



**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan**

**Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan
(SJSA)**

FIRST QUARTER 2009 PROJECT REPORT



Photo: one of the joined meetings of the UNDP/SJSA /PLA unit staff and MOJ/PLA unit staff at the Justice Project meeting room to finalize the topics for future activities of public legal awareness.

Project ID: 0047952

Duration: 1 January 2006 – 30 March 2009

Strategic Plan Component: Focus Area 2: Democratic Governance

Total Budget2009: USD 1702051

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I. Implementation progress

During the first quarter of 2009, the project focussed on increased focus of support to the Ministry of Justice through the increase in tempo of activities with the Public Legal Awareness Unit and the resource mobilisation for the Human Rights Support in the Ministry of Justice. In addition, the SJSA Project National Institutional Development Analysts for the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court and the Office of the Attorney General have continued to provide support and have assisted in the process of development of the new potential engagements by UNDP within the sector. Reporting and quality assurance mechanisms were enhanced with the resumption of Project Board Meetings. The details of each Project Output are presented below.

Output 1: Increase in number and diversity of persons receiving effective legal services from Permanent Justice Institutions.

As reported in the Annual Project Report 2008 the identified target / deliverable of this output has been fully met with the adoption of the National Justice Sector Strategy (NJSS) and National Justice Plan (NJP) in March 2008.

Output 2: Increase in number and diversity of persons receiving effective legal services from the Ministry of Justice.

During this quarter, the Project National Institutional Development Analyst has continued to closely coordinate with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in relation to the establishment of the Human Rights Support Unit in the Ministry of Justice providing updates and cross-checking on Terms of Reference. The SJSA Project Public Legal Awareness (PLA) team has had an increased level of interaction with the MoJ PLA unit / Huquq Department. The Project PLA team has worked closely with the MoJ to prepare the materials for the public legal awareness community-based workshops. Despite the existence of materials previously used by the MoJ PLA unit, the close work enabled a comprehensive and value adding assessment to be undertaken. As a result of this careful analysis resulted in a set of priority areas to be the subject of the community-based workshops and also the necessity for almost all the materials to be newly written, quality assured and translated as appropriate. The materials prepared now cover eight key areas: introduction to legal institutions, women's rights, violation against women's rights, women's social problems, child rights, violation against child rights, procedures for resolving land disputes, and returnees and displaced rights. Over the next quarter, these new materials will be utilized in the community-based workshops and any requisite refinements undertaken. In addition, media campaign materials and activities will be designed in relation to these areas.

In this quarter planning commenced for the involvement of the Project PLA team in evaluating the conduct of the community-based workshops by the MoJ PLA unit in relation to training methodologies, reporting, monitoring and evaluation techniques. Where necessary further capacity development will be undertaken. As part of this process an analysis of skills is being undertaken of the Department of Rights employees who currently conduct the community-based workshops. An early observation has been the lack of female trainers, which due to the practice in the community of only female trainers for female community members, generates some challenges. The Project PLA team, in conjunction with other UN Agencies, will work closely with the MoJ to identify how to address this challenge. Upon application of the UNDP the donor (DFAIT) has agreed to a no cost extension for the Project PLA team activities until end 2009; and as a result of this in the next quarter the Project Manager will work closely with the MoJ to determine the best strategy and work plan to obtain the maximum capacity development opportunity from this activity over the next nine months.

As previously reported the Project has taken the lead in the development of a concept document, presentation to donors, and resource mobilization efforts for the establishment of a Human Rights Support Unit in the Ministry of Justice. The proposal covers two years with implementation to be undertaken by the Project. At the end of this quarter sufficient resources were mobilized to commence and the first steps of project implementation (recruitment) commenced.

Output 3: Increase in number and diversity of persons receiving effective legal services from the Office of the Attorney General.

During this quarter the Project National Institutional Development Analyst has continued to closely coordinate with the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) through attendance at technical working group meetings. UNDP is one of the permanent members of Law Reform Technical Working Group (LRTWG) since its establishment in mid 2006. The Project National Institutional Development Analyst has taken active part during the LRTWG's meetings. The LRTWG regularly meets on Mondays half day and Wednesday's full day. During the quarter the LRTWG finished their proposal based of international standards and model code on Chapter Nine of Criminal Procedure Code and currently is working on Chapter Ten. During the quarter the co- secretariat of the committee, UNODC and JSSP met with the head of Ministry of Justice legislative department and updated them regarding the work of the LRTWG.

During this quarter the Project National Institutional Development Analyst has continued to closely coordinate with the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) through facilitation in the design of potential new UNDP assistance to AGO. As part of this process the Project coordinated and participated in a briefing relating to database management and work being undertaken by other donors and projects (such as JSSP).

Output 4: Increase in the number and diversity of persons receiving effective legal services from the Supreme Court.

During this quarter the Project National Institutional Development Analyst has continued to closely coordinate with the Supreme Court including undertaking important capacity development activities in the area of the administrative unit (asset management). In particular work has been undertaken on transport asset management through the completion of a complete inventory and establishment of a database. This work has been undertaken in close cooperation with the Head of Finance and Administration and with training provided to transport department staff. The aim of the database is to provide the administrative support to facilitate improved management of transportation.

Project staff recruited under the Supreme Court Translation and Publication Unit (SC TPU) have continued to provide high-level translation services to the Supreme Court. Recruitment of both suitable international and national staff has presented challenges to the implementation of this activity. Upon application of the UNDP the donor (DFAIT) has agreed to a no cost extension for the Project SC TPU activities until end 2009. As a result of this in the next quarter the Project Manager will work closely with the Supreme Court to determine the best strategy and work plan to obtain the maximum capacity development opportunity from this activity over the next nine months and in acknowledgement of the Supreme Courts request for longer-term support in this area.

II. Project implementation challenges

Updated project risks and actions

The risks identified in 2008 remain.

Difficulty in recruiting qualified and high performing staff both national and international remain. Terms of Reference for particular positions have been review and re-advertisements undertaken; however this still remains a major implementation challenge.

Lack of funding is a continual challenge and the process of mobilizing resources for Year One of the Human Rights Support Unit in the MoJ took approximately six months. Successful implementation of this activity should mitigate against resource mobilization challenges for Year Two.

Security remains a serious risk with the February attack on the MoJ requiring revised security and working arrangements.

III. Financial Status and Utilization

Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [Jan 1, 2006 – Mar 31, 2009]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
NETHERLAND	691,688	622,530	69,158
UNDP	395,520	395,520	-
UNDP	630,400	630,400	-
UNDP	400,000	400,000	-
UNDP	80,000	80,000	-
UK	753,024	753,024	-
CANADA	110,965	110,965	-
DFAIT	1,852,654	1,852,654	-
DENMARK	199,997	199,997	-
NORWAY	193,496	193,496	-
TOTAL	5,307,743	5,238,585	69,158

Financial utilization

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity [1 January – 31 March, 2009]

Activity	BUDGET [year-2009]	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity01 [Capacity Dev. MOJ PLA Unit]	537333	28601	502486	5
Activity02 [Capacity Dev. Supreme Court]	861197	60915	806528	7
Activity03 [Project Management Operations]	184242	126555	57686	69
UNDP GMS (based on donor agreements) 5%	119279	16409	102870	14
Total	1702051	232481	1469570	14%

Table 3: Quarterly expenditure by donor [1 January, 2009 – 31 March, 2009]

DONORS	ACTIVITY	BUDGET [2009]	QUARTERLY EXPENDITUR	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE (%)	REMARKS
NETHERLAND	Activity01 [Capacity Dev. MOJ PLA Unit]	945	945	0		
	Activity03 [Project Management Operations]	115065	115065	0		
	GMS 7% as per agreement	8878	8878	0		
Subtotal Netherland]		124888	124888	0	100%	
DFAIT	Activity01 [Capacity Dev. MOJ PLA Unit]	536388	27656	508732		
	Activity02 [Capacity Dev. Supreme Court]	861197	60915	800282		
	Activity03 [Project Management Operations]	69177	11490	57686		
	GMS 7% as per agreement	110401	7531	102870		
Subtotal [DFAIT]		1577163	107593	1469570	14%	
		1702051	232481	1469570	14%	