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**Afghanistan**  
**Supporting an Effective Afghan Legislature (SEAL II)**  
**Annual Progress Report – [2009]**

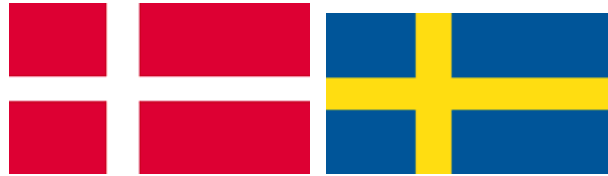


**Workshop on Legislative Drafting for Committee Assistants of Wolesi Jirga 2009**

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**Duration: March 2008 – February 2012**  
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**ANDS Component: GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS**  
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## **Acronyms**

ANDS	Afghan National Development Strategy
APAP	Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Project
CB	Capacity Building
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DIPR	Department of Information and Public Relations
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IPU	Inter Parliamentary Union
LAN	Local Area Network
MP	Member of Parliament
MYFF	Multi-year funding framework
NA	National Assembly
NDI	National Democratic Institute
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SEAL	Support to the Establishment of/ for an Effective Afghan Legislature
SUNY	State University of New York
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

## Executive Summary

In 2009 the project has continued its support for enhancing parliamentary capacity to exercise legislative responsibilities by providing capacity building support to MPs and Staff as well as strengthening legislative processes and procedures for effective and professional legislating. A series of workshops on Bill Drafting, an electronic computer-based web-enabled legislative tracking system developed and substantial support to the Research and Analysis Department of the Parliament were provided.

During the period significant supports have been provided for strengthening the capacity of the Afghan Parliament in carrying out effective oversight of the executives and enhancing parliaments outreach activities. The support provided by SEAL through facilitation of in country visit and advisory support on specific subject matters were critical for ensuring strengthened parliamentary system to provide effective oversight of executives at various levels. In order to effectively and responsibly oversee the activities of the executive, an oversight tool has been prepared and tested by the Budget Commission of Meshrano Jirga on its oversight visit to Balkh Province and Mazhar-e-sharief.

In addition, SEAL has facilitated visits of over 230 young students to Parliament which is an important initiative to help the young generation understand the role of parliament. 25% of those students were female students. It is important to note that parliament is progressively showing improvement in conduct of oversight of the executive. A more holistic approach is yet needed to ensure feedback provided by committee members are acted upon and advices provided by MPs are integrated within a broader policy framework. It is also worthwhile to mention that due to increased security risks during this year, limited field visits were conducted. MPs provincial visits are crucial for enhancing their understanding of the local issues as well as expanding parliament outreach activities. Regular support for participation in official parliamentary travel has been provided

Beyond the deteriorating security situation in the country and in Kabul, presidential election disrupted some of the project activities in third quarter of 2009. Lack of proper co-ordination mechanism within Parliament puts donors partners in darkness of each others support. Staff recruitment was challenge to UNDP. Security incidents made selected potential candidates to drop offer at the very last stage of recruitment process. Resource mobilization and broadening the base of donors for the project still remain a challenge for 2010.

UNDP found it difficult to implement some of its planned activities which were mainly challenged by security situation and other political events such as the presidential election. UNDP is taking this as lesson learned for future planning and consideration.

For the purpose of sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency, efforts have to be made to utilize the national expertise available in country. International consultants would be much useful to be brought in from similar experiences of other countries for short and specified tasks. Provision of the short-term (3-6 months) certificate programme in local and simple languages by National professors from Kabul University would be more effective and will increase the level of interest and commitments of both MPs and staff.

The report will provide information about the background with a very short history of the project including rational and in the second part 'Performance review' will briefly explain the overall

project contribution to the national development benchmarks. In part three the reports provides information on quality of partnerships, national ownership and sustainability of project support. In following part report provides detailed information about the project planned outputs, challenges and lessons learned. A summary of main activities planned for 2010 is also provided as the last part of the report. Financial tables and annexes are attached to report.

## I. Context

SEAL II builds on the original SEAL project, started in February 2005- March 2008, which played a central role in establishment of the Afghanistan Parliament. SEAL I provided support in meeting major material needs, significant MPs and Staff training needs. Members of Parliament gained parliamentary experiences from team of professional expertise and exposures to other countries parliament through mentoring programmes.

Based on the request of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, recommendation of UNDP external Evaluation and Consultations held with stakeholders both within and outside the national assembly, as well as with multilateral and bilateral development partners, showed consensus on the need to continue sustained capacity and institutional development support to the parliament of Afghanistan following the completion of the first phase of SEAL I project. In consultation with project stakeholders UNDP designed SEAL II *“Supporting an Effective Afghan Legislature”* with the aim to shift from ‘Establishment’ to ‘Effectiveness’. The project was approved in Feb 2008. The objective of SEAL II is to develop ‘An effective, efficient and accountable parliament which should support development and poverty reduction for the citizens of Afghanistan. SEAL II is a Four-Year Project with estimated budget of 15 million US dollars. In these four years SEAL II project seeks to:

1. Strengthen and enhance the capacity of the MPs and commissions to better understand and then exercise their interrelated functions: law making, executive oversight, national budget approval and oversight, and representation.
2. Strengthen the Secretariats of both Houses to deliver the required, effective services to parliamentarians and build sustainable, transparent, accountable and modern internal parliamentary management and financial structures and practices.

Thus the main focus of the SEAL II is developing the capacity of MPs and commissions as the primary beneficiaries and Secretariats of both houses as the secondary beneficiary and last but not the least citizens of Afghanistan are the end beneficiaries of SEAL II project.

SEAL II started its implementation with initial support of The Kingdom of Denmark, United Nations Development Programme – UNDP, and The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for the first two years of the project. The donors’ fund earmarked for specific activities derived from the original project document in format of ‘Revised Funding of Proposal’. Donor group funding of about \$6 million USD was pledged to cover core services and support from mid 2008 to mid 2011. This enabled the project to carry out its key activities of advice and technical assistance to MPs and their commissions and leadership groups.

The project is implemented through a Direct Implementation modality. The project document is divided into five major outputs

Output1: Enhanced parliamentary capacity to exercise its legislative responsibilities

Output 2: Parliament effectively and responsibly oversees the activities of the Executive

Output 3: Strengthened dialogue between parliament and citizens:

Output 4: Strengthened capacity for effective decision/policy making

Output 5: Effective administrative structures and processes are in place.

The Project Board is established and responsible to make management decisions by consensus for project and when guidance is required by project manager, including recommendation for UNDP approval of project Annual Work Plans and revisions, quarterly work plans. The board has the authority to sign off the completion of each quarterly plan as well as authorize the start of the next quarterly plan. The group consists UNDP Afghanistan Senior Deputy Country Director as Executive responsible for the project, Secretary General of Wolesi Jirga and Secretary General of Meshrano Jirga as the senior beneficiaries and UNDP Afghanistan Assistant Country Director of Democratic Governance Unit as senior supplier.

## II. Performance review

### 1. Overall progress towards the ANDS benchmark(s)

*“The National Assembly was to be provided with technical and administrative support by mid-2006 to fulfil effectively its constitutionally mandated roles.”*

As the result of UNDP-SEAL project’s and other donor partners’ technical and administrative support, the Afghanistan National Assembly is enabled to fulfil its constitutionally mandated roles in a more effective manner. UNDP-SEAL project with its direct support to various departments in particular Security Department of National Assembly has provided a decent organizational environment for parliamentarians. UNDP-SEAL has also provided infrastructural support particularly in areas of Information Technology. National Assembly has a full strength administrative and professional staff now. Extensive Training programmes both in house and abroad has been provided to parliamentary staff as result of which parliamentarians are being provided with effective and efficient support.

### 2. Overall Progress Towards to UNDAF Outcome

*Area of Co-operation, Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights: “BY 2009, Transparent, effective and efficient Legislature and Policy frameworks and processes are established and implemented.”*

The National Assembly to a large extent functioned in a full strength. There is a significant upward trend in the overall performance of the National Assembly in Legislation, Oversight and Representation roles.

The number of laws reviewed and approved during the first legislative year of National Assembly comparing with legislations passed and approved during 2009 shows a significant increase. In total out of 203, the Parliament has approved 108 pieces of legislations which includes laws, Presidential decrees, International treaties, conventions and protocols.

National Assembly has a more organized approach in performing its oversight responsibilities. Parliament debate, vet/approve Ministers, and other appointed officials. In year 2009 only Mesharno Jirga (Upper House) had over 389 hearings sessions from high rank officials of executive. Comparing to 80 sessions during 2005 and 2006 this is a remarkable change. The process of vote of confidence to proposed cabinet by President was conducted in a more

transparent and fair manner which once again attracted the attention of citizens to the role of parliament in representing their constituencies.

National Assembly considers the annual national budget, initiate studies and public hearings summon Ministers to explain government policies and decisions, visit their constituencies and use media to communicate to citizens. They raise local and constituent issues in parliament and participate in regional and international conferences representing both parliament and their country. Based on statistics received from the Upper House 490 complaints and petitions have been scrutinized during 2009 which is a very high number comparing during the first legislative year in 2006.

It is a major credit to the parliamentarians, their staff and the Afghan people that this parliament functions, in the current deteriorated security environment, after 30 years of war and societal trauma and with almost no historical legislative experience to draw upon.

### **3. Overall progress towards the CPAP outcome and output**

*“State capacity enhanced to promote responsive governance and democratization Democratic assemblies and electoral institutions strengthened at national and sub- national level (Parliament operational, efficient and recognized by all the people; Provincial councils elected and functional Village Chiefs elected and officially recognized; Independent Electoral Commission institutionalized and autonomous).”*

SEAL project helps demonstrate the commitment of the UN to the process of deepening democracy. By creating capacities in the areas of legislative environment and public outreach, the objectives articulated in the CPAP for creating an accountable and efficient legislature are being fulfilled. In-country parliamentary missions facilitated by SEAL had a favourable impact on parliamentarians and civil societies generally in several target provinces in 2009. Facilitation of visits of young students to Parliament which is an important initiative to help the young generation understands the role of parliament. It is important to note that parliament is progressively showing improvement in conduct of oversight of the executive.

## **I. Implementation strategy review**

### **1. Participatory/consultative processes**

Direct consultation with beneficiaries has been carried out throughout the life of the project, both formally and informally. On a formal level, through regular meetings with Members of the elected Administration Boards of both Houses, Project Board meetings, Regular updates, including monthly newsletter, were provided to main stakeholders and feedback has been received for planning. Project Board meeting was a truly good opportunity to involve stakeholders in the review of achievements of each quarter, definition of priorities, review the delivery of project. As in previous years the key partners were Deputy Presidents/Speakers and the Secretary-Generals of the Houses and their senior Deputies. The speakers and deputies were consulted, as were committee chairs and other members of parliament on work planning and day-to-day business.

## 2. Quality of partnerships

In 2009 the project continued on-going partnership in the first layer with UNDP project working in gender, local governance, anti-corruption and youth. However due the closure, review and substantive amendment of those projects, level of partnership was not visible.

On the external part SEAL continued its partnership with UNIFEM and United States Agency for International Development -USAID- State University of New York –SUNY and National Democratic Institute –NDI. SEAL also is in contact closely with civil society organizations, universities, research institutes, and various media and youth organizations.

SEAL II from the lessons learned strongly believe in the effectiveness and efficiency of South/South Co-operation. Therefore, SEAL has always tried its best to employ technical experts from regional countries or countries of similar culture and background.

Partnership was profitable in terms of building co-operation between the different UN, international and local agencies supporting the Afghanistan National Assembly. Partnership helped USAID-SUNY and SEAL to avoid duplications and explore opportunities for programming collaboration. Formal partnership agreement is planned to be signed with UNIFEM and USAID-SUNY in early 2010.

## 3. National ownership

In 2008 and 2009 UNDP made it mandatory that all UNDP projects must conduct detailed consultations with their national counterparts and involve them in definition of priorities, planning and project resource allocation. Unless the Annual Work Plans was signed by National counterpart it was not possible to activate the budget of the year in Atlas system. This in fact strengthened the national ownerships in projects where it was weak. Project Board meetings were closely monitored to be held on due time. To give a sense of strong ownership UNDP-SEAL had its first project board meeting with presentation in local Dari and Pashto languages. International participants were provided with translation support.

Beside the project board meeting SEAL project manager and staff had regular meetings on daily, weekly and monthly basis with Secretary Generals and head of departments of the both houses. In these meetings discussions and decisions were made at the activity level implementation of project plan.

UNDP-SEAL has a team three National staff who are working directly and closely with Secretariat of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House).

## 4. Sustainability

UNDP-SEAL sustainability and exit strategy is focused on several levels. At the parliament level management system is fully independent. A well appropriate administrative system is in place particularly in the area of financial, assets and human resources management. The needs of parliament in terms of hardware have been met. In the reporting period UNDP-SEAL provided support in maintenance and renewal of the system.

At the project level, Project Manager Position which was a P-5 international post was nationalized. UNDP Programme Officer who had the SEAL project assurance responsibility and was involved in the day to day monitoring and management of the project since 2007 replaced

the project manager. The reliance of SEAL is more on its national programme officers. By end of 2009 all international experts were replaced by National officers. SEAL management and programme team seeks advice currently only from one international Technical Advisor.

Negotiations were made with Afghan Lawyer Union and Kabul University to provide national experts to commissions in order to replace international experts. Formal partnership agreement will be signed during the first quarter of 2010 between National Assembly, Union and Kabul University.

The parliamentary research and analysis department was established. UNDP provided six national research assistants whom after training become capable to support MPs and commissions' request on specific issues. These research assistants are still under UNDP contracts. In 2010 SEAL will be seeking ways to transfer this team to the structure of National Assembly.

UNDP-SEAL had some progress in facilitating a formal partnership between Afghanistan National Assembly and Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) of India. Initial meetings have been conducted with Embassy of India in Kabul and SEAL has the full support from the embassy side. The partnership will permit exchange of expertise on very low cost to parliament of Afghanistan.

BPST was established in 1976 as an integral Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. It is the premier training body providing opportunities for systematic study and training in various disciplines of parliamentary institutions, processes and procedures to the Legislators and officials. The Bureau's activities include holding of Orientation Programmes and Seminars for Members of Parliament and State Legislatures, Training and Refresher courses for officers of the Secretariats of Parliament and State Legislatures.

## **II. Management effectiveness review**

### **1. Quality of monitoring**

UNDP-SEAL has used UNDP standard Annual Work Plan and Quarterly Work Plans templates which provide a proper base for easy monitoring and evaluations. AWP includes a clear result chain showing contribution of project to UNDP Country Programme Action Plan – CPAP outputs and outcomes, United National Development Assistance Framework – UNDAF outcomes and Afghanistan National Development Strategy Benchmarks. The format with provision of clear baseline, benchmarks and specified annual targets with pre-defined timelines, responsible parties and budget, make the monitoring job much easier.

SEAL Project manager and UNDP Project Assurance (Programme Officer) is responsible for the daily monitoring of the project activities. UNDP Country Office chairs monthly review meetings both on the programme side as well as Monthly Financial Review meetings. In these monthly review meetings project achievement against AWP and quarterly plan. Delivery of project is checked and substantive feedbacks, guidance are provided to project manager for corrective actions by Senior Management of UNDP.

UNDP-SEAL has tried to participate in the provincial oversight missions of MPs but due to security problems and lack of on the ground support UNDP could not deploy monitoring missions to provinces. As alternative UNDP-SEAL assigned Parliament support staff of parliamentary

commissions to travel with the delegation and provide UNDP with a detailed field reports with photos.

UNDP-SEAL plan to involve other UNDP projects in Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, Donors in Samangan and civil society organizations - CSOs in all other provinces to support SEAL in provincial level monitoring.

## **2. Timely delivery of outputs**

The project had some challenges of during the first quarter of 2009 due to the availability of funding. However, the project managed to have 99% delivery by end of the year. The delivery of most of the planned outputs was on time; however there were some planned outputs which were significantly delayed. Presidential Election and the longer process of vote of confidence to the new cabinet made most of the MPs and staff unavailable.

In particular the Media Training for MPs was postponed to 2010 though the company was ready to deliver the training in last quarter of 2009. UNDP-SEAL thus started the programme for staff first. On the mentoring programme, negotiations were initiated with the parliament of Indonesia but it was not finalized to conduct the actual mission in 2009. In regards to the MPs reading room, UNDP-SEAL provided materials and equipments to both houses of parliament. However, the parliament still has to provide appropriate space for the reading room so that MPs could have easy access to it. English programme for MPs and staff was started by SUNY-APAP under Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute. In order to avoid duplications and overlaps UNDP-SEAL cancelled this activity under output one. Under output 3 the establishment of the pilot constituency offices was faced serious security and funding shortage challenges.

## **3. Resource allocation**

The project had budgeted 1, 748,395 USD for the year 2009. The total allocation for project staff and running cost was 37% of the total budget. In the development activities SEAL unlike previous years had very limited budget allocation for the equipments. Over inputs included the softer side of support through professional companies and International experts.

## **4. Cost-effective use of inputs**

The delivery of the UNDP-SEAL in year 2009 was 99%. The proportion of the project staff and running cost was 37%. UNDP in due consideration of the high running cost which included the rent of office premise, security and better coordination with government counter part during the last quarter of the 2009 UNDP moved its project office into Annex A compound of Wolesi Jirga. This has helped the project to reduce the project running cost significantly.

UNDP-SEAL was paying the high cost of internet provision for both houses. In last quarter of 2009 UNDP-SEAL officially informed parliament that the internet cost needs to be covered from parliament national budget. Efforts and measures have been put in place to reduce the number and cost of international travels, request of equipments and other materials requests. UNDP-SEAL is still bearing the printing cost of parliament's official publications. In future plans of SEAL, ways and resources will be explored to make printing press of parliament operational.

The number of staff in SEAL team is high. Research assistants who were initially recruited for parliament to support Research and Analysis Department of Parliament are now members of SEAL project core team. In 2010 SEAL will explore ways to transfer these qualified and trained staff to parliament under an efficient, transparent and sustainable mechanism.

The time of international advisors provided by SEAL project was not properly utilized by MPs and staff of Parliament. It was noticed that maintaining a team of international experts on permanent basis is too expensive. Decisions were made to release International advisors and focus must be made on local professionals and experts. International experts will be provided on short term basis with specific outputs to deliver. Time and activities would be coordinated with parliament in advance.

### III. Implementation Progress

#### Output 1: Enhanced parliamentary capacity to exercise legislative responsibilities

**Legislative Tracking System:** A study conducted by SEAL team to assess legislative tracking system of the parliament, after detailed meetings with the head of Legislative Departments and their staff it was found that documentation of legislative information needs to be strengthened to streamline the legislative process within the National Assembly. Retrieving of legislative information of the business of the Houses seemed a very arduous and time consuming process. The team recommended for establishment of an electronic bill tracking system for both Houses. As part of an efficient parliamentary system, it is important that the MPs have a mechanism in place to keep tabs over the legislative process. In this context, SEAL provided software that enabled smooth legislative tracking.

The software was prepared and initially presented to twenty key members of the National assembly in the form of a seminar conducted by a representative of the software manufacturer. Further capacity of fifteen (15) Staff member of the Legislative Department of both houses were enhanced through conduct of five additional training sessions. Currently, the trained Staff Members are practicing the usage of the software. With installation of this software the documentation of legislative information has been improved and the legislative processes of the Afghan National Assembly streamlined.

**Workshop on Bill Drafting:** Oversight of Security Sector is an important component of the project mandate and responsibility of MPs. The project conducted a Workshop on Bill Drafting primarily for the staff of Interior Security Commission of Wolesi Jirga and Meshrano Jirga. The workshop was attended by twelve participants from the Research and Analysis department and the Security Department of the National Assembly. UNDP-SEAL research assistants also participated. Out of the twelve participants, there were two women-one from the Interior Security Commission of Meshrano Jirga and one research assistant from the SEAL staff. The Workshop focussed on the importance of Security Sector, Parliamentary Oversight of Security Sector and issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) apart from advocating a checklist for drafting and generating a dummy resolution and a dummy bill on SALW.

SEAL also organized a workshop for the Meshrano Jirga Internal Security Commission on Community Policing. The chair and members were informed of the concept of community policing recently adopted by the Ministry of Interior. Now they are in a better position to question the Minister.

**Legislative Drafting Workshop for Committee Assistants:** Law making is an integral part of the constitutional role of MPs, for increasing the capacity of the Commission Assistants of the WJ, enabling them to help the members of their Commissions on drafting the member's bill. Thirty six (36) professional staff (including 4 female) and commission assistants from the WJ were trained on legislative drafting through conducting a series of workshops this year. The main objective of the workshops was to encourage Member of Parliaments to initiate process of Private Member's Bill based on the needs of the society. The workshops covered the topics such as principles of bill drafting, distinction between a resolution, bill and an amendment, basic structure of well drafted bill, utilization of the legislative checklist and importance of Legislative research in bill drafting. The participants learned about the importance of research services on drafting a bill, type of background information are required before drafting a bill, legal research, issue research, and how to avoid legislative conflicts.

**Support to Research Department of Wolesi Jirga:** Strengthening the capacity of the Research and Analysis Department (RAD) of the Parliament is an important part of SEAL mandate. To enable the (RAD) of Wolesi Jirga to facilitate and provide accurate research support to the Members of the House, twenty five (25) members (including 8 female) of the newly established Research and Analysis Department of WJ were trained on legislative drafting, the main focus of the workshop was on the research support, the role of research department, and the services to be provided by this Department.

In addition various research materials, magazines, newspapers, journals were provided to the library so the MPs and the research team can benefit. The capacity of nine (9) researchers were enhanced to conducting research and analysis of data through on the job training conducted by SEAL team on specific issue, like economy, politics, parliament, security, justice and drugs.

**Handbook for Members:** A Legislative handbook has been produced by substantive contribution of UNDP-SEAL project Technical Advisor to assist Members of Parliament to understand the Parliamentary structure. The book was first printed in Dari Language in the last quarter of 2009 and Pashto version will be printed in Jan 2010. The book has explained the organizational structure of the national assembly and inter-alia includes their rules and procedures, commissions, functions of National Assembly, Parliamentary privileges and immunities, facilities for Members and role and functions of the Secretariat. Two thousand copies of this book will reach out many readers and will be used as part of orientation to the new members of Parliament.

**Code of Conduct for MPs:** A Code of Conduct is a set of rules outlining the responsibilities or proper practices of MPs. The code of conduct submitted to the Administration Board and to the Commission for further discussion in the National Assembly. The project has been informed that members of the commission have the view that it seeks to limit their powers especially by suggesting that the members should declare their interests prior to a debate. In this scenario where members are unable to appreciate the need to have a general code of conduct for the National Assembly, it is a challenge for SEAL to get the draft Code of Conduct approved and made applicable in the National Assembly. During the third quarter of 2009, Executive sent parliament a code of behaviour for relations among the three bodies of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In the last quarter of 2009 WJ made some amendments and sent it back to the government. UNDP-SEAL After carefully reviewing and analyzing the proposed Code of Conduct as drafted by the government and amended by the Afghan Parliament had serious reservations regarding the entire draft bill. Those include major problems regarding Constitutional issues as

well as "freedom of expression" and "freedom of speech" curtailments. UNDP-SEAL plans to follow up on that through some supportive MPs, Ministry of Justice through UNDP Justice Programme. UNDP-SEAL team believes that in fact, the entire Code needs to be deleted, and replaced with three separate Codes: Judiciary, Executive, and Legislative.

**Orientation Toolkit for newly joining Senators:** As per the provision of the Constitution, the term of office for two third of members of the upper house representing provincial and district council will come to the end shortly and the new senators will join after the announcement of provincial council election results, UNDP-SEAL during period under review began the draft preparation of what may be characterized as an "orientation" toolkit for new members of the upper house. This toolkit is designed to provide new members of the upper house with essential information of their new jobs. Among the topics being planned are: General Information about Meshrano Jirga and its secretariat, Parliamentary ethics, "writing guide" for Commission report, Mandate of Committees of MJ and Parliamentary protocols.

## **Output 2: Parliament effectively and responsibly oversees the activity of the Executive**

**Oversight and Public Hearings Visit :** Strengthening the capacity of the Afghan National Assembly in carrying out effective oversight of the executives, The Parliament Committee on Health, Disabled and Social Welfare was supported to conduct a mission to Balk province from 9-16 of October. The mission was aimed to assist the concerned committee members in fulfilling their two major responsibilities representing the people and oversight of the executive. SEAL supported the committee in preparing the agenda of the mission based on the committee mandate, providing the guidelines for conducting hearings & report writing, logistical supports for the mission and providing advice to the committee to follow-up the assurance given by official of the government

Also a delegation of 11 members from the Committee on Social Welfare, Nomads, Environment and Disables Affairs of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House) of Afghan National Assembly supported to Herat province on 21- 26 April 2009. They met Governor and members of Provincial Council, the Departments of Disables, Labour and Social Affairs and investigated about the problems of Disables and met with Disables Association. They also visited the Industrial Town of Herat province to oversight the Environmental issues. In the mean time they visited the Sport Department of Herat province to discuss the problems of that department. There was a Public hearing with people from different sector and high officials to discuss the general and specific problems of Herat citizens.

SEAL supported the public hearing and oversight mission of the Committee on Defence and Internal Security Affairs of the Upper House to Ningarhar, Konar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces from 16 to 23 October 2009.

**Gender perspective to Legislation:** The basic function of Parliament is to make laws; SEAL with the cooperation of UNIFEM supported and organized a workshop for the members of WJ Commission on Education on drafting a revision to the Education bill involving members of parliament, University Lecturers and Specialists from the Ministry of Justice on the challenges that education faces in Afghanistan, and also why changes are important to strengthen the current law.

**Meeting on Political Parties:** For establishing democracy in the Country it is important to have political Parties in the Country and especially in the Parliament among representatives of the people, SEAL organised a first ever meeting of various stakeholders on the issue of political

parties within the National Assembly which was attended by National Democratic Institute (NDI), Friedrich Stiftung, International Republican Institute (IRI), representatives from the Embassy of United States, and Embassy of Sweden and Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit. SEAL had follow-up meetings with AREU and NDI who had worked with political groups in the National Assembly. UNDP-SEAL is working on concept note on how to develop and support political groups in parliament.

**Budget Paper:** Oversight of the Budget is an important function of the Parliament. In the Budget session of the National Assembly, a briefing paper on the fundamentals of Budget was prepared and given to each and every member of the National Assembly. Members have begun to view the Budget presented to the National Assembly by the executive as an economic policy tool of the government. They have begun to understand the point that they have a constitutional right to analyze, review and suggest changes than merely approving it as was being done earlier.

**Oversight tool:** In order to comprehensively oversee the activity of the executive, an oversight tool was prepared for use of the Finance Commission which went on a visit to Balkh Province. It was much appreciated and senators expressed their desire to have it in a Handbook format.

### Output 3: Strengthened dialogue between Parliament and citizens

**Media and Communication:** Most of the MPs have basic understanding of the role of media and how to communicate with public. A need assessment was carried out and it was identified that consequent training for MPs is needed to improve their skills in this area. In addition, a holistic communication strategy for the parliament is needed to ensure MPs gain enhanced understanding and improved skill on how to deal with media, the role and power of media in a democratic society and how to communicate with media (including press releases, press conferences, interview skills), basic principles of public relations; public relations and crisis management as well as key concepts in Afghanistan's media law – freedom of speech, defamation, and privilege. For this purpose, the procurement process for contracting a private media company finished during the last quarter of 2009 but due the busy schedule of MPs and staff parliament recommended to start the training in January 2010.

**Radio Studio Staff Training:** The parliament production studio was equipped through which the Information Departments will record their programs and will publish through RTA. During the review period, eight (8) officials from both houses were trained on running the studio, recording of programs, using the devices and relevant tasks. Currently, a biweekly program called "Voice of MJ" is published through RTA for 15 minutes at 09:00 on Sunday mornings. In addition to activity reports of MJ in the program, views and suggestions of MJ members are published as well. It is planned to expand activities of the production studio in the future to reach wider audience and enhance public information about parliament.

**Parliament to People:** As part of the reach-out to the community, SEAL in close coordination with the Department of Information and Public Relation of Parliament and Ministry of Education developed a six month plan based on which youth and students' visits were facilitated to Parliament. Criteria for the selection of students were based on age (above 15) and preference of class teachers based on the talent and interest of students. In 2009 a total of 230 students, in four separate groups, visited the National Assembly of Afghanistan. 25% of students were female. Students came from Kabul University, Bebi Amena High School and boys schools of Kabul city. General information about role of Parliament in a democratic society, elections, parliament's core functions and the importance of participation of young generation in political and democratic processes were discussed in these meetings. Materials and general information about the history of parliament and legislative development in Afghanistan were provided to them in hard copies. It is expected that these visits will have long term and deep impact on enhancing public

particularly the young generation knowledge and information about the parliament. More visits are planned for 2010 as well. Similarly, it is planned to facilitate MPs interaction and visit of students from provinces to the parliament and while MPs visit provinces, similar programmes will be arranged at provincial level.

**Key Publication Support:** The Parliament of Afghanistan need to report all of their activities to Governmental and non Governmental Organizations, one of the basic sources for publicising this information is printing of these materials, Gazettes, Session Reports and Books for Parliament. Once printed they are being disseminated to all libraries, ministries, universities, education institutions of the country and to foreign organizations, universities, academic centers, publication centers. This Year SEAL supported Parliament in editing and printing of 27000 copies of official Parliamentary Gazettes, 5000 copies of Books, 500 copies Brochures for both Houses of Afghan Parliament. 10,000 comic-books and 10,000 brochures style parliamentary primer for school children was also produced and distributed in four regions of Afghanistan to provide a resource for teachers to introduce parliament and its responsibilities to the classroom.

**Public hearing of MPs in Paktia:** The public hearings or gathering of MPs with citizens from a certain district, to debate the MPs' commitment is important function of MPs. SEAL facilitated Public hearing visit for eight Members of Parliament to Paktia Province on 09 – 11 October 2009. The aim of this visit was strengthening the relations of Public with Parliament and understanding the problems of People to be discussed further in the sessions. The MPs met many elders of villages and representatives of People and they discussed many problems and issues to be solved in the future.

#### **Output 4: Strengthened capacity for effective decision/policy making**

**Senators capacity enhanced for Budget Approval:** Budget approval is a major function of the Parliament, the senators to exercise and practice their responsibilities properly, SEAL organized a workshop for Budget commission of Meshrano Jirga (House of elders) to interact with representatives of Chambers of commerce and Professors from Kabul University. It was the first opportunity for committee to seek the views of representatives of an important segment of civil society as well as academicians on national budget. The interaction covered important aspects of the budget prepared by the government and submitted for approval of parliament. The work shop was centered on how the national budget of the year 1388 could address the need of economic development, internal revenue mobilization and effectiveness of donors' assistance with focus on: export promotion and employment generating strategies, revenue increase opportunities, volume of assistance implemented by donors themselves i.e. External budget, privatization of State owned enterprises and Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and budget of the year 1388.

UNDP- SEAL involved its technical advisor and program officer with Budget commission of Meshrano Jirga regarding budget of the year 1388. Technical inputs as well as expert advisory were offered to the commissions regarding the budget. It strengthened capacity of the commission and its role on providing recommendation to Wolesi Jirga on the budget presented by the government.

SEAL team has prepared and presented Pie charts presentation and analysis of three years budget. Including information and analysis on: Trend of internal revenue increasing, Internal

revenue against total budget, Trend of operation and development expenditure aspects of core budget, Trend of external assistance, and Resources allocated as per the sectors of Afghanistan Development Strategy; Security, Good Governance, Rule of Law and Human rights, Infrastructure and Natural resources, Education, Health, Agriculture & Rural Development, Social Protection, Economic Governance and Private Sector Development, and Others.

The Commission also had back ground paper from SEAL team on the role being played and resources being provided by following 4 major donors/development partners for the development of Afghanistan. (USAID, Japan, World Bank and UNDP)

Those input had a valuable contribution not only for analysis of the 1388 budget review but also for strengthening capacity of the Commission on large context of donors' role and support for national development.

**Donors meeting with Commission of Budget and Finance:** The Parliament should understand budget about the Country (Operation Budget, Development Budget) and they should understand which sources covering this budget, SEAL has organized a meeting for the Budget Commission with donors when budget of the year 1388 was under review. Representatives from Embassy of Japan and World Bank country office presented the status of financial support to the Afghanistan, the role they are playing in the context of ANDS, and their priority and plans. Members of the parliament were also briefed regarding board policy those international development partners have regarding assistance. Further donors representatives briefly described the completed, ongoing and future programs. The commission members had an opportunity to ask questions, get responses, and share their concerns as well.

Assistance channelled through external budget or implemented by donors themselves was one of the important concerns raised by members of Commission/ Parliament. Further Parliamentarians ask donors representative to fund with more leverage so government and parliament could mobilize the resources as per the need and priority of the people. Donor's representatives were benefited with the first hand information and concern of peoples' representatives, which is a vital feedback for them to revisit their commitments, priority and modality of assistance. It was an event fulfilling need of making all players accountable to the parliament including donors. It has further strengthened capacity of the parliament in its role of approving budget as per the article 98 of the Constitution.

**Participation and Representation on International Level:** SEAL has an agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Assembly to sponsor Senators and Members for essential parliamentary travel, to strengthen their capacity for effective decision/policy making. In this year SEAL has funded the travel arrangements for some parliamentary conferences.

A delegation of 3 senators from Meshrano Jirga and 8 members from Wolesi Jirga attended the 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April. One lady member was part of the delegation

Three Members of the National Assembly including a woman member and one staff member attended the spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly which took place in Oslo, Norway in May 2009. In the Parliamentary session a report on Afghanistan titled "Afghanistan: A Turning Point?" focussing on the international effort in Afghanistan was presented.

Three Members of Wolesi Jirga and two staff supported to attend the General Conference of Common Wealth in Russia ST-Petersburg on 14 May.

Three Members of Wolesi Jirga and two Senators of Meshrano Jirga attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual session of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at Lithuania between 29<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009. At this 18<sup>th</sup> annual session the delegation witnessed the adoption of the Vilnius Declaration which among other issues contains a 32 article resolution on Afghanistan stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to challenges facing Afghanistan.

Two staff of National Assembly Supported to attend the Annual Conference on Digital Information for Democracy, Management access and preservation in Italy on 18 August 09.

Two Members of Wolesi Jirga and one from Meshrano Jirga supported to attend Conference on Women and Gender equality as Parliament Open to Women on 28 September 2009 in Geneva.

Three members from Meshrano Jirga and three from Wolesi Jirga attended PGA forum about environment and Energy Management 20 Oct in Washington DC.

Six members of Wolesi Jirga and 4 from Meshrano Jirga were supported to attend ASGP (Association of the Secretaries General of Parliament) and IPU in Geneva.

Three members of Wolesi Jirga including one female attended the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly UK.

**Importance of Quorum:** Quorum is an essential procedural requirement for the National Assembly to hold its sessions to exercise its legislative responsibilities. The management of the Wolesi Jirga were briefed on the concept of quorum in legislative bodies, the different types of quorum in existence in other Parliaments, the Management is now aware of the principle behind the provisions regarding quorum given in the Constitution. They are now better equipped to appreciate the possibilities available regarding quorum in the conduct of the session of the House.

#### **Output 5: Effective Administrative Structures are in place**

SEAL followed up on the National Assembly staff strategic plan during the reporting period. Senior management of the secretariat of the Wolesi Jirga informed that they are developing their staff strategic plan based on the plan prepared by SEAL and would be shared with the stakeholders once it is ready. It is now noticed that Secretariats will not be able to develop such a strategy. Therefore support will be provided in this regard under SEAL II in 2010.

SEAL continued its support for provision of essential facilities for the day to day functioning of parliamentary administration. These facilities include equipment and set up of a medical clinic, office space for the MPs and Secretariat Staff and provision of internet access. SEAL is conscious that the recurrent cost of parliament administration (such as rental of building and other facilities) should be properly phased out as soon as the parliament is able to cover these costs from its budget. By end of 2009 SEAL II officially stopped the support for provision of internet cost. SEAL stands ready to continue its support to the administration of both houses in the substantive areas.

## **IV. Challenges**

### **Risks**

**Security:** Security has become a major challenge in bringing MPs closer to their constituencies. Most of the MPs who are once elected could not go back either officially or unofficially to their

own communities to meet with their constituencies. This has significantly affected the oversight and representation component of project support. Most oversight missions which was sponsored by SEAL were conducted to provinces which are some how safer to travel to.

**Action Taken:** UNDP-SEAL put pressure in ensuring a high level of security department coordination with local security agencies through Security Department of Parliament with Provincial Governor Offices and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs before supporting provincial missions of Senators and MPs. UNDP-SEAL also pushed and encouraged MPs to cover all regional provinces in their visits. For example, the mission to Nangarhar Province members managed to visit Laghman, Kunar and Noorestan provinces.

**Presidential Election:** The Presidential Elections in 2009 has significantly affected the delivery of project planned output. MPs and senators were mainly busy in Electoral campaigns for the presidential candidates. In 2010 SEAL will be facing a similar situation during the Parliamentary Elections.

**Action taken:** In this period UNDP-SEAL paid much attention to admin and professional staff of Parliament. This was a good lesson learned for SEAL to consider such major events in future in particular 2010 Parliamentary Elections. UNDP-SEAL will design a more realistic and practical plan for the year 2010.

**Qualified Staff Retention:** After a significant capacity development programmes by all partners qualified staff turnover in National Assembly is a big challenge which is not in the control of either parliament or partner donors. Government salaries are low and top up salaries are not allowed.

**Action Taken:** UNDP-SEAL plan to develop a long-term educational programme as incentive to keep staff committed to parliament. This is envisaged to short-term certificate programmes at bachelor level implemented by University of Kabul and The American University of Afghanistan. Initial discussion has been made in this regard.

UNDP-SEAL project manager is responsible of taking timely actions in monitoring and mitigating project risks.

## Issues

**Lack of co-ordination:** Lack of a proper mechanism among donors/partners in parliament is a serious issue. Duplication, overlaps, improper usage of resources, lack of awareness and many others are the negative consequences. The co-ordination role was handed over by SEAL to parliament but unfortunately it was not properly carried out.

**Action Taken:** UNDP-SEAL has brought this issue with leadership and management of secretariats and once again highlighted the importance of such mechanism. Individual discussions were made with USAID- SUNY/APAP project and both parties reached to an agreement to sign a memorandum of understanding between SEAL and SUNY/APAP. The draft MoU has been prepared by SEAL. UNDP-SEAL will have similar understandings with UNIFEM as well. On the other side, Secretary General of Wolesi Jirga expressed his strong commitment in co-ordinating all donors through a proper and regular mechanism.

**Recruitment:** Recruitment was one a major challenge for UNDP-SEAL in 2009. The post of project manager was vacant for quite a long time. Selected candidates dropped offer in the very last stage of recruitment process. This in fact created a gap and lack of proper communication with project stakeholders.

**Action Taken:** UNDP has recruited a qualified National Project Manager supported by a qualified International Technical Advisor. Soon after the project manager was on board third quarter project board meeting was held and project stakeholders were updated on project achievements and future plans and priorities.

**Resources:** UNDP-SEAL used resources provided by Sweden and Denmark and UNDP core resources in 2009. For 2010 only limited available balance of Sweden which is less than a million US dollars.

**Action taken:** UNDP CO and SEAL has resumed efforts in this regard at different levels. An independent consultant has been recruited to conduct a midterm review of SEAL II project and based on findings and needs of parliament the new project document will be readjusted. Efforts will be made to broaden the base of donors for the project in the first quarter of 2010.

## Lessons Learned

Security, politics and other major events has significant affects on overall implementation of development programmes in Afghanistan. In 2009, in the area of oversight, representation and establishment constituency offices was mainly affected by security situation in the country. Availability and commitment of MPs to capacity development programmes was affected badly by Presidential Election. Thus more attention has to be paid during the development of annual work plans in order to avoid over ambitious planning and raising expectations.

For the purpose of sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency, efforts have to be made to utilize the national expertise available in country. Parliament must have the leading role in initiating and maintaining partnership with in country civil society organizations, universities, NGOs to provide long term professional support to individual MPs and commissions.

Provision of the short-term (3-6 months) certificate programme in local and simple languages by National professors from of Kabul University instead of 1-2 day workshops would be more effective and will increase the level interest and commitments of both MPs and staff.

## Future Plans

UNDP-SEAL will begin 2010 with a serious of reviews and assessment to better enable the project in providing support in a more effective and efficient manner. These reviews include the Mid-Term review of SEAL II project conducted and finding shared with donor and stakeholders, Review/assessment of the capacity of both secretariats ( institutional and individual level), Review Parliament Commissions Capacity and Commissions System and design Empowered Commission System, Review Capacity and Institutional Set-up of Department of Research and Analysis and develop an Organizational strategy.

Resource mobilization will be another major focus of the project. UNDP plans to develop a new project document in 2010.

For better co-ordination UNDP-SEAL will institutionalize Partnerships with other partners. We plan to finalize SEAL Gender Strategy.

Reliance will be more on national expertise available in the country, which will be facilitated through formal partnerships, hearings, and joint sessions. UNDP-SEAL plans to involve more CSOs at the provincial level to facilitate and arrange provincial oversight visits, and hearings of MPs and parliament commissions. Specific grant scheme programmes will be designed for Women issues and women MPS.

## Financial Section

### Table1. Funding Overview

Donor	Commitment	Received	Received (USD)	UNORE	Balance
	(Currency of the Agreement)	(Currency of the Agreement)			(Currency of the Agreement)
UNDP	USD 750,000	USD 750,000	750,000		-
Denmark	USD 1,600,000	USD 1,600,000	1,600,000		-
Sweden	SEK 20,000,000	SEK 10,000,000	1,236,094	0.124	10,000,000
<b>Total</b>			3,586,094		

### Table 2: Expenditure Status (by activity)

Activity	Budget	Total Expenditure in 2009	Balance	Delivery
Activity 01 Enhancing Parliamentary Capacity	802,231	800,014	2,217	100%
Activity 02 Strengthening Parliament Oversight	70,280	60,836	9,444	87%
Activity 03 Strengthening Dialogues between People and Parliament	28,947	24,508	4,439	85%
Activity 04 Strengthening Capacity for effective Decision/ Policy Making	99,457	97,645	1,812	98%
Activity 05 Supporting to Administrative Structure	3,980	3,292	688	83%
Activity 06 Project Management	620,268	617,599	2,669	100%
GMS	114,796	113,481	1,315	99%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,739,959</b>	<b>1,717,375</b>	<b>22,584</b>	<b>99%</b>

**Table3. Expenditure Status (by donor)**

Donor	Budget	Activity	Total Expenditure in 2009	Balance	Delivery
UNDP	75,316	Activity 01 Enhancing Parliamentary Capacity	74,067	1,249	
	-	Activity 03 Strengthening Dialogues between People and Parliament	-	-	
	24,684	Activity 06 Project Management	22,152	2,532	
<b>UNDP Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	-	<b>96,219</b>	<b>3,781</b>	<b>96%</b>
Denmark	381,176	Activity 01 Enhancing Parliamentary Capacity	380,243	933	
	1,840	Activity 02 Strengthening Parliament Oversight	1,782	58	
	9,031	Activity 03 Strengthening Dialogues between People and Parliament	9,402	(371)	
	56,457	Activity 04 Strengthening Capacity for effective Decision/ Policy Making	56,947	(490)	
	(2,303)	Activity 05 Supporting to Administrative Structure	(2,300)	(3)	
	200,956	Activity 06 Project Management	200,944	12	
	48,710	GMS	48,700	10	
<b>Denmark Total</b>	<b>695,867</b>	-	<b>695,718</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>100%</b>
Sweden	345,739	Activity 01 Enhancing Parliamentary Capacity	345,704	35	
	68,440	Activity 02 Strengthening Parliament Oversight	59,054	9,386	
	19,916	Activity 03 Strengthening Dialogues between People and Parliament	15,106	4,810	
	43,000	Activity 04 Strengthening Capacity for effective Decision/ Policy Making	40,698	2,302	
	6,283	Activity 05 Supporting to Administrative Structure	5,592	691	
	394,628	Activity 06 Project Management	394,503	125	
	66,086	GMS	64,781	1,305	
<b>Sweden Total</b>	<b>944,092</b>	-	<b>925,438</b>	<b>18,654</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,739,959</b>	-	<b>1,717,375</b>	<b>22,584</b>	<b>99%</b>

## Annexes

### Annex I: Performance Tracking Matrix

Result/Goals	Performance Indicators	Baseline Info	Performance Benchmark and Targets	Implementation Progress in reporting quarter
Output 1: Enhanced Parliamentary capacity to Exercise Legislative Responsibilities	Parliament exercises its constitutional responsibility and authority to initiate, consider, and pass legislation in a timely fashion	Parliament does not fully exercise its authority to initiate legislation, and does not have capacity and internal systems to address legislation in a timely fashion.	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of National Assembly generated Bills completed and presented to Houses</li> <li>▪ Research service is operational</li> <li>▪ Reading room available and equipped.</li> <li>▪ Legislation tracking system in place</li> <li>▪ MPs capacity in bill drafting/ amendments, and English Language skills improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WJ has passed over 108 laws, decrees, international agreements and MJ has approved 144. (Parliament figures)</li> <li>▪ Research and analysis department established, equipped and is operational.</li> <li>▪ Legislative tracking system is developed, installed and under usage. Staff were provided with trainings</li> <li>▪ A workshop on Bill drafting primarily for the Commissions of Interior Security of Wolesi Jirga and Meshrano Jirga were conducted.</li> <li>▪ Thirty six (36) professional staff (including 4 female) and commission assistants from the WJ were trained on legislative drafting through conducting a series of workshops this year.</li> <li>▪ A Legislative handbook has been produced to assist Members of Parliament to understand the</li> </ul>

				Parliamentary structure.
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<p>Output 2: Parliament Effectively and Responsibly Oversees the Activities of the Executive</p>	<p>Parliament consistently reviews Executive action across ministerial portfolios, providing feedback that can be integrated into the policy process and governance practice.</p>	<p>Parliament carries out Executive oversight largely on an ad hoc basis</p>	<p>2009 Target / Deliverables:                      1. WJ Health and Labour Committee completes Report and Recommendations on Employment and Poverty Reduction.                      2. WJ Defence Committee and Internal Security Committee complete workshop on oversight of the security sector                      3. MJ Defence Committee completes workshop on oversight of the security sector, on line and hard-copy resources available                      4. MJ Budget and Public Accounts Committee completes workshops on results/performance based budgeting, gender analysis, public accounts oversight.                      5. WJ Budget and Public Accounts Committee completes workshops on results/performance based budgeting, gender analysis, public accounts oversight.                      6. MJ Disabled and Gender committee and WJ Womens Affairs (Gender, Human Rights) Committee visits provinces, improves media skills, improves public speaking skills, improves budget analysis skills                      7. MJ and WJ International Affairs Committee strengthens role in parliamentary diplomacy, some Members oversee permdel UNGA 64                      8. WJ Anti Corruption Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Parliament Committee on Health, Disabled and Social Welfare was supported to conduct a mission to Balk province from 9-16 of October. The mission was aimed to assist the concerned committee members in fulfilling their two major responsibilities representing the people and oversight of the executive.</li> <li>▪ Also a delegation of 11 members from the Committee on Social Welfare, Nomads, Environment and Disables Affairs of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House) of Afghan National Assembly supported to Herat province on 21- 26 April 2009.</li> <li>▪ SEAL supported the public hearing and oversight mission of the Committee on Defence and Internal Security Affairs of the Upper House to Ningarhar, Konar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces from 16 to 23 October 2009.</li> <li>▪ Workshop was organized a for the members of WJ Commission on Education</li> </ul>
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			<p>provides Bill on child trafficking</p> <p>9. Joint meeting of Internal Security Committee of WJ with Pakistan Security Committee</p> <p>10. Number of in country oversight missions and public hearings MPs undertake.</p> <p>11. MPs contribute to key international conferences and inter-parliamentary meetings (regional, NATO, UN, OSCE, GOPAC, Islamic Conference, IPU, Asia Pacific, other) to oversee the development of international relations/foreign and domestic policy.</p> <p>12. MPs strengthen parliamentary practice and culture (stronger parliament to oversee executive) in partnership with several other parliaments.</p>	<p>on drafting a revision to the Education bill involving members of parliament, University Lecturers and Specialists from the Ministry of Justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first ever meeting of various stakeholders on the issue of political parties within the National Assembly was organized.</li> <li>▪ In the Budget session of the National Assembly, a briefing paper on the fundamentals of Budget was prepared and given to each and every member of the National Assembly. Members have begun to view the Budget presented to the National Assembly by the executive as an economic policy tool of the government.</li> </ul>
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<p>Output 3: Strengthened Dialogue between Parliament and Citizens</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parliament has a comprehensive and effective communications strategy in place</li> <li>2. Afghan Parliament has a strengthened dialogue with civil society using multiple vectors</li> <li>3. Pilot provincial constituency offices operational</li> <li>4. Parliament publication are printed</li> <li>5. Three visits of students groups, CSOs and general public from Parliament facilitated.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parliament role is generally not well-understood or appreciated by citizens</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One Training session for MPs to better understand and work with the media.</li> <li>2. One Training session for radio studio staff on appropriate broadcasting of Parliament information.</li> <li>3. Print parliament publications</li> <li>4. Three visits of students groups, civil servants and general public to parliament.</li> <li>5. three - five pilot constituency offices.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A private media company was contracted during the last quarter of 2009 but due the busy schedule of MPs and staff parliament recommended to start the training in January 2010.</li> <li>▪ Eight (8) officials from both houses were trained on running the studio, recording of programs, using the devices and relevant tasks. Currently, a biweekly program called "Voice of MJ" is published through RTA for 15 minutes at 09:00 on Sunday mornings.</li> <li>▪ In 2009 a total of 230 students, in four separate groups, visited the National Assembly of Afghanistan. 25% of students were female. Students came from Kabul University, Bebi Amena High School and boys schools of Kabul city.</li> <li>▪ This Year SEAL supported Parliament in editing and printing of 27000 copies of official Parliamentary Gazettes, 5000 copies of Books, 500 copies Brochures for both Houses of Afghan Parliament. 10,000 comic-books and 10,000 brochures</li> </ul>
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				<p>style parliamentary primer for school children was also produced and distributed in four regions of Afghanistan to provide a resource for teachers to introduce parliament and its responsibilities to the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ SEAL facilitated Public hearing visit for 8 Members of Parliament to Paktia Province on 09 – 11 October 2009</li></ul>
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<p>Output 4: Strengthened Capacity for Effective Decision/Policy Making</p>	<p>Parliament adopts a budget cycle approach to its involvement in financial matters. It also channels valuable public input to the budget process, and conducts effective oversight of national budget expenditures</p>	<p>Parliament is involved in the budget process but generally not in a systematic manner</p>	<p>1- One workshop on each of the following areas result based budgeting, rules, process for plenary debates on ( Security sector, poverty reduction, employment, anti corruption, women and human rights) 2 - two mentoring visits 3- One Training session for women MPs in leadership, policy development and key issues. 4- on- going advice and assistance to committees for work plan development, research issues briefs, public hearings and other support to committee policy making reports. 5. Number of exchange visits to share information, experience about policy making in national reconciliation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop for Budget commission of Meshrano Jirga (House of elders) to interact with representatives of Chambers of commerce and Professors from Kabul University.</li> <li>▪ UNDP- SEAL involved its technical advisor and program officer with Budget commission of Meshrano Jirga regarding budget of the year 1388. Technical inputs as well as expert advisory were offered to the commissions regarding the budget.</li> <li>▪ SEAL team has prepared and presented Pie charts presentation and analysis of three years budget. Including information and analysis on: Trend of internal revenue increasing, Internal revenue against total budget, Trend of operation and development expenditure aspects of core budget, Trend of external assistance, and Resources allocated as per the sectors of Afghanistan Development Strategy;</li> <li>▪ The Commission also had back ground paper from</li> </ul>
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				<p>SEAL team on the role being played and resources being provided by following 4 major donors/development partners for the development of Afghanistan. (USAID, Japan, World Bank and UNDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SEAL has organized a meeting for the Budget Commission with donors when budget of the year 1388 was under review</li> <li>▪ SEAL has an agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Assembly to sponsor Senators and Members for essential parliamentary travel, to strengthen their capacity for effective decision/policy making. In this year SEAL has funded the travel arrangements for some parliamentary conferences.</li> </ul>
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<p>Output 5: Effective Administrative Structures are in Place.</p>	<p>Parliament administration is equipped with a fully functional, integrated, computerized system of maintaining internal budgeting, accounting, human resources management, and assets management</p>	<p>The parliamentary administration is responsible for much of the success of the current parliament, but a number of basic aspects of institutional functioning remain to be implemented efficient and effective management principles.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify priority, specific technical training for staff.</li> <li>2. Advice and assistance to the annual security threat assessment for parliament.</li> <li>3. Have number of session with leaderships of national assembly in budget development.</li> <li>4- Inclusion of MPs in payroll system.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SEAL continued its support for provision of essential facilities for the day to day functioning of parliamentary administration.</li> <li>▪ Parliament staff was included in all training programmes.</li> </ul>
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## Annex II: Risk Log

## RISK LOG

<b>Project Title: Supporting an Effective Afghan Legislature ( SEAL II)</b>	<b>Award ID: 00043217</b>	<b>Date: 20 Jan 2010</b>
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#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted , updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Direct suicide attack reports received by Parliament.	December 2009	Political	1.Parliament will get closed and normal operation resume will take long time. 2.Direct threat to project staff, because they are either inside the parliament or on the way to parliament. 3.Due to high security measures access to parliament and MPs.  P = 5 I = 4	1. Armoured Vehicle was secured on loan basis from ELECT project. 2. Additional body armour and helmets for project staff were ordered. 3. Close follow up with security unit on status of threats	Project Security focal points. (M. Akram)	UNDP security unit	13 January 2010	<b>Reducing</b>
2	Provincial Level Security is deteriorating	Jan 2009	Political	1. Public outreach and provincial oversight missions of MPs are affected.  P = 5 I = 3	1. Coordination through Security department of parliament with Governor office and Ministry of Parliamentary affairs. 2. No missions to risky provinces	Project Manger	Security Department of parliament	December 2009	<b>Increasing</b>
3	Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	Third quarter 2009	Political	MPs attendance during election period disrupts planned outputs delivery. P = 5 I = 5	1. Considerations of such events in planning and focus on staff and other areas of support.	Project Manger	Project Manger	Third quarter 2009	<b>Increasing</b>

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4	Retention of qualified staff in parliament	Jan 2009	Financial	<p>1. Qualified staff quit due to the low salary of government civil servant</p> <p>P = 4 I = 3</p>	1. Provision of other incentives such as long-term education facilities.	Project Manger	Parliament	Each Board Meeting	Increasing
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**Annex III: Issue Log<sup>1</sup>**

ISSUES LOG					Date:	
Award ID: 00043217 ( Supporting an Effective Afghan Legislature )				Project: SEAL II		
ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/Priority	Status Change Date	Author
1	Co-ordination	Jan 2009	Lack of co-ordination among donors partners to parliament	High	21/01/10	Yama Helaman
2	Financial	November 2009	Lack of sufficient Funding for 2010	High	21/01/10	Yama Helaman
3	Office Space	December	Lack of proper Office Space	High	21/01/10	Yama Helaman

<sup>1</sup> Details on Issue log can be obtained from Issues log deliverable description.