



United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan
[Support for an Effective Afghan Legislature] ([SEAL])
[Second] Quarter Project Progress Report – [2009]



Senators meet Governor of Balkh Province on their oversight visit

Project ID: 00059607
Duration: March 2008-February 2012 (four years)
Strategic Plan Component: Fostering Democratic Governance (2.1)
CPAP Component: State Capacity enhanced to promote responsive governance and democratization
ANDS Component: Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights
Total Budget: USD: 15,316,166
Responsible Agency: UNDP

SEALII DONORS

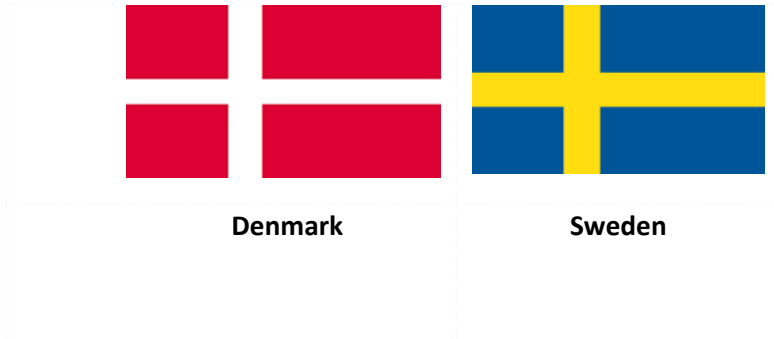


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Executive Summary

The project in the second quarter has enhanced the parliamentary capacity to exercise legislative responsibilities by conducting workshop on Bill Drafting, initiating the process for developing an electronic computer-based web-enabled legislative tracking system for the National Assembly.

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.

Regular support for participation in official parliamentary travel has been provided. A delegation of 3 senators from Meshrano Jirga and 8 members from Wolesi Jirga attended the 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April. 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. Three Members of Wolesi Jirga and two Senators of Meshrano Jirga attended the 18th Annual session of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at Lithuania between 29th June and 3rd July 2009. These visits were aimed to enhance MPs capacity on effective policy/decision making and have been conducted as part of an agreement with Parliament for supporting targeted international travels.

In order to strengthen communication between the members and their constituencies a radio studio has been established and training for staff to operate the equipments has commenced. Support for rental costs of necessary accommodation to house the National Assembly, secretariat and for publication of official Gazette continued.

The capacity building exercises and technical advice to Commissions continued as technical staff were available, however many of the outputs are delayed because of lack/shortage of funds.

Context

As per the 2001 Bonn Agreement donor partners agreed to support the establishment of an Afghan legislature. SEAL was launched in February 2005 to ensure the timely establishment of the Afghan parliament and support its functioning. In December 2005 following national elections, a bi-cameral National Assembly consisting of 351 members came into being. The project achieved a great deal but the institution remained at a developmental stage requiring continual strengthening over the next several years.

The SEAL II was launched in June 2008 as a response to this need and builds on the achievements of the first phase of support to the Afghan legislature undertaken by UNDP and donor partners during 2005-2008. The objective of SEAL II is to develop "an effective, efficient and accountable Parliament" with an increased emphasis on developing national expertise through coaching, mentoring and technical training. The broad focus areas of the project are legislative process, parliamentary oversight of the executive, representational duties of members and senators, development of effective decision making framework and parliamentary administration. The intended beneficiaries are the National Assembly, staff of the secretariat who run the National Assembly and the Afghan people. Empowering the National Assembly by providing technical/administrative support for the National Assembly comes under the governance, Rule of

Law and Human rights Pillar of the ANDS. The SEAL II seeks to realise the CPAP outcome regarding enhancing state capacity to promote responsive governance and democratization.

Implementation Progress

Output 1

Enhanced parliamentary capacity to exercise legislative responsibilities

Legislative Tracking

SEAL project team conducted a study in the last quarter to assess legislative tracking system of the parliament. As a result of this study, the team recommended for establishment of an electronic Bill tracking system. Accordingly, the broad parameters of a web-based legislative tracking system, the user interface, the nature of database and the possible search formats for meaningful use of the software were devised. The project commenced the procurement for the Legislative Tracking Software in this quarter.

Workshop on Bill Drafting

The project conducted a Workshop on Bill Drafting primarily for the Staff on Commissions of Interior Security of Wolesi Jirga and Mesharano Jirga. The workshop was attended by the research department and the security department of the National Assembly and the research assistants of the SEAL Project. Out of the twelve participants, there were two women-one from the Commission on 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.

Oversight of Security Sector is an important component of the project mandate. United Nations Programme of Action (UNPOA) on SAWL is significant and nations are engaged in drafting legislations regarding SALW. International Conferences on SALW are focussing on parliamentarians to achieve this. Through this Workshop the topic was introduced to the National Assembly and the important aspects of a legislation of SALW were focussed upon.

Handbook for Members of National Assembly

Handbook for Members is a regular reference book in almost all established parliaments across the world. It contains information about Parliament, its procedures, privileges, details about the Commission and its working, procedural devices available to members to raise issues in the House, amenities for members, information about the secretariat, etc. It is a good publication for the orientation and information of newly elected members. Efforts were initiated in this quarter to develop a handbook for the members of the Afghan parliament. Discussion, Information collections were undertaken and a draft structure of the Handbook was developed.

Code of conduct for the members of National Assembly

The code of conduct was submitted to the Administration Board and to the Commission for further discussion in the National Assembly in the last quarter. The project has been informed that members of the commission are of 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. At the same time, the project is aware that in other Parliaments also, there have been disagreements on the adoption of a code for parliamentarians. However, after sustained efforts by all the stakeholders over a period it gets accepted. In the national Assembly of Afghanistan, SEAL will continue pursuing the issue and holding discussions seminars, etc. till it gets larger acceptability.

Reading room for the members of National Assembly

SEAL has procured furniture and other equipments necessary to set up a reading room for members of the National Assembly. However, there is still no final word from the National Assembly as they continue to debate about separate reading rooms for both the Houses.

Output 2

Parliament effectively and responsibly oversees the activity of the Executive

SEAL organised an oversight visit for the Finance and Budget Commission of Meshrano Jirga to Mazhar-e-sharif, Balkh province.

The Commission members met the Governor, discussed issues of concern relating to the province and visited some of the important offices to oversee their working. The senators found the functioning of some of the provincial offices satisfactory and in some cases they realised that there is need for central funding. The event is recognised as a tool for overseeing the executive functioning.

Oversight Tool for the Finance Commission

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 Mazhar-e-sharif, Balkh Province. It was very much appreciated and senators expressed their desire that it may be brought out as a sort of Handbook.

Suggestions for a sub-committee on Public Accounts

SEAL had a meeting with the Chair of the Budget, Finance, Banking Affairs and Accounts Commission of Wolesi Jirga. A discussion took place regarding the formation of a sub-committee for discussion on the report of the Auditor-General and other public accounts matters. The Chair took the view that it can be better discharged through the entire commission. SEAL team encouraged Commission Chair to initiate review of the Audited accounts from the office of the Auditor-General. No particular interest was shown in this regard.

Meeting on Political Parties

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.

Gender perspective to legislation (Education Law)

A Presidential Decree proclaimed by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan prior to the existence of Afghan Assembly on education Law which guarantees access to free primary education to all was debated in the Afghan parliament. Along with UNIFEM, SEAL is engaged in bringing forth a gender focus to the Education Law. Amendments have been agreed upon on the

draft Law and it is planned that once the National Assembly comes back after recess, advocacy for a gender perspective on the pending education law will be undertaken by SEAL.

Oversight of the security sector

A need was identified to have a short term security sector expert to brief members/senators of the Commission on Interior Affairs and Commission of Defence. Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) was contacted and they have provided names of two experts who may be available for briefing members/ senators of the Afghan Parliament.

Output 3

Strengthened dialogue between Parliament and citizens

Radio-studio:

In the last quarter a radio-studio was established by SEAL for the National Assembly. The Parliament requested SEAL to provide a transmitter in order to directly broadcast their sessions and MPs interviews, however due to conflict of interest among MPs and secretariat of the two houses, SEAL could not consider this request for support. The project team held discussion with the secretariats and suggested that parliament should produce programmes in its studio and the transmission could be done through RTA and other private Radio channels. It resulted in the delay of the operation of Radio studio for the production of programmes

Official Gazette:

In this quarter SEAL has continued to provide support for essential parliamentary publications namely, the Official Gazette of each House, which contains the verbatim records of the House, an important documentation of the work of the first National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

SEAL Project also continued the editing of Parliamentary Publications. More importantly, SEAL provided support to Parliament in the translation of a huge number of official documents on regular basis on their request.

Dissemination of educational material in Schools

During the reporting period, SEAL distributed printed educational materials in four regions (Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Herat) these materials included; 10,000 educational books and 10,000 brochures which has basic information about the MPs and Parliament. The feedback on the results of these printed materials will be reported next quarter.

Output 4

Strengthened capacity for effective decision/policy making

SEAL has an agreement with the National Assembly to sponsor travel for Senators and Members for essential parliamentary travel. In this quarter SEAL has funded the travel arrangements for three parliamentary conferences.

A delegation of 3 senators from Meshrano Jirga and 8 members from Wolesi Jirga attended the 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April. One lady member was part of the delegation. Attending the IPU session at Addis Ababa, the MPs got a sense of the adverse impact of the international economic crisis on the global economy, in particular the developing nations. They had an opportunity to consider the role parliaments can play in

mitigating the social and political impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sections of society.

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. A presentation was made by the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan. The delegation from the National Assembly got a feel of the international perception on Afghanistan and participated in the discussions on the future orientation of NATO in Afghanistan.

Three Members of Wolesi Jirga and two Senators of Meshrano Jirga attended the 18th Annual session of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at Lithuania between 29th June and 3rd July 2009. At this 18th 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.

Mentoring of MPs attending Conferences abroad:

SEAL provided mentoring and briefing support to a female Senator on her visit to attend a Conference of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in United States.

SEAL also gave inputs and assisted with presentation for a senator who was going to attend a regional Conference on Foreign policy held in Pakistan.

Output5

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.

SEAL made efforts to arrange for the annual external assessment of parliamentary security performance in this quarter. The project continued to support for rental costs of necessary accommodation to house parliamentarians and parliamentary administration.

Challenges

Risk

1. Security is a major factor.

The project office which is outside the green zone, the number of guards has been increased from four to eight. A member of the staff has been made the security focal point in the project office resulting in better contact with Country Office and the security branch.

Elections, both presidential and provincial Council, have added to the security concerns. Many outreach and constituency-related tasks have been placed in the backburner because of such concerns.

2. Elections are likely to delay certain activities.

Experts who have been identified by DCAF, for briefing the Commissions on Interior Security in the National Assembly could not be called as it is doubtful whether the House would sit as members are expected to be busy with campaign activities. In addition there are security concerns too. Therefore, chances are that the international expert on security may be called only in the next quarter in October.

3. Shortage/lack of funds in the account especially in the month of April and May delayed certain activities.

The tendering process for the legislative tracking system got delayed by two months. The printing of the Official Gazette or the debates of the National Assembly is delayed.

The Danish money was nearly over and the cost sharing agreement with Sweden came through only in May and the funds became available only in June. Another issue plaguing the fund position in the project is the currency rate fluctuations. To resolve the resource crunch in the project, meetings have been initiated with the Embassy of United Kingdom. The ambassador of Australia too has evinced interest in the project in the meetings with the Country Office team.

4. Data which will get stored on the server as a result of the legislative tracking software may be subject to careless handling.

There is need to put in place secure procedures for electronic data security. The technical capacity of the staff of the National Assembly who will be inputting the data is another big issue. The software firm which is to provide the software has been asked to provide the necessary training.

5. Likelihood of losing important information about the functioning of the National Assembly because of non-printing of Official Gazette/debates of the National Assembly

SEAL has been funding the publication of the Official Gazette of both the Houses. However, because of in-house reasons and shortage of funding in the project, there is now a backlog. A view is expressed that there is no need to print the debates of last year little realising that it has archival value and is a record for the future about the activities of the first National Assembly. The project, in order to cover the period and bring the process up to the current session, has suggested to print only mandated number and therefore, limited number of copies of the earlier sessions which will be good for documenting the work of the NA. And from the last session onwards the full number of copies may be printed.

6. Lack of political organisation such as political parties in the National Assembly affects effective decision-making

The National Assembly consists of 249 members and 102 senators. They are not organised in any manner like in other Parliaments because of lack of proper political groupings/parties, etc. As a result there are hardly any identifiable patterns in voting or decision-making on policy issues. Also, future focus areas for members/senators are not clear which makes it a challenge to work towards enhancing the decision-making/ policy making role of the National Assembly. This is apparent in the manner in which many of the legislative issues are finally decided in the plenary sessions. Most Parliaments have political groups/Parties which result in identifiable trends in voting by members in the House on

different issues and thereby effective decision-making by Parliament as a representative body. In order to promote better decision-making through effective political groupings, an effort was made by the project in this quarter to bring together various stakeholders to discuss the possibilities and experience of working with political parties, especially within the National Assembly.

Issues

There are 351 members of the National Assembly and equal number of officials who need training. No two commissions are likely to be engaged with a similar bill. Their field of activity is extremely specialised. A workshop focuses on a limited group quite possibly belonging to different Commissions. In such a workshop topics of general concern may be advocated however they do not have enough skills to relate the techniques to issues of concern to their specific commissions. In view of this, the project has started working with particular commissions and their domain of work in order to enhance their capacity to deliver better.

The Commission Chair does not seem to appreciate the necessity of a Public Accounts Committee in the National Assembly which is a regular feature in most of the Parliaments across the world. The necessity of having the reports of AG analysed in the Commission is not clearly understood. There is need for raising awareness on the importance of such commissions in the Afghan parliament.

National Assembly was in recess. Once it returns from recess, in view of the elections, members and senators will be busy in campaigning. This is likely to affect the scheduling of various capacity building exercises of the project. Also, the project will need to focus more on capacity building exercises in the last quarter when the newly elected members of the Meshrano Jirga too join the National Assembly after the elections.

The security of legislative data is a major risk. SEAL has insisted on effective in-built security measures within the software with the firm.

Lessons Learned

SEAL Annual Work plan revision and review together with secretariats of the both houses was a good exercise for further enhancing ownership by the parliament.

Access and communication with the parliament improved due to deployment of three SEAL staff at the parliament secretariat rather than working from the project office.

Future Plans

Legislative Tracking Software will be installed and made operational in the national Assembly.

Handbook for Members of the National Assembly will be completed, discussed and approved by the National Assembly. It will be brought out as a publication in three languages, Dari, Pashto and English.

Handbook on Budget Oversight will be completed and will be translated and distributed to MPs.

Security concerns permitting, an international expert recommended by DCAF will be here in the next quarter to brief the Commissions of Interior of both Houses and the Commission on Defence on security issues.

Financial Section

[Note: All financial data presented in this report are provisional. From UNDP Bureau of Management/Office of Finance and Administration, an annual certified financial statement as of 31 December will be submitted every year no later than 30 June of the following year.]

Table 1. Funding Overview

Donor	Commitment (Currency of the Agreement)	Received (Currency of the Agreement)	Received (USD)	UNORE	Balance (Currency of the Agreement)
UNDP Core	USD 100,000	100,000	100,000		-
Denmark	USD 695,866	695,866	695,866		-
Sweden	SEK 20,000,000	10,000,000	944,093		10,000,000
Total			1,739,959		

Table 2: Expenditure Status (by activity)

Activity	Budget	Donor	Expenditure Status at Date		Expenditure in Reporting Quarter		Quarter Expenditure	Total Expenditure	Balance	Delivery
			Commitment	Disbursement	Commitment	Disbursement				
Activity01	-	00012		45,316	(13,703)	13,703	-	45,316	(45,316)	
Activity01	49,755	00095	(18,961)	368,090	23,479	208,417	231,896	349,129	(299,374)	
Activity01	283,739	00555	-	6,615	13,903	8,857	22,760	6,615	277,124	
GMS	25,102						19,168	26,776	(1,674)	
Sub-Total	358,596	-	(18,961)	420,021	23,679	230,977	273,824	427,836	(69,240)	119%
Activity02	180,000	00095	-	20,189	-	-	-	20,189	159,811	
Activity02	235,440	00555	-	-	-	-	-	-	235,440	
GMS	31,269							1,520	29,749	
Sub-Total	446,709	-	-	20,189	-	-	-	21,709	425,000	5%
Activity03	176,200	00555	-	-	-	-	-	-	176,200	
Activity03	-	00095	(770)	10,141	-	43,655	43,655	9,371	(9,371)	
Activity03	-	00012	(14,690)	14,690			-	-	-	
GMS	13,262						3,286	705	12,557	
Sub-Total	189,462	-	(15,460)	24,831	-	43,655	46,941	10,076	179,386	5%
Activity04	18,000	00555	-	-	-	300	300	-	18,000	
Activity04	-	00095	12,688	56,901	(51,562)	51,954	392	69,589	(69,589)	
GMS	1,355						52	5,238	(3,883)	
Sub-Total	19,355	-	12,688	56,901	(51,562)	52,254	744	74,827	(55,472)	387%
Activity05	-	00555	-	1,280	-	1,280	1,280	1,280	(1,280)	
Activity05	20,000	00095	-	3,700	-	1,590	1,590	3,700	16,300	
GMS	1,505						216	375	1,130	

Sub-Total	21,505	-	-	4,980	-	2,870	3,086	5,355	16,150	25%
Activity06	100,000	00012	(13,703)	68,387			-	54,684	45,316	
Activity06	164,628	00555	-	1,015	780	2,772	3,552	1,015	163,613	
Activity06	397,401	00095	(77,306)	275,784	(88,150)	158,210	70,060	198,478	198,923	
GMS	42,303						5,541	15,016	27,287	
Sub-Total	704,332	-	(91,009)	345,186	(87,370)	160,982	79,153	269,193	435,139	38%

Grand - Total	1,739,959	-	(112,742)	872,108	(115,253)	490,738	403,747	808,996	930,963	46%
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GMS of 7% is added manually

Table 3. Expenditure Status (by donor)

Donor	Budget	Activity	Expenditure Status at Date		Expenditure in Reporting Quarter		Quarter Expenditure	Total Expenditure	Balance	Delivery
			Commitment	Disbursement	Commitment	Disbursement				
UNDP Core	-	Activity01		45,316	(13,703)	13,703	-	45,316	(45,316)	
UNDP Core	-	Activity03	(14,690)	14,690	-	-	-	-	-	
UNDP Core	100,000	Activity06	(13,703)	68,387	-	-	-	54,684	45,316	
Sub-Total	100,000	-	(28,393)	128,393	(13,703)	13,703	-	100,000	-	100%
Denmark	49,755	Activity01	(18,961)	368,090	23,479	208,417	231,896	349,129	(299,374)	
Denmark	180,000	Activity02	-	20,189	-	-	-	20,189	159,811	
Denmark	-	Activity03	(770)	10,141	-	43,655	43,655	9,371	(9,371)	
Denmark	-	Activity04	12,688	56,901	(51,562)	51,954	392	69,589	(69,589)	
Denmark	20,000	Activity05	-	3,700	-	1,590	1,590	3,700	16,300	
Denmark	397,401	Activity06	(77,306)	275,784	(88,150)	158,210	70,060	198,478	198,923	
	48,710	GMS	-	-	-	-	26,163	48,959	(249)	
Sub-Total	695,866	-	(84,349)	734,805	(116,233)	463,826	373,756	699,415	-	101%

									(3,549)	
Sweden	283,739	Activity01	-	6,615	13,903	8,857	22,760	6,615	277,124	
Sweden	235,440	Activity02	-	-	-		-	-	235,440	
Sweden	176,200	Activity03	-	-	-		-	-	176,200	
Sweden	18,000	Activity04	-	-	-	300	300	-	18,000	
Sweden	-	Activity05	-	1,280	-	1,280	1,280	1,280	(1,280)	
Sweden	164,628	Activity06	-	1,015	780	2,772	3,552	1,015	163,613	
Sweden	66,086	GMS	-	-	-		2,099	671	65,415	
Sub-Total	944,093	-	-	8,910	14,683	13,209	29,991	9,581	934,512	1%
Grand - Total	1,739,959	-	(112,742)	872,108	(115,253)	490,738	403,747	808,996	930,963	46%

GMS of 7% is added manually

Annexes

Annex I: Performance Tracking Matrix

Output 1: Enhanced parliamentary capacity to exercise its legislative responsibilities			
Indicators	Indicative Activities	Inputs	Progress
<p>Indicator 1.1 Parliamentarians effectively exercise their constitutional authority to enact and amend legislation and study and adopt international treaties.</p> <p>Baseline: Limited capacity to scrutinise and initiate bills and heavy backlog of legislative decrees</p> <p>Benchmark: Enhanced legislative capacity established; by 2009, backlog of decree legislation reviewed and processed</p>	<p>Examination of legislative backlog and adoption of a plan of action to address the backlog and enact a strategy for dealing with decree legislation</p> <p>Provision of confirmed legal expertise to the leadership of both chambers to support interpretation and clarification of constitutional responsibilities and legislative/executive interface</p> <p>Training of staff and parliamentarians in legislative drafting including amendment processes</p> <p>Training of parliamentary research staff in comparative legislative research and analysis</p> <p>Setting up joint service department of</p>	<p>Short and longer-term contracted training (national and international consultants)</p> <p>Subscriptions</p> <p>Workshops and training</p> <p>International Technical support</p> <p>Equipments and expert support for setting of Research</p>	<p>SEAL project team conducted a study in the last quarter to assess legislative tracking system of the parliament. As a result of this study, the team recommended for establishment of an electronic Bill tracking system. Accordingly, the broad parameters of a web-based legislative tracking system, the user interface, the nature of database and the possible search formats for meaningful use of the software were devised.</p> <p>The code of conduct was submitted to the Administration Board and to the Commission for further discussion in the National Assembly in the last quarter. The project has been informed that members of the commission are of 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</p>

	<p>research and analysis</p>	<p>and Analysis dept</p> <p>Travel and International study tours</p>	<p>challenge for SEAL to get the draft Code of Conduct approved and made applicable in the National Assembly. At the same time, the project is aware that in other Parliaments also, there have been disagreements on the adoption of a code for parliamentarians. However, after sustained efforts by all the stakeholders over a period it gets accepted. In the national Assembly of Afghanistan, SEAL will continue pursuing the issue and holding discussions seminars, etc. till it gets larger acceptability.</p> <p>The project conducted a Workshop on Bill Drafting primarily for the Staff on Commissions of Interior Security of Wolesi Jirga and Mesharano Jirga. The workshop was attended by the research department and the security department of the National Assembly and the research assistants of the SEAL Project. Out of the twelve participants, there were two women-one from the Commission on 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.</p>
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<p>Indicator 1.3 : Legislative documentation is produced accurately, consistently, and in a timely fashion</p> <p>Baseline: limited capacity for legislative documentation</p> <p>Benchmark: Adequate equipment and capacity for smooth production and documentation of legislations</p>	<p>Support acquisition of necessary equipment (recording and transcription hardware and software) to facilitate production of parliamentary records and draw up standard production work processes and timelines for legislative documentation production</p>	<p>Short-term international expertise in Hansard processes</p> <p>Equipment for Hansard production</p> <p>SEAL management team support in development of work protocols</p>	<p>SEAL has procured furniture and other equipments necessary to set up a reading room for members of the National Assembly. However, there is still no final word from the National Assembly as they continue to debate about separate reading rooms for both the Houses.</p>
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Output 2: Parliament effectively and responsibly oversees the activities of the Executive

Indicators	Indicative Activities	Inputs	Progress
<p>Indicator 2.2: Parliamentary commissions conduct executive oversight activities in the field</p> <p>Baseline: Limited and ad-hoc field visits</p> <p>Benchmark: establishing a long term oversight strategy and carrying out systematic oversight activities in the field</p>	<p>Provide seed funding for conduct of on-the-ground oversight missions, using a staged approach</p> <p>Provide mentoring support for selected MPs and priority committees Providing mentoring “learning by doing” support for</p>	<p>Financing for national and regional consultation workshops</p> <p>Travel and field missions costs</p> <p>Travel and International study missions</p>	<p>SEAL organised an oversight visit for the Finance and Budget Commission of Meshrano Jirga to Mazhar-e-sharif, Balkh province. The Commission members met the Governor, discussed issues of concern relating to the province and visited some of the important offices to oversee their working. The senators found the functioning of some of the provincial offices satisfactory and in some cases they realised that there is need for central funding. The event is recognised as a tool for overseeing the executive functioning.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.3 Parliament exercises responsible and effective oversight in key areas including the security sector and anti-corruption</p> <p>Baseline: Limited capacity for conducting effective oversight of security sector and anti-corruption</p> <p>Benchmark: Enhanced capacity and means for effective oversight of security sector,</p>	<p>Provide training by a confirmed international organization with expertise in democratic oversight of the security sector to parliament commissions and leadership, ministries, and the SEAL project, to develop a plan of action for oversight of the security sector</p> <p>Undertake pilot fact-finding missions to the provinces on security issues and concerns</p> <p>Organising forum including</p>	<p>Sub contract International organization with recognised expertise on democratic oversight of the security sector to support process</p> <p>Support through technical and financial means the forum on long-term strategy for security sector</p>	<p>A need was identified to have a short term security sector expert to brief members/senators of the Commission on Interior Affairs and Commission of Defence. Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) was contacted and they have provided names of two experts who may be available for briefing members/ senators of the Afghan Parliament.</p> <p>In order to comprehensively oversee the activity of the executive, an oversight Tool was prepared for</p>

Indicators	Indicative Activities	Inputs	Progress
<p>revised legislations in view of UNCAC</p>	<p>commission and executive representatives to assess lessons learnt and to plan longer-term strategy for security sector oversight</p> <p>Support the ratification process of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption</p>	<p>oversight</p> <p>Technical support for the study of UNCAC and its broad implications for Afghanistan legislation</p> <p>Expert advisor to a parliamentary strategy on anti-corruption</p> <p>Financial seed funding for implementation of a parliamentary anti-corruption strategy</p>	<p>use of the Finance Commission which went on a visit to Mazhar-e-sharief, Balkh Province. It was very much appreciated and senators expressed their desire that it may brought out as a sort of Handbook.</p> <p>SEAL had a meeting with the Chair of the Budget, Finance, Banking Affairs and Accounts Commission of Wolesi Jirga. A discussion took place regarding the formation of a sub-committee for discussion on the report of the Auditor-General and other public accounts matters. The Chair took the view that it can be better discharged through the entire commission. SEAL team encouraged Commission Chair to initiate review of the Audited accounts from the office of the Auditor-General. No particular interest was shown in this regard.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.4: Legislations and policies respond to the needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups in society</p> <p>Baseline: Legislations and policies do not reflect the needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>Benchmark: The women and children commissions of both houses are capacitated to play</p>	<p>Provide support to the women and children commissions in developing a work plan to assess differential impacts of legislative and policy decisions on women, children and other vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Long-term national consultant expert in gender mainstreaming on cost sharing basis with Gender Mainstreaming project</p> <p>Short-term international consultant expertise for capacity building of women MPs</p>	<p>A Presidential Decree proclaimed by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan prior to the existence of Afghan Assembly on education Law which guarantees access to free primary education to all was debated in the Afghan parliament. Along with UNIFEM, SEAL is engaged in bringing forth a gender focus to the Education Law. Amendments have been agreed upon on the draft Law and it is planned that once the National Assembly comes back after recess, advocacy for a gender perspective on the pending education law</p>

Indicators	Indicative Activities	Inputs	Progress
a key role in making policies and legislation to respond to the needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups		Seed funding support for missions to provinces Travel and International training costs	will be undertaken by SEAL

Output 4: Strengthened capacity for effective decision/policy making			
Indicators	Indicative Activities	Inputs	Progress
<p>Indicator 4.1: Parliament acts as a conduit for public perspectives in the pre-budget process</p> <p>Baseline: Parliament is involved in the budget and ANDS process but generally not in a systematic manner,</p> <p>Benchmark: Budget approval process made participatory, enhanced</p>	<p>4.1 Organisation of pre-budget consultation hearings by Wolesi Jirga Finance and Budget Commission and involving representatives of interest groups / civil society / general public</p> <p>4.2 Workshop on conducting differential impact analysis offered to Finance Commissions of both chambers, commissioning analysis of select aspects of differential impact budget analysis (e.g. gender, youth, urban / rural) and</p> <p>4.3 implementation of differential analysis to support budget discussions</p>	<p>SEAL management support to negotiations, consultation organization</p> <p>International and National Technical Advisors on budget and policy analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Travel costs for international study tours ▪ Finance for training workshops 	<p>SEAL has an agreement with the National Assembly to sponsor travel for Senators and Members for essential parliamentary travel. In this quarter SEAL has funded the travel arrangements for three parliamentary conferences.</p> <p>A delegation of 3 senators from Meshrano Jirga and 8 members from Wolesi Jirga attended the 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April. One lady member was part of the delegation. Attending the IPU session at Addis Ababa, the MPs got a sense of the adverse impact of the international economic crisis on the global economy, in particular the developing nations. They had an opportunity to consider the role parliaments can play in mitigating the social and political impact of the international economic and</p>

Indicators	Indicative Activities	Inputs	Progress
parliament engagement in ANDS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication and documentation 	<p>financial crisis on the most vulnerable sections of society.</p> <p>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. A presentation was made by the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan. The delegation from the National Assembly got a feel of the international perception on Afghanistan and participated in the discussions on the future orientation of NATO in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Three Members of Wolesi Jirga and two Senators of Meshrano Jirga attended the 18th Annual session of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at Lithuania between 29th June and 3rd July 2009. At this 18th 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</p>
Indicator 4.2. Budget oversight conducted throughout Afghanistan	4.4 Organise field missions of parliamentary commissions to assess budget expenditure accomplishments (results and performance review) in	National / international expertise on differential impact budgeting	SEAL provided mentoring and briefing support to a female Senator on her visit to attend a Conference of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in United States.

Indicators	Indicative Activities	Inputs	Progress
<p>Baseline: zero</p> <p>Benchmark: long term strategy in place and inputs collected analysed on differential budget impact</p>	<p>specific programme areas</p>	<p>SEAL Management support</p> <p>Seed funding for missions</p>	<p>SEAL also gave inputs and assisted with presentation for a senator who was going to attend a regional Conference on Foreign policy held in Pakistan.</p>

Annex II: Risk Log

RISK LOG

Project Title: SEAL	Award ID:00043217	Date: 15 July 2009
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#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted , updated by	Last Update	Status
	The National Assembly consists of 351 members/senators. The membership of the House is amorphous, not clearly organised. There are hardly any identifiable patterns in voting, decision-making on policy issues and future focus areas for members/senat	<i>During second quarter 2009</i>	This is Operational, Organizational and Political type of risk	It is a challenge to work towards enhancing the decision-making/ policy making role of the National Assembly. This is apparent in the manner in which many of the legislative issues are finally decided in the plenary sessions.	An effort was made by the project in this quarter to bring together various stakeholders to discuss the possibilities and experience of working with political parties, especially within the National Assembly.	<i>SEAL Project Team</i>	Lakshmi Pillai, Technical Advisor		On going

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2	in view of the elections, members and senators will be busy campaigning and attending workshops may not be priority.	During second quarter of 2009	Political	This is likely to affect the scheduling of various capacity building exercises of the project.	the project will focus more on capacity building exercises in the last quarter when the newly elected members of the Meshrano Jirga too join the National Assembly after the elections	SEAL Project Team	Lakshmi Pillai, Technical Advisor	Ongoing
3	The security of legislative data is a major risk.	During second quarter of 2009	Operational	this will have impact on MPs performance	SEAL Project will develop a computerised legislative tracking system for the Parliament	Parliament	Lakshmi Pillai, Technical Advisor	Ongoing
4								

Annex III: Issue Log¹

ISSUES LOG						Date: 15 July 2009
Award ID: 00043217			(Description)	Project:		
ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/Priority	Status Change Date	Author
1	Financial	Second quarter 2009	SEAL has been funding the publication of the Official Gazette of both the Houses. However, because of in-house reasons and shortage of funding in the project, there is now a backlog.	Ongoing /Medium	Pending, discussion is on going to address the issue	Izatullah Safi, Head of Communication and Public Outreach