



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
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ASSISTANCE TO LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF AFGHANISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT

USAID FY 18, Q1 (October – December 2017)



January 31, 2018

*This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development.
It was prepared by DAI Global LLC (DAI).*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	3
INTRODUCTION TO ALBA AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
PROGRAM RESULTS.....	6
OBJECTIVE ONE – STRENGTHENED LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES.....	6
OBJECTIVE TWO – IMPROVED OVERSIGHT	11
OBJECTIVE THREE – INCREASED OUTREACH CAPACITY	15
OBJECTIVE FOUR – INCREASED INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT	18
ATTACHMENTS	22

CONTRACT DETAILS

Program Title: Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan

IQC: Strengthening Legislative Bodies IQC

Contract Number: OAA-I-12-00003/AID-306-TO-13-00004

Contractor: DAI Global LLC

Period of Performance: March 28, 2013 – March 27, 2018

Contracting Officer's Representative: Malina Mirkhail

Contracting Officer: Adam Walsh

Chief of Party: Paul King

Cover Photo: View of the Wolesi Jirga from the public gallery

THE FOUR OBJECTIVES OF ALBA

STRENGTHEN
LEGISLATIVE
PROCESSES



IMPROVE
OVERSIGHT



INCREASE
OUTREACH



INCREASE
INSTITUTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



ACRONYMS

ALBA	Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan
ANA	Afghanistan National Army
ANP	Afghanistan National Police
API	Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contract Officer's Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
CSTU-A	Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan
CSU	Commission Support Unit
DABS	Da Afghanistan Breshna Sharkat
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DIPR	Directorate of Information and Public Relations
GOA	Government of Afghanistan
MJ	Meshrano Jirga
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOPA	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MSI	Management Systems International
NDS	National Directorate for Security
NPC	National Procurement Committee
PACC	Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus
PC	Provincial Council
ROP	Rules of Procedure
SIGAR	Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WJ	Wolesi Jirga

INTRODUCTION

ASSISTANCE TO LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF AFGHANISTAN

The Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA) project is a five-year technical assistance initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), implemented by DAI Global LLC (DAI). Work under the project supports strengthening the Afghan Parliament to enable it to operate as an independent and effective legislative, representative and oversight body.

USAID's Development Objective (DO) 3 for Democracy and Governance in Afghanistan is "Performance and Legitimacy of GoA Improved". Five intermediate results (IRs) comprise this DO. ALBA supports *IR 3.2 Strengthened governance and service delivery at national and sub-national levels*. Specifically, ALBA will support the following sub-IR: *IR 3.2.2: Policies and Procedures of Elected Bodies Improved*.

ALBA assists in the continued development of Afghanistan's Parliament to be a strong, effective, and independent parliamentary institution. The four key areas of the program are: Legislative Support; Oversight; Outreach; and Institutional Development of the Parliament with a major focus on parliamentary commissions as a vehicle for many project activities.

ALBA MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DECEMBER 31st, 2017

- Sponsored 61 Provincial Oversight Trips with commissions from both Houses.
- Advised on 235 Executive Oversight Actions (questionings, hearings, reports).
- Supported the passage of 95 Laws and Amendments.
- Placed 229 Top Graduates (157 male and 72 female) in Parliament through the ALBA Fellowship Program.
- Conducted 232 Trainings to 6,995 (4,909 men and 2,086 women) Secretariat and MOPA staff, advisors and ALBA Fellows.
- Sponsored 37 Public Forums attracting over 7,140 participants that encourage parliamentarians and the public to interact.
- Published 263 Publications for Parliament including Ayan Magazine, Official Gazette, Budget Oversight Bulletin and Legislative Bulletin in three languages.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under **Objective One – Strengthened Legislative Processes** Work continues on the review of the recently redrafted Afghan Penal Code that contains slightly fewer than 1,000 articles (in 2 volumes) and nullifies provisions from 38 laws that are currently under enforcement in Afghanistan. Technical assistance was provided on several laws/treaties being scrutinized in both Houses of Parliament, including the Anti-Torture Law, Child Protection Law, and the Land Management Law.

Under **Objective Two – Improved Oversight** The draft FY 1397 National Budget was presented to the Meshrano Jirga in November who forwarded it to the Wolesi Jirga with comments. The Ministry of Finance has adopted a new approach and format to the preparation of the budget which has required greater technical assistance to both Houses. As is the norm, the Budget and Oversight Team assisted commissions in both houses during the quarter in the review of the budget.

Under **Objective Three – Increased Outreach** In order to promote systems of checks and balances and to keep CSOs, Citizens, and parliamentarians in picture of the budget expenditure, the ALBA's Outreach Team together with the Budget and Oversight Team organized a conference between CSOs and PACC members on the 1395 Qatia. The members of the WJ Commission on Internal Security and Local Administrations conducted an oversight visit to Badakhshan province from November 19-23, 2017 with support from ALBA. The purpose of the oversight visit was to assess the overall security situation in Badakhshan, food shortages for police officers, monitor some of police checkpoints, and to oversee the condition of male and female prisoners. The Outreach Team assisted the WJ's Commission on Women's Affairs hold a National Conference on women's participation in local governance in December.

Under **Objective Four – Increased Institutional Development**, In Year 5 of ALBA the role of the API has shifted to coordination of mentoring and coaching provided primarily by ALBA's technical teams as well as providing administrative assistance to the Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus (PACC). As part of the mentoring and coaching sessions, the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute supported several coaching sessions to the MJ Secretariat Staff. In November, ALBA's Gender adviser held a coaching session on the implementation mechanism of Anti-Harassment Law to Commission assistants. PACC biweekly meetings were also supported during the quarter.

PROGRAM RESULTS

OBJECTIVE ONE – STRENGTHENED LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES

Overview of Indicator 1

ALBA supported legislative actions resumed their normal pace as Parliamentarians returned from their summer recess in early September. Movement was seen in indicator 1.1 and we are on track to meet Year 5 targets. ALBA continued support to several pieces of high-profile legislation that will continue to move through Parliament. The project maintains itself as a significant force in presenting analysis and research which affects the performance of commissions and votes in plenaries of both the Meshrano Jirga (MJ) and Wolesi Jirga (WJ). Overall, indicator 1.1 remains strong.

USAID Q1 and ALBA Q3

Performance Indicator ¹	USAID F-Indicator	FY 2018 Q1	Actual	ALBA Year 5 Target
1.1 Number of public policies, regulations, or reforms either introduced, revised, or implemented with USG assistance	Yes	9	20	13
1.2 Percentage of legislation produced with input from outside experts and CSOs	No	1	2	5%

Task 1.1 – Institutionalize Legislative Analysis and Drafting

Prior to the summer recess, ALBA provided support to both the WJ and MJ to strengthen ongoing analysis, amendments, and passage of legislation as well as international treaties and agreements. ALBA assistance during the quarter included:

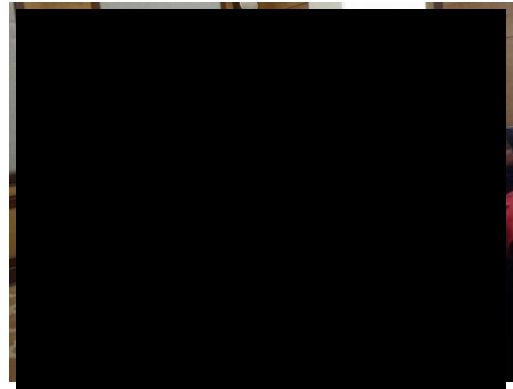
1. Afghanistan Accountancy Law
2. Agreement on Establishing the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute
3. Amendments to Public Health Law
4. Agreement between Afghanistan and UAE on Aviation Services
5. National Strategy against Corruption
6. Anti-Torture Law

¹Please note that ALBA Performance Indicators adhere to an April 2017 – April 2018 Project Year, as opposed to USAID's Fiscal Year of October 2017 – October 2018. So, while the chart shows USAID's 2017 Q1 in its indicator column, the numbers reflect ALBA Q3 results.

7. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Agreement on Investment
8. Law on Personal Affairs of Police Officers, National Security and Similar Organizations
9. Law on Urban Development and Housing
10. Land Management Law
11. Penal Code
12. Law on Regulating the Flights of Military Aircrafts and Helicopters of Foreign Countries in Afghan Airspace
13. Child Protection Law
14. Annex No (1) to Public Health Law on Creation of a Council of National Medicine
15. Law on Assets Declaration and Registration of High Officials
16. Public and Private Partnership Law
17. Parliamentary Services Bill

Law on Assets Declaration and Registration of High Officials

The Law on Assets Declaration and Registration of High Official, which has been entered into force through presidential decree No: (154) dated 05 Sep 2017, was sent to National Assembly to complete its legal process. Wolessi Jirga on their turn approved the said law and then they handed over to MJ for approval. During this quarter, the Commission on Legislative Affairs of MJ continued discussion on the law. The law, following technical advice provided by ALBA, was first reviewed and scrutinized by Committee Support Unit (CSU) and then CSU shared their views and certain amendments with the commission members for further discussion and debate. Reviewing the amendments proposed by CSU, Commission decided to invite Officials from Ministry of Justice and Administrative Office of the President to further clarify the following Articles:



- 1) Paragraph (1) of Article 5 that obligates the government official to declare and register their assets and assets related to their father, mother, spouse and children;
- 2) Paragraph (3) of Article 12 criminalizes senior official's engagement in any business activity during their tenure.

Public and Private Partnership Law (PPPL)

Public and Private Partnership Law, which has been passed through presidential decree No: (103) dated 1 September 2016 and published in the official gazette No: (1228) is under debate within WJ Commissions. WJ National Economy Commission (as a Principal commission) completed the analysis on the said bill and circulated to all other WJ Commissions for their inputs. ALBA together with NA staffs assisted WJ Legislative Affairs Commission in the review of the said bill. Taking into account the dire need for PPPL in Afghanistan and its impact on

economic growth, during the review process, ALBA realized that PPPL is weakly drafted that may cause more problems than it resolves. Having said this, ALBA arranged a meeting with head of Public and Private Partnership Agency (PPPA) to discuss background information and illustrate the vague parts of the said law. Head of PPPA explained the two yearlong background discussions and he then added: The PPPL is hastily drafted under tight deadlines given by President to meet international benchmarks, and a copy of the existing draft is also shared with IMF, WB and other international organizations for their inputs and feedback. However, still the PPPL is in the initial stage and need further improvement; he then shared his ideas and few amendments with ALBA. ALBA together with parliamentary staff are currently working on the law to address its problems and to further enrich its content.

Afghanistan Accountancy Law

During the reporting period, the Law on Accountancy was tabled in the agenda of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the MJ. The bill contains 21 Articles and 6 chapters, was first reviewed and analyzed by Committee Support Unit (CSU), and then presented to the Commission for further discussion and debates. However, the Commission debated the provisions of the bill and found ambiguity in some provisions of the law, therefore, upon the advice of the CSU the Commission invited relevant officials to provide clarification. After in-depth discussion on the bill with the government officials the Commission disapproved most of amendments proposed by the WJ, and added new amendments to some provisions of the bill, and then sent the amendments to the Commission on National Economic, Finance, Budget and Public Accounts of the MJ (the principal commission) for further consideration.

Land Management Law

For the past few months the WJ Environment Commission has continued to review the Land Management Law. A sub-committee was created to finalize amendments introduced by members of the commission. The sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ramin (former Minister of Agriculture and a member of the commission) continued their work in November.

Discussion on amendments of Law on International Treaties and Conventions

ALBA's Legislative Team assisted International Affairs Commission of MJ on the review and scrutiny of amendments of Law on International Treaties and Conventions. The amendments have been proposed by the government while WJ has had its own amendments. International Affairs Commission discussed the amendments and approved most of them. The Commission decided to discuss it further next week and will make the final decision.

Anti-Torture Law

The Anti-Torture Law and its Annex No: (I) were both issued as Presidential Decrees and published in the Official Gazette (No. 1256 and 1271). These are now under deliberation in WJ

Commissions. Based upon the request of the Legislative Affairs Commission, ALBA assisted commission members in the review and scrutiny. As a result of this review the Legislative Affairs Commission members merged Annex No: (1) of Anti-Torture law into Anti-Torture Law due to the fact, that at some points, the two documents were contradicting each other and to avoid duplication in legislative process. Moreover, commission members also brought necessary amendments to some provisions of the documents to be in compliance with the provisions of the new Penal Code.

Parliamentary Service Act

The Parliamentary Services Act was initially drafted by WJ Secretariat as a members' bill in order to meet IPU benchmarks. At the beginning of the legislative session, the law has been referred to the WJ Legislative Affairs Commission to complete its legal process and is included in the agenda of the commission for review and approval. Based upon the request of the commission, ALBA reviewed the content of the bill and realized that some articles of the bill are in clear contradiction with WJ Rules of Procedures and existing laws, thus they advised members of the commission to send it back to WJ Secretariat to enrich its content. The bill has been re-included in the agenda of the Legislative Affairs Commission for discussion in December and the commission requested ALBA to work with commission staff to analyze the revised version.

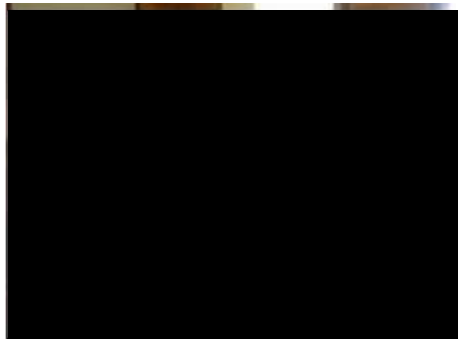
Law on Personal Affairs of Police Officers, National Security and similar organizations

This was a Presidential Decree (No: 158) dated 05 September 2017 and published in the Official Gazette No: 1272 that has been pending before the WJ Commissions for approval. This month, ALBA assisted the Legislative Affairs Commission in its review. The essential part deals with reducing the retirement age for police officers and officers of National Security and Ministry of Defense and thus the commission members were advised by ALBA to invite relevant military experts to explain the reasons for reducing the retirement age of these officers.

Penal Code

The new Penal Code, which has been passed through Presidential Decree, was sent to the National Assembly to complete its ratification. It is currently pending before the Justice and Judicial Commission of WJ and its copies have been circulated to all WJ Commission for their review and inputs. Based on the request of the WJ Commissions, ALBA has resumed review and scrutiny of the Penal Code. To derive maximum utility from this exercise, ALBA will use the Penal Code as a case study for discussion and scrutiny within the legislative skills coaching sessions that ALBA's Legislative Team holds regularly with parliamentary staff.

In December, the Commission on Women's Affairs of MJ started discussion on whether the EVAW law should be a separate law or to be inserted into new Penal Code? To this end,



ALBA's technical advisor recommended that the commission invite the Ministers of Justice and Women Affairs along with relevant CSOs to hear about the background discussions and opinions in this regard. Mrs. Delbar Nazari, Minister of the Women Affairs, and CSOs were invited by the commission and discussed the insertion of EVAW Law and Anti-harassment Law in the new Penal Code. They agreed to hold a formal hearing

session, where legal experts will also attend, and will discuss the issue in details. Dr. Abdul Basir Anwar, Minister of Justice and Mr. Ashraf Rasooli MoJ Senior legal advisor and ALBA advisors were invited by the commission to discuss the current status of the EVAW Law into the penal code. The Minister of Justice explained the five year long background discussion on the Penal Code. At the end of the session the commission decided to have internal consultation with other commissions of MJ and as well as with the WJ Women's Affairs Commission, and then they will hold a hearing session to reach a final decisions. The commission also requested ALBA to support with the hearing session.

OBJECTIVE TWO – IMPROVED OVERSIGHT

Overview of Indicator 2

Progress on indicator 2.1 passed 50 percent of the annual target, underscoring the fact that parliament actively utilizes the technical assistance provided by ALBA. As the annual budget was presented to Parliament during this quarter, ALBA saw its targets met in FY18 Q1.

USAID Q1 and ALBA Q3

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	USAID F-INDICATOR	FY 2018 Q1	ACTUAL	ALBA YEAR 5 TARGET
2.1 Number of executive oversight actions taken by legislature receiving USG assistance	Yes	21	45	45
2.2 Number of amendments/ changes made to the draft budget by the Parliament as a result of USG assistance	No	2	2	2

Task 2.1 – Increase General Oversight through Commissions

Support to Commissions: Strengthening Parliamentary Research and Budget Office

Coaching Sessions

In October, the Budget and Oversight Team held a coaching session on skills and techniques for making a presentation on the proposed budget to the Budget and Research office staff of WJ.

During the session following topics were covered:

- Using graphics while preparing presentation on national budget
- Operating and development budget financing sources
- Operating and development budget allocation on sector basis
- How to compare two years budget allocation based on sectors
- New changes proposed into the national budget
- Allocation of development budget to the provinces
- in Parts of an analytical report on development budget
- Budget linkage with broader economic and financial perspective
- Review of the national proposed budget
- Financing of the national budget for the next FY
- Internal revenue as a source of financing
- External assistance as a source of budgeting
- Loan for the next FY
- Operating and development budget details
- Provincial portion of the proposed budget

- Updated expenditure report
- New changes proposed into the national budget

Budget Execution Updates to WJ Commission on Budget and Finance

As of its last meeting in December 2017, ALBA's Budget and Oversight Team provided the WJ's Commission on Budget with an update report on budget execution of FY1396. As per the report, the current burn rate for the development budget is around 67% with 76% allotments. This report is shared with the Commission for its daily meetings. The report will also help the discussions during the questioning session of the Minister of MoF and other budgetary related official concerning the low spending rate of the budget for FY 1396.

Support Commissions in Budget Review and Scrutiny

Budget Mid-Year Review: As the government submitted the budget mid-year amendments to the WJ for approval, the ALBA budget team continued to support the WJ commission on budget in review of the document and help with the process.

Assist Commissions on the Qatia Report



Presentation on Qatia 1395: In October ALBA's Budget and Oversight Team with Budget and Research Office of the WJ presented a comprehensive presentation on Qatia report of FY 1395 to WJ commission on Defense and Territorial Integrity. At the end of the presentation, cases of law violations, causes of low rate of development budget

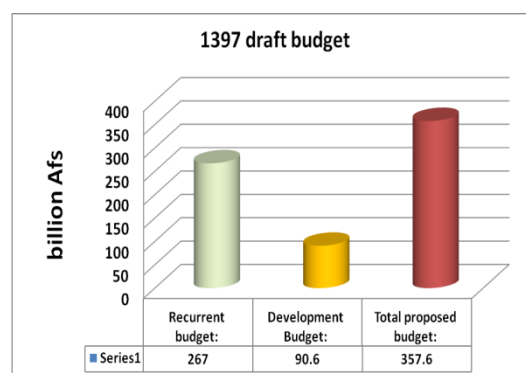
execution and development projects with zero expenditure were discussed through a Q&A session. The Commission's chairman appreciated ALBA and the research budget office for the presentation and emphasized on the need for continuation of ALBA support in this regard.

Task 2.2 – Support Parliament's Oversight of Budget Priorities & Implementation: Supporting Key Commissions on Oversight Activities

SUPPORT COMMISSIONS IN BUDGET REVIEW AND SCRUTINY

FY1397 Proposed Budget Review: During November ALBA's Budget Team reviewed the proposed FY1397 budget that was tabled with the MJ's Commission on Budget and National Economy. The following is a snapshot of the draft budget for FY1397:

The proposed budget is approximately 20% (71 billion Afg) less when compared to FY1396. This year 75% has been secured as recurrent budget and



25% has been allocated for 804 development projects.

Following are marked as proposed funding sources:

- Internal revenue: 161.6 billion Afs
- Donors' assistance: 188.4 billion Afs
- Loan to budget: 0.649 billion Afs
- Budget deficit: 6.9 billion Afs

The proposed budget shows that the security, education, and health sectors are given highest priority.

Delivering of Presentation on draft Budget FY 1397: In November ALBA's Budget and Oversight Team delivered a comprehensive presentation to the MJ's Commission on Budget and National Economy on the recently introduced FY1397 draft budget. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session. The presentation focused on the following key topics:



- General aspects of National Budget and its structure
- 1397 operating and development amounts
- 1397 budget financing sections
- Loan portion in the budget financing
- Development and operating budgets
- Provincial allocation and breakdowns
- Comparison of FY1397 proposed budget with FY1396 approved budget
- Number of development projects
- Key changes in FY 1397 proposed budget.

At the end of the presentation, the Commission chairman thanked ALBA for its support to the MJ. He emphasized that the proposed FY1397 budget has been prepared according to international standards and remarkable changes has been applied to its format. Therefore, ALBA's support is crucial for the MJ to proceed with its review.

ALBA's Budget and Oversight Team repeated its presentation on the proposed FY1397 budget to several other commissions in both houses during the months of November and December. By the end of November the MJ forwarded the budget to the WJ with recommendations. It is anticipated that the annual budget will be put to a vote in January 2018.

As the national budget was tabled to the WJ Commissions in December for review, the Budget and Oversight Team attended regular commission sessions, providing technical assistance. The support included, developing a comprehensive report on new projects included into the proposed budget, develop a summarized report on the Proposed Budget for FY1397. Following is a snapshot of the proposed budget:

Categories	Proposed budget in (000) Afs	Proposed budget in (000) USD	Percentage
Recurrent Budget	267,152,429	3,909,166	74%
Development Budget	93,739,128	1,371,658	26%
Budget Deficit	9,933,188	145,350	3%
Total Budget	360,891,558	5,280,825	100%

ASSIST COMMISSIONS ON THE QATIA REPORT

In December, ALBA's Budget and Oversight Team developed and presented a brief report on FY 1395 Qatia to the WJ budget commission. Based on the report, the commission representative discussed within the plenary while the Minister of Energy and Water was called for the questioning session.

The main items covered in the report were:

- List of all budgetary units with their approved budget for the FY 1395
- List of all budgetary Units with budget its changes during the FY
- List of all budgetary units with issued allotments
- List all budgetary units with their spending rate for the FY

OBJECTIVE THREE – INCREASED OUTREACH CAPACITY

Overview of Indicator 3

With Indicator 3.1 one large public forum (Kabul) and three provincial oversight visits (Nimroz, Baghlan, and Badakshan) were held during the reporting period during which members of parliament and the public were able to interact. This represents a slight increase over ALBA's year 5 target. Regarding targets for Indicator 3.2 – which focus on utilization of the website – the parliamentary IT office has rejected the ALBA funded website arguing that it does not have the additional resources required to fund additional needed trainings. These trainings would extend beyond ALBA's close out date and require significant resources and thus (regrettably) a decision to draw this support to a close was mutually agreed upon.

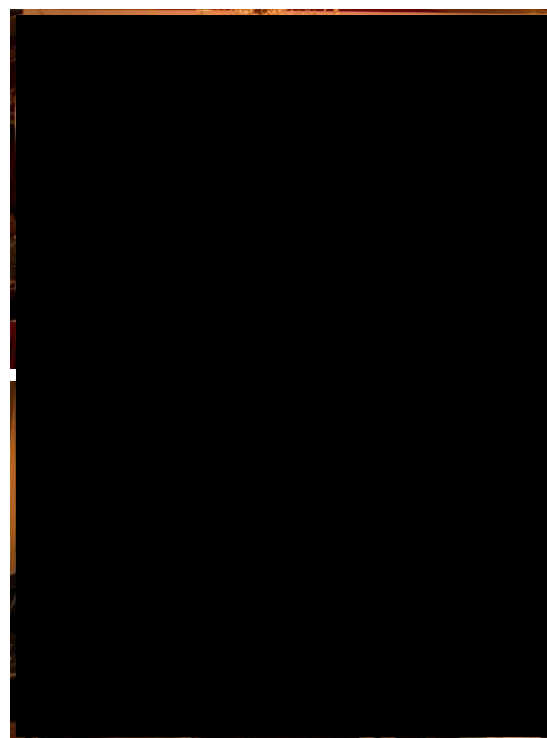
USAID Q1 and ALBA Q3

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	USAID F- INDICATOR	FY 2018 Q1	ACTUAL	ALBA YEAR 5 TARGET
3.1 Number of public forums resulting from USG assistance in which legislators and members of the public interact	Yes	2	4	3
3.2 Implementation of Improved dissemination system of Parliamentary Proceedings	No	0	0	0

Task 3.1 – Increase Interaction between CSOs and Members

Support Commissions of Parliament Effectively and Inclusively Reach out to Citizens

The National Conference on Women Participation in Local Governance was successfully conducted on Dec 10, 2017. The event was organized by WJ Commission on Women Affairs with the support of ALBA. The event was attended by 124 (80 female and 44 male) participants included the CEO of National Unity Government, Deputy Minister of Women Affairs, Deputy Director General of IDLG, Advisor to the President, MPs, CSOs, and from ten provinces, the Deputy Governors, Provincial Council Members, and Provincial Gender Advisors. ALBA also coordinated with the



USAID's – Promote Musharikat and Promote Women in Governance projects as they delivered

a comprehensive presentation on the current status of women in government, work environment and local governance. The conference had four sections that included; VIP speeches, group discussions, presentations on group discussions findings, and panel discussions.

Nimroz, Baghlan and Badakhshan Provincial Visits

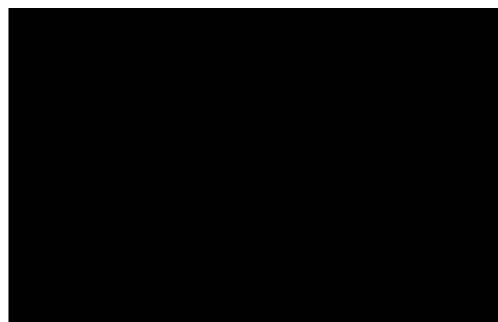
The members of the WJ Commission on Internal Security and Local Administrations conducted an oversight visit to Baghlan province from Nov, 14 - 16, 2017 supported by ALBA. The purpose of the oversight visit was to assess the overall security situation in Baghlan, food shortage of police officers and to oversee the condition of male and female prisoners as well as monitor some police checkpoints. During this visit the commission met the governor, securities heads, and prisoners to hear of the major challenges. As a result of the oversight visit and based on the complaints of security forces, the delegation will invite the Minister of Interior to the commission and ask them to address the key issues in Baghlan province such as lack of police staff, heavy weapons, clean drinking water, electricity, and medical doctors

The members of the WJ Commission on Internal Security and Local Administrations conducted an oversight visit to Badakhshan province from November 19-23, 2017 with support from ALBA. The purpose of the oversight visit was to assess the overall security situation in Badakhshan, food shortages for police officers, monitor some of police checkpoints, and to oversee the condition of male and female prisoners. During this visit, the commission assessed the performance of Afghanistan National Police (ANP) and National Directorate for Security (NDS) and paid visits to various police checkpoints and a prison. The commission met the governor, security heads, and prisoners and heard the major challenges each group faces. As a result of the oversight visit and based on the complaints of security forces, the delegation will invite the Ministers of Interior to the commission and ask them to address the key issues in Badakhshan province.

With the support of ALBA, the members of the MJ Commission on National Economy are currently on an oversight visit to Nimroz province dated Oct, 23 – 30, 2017. Up to date the delegation met the Governor and delivered a presentation on the development projects to the provincial administrative board. In accordance to the agenda, the delegation will monitor the development projects and hear to the complaints of relevant departments on development budget and projects.

Prepare Parliamentary Publications for Outreach to Youth and Women CSOs

In order to increase parliament visibility, ALBA outreach team supported the MJ Secretariat in printing of 500 copies of the Official Gazettes issue numbers 127, 128, 129, 130 and 131. The mentioned publication has been printed and submitted to the DIPR of MJ. These publications will be distributed to MJ Commissions, Government Organizations, Provincial Council, and CSOs. All above publications are holding high visibilities of USAID branding. The secretariat will be supported in distribution of forth mentioned publications.



ALBA's Outreach Team supported MJ's secretariat in printing 1000 copies of each issue of the Official Gazettes issue numbers 1 - 9. The mentioned publication has been printed and submitted to the DIPR of WJ. These publications will be distributed to WJ and MJ Commissions, Government Organizations, Provincial Council, and CSOs. All above publications are holding high visibilities of USAID branding. The secretariat will be supported in distribution of forth mentioned publications.

Task 3.2 – Strengthen Parliamentary Visibility

Production and Distribution of Plenary Reports

In order to increase stakeholder access to parliamentary information and visibility, ALBA produces and distributes plenary reports of both houses on a regular basis to a variety of stakeholders.

Legislation debated and approved

S/N	Bill/Decree	Submission Date	Relevant Commission	Date of Approval in WJ Plenary	Date of Approval in MJ Plenary	Date of Approval in Joint Committee
1	Proposed amendment to the article 13 and 38 of the Law on Prisons and Detention Centers		Judicial Affairs	23-Dec-17	2-Jan-18	
2	Law on the Declaration of Assets of the Government Officials and Employees	29-May-17	Judicial Affairs	27-Nov-17	31-Dec-17	
3	Presidential Decree 243 on the Amendments to the Article 6 and 4 of Population Registration Law	18-Apr-17	Internal Affairs	30-Oct-17 Rejected	19-Nov-17	18-Dec-17
4	Afghanistan Accountancy Law	15-Apr-17	Budget and Finance	10-Jul-17	26-Nov-17	
5	Presidential Decree 247 on the Amendments to the Article 67 of Population Registration Law	18-Apr-17	Internal Affairs	30-Oct-17	3-Dec-17	
6	Presidential decree 147 on the Amendments to Law on Travel and Inhabitation of Foreign Nationals in Afghanistan	24-Sep-17	International Affairs	11-Nov-17	28-Nov-17	

OBJECTIVE FOUR – INCREASED INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

Overview of Indicator 4

ALBA shifted the focus of the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute at the start of Year 5 from a training center managed by ALBA to a space utilized by the capacity building directors of each house where they can deliver their training plans. In order to deepen sustainability, ALBA will focus on mentoring and coaching – typically with staff in their offices rather than the API – but will utilize the API setting as needed. ALBA is also providing administrative assistance to the Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus (PACC) who utilize the API for routine meetings. Progress on indicator 4.2 remains in a stalemate as the Secretary Generals of both houses continue to be unwilling to come to an agreement on a governance structure for the API. Performance indicators for the API are measured on an annual-basis. Regarding indicator 4.3 ALBA exceeded its target during this quarter and this is largely due to the fact that the MoF used a dramatically different format when introducing FY1397 budget which required greater demand for training to be able to properly analyze the budget.

USAID Q1 and ALBA Q3

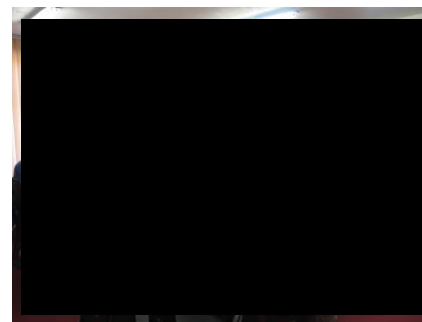
Performance Indicator		USAID F-Indicator	FY 2018 Q1	Actual	ALBA Year 5 Target
4.1 Number of API products used by Parliament, CSOs, and the general public		No	0	0	3
4.2 Development and Implementation of revised API governance structure (Process Indicator Reviewed Annually).	Stages	Situational analysis for identifying steps to develop governance structure		√	√
		Integration of Parliament capacity building unit to the API		√	√
4.3 Cross-cutting Indicator: Number of staff and MPs trained on: analysis / drafting / oversight / outreach/anti-corruption with USG funding.		No	156	601	400

Task 4.1 – Strengthening the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute

Coaching Sessions to Commission Support Staff

To address the sustainability of technical assistance to Afghanistan parliament, ALBA has drawn a great deal of attention to knowledge and skills transformation of parliamentary staff through coaching and mentoring sessions at API. This knowledge transformation approach is aimed at providing technical assistance through embedded parliamentary staff to standing commissions and fills the institutional capacity gaps through specified and effective skills transformation events. This approach combines ALBA's technical staff with embedded parliamentary personals to provide required technical and management support to standing commission on daily basis, and on another hand, enhances the capacity of parliamentary staff. To this end, ALBA efforts are focused on using API as a platform for sustainable capacity building.

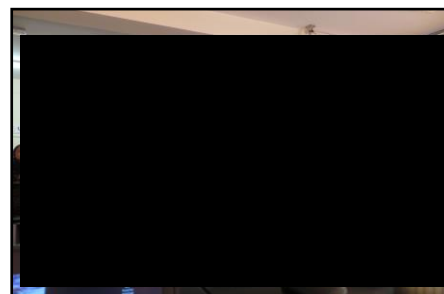
Anti-Harassment Law: Based on the WJ's training plan for parliamentary staff, ALBA supported the Capacity Building Units of WJ in delivering sessions on the Anti-Harassment Law for WJ secretariat staff for two days on October 16, and 18, 2017. A total of 40 WJ staff participated in which 15 were female and 25 were male.



The training started with the presentation on Anti - Harassment law, the goals and why it was decided to bring this issue into a law, Harassment in Afghanistan, examples of harassment in the society, the negative impact of the harassment, the need of this law in the Afghan society. After each topic the discussion was opened to all participants to discuss in detail and to ask questions.

As part of the mentoring and coaching sessions, the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute supported a coaching session to the MJ Secretariat Staff. ALBA's Gender Adviser held a coaching session on the implementation mechanism of Anti-Harassment Law to Commission assistants and Gender Advisors on November 20, 2017.

Gender Policy: As part of the mentoring and coaching sessions, the ALBA API supported one coaching session to the MJ Gender Unit. ALBA Gender Advisor held a coaching session with the Gender Unit of MJ. During the session, the gender policy was reviewed and inputs were compiled.



Time Management: Based on the MJ's training plan for parliamentary staff, ALBA supported the Capacity Building Units of MJ in delivering sessions on the subjects of time management and goal setting for MJ secretariat staff on

October, 22. A total of 31 MJ staff participated in which 17 were female and 14 were male. It is worth mentioning that a private consultancy (MEGA LIFE) delivered this training voluntarily.

The training started with the presentation on self-confidence and goal setting. The training will make the participants to understand on how to overcome the life challenges, deal with the failure in life, and goal setting techniques. In addition, the self-confidence topics covered: plan, promotion, and limitations. Moreover, training on National Action Plan for Women was delivered to 24 MJ Secretariat staff (13 female, 11 male) by the Ministry of Women Affairs.

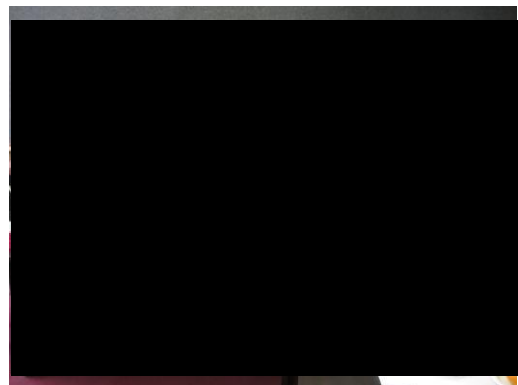
Facilitated Senators Participation in training on Management and Gender mainstreaming: In November the Chairwoman and members of the MJ Women Affairs Commission participated in a High Level Management training held in Mazar-e-Sharif on Gender & problems of Women in Mazar province. Upon their return to Kabul, Ms. Shafiqah Nawrozkheil, Chairwoman of the MJ Women's Affairs Commission, requested ALBA's Gender Specialist to work closely with Commission support unit (CSU) members to be prepared to hold a similar training in Kabul.

Certificate Ceremony: As the training plan for both Houses was implemented, ALBA API manager began the preparation for certificate distribution event which is going to be held at API in end of December. The API manager held several coordination meetings with both MJ and WJ capacity building units' heads and discussed necessary aspects of the event.

PACC Bi-Weekly Meetings

ALBA API supported PACC during the quarter. Of note was the meeting on December 19, 2017 that was dedicated to the internal election of the PACC, in which Ms. Homaira Ayoubi was elected as chairperson, Mrs. Najiba Hosseini as deputy chairperson, Mrs. Anarkeli Honaryar as secretary and Mrs. Breshna Bhairabi as focal point for external relations. It is noteworthy that at this meeting, two senators' applications for membership was discussed and put to vote and both accepted as new members.

Meanwhile, the national procurement committee reports were also presented by the members who participated in the meetings.



On October 10, 2017, ALBA API supported Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus (PACC) to hold a coordination meeting with three nominated ministers (The Interior affairs, Defense and Mines) who have been recently introduced to the WJ for voting of confidence. The meeting was held to explore and discuss anti-corruption plans of the nominated ministers and to get their endorsement on the Anti-corruption Pledge Letters. At the beginning of the meeting, the

nominated ministers was given the chance to explain their plan of combating corruption at relevant ministries, as each of the guests elaborated major points of their anti-corruption strategy. Following first portion of the meeting, PACC members raised their issues of concern with the nominated ministers. At the end of the meeting all invited ministers endorsed the pledge letters and declared that they will fully support to implement the provisions of pledge letters and asked the PACC to work closely together against corruption. Moreover, PACC members agreed to invite remaining nominated ministers of the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Public Welfare, Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Borders and Tribes to their meeting held on October 17, 2017.

ATTACHMENTS

- Legislative Tracking Matrix Updated December 31, 2017
- Nimroz Trip Report
- Badakshan Trip Report
- Baghlan Trip Report