June 30, 2016, to ratify the deal, which the government hopes will create new economic opportunities.⁵⁵⁰
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued an updated assessment of Afghanistan’s economic development and policies, known as the Article IV consultation report, which included a review of Afghanistan’s performance under the Staff-Monitored Program. It concluded that while progress has been made toward implementing macroeconomic policies and a structural-reform agenda, Afghanistan’s economy is dependent on the government’s commitment to these reforms, improved security conditions, and continued donor support.⁵⁵¹

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Every other South Asian economy grew faster than Afghanistan's in 2014 and 2015, a trend the Asian Development Bank (ADB) expects to continue in 2016.⁵⁵² Agriculture drives Afghanistan's economy and is the main source of gross domestic product (GDP), employment, and subsistence, according to the World Bank.⁵⁵³ The IMF said, "Apart from agriculture, (recent) economic activity has been subdued."⁵⁵⁴ Agricultural output and income, though, fluctuate with the weather and economic growth based on this sector is necessarily volatile.⁵⁵⁵ Meanwhile, construction, trade, and services, all of which previously benefitted from the Coalition's large presence, security spending, and aid flows, now remain depressed.⁵⁵⁶ Generally, the Afghan government said economic conditions were "not conducive to the kind of private sector investment that could drive a diversified and sustainable economy."⁵⁵⁷

"While opium is omitted from official GDP estimates, its earnings boost domestic demand and are a significant source of foreign exchange."

Source: Asian Development Bank, *Outlook 2015*, 3/2015, p. 167.

Afghanistan's real (net of inflation) GDP, excluding opium, slowed significantly in 2014 to a World Bank-estimated \$20 billion—1.3% growth versus 3.7% in 2013. The World Bank projected Afghanistan's real GDP to grow 1.9% in 2015 to \$20.4 billion, with medium-term performance expected to remain sluggish because of the deteriorating security environment. Afghan economic growth prospects, according to the World Bank, depend on the government's progress on reforms, the country's ability to create a sufficient number of jobs to meet the growing demand, and improved security.⁵⁵⁸

Private investment declined in 2014 and remained flat in 2015, according to the World Bank, which is indicative of Afghanistan's risky market conditions and political developments. The number of new firm registrations—a measure of investor confidence—in 2014 dropped 26% across all economic sectors. New firm registration in the first six months of 2015 matched 2014, year-on-year.⁵⁵⁹ The ADB reported that investor and consumer confidence was low in the first half of 2015 as the political and security situation declined and the government struggled to deliver anticipated reforms. Foreign direct investment declined by 30%.⁵⁶⁰

Consumer price inflation, for both food and non-food items, dropped to an IMF-estimated average -1.3% in 2015 compared to 1.4% in 2014. This was attributed to weak economic activity, declining global food and fuel prices, and waning domestic demand.⁵⁶¹ The World Bank said this deflationary pressure on Afghanistan's economy was being offset by the inflationary pressure of their currency, the afghani, depreciating against the U.S. dollar. Exchange-rate depreciation would normally cause higher consumer prices for an import-dependent nation like Afghanistan, but this was offset by declining global prices.⁵⁶²

The Afghan government acknowledged that the speed, scale, and depth of its economic crisis and associated human costs is unsustainable. Although it is working with the IMF and other donors on long-term

reforms to the economy, the government reported that the country is suffering from a major economic downturn that has led to “large-scale job loss, deep popular unhappiness, widespread human suffering, and a large upswing in out-migration as disillusioned Afghans leave for Europe and beyond.”⁵⁶³

The government said it miscalculated the economic costs of the Coalition withdrawal. Lower foreign military spending has reduced demand for services, leading to tens of thousands of jobs lost, and negatively impacted domestic demand for products and services. Meanwhile, the strength of the insurgency has caused the government to spend more on the military and less on job-creating investments, reducing its ability to provide jobs for an estimated 700,000 Afghans entering the workforce annually, including 400,000 high school and college graduates.⁵⁶⁴ In response, President Ashraf Ghani announced this quarter a jobs-focused stimulus and stabilization program—Jobs for Peace—that aims to provide short-term, labor-intensive employment in rural and urban areas.⁵⁶⁵ For more information, see pages 121–123 of this report.

Afghanistan’s Fiscal Outlook

Afghanistan’s fiscal vulnerability remains high, according to the World Bank, and will require a large increase in revenues and sustained levels of aid. Its medium-term economic outlook is “unfavorable.”⁵⁶⁶ While domestic revenues have increased, the World Bank said security costs have grown beyond donors’ initial projections.⁵⁶⁷ The 2012 NATO summit in Chicago predicted Afghanistan’s contribution to the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) costs would be at least \$500 million in 2015.⁵⁶⁸ Afghanistan did not meet this commitment.⁵⁶⁹

The Department of Defense (DOD) reported that the Afghan economy cannot grow quickly enough in the next five years to cover a significantly larger share of ANDSF costs. Those costs were estimated at \$5.4 billion in FY 2015, of which the United States paid \$4.1 billion. FY 2016 costs are projected to be \$5 billion.⁵⁷⁰

FY 1394 Revenues and Expenditures Update

Total collected domestic revenues—a figure that excludes donor grants—stood at 106.7 billion afghanis (AFN) (\$1.6 billion) in the first 11 months of FY 1394, about 21.1% above the same period in FY 1393, but below initial targets.⁵⁷¹ The Afghan government is close to meeting the IMF’s revised (lower) 2015 revenue target of AFN 114.2 billion.⁵⁷²

Still, domestic revenues paid for less than half (40%) of Afghanistan’s total budget expenditures of AFN 266.8 billion (\$4.0 billion) in that time; donor contributions make up the difference. Afghan government expenditures in FY 1394 increased by AFN 3.0 billion (by 1.1% or \$45.1 million in current dollars) compared to the same period last year.⁵⁷³

Donor funding commitments made at the 2012 Chicago summit were for ANDSF only, which comprises the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Afghanistan’s other security-related expenditures—the National Directorate of Security and the Presidential Protective Service, for example—are funded through other means.

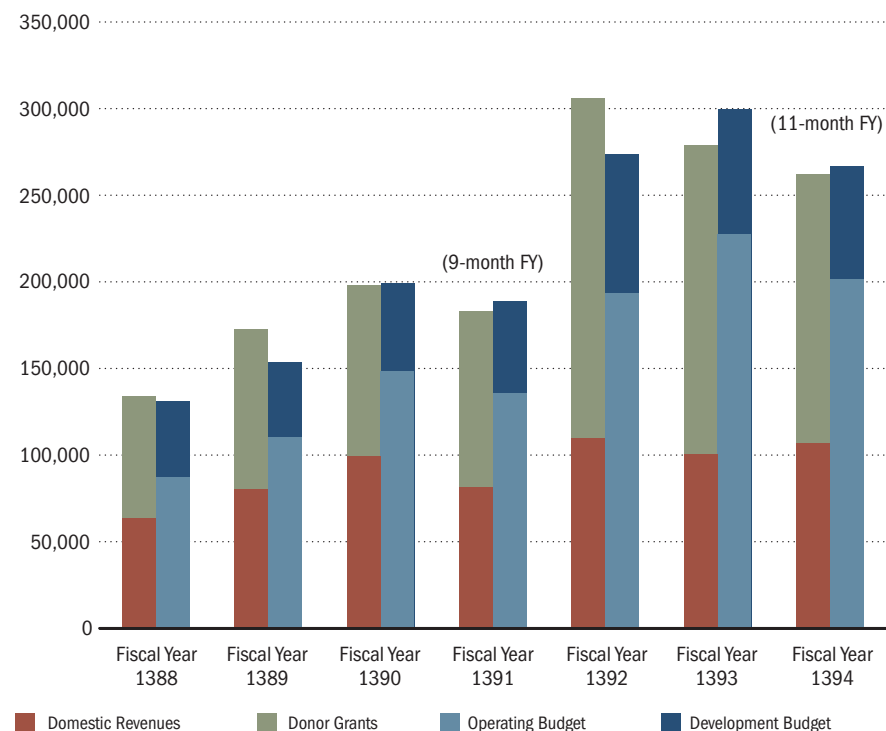
Source: DOD, *Enhancing Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, 12/2015, p. 79.

FY 1394 Budget Gap

Afghanistan's fiscal gap is large. Donor assistance either narrows or closes this gap, as depicted in Figure 3.29. In the first 11 months of FY 1394, Afghanistan had a \$2.4 billion total budget deficit against domestic revenues; donor contributions reduced that deficit to \$72.2 million. The operating budget, which includes recurring costs such as public-sector payroll, would have had a \$1.4 billion deficit if not for donor assistance, which produced a \$205.3 million surplus. Without donor assistance, the development budget would have had a \$963.5 million deficit. After donor funds, the deficit was reduced to \$277.5 million.⁵⁷⁴

FIGURE 3.29

AFGHANISTAN'S DOMESTIC REVENUES AND DONOR GRANTS COMPARED TO OPERATING AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET EXPENDITURES (AFN MILLIONS)



Note: Until recently, Afghan fiscal years ran approximately March 20 to March 20 of Gregorian calendar years. FY 1388 corresponds to March 20, 2009, to March 20, 2010, and so on. Nine-month data for fiscal year 1391 reflect a change in the timing of the Afghan fiscal year. Afghan fiscal years now generally run December 22 through December 21. Grants represent funds received from donors. Donor grants are often for specific projects or activities, but can sometimes be spent at GIROA's discretion. FY1394 is first 11 months only. FY 1394 operating and development budget revenue and expenditure data are as of 12/3/2015.

Source: MOF, *Aqrab Financial Statements FY 1394, 12/3/2015*; MOF, "Annual Fiscal Report 1393," 3/12/2015; MOF "1394 National Budget," 1/28/2015; MOF, "1393 National Budget," 2/1/2014.

A fiscal gap can widen or shrink, depending on variables including budget-execution rates, donor grants received, qualification for donor incentive funds, revenue collection, and changing expenditures.⁵⁷⁵ As this report was being prepared for press, the Afghan parliament approved a \$6.6 billion national budget for FY 1395 on January 18, 2016.⁵⁷⁶

International Monetary Fund Staff-Monitored Program

On November 3, 2015, the IMF completed the results of its first review of Afghanistan’s implementation of macroeconomic policies and structural-reform agenda under the Staff-Monitored Program, which ran April–December 2015. It deemed Afghanistan’s performance satisfactory, but the deteriorating security environment and delays in forming a government complicated implementation efforts. Most June 2015 fiscal and monetary quantitative targets were met, as were the September **indicative targets**, except for social and other priority spending targets. Revenue missed its September target by AFN 500 million.⁵⁷⁷

Progress on structural benchmarks through June 2015 was slower than planned. Revenue-generation measures like increased business-receipt taxes, fuel fees collected at customs, and a new telecommunications tax were delayed by several months. However, a new banking law was enacted in August and the structural benchmark for hiring an independent auditor to audit bad-debt recoveries at an unnamed state bank was met in September. The benchmark of issuing a regulation on currency reporting also was met, and was to be strengthened by the end of 2015.⁵⁷⁸

The IMF also said earlier bank reforms are not progressing as quickly as anticipated. All weak Afghan banks were subject to enforcement actions in 2015, notably two vulnerable publicly unidentified banks. One of these banks increased its capital and reduced foreign-exchange exposure. The other prepared a five-year operating strategy that is under review, hired chief operating and credit officers, but not a chief executive officer. Its capital targets appear to have been met as of June.⁵⁷⁹

Overall, the IMF concluded that while progress has been made, Afghanistan’s economy is dependent on the government’s commitment to reforms, improved security conditions, and continued donor support. IMF staff recommended the government step up efforts to mobilize revenue, prioritize spending, improve budget management, instill confidence in its currency, and “vigorously” implement their new banking, anti-money laundering, and combating the financing of terrorism laws and regulations. Staff said the Afghan authorities are aware of the challenges and are committed to reform.⁵⁸⁰

Trade

Afghanistan’s trade balance—negative \$8.1 billion (39.6% of GDP) in 2014 and an estimated negative \$8.4 billion (39.2% of GDP) in 2015—is

Indicative targets: quantitative indicators used to help assess progress in meeting objectives of an IMF program, including predictive economic trends where data are uncertain.

Source: IMF, “Factsheet, IMF Conditionality,” 4/13/2015.

“The principal connection between the Afghan economy and the rest of the world are donor inflows. These inflows finance most imports and dwarf (licit) exports...”

Source: IMF, *Staff Report for the 2015 Article IV Consultation and the First Review Under the Staff-Monitored Program*, 11/3/2015, p. 13.

unsustainable, and shows an urgent need for an environment that promotes domestic and foreign investment.⁵⁸¹ The Afghan government pledged to simplify the visa process and work to identify ways to “expedite, rather than impede exports.” The government aims to increase the number of border crossings, develop dry ports to advance trade and transit agreements, and increase customs cooperation.⁵⁸²

Export and Import Data

Although Afghanistan routinely sustains a large trade deficit, donor aid helped the country maintain an IMF-projected positive current-account balance of 4.5% of GDP—about \$872 million—in 2015. Without it, the IMF estimates Afghanistan would have a current-account deficit equivalent to 38.9% of its GDP—about \$7.9 billion. This estimate is \$416 million (or 32.3%) lower than Afghanistan’s 2014 current account.⁵⁸³

During 2013–2014, Afghanistan exported around \$3.2 billion—\$4 billion worth of goods and services annually, but is projected to export \$2.6 billion in 2015, not including illicit narcotics, according to the IMF.⁵⁸⁴ Unsurprisingly, IMF staff said that Afghanistan needs to increase and diversify its exports, which will stimulate innovation and good management.⁵⁸⁵ During 2013–2014, Afghanistan imported between \$11.3 billion—\$10.8 billion worth of goods and services annually. The IMF estimated Afghanistan’s 2015 imports at more than \$10.6 billion of goods and services, with about \$8.8 billion paid for by official donor grants.⁵⁸⁶

Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project

USAID’s four-year, \$77.8 million Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project is a trade-facilitation program designed to (1) improve trade-liberalization policies, including support for Afghanistan’s accession to the World Trade Organization; (2) improve and streamline the government’s ability to generate revenue by modernizing Afghanistan’s customs institutions and practices; and (3) facilitate bilateral and multilateral regional trade agreements.⁵⁸⁷

To achieve sustainable economic growth, job creation, enhanced delivery of government services, and fiscal sustainability, it assumes that the Afghan government will carry out its commitments to reform, and a stable security environment will allow the private sector to take advantage of an improved business climate.⁵⁸⁸

On December 3, 2015, Afghanistan’s Customs Department and central bank expanded a program to allow customs duties in Balkh Province to be paid electronically from any commercial bank, rather than at central bank offices within customs houses. This follows a successful pilot program at Kabul International Airport and at Kabul’s inland customs office completed last quarter. The State Department said electronic payments expedite the release of goods at the border, reduce the need to carry cash, and reduce opportunities for graft.⁵⁸⁹

The IMF noted that like other data from Afghanistan, balance of payments data, which include the current account, suffer from weaknesses in coverage and consistency, but are broadly adequate for surveillance.

Source: IMF, Staff Report for the 2015 Article IV Consultation and the First Review Under the Staff-Monitored Program, 11/3/2015, p. 24.

ATAR's 2015 midterm evaluation found it was able to improve the government's capacity to draft WTO-related legislation when it worked directly with staff, but not when it worked remotely and handed legislation to the government without proper explanation or Afghan input. The government also showed little capacity to implement or comply with WTO-related legislation.⁵⁹⁰ However, USAID said the evaluation took place in the early stages of ATAR's capacity-building efforts; these efforts are ongoing with better results expected over the next two years.⁵⁹¹

World Trade Organization Accession

On December 17, 2015, WTO trade ministers approved terms for Afghanistan's accession to the organization. Afghanistan has until June 30, 2016, to ratify the deal, and would become a full member 30 days after notification. Should that occur, Afghanistan would become the ninth least-developed country to become a member since the organization was established in 1995. Afghanistan applied for membership in 2004.⁵⁹²

Afghanistan's First Deputy Chief Executive described the accession requirements as an engine for achieving sound structural reforms, and a way for the country to embrace market-economy principles, an open and transparent economy, rule of law, good governance, non-discrimination, and market instruments.⁵⁹³ The WTO director-general said approval for Afghanistan's accession was an endorsement of its efforts in this regard.⁵⁹⁴

BANKING AND FINANCE

The World Bank said access to finance remains low and is a major constraint to economic growth. Only 5.7% of Afghan firms are reported to have a bank loan, and only 2% use banks to finance investments. More generally, less than 10% of the Afghan population uses banks,⁵⁹⁵ preferring to hold cash. The ADB said this reflects continued distrust of banks and weak banking-sector performance since the massive Kabul Bank failure.⁵⁹⁶

The IMF reported that lax governance and regulatory enforcement in early 2014 caused the financial positions of some Afghan banks to deteriorate, two of which were characterized as in "hazardous condition." Recognizing the necessity of banking-sector profitability, Afghan authorities, with donor and IMF assistance, began to address banking vulnerabilities in 2015. The IMF said important, albeit delayed, progress was made, including passing a new banking law to strengthen bank governance, amending the anti-money laundering law, improving revenue and customs department capacities, and renewing preparations to sell New Kabul Bank. Additionally, the IMF said supervisory and regulatory enforcement is getting stronger, the restructuring of weak banks continues, and the newly established Bad Debt Commission is helping recover nonperforming loans (participation for public banks is required, but voluntary for private banks).⁵⁹⁷

“Our country’s accession to the WTO will serve as a catalyst for domestic reforms and transformation to an effective and functioning market economy that attracts investment, creates jobs and improves the welfare of the people of Afghanistan.”

—President Ashraf Ghani

Source: WTO, “Afghanistan WTO Accession Package Ready for Formal Adoption in Nairobi,” 11/11/2015.

APFM is the United States' principal off-budget effort to help strengthen the Afghan government's ability to generate domestic revenue, manage its budget, and become more fiscally sustainable. It aims to build the government's capacity for forecasting revenue; increase payment compliance, collection, and transfers to the treasury; and strengthen budget planning, execution, monitoring, reporting, and coordination.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 9/23/2015 and 10/8/2015; USAID, Contract Number AID-306-TO-15-00065, 7/27/2015.

U.S. Treasury Assistance

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) continued implementing its March 23, 2015, agreement to develop technical assistance and capacity-building programs for Afghanistan's Ministry of Finance (MOF).⁵⁹⁸

Budget and Treasury Management

This quarter, OTA conducted its third mission to Kabul, December 1–14, to discuss cooperation and capacity building for budget and treasury management with MOF officials, U.S. embassy in Kabul staff, and donor partners.⁵⁹⁹ OTA clarified key MOF needs, including support for the macro-fiscal policy directorate, guidance on linking national planning programs to the national and provincial budgeting process, and development of baseline budgets and forward estimates. OTA expects new budget processes to help the MOF make more informed decisions about unavoidable budget reductions in the future.⁶⁰⁰

The MOF also provided feedback to OTA's proposal to strengthen Afghanistan's policy development, budget formulation and results monitoring process. OTA will incorporate some key concepts of the national planning system already developed by the Afghan government.⁶⁰¹ Additionally, OTA met with USAID about their Afghanistan Public Financial Management (APFM) project, which will include budget and revenue technical assistance, and about their joint development of a five-year fiscal performance management improvement plan for the MOF that will be linked to New Development Partnership and Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund incentive milestones.⁶⁰²

Banking and Financial Services

OTA embarked on an initial assessment mission in September 2015 to strengthen Afghan bank supervision and problem-bank resolutions. OTA is seeking funding from USAID to support a banking-supervision assistance program for Afghanistan's central bank. Meanwhile, OTA is reviewing the central bank's five-year supervision action plan, and is discussing assistance plans with other donors, including the World Bank, USAID, and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), to better understand how the potential work of OTA advisors would relate to other efforts.⁶⁰³

Challenges

OTA said security-imposed travel restrictions are a major constraint in establishing a more sustained presence in Afghanistan. A revised threat assessment by the U.S. Embassy in Kabul in November limits the types of missions it will allow and the length of stay for visiting officials to three to four days. The embassy also said it lacks housing for U.S. personnel.⁶⁰⁴

OTA also said additional funding is needed for more robust engagement with Afghan authorities in FY 2016. USAID is finalizing an interagency agreement that would provide \$2 million for OTA budget, banking, and

tax assistance activities. The State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement is preparing an agreement to provide \$178,000 for OTA assistance to help Afghan authorities combat economic crimes.⁶⁰⁵

Financial Action Task Force

At its most recent plenary session in Paris, France on October 21–23, 2015, the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** chose to keep Afghanistan on its “Improving Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Global Compliance” document, also known as the “gray list.” This means that while Afghanistan has strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, its government has developed an action plan, made a high-level political commitment to address those deficiencies, and is making progress.⁶⁰⁶

In October, FATF reported on Afghanistan's progress since the June 2015 plenary, issuing a “fit and proper” regulation for the financial sector, and a regulatory framework to implement a cross-border system to detect the transportation of cash and bearer negotiable instruments.⁶⁰⁷ Treasury had previously said that Afghanistan's draft banking law, which required prospective bank owners to be deemed “fit and proper” contained a problematic loophole for anyone “convicted by an authorized court of an offense for which he was sentenced to imprisonment *unless such sentence was motivated by his religious or political views or activities*” (emphasis added).⁶⁰⁸

FATF determined that certain strategic deficiencies remain and urged Afghanistan to further implement its legal framework for identifying, tracing, and freezing terrorist assets; implement an adequate AML/CFT oversight program for all financial sectors; and further establish and implement effective controls for cross-border cash transactions.⁶⁰⁹ Treasury explained that Afghanistan's efforts to resolve deficiencies in its cross-border declaration system at airports are greatly hampered by general capacity limitations and resource challenges that are exacerbated at porous land borders in often fractious areas. Treasury remains concerned about these deficiencies and Afghanistan's implementation of the legal framework for freezing terrorist assets.⁶¹⁰ This is the fifth consecutive FATF review in which Afghanistan has maintained this status since being downgraded to the “gray” list in February 2014.⁶¹¹

Kabul Bank Theft Accountability

Under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, the basis for donor support to Afghanistan until September 2015, the Afghan government was required to take all possible steps to recover more assets stolen from Kabul Bank. However, the current basis for support, the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF), does not. Instead, SMAF includes a general “zero-tolerance” for corruption policy and calls for transparent and accountable governance.⁶¹²

Financial Action Task Force (FATF): an intergovernmental policy-making body that sets standards and promotes effective implementation of legal, regulatory, and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. Its 36 members include the United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, and the European Union; observers include the UN and the Asian Development Bank.

Source: Financial Action Task Force website, “Who We Are,” and “Members and Observers,” accessed 1/3/2016.

The U.S. Treasury and the FATF

Treasury leads the U.S. delegation to the FATF and participates closely in all working group discussions. Specifically, within the FATF, the International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG)—co-chaired by the United States and Italy—is tasked with leading the process to identify and monitor countries with AML/CFT deficiencies. Afghanistan was one of over 20 countries the ICRG reviewed at the October 2015 FATF plenary. Before each ICRG meeting, Treasury reviews the information provided by the monitored countries, including laws or regulations, other legal instruments, and supporting materials, and then discusses with other agencies in the U.S. delegation what action(s) should be taken at the FATF on the identified countries of concern. It then works to establish consensus with fellow FATF members during deliberations.

Source: Treasury, response to SIGAR data call, 12/30/2015.

The United States continually stresses in meetings with Afghan officials that it will hold the government accountable to its promises to address endemic corruption, including taking action against those responsible for the more than \$900 million stolen from Kabul Bank.⁶¹³ However, while some U.S. funding through the \$800 million New Development Partnership with the Afghan government is tied to anticorruption initiatives, none is explicitly conditioned on resolving the Kabul Bank case.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said Afghan authorities have been successful recently in continuing to monitor and arrest low-level Kabul Bank debtors, but not in adhering to the rule of law regarding the Kabul Bank judgment. In August 2015, the Afghan government released convicted ex-Kabul Bank chief executive officer Khalilullah Ferozi from prison, reportedly at behest of high-ranking Afghan government officials, after he had served only a fraction of his 10-year sentence.⁶¹⁴ DOJ and State said Ferozi has returned to prison to serve out his remaining sentence.⁶¹⁵ Ferozi and ex-Kabul Bank Chairman Sherkhan Farnood are two of 36 individuals and companies who were convicted in the nearly \$1 billion theft that brought the bank near collapse in 2010.⁶¹⁶

DOJ was not aware of any new investigations this quarter.⁶¹⁷ According to State, cases referred to Afghanistan's Attorney General's Office (AGO) have not progressed and it remains to be seen whether the AGO has the political will to carry out prosecutions. State added that the AGO's Anti-Corruption Unit does not currently possess the necessary political will to be fully effective.⁶¹⁸

For its part, the AGO said it provided names of Kabul Bank debtors who have not signed a repayment agreement with the government to Afghan authorities, but no arrests were made.⁶¹⁹ The AGO also added Ahmad Fahim Turab to the no-fly list. An employee of the Shaheen Money Exchange, Turab was one of Farnood and Ferozi's 16 aiders and abettors.⁶²⁰ On June 22, 2015, President Ghani set a one-week deadline for debtors to settle their accounts or be referred to the AGO for prosecution and banned from leaving the country.⁶²¹ Last quarter, the AGO listed 14 primary Kabul Bank debtors who failed to settle their obligations on official no-fly lists, although it is believed that they are no longer living in the country.⁶²²

Khalilullah Ferozi and the "Smart City" Project

Ferozi was introduced as a major contributor to a government-backed land development project this quarter. On November 4, 2015, the Afghan government inaugurated a \$900 million "Smart City Township" project in a ceremony that featured Ferozi; President Ghani's legal advisor and head of the Kabul Bank Clearance Committee, Dr. Abdul Ali Mohammadi; Special Representative for Reforms and Good Governance Ahmad Zia Massoud; and Minister of Urban Development Sayed Saadat Mansur Naderi. Ferozi was supposed to be in prison, but instead he was introduced at the ceremony as a shareholder and signed a memorandum of understanding

with Minister Naderi through which he would provide land for the project and the Nabi Zada Construction Company would perform the work.⁶²³ Dr. Mohammadi said this collaboration is part of a plan to enable Kabul Bank debtors to start businesses to help satisfy their debts.⁶²⁴

The collaboration with Ferozi seemed to contradict the intent of President Ghani's October 2014 decree ordering the pursuit and prosecution of all those involved in the Kabul Bank case, as well as the government's September 2015 self-graded assessment that its actions taken in response to Kabul Bank broke the "aura of impunity that had surrounded high level malfeasance."⁶²⁵ The Afghanistan Analysts Network reported palace insiders describing "scenes of stunned disbelief and exasperation when the news broke."⁶²⁶

Afghan officials initially defended the arrangement but, on November 7, 2015, President Ghani declared the memorandum of understanding nonbinding, null, and void; reaffirmed that no government branch outside the judiciary has the authority to amend the court's verdict against Ferozi; and ordered a review on transferring Ferozi's property to the government as compensation for his debts.⁶²⁷ Ferozi is reportedly back in prison.⁶²⁸ On November 18, President Ghani suspended his legal advisor, Dr. Mohammadi, relieving him of all responsibilities, and ordered an investigation into the Kabul Bank loan-recovery process. Mohammadi, the only person held accountable so far, reportedly told parliamentarians that President Ghani and the Kabul Bank Clearance Committee—established by a March 2015 presidential decree to look into and help resolve the Kabul Bank case—knew in advance of the Smart City project plan and its association with Ferozi.⁶²⁹

Cash and Asset Recoveries

The Kabul Bank Receivership (KBR) informed the Justice Department that *actual* recoveries reportedly stand at \$250.9 million as of October 29, 2015, \$4.7 million more than reported last quarter. KBR also reported *total* recoveries—a new category—of \$569.2 million. This figure comprises cash recoveries, forgiven Kabul Bank debts, and assets recovered or seized, as well as the amount still owed by 12 major debtors who signed loan-repayment agreements in 2015, typically to be indemnified within three to five years. KBR calculated the outstanding loan portfolio at \$417.8 million. DOJ is unaware of any Afghan government rationale for the methodology it uses to calculate recoveries—actual or total—from Kabul Bank debtors.⁶³⁰ However, the methodology may be contained in the monthly KBR activity and cost reports, which include the status and financial details of asset recovery, required by the IMF's Staff Monitored Program.⁶³¹

Farnood and Ferozi Repayments

The Afghan government has been unable to compel full repayment from Farnood and Ferozi.⁶³² Farnood, who also remains in prison, is said to have paid back approximately \$62 million in cash—not quite 11% of his

SIGAR INVESTIGATION

As a result of SIGAR's investigation that uncovered corruption in the award of a nearly \$1 billion, multi-year Afghan Ministry of Defense fuel contract, this quarter the Afghan government requested SIGAR's assistance in helping it recover some of the funds stolen from Kabul Bank. SIGAR agreed to provide support.

\$571.6 million obligation—as well as \$18.2 million in assets. KBR’s estimates of what the two men owe is dramatically lower than the judgment of Afghanistan’s appellate court. According to the KBR, Farnood still owes \$336.8 million.⁶³³ The KBR puts Farnood’s total obligations at \$417 million, or \$155 million lower than the appellate court judgment.⁶³⁴

KBR has reportedly collected approximately \$10.1 million from Ferozi—about 3% of the \$333.8 million court judgment, which includes embezzled amounts, interest, and fines.⁶³⁵ State said Ferozi also pledged \$127 million in collateral assets, which the KBR considers a recovery.⁶³⁶ KBR puts Ferozi’s total obligations at approximately \$137.2 million, or \$197 million lower than the appellate court judgment.

After Kabul Bank’s near-collapse in 2010, the MOF issued an eight-year, \$825 million bond to the central bank to compensate it for the losses it incurred. Repayments by the government, which sometimes include the proceeds of recovered Kabul Bank assets, are to be made quarterly through budget appropriations. Parliament has not consistently authorized these repayments, while payments that were authorized are in arrears. No repayments appear to have been made since 2013.

Source: IMF, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, *Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies*, 11/1/2011, p. 9; Treasury, response to SIGAR data calls, 6/25/2015 and 12/30/2015.

Cash and Asset Recovery Challenges

The KBR said its main challenge in recovering cash and assets is inadequate pressure on borrowers to repay their debts, primarily because so many have significant political ties or allies. Integrity Watch Afghanistan, a donor-supported independent civil society organization, blamed the Afghan government for lacking the political will to support the KBR and the AGO in their efforts to collect debts.⁶³⁷ Although President Ghani predicted that his government would “make history” by recovering the public money lost in the scandal, State acknowledged KBR’s continuing challenges, and DOJ said it has seen no evidence this quarter that the Afghan government has overcome any of them.⁶³⁸

U.S. Assistance

Justice Department officials met with the Afghan Attorney General, the director of the AGO’s Anti-Corruption Unit, and the deputy director of the Kabul Bank Receivership this quarter. The Justice Department requests to travel with these and other Afghan justice sector representatives to other meetings were either rejected or cancelled by the U.S. Embassy-Kabul’s Regional Security Officer due to security conditions in Kabul.⁶³⁹

In May 2015, Afghanistan requested legal assistance from DOJ to recover Kabul Bank assets. DOJ said mutual legal assistance agreements play a vital role in criminal prosecutions, allowing the prosecuting country to obtain evidence and information they would otherwise not have a legal or jurisdictional basis to collect.⁶⁴⁰ However, DOJ deemed Afghanistan’s request deficient and identified corrective actions needed before DOJ could assist. DOJ reviewed these actions again this quarter with the director of the AGO’s Anti-Corruption Unit. Neither the U.S. Embassy-Kabul nor DOJ received new or revised diplomatic notes, or other official requests, from the Afghan government about recovering Kabul Bank assets and beginning discussions to request mutual legal assistance.⁶⁴¹

DOJ said Afghanistan’s AGO has a critical need for anti-money-laundering training. DOJ continued to provide that training this quarter, hosting a

one-day anti-money laundering program for 32 prosecutors from the anti-corruption and antiterrorism units at the AGO and several representatives from the High Office of Oversight. DOJ said it is too soon to assess whether the trainees have made or will make use of the training.⁶⁴²

New Kabul Bank

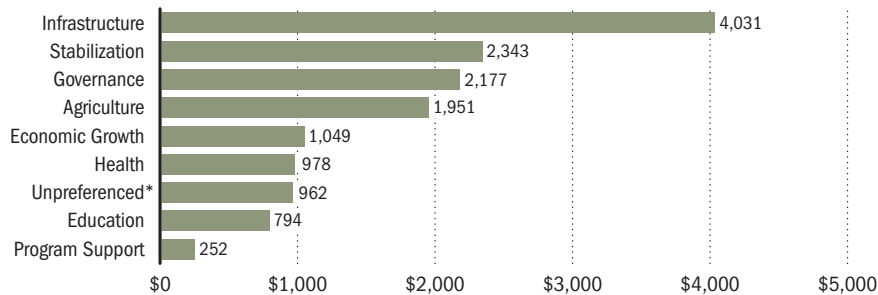
New Kabul Bank (NKB) is a temporary “bridge bank” containing the good assets and deposits from Kabul Bank. NKB operates at a loss, \$65 million over the last six years by one estimate, due in part to its lack of lending portfolio, restrictions on developing lending, and the need to maintain a conservative asset-management strategy prior to its contemplated sale.⁶⁴³ Privatizing NKB, which provides salary payment and direct-deposit services to hundreds of thousands of government employees, has been a long-standing objective of Afghanistan’s central bank and the international community.⁶⁴⁴ Past efforts were unsuccessful.⁶⁴⁵ With IMF assistance, the Afghan government reinitiated efforts to sell NKB and announced a new bid for the bank on December 26, 2015. Responses were due on January 28, 2016. Further details will be provided to qualified investors thereafter.⁶⁴⁶

U.S. ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Most assistance from the Economic Support Fund goes toward USAID’s development programs. In September 2015, USAID published an updated Performance Management Plan to guide and measure its development objectives, and articulate its development strategy through 2018. The plan will be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary.⁶⁴⁷ Figure 3.30 shows USAID assistance by sector.

FIGURE 3.30

USAID DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENTS, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015
(\$ MILLIONS)



Note: Numbers rounded. Agriculture programs include Alternative Development. Infrastructure programs include power, roads, extractives, and other programs that built health and education facilities.

* Unpreferenced funds are U.S. contributions to the ARTF that can be used for any ARTF-supported initiatives.

Source: SIGAR analysis of USAID response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016; SIGAR analysis of World Bank, ARTF, Administrator’s Report on Financial Status, as of December 21, 2015, accessed 1/17/2016.

Development Of Natural Resources

President Ghani listed mining as one of the country's most important economic assets in his September 2015 interview with SIGAR. So far, however, mining has contributed only slightly to the country's GDP.⁶⁴⁸ Actual receipts were only about AFN 613 million (31% of the budget projection) in the first 11 months of FY 1394. Compared to the same time last year, extractives revenue decreased approximately 33.5%.⁶⁴⁹ The need for infrastructure financing, progress on regulatory and legislative frameworks, and an improved security environment make the timing of significant revenues from this sector uncertain.⁶⁵⁰

The majority of mining contracts and tenders are still being reassessed by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MOMP) due to what the minister called a lack of transparency in the award process under the Karzai administration.⁶⁵¹ USAID said the Afghan government is taking a slow, methodical approach to the sector until it feels it has the capacity to manage tenders and contracts, and has instructed the MOMP to proceed cautiously.⁶⁵²

Mining Investment and Development for Afghan Sustainability

USAID's Mining Investment and Development for Afghan Sustainability (MIDAS) program aims to strengthen MOMP and relevant private sector-entity capacities to exploit Afghanistan's natural resources, in accordance with international standards.⁶⁵³ In recent months, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Daud Saba has put a hold on new drilling activities. USAID said he modified the types of assistance he wanted from MIDAS. He requested MIDAS be rescoped to help develop legal and institutional frameworks, followed by on-the-job trainings, for the sustainable and efficient development and exploitation of Afghanistan's natural resources.⁶⁵⁴

Also this quarter, MIDAS advisors continued training Afghan Geological Survey staff to prepare, process, and analyze samples for a future granite tender. MIDAS also supported geospatial/geographic-data training, and geophysics training for Geological Survey staff; legal training on mineral-contract reviews and negotiations for MOMP legal advisors; and gender awareness training for extractives sector employees.⁶⁵⁵ MIDAS and USAID's other extractives-assistance programs are listed in Table 3.22.

Hydrocarbons

Afghanistan's efforts to develop its oil and gas reserves focus on the Amu Darya Basin and Afghan-Tajik Basin, both in northern Afghanistan.⁶⁵⁶ Afghanistan has only small-scale topping plants—early-stage refineries that can process only limited petroleum components of crude oil—and remains heavily dependent on fuel imports.⁶⁵⁷ The country imports 10,000 tons of oil products a day from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Pakistan, and Iran, representing roughly one-fourth of all annual Afghan imports, or approximately \$1.5 billion.⁶⁵⁸

SIGAR AUDIT

This quarter, SIGAR published the second of two reports focused on the U.S. efforts to develop Afghanistan's extractive industries. It determined that these programs had mixed success, largely due to challenges in dealing with the Afghan government. The report recommended that the USAID administrator (1) use the results of the assessments done to date to develop a plan with the MOMP and its component organizations addressing the structural reforms needed at the ministry and establish milestones for achieving them; and (2) condition any future on-budget assistance to the MOMP on the ministry achieving the milestones in the agreed-upon plan. For more information, see pp. 18–22.

TABLE 3.22

USAID EXTRACTIVES-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Sheberghan Gas Generation Activity (SGGA)	12/21/2011	7/31/2016	\$30,440,958	\$23,178,440
Sheberghan Gas Development Project (SGDP)	5/15/2012	8/31/2016	90,000,000	21,895,875
Mining Investment and Development for Afghan Sustainability (MIDAS)	3/31/2013	3/30/2016	50,096,175	24,351,004

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

Sheberghan Programs

The Sheberghan gas fields hold the potential for cheap natural-gas-generated power that could be competitive with imported power from Uzbekistan, according to the World Bank.⁶⁵⁹ USAID is supporting the Sheberghan project to help Afghanistan identify and manage gas resources to be used for power generation through two mechanisms: (1) the \$90 million, on-budget Sheberghan Gas Development Project (SGDP) to rehabilitate and drill wells in the Amu Darya Basin and fund a gas-gathering system and gas-processing plant; and (2) the \$30.4 million, off-budget Sheberghan Gas Generation Activity (SGGA) for capacity building and technical assistance to the MOMP.⁶⁶⁰

Although the entire Sheberghan program is behind its original 2012 schedule due to a year-long absence of a minister of mines and petroleum, and because the government had to replace almost the entire Afghanistan Petroleum Authority staff, this quarter, USAID said SGDP is keeping to its revised schedule. Turkish Petroleum Corporation, SGDP's drilling contractor, succeeded in drilling one new well and rehabilitating another.⁶⁶¹

SGGA issued and received responses to a request for proposals for evaluating data and reserve estimates for seven Sheberghan gas fields; helped train Afghanistan Petroleum Authority staff on drilling contract payment processes; and briefed the authority's leadership on critical drilling program administrative matter.⁶⁶² In November, SGGA reported that the MOMP continued to demonstrate an inability and unwillingness to make petroleum operation-related decisions. For example, the ministry refused to remove a well from a drilling contract and appointed a committee to study the matter, even though the same study had already been conducted by the Afghanistan Petroleum Authority and USAID had already rescinded funding. The delay in the ministry's decision to cancel a second well also far exceeded commercial industry norms.⁶⁶³

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture continues to be the main source of employment and subsistence for the Afghan population, accounting for about 25% of GDP, employing more than 50% of the labor force, and affecting 75% of Afghans who depend

on agricultural activities for their livelihoods.⁶⁶⁴ USAID believes agriculture can stimulate and sustain Afghan-led economic growth. USAID's agricultural projects focus on wheat, high-value horticultural crops, and livestock, and aim to help farmers improve their output and sales through new technology, management practices, and the cultivation of key high-value crops, while also focusing on improving natural-resource management, and creating or rehabilitating irrigation and drainage systems.⁶⁶⁵

USAID is implementing two projects previously under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that are aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL): (1) The Afghan Agricultural Extension Program, which has established 268 farmer field schools and trained more than 1,300 government staff; and (2) the Capacity Building and Change Management Program, which has already placed specialists at 14 of MAIL's provincial-level affiliates, conducted monitoring and evaluation training, and helped coordinate between the various donor programs.⁶⁶⁶

Since 2002, USAID has disbursed nearly \$2.0 billion to improve agricultural production, increase access to markets, and develop income alternatives to growing poppy.⁶⁶⁷ Pages 98–103 of this quarterly report discuss USAID's alternative-development programs. A list of all active USAID agriculture programs is found in Table 3.23.



An Afghan family stands in their vineyard, trellised with U.S. aid. (USAID/CHAMP photo)

Agricultural Economic Activity in Regional Economic Zones

Economic activity in southern Afghanistan is dependent on the security situation on the ground. USAID said economic activity in Kandahar is growing, with grapes and pomegranates particularly promising. Wheat is still a major economic activity in Helmand even though security has deteriorated there. USAID agriculture programs are working to improve business ties between Helmand wheat producers and buyers, particularly in Kandahar, a net consumer of wheat. Programs in Zabul are focusing on figs and stone fruits, but in Uruzgan—potentially the least secure of the four provinces—agricultural economic activity is more constrained but projects continue to support orchard and vegetable crops, as well as wheat and livestock.⁶⁶⁸ In FY 2016, USAID programming will focus on almonds in targeted districts in Uruzgan.⁶⁶⁹

Economic activity in the northern economic zone, paralleling Highway 1, particularly in the Mazar-e Sharif area, is increasing, according to USAID. However, the economic zone following the road through Baghlan and Kunduz Provinces to Tajikistan is experiencing a slowdown in economic activity due to the heightened insecurity in the region.⁶⁷⁰

Agricultural Credit Enhancement II

The Agricultural Credit Enhancement (ACE) II project is the technical-assistance/advisory support component of the conditions-based Agricultural

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 3.23

USAID ACTIVE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project II (AAEP-II)	10/1/2014	9/30/2017	\$19,814,702	\$6,831,775
Agriculture Credit Enhancement II (ACE II)	6/24/2015	6/23/2018	18,234,849	1,586,787
Capacity Building and Change Management Program II (CBCMP II)	7/10/2014	7/9/2017	19,999,989	9,565,518
Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) Phase III	12/29/2011	12/28/2016	7,492,739	3,420,553
Strengthening Afghan Agricultural Faculties (SAAF)	3/25/2011	12/31/2016	7,824,209	6,560,129
Mothers and Under-Five Nutrition and Child Health (MUNCH)	12/16/2014	12/31/2016	5,000,000	5,000,000
SERVIR	9/14/2015	9/30/2020	3,600,000	0
Regional Agriculture Development Program (RADP)-South	10/7/2013	10/6/2018	125,075,172	45,241,343
Regional Agriculture Development Program (RADP)-West	8/10/2014	8/9/2019	69,973,376	14,038,692
Regional Agriculture Development Program (RADP)-North	5/21/2014	5/20/2019	78,429,714	13,710,191

Note: Some of the USAID programs listed receive both Alternative Development and Agriculture Development funds. For more information on Alternative Development programs, see Table 3.12 on p. 99 of this report.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

Development Fund (ADF) that was transitioned to MAIL in December 2014. The USAID-ADF grant to the MAIL extends agriculture-related credit access to small- and medium-sized farms and agribusinesses in all regional economic zones, particularly to those who add value to agricultural products such as distributors, producers, processors, and exporters.⁶⁷¹

ACE II support was modified in November 2015 to help the ADF achieve operational sustainability—operating income that is sufficient to cover operational expenses—within three years. An activity manager was hired to help monitor the ACE II program.⁶⁷² ACE II will continue its other support to ADF by encouraging other financial intermediaries—banks, farm stores, leasing companies, and food processors—to enter into agriculture-related finance.⁶⁷³

This quarter, USAID reported that with ACE help, ADF has cumulatively provided around \$67 million: \$21.8 million in loans to farmers in the north, \$15 million in the central region, \$14.1 million in the east, \$4.1 million in the south, and \$13 million in the west.⁶⁷⁴

ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

Since 2002, the United States has provided reconstruction funds to increase the electricity supply, build roads and bridges, and improve health and education in Afghanistan. This section addresses key developments in U.S. efforts to improve the government's ability to deliver these essential services.

Power Supply

Afghanistan has one of the lowest rates of electrification in the world, with an estimated 25–33% of Afghans connected to the power grid.⁶⁷⁵ Most parts of urban areas like Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, and Mazar-e Sharif have 24-hour power, although power outages are common, but only 10% of the rural population have access to grid-connected power.⁶⁷⁶

Afghanistan imports approximately 81% of its total electricity.⁶⁷⁷ Electricity imports are expected to rise in the near term, according to the World Bank, which also noted that limited access to electricity is one of Afghanistan’s biggest constraints to private-sector development.⁶⁷⁸ Afghanistan will need regional cooperation to meet its energy demands.⁶⁷⁹

Regional Energy Initiatives

On December 13, 2015, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Indian leaders attended a ground-breaking ceremony for the development of the Galkynysh gas field that will eventually feed the \$9 billion, 1,127-mile natural gas Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline.⁶⁸⁰ The pipeline, as shown in Figure 3.31, will transport up to 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year from Turkmenistan to these other countries. Afghanistan will collect a transit fee from those countries for the gas passing

FIGURE 3.31

PROPOSED TURKMENISTAN-AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN-INDIA (TAPI) PIPELINE



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Overview of Oil and Natural Gas in the Caspian Sea Region*, 8/26/2013, p. 24; Council on Foreign Relations, *Building The New Silk Road*, 5/25/2015, p. 3.

through its territory.⁶⁸¹ The Minister of Mines told parliament that a 7,000 member security force will guard the pipeline during construction.⁶⁸²

Afghanistan, through the Afghanistan-Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan-Pakistan, Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade project (CASA-1000) will receive up to 300 MW of generation capacity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and will collect transit-fee revenue from electricity delivered to Pakistan.⁶⁸³ CASA-1000 is behind schedule. All main project agreements have been signed, procurement for major infrastructure is advancing, and a feasibility study is complete. However, construction contracts were not signed by a June 30, 2015, deadline, and a revised target date was set for April 2016. Construction is reportedly to begin in May 2016 with electricity distribution starting in 2018.⁶⁸⁴

Another regional energy initiative involving Afghanistan is the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP) transmission line that will enable power to be dispatched from Turkmenistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan.⁶⁸⁵ This quarter, the Afghan government proposed pausing TUTAP to review the proposed route to better benefit the country's central provinces.⁶⁸⁶ TUTAP is financed by the ADB and the ADB-administered Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund, to which USAID contributes. Work is scheduled to be completed in 2020. Even with CASA-1000- and TUTAP-generated power, the Afghan government said it will still face an energy deficit.⁶⁸⁷

U.S. Power Sector Assistance

Since 2002, USAID obligated more than \$2.7 billion to build generators, substations, and transmission lines, and provide technical assistance in the sector.⁶⁸⁸ USAID believes that economic expansion and increased employment depends on maintaining and improving Afghanistan's electrical infrastructure. It is helping Afghanistan's national electric utility, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), to increase electricity supply and revenue generation by improving sustainability, management, and commercial viability.⁶⁸⁹ For its part, DOD has provided approximately \$292 million for power projects through the Commander's Emergency Response Program, and roughly \$1.1 billion through the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which is jointly managed by DOD and State.⁶⁹⁰

Afghanistan's two primary power systems are the **Northeast Power System (NEPS)** and the **Southeast Power System (SEPS)**. USAID projects to connect and increase the electricity supply in both systems include: (1) the Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity (PTEC) project to construct a transmission line connecting Kabul with Kandahar and build the capacity of DABS to sustain energy-infrastructure investments; (2) the Sheberghan Gas Development Project to attract private investment to develop gas resources in Sheberghan and build power plants; and (3) the now-concluded Kandahar-Helmand Power Project, which was intended

NEPS: imports electricity from the Central Asian Republics to provide power to Kabul and the communities north of Kabul.

SEPS: draws most of its power from the Kajaki Dam and from diesel generators in Kandahar City to provide power in the Helmand and Kandahar areas.

Source: DOD, *Report on Progress Toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, 11/2013, p. 107.

to include installation of a third turbine at Kajaki Dam and improving the transmission system connecting Kajaki with Kandahar, but that responsibility was transitioned to DABS in 2013.⁶⁹¹ USAID's active power-infrastructure projects are listed in Table 3.24.

Kandahar-Helmand Power Project

On December 30, 2015, USAID concluded the last subcomponent of the five-year, \$229 million Kandahar-Helmand Power Project. The subcomponent provided technical support to DABS in its efforts to increase long-term, sustainable hydropower from Kajaki Dam to Kandahar and Helmand Provinces by installing a third turbine, known as Unit 2, in the powerhouse.⁶⁹² USAID transferred responsibility for installing, testing, and commissioning the third turbine to DABS, along with a \$75 million commitment, in April 2013.⁶⁹³ As of December 31, 2015, \$38 million has been disbursed.⁶⁹⁴

Turbine-installation efforts were interrupted this quarter. Fighting and security concerns caused Kajaki Dam contractors to be evacuated in September 2015. A limited number returned on November 20 to resume critical activities, but full remobilization awaits authorization from the U.S. ambassador.⁶⁹⁵ DOD said ongoing fighting in Kandahar and Helmand Provinces continued to challenge contractors at Kajaki Dam and SEPS construction sites between Tangi and Sangin. Insurgent activity this quarter continued to cause road closures along Route 611—the road between Sangin and Kajaki—delaying delivery of construction materials and possibly affecting project completion schedules.⁶⁹⁶ Work on the project will continue without USAID support. The turbine-installation completion date was revised to fall 2016, but is subject to change depending on the timeline for full remobilization of staff and possible actions to accelerate work.⁶⁹⁷

Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity Program

The U.S.-funded PTEC program was designed to strengthen and expand Afghanistan's power-generation, transmission, and distribution systems, including funding the 320-mile transmission line between Kabul and Kandahar to connect NEPS with SEPS.⁶⁹⁸ PTEC's DABS commercialization and capacity-building components aim to increase revenues using utility management software in Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, and Jalalabad, while reducing technical and commercial losses through training and support.⁶⁹⁹

Construction has started on the transmission line and substations between Arghandi and Ghazni, the first segment of the NEPS-SEPS connector, which USAID sees as essential for power-sector development. USAID said the contractor is making progress to overcome security-related delays with construction scheduled to be completed in December 2016. To date, \$66.4 million has been disbursed to PTEC contractors for this segment.⁷⁰⁰

USAID is providing \$179.5 million in direct assistance to DABS in support of the second segment of the NEPS-SEPS connector, Ghazni to

TABLE 3.24

USAID ACTIVE POWER-INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity	1/1/2013	12/31/2018	\$670,000,000	\$66,354,254
Contributions to the Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund	3/7/2013	3/6/2018	113,670,184	105,000,000
Kajaki Dam Unit 2	4/22/2013	12/31/2015	75,000,000	38,078,735
Public Awareness Campaign to Increase Afghans' Knowledge of Energy Development Programs	2/1/2014	1/31/2016	1,789,224	1,730,435
Utility Executive Exchange	9/30/2007	9/30/2017	698,555	698,555
Afghan Engineering Support Program	11/9/2009	11/8/2016	97,000,000	70,425,219
PEER Grants	7/25/2011	7/24/2016	5,440,647	5,440,647
TBD (Unknown)	8/24/2015	8/24/2017	3,994,902	279,760

Note: The Sheberghan Gas Generation Activity (SGGA), Sheberghan Gas Development Project (SGDP), and Mining Investment and Development for Afghan Sustainability (MIDAS) programs, which are categorized under the power sector in USAID's funding pipeline report, are listed in the extractives-sector programs subsection on pp. 148–149 of this report.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

Kandahar. DABS issued two requests for proposals to construct one transmission line and five substations; bids are being evaluated and signed contracts are scheduled for May 2016. USAID said security will be a major challenge to implementing this project.⁷⁰¹

USAID reported that power generation in Shorandam Industrial Park, one of two industrial parks in Kandahar City that received a combined \$141 million in U.S. fuel subsidies for their diesel generators, dropped to 1.5 MW output, on average, per eight-hour day.⁷⁰²

To help bridge the gap between Kandahar's electric-generation capacity and demand until the NEPS-SEPS transmission line is completed, PTEC is funding a reverse auction whereby independent power producers will compete to construct and sell power to DABS from a solar power plant. This plant, expected to be operational by mid-to-late 2016, may be able to operate at an installed capacity of 10 MW of power; the diesel generators in Kandahar City have a combined average capacity of 8–13 MW.⁷⁰³ USAID reported that DABS accepted a power-purchase agreement and tariff rate ceiling, and the construction of an 11.2-mile overhead transmission line connecting the solar plant to the distribution substation. The MOF transferred 60 acres of land to DABS for this effort.⁷⁰⁴

Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund Power Programs

AIF projects were initiated to support critical counterinsurgency and economic development objectives in Afghanistan. Although DOD's mission has since evolved to advising and assisting Afghan security forces and ministries, as well as counterterrorism operations, it is also focused on completing AIF projects.⁷⁰⁵

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 3.25

AFGHANISTAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND POWER PROJECTS, AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2015 (\$ MILLIONS)							
AIF Project	Description	Notified Amount	Obligated	Disbursed	Status		
AIF FY 2011	Kandahar Power Bridging Solution	Provides fuel and O&M for diesel generators in Kandahar City	40.5	39.1	39.1	Complete	
	SEPS - Kajaki Dam-Lashkar Gah	Repair, install transmission lines and rebuild, construct power substations	130.0	66.4	51.1	Terminated due to security cost increase	
	NEPS - SEPS Connector, Arghandi to Ghazni	Design, construct transmission line and substation (first segment of NEPS-SEPS connection) USAID: PTEC	101.0	101.0	45.0	Under construction (transmission line completion extended one year to December 2017; substation, 17 months to June 2018)	
	NEPS - Arghandi to Pul-e Alam	Design, construct transmission line and power substation	93.7	50.3	13.8	* Transmission line under construction (completion and occupancy dates extended 9 and 7 months, respectively to 12/2016); substation design under review	
AIF FY 2012	Kandahar Power Bridging Solution	Provides fuel and O&M for diesel generators in Kandahar City	67.0	64.7	64.7	Complete	
	SEPS - Maiwand to Durai Junction - Phase 2	Design, construct transmission line, rebuild and construct substations	40.0	28.7	8.1	* Under construction (completion and occupancy dates extended to 9 and 10 months respectively, July, August 2016)	
	NEPS - Pul-e Alam to Gardez - Phase 2	Design, construct transmission line and power substation	77.5	69.9	44.2	** Transmission line under construction; substation in design (completion and occupancy dates extended 9 months 10/2016 and 12/2016, respectively)	
	NEPS - Charikar to Gul Bahar and Nejrab - Phase 3	Design, construct transmission lines and power substation	42.5	38.8	18.2	** Transmission line under construction; substation design under review (completion and occupancy dates extended 9 months 10/2016 and 12/2016, respectively)	
AIF FY 2013	Kandahar Power Bridging Solution	Provides fuel and O&M for diesel generators in Kandahar City	37.0	34.0	34.0	Complete	
	NEPS - Charikar to Gul Bahar and Nejrab - Phase 3	Design, construct transmission lines and power substation	33.0	25.2	18.4	Transmission line under construction; substation design under review	
	SEPS Completion - Phase 1	Design, construct, and rehabilitate substations in Tangi, Sangin North and South	15.0	62.9	37.6	Under construction (ongoing delays); security challenges	
		Design, construct transmission lines from Sangin North to Lashkar Gah	60.0			* Design approved; under construction (completion and occupancy dates extended six months to 12/2016)	
NEPS - SEPS Connector, Ghazni to Kandahar	Design, construct transmission line and substations. Final Phase of NEPS-SEPS connector. USAID: PTEC	179.5	179.5	0.0	Bids under evaluation by DABS; expected award: 5/2016		
AIF FY 2014	Kandahar Power Bridging Solution	Provides fuel and O&M for diesel generators in Kandahar City	4.0	3.9	3.7	Complete	
	SEPS Completion - Phase 2	Design, construct transmission line, and install equipment and commission substations	55.0	55.0	0.0	Transferred to USAID; expected award: 5/2016.	
	NEPS - Gardez to Khowst - Phase 4	Design, construct transmission line and substation. DOD's final contribution to NEPS.	130.0	119.0	0.4	Demining complete; security, quality control, work safety, and design schedule plans approved; demining certifications, accident prevention, and activity hazard plans under review	

Note: All AIF power projects are to be sustained by Afghanistan's Ministry of Energy and Water, and Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), Afghanistan's national electric utility. Notified amount reflects estimated project ceiling cost. Obligations and disbursements are as of 11/30/2015. All other information is as of 12/9/2015.

* Occupancy schedule extensions caused by the Ministry of Energy and Water's longer than expected right-of-way approval process, due in part, to the replacement of key ministry officials.

** Occupancy schedule extensions caused by the relocation of two planned electrical substations to more suitable locations.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 12/28/2015.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan have completed 11 AIF power and road projects so far. This quarter, fighting in Kandahar and Helmand Provinces, as well as bureaucratic delays working with the Ministry of Energy and Water, continue to challenge AIF contractors and project completion schedules. However, DOD remained focused on implementing power projects to complete its portion of the NEPS and SEPS using FY 2011–FY 2014 AIF money as shown in Table 3.25.⁷⁰⁶ No FY 2015 or FY 2016 AIF funds were requested or appropriated, but up to \$50 million from the FY 2016 Afghanistan Security Forces Fund may be used under limited circumstances to help finish existing AIF projects.⁷⁰⁷

Afghanistan's Capacity to Sustain Power Projects

DABS and other government entities will be responsible for sustaining NEPS-SEPS power projects, including operations and maintenance (O&M) costs once they are completed and turned over to the government. SIGAR has raised questions about DABS's capacity and said Afghanistan lacks the resources necessary—financial and otherwise—to pay for O&M.⁷⁰⁸

DOD has notified Congress that increased revenue from an expanded customer base and improved collection capabilities will help DABS provide long-term sustainment of infrastructure.⁷⁰⁹ USAID said DABS's revenues have increased over the last three years, allowing it to pay for more of its operating expenses, although nonrecurring major capital-infrastructure expenses are still mainly funded by donors.⁷¹⁰

A World Bank report cautioned that even though DABS, with donor assistance, has been able to reduce some commercial losses and improve revenue collections, its commercial and technical (distribution) losses “remain significant.” The report added that DABS cannot raise or expect donors to provide the capital necessary to meet Afghanistan's energy infrastructure requirements.⁷¹¹

TRANSPORTATION

Afghanistan's lack of transportation infrastructure hinders internal commerce, foreign trade, and economic growth. The World Bank said Afghanistan's transportation-infrastructure shortcomings constrain the service and agriculture sectors, which have typically been the leading drivers of the economy. It also holds back the mining industry, whose future revenues the Afghan government and international donor community are counting on to offset declining international aid.⁷¹²

This quarter, the Afghan government announced plans to procure a feasibility study on expanding its northern rail network.⁷¹³ Only one completed freight rail line currently exists—a 47-mile (75 km) line from Hairatan, on the border with Uzbekistan, to Mazar-e Sharif.⁷¹⁴ State said developing Afghanistan's railways remains a critical priority, but the security

SIGAR AUDIT

An ongoing SIGAR audit focuses on DOD and State Department progress in completing FY 2011 Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF) projects, the impact on other infrastructure priorities and counterinsurgency objectives, and sustainment challenges.

TABLE 3.26

USAID ACTIVE ROAD-CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS-AND-MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Technical Assistance to Ministry of Public Works	8/3/2014	8/2/2017	\$25,486,058	\$9,884,674
Gardez to Khowst Road, Phase IV	6/26/2014	12/31/2015	32,960,265	31,988,789
Salang Tunnel Maintenance	4/1/2013	3/30/2016	3,533,350	3,036,653
Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support (EQUALS)	4/18/2011	4/17/2016	126,307,645	115,189,627
Support for USAID's Construction of Health and Education Facilities Program	1/19/2008	12/31/2015	57,160,749	56,465,885
Emergency Road O&M	12/1/2015	11/30/2016	5,000,000	778,000

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/14/2016.

environment is a major obstacle to investors. Turkmenistan has made significant progress on their portion of the rail link between it, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. Since Afghanistan has not yet begun constructing its portion, international financial institutions have put funding on hold.⁷¹⁵

Meanwhile, the United States continued its efforts to develop the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works in the areas of road construction, operations, and maintenance.⁷¹⁶

Roads

The United States has provided approximately \$2.1 billion cumulatively for road construction and O&M, and will spend up to \$5 million this year for additional O&M.⁷¹⁷ Yet the World Bank has said 85% of Afghan roads are in poor shape and a majority cannot be used by motor vehicles.⁷¹⁸ Afghanistan does not currently have sufficient funding and technical capacity to maintain its roads and highways, according to USAID. Afghanistan is estimated to spend \$17 million annually for O&M, leaving a projected \$100 million annual shortfall.⁷¹⁹ USAID's active road construction and O&M programs are listed in Table 3.26.

Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund Road Projects

DOD has obligated \$62.3 million and disbursed \$56.2 million for five road projects under the AIF, as of November 30, 2015. Some of these projects had multiple phases, three of which—Saracha Bridge, Parwan to Bamiyan Road, and the Ghulam Khan Transportation Corridor—were completed this quarter, as shown in Table 3.27.⁷²⁰

Gardez-Khowst Road Rehabilitation Phase IV

The final phase of USAID's only active road construction project—a \$233 million, 63-mile, asphalt-paved highway—concluded on December 31, 2015.⁷²¹ The Gardez-Khowst road gives Khowst and Paktiya Provinces access to major trading routes to Pakistan, to Kabul, and to the Ring Road

SIGAR AUDIT

An ongoing SIGAR audit is reviewing U.S. efforts to sustain roads and strengthen the Afghan government's ability to perform road maintenance.

TABLE 3.27

AFGHANISTAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND ROAD PROJECTS, AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2015 (\$ MILLIONS)							
AIF Project	Description		Notified Amount	Obligated	Disbursed	Status	
AIF FY 2011	Lashkar Gah to Nawar Road	Design, construct 22.5 km road	\$22.0	\$20.5	\$20.5	Complete	
	RC-East Border Transportation Corridor	Saracha Bridge	Design, construct 0.16 km bridge over Chaparhar River, along Hwy 7 in Nangahar Province	8.0	6.8	6.2	Construction complete
Ghulam Khan Corridor		Design, construct 24.1 km road, four bridges, culverts, switchback repairs in Khowst Province	27.6	12.7	12.3*	Complete	
AIF FY 2012	Parwan to Bamyan Road - Section 6	Section 6.1	Design, construct 7 km road of Salang bypass in Bamyan Province	3.0	3.0	3.0	Complete
		Section 6.2	Design, construct 11 km road of Salang bypass in Parwan Province	7.0	7.0	7.0	Complete
	Dahla Dam Phase 2 - Site Preparation (Route Bear Road)	Realign 4.7 km road along NW shore of Dahla Dam	11.2	7.2	7.2	Complete	
AIF FY 2013	Ghulam Khan Corridor - Phase 2	Design, construct remaining 7 km road to Khowst city and one bridge to complete Ghulam Khan Transportation Corridor	10.0	5.1	0.0	Submittals approved: demining, community relations, quality control, area use, security plan, geo-tech investigation; submittal under review: baseline schedule	

Note: Notified amount reflects estimated project ceiling cost. Obligations and disbursements are as of 11/30/2015. All other information is as of 12/9/2015.
 * The contract amount for the Ghulam Khan Transportation Corridor increased \$310,000 to repair a causeway section that was damaged by flooding.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 12/28/2015.

connecting Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat. It includes bridges, causeways, drainage structures, excavation, “river training” structures to control flow and sedimentation, and asphalt pavement.⁷²²

Salang Tunnel Maintenance

Built in 1962 by the Soviet Union, the Salang Corridor is the only road route between Kabul and northern Afghanistan. It includes the 1.6 mile Salang Tunnel, 21 snow-discharge tunnels (to protect against avalanches and heavy snow), and 52 miles of paved road. It is heavily trafficked and is in “atrocious condition with poor driving surfaces, drainage, lighting, and ventilation.” USAID said the corridor is a strategic-priority access route for the retrograde of material from Afghanistan, and “keeping it passable is vital to the security of Afghanistan and U.S. operations.” Therefore, USAID assistance focuses on stop-gap measures until a viable alternative road route between Kabul and northern Afghanistan can be found; on responses to crisis situations—avalanches, landslides, and structural failures that block the Salang Corridor; and on capacity building to help the Ministry of Public Works operate and maintain the corridor.⁷²³

In October 2015, the Salang Highway Repair and Maintenance (Salang Tunnel Maintenance) program conducted road repairs—asphalt excavation, surfacing, binding, and coating—and constructed a new retaining wall.⁷²⁴ USAID’s Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support also conducted 26 quality and work-progress-monitoring site inspections, and worked with the contractor to ensure project specifications were met, and identify and address any deficiencies.⁷²⁵

ECONOMIC GROWTH

This quarter the World Bank ranked Afghanistan 177th of 189 countries in its *Doing Business 2016* report on regulatory quality and efficiency—a six-place improvement from 2015. While Afghanistan ranks high in starting a business (34th), increased registration and publication fees made it more costly to do so. Afghanistan is nearly last in dealing with construction permits (185), getting electricity (156), registering property (184), trading across borders (174), and enforcing contracts (172). It is considered the worst country in protecting minority investors, partly a reflection of the country’s corporate-governance rules and the weakness of its legal institutions.⁷²⁶

President Ghani has stressed the need for accountability in carrying out the difficult economic reforms needed for Afghanistan to build a competitive, export-oriented economy, with access to neighboring markets.⁷²⁷ USAID, which is assisting in this effort, has disbursed more than \$1 billion cumulatively for economic growth programs in Afghanistan.⁷²⁸ Active programs can be found in Table 3.28.

Afghanistan Workforce Development Program

USAID’s four-year, \$62.6 million Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP) aims to increase economic opportunities for 25,000 Afghans (target ratio: 75% men, 25% women) through vocational education and training, business-management training programs, and job-placement services. AWDP also seeks to mitigate high unemployment and address the scarcity of technically skilled Afghan labor. The goal of the program, through on- and off-budget assistance, is to facilitate job creation, develop a skilled and semiskilled workforce, increase self-employment, and promote economic recovery in Afghanistan.⁷²⁹

AWDP is also supporting efforts to build the capacity of technical/vocational educators and trainers. AWDP seeks to improve the quality of these training programs through public-private partnerships, and make them more accessible.⁷³⁰ As of December 31, 2015, more than 26,000 Afghans had been trained and more than 17,000 either placed in jobs or promoted to mid-career/semi-professional jobs. Training areas ranged from project and financial management to construction, information technology, and

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

marketing. So far, USAID said 36% of those trained, placed, or promoted were women, exceeding the program's target of 25%. The AWDP disbursed approximately \$29.5 million.⁷³¹

Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan

USAID's \$108.3 million, 66-month Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) program aims to promote an inclusive, diverse, and sustainable financial sector that generates jobs and provides a range of services for micro, small, and medium enterprises. FAIDA helps Afghan partners build capacity to deliver financial services, develop a legal framework and market infrastructure, provide technical assistance to mobile network operators for mobile-money services, and assist Afghan women entrepreneurs with business-development training so they can gain access to financing and opportunities for economic and professional growth.⁷³²

TABLE 3.28

USAID ACTIVE ECONOMIC-GROWTH PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA)	2/7/2011	8/5/2016	\$108,258,374	\$98,727,006
Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project (ATAR)	11/7/2013	11/6/2017	77,754,267	37,997,112
Afghanistan Public Financial Management (APFM)	7/27/2015	7/26/2018	22,130,033	1,021,316
Afghan Women's Leadership in the Economy (AWLE)	7/1/2015	6/30/2020	71,571,543	1,906,692
Turquoise Mountain Smithsonian Exhibition	3/9/2015	12/31/2016	535,055	92,918
IFC PIO Grant - Support of Business Environment Reform	10/15/2010	10/30/2017	4,030,000	4,030,000
AIB Guarantee Agreement	9/27/2012	9/27/2020	2,000,000	190,400
DCA with FINCA OXUS and 1st Microfinance Banks	9/25/2014	9/24/2020	1,953,875	0
Commercial Law Development Program	3/1/2014	9/30/2019	10,000,000	3,434,220
Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP) On-Budget	9/18/2013	4/3/2016	30,000,000	1,321,456
Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP) Off-Budget	4/5/2012	4/4/2016	32,647,898	26,219,241
E-Government Resource Center II	8/28/2013	6/1/2016	3,900,000	405,000
Mobile-izing Saving Study	N/A	N/A	50,022	50,022
Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprise (ABADE)	10/16/2012	10/16/2016	104,997,656	61,522,734
Strengthening the Revenue Collection Capacity of GIROA	11/30/2014	12/30/2018	4,000,000	4,000,000
Regional Water Management	N/A	N/A	3,750,000	0
Rebranding Afghanistan: Creating Jobs, Changing Perceptions, Empowering Women	11/2/2015	11/1/2018	4,800,000	0
Afghanistan Investment Climate Program	3/27/2015	3/26/2020	13,300,000	10,074

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016.

A recent FAIDA evaluation report found mixed progress and results similar to a 2014 USAID Office of the Inspector General audit of the program. Namely, while FAIDA had some achievements, it has not necessarily resulted in the intended outcome of a more sustainable, diverse, and inclusive financial sector. FAIDA only claimed direct credit for creating 1,134 full-time equivalent jobs in four years, judging its interventions in this area as neither effective nor efficient. Even this figure is suspect because the FAIDA-assisted organizations differ in how they calculate full-time jobs.⁷³³

Additionally, FAIDA trained and provided technical and monetary assistance to financial-sector organizations, but most recipients require continuing engagement and donor support.⁷³⁴ Twenty-seven percent of loans by volume went to female-owned businesses, but they represented only 7% of loans by amount, showing little improvement from what existed before programming began. USAID said this accurately reflects the reality of gender segregation in Afghanistan, which will take time to improve.

FAIDA spent millions on mobile-money products that were never developed because market demand was too small.⁷³⁵ For example, a donor pilot program to pay police salaries via mobile money was terminated for lack of use. However, the mobile-money products may yet prove useful. After taking office, President Ghani reestablished mobile-money pilot programs for government salaries, essentially creating market demand for these services.⁷³⁶ He declared his intent to expand its use nationwide at the London donor conference in December 2014.⁷³⁷ USAID is supporting the government's effort.⁷³⁸

EDUCATION

Following a June 2015 SIGAR letter to USAID requesting information about the reliability of Afghan-provided data that USAID uses to oversee and fund education programs in Afghanistan, President Ghani ordered an investigation into allegations of corruption within the Ministry of Education (MOE).⁷³⁹ In August 2015, provincial teams were assigned to collect more reliable figures for 6,000 schools across all 34 provinces. Field work began September 1; data collection was scheduled to be completed by September 20.⁷⁴⁰

On January 2, 2016, Tolo News reported the following alleged results of the investigation:⁷⁴¹

- Millions of dollars have been embezzled.
- Data on nonexistent “ghost” schools provided by MOE departments to investigators were inconsistent and underreported.
- Thousands of “ghost” teachers were included in the official rolls.
- “Ghost” training seminars were conducted in some provinces.
- Houses were rented for schools at great expense.

- Discrepancies existed in student education, registration, and attendance records.
- More than 1,000 MOE projects reported as completed were not.
- Several advisors had received \$15,000/month salaries.
- Between 2013 and 2015, 340 people were paid an average \$98,000 per year (\$100 million total).

On January 4, 2016, USAID attended a meeting with President Ghani to discuss the investigation's preliminary findings. USAID said President Ghani outlined specific organizational and management reforms, such as introducing a national electronic payment system and a national public corruption council to minimize fraud and corruption. The final investigation report had not been made public as this report went to press.⁷⁴²

Ministry of Education Data

According to the Education Management Information System (EMIS), Afghanistan reportedly has 15,030 general education (government) schools, including 639 inactive schools, with 8.6 million students enrolled.⁷⁴³ The number of enrolled students is the sum of present and absent students.⁷⁴⁴ The MOE counts students who have been absent for up to three years as enrolled because it says they might return to school.⁷⁴⁵

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that 42.7% (about 4.2 million) of Afghanistan's primary-school-age children are not enrolled in school or had left before completing their studies.

Source: UNICEF, *Educate All Girls and Boys in South Asia*, 8/2015.

Challenges within Afghanistan's Education System

Minister Balkhi told parliament in May 2015 that more than half of all teachers do not have the necessary skill sets, the general-education curriculum is insufficient, students do not have timely access to textbooks, and educational services are unbalanced. He also confirmed that some nonexistent schools receive funding in insecure areas and that EMIS data on the number of functioning schools are imprecise.⁷⁴⁶ USAID said barriers to collecting information on the number of open and closed schools (temporarily or permanently), and teacher and student attendance, cause inaccuracies in the EMIS data.⁷⁴⁷

In June 2015, the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee reported that efforts to improve teaching quality were being subverted by a recruitment system that is highly vulnerable to corruption, and that Afghan students' educations were being "significantly undermined by bribery and nepotism." Moreover, it said that "ghost" teachers have been a long-standing problem, and in most cases student attendance sheets are not filled out or are frequently forged.⁷⁴⁸

Minister of Education Balkhi pledged to improve data quality and the MOE started its own assessment, hiring a third-party monitoring firm to verify a sample of EMIS data.⁷⁴⁹ The report was to be shared with donors in December 2015, but no additional information was available when this report went to press.⁷⁵⁰ USAID is working with, and sees progress in, the MOE's monitoring efforts.⁷⁵¹

State said that in recent meetings, Minister Balkhi reemphasized his commitment to increasing transparency within the MOE, rooting out corruption, and curtailing the misuse of funds. Afghan law allows teacher salaries to be paid for 12 months during temporary school closures. Minister Balkhi advised Parliament that it should revisit this policy, suggesting that salaries either be immediately stopped the moment a school closes, or that salaries be reduced 50% for the duration of the closure. He is also exploring the possibility of paying teachers' salaries via mobile device in order to better track payments.⁷⁵²

USAID Programs

USAID aims to improve equitable access to quality education in Afghanistan—through community-based classes in remote regions—as well as provide relevant, in-demand technical skills to better prepare Afghans for employment. Its programs focus on early-grade reading, raising literacy rates through training and coaching teachers and educators, as well as providing textbooks and other learning material.⁷⁵³ USAID had disbursed more than \$794 million for education programs in Afghanistan, as of December 31, 2015.⁷⁵⁴

USAID's priority education programs are aligned with Afghanistan's objectives to increase quality education, improve workforce development, and strengthen the quality of higher education. The programs are:

- **Basic Education, Learning, and Training (BELT):** an overarching basic education program that aims to improve education access and quality, BELT encompasses a number of activities, including a new national early-grade reading program. A 20-month national reading assessment of 2nd and 4th grade students was awarded on July 27, 2015. Additionally, 1.2 million textbooks and other reading materials were distributed nationwide in FY 2015, covering the entire primary school student population.⁷⁵⁵
- **American University of Afghanistan (AUAF):** in FY 2015, 4,578 students were enrolled (2,882 male and 1,696 female) in U.S.-supported degree programs. AUAF also reached 40% female enrollment for the first time during the fall 2015 semester. USAID reported that 371 undergraduate and 385 graduate degrees have been issued, as of August 2015.⁷⁵⁶
- **Afghanistan University Support and Workforce Development Program (USWDP):** strengthens the ability of the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and 11 public universities to deliver market-relevant education services. This quarter, USWDP supported a partnership agreement with Ball State University to start new MBA/BBA degrees at Kabul University; letters of agreement were signed for MBA and marketing associate degree programs at Nangarhar University, and an accounting associate degree program at Balkh University; degree policy

TABLE 3.29

USAID ACTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Afghanistan's Global Partnership for Education	10/11/2012	3/31/2016	\$3,108,580	\$1,922,955
Support to American University of Afghanistan	8/1/2013	7/31/2018	40,000,000	18,374,246
Strengthening Education in Afghanistan (SEA II)	5/19/2014	5/18/2019	29,835,920	6,221,775
PROMOTE Scholarships	3/4/2015	3/3/2020	1,247,522	1,247,522
Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Social Effects in Community-Based Education	1/1/2014	12/31/2017	7,262,016	1,520,431
Afghanistan University Support and Workforce Development Program	1/1/2014	12/31/2018	91,927,769	21,511,702
Increasing Access to Basic Education and Gender Equality	9/17/2014	12/31/2019	77,402,457	54,027,000
Basic Education, Learning, and Training (BELT) Textbooks	11/16/2011	12/31/2015	26,996,813	24,970,742
Early Grade Reading Survey	7/27/2015	3/27/2017	12,487,469	590,293
BELT/All Children Reading and Improved Access	7/27/2015	3/27/2017	427,585	202,124

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016; USAID, OED, response to SIGAR vetting, 7/12/2015.

documents for several universities were either in progress or completed; and trainings/workshops took place at several targeted universities.⁷⁵⁷

- **Community Based Education:** provides access to basic, primary education (grades 1–6) in 13 provinces, where no formal or boys-only schooling exists, or where other constraints prevent children from attending formal classrooms. As of December 2015, 903 community-based classes and 71 accelerated learning centers have been established providing access to more than 45,800 boys and girls.⁷⁵⁸
- **Education Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP) II:** USAID funds teacher training through World Bank-administered EQUIP II. More than 84,000 teachers have been trained with U.S. government assistance.⁷⁵⁹

A full list of USAID's active education programs can be found in Table 3.29.

HEALTH

Afghanistan has registered improvements in its health indicators since 2002, though it remains below average among low-income countries. Afghanistan's public health is beset by many challenges—tuberculosis, polio, poor maternal health, and one of the world's highest levels of child malnutrition, according to the World Bank.⁷⁶⁰

Insecurity for aid and development workers is also a strain on effective health delivery services to the population, according to the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development—an advocacy organization working in Afghanistan comprising 135 national and international

A monitoring report of textbooks distributed by the MOE in Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat provinces through the USAID-funded BELT program found: 67% of visited schools received textbooks the MOE reported sending. Schools in Ghor fared the worst with only 35% of visited schools receiving textbooks, compared to 93% in Badghis, 88% in Farah, and 84% in Herat. Most schools reported textbook shortages, incomplete orders, and not receiving books for certain grades and subjects. Challenges to monitoring included school principal/administrator absenteeism, inaccurate records, lack of infrastructure (making certain schools difficult to locate), access to remote areas, and security.

Source: USAID, *Final Report, Textbook Distribution Verification of the Basic Education, Literacy, and Technical-Vocational Education and Training Program, Short-Term Objective Monitoring in Regional Platform-West*, 8/2015.

SIGAR AUDIT

An ongoing SIGAR audit is focusing on USAID's efforts to support and improve Afghanistan's healthcare services and focuses on the extent to which USAID assessed the overall impact of its efforts and the extent to which USAID collects, verifies, and reconciles healthcare data to determine its accuracy.

BPHS: provides primary health-care services—such as immunizations and prenatal care—at small and rural health clinics and forms the core of health service delivery for all primary care facilities in Afghanistan.

EPHS: outlines the medical services each type of hospital in the Afghan health-care system should provide in terms of general services, staff, equipment, diagnostic services, and medications while promoting a health referral system that integrates the BPHS with hospitals.

Source: SIGAR, *Health Services in Afghanistan: Two New USAID-Funded Hospitals May Not be Sustainable and Existing Hospitals are Facing Shortages in Some Key Medical Positions*, Audit Report 13-9, 4/2013, p. 1.

nongovernmental organizations. The agency said Afghanistan has more major attacks on aid workers than all other countries except Somalia and Syria.⁷⁶¹

USAID Funding and Health Programs

U.S. health-sector programs aim to preserve and enhance gains made since 2002. USAID assistance to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) includes capacity-building, training, and quality-assurance activities to strengthen the ministry's management and control over health-care delivery across Afghanistan.⁷⁶²

U.S. on- and off-budget assistance to Afghanistan's health sector totaled nearly \$1 billion, as of December 31, 2015.⁷⁶³ On-budget assistance to the MOPH provides basic health care and essential hospital services. Off-budget assistance includes activities to strengthen health systems, engage the private sector, reduce child and maternal deaths, reduce tuberculosis-related deaths, reduce child undernutrition, improve the use of modern family-planning methods, and eliminate polio.⁷⁶⁴

USAID believes that the MOPH's ability to deliver quality health care through the **Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)** and **Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS)**—the cornerstone of health service delivery in Afghanistan—is critical to improve health outcomes. Between 2015 and 2018, USAID will aim to further improve health services, outcomes, and access for women, infants, and children.⁷⁶⁵ USAID's active health programs have a total estimated cost of \$525 million, and are listed in Table 3.30.

USAID's five-year, \$40 million Health Sector Resiliency (HSR) Project began in September 2015. HSR will assist the MOPH to strengthen its governance, finance, and human-resource capacities during this transition period of declining international military and donor assistance. HSR will act as a technical advisor to the ministry as it considers and implements critical sector-wide reforms to make Afghanistan's health system more efficient, sustainable and self-reliant.⁷⁶⁶

Polio

Afghanistan is one of two nations in the world that still has incidence of wild (occurring in nature as distinct from human-borne) polio virus.⁷⁶⁷ As of December 5, 2015, 17 new cases were reported in Afghanistan, a decrease from 28 from the same period last year.⁷⁶⁸ The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a public and private-funded effort supported, in part, by USAID and the World Health Organization, stated that in May 2015 “500,000 children under the age of five [in Afghanistan] remain unvaccinated.”⁷⁶⁹

A report from the Independent Monitoring Board of the GPEI found that 62% of children in the southern areas of Afghanistan are said to be unavailable when vaccination teams call. For another 17%, the parents refuse the vaccination, and 5% of the time the vaccination team did not show up. The

TABLE 3.30

USAID ACTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost (\$)	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 12/31/2015 (\$)
Strengthening Pharmaceutical System	8/28/2011	7/10/2017	\$34,399,936	\$23,955,510
Challenge Tuberculosis	1/1/2015	12/31/2020	15,000,000	2,546,790
Partnership Contracts for Health (PCH)	7/20/2008	12/31/2015	259,663,247	233,127,964
Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation	11/7/2014	12/31/2017	5,610,012	5,408,826
Disease Early Warning System (DEWS Plus)	9/30/1996	9/30/2022	32,728,000	16,287,035
Family Planning and Assessment	5/16/2015	5/15/2016	634,833	634,833
Health Sector Resiliency (HRS)	9/28/2015	9/27/2020	40,000,000	386,740
Demographic and Health Surveys	9/9/2013	9/8/2018	5,453,731	1,000,000
Leadership Management and Governance (LMG)	9/25/2012	12/31/2015	38,341,106	37,674,506
Regional Fortification in the Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan	9/29/2014	9/29/2016	9,722,000	9,722,000
Enhance Community Access, Use of Zinc, ORS for Management of Childhood Diarrhea	7/21/2015	7/7/2020	15,002,610	4,400,000
Helping Mother and Children Thrive (HEMAYAT)	1/7/2015	1/6/2020	60,000,000	5,618,825
Basic Package for Health Service (BPHS)	9/17/2015	12/31/2017	8,000,000	0

Note: The Regional Fortification in the Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan project aims to increase iron, zinc, folic acid, and vitamin A nutrient intake by 20% through distribution of fortified wheat and edible oil.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016; Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, "Regional Fortification in the Central Asian Republics," accessed 1/15/2016.

Monitoring Board stated that Afghanistan's "security situation cannot be used as an excuse for poor performance—where access is available, it is too often being let down by poor supplementary immunization activity quality."⁷⁷⁰ The World Health Organization agreed, reporting "operational deficits in accessible areas."⁷⁷¹ USAID works closely with the GPEI by providing disease surveillance, financial support and technical leadership.⁷⁷²

Tuberculosis

Afghanistan is one of 22 countries with the highest burden (incidence, prevalence, and mortality) of tuberculosis in the world.⁷⁷³ While tuberculosis treatment has improved, the World Bank said the incidence of new cases has remained constant in Afghanistan for the last 20 years.⁷⁷⁴ Every year, an estimated 14,000 Afghans die from this disease.⁷⁷⁵

USAID's, six-year, \$15 million Challenge Tuberculosis program plans to:⁷⁷⁶

- strengthen leadership and management for tuberculosis control
- increase tuberculosis notification
- strengthen health systems to minimize the gap in tuberculosis notification

SIGAR SPECIAL PROJECTS

SIGAR presented its findings this quarter after conducting 32 site inspections of USAID-supported health facilities in Kabul Province. SIGAR found substantial inaccuracies in the geospatial coordinates USAID provided and observed that not all had access to electricity and running water. This is the second in a series of health-facility inspections SIGAR is conducting in provinces throughout Afghanistan. In October 2015, SIGAR released its findings of 23 site inspections in Herat Province. For more information, see Section 2, pp. 32–33.

- implement tuberculosis infection control to reduce the risk of transmission in health care facilities
- strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and operational research

USAID has obligated approximately \$11.1 million for tuberculosis-related programs in Afghanistan, as of December 31, 2015.⁷⁷⁷

USAID is funding the Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey, a nationally representative survey designed to provide health and demographic information to help the Afghan government develop modern health and social programs. Survey results will be compiled according to international standards and be comparable to results collected in other countries. Weather and security-related issues in certain target communities have delayed data collection and completion timelines.

Source: USAID, OHN, response to SIGAR data calls, 9/23/2015 and 12/28/2015; USAID, OSSD, response to SIGAR data call, 6/25/2015; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2015 and 1/14/2016.

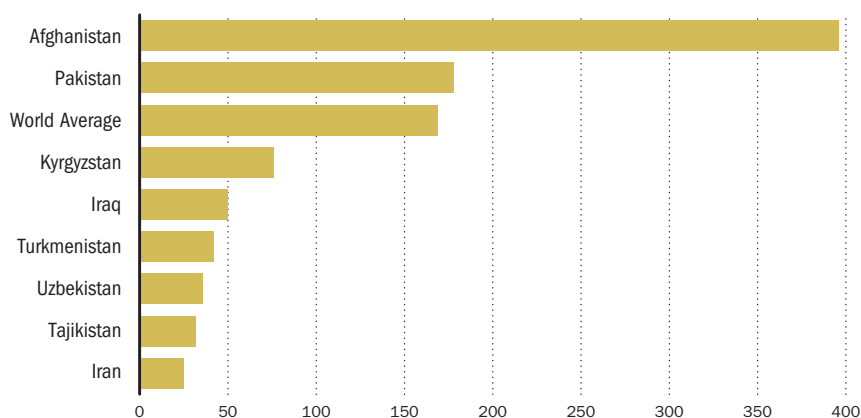
Maternal Health

USAID has obligated \$317.9 million for maternal-health and family-planning programs in Afghanistan, as of December 31, 2015.⁷⁷⁸ USAID's most recent project, Helping Mothers and Children Thrive (HEMAYAT), aims to increase access to and utilization of family planning and maternal health services through BPHS and also strengthen referral systems to hospitals through EPHS. This past year, HEMAYAT hosted a national workshop for improved family planning and birth spacing services, and held a series of trainings for project staff on family planning requirements.⁷⁷⁹

The World Bank's estimate of Afghanistan's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), the number of women who die per 100,000 live births, remains significantly higher than the world's average as well as its neighboring countries, as shown in Figure 3.32. Afghanistan's MMR was estimated between 1,600 and 2,200 in 2003. MMR estimates still vary. The 2010 Afghanistan Mortality Survey reported MMR at 327, which differed considerably from a multinational donor report that reported MMR at 584. That same multido-nor report lists MMR at 396 for 2015.⁷⁸⁰

FIGURE 3.32

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO PER COUNTRY PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS, 2015



Source: The World Bank, "Maternal Mortality Ratio," online country data, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT>, accessed 1/4/2016.

Childhood Undernutrition

According to the UN's 2013 National Nutrition Survey, 40.9% of children under five in Afghanistan suffer from moderate to severe stunting.⁷⁸¹ The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment of Afghanistan also reported that in 2012, 30.1% of all Afghans lacked **food security**. This number is up from 28.2% in 2007.⁷⁸²

USAID's Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Project addresses the growing prevalence of iron deficiency (one form of undernutrition) among adolescents, particularly girls between the ages of 10 and 19. WIFS provides weekly iron folic acid supplements, information on how to improve dietary intake, and screening for anemia. WIFS will be implemented via schools throughout rural and urban Afghanistan. The program is also intended to reach out-of-school girls through a network of community health volunteers or a peer-to-peer approach.⁷⁸³ USAID has obligated \$124.1 million in nutrition-related projects as of December 31, 2015.⁷⁸⁴

Additionally, President Ghani's Jobs for Peace program plans to provide food vouchers and health packets to supplement nutrition for stunted or malnourished children. Delivery for this program would be through the existing, trained community health workers and BPHS clinics.⁷⁸⁵ For more information on the Jobs for Peace Program, see pages 121–123 in this report.

Food security: when all people at all times have sufficient access to nutritious food for a healthy and active life. Households in Afghanistan meet the threshold for food security at a minimum of 2,100 calories per person per day.

Source: Government of Afghanistan, "National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2011–2012," 7/26/2014, p. 211.

4 OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT



OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT CONTENTS

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Photo on previous page

The walled compounds and terraced fields of an Afghan town spread out to mountain foothills. (Regional Command-East photo)

OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT

SIGAR’s enabling legislation requires it to keep the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense fully informed about problems relating to the administration of reconstruction programs, and to submit a report to Congress on SIGAR’s oversight work and on the status of the U.S. reconstruction effort no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. Each quarter, SIGAR requests updates from other agencies on completed and ongoing oversight activities. This section compiles these updates. Publicly available copies of completed reports are posted at the agencies’ respective websites.

The descriptions appear as submitted, with minor changes to maintain consistency with other sections of this report: acronyms and abbreviations in place of full names; standardized capitalization, punctuation, and preferred spellings; and third-person instead of first-person construction.

These agencies perform oversight activities in Afghanistan and provide results to SIGAR:

- Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DOD IG)
- Department of State Office of Inspector General (State OIG)
- Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- U.S. Army Audit Agency (USAAA)
- U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General (USAID OIG)

COMPLETED OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Table 4.1 lists the two oversight projects related to reconstruction that participating agencies reported as completed this quarter.

TABLE 4.1

RECENTLY COMPLETED OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER U.S. AGENCIES, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015			
Agency	Report Number	Date Issued	Project Title
GAO	GAO-15-569R	6/22/2015	Defense Logistics: Marine Corps and Army Reset Liability Estimates
USAID OIG	F-306-16-001-P	12/10/2015	Audit of USAID/Afghanistan’s Strategy for Monitoring and Evaluating Programs Throughout Afghanistan

Source: DOD IG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/21/2015; State OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/14/2015; GAO, response to SIGAR data call, 12/14/2015; USAAA, response to SIGAR data call, 11/24/2015; USAID OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/10/2015.

OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

During this quarter, DOD IG issued no reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General-Middle East Regional Operations

During this quarter, State OIG released no reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Government Accountability Office

During this quarter, GAO issued one report related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Defense Logistics: Marine Corps and Army Reset Liability Estimates

(Report No. GAO-15-569R, Issued June 22, 2015)

The Marine Corps and Army have each developed their own processes for producing reset liability estimates for the amount of funding that may be required by a service to reset—i.e., repair, recapitalize, and replace—equipment returning from operations, thereby returning the equipment to combat-ready condition. According to department officials, there is no DOD guidance for the services to use as they produce their reset liability estimates.

There are similarities in the services' processes for estimating reset liability amounts, but also key differences. The services use the same definition of reset in preparing their estimates, which is defined in a January 2007 DOD memorandum, in part, as actions taken to restore units to a desired level of combat capability commensurate with the units' future mission. However, the services apply that definition to different categories of equipment and calculate reset liability over different time periods. For example, the Marine Corps' reset liability estimate includes ground equipment, while the Army estimate includes both ground and aviation equipment. Also, the Marine Corps' reset liability estimate covers all fiscal years until reset is complete, while the Army estimate covers a two-year period (current fiscal year and next fiscal year) even though reset may not be completed within those two fiscal years.

Further, when producing their estimates, the Marine Corps and Army use similar cost factors, such as parts and labor. However, the services make different assumptions about the condition—worst case or historical average—of the returning equipment that they will reset. In making differing assumptions about condition, each service can differ on the estimated unit repair cost for a piece of equipment common to each service scheduled for reset in the same year. For example, in fiscal year 2014, both services projected an amount needed to repair each 155 millimeter towed howitzer returning from combat

OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT

and planned for reset. The Marine Corps estimated the unit repair cost to be \$311,090, assuming the howitzer would return in worst-case condition. The Army estimated the unit repair cost to be \$246,778 by applying historical information to produce its average estimated unit repair cost for the howitzer. Service-unique differences can yield varying reset costs and reset estimates for an item common to both services. Such process differences result in reset liability estimates that are not comparable.

U.S. Army Audit Agency

The USAAA completed no audits related to Afghanistan reconstruction this quarter.

U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General

This quarter, USAID OIG issued one audit related to reconstruction activities.

Audit of USAID/Afghanistan's Strategy for Monitoring and Evaluating Programs Throughout Afghanistan

(Report No. F-306-16-001-P, Issued December 10, 2015)

The audit reported five findings:

- Strategy lacked standards to measure effective, sufficient oversight;
- Database's weaknesses made it less useful;
- Implementation support team did not analyze data or make recommendations;
- Mission did not establish annual monitoring plans; and
- Evaluations and recommendations were not recorded and tracked in database.

The audit found that although steps have been taken to implement the multi-tiered monitoring approach, it has not been fully implemented. In addition, (1) the mission lacked standards for measuring whether sufficient oversight was being provided; (2) Afghan Info was not functioning as intended; (3) the mission's Implementation Support Team was not functioning as envisioned; (4) evaluation recommendations were not being tracked and implemented; and (5) technical offices were not ensuring that annual project monitoring plans were prepared as required.

The report included nine recommendations to address these issues.

ONGOING OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

As of December 31, 2015, the participating agencies reported 11 ongoing oversight activities related to reconstruction in Afghanistan. The activities reported are listed in Table 4.2 on the following page and described in the following sections by agency.

OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT

TABLE 4.2

ONGOING OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER U.S. AGENCIES, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015			
Agency	Project Number	Date Initiated	Project Title
DOD IG	D2016-D00SPO-0054.000	11/25/2015	Assessment of U.S./Coalition Efforts to Train, Advise, Assist, and Equip the Afghan National Army Special Operations Forces
DOD IG	D2016-D00OPT-0003.000	10/16/2015	Summary Report on Inspections of DOD Facilities and Military Housing
DOD IG	D2015-D000JB-0239.000	8/14/2015	Audit of Contract Oversight in Afghanistan
DOD IG	D2015-D000JB-0174.000	4/20/2015	Audit of Controls over Afghanistan Ministry of Interior Fuels Contracts
State OIG	16AUD051	12/22/2015	Audit of Department of State Compliance with Critical Environment Contracting Requirements
State OIG	15AUD063	4/29/2015	Audit of the Embassy Kabul Operations and Maintenance Contract
GAO	321071	5/27/2015	Maintenance of Hesco Security Barrier in Afghanistan
GAO	291279	5/6/2015	Effectiveness of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy to Treat Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
GAO	321059	2/5/2015	Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program
GAO	351991	11/21/2014	Military Construction in a Contingency Environment
USAID OIG	FF100315	3/31/2015	Audit of USAID/Afghanistan's Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises Program

Source: DOD IG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/21/2015; State OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/14/2015; GAO, response to SIGAR data call, 12/14/2015; USAAA, response to SIGAR data call, 11/24/2015; USAID OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/10/2015.

U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

DOD continues to face many challenges in executing its Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). DOD IG has identified priorities based on those challenges and high risks. For fiscal year (FY) 2016, DOD IG will continue focus on the areas of monitoring and oversight of acquisition and contracting processes that support training, equipping, and sustaining Afghanistan's security forces. DOD IG will also continue to review and assess the Department's efforts to train and equip Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

The DOD IG-led Southwest Asia Joint Planning Group assists in coordinating and deconflicting federal and DOD OCO-related oversight activities. DOD IG, working with the SIGAR as well as fellow Inspectors General and Defense oversight-community members, have issued the *FY 2016 Comprehensive Oversight Plan for Overseas Contingency Operations (COP-OCO)*, formerly known as the *Comprehensive Oversight Plan for Southwest Asia*. The COP-OCO includes the Joint Strategic Oversight Plans (JSOP) for Operation Inherent Resolve in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan JSOP includes Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS), as well as reconstruction and humanitarian assistance programs and activities that are separate from OFS.

Assessment of U.S./Coalition Efforts to Train, Advise, Assist, and Equip the Afghan National Army Special Operations Forces (Project No. D2016-D00SPO-0054.000, Initiated November 25, 2015)

DOD IG is determining whether U.S. government and Coalition goals, objectives, plans, and resources to train the Afghan National Army Special Operations Forces are sufficient, operative, and relevant.

Summary Report on Inspections of DOD Facilities and Military Housing

(Project No. D2016-D000PT-0003.000, Initiated October 16, 2016)

This project will collectively evaluate the results of the previous DOD IG inspections of buildings and housing facilities in Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, and regions of the continental United States, as well as the ongoing facility inspection in Jordan. DOD IG is performing additional analysis based on these reports to identify any potential broader findings and recommendations related to electrical system safety, fire protection systems, environmental health and safety, etc. Specifically, DOD IG will evaluate common deficiencies and systemic issues found throughout DOD facilities during the previous inspections. DOD IG will also evaluate DOD policy regarding health and safety standards and requirements for DOD-occupied facilities world-wide.

Audit of Contract Oversight in Afghanistan

(Project No. D2015-D000JB-0239.000, Initiated August 14, 2015)

DOD IG is determining whether contracting officer's representatives were properly appointed and trained, and were able to effectively perform their oversight responsibilities for contracts in Afghanistan.

Audit of Controls Over Afghanistan Ministry of Interior Fuels Contracts

(Project No. D2015-D000JB-0174.000, Initiated April 20, 2015)

DOD IG is continuing its series of audits related to Afghanistan contract oversight. In this specific audit, DOD IG will determine whether the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) and the Ministry of Interior (MOI) have established effective controls for oversight of MOI fuel contracts.

U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General-Middle East Regional Operations

State OIG has two ongoing projects this quarter related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Audit of Department of State Compliance with Critical Environment Contracting Requirements

(Project No. 16AUD051, Initiated December 22, 2015)

The primary objective of this audit is to determine whether the Critical Environment Contracting Analytics Staff has conducted risk assessments and developed risk mitigation plans for operational and political risks associated with contractor performance in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Audit of the Embassy Kabul Operations and Maintenance Contract (Project No. 15AUD063, Initiated April 29, 2015)

Pacific Architects and Engineers Government Services Inc. (PAE) operates and maintains the utility systems for the U.S. embassy compound and Camp Sullivan in Kabul, Afghanistan. (Camp Sullivan is located by Kabul International Airport and provides the living quarters for the embassy's security force.) PAE provides support services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for electrical generation and distribution, heating and ventilation, water-supply purification and distribution, fire protection, sewage and wastewater treatment, elevator maintenance, and fuel storage and distribution for generators and vehicles. PAE also provides unscheduled services to embassy offices and living quarters, and escort services for subcontractors and other individuals without security clearances who work at secure sites on the embassy compound.

This audit will be the first in a series of audits on the PAE operations and maintenance contract. An audit of the PAE operations and maintenance contract will address risk areas related to department management and oversight of contractor performance, an area identified by OIG as a management and performance challenge. (See *Fiscal Year 2014 Agency Financial Report*, United States Department of State; pp. 118 – 120; 11/2014.) The first audit will focus on risk areas in the fuel-storage and distribution system and possibly offer the opportunity for monetary benefits. Future audits will focus on other services provided by PAE.

Government Accountability Office

GAO has four ongoing projects this quarter related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Maintenance of Hesco Security Barrier in Afghanistan (Project No. 321071, Initiated May 27, 2015)

In 2014, a foreign construction worker employed by a Department of State (State) contractor in Kabul, Afghanistan, was killed when a wall of Hesco security barriers at a U.S. facility toppled and crushed him. These security barriers are collapsible wire-mesh containers lined with heavy-duty fabric and filled with dirt, sand, or gravel. The death of a worker at a State construction site required a mishap investigation report. Question: (1) How has State responded to this incident?

Effectiveness of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy to Treat Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

(Project No. 291279, Initiated May 6, 2015)

Traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder are the signature wounds suffered in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Question: (1) What has published research concluded about the effectiveness of

hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the treatment of traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder?

Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program

(Project No. 321059, Initiated February 5, 2015)

The Afghanistan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program provides visas to Afghan nationals and their families who are under threat because of their work for State and USAID, or other U.S. agencies. A high rate of applications for the Afghan SIV program, coupled with short tours by State and USAID U.S. personnel in Afghanistan, could diminish the U.S. government's institutional knowledge, local relationships, and cultural understanding in that country. Key Questions: (1) How has State and USAID's workforce in Afghanistan been affected by the departure of SIV recipients? (2) To what extent, if any, have State and USAID developed plans to mitigate the departure of Afghan SIV recipients? (3) What actions, if any, have State and USAID taken to mitigate the departure of Afghan SIV recipients?

Military Construction in a Contingency Environment

(Project No. 351991, Initiated November 21, 2014)

The audit will examine: (1) the processes DOD officials used to make decisions about military construction in Iraq and Afghanistan, to include procedures for determining whether a structure should be permanent or temporary; (2) the costs associated with decisions made about military construction in Iraq and Afghanistan, to include the sources of funding; (3) any lessons the department has learned about military construction during contingency operations based on the experiences of Iraq and Afghanistan; and (4) any other issues related to military construction in a contingency environment that may come to light during the course of the audit.

U.S. Army Audit Agency

This quarter the USAAA has no ongoing audits related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General

This quarter USAID OIG has one ongoing audit related to reconstruction initiatives.

Audit of USAID/Afghanistan's Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises Program

(Project No. FF100315, Initiated March 31, 2015)

Audit Objective:

- Is USAID/Afghanistan's Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises Program increasing private-sector investment, creating new jobs, and improving the business environment as planned?

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The Official Seal of SIGAR

The official seal of SIGAR represents the coordination of efforts between the United States and Afghanistan to provide accountability and oversight of reconstruction activities. The phrases in Dari (top) and Pashto (bottom) on the seal are translations of SIGAR's name.

APPENDICES AND ENDNOTES



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

CROSS-REFERENCE OF REPORT TO STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

This appendix cross-references the pages of this report to the quarterly reporting and related requirements under SIGAR’s enabling legislation, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-181, § 1229 (Table A.1).

TABLE A.1

CROSS-REFERENCE TO SIGAR QUARTERLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PUB. L. NO. 110-181, § 1229			
Public Law Section	SIGAR Enabling Language	SIGAR Action	Report Section
Purpose			
Section 1229(a)(3)	To provide for an independent and objective means of keeping the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of such programs and operations and the necessity for and progress on corrective action.	Ongoing; quarterly report	Full report
Supervision			
Section 1229(e)(1)	The Inspector General shall report directly to, and be under the general supervision of, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.	Report to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense	Full report
Duties			
Section 1229(f)(1)	OVERSIGHT OF AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION – It shall be the duty of the Inspector General to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations of the treatment, handling, and expenditure of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and of the programs, operations, and contracts carried out utilizing such funds, including subsections (A) through (G) below.	Review appropriated/available funds Review programs, operations, contracts using appropriated/available funds	Full report
Section 1229(f)(1)(A)	The oversight and accounting of the obligation and expenditure of such funds.	Review obligations and expenditures of appropriated/available funds	SIGAR Oversight Funding
Section 1229(f)(1)(B)	The monitoring and review of reconstruction activities funded by such funds.	Review reconstruction activities funded by appropriations and donations	SIGAR Oversight
Section 1229(f)(1)(C)	The monitoring and review of contracts funded by such funds.	Review contracts using appropriated and available funds	Note 1
Section 1229(f)(1)(D)	The monitoring and review of the transfer of such funds and associated information between and among departments, agencies, and entities of the United States, and private and nongovernmental entities.	Review internal and external transfers of appropriated/available funds	Appendix B
Section 1229(f)(1)(E)	The maintenance of records on the use of such funds to facilitate future audits and investigations of the use of such fund[s].	Maintain audit records	SIGAR Oversight Appendix C Appendix D

Continued on the next page

APPENDICES

TABLE A.1 (CONTINUED)

CROSS-REFERENCE TO SIGAR QUARTERLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PUB. L. NO. 110-181, § 1229			
Public Law Section	SIGAR Enabling Language	SIGAR Action	Report Section
Section 1229(f)(1)(F)	The monitoring and review of the effectiveness of United States coordination with the governments of Afghanistan and other donor countries in the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy	Monitoring and review as described	Audits
Section 1229(f)(1)(G)	The investigation of overpayments such as duplicate payments or duplicate billing and any potential unethical or illegal actions of Federal employees, contractors, or affiliated entities, and the referral of such reports, as necessary, to the Department of Justice to ensure further investigations, prosecutions, recovery of further funds, or other remedies	Conduct and reporting of investigations as described	Investigations
Section 1229(f)(2)	OTHER DUTIES RELATED TO OVERSIGHT – The Inspector General shall establish, maintain, and oversee such systems, procedures, and controls as the Inspector General considers appropriate to discharge the duties under paragraph (1).	Establish, maintain, and oversee systems, procedures, and controls	Full report
Section 1229(f)(3)	DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978 – In addition, ... the Inspector General shall also have the duties and responsibilities of inspectors general under the Inspector General Act of 1978.	Duties as specified in Inspector General Act	Full report
Section 1229(f)(4)	COORDINATION OF EFFORTS – The Inspector General shall coordinate with, and receive the cooperation of, each of the following: (A) the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, (B) the Inspector General of the Department of State, and (C) the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development.	Coordination with the inspectors general of DOD, DOS, and USAID	Other Agency Oversight
Federal Support and Other Resources			
Section 1229(h)(5)(A)	ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES – Upon request of the Inspector General for information or assistance from any department, agency, or other entity of the Federal Government, the head of such entity shall, insofar as is practicable and not in contravention of any existing law, furnish such information or assistance to the Inspector General, or an authorized designee.	Expect support as requested	Full report
Section 1229(h)(5)(B)	REPORTING OF REFUSED ASSISTANCE – Whenever information or assistance requested by the Inspector General is, in the judgment of the Inspector General, unreasonably refused or not provided, the Inspector General shall report the circumstances to the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, and to the appropriate congressional committees without delay.	None reported	N/A

Continued on the next page

APPENDICES

TABLE A.1 (CONTINUED)

CROSS-REFERENCE TO SIGAR QUARTERLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PUB. L. NO. 110-181, § 1229			
Public Law Section	SIGAR Enabling Language	SIGAR Action	Report Section
Reports			
Section 1229(i)(1)	QUARTERLY REPORTS – Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal-year quarter, the Inspector General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report summarizing, for the period of that quarter and, to the extent possible, the period from the end of such quarter to the time of the submission of the report, the activities during such period of the Inspector General and the activities under programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Each report shall include, for the period covered by such report, a detailed statement of all obligations, expenditures, and revenues associated with reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in Afghanistan, including the following –	Report – 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter Summarize activities of the Inspector General Detailed statement of all obligations, expenditures, and revenues	Full report Appendix B
Section 1229(i)(1)(A)	Obligations and expenditures of appropriated/donated funds.	Obligations and expenditures of appropriated/donated funds	Appendix B
Section 1229(i)(1)(B)	A project-by-project and program-by-program accounting of the costs incurred to date for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, together with the estimate of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development, as applicable, of the costs to complete each project and each program.	Project-by-project and program-by-program accounting of costs. List unexpended funds for each project or program	Funding Note 1
Section 1229(i)(1)(C)	Revenues attributable to or consisting of funds provided by foreign nations or international organizations to programs and projects funded by any department or agency of the United States Government, and any obligations or expenditures of such revenues.	Revenues, obligations, and expenditures of donor funds	Funding
Section 1229(i)(1)(D)	Revenues attributable to or consisting of foreign assets seized or frozen that contribute to programs and projects funded by any U.S. government department or agency, and any obligations or expenditures of such revenues.	Revenues, obligations, and expenditures of funds from seized or frozen assets	Funding
Section 1229(i)(1)(E)	Operating expenses of agencies or entities receiving amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.	Operating expenses of agencies or any organization receiving appropriated funds	Funding Appendix B
Section 1229(i)(1)(F)	In the case of any contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism described in paragraph (2)* – (i) The amount of the contract or other funding mechanism; (ii) A brief discussion of the scope of the contract or other funding mechanism; (iii) A discussion of how the department or agency of the United States Government involved in the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism identified and solicited offers from potential contractors to perform the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism, together with a list of the potential individuals or entities that were issued solicitations for the offers; and (iv) The justification and approval documents on which was based the determination to use procedures other than procedures that provide for full and open competition.	Describe contract details	Note 1

Continued on the next page

APPENDICES

TABLE A.1 (CONTINUED)

CROSS-REFERENCE TO SIGAR QUARTERLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PUB. L. NO. 110-181, § 1229			
Public Law Section	SIGAR Enabling Language	SIGAR Action	Report Section
Section 1229(i)(3)	PUBLIC AVAILABILITY – The Inspector General shall publish on a publicly available Internet website each report under paragraph (1) of this subsection in English and other languages that the Inspector General determines are widely used and understood in Afghanistan.	Publish report as directed at www.sigar.mil Dari and Pashtu translation in process	Full report
Section 1229(i)(4)	FORM – Each report required under this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if the Inspector General considers it necessary.	Publish report as directed	Full report
Section 1229(j)(1)	Inspector General shall also submit each report required under subsection (i) to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.	Submit quarterly report	Full report

Note 1: Although this data is normally made available on SIGAR's website (www.sigar.mil), the data SIGAR has received is in relatively raw form and is currently being reviewed, analyzed, and organized for future SIGAR use and publication.

* Covered "contracts, grants, agreements, and funding mechanisms" are defined in paragraph (2) of Section 1229(i) of Pub. L. No. 110-181 as being—

"any major contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism that is entered into by any department or agency of the United States Government that involves the use of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan with any public or private sector entity for any of the following purposes:

To build or rebuild physical infrastructure of Afghanistan.

To establish or reestablish a political or societal institution of Afghanistan.

To provide products or services to the people of Afghanistan."

APPENDICES

APPENDIX B

U.S. FUNDS FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION (\$ MILLIONS)

Table B.1 lists funds appropriated for Afghanistan reconstruction by program, per year, as of December 31, 2015. Table B.2 lists fund appropriated for counternarcotics initiatives since 2002.

TABLE B.2

COUNTERNARCOTICS, CUMULATIVE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED, SINCE 2002 (\$ MILLIONS)	
ASFF	\$1,399.44
DOD CN	2,999.34
ESF	1,559.89
INCLE	2,173.72
DEA	229.70
Total	\$8,362.09

Table B.2 Note: Numbers have been rounded. Counternarcotics funds cross-cut both the Security and Governance & Development spending categories; these funds are also captured in those categories in Table B.1. Figures represent cumulative amounts committed from appropriated funds for counternarcotics initiatives in Afghanistan since 2002. Initiatives include eradication, interdiction, support to Afghanistan's Special Mission Wing, counternarcotics-related capacity building, and alternative agricultural development efforts. ASFF, ESF, and INCLE figures show the cumulative amounts committed to counternarcotics initiatives from those funds.

Table B.2 Source: SIGAR analysis of counternarcotics funding, 1/19/2016. State, response to SIGAR data call, 1/13/2016; DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 12/29/2015; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 1/11/2016; DOJ, response to SIGAR data call, 12/30/2015.

Table B.1 Note: Numbers have been rounded. DOD reprogrammed \$1 billion from FY 2011 ASFF, \$1 billion from FY 2012 ASFF, and \$178 million from FY 2013 ASFF to fund other DOD OCO requirements. ASFF data reflects the following rescissions: \$1 billion from FY 2012 in Pub. L. No. 113-6, \$764.38 million from FY 2014 in Pub. L. No. 113-235, and \$400 million from FY 2015 in Pub. L. No. 114-113. DOD transferred \$101 million from FY 2011 AIF, \$179.5 million from FY 2013 AIF, and \$55 million from FY 2014 AIF to the ESF to fund infrastructure projects implemented by USAID. ^a Final FY 2016 appropriation amounts for State and USAID accounts were still being determined when this report went to press.

Table B.1 Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 12/29/2015, 10/22/2012, 10/14/2009, and 10/1/2009; State, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/13/2016, 1/11/2016, 10/20/2015, 4/15/2015, 4/15/2014, 6/27/2013, 10/5/2012 and 6/27/2012; Treasury, response to SIGAR data call, 7/9/2015; OMB, response to SIGAR data calls, 4/16/2015, 7/14/2014, 7/19/2013 and 1/4/2013; USAID, response to SIGAR data calls, 1/11/2016, 10/15/2010, 1/15/2010, and 10/9/2009; DOJ, response to SIGAR data calls, 12/30/2015 and 7/7/2009; USA, response to SIGAR data call, 4/2009; DFAS, "AR(M) 1002 Appropriation Status by FY Program and Subaccounts December 2015," 1/16/2015; Pub. L. Nos. 114-113, 113-235, 113-76, 113-6, 112-74, 112-10, 111-212, 111-118.

U.S. FUNDING SOURCES	AGENCY	TOTAL	FY 2002-04
Security			
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF)	DOD	\$63,922.65	0.00
Train & Equip (DOD)	DOD	440.00	150.00
Foreign Military Financing (FMF)	State	1,059.14	662.34
International Military Education and Training (IMET)	State	16.22	1.24
Drug Interdiction & Counter-Drug Activities (DOD CN)	DOD	2,999.34	71.80
Total - Security		\$68,437.36	885.37
Governance & Development			
Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP)	DOD	3,684.00	40.00
Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF)	DOD	988.50	0.00
Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO)	DOD	822.85	0.00
Economic Support Fund (ESF)	USAID	18,599.01	1,248.06
Development Assistance (DA)	USAID	886.50	213.98
Afghanistan Freedom Support Act (AFSA)	DOD	550.00	450.00
Child Survival & Health (CSH + GHAI)	USAID	554.60	90.60
Commodity Credit Corp (CCC)	USAID	31.48	8.80
USAID (Other)	USAID	51.98	5.50
Non-Proliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining & Related (NADR)	State	692.99	145.60
Provincial Reconstruction Team Advisors	USDA	5.70	0.00
Treasury Technical Assistance	Treasury	4.45	1.96
International Narcotics Control & Law Enforcement (INCLE)	State	4,690.86	280.00
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)	DOJ	229.70	7.17
Total - Governance & Development		\$31,792.62	2,491.67
Humanitarian			
P.L. 480 Title I	USDA	5.00	5.00
P.L. 480 Title II	USAID	891.28	205.60
Disaster Assistance (IDA)	USAID	572.83	294.00
Transition Initiatives (TI)	USAID	37.67	30.98
Migration & Refugee Assistance (MRA)	State	1047.41	265.90
Voluntary Peacekeeping (PKO)	State	69.33	53.83
Emergency Refugee & Migration Assistance (ERMA)	State	25.20	25.00
Food for Progress	USDA	109.49	14.04
416(b) Food Aid	USDA	95.18	95.18
Food for Education	USDA	50.49	15.39
Emerson Trust	USDA	22.40	0.00
Total - Humanitarian		\$2,926.27	1,004.92
International Affairs Operations			
Oversight		419.75	0.00
Other		9,516.32	403.34
Total - International Affairs Operations		\$9,936.07	403.34
Total Funding		\$113,092.32	4,785.31

APPENDICES

	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016 ^a
	995.00	1,908.13	7,406.40	2,750.00	5,606.94	9,166.77	10,619.28	9,200.00	4,946.20	3,962.34	3,709.33	3,652.26
	290.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	396.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.95	0.98	1.19	1.66	1.40	1.76	1.56	1.18	1.42	1.50	1.40	0.00
	224.54	108.05	290.97	192.81	230.06	392.27	379.83	472.99	255.81	238.96	0.00	141.26
	1,907.28	2,017.17	7,698.57	2,944.47	5,838.40	9,560.80	11,000.67	9,674.16	5,203.44	4,202.80	3,710.73	3,793.51
	136.00	215.00	209.00	488.33	550.67	1,000.00	400.00	400.00	200.00	30.00	10.00	5.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	299.00	400.00	145.50	144.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.44	59.26	239.24	245.76	138.20	122.24	3.72	0.00
	1,283.00	473.39	1,224.75	1,399.51	2,077.49	3,346.00	2,168.51	1,836.76	1,802.65	907.00	831.90	0.00
	169.21	185.08	166.81	149.43	0.40	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.95	0.00
	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	38.00	41.45	100.77	63.04	58.23	92.30	69.91	0.00	0.25	0.01	0.04	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.77	4.22	4.22	3.09	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.96	2.81	4.90	6.25	7.10	1.84	0.80	0.82	0.00
	40.65	35.72	36.72	29.72	59.92	70.74	69.30	65.32	52.60	43.20	43.50	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.95	0.19	0.13	0.75	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	709.28	232.65	251.74	307.56	493.90	589.00	400.00	357.92	593.81	225.00	250.00	0.00
	16.77	23.66	20.38	40.59	18.88	19.20	18.70	18.70	17.00	18.70	9.05	0.91
	2,493.85	1,207.14	2,010.30	2,511.66	3,287.14	5,185.92	3,673.99	3,331.93	2,952.19	1,490.96	1,149.97	5.91
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	49.20	56.60	60.00	60.00	177.00	58.13	112.55	0.00	46.20	66.00	0.00	0.00
	4.23	0.04	0.03	16.87	27.13	29.71	66.39	56.00	21.51	28.19	25.71	3.04
	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.85	1.08	0.63	0.32	0.83	0.60	0.03
	47.10	41.80	54.00	44.25	76.79	80.93	65.00	99.56	76.07	107.89	88.12	0.00
	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	30.10	23.24	9.47	20.55	12.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	10.02	25.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	157.75	146.76	123.50	164.07	293.96	169.62	245.01	156.18	144.09	202.91	114.43	3.07
	0.00	0.00	2.50	14.30	25.20	34.40	37.20	59.00	58.70	62.65	68.60	57.20
	136.29	131.90	207.80	435.51	1,065.86	1,761.70	905.10	1,425.42	1,272.64	852.64	909.50	8.62
	136.29	131.90	210.30	449.81	1,091.06	1,796.10	942.30	1,484.42	1,331.34	915.29	978.10	65.82
	4,695.16	3,502.96	10,042.67	6,070.00	10,510.56	16,712.43	15,861.97	14,646.69	9,631.06	6,811.95	5,953.23	3,868.32

APPENDICES

APPENDIX C

SIGAR WRITTEN PRODUCTS

SIGAR Audits

Completed Performance Audits

SIGAR completed two performance audits during this reporting period.

COMPLETED SIGAR PERFORMANCE AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016		
Report Identifier	Report Title	Date Issued
SIGAR Audit 16-15-AR	Afghan National Engineer Brigade: Despite U.S. Training Efforts, the Brigade is Incapable of Operating Independently	1/2016
SIGAR Audit 16-11-AR	Afghanistan's Oil, Gas, and Minerals Industries: \$488 Million in U.S. Efforts Show Limited Progress Overall, and Challenges Prevent Further Investment and Growth	10/2015

New Performance Audits

SIGAR initiated one performance audits during this reporting period.

NEW SIGAR PERFORMANCE AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016		
Project Identifier	Project Title	Date Initiated
SIGAR 112A	Administration, Monitoring, and Reporting of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund	12/2015

Ongoing Performance Audits

SIGAR had 14 performance audits in progress during this reporting period.

ONGOING SIGAR PERFORMANCE AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016		
Project Identifier	Project Title	Date Initiated
SIGAR 111A	Award, Administration, and Performance of Legacy Research Contracts	8/2015
SIGAR 110A	Effectiveness of the Commander's Emergency Response Program in Afghanistan	8/2015
SIGAR 109A	U.S. Salary Supplements for Afghan Government Employees and Technical Advisors	5/2015
SIGAR 108A	USAID's Efforts to Support Land Reform in Afghanistan	5/2015
SIGAR 107A	U.S. Efforts to Sustain Afghanistan's Road Infrastructure	5/2015
SIGAR 106A	Accountability for ANSF Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment	12/2014
SIGAR 105A	USAID's Efforts to Support and Improve Afghanistan's Health Sector	11/2014
SIGAR 104A	U.S. Efforts to Assist and Improve Afghanistan's Primary and Secondary Education Systems	12/2014
SIGAR 103A	USAID Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Initiatives Program	11/2014
SIGAR 102A	Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund Follow-Up	11/2014
SIGAR 101A	Afghanistan Technical Equipment Maintenance Program (A-TEMP) for ANA Vehicle Maintenance and Capacity Building	10/2014
SIGAR 100A	DOD Oversight of Infrastructure Projects Transferred to the Afghan Government	8/2014

Continued on the next page

APPENDICES

ONGOING SIGAR PERFORMANCE AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016 (CONTINUED)

Project Identifier	Project Title	Date Initiated
SIGAR 096A (part II)	U.S. Efforts to Assist Afghan Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons	2/2014
SIGAR 088A	U.S. Government Efforts to Assist in Reconstruction and Commercialization of Afghanistan's Information and Communication Technology Sector	11/2013

Completed Financial Audits

SIGAR completed five financial audits during this reporting period.

COMPLETED SIGAR FINANCIAL AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016

Report Identifier	Report Title	Date Issued
SIGAR Financial Audit 16-13-FA	DOD's Strategic, Technical, and Analytical Support Services in Traditional and Alternative Energy Sectors Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by Zantech Services Inc.	1/2016
SIGAR Financial Audit 16-12-FA	DOD's Energy Support Services Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by Zantech IT Services Inc.	1/2016
SIGAR Financial Audit 16-10-FA	USAID's Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by International Relief and Development Inc.	1/2016
SIGAR Financial Audit 16-8-FA	USAID's Stability in Key Areas South Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by AECOM International Development Inc.	12/2015
SIGAR Financial Audit 16-6-FA	USAID's Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan Project: Audit of Costs Incurred by the Wildlife Conservation Society	12/2015

New Financial Audits

SIGAR initiated five financial audits during this reporting period.

NEW SIGAR FINANCIAL AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016

Project Identifier	Project Title	Date Initiated
F-089	DOD Contract with Sterling Global Operations for Afghanistan-wide Mine, Battle Area, and Range Clearance-Phase II	11/2015
F-088	DOD Contract with AECOM for Construction of Nimroz Border Patrol Facilities	11/2015
F-087	State Grant with Sayara Media and Communications for Afghanistan Counternarcotic Program	11/2015
F-086	State Grant with Aga Khan Foundation USA for the Strengthening Afghan Governance and Alternative Livelihoods (SAGAL) Program	11/2015
F-085	State Grants with Lapis LTD & Lapis Strategic Communications for Producing TV, Radio, and Media Campaigns	11/2015

Ongoing Financial Audits

SIGAR had 18 financial audits in progress during this reporting period.

ONGOING SIGAR FINANCIAL AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016

Project Identifier	Project Title	Date Initiated
F-084	USAID Contract with Black & Veatch Special Projects Corporation for the Kandahar-Helmand Power Program	10/2015
F-083	USAID Contract with Democracy International for Electoral Reform and Civic Advocacy (AERCA) Program	10/2015

Continued on the next page

APPENDICES

ONGOING SIGAR FINANCIAL AUDITS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016 (CONTINUED)		
Project Identifier	Project Title	Date Initiated
F-082	USAID Contract with Counterpart International for the Promoting Afghan Civic Education (PACE) Program	10/2015
F-081	State Grants with The Halo Trust for Mine Clearance and Survey in Afghanistan	3/2015
F-080	DOD Contract with PRI DJI, A Construction JV for Construction of District HQ Uniform Police Station, Marjah	3/2015
F-079	DOD Contract with PRI DJI, A Construction JV for Construction of 4th Special Forces Kandak, Shindand	3/2015
F-078	DOD Contract with AMEC Earth & Environmental Inc. for Construction of Afghan Defense University, Qarghah	3/2015
F-077	DOD Contract with PRI/DJI, A Construction JV for repair of Shindand Runway, Shindand	3/2015
F-076	DOD Contract with Gilbane Federal for Construction of 1st Commando Brigade HQ & Transient Kandak, Gardez	3/2015
F-075	DOD Contract with Gilbane Federal for Construction of Afghan National Civil Order Police Battalion & Brigade HQ, Marjah	3/2015
F-074	DOD Contract with Environmental Chemical Corp. for Construction of 2nd Special Forces Kandak, Kandahar	3/2015
F-073	DOD Contract with Mission Essential Personnel LLC for Translation/ Linguist Support Services	3/2015
F-072	USAID Contract with Perini Management Services Inc. to implement the Irrigation and Watershed Management Program	2/2015
F-071	USAID Contract with University Research Company LLC for Support to the Health Care Improvement Project	2/2015
F-070	USAID Cooperative Agreement with the American University of Afghanistan for Academic Program Development and Operating Support	2/2015
F-069	State Grants Contract with Mine Detection Dog Center for Community-Based Demining Project	3/2015
F-066	USDA Cooperative Agreement with the American Soybean Association for the Provision of Agricultural Commodities for Afghanistan through the Food for Progress Act	8/2014
F-061	DOD Contract with Dyncorp, International LLC for Mentoring and Training Services in Support of the ANSF	4/2014

SIGAR Special Projects

Completed Special Projects

SIGAR completed three Special Project products this reporting period.

COMPLETED SIGAR SPECIAL PROJECTS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016		
Product Identifier	Product Title	Date Issued
Special Project 16-09-SP	USAID-Supported Health Facilities in Kabul	1/2016
Special Project 16-06-SP	Acknowledgement of DOD Response to TFBSO Security Letter	12/2015
Special Project 16-05-SP	TFBSO Security Inquiry Letter	11/2015

SIGAR Lessons Learned Projects

Ongoing Lessons Learned Projects

SIGAR has five ongoing Lessons Learned projects this reporting period.

ONGOING SIGAR LESSONS LEARNED PROJECTS AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016

Project Identifier	Project Title	Date Initiated
SIGAR-LL-05	Private Sector Development and Economic Growth	10/2015
SIGAR-LL-04	Counternarcotics in Afghanistan Reconstruction	4/2015
SIGAR-LL-03	Corruption in Afghanistan: Perceptions and Responses of the U.S. Government	5/2015
SIGAR-LL-02	U.S. Coordination with External Partners in Administering Aid	12/2014
SIGAR-LL-01	Interagency Coordination on Strategy and Planning	12/2014

Other SIGAR Written Products

This reporting period, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, John F. Sopko, testified before Congress once.

NEW SIGAR TESTIMONY AS OF JANUARY 30, 2016

Testimony Identifier	Testimony Title	Testimony Submitted
SIGAR 16-14-TY	DOD Task Force for Business and Stability Operations in Afghanistan: Preliminary Results Show Serious Management and Oversight Problems	1/2016

APPENDIX D

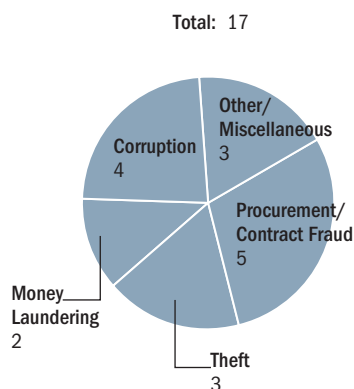
SIGAR INVESTIGATIONS AND HOTLINE

SIGAR Investigations

This quarter, SIGAR opened 17 new investigations and closed 14, bringing the total number of open investigations to 309. Of the new investigations, most involved procurement and contract fraud, as shown in Figure D.1. Most closed investigations were due to lack of investigative merit, as shown in Figure D.2.

FIGURE D.1

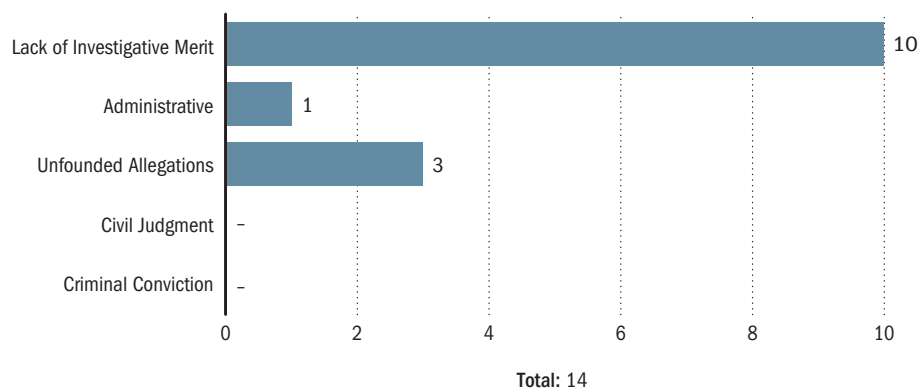
SIGAR NEW INVESTIGATIONS, OCTOBER 1–DECEMBER 31, 2015



Source: SIGAR Investigations Directorate, 1/14/2016.

FIGURE D.2

SIGAR INVESTIGATIONS: CLOSED INVESTIGATIONS, OCTOBER 1–DECEMBER 31, 2015



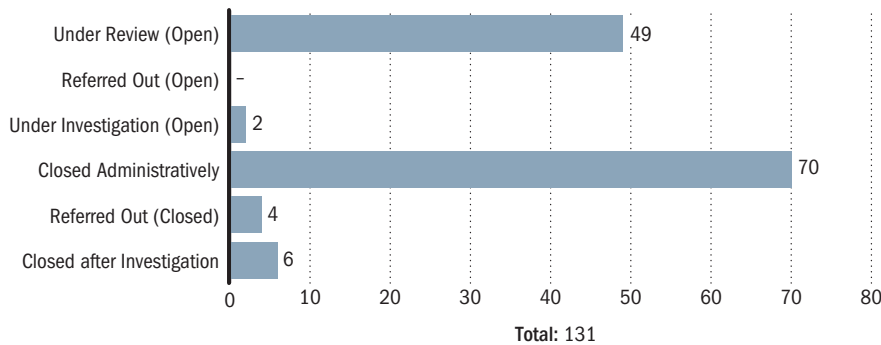
Source: SIGAR Investigations Directorate, 1/14/2016.

SIGAR Hotline

Of the 108 Hotline complaints received this quarter, most were received electronically, as shown in Figure D.3. In addition to working on new complaints, the Investigations directorate continued its work this quarter on complaints received prior to July 1, 2015. This quarter, the directorate processed 131 complaints, most of which were closed, as shown in Figure D.4.

FIGURE D.4

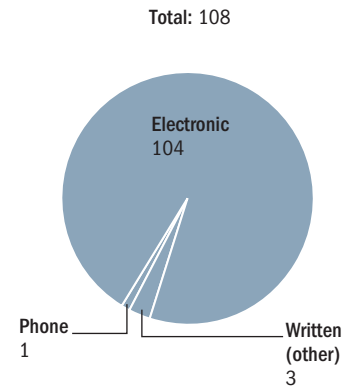
STATUS OF SIGAR HOTLINE COMPLAINTS: OCTOBER 1–DECEMBER 31, 2015



Note: 108 complaints received during quarter; total includes status changes to complaints made in earlier periods.
Source: SIGAR Investigations Directorate, 1/14/2016.

FIGURE D.3

SOURCE OF SIGAR HOTLINE COMPLAINTS, OCTOBER 1–DECEMBER 31, 2015



Source: SIGAR Investigations Directorate, 1/14/2016.

SIGAR Suspensions and Debarments

Table D.1 is a comprehensive list of finalized suspensions, debarments, and special entity designations relating to SIGAR’s work in Afghanistan as of December 31, 2015. *SIGAR lists its suspensions, debarments and special entity designations for historical purposes only.* For the current status of any individual or entity listed herein as previously suspended, debarred, or listed as a special entity designation, please consult the System for Award Management, www.sam.gov.

Entries appearing in both the suspension and debarment sections are based upon their placement in suspended status following criminal indictment or determination of non-responsibility by the agency suspension and debarment official. Final debarment was imposed following criminal conviction in U.S. Federal District Court and/or final determination by the agency suspension and debarment official regarding term of debarment.

APPENDICES

TABLE D.1

SPECIAL ENTITY DESIGNATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND DEBARMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015		
Special Entity Designations		
Arvin Kam Construction Company	Khan, Haji Mohammad Almas	Saadat, Wakil
Arvin Kam Group LLC, d.b.a. "Arvin Kam Group Security," d.b.a. "Arvin Kam Group Foundation," d.b.a. "Arvin Global Logistics Services Company"	Noh-E Safi Mining Company	Triangle Technologies
Ayub, Mohammad	Noor Rahman Company	Wasim, Abdul Wakil
Fruzi, Haji Khalil	Noor Rahman Construction Company	Zaland, Yousef
Haji Amir Muhammad	Nur Rahman Group, d.b.a. "NUCCL Construction Company," d.b.a. "RUCCL Rahman Umar Construction Company," d.b.a. "Rahman Trading and General Logistics Company LLC	Zurmat Construction Company
Haji Dhost Mohammad Zurmat Construction Company	Rahman, Nur, a.k.a. "Noor Rahman", a.k.a. "Noor Rahman Safa"	Zurmat Foundation
Jan, Nurullah	Rhaman, Mohammad	Zurmat General Trading
		Zurmat Group of Companies, d.b.a. "Zurmat LLC"
		Zurmat Material Testing Laboratory
Suspensions		
Al-Watan Construction Company	Sharpway Logistics	Rivera-Medina, Franklin Delano
Basirat Construction Firm	United States California Logistics Company	Peace Thru Business
Brophy, Kenneth	Yousef, Najeebullah	Pudenz, Adam Jeff Julias
Naqibullah, Nadeem	Rahimi, Mohammad Edris	Elham, Yaser, a.k.a. "Najibullah Saadullah"
Rahman, Obaidur	Wooten, Philip Steven	Everest Faizy Logistics Services
Campbell, Neil Patrick	Domineck, Lavette Kaye	Faizy Elham Brothers Ltd.
Borcata, Raul A.	Markwith, James	Faizy, Rohullah
Close, Jarred Lee	All Points International Distributors Inc.	Hekmat Shadman General Trading LLC
Logistical Operations Worldwide	Cipolla, James	Hekmat Shadman Ltd., d.b.a. "Hikmat Shadman Ltd."
Robinson, Franz Martin	Hercules Global Logistics	Hikmat Shadman Construction and Supply Company
Taylor, Zachery Dustin	Schroeder, Robert	Hikmat Shadman Logistics Services Company, d.b.a. "Hikmat Shadman Commerce Construction and Supply Company," d.b.a. "Hikmat Shadman Commerce Construction Services"
Aaria Group Construction Company	AISC LLC	Saif Hikmat Construction Logistic Services and Supply Co.
Aaria Group	American International Security Corporation	Shadman, Hikmatullah, a.k.a. "Hikmat Shadman," a.k.a. "Haji Hikmatullah Shadman," a.k.a. "Hikmatullah Saadulah"
Aaria Herai General Trading	Brothers, Richard S.	Travis, James Edward
Aaria M.E. General Trading LLC	David A Young Construction & Renovation Inc.	Sherzai, Akbar Ahmed
Aaria Middle East	Force Direct Solutions LLC	Bertolini, Robert L.
Aaria Middle East Company LLC	Harris, Christopher	Kahn, Haroon Shams, a.k.a. "Haroon Shams"
Aaria Middle East Company Ltd. - Herat	Hernando County Holdings LLC	Shams Constructions Limited
Aaria Supplies Company LTD	Hide-A-Wreck LLC	Shams General Services and Logistics Unlimited
Aaria Supply Services and Consultancy	Panthers LLC	Shams Group International, d.b.a. "Shams Group International FZE"
Aftech International	Paper Mill Village Inc.	Shams London Academy
Aftech International Pvt. Ltd.	Shroud Line LLC	Shams Production
Alam, Ahmed Farzad	Spada, Carol	Shams Welfare Foundation
Albahar Logistics	Taylor, Michael	Autry, Cleo Brian
American Aaria Company LLC	Welventure LLC	Chamberlain, William Todd
American Aaria LLC	World Wide Trainers LLC	
Barakzai, Nangjalai	Young, David	
Formid Supply and Services	Espinoza, Mauricio	
Greenlight General Trading	Long, Tonya	
Kabul Hackle Logistics Company	Brophy, Kenneth Michael	

APPENDICES

TABLE D.1 (CONTINUED)

SPECIAL ENTITY DESIGNATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND DEBARMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 (CONTINUED)

Suspensions (continued)		
Cook, Jeffrey Arthur	Vergez, Norbert	Jamil, Omar K.
Harper, Deric Tyrone	Mayberry, Teresa	Pulsars Company
Swim, Alexander	Addas, James	San Francisco for Housing Company
Walls, Barry Lee, Jr.	Advanced Ability for U-PVC	Sura Al Mustakbal
Ciampa, Christopher	Al Bait Al Amer	Top Techno Concrete Batch
Casellas, Luis Ramon	Al Iraq Al Waed	Edmondson, Jeffrey B.
International Contracting and Development	Al Quraishi Bureau	Lugo, Emanuel
Sobh, Adeeb Nagib, a.k.a. "Ali Sobh"	Al Zakoura Company	Montague, Geoffrey K.
Stallion Construction and Engineering Group	Al-Amir Group LLC	Pena, Ramiro
Wazne Group Inc., d.b.a. "Wazne Wholesale"	Al-Noor Contracting Company	Ware, Marvin
Wazne, Ayman, a.k.a. "Ayman Ibrahim Wazne"	Al-Noor Industrial Technologies Company	Green, Robert Warren
Hampton, Seneca Darnell	California for Project Company	Bailly, Louis Matthew
Green, George E.	Civilian Technologies Limited Company	Albright, Timothy H.
Tran, Anthony Don	Industrial Techniques Engineering Electromechanically Company	
Debarments		
Farooqi, Hashmatullah	Safi, Fazal Ahmed	Mutallib, Abdul
Hamid Lais Construction Company	Shin Gul Shaheen, a.k.a. "Sheen Gul Shaheen"	Nasrat, Sami
Hamid Lais Group	Espinoza-Loor, Pedro Alfredo	National General Construction Company
Lodin, Rohullah Farooqi	Campbell, Neil Patrick	Passerly, Ahmaad Saleem
Bennett & Fouch Associates LLC	Navarro, Wesley	Rabi, Fazal
Brandon, Gary	Hazrati, Arash	Rahman, Atta
K5 Global	Midfield International	Rahman, Fazal
Ahmad, Noor	Moore, Robert G.	Roshandil, Mohammad Ajmal
Noor Ahmad Yousufzai Construction Company	Noori, Noor Alam, a.k.a. "Noor Alam"	Saber, Mohammed
Ayeni, Sheryl Adenike	Northern Reconstruction Organization	Safi, Azizur Rahman
Cannon, Justin	Shamal Pamir Building and Road Construction Company	Safi, Matiullah
Constantino, April Anne	Wade, Desi D.	Sahak, Sher Khan
Constantino, Dee	Blue Planet Logistics Services	Shaheed, Murad
Constantino, Ramil Palmes	Mahmodi, Padres	Shirzad, Daulet Khan
Crilly, Braam	Mahmodi, Shikab	Uddin, Mehrab
Drotleff, Christopher	Saber, Mohammed	Watson, Brian Erik
Fil-Tech Engineering and Construction Company	Watson, Brian Erik	Wooten, Philip Steven
Handa, Sdiharh	Abbasi, Shahpoor	Espinoza, Mauricio
Jabak, Imad	Amiri, Waheedullah	Alam, Ahmed Farzad
Jamally, Rohullah	Atal, Waheed	Greenlight General Trading
Khalid, Mohammad	Daud, Abdulillah	Aaria Middle East Company LLC
Khan, Daro	Dehati, Abdul Majid	Aaria Middle East Company Ltd. - Herat
Mariano, April Anne Perez	Fazli, Qais	Aaria M.E. General Trading LLC
McCabe, Elton Maurice	Hamdard, Mohammad Yousuf	Aaria Middle East
Mihalcz, John	Kunari, Haji Pir Mohammad	Barakzai, Nangialai
Qasimi, Mohammed Indress	Mushfiq, Muhammad Jaffar	Formid Supply and Services
Radhi, Mohammad Khalid		Aaria Supply Services and Consultancy

APPENDICES

TABLE D.1 (CONTINUED)

SPECIAL ENTITY DESIGNATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND DEBARMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 (CONTINUED)		
Debarments (continued)		
Kabul Hackle Logistics Company	Ali, Esrar	Military Logistic Support LLC
Yousef, Najeebullah	Gul, Ghanzi	Eisner, John
Aaria Group	Luqman Engineering Construction Company, d.b.a. "Luqman Engineering"	Taurus Holdings LLC
Aaria Group Construction Company	Safiullah, a.k.a. "Mr. Safiullah"	Brophy, Kenneth Michael
Aaria Supplies Company LTD	Sarfarez, a.k.a. "Mr. Sarfarez"	Abdul Haq Foundation
Rahimi, Mohammad Edris	Wazir, Khan	Adajar, Adonis
All Points International Distributors Inc.	Akbar, Ali	Calhoun, Josh W.
Hercules Global Logistics	Crystal Construction Company, d.b.a. "Samitullah Road Construction Company"	Clark Logistic Services Company, d.b.a. "Clark Construction Company"
Schroeder, Robert	Samitullah (Individual uses only one name)	Farkas, Janos
Helmand Twinkle Construction Company	Ashna, Mohammad Ibrahim, a.k.a. "Ibrahim"	Flordeliz, Alex F.
Waziri, Heward Omar	Gurvinder, Singh	Knight, Michael T., II
Zadran, Mohammad	Jahan, Shah	Lozado, Gary
Afghan Mercury Construction Company, d.b.a. "Afghan Mercury Construction & Logistics Company"	Shahim, Zakirullah a.k.a. "Zakrullah Shahim", a.k.a. "Zikrullah Shahim"	Mijares, Armando N., Jr.
Mirzali Naseeb Construction Company	Alyas, Maiwand Ansunullah a.k.a. "Engineer Maiwand Alyas"	Mullakhiel, Wadir Abdullahmatin
Montes, Diyana	BMSCC	Rainbow Construction Company
Naseeb, Mirzali	Maiwand Haqmal Construction and Supply Company	Sardar, Hassan, a.k.a. "Hassan Sardar Inqilab"
Robinson, Franz Martin	New Riders Construction Company, d.b.a. "Riders Construction Company," d.b.a. "New Riders Construction and Services Company"	Shah, Mohammad Nadir, a.k.a. "Nader Shah"
Smith, Nancy	Riders Constructions, Services, Logistics and Transportation Company	Tito, Regor
Sultani, Abdul Anas a.k.a. "Abdul Anas"	Riders Group of Companies	Brown, Charles Phillip
Faqiri, Shir	Domineck, Lavette Kaye	Sheren, Fasela, a.k.a. "Sheren Fasela"
Hosmat, Haji	Markwith, James	Anderson, Jesse Montel
Jim Black Construction Company	Martinez, Rene	Charboneau, Stephanie, a.k.a. "Stephanie Shankel"
Arya Ariana Aryayee Logistics, d.b.a. "AAA Logistics," d.b.a. "Somo Logistics"	Maroof, Abdul	Hightower, Jonathan
Garst, Donald	Qara, Yousef	Khan, Noor Zali, a.k.a. "Wali Kahn Noor"
Mukhtar, Abdul a.k.a. "Abdul Kubar"	Royal Palace Construction Company	Saheed, a.k.a. "Mr. Saheed;" a.k.a. "Sahill;" a.k.a. "Ghazi-Rahman"
Noori Mahgir Construction Company	Bradshaw, Christopher Chase	Weaver, Christopher
Noori, Sherin Agha	Zuhra Productions	Al Kaheel Oasis Services
Long, Tonya	Zuhra, Niazai	Al Kaheel Technical Service
Isranuddin, Burhanuddin	Boulware, Candice a.k.a. "Candice Joy Dawkins"	CLC Construction Company
Matun, Navidullah, a.k.a. "Javid Ahmad"	Dawkins, John	CLC Consulting LLC
Matun, Wahidullah	Mesopotamia Group LLC	Complete Manpower Solutions
Navid Basir Construction Company	Nordloh, Geoffrey	Mohammed, Masiuddin, a.k.a. "Masi Mohammed"
Navid Basir JV Gagar Baba Construction Company	Kieffer, Jerry	Rhoden, Bradley L., a.k.a. "Brad L. Rhoden"
NBCC & GBCC JV	Johnson, Angela	Rhoden, Lorraine Serena
Noori, Navid	CNH Development Company LLC	Royal Super Jet General Trading LLC
Asmatullah, Mahmood, a.k.a. "Mahmood"	Johnson, Keith	Super Jet Construction Company
Khan, Gul		Super Jet Fuel Services
Khan, Solomon Sherdad, a.k.a. "Solomon"		Super Jet Group
Mursalin, Ikramullah, a.k.a. "Ikramullah"		Super Jet Tours LLC, d.b.a. "Super Jet Travel and Holidays LLC"
Musafer, Naseem, a.k.a. "Naseem"		

APPENDICES

TABLE D.1 (CONTINUED)

SPECIAL ENTITY DESIGNATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND DEBARMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 (CONTINUED)

Debarments (continued)

Super Solutions LLC	Mohibzada, Ahmadullah, a.k.a. "Ahmadullah Mohebzada"	LTCCORP/Kaya Djibouti LLC
Abdullah, Bilal	Neghat, Mustafa	LTCCORP/Kaya East Africa LLC
Farmer, Robert Scott	Qurashi, Abdul	LTCCORP/Kaya Romania LLC
Mudiyanselage, Oliver	Raouf, Ashmatullah	LTCCORP/Kaya Rwanda LLC
Kelly, Albert, III	Shah, David	LTCORP Technology LLC
Ethridge, James	Touba, Kajim	Toltest Inc., d.b.a. "Wolverine Testing and Engineering," d.b.a. "Toledo Testing Laboratory," d.b.a. "LTC," d.b.a. "LTC Corp," d.b.a. "LTC Corp Ohio," d.b.a. "LTC Ohio"
Fernridge Strategic Partners	Zahir, Khalid	Toltest/Desbuild Germany JV LLC
AISC LLC	Aryubi, Mohammad Raza Samim	Veterans Construction/Lakeshore JV LLC
American International Security Corporation	Atlas Sahil Construction Company	Afghan Royal First Logistics, d.b.a. "Afghan Royal"
David A Young Construction & Renovation Inc.	Bab Al Jazeera LLC	American Barriers
Force Direct Solutions LLC	Emar-E-Sarey Construction Company	Arakozia Afghan Advertising
Harris, Christopher	Muhammad, Pianda	Dubai Armored Cars
Hernando County Holdings LLC	Sambros International, d.b.a. "Sambros International LTD," d.b.a. "Sambros-UK JV"	Enayatullah, son of Hafizullah
Hide-A-Wreck LLC	Sambros JV Emar-E-Sarey Construction Company, d.b.a. "Sambros JV ESCC"	Farhas, Ahmad
Panthers LLC	Antes, Bradley A.	Inland Holdings Inc.
Paper Mill Village Inc.	Lakeshore Engineering & Construction Afghanistan, Inc., d.b.a. "Lakeshore General Contractors Inc."	Intermaax FZE
Shroud Line LLC	Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc.	Intermaax Inc.
Spada, Carol	Lakeshore Engineering Services/Toltest JV LLC	Karkar, Shah Wali
Welventure LLC	Lakeshore Toltest - Rentenbach JV LLC	Sandman Security Services
World Wide Trainers LLC	Lakeshore Toltest Corporation, d.b.a. "Lakeshore Group," d.b.a. "LTC Newco d.b.a. "LTC CORP Michigan," d.b.a. "Lakeshore Toltest KK"	Siddiqi, Atta
Young, David Andrew	Lakeshore Toltest Guam LLC	Specialty Bunkering
Woodruff and Company	Lakeshore Toltest JV LLC	Spidle, Chris Calvin
Travis, James Edward	Lakeshore Toltest RRCC JV LLC	Vulcan Amps Inc.
Khairfullah, Gul Agha	Lakeshore/Walsh JV LLC	Worldwide Cargomasters
Khalil Rahimi Construction Company	LakeshoreToltest METAG JV LLC	Aziz, Haji Abdul, a.k.a. "Abdul Aziz Shah Jan," a.k.a. "Aziz"
Momand, Jahanzeb, a.k.a. "Engineer Jahanzeb Momand"	LTC & Metawater JV LLC	Castillo, Alfredo, Jr.
Yar-Mohammad, Hazrat Nabi	LTC Holdings Inc.	Abbasi, Asim
Walizada, Abdul Masoud, a.k.a. "Masood Walizada"	LTC Italia SRL	Muturi, Samuel
Alizai, Zarghona	LTC Tower General Contractors LLC	Mwakio, Shannel
Aman, Abdul	LTCCORP Commercial LLC	Ahmad, Jaweed
Anwari, Laila	LTCCORP E&C Inc.	Ahmad, Masood
Anwari, Mezhgan	LTCCORP Government Services - OH Inc.	A & J Total Landscapes
Anwari, Rafi	LTCCORP Government Services Inc.	Aryana Green Light Support Services
Arghandiwal, Zahra, a.k.a. "Sarah Arghandiwal"	LTCCORP Government Services-MI Inc.	Mohammad, Sardar, a.k.a. "Sardar Mohammad Barakzai"
Azizi, Farwad, a.k.a. "Farwad Mohammad Azizi"	LTCCORP O&G LLC	Pittman, James C., a.k.a. "Carl Pittman"
Bashizada, Razia	LTCCORP Renewables LLC	Poaipuni, Clayton
Coates, Kenneth	LTCCORP Inc.	Wiley, Patrick
Gibani, Marika		Crystal Island Construction Company
Haidari, Mahboob		
Latifi, Abdul		
McCammon, Christina		

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TABLE D.1 (CONTINUED)

SPECIAL ENTITY DESIGNATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND DEBARMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 (CONTINUED)

Debarments (continued)

Afghan Columbia Constructon Company	Jean-Noel, Dimitry	Security Assistance Group LLC
Ahmadi, Mohammad Omid	Hampton, Seneca Darnell	Bailly, Louis Matthew
Dashti, Jamsheed	Dennis, Jimmy W.	Kumar, Krishan
Hamdard, Eraj	Timor, Karim	Raj, Janak
Hamidi, Mahrokh	Wardak, Khalid	Singh, Roop
Raising Wall Construction Company	Rahmat Siddiqi Transportation Company	Masraq Engineering and Construction Company
Artemis Global, Inc., d.b.a. "Artemis Global Logistics and Solutions," d.b.a. "Artemis Global Trucking, L.L.C."	Siddiqi, Rahmat	Miakhil, Azizullah
O'Brien, James Michael, a.k.a. "James Michael Wienert"	Siddiqi, Sayed Attaullah	Stratton, William G
Tamerlane Global Services Inc. d.b.a. "Tamerlane Global, L.L.C.," d.b.a. "Tamerlane, L.L.C.," d.b.a. "Tamerlane Technologies, L.L.C."	Umbrella Insurance Limited Company	Umeer Star Construction Company
	Taylor, Michael	Zahir, Mohammad Ayub
	Gardazi, Syed	Marshal Afghan American Construction Company
	Smarasinghage, Sagara	Marshal, Sayed Abbas Shah

APPENDIX E

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
AAF	Afghan Air Force
ABP	Afghan Border Police
ACAP	Afghan Civilian Assistance Program
ACCE	Asian Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals
ACE	Agricultural Credit Enhancement
AD	Alternative Development
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADF	Agricultural Development Fund
AECOM	AECOM International Development Inc.
AERCA	Afghanistan Electoral Reform and Civic Advocacy Program
AFMIS	Afghan Financial Management Information System
AFN	afghani (currency)
AFOSI	Air Force Office of Special Investigation (U.S.)
AGO	Attorney General's Office
AHRIMS	Afghan Human Resource Information Management System
AIAT	Army Institutional Advisory Team
AIF	Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
AITF	Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund
ALBA	Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan
ALP	Afghan Local Police
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANCOP	Afghan National Civil Order of Police
ANDSF	Afghan National Defense and Security Forces
ANP	Afghan National Police
APFM	Afghanistan Public Financial Management program
API	Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute
APPF	Afghan Public Protection Force
APRP	Afghan Peace and Reintegration Plan
AQIS	al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent
AROC	Afghanistan Resources Oversight Council
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
ASFF	Afghanistan Security Forces Fund
ASI	Afghan Security Institutions
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project
A-TEMP	Afghanistan Technical Equipment Maintenance Program
ATL	Aria Target Logistics

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ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
AUAF	American University of Afghanistan
AUP	Afghan Uniform Police
AWDP	Afghanistan Workforce Development Program
BAF	Bagram Airfield
BELT	Basic Education, Literacy, and Technical-Vocational Education and Training
BBG	Broadcasting Board of Governors
BPHS	Basic Package of Health Services
CAN	Center for Naval Analyses
CASA-1000	Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project
CCC	Central Complaints Commission
CCI	Community Cohesion Initiative
CCWG	Counter Corruption Working Group
CDC	Community Development Council
CENTCOM	U.S. Central Command
CERP	Commander's Emergency Response Program
CHAMP	Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program
CIGIE	Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
CMS	case-management system
CNCE	Counter Narcotics Community Engagement
CNG	compressed natural gas
CNPA	Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan
CSSP	Corrections System Support Program
CSTC-A	Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan
CTA	Central Transfer Account
DABS	Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration (U.S.)
DFID	Department for International Development
DOD	Department of Defense (U.S.)
DOD CN	Department of Defense Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities fund (U.S.)
DOD IG	Department of Defense Office of Inspector General
DOJ	Department of Justice (U.S.)
DVIDS	Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System
ECC	Electoral Complaints Commission
EF	essential function
EFT	electronic funds transfer
EGRC	E-Government Resource Center
EMIS	Education Management Information System (Afghan)
EPHS	Essential Package of Hospital Services
EQUALS	Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Logistical Support
EQUIP	Education Quality Improvement Project
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
ESF	Economic Support Fund
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan

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ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation (U.S.)
FY	fiscal year
GAGAS	Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards
GAO	Government Accountability Office (U.S.)
GDP	gross domestic product
GDPDC	General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Centers
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GLE	Governor-Led Eradication
GPEI	Global Polio Eradication Initiative
GPI	Good Performer's Initiative
HA Yard	Humanitarian Aid Yard
HEMAYAT	Helping Mothers and Children Thrive
HMMWV	high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle
HOO	High Office of Oversight for Anti-Corruption (aka "HOOAC") (Afghan)
HSR	Health Sector Resiliency Project
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDEA-NEW	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives-North, East, and West
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IEC	Independent Election Commission (Afghan)
IG	inspector general
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IMU	independent monitoring unit
INCLE	International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (U.S.)
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (U.S.)
IPA	Independent Public Accountant
IRD	International Relief and Development Inc.
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
ISIL-K	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan
ISLA	Initiative to Strengthen Local Administrations
JRD	Juvenile Rehabilitation Directorate
JSSP	Justice Sector Support Program (State)
JTTP	Justice Training Transition Program (State)
KBR	Kabul Bank Receivership
KFZ	Kandahar Food Zone
LLP	Lessons Learned Program
LMG	Leadership, Management, and Governance Project
LOTFA	Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan
MAAR	Monthly ANDSF Assessment Report
MACCA	Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (Afghan)

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ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MCN	Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (Afghan)
MEC	Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (Afghan)
MFNDU	Marshal Fahim National Defense University
MIDAS	Mining Investment and Development for Afghan Sustainability
MISTI	Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Initiatives
MMR	maternal mortality ratio
MOCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Afghan)
MOD	Ministry of Defense (Afghan)
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education (Afghan)
MOE	Minister of Education (Afghan)
MOF	Ministry of Finance (Afghan)
MOI	Ministry of Interior (Afghan)
MOI HQ & IS	Ministry of Interior Headquarters and Institutional Support (Afghan)
MOMP	Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (Afghan)
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health (Afghan)
MORE	Ministry of Women's Affairs Organizational Restructuring and Empowerment project
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NAVC	National Afghan Volunteer Center
NCO	noncommissioned officer
NDAP	National Drug Action Plan
NDP	New Development Partnership
NDS	National Directorate of Security (Afghan)
NEPS	Northeast Power System
NEPS IV	Northern Electrical Power System Phase IV
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NIU	National Interdiction Unit
NKB	New Kabul Bank
NSOCC-A	NATO Special Operations Component Command-Afghanistan
NSP	National Solidarity Program
O&M	operations and maintenance
OCIE	operational clothing and individual equipment
OCO	overseas contingency operations
ODA	office of development assistance
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPPD	Office of Program and Project Development (USAID)
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense (U.S.)
OSD-CN	Office of the Secretary of Defense-Counter-Narcotics (U.S.)
OTA	Office of Technical Assistance (U.S. Treasury)
PAE	PAE Government Services Inc.
PCH	Partnership Contracts for Health

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ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
PD	Presidential Decree
PM/WRA	Bureau of Political-Military Affairs-Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (U.S.)
PMR	Project Management Review
POAM	Plan of Action and Milestones
Promote	Promoting Gender Equity in National Priority Programs (USAID)
PTEC	Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity
PTSD	post-traumatic stress disorder
QCG	Quadrilateral Coordination Group
RADP	Regional Agriculture Development Program
RC	recurrent cost
RNIFC	regional narcotics interagency fusion cell
RRCC	Road and Roof Construction Company
RS	Resolute Support
SAGAL	Strengthening Afghan Governance and Alternative Livelihoods
SEPS	Southeast Power System
SERC	Special Electoral Reform Commission (Afghan)
SGDP	Sheberghan Gas Development Program
SGGA	Sheberghan Gas Generation Activity
SHAHAR	Strong Hubs for Afghan Hope and Resilience
SHCAC	Senior High-Level Committee on Anti-Corruption
SIGAR	Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
SIKA	Stability in Key Areas
SIU	Sensitive Investigation Unit
SLCCP	Senior Leader Counter Corruption Panel
SMAF	Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework
SMS	short-message service or "text message"
SMW	Special Mission Wing (Afghan)
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
SRAD	Southern Regional Agricultural Development
State OIG	Department of State Office of the Inspector General
TAC	Transparency Accountability Committee
TAPI	Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline project
TBI	traumatic brain injury
TFBSO	Task Force for Business and Stability Operations in Afghanistan
TMAF	Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework
TTHS	Trainee, Transient, Holdee, and Students
TUTAP	Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan transmission line
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNMACA	UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan

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APPENDICES

ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
USAAA	U.S. Army Audit Agency
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USAID OIG	USAID Office of the Inspector General
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFOR-A	U.S. Forces-Afghanistan
USIP	U.S. Institute of Peace
USWDP	Afghanistan University Support and Workforce Development Program
UXO	unexploded ordnance
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WFP	World Food Program
WIG	Promote Women in Government
WIFS	Weekly Folic Acid Supplementation Project
WTO	World Trade Organization
USAID OIG	USAID Office of the Inspector General
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFOR-A	U.S. Forces-Afghanistan
USIP	U.S. Institute of Peace
USWDP	Afghanistan University Support and Workforce Development Program
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VSO	Village Stability Operations
WAW	Women for Afghan Women
WIG	Promote Women in Government
WLD	Promote Women's Leadership Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Afghans affected by the October 2015 earthquake that shook 13 provinces carry shelters and supplies from a USAID relief distribution point. (USAID photo)

Quarterly Report Staff

Michael Bindell, Economic and Social Development Subject Matter Expert

Clark Irwin, Senior Writer/Editor

Vong Lim, Visual Information Specialist

Jennifer Manzullo, Program Manager

Jonathan Ned, Student Trainee

Olivia Paek, Visual Information Specialist

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Solange Toura Gaba, Research Assistant

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Genevieve Wilson, Security Subject Matter Expert

Joseph Windrem, Deputy Director of Research and Analysis Directorate/Editor

SIGAR
SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION

2530 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

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