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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Rule of Law Stabilization Program

OVERVIEW

USAID has a long-term commitment to support the rule of law in Afghanistan. The Rule of Law Stabilization Program works with both the formal (state institutions) and informal (community-based dispute resolution) systems.

The program aims to: 1) build the capacity of the judiciary and law schools, 2) strengthen public legal awareness, and 3) increase stability through support of the informal justice system. The formal component develops the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increases access to justice (particularly for women), and increases public demand for rule of law. The informal component fosters linkages between the formal and informal justice systems, increases access to justice, and increases stability through the resolution of conflicts.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Formal component

- Build capacity for the Supreme Court including professional training for judges
- Build capacity for the Anti-Corruption Court including designing and building the new court
- Develop a case tracking system and training of judges and administrators on the system
- Computerize and distribute Afghanistan's laws
- Provide training in interactive teaching methodologies for law school faculty
- Develop a core curriculum for all of the nation's law schools

Informal component

- Familiarize *jirgas* (traditional dispute-resolution councils) with Afghan law with an emphasis on women's rights
- Link *jirgas* in a more formalized manner with the district courts
- Train farmers and herders on dispute-resolution

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Expanded training program for new judges from one year to two years
- Developed and trained moot court teams at five law schools throughout the country
- Increased understanding in four selected kinetic districts of how communities resolve disputes, including land disputes which are having a particularly destabilizing impact on those communities
- Established networks of village elders to improve their dispute-resolution capabilities
- Established six community-run information centers to increase citizens' understanding of rights
- Initiated the design of the new Anti-Corruption Tribunal