

Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project (ACRLP)



Distribution of labor wages in District 16 of Kabul City on 14 July 2024. @Rafiullah Hemat

Second Tri-Annual (May to August) 2024 Progress Report Kabul, Afghanistan | Submitted 14 October 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
PROJECT INFORMATION.....	3
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
1.1 Key Achievements.....	3
1.2 De Facto Authorities.....	6
2. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 1: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Rural Areas.....	8
2.1 Facilitating Partners.....	8
2.2 Community Mobilization Analysis.....	10
2.3 Key Outputs.....	12
2.4 Subproject Status.....	14
3. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 2: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Urban Areas.....	16
3.1 Progress per City.....	18
3.1.1 Kabul (40% of Parent Project and 40% of AF subprojects).....	18
3.1.2 Kandahar (15% of Parent Project and 14% of AF subprojects).....	19
3.1.3 Herat (14% of Parent Project and 9% of AF subprojects).....	19
3.1.4 Jalalabad (10% of Parent Project and 12% of AF subprojects).....	20
3.1.5 Mazar-e-Sharif (9% of Parent Project and 9% of AF subprojects).....	20
3.1.6 Kunduz (7% of Parent Project subprojects).....	21
3.1.7 Khost (3% of Parent Project subprojects).....	21
3.1.8 Bamyan (2% of Parent Project subprojects).....	22
3.1.9 Gardiz (8% of AF subprojects).....	22
3.1.10 Ghazni (8% of AF subprojects).....	23
4. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 3: Social Grants for Women and Most Vulnerable in Rural and Urban areas.....	24
5. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 4: Strengthening Community Institutions.....	28
6. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 5: UNOPS Implementation Support.....	32
6.1 MIS and GIS.....	32
6.2 Human Resources / Staffing.....	33
6.3 Financial Management.....	34
6.4 Communication.....	34
6.5 Quality Assurance and Quality Control.....	36
6.6 Procurement.....	39
6.6.1 Components 1, 3 and 4 (Parent Project).....	39
6.6.2 Components 1, 3 and 4 (Additional Financing).....	39
6.6.3 Component 2 (Parent Project).....	39
6.6.4 Component 2 (Additional Financing).....	39
6.7 Environmental and Social Management & Gender.....	41
6.7.1 Environmental and Social Commitment Plan.....	41
6.7.2 Grievance Redress.....	52
6.7.3 Gender.....	57
6.7.4 Security.....	59
6.8 Monitoring Findings.....	60
7. THIRD PARTY MONITORING AGENT (TPMA).....	60
8. KEY CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES.....	61
10. ANNEXES.....	63
Annex A: IUFR for the period ending 31 August 2024.....	63
Annex B: Interim Financial Statement as of 31 August 2024.....	63
Annex D: Results Framework.....	64
Annex E: Environmental and Social Commitment/Planned Activities.....	68

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AF	Additional Finance
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
C1	Component 1
C2	Component 2
C3	Component 3
C4	Component 4
CDC	Community Development Council
CfW	Cash for work
CoC	Code of Conduct
CRLP	Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project
CTG	Committed to Good - Humanitarian Enablers
DFA	De Facto Authorities
DoEC	Directorate of Economy
ECA	Entry Criteria for Access
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ES	Environmental and Social
ESS	Environment and Social Safeguard
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GA	Gozar Assembly
GA	Grant Agreement
GDCMA	General Directorate of Coordination for Municipalities Affairs
GCC	General Condition of Contract
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GIS	Geographical Information System
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GSA	Grant Support Agreement
FHH	Female Headed Household
FM	Financial Management
FP	Facilitating Partner
IDA	International Development Association
IDs	Identity
IDP	Internally Displaced PErsons
IUFR	Interim Unaudited Financial Report
KM	Kabul Municipality
LiW	Labour Intensive Works
M	Million
MIS	Management Information System
MoEc	Ministry of Economy
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
POM	Project Operations Manual
PP	Parent Project
PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development
QC	Quality Control
RFP	Request for Proposals
RFQ	Request for Quotations
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SG	Social Grant
SP	Subproject
TPMA	Third Party Monitoring Agent
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WB	World Bank

PROJECT INFORMATION

The original project Grant Agreement (GA) was signed between UNOPS and the World Bank (WB) on 4 May 2022, for a duration of 24 months, ending on 30 April 2024.

- Amendment No. 1 to the GA was signed on 6 June 2023. The Project closing date was extended to 31 August 2024.
- Amendment No. 2 to the GA for an additional \$70M from the Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund (ARTF) Grant was signed on 2 February 2024. The Project closing date was extended to 30 June 2025.
- Through an exchange of letters (AFCO/Dir/2024/23 dated 2 May 2024) from UNOPS to WB, the WB established 31 December 2025 as the closing date for the ARTF funding.

A subsequent GA was signed between UNOPS and the International Development Association (IDA) on 22 May 2024 for \$84M, covering the period ending 31 December 2025.

Official Project Title		Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihood (CRL) Project	
UNOPS Project IDs	23455-001, 23455-003 & 23455-004	Donor	The World Bank
Start Date	4 May 2022	End Date	31 December 2025
ARTF Project Financing	USD 335 Million	IDA Project Financing	USD 84 Million
Total Funds Received	USD 335 Million	Total Funds Received	USD 50.40 Million
Total Funds Balance	USD 0 Million	Total Funds Balance	USD 33.60 Million

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Key Achievements

The reporting period has been revised from 4 quarters (3 months each) per annum to 3 trimesters (4 months each) per annum. This Tri-Annual Report (TA2 2024) provides progress updates for the period of 1 May to 31 August 2024.

Overall achievements:

- During the TA2 2024 reporting period, the works under Component 1 (C1) and Component 3 (C3) for the parent project coverage were completed.
- In the TA2 2024 period, ACTED and Afghanaid submitted project completion reports together with final financial reconciliation claims and asset inventories for the parent project. Their reports, final financial claims and inventories were reviewed and comments provided to FPs. The final cross-check and review process is underway.
- By the end of the TA2 2024 period, 909,326 households were engaged in the Cash for Work (CfW) (755,201 households - 711,994 male, 43,207 female) and Labour Intensive Works (LiW) (154,125 households - 137,410 male, 16,715 female).
- 22.4 million labor days have been created to date (17.9M under CfW and 4.5M under LiW) through implementation of 8,165 (7,645 rural and 520 urban) subprojects across 26 provinces and 8 urban cities.
- On average, the number of labor days per household was 23 days in the rural areas, and 29 days in urban areas.
- A total of US\$ 143.90 million has been disbursed to the beneficiaries (laborers) for Component 1 and Component 3 since the beginning of the project.
- Social Grants (SGs) were distributed to a total of 6,461 communities (5,945 rural and 516 urban).
- 122,440 households including female-headed, persons with disabilities (DHH) and drug-addicted persons benefited. 57.2% of the beneficiaries were female-headed households (FHHs).
- 6,563¹ Community Development Councils (CDCs) in rural and urban areas received training for strengthening of community institutions.

¹ In the reporting period for TA2 2024, CDCs were still functional as a community institution and entry point for community engagement

- The project reached and engaged women in the selected communities. Of the total beneficiaries per component, 5.6% under CfW were women, 10.9% under LiW and 57.2% under social grants.
- The participation of female workers in cash for work projects under C1 saw a notable increase. As of August 31, 2024, the cumulative number of women engaged in Cash for Work activities under Component 1 surpassed 43,207.
- At the end of August 2024, a total of 29,346 (C1 =525, C2=1,527 and C3=38) returnees and (C1=17,950 and C2=9,234) IDPs benefited.
- External stakeholder engagement remained a priority, particularly with the De facto Authorities (DFA) at both national and provincial levels. A series of meetings were convened with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Ministry of Economy (MoEc), Kabul Municipality (KM), Provincial Governors, and various line directorates. These meetings served as platforms to discuss project progress, future plans, and specific pertinent issues.
- The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) remained functional and responsive, with a total of 135 grievances received during the period May-August. Grievances were reviewed and processed, with appropriate feedback provided to the stakeholders involved.
- Cumulative grievances received for the project as at the end of TA2 2024 reporting period were 1,028² (excluding grievances registered through subproject-level Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) which are resolved at community level). The primary concerns raised in these grievances pertain to delays in payment to laborers. No cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) have been reported under the CRLP to date. The primary concerns raised in these grievances pertain to delays in payment to laborers.
- Grievances registered through subproject-level Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) are recorded in log books that are accessible to FPs and UNOPS are regularly monitored.
- The UNOPS has access to all the cases recorded in log books at all project sites by FPs and contractors.
- 189 Quality Control and Assurance physical inspections were carried out for C2 project sites, whilst no inspections were conducted for C1 in the reporting period.
- During the TA2 2024 reporting period, Third Party Monitoring Agent (TPMA) visited 300 subprojects in 13 provinces of rural areas.

Component 1

- CRLP has reached 5,966³ rural communities.
 - During the reporting period, the project completed subprojects in 514 communities.
- 7,645 small scale CfW projects have been completed to date, benefiting 755,201 households.
 - During May-August 2024, CfW activities of 514 subprojects were completed, benefiting 101,919 households.
- 755,201 households benefited from CfW since the project began (711,994 male HH, 43,207 female HH).
 - During May - August 2024, 22,268 laborers were employed (21,041 male HH, 1,227 female HH).
- As of 31 August 2024, a total of 17.9 million labor days were generated (16.8M male HH, 1.1M female HH).
 - During the reporting period, 653,873 labor days were generated (618,322 for male HH and 35,551 for female HH).
- During the reporting period, US\$4.2 million was transferred to FPs' local accounts and US\$ 6.9 million⁴ reached communities.

Component 2⁵

- The community consultations, scoping and design of 555 subprojects were successfully completed at the end of August 2024. 520 of these subprojects are financed under the parent project and the remaining 35 subprojects will be financed under Additional Financing (AF).
- As of 31 August 2024, a total of 520 subproject works contracts were signed.
 - During the period May - August 2024, 9 subproject contracts were signed.
- As of 31 August 2024, construction activities of 509 subprojects were completed and handed over to the community.
 - During the period May - August 121 subprojects were completed and handed over to the community.

² From 27 August- 03 September, the grievance log was reviewed to remove duplicate cases (e.g. one case received through multiple channels). This has resulted in a difference between total grievances received reported in the weekly report for 21-27 August and 28 Aug-03 September 2024

³ C1 reached 5,966 communities. SG reached 5,945 communities. 21 communities did not have eligible beneficiaries as they had been covered by C1. The list of these Communities with No Eligible 3A Households Identified was shared with WB.

⁴ FPs had balance in their accounts from previous transactions so they were able to extend more money to the communities than was transferred into their accounts during the reporting period

⁵ For Component 2, results are based on the tracking sheet

- As of 31 August 2024, a total of 392 LiW were closed.
 - During the period May - August, 143 subprojects were closed⁶.
- As of 31 August 2024, a total of 154,125 households directly benefited through the implementation of the LiWs in 8 urban cities.
 - During the period May - August, 37,743 households directly benefited, 9.46%⁷ of which were females.
- As of 31 August 2024, a total of 4.5 million labor days were generated through the implementation of LiWs in 8 cities.
 - During the period May - August 2024, 1.2 million labor days were generated.
- As of 31 August 2024, a total of 9,234 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) directly benefited from the implementation of LiWs in 8 urban cities.
 - During the period May - August 2024, 2720 IDPs directly benefited from the implementation of LiWs activities.
- As of 31 August 2024, a total of US\$ 54.43M contractors' invoices were processed, out of which 53.72% of the invoiced amount was paid to the laborers.
 - During the period May - August, US\$5.7 million wages were paid to the laborers.
- As of 31 August 2024, the Entry Criteria for Access (ECA) assessment and Community Development Council (CDC) reactivation of 727 CDCs were completed. All CDCs met ECA 1 and ECA 2 requirements.

Component 3

- As of 31 August 2024, a total of 6,461 for both rural communities and urban project sites received Social Grant under Component 3.
- The food package and cash distribution were completed for 122,440 households (52,382 households of persons with disability or drug addicted family members and 70,058 female-headed households).
- As of 31 August 2024, 5,945⁸ rural communities received food packages. The food package distribution was completed for 84,388 households (36,515 households of persons with disability or drug addicted family members and 47,873 female-headed households). 56.7% of the beneficiaries are female-headed households (FHHs).
 - During the period May - August 2024, 298 food packages were distributed for 3,627 households (1,884 households of persons with disability or drug addicted family members and 1,743 female-headed households) in the rural areas.
- As of 31 August 2024, cash social grants were distributed to 516 project sites in urban areas. 38,052 households (15,867 households of persons with disability or drug addicted family members and 22,185 female-headed households) benefited. 58.3% of the households are FHHs.
 - During the period May - August 2024, cash distribution was completed for 10 project sites reaching 770 households (636 households of persons with disability or drug addicted family members and 134 female-headed households).

Component 4

- As of 31 Aug 2024, a total of 6,563 CDCs in rural and urban areas received training under this component.
- In each community, 3 sub-committees were formed, Vulnerable Groups' Development (VGD), Community and Family Welfare (CFWF) and Disaster Risk Mitigation (DRM), with an average number of members of 20.
- 640,139 people (291,134 male and 349,005 female) received various training sessions. Beneficiaries included CDC, sub-Committee and community members.
- On average, 100 members were trained for each CDC (approximately 20 CDC members, 60 sub-committee members and 20 community residents who are not CDC members. In most communities, more than 20 residents attended the training).
- Of the CDCs that received training, 5,965 CDCs were in rural areas.
 - 602,465 CDC and sub-committee members (274,390 male and 328,075 female) received training.
 - 17,895 male wing and 17,895 female wing of CDC sub-committees were established.
- 598 CDCs received training sessions in urban areas .
 - 37,674 CDC and sub-committee members (16,744 male and 20,930 female) received four training sessions.
 - 598 Male wing and 598 female wing CDC sub-committees are established.

⁶ SPs closed after the completion of Defects Notification Period (DNP)

⁷ Cumulative percentage of women engaged in labor works is 10.9. 9.46 is the percentage of women engaged during the reporting period May-August 2024

⁸ 21 of the communities covered under CFW activities were not reached with SG. The beneficiaries were covered under CFW therefore there was no need for C3 in these 21 communities. The list of these Communities with No Eligible 3A Households Identified was shared with WB

Additional Financing:

Following the signing of Amendment No. 2 to the original ARTF GA for the additional \$70M and the new GA for \$84M from IDA, key documents such as the Project Operation Manual (POM) and its annexes, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Action Plan, and training manuals were reviewed and revised.

Component 1

The contracts with six FPs, for Lot 1 (AKF), Lot 2 (ACTED), Lot 3 (RRAA), Lot 4 (CHA), Lot 5 (CDDO) and Lot 6 (DACAAR) were signed. AKF and CHA completed the registration process, secured the MoEC letter and initiated coordination with the local authorities at district and provincial levels. This process is ongoing by the remaining FPs.

- MRRD agreed on the revised community engagement guideline/approach and issued the support letter to the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRDs).
- Facilitating Partners will receive refresher training on the revised community engagement modality.

Component 2

As of 31 August 2024, a total of 217 community consultations, 188 scoping, and 58 designs were completed for subprojects. 18 contracts were subsequently signed, and contractors have begun mobilization in the field for implementation.

Component 3

Activities under this component had not commenced by the end of the reporting period.

Component 4

Activities under this component had not commenced by the end of the reporting period.

1.2 De Facto Authorities

During the reporting period, the engagement continued with DFA line ministries, Kabul Municipality (KM), MoEC, provincial municipalities and provincial directors of MRRD. Good working relationships were maintained between the CRLP project team and DFA at central and field level. At the provincial level, the project team has managed to maintain good relationships with the PRRD, Directorate of Economy (DoEC) and Provincial Municipalities and project implementation has continued smoothly without any major issues.

- **Kabul Municipality**
 - Regular bi-weekly UNOPS and KM coordination meetings were held. Key issues discussed include the implementation of LiW works in Kabul under C2, SG amount/in cash disbursements after exchange rate fluctuations, possible duplication of CRLP subprojects with other agencies, and community-related matters.
- **Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development**
 - During the reporting period, several meetings were conducted with the MRRD following the dissolution of CDCs to discuss the CRLP implementation in the absence of CDCs in rural areas.
 - Extensive discussions were held with the MRRD to map a new community engagement guideline.
 - UNOPS and MRRD technical teams followed up field level issues through communications on a daily basis.
 - In the rural areas, several coordination meetings were conducted with MRRD, Provincial Governors, PRRD and DoEC. The key discussion points included improving coordination with the DFA and accelerating the processing of the documents in PRRD.
 - The DFA appreciated the CRLP activities in both rural and urban areas, and the DFA's relevant Directorates at the provincial level promised their full support and expediting of the CRL Project documents (mainly the list of subprojects).
 - DFA also provided their feedback on the project, affirming that the CRLP is a project with which the community and people are satisfied. The DFA has not received any project-related complaints from the community.

- **Provincial Municipalities**

- Regular bi-weekly and ad hoc coordination meetings were held between UNOPS and provincial municipalities. The implementation of LiW works in 9 cities (Kandahar, Herat, Mazar, Jalalabad, Kunduz, Khost, Bamyan, Gardiz and Ghazni) under C2 has been discussed. The need to avoid duplication between the CRL projects and projects of other agencies was emphasized and strategies to manage it tabled. Community related matters were also part of the discussion.

- **Ministry of Economy**

- Regular monthly meetings were held between KM, UNOPS and MoEc. Coordination and cooperation for smooth implementation were discussed during the meetings.

- **General Directorate of Coordination for Municipalities Affairs (GDCMA)**

- Regular coordination meetings were held between UNOPS and GDCMA, with coordination and cooperation for smooth implementation discussed during the meetings.



Photo: UNOPS Executive Director, Jorge Moreira da Silva, engaging local leadership in PD16 Kabul City on 16 May 2024.

INSIGHTS

CRLP wins the UNOPS Project of the Year, Asia Region

The project of the year (POTYA) is an annual internal initiative that celebrates the impact of transformative projects. Out of 1,100 projects implemented by UNOPS in over 80 countries in 2023, CRLP is one of the six projects that were awarded Project of the Year. This demonstrates not only the impact of the project in improving the lives of nearly 10 million people in Afghanistan; but also excellence in project management. Success is assessed on a range of criteria including gender, diversity and social inclusion considerations. The project's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals is also considered. The winning projects exemplify effective project delivery and embody UNOPS mission, vision and values throughout their implementation.

Critical work under CRLP is addressing urgent needs, and providing practical solutions that help lay the foundations for peace and sustainable development. At the heart of these efforts is strong community engagement which serves as the cornerstone of the project, selecting work activities, identifying beneficiaries, and delivering targeted assistance to those most in need. CRLP is designed to strengthen household resilience, through job creation and social grants. Improvement of basic services ensures a comprehensive approach offering both immediate relief and cultivating longer-term resilience.

In the complex context of Afghanistan, CRLP has managed to forge strong partnerships to enable effective

coordination for implementation of project activities. The inclusion of women in cash for work and labor intensive works is testament to this. 56.7% of social grants distributed by the project have been received by women, many of whom have become heads of their households due to death, disability or incapacitation of their male family members through, for example, drug addiction.

The constantly evolving environment has challenged the project to seek innovative ways to produce high quality results, particularly in financial management and procurement. The economic downturn in Afghanistan resulted in downsizing and closure for many companies. The sheer volume of contracts under the project presented an opportunity to help develop local capacity and invigorate enterprise within the construction and related sectors. Encouraging collaboration between local and international companies enhanced knowledge transfer and capacity building. Robust processes for prompt payment and cash distribution have been developed and successfully implemented under CRLP. Throughout the project, UNOPS has maintained transparency and accountability for results. These procedures are replicable in similar contexts, forming a blueprint for other projects to use.

POTYA is a shared moment of recognition for all the partners that UNOPS works with - our donors, facilitating partners, contractors and communities in which we serve. Congratulations to us all!

2. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 1: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Rural Areas

2.1 Facilitating Partners

During May - August 2024, regular and ad hoc coordination meetings were held with all FPs. The project progress, plan, issues, contract amendment, Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) requirements, the impact of exchange rate, contract amendment, disbursement and expenditure issues were discussed. As a result, the FPs have improved data entry in the system, expedited uploading of expenditure documents in the MIS and the status of pending subprojects have been closed.

Table 2.1.1 - Summary of C1 progress

S/N	Item description	Previous reporting period (Jan- Apr 2024)	Current reporting period (May-Aug 2024)	Total
1	ECA assessments/CDCs reactivated	5,968	0	5,968 ⁹
2	CDC profiling	5,968	0	5,968
3	Subproject selection	5,966	0	5,966
4	Preparation of subproject proposals	7,646	0	7,646
5	Project implementation (Started projects)	7,645	0	7,645 ¹⁰
6	Completed subprojects	7,131	514	7,645

⁹ The total number of Communities as per the signed contracts with all FPs were 6,220 across 26 provinces, 67 districts, noting that there were 2-3 extra Communities per district with the assumption of new CDCs established in the relevant district which would not have formal CDC structure. During the implementation, the FPs were only able to confirm and verify 5,968 CDCs, noting that no Community was left behind in contracted districts. Additionally, in Paghman district of Kabul Province, there was an overlap with urban project sites, where the rural CDCs were withdrawn.

¹⁰ The CDC is Shidli Kalay, located in the Nari district of Kunar province. The physical progress of the project was at 0%, as the CDC only purchased project tools such as wheelbarrows, hand trowels, and pickaxes. Subsequently, social issues arose within the CDC, leading to extensive communication efforts that ultimately yielded no results. After careful consideration, it was agreed by the FP DACAAR to close the project, deeming it as "Failed".

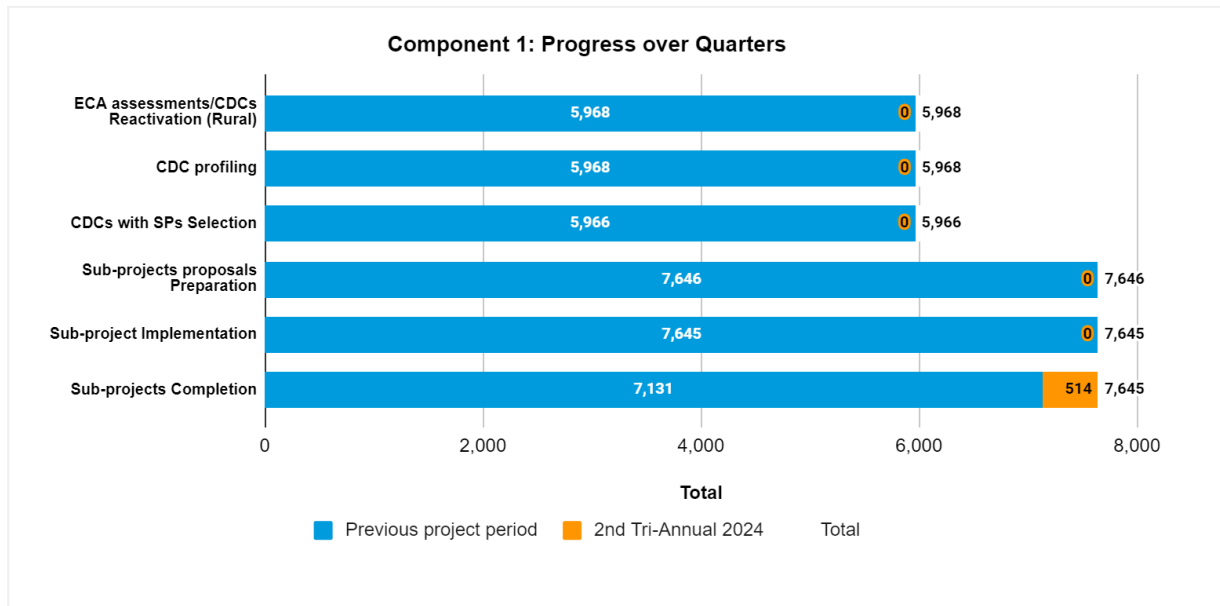


Photo: Construction of Gravel Surface Road - Cash for work in Sarton kaly CDC in Nawor district of Ghazni Province on 10 June 2024.



Photo: Construction of a 5165-meter long and 5-meter wide road in Paktia Province on 2 July 2024.



Photo: Construction of a 51 meter- long retaining wall in Kot District of Nangarhar Province on 6 May 2024.

2.2 Community Mobilization Analysis

In rural areas 5,968 CDCs were reactivated; all of the CDC community profiles were completed. Additionally, all of the CDCs met ECA 1 and ECA 2 requirements.

In urban areas, 727 CDCs were reactivated, with 598 CDC profiles completed.

Table 2.2.1: CDC membership detail

Rural CDC Members Summary						
Total Reactivated CDCs	Total Original male CDC members	Total Original Female CDC members	Total Original CDC members	Total current CDC members	Total current male CDC members	Total current Female CDC members
5,968	56,136	41,639	97,775	103,595	55,591	48,004

Urban CDC Members Summary						
Total Reactivated CDCs	Total Original male CDC members	Total Original Female CDC members	Total Original CDC members	Total current CDC members	Total current male CDC members	Total current Female CDC members
727	7,873	7,832	15,705	13,942	7,279	6,663

Urban + Rural CDC Members Summary						
6,695	64,009	49,471	113,480	117,537	62,870	54,667

Table 2.2.2: CDC Key membership detail

Rural CDC Key Members Summary			
Total current CDC members	Total CDC Male Office Bearers	Total CDC Female Office Bearers	Total CDC Office Bearers
103,595	14,968	8,782	23,750

Urban CDC Members Summary			
Total current CDC members	Total CDC Male Office Bearers	Total CDC Female Office Bearers	Total CDC Office Bearers
13,942	1,471	1,437	2,908
Rural + Urban CDC Members Summary			
Total current CDC members	Total CDC Male Office Bearers	Total CDC Female Office Bearers	Total CDC Office Bearers
117,537	16,439	10,219	26,658

Table 2.2.3: Household coverage through CDC completed profiles (5,968 CDCs)

Province	Total Household	# of HH for CfW	# of IDP HH	Number of Eligible HH for Social Grant				Average HH per CDC	Average HH size
				# of SG HH (A+B+C)	# of FHH (A)	# of Persons with disability HH (B)	# of Drug addicts HH (C)		
Badakhshan	86,958	70,766	1	6,607	3,405	3,151	51	231	5
Baghlan	55,425	40,702	288	4,255	2,649	1,598	8	215	6
Takhar	88,031	67,673	77	8,464	5,022	3,420	22	193	6
Bamyan	9,612	7,736	67	1,374	623	732	19	87	6
Kabul	61,082	42,927	1,633	7,665	3,852	3,552	261	244	6
Kapisa	32,941	23,931	795	3,273	2,315	915	43	172	5
Panjsher	5,949	4,720	11	614	349	262	3	192	5
Parwan	25,711	19,682	512	3,160	2,042	1,079	39	190	6
Wardak	27,019	15,806	496	2,665	1,153	1,424	88	84	6
Faryab	29,464	21,790	7	2,361	1,317	1,002	42	222	6
Hirat	33,609	23,053	519	2,486	1,310	1,152	24	282	5
Samangan	44,874	33,198	319	3,292	2,040	1,245	7	223	6
Sari Pul	49,445	27,065	285	3,861	2,679	1,124	58	192	6
Helmand	141,665	122,042	84	11,023	5,492	5,095	436	253	8
Kandahar	45,462	35,156	1,147	3,520	1,517	1,893	110	129	8
Nimroz	58,582	47,617	4,559	3,712	2,565	1,101	46	171	7
Uruzgan	27,828	24,181	353	2,338	1,295	1,004	39	127	6
Ghazni	14,512	12,066	19	1,645	676	889	80	46	6
Khost	8,925	7,604	489	1,114	509	526	79	126	9
Logar	5,104	3,992	429	572	263	299	10	70	6
Paktika	17,877	14,043	234	1,427	804	596	27	120	9
Paktya	23,565	20,082	1,136	1,966	1,142	797	27	130	10
Kunarha	20,142	17,243	954	1,774	1,210	543	21	136	6
Laghman	20,435	17,345	172	2,024	1,294	610	120	108	7
Nangarhar	52,241	47,211	2,019	3,627	2,263	1,309	55	158	7
Nuristan	23,846	21,714	1,345	2,071	1,414	639	18	124	6
Total	1,010,304	789,345	17,950	86,890	49,200	35,957	1,733	163	7
Percentage		78%	2%	9%	5%	4%	0.17%		

2.3 Key Outputs

Table 2.3.1: Component 1, 3 and 4 Key Outputs

Key Output Indicator	Progress until end of last reporting period (to 30/4/24)	Current reporting period Progress (1/5/24 to 31/8/24)	Cumulative Progress
# of provinces covered	26	0	26
# of districts covered	67	0	67
Form 1: # of CDCs re-registration completed	5,968	0	5,968
# of Resource Maps updated/created	5,872	94	5,966
Form 2: # of communities profiles completed	5,968	0	5,968

Form 4: # of CDCs agreements completed	5,966 ¹¹	0	5,966
# of community project selections completed	5,966	0	5,966
Form 5: # of Cash for Work plans (Proposals completed)	7,646	0	7,646
# of communities' cash for work started	5,655	311	5,966
# of communities' cash for work completed	5,655	310	5,965
# of subprojects completed	7,131	514	7,645
# of labor days created	17,243,346	665,952	17,909,298
# of labor days created (Male)	16,247,585	639,781	16,887,366
# of labor days created (Female)	995,761	26,171	1,021,932
# of skilled labor days created	308,230	25,858	334,088
# of unskilled labor days created	16,935,201	640,009	17,575,210
# of laborers employed	739,201	22,579	761,780
# of laborers employed (Male)	697,221	21,041	718,262
# of laborers employed (Female)	41,980	1,227	43,207
# of Returnees and IDPs HH in rural areas who have been provided with services and livelihoods	525	0	525
Rural Area (Component 3 only)			
Form 9: # of SG plans completed	5,945	0	5,945 ¹²
# of communities SG distribution completed	5,647	298	5,945
# of HHs which received social grants	80,850 ¹³	3,538	84,388
# of FHHs which received social grant	46,130	1,743	47,873
# of DHHs which received social grant	33,173	1,648	34,821
# of Drug Addict HHs which received social grant	1,547	147	1,694
Urban Area (Component 3 only)			
# of community/mosque profiles completed	516	0	516
# of communities cash distributed	506	10	516
# of HHs which received social grant	37,282	770	38,052
# of FHHs which received social grant	22,051	134	22,185
# of DHHs which received social grant	13,653	533	14,186
# of Drug Addict HHs which received social grant	1,578	103	1,681
Component 4			
# of communities with all sub-committees established	6,341	113	6,454
# of communities with compulsory trainings conducted	6,246	13	6,259

¹¹ While a total of 5,968 CDCs were identified and reactivated, only 5,966 successfully participated, as two CDCs could not reach a consensus due to unresolved disputes within their communities.

¹² The cumulative number of Form 9 was erroneously reported at 5955 in the TA1 report. The verified number is indicated here.

¹³ TA1 report erroneously reported this outcome as 80,761

2.4 Subproject Status

Table 2.4.1: Cash for work subproject status (MIS)

FPs	Province Name	Total # of Subprojects	# of Subproject Approved			# of Subprojects Ongoing			# of Subprojects completed		
			As of TA1 24	TA2 24	Total	As of TA1 24	TA2 24	Total	As of TA1 24	TA2 24	Total
AKF Lot 1	Badakhshan	472	472		472	472	0	472	472	0	472
	Baghlan	359	359		359	359	0	359	359	0	359
	Takhar	474	474		474	474	0	474	474	0	474
ACTED Lot2	Bamyan	128	128		128	128	0	128	128	0	128
	Kabul	416	416		416	415	1	416	415	1	416
	Kapisa	331	331		331	331	0	331	331	0	331
	Panjsher	38	38		38	38	0	38	38	0	38
	Parwan	271	271		271	271	0	271	271	0	271
	Wardak	451	451		451	451	0	451	451	0	451
Afghan Aid Lot 3	Faryab	196	196		196	196	0	196	196	0	196
	Hirat	179	179		179	179	0	179	179	0	179
	Samangan	240	240		240	240	0	240	240	0	240
	Sari Pul	351	351		351	351	0	351	351	0	351
CHA Lot4	Helmand	626	626		626	582	44	626	582	44	626
	Kandahar	406	406		406	406	0	406	406	0	406
	Nimroz	388	388		388	388	0	388	388	0	388
	Uruzgan	330	330		330	330	0	330	330	0	330
CDDO Lot4	Ghazni	370	370		370	99	271	370	99	271	370
	Khost	84	84		84	40	44	84	40	44	84
	Logar	78	78		78	66	12	78	66	12	78
	Paktika	155	155		155	92	63	155	92	63	155
	Paktya	212	212		212	96	116	212	96	116	212
DACAAR Lot6	Kunarha	163	163		163	162	1	163	162	0	162*
	Laghman	243	243		243	243	0	243	243	0	243
	Nangarhar	487	487		487	487	0	487	487	0	487
	Nuristan	198	198		198	198	0	198	198	0	198
Grand Total		7,646	7,646	0	7,646	7,094	552	7,646	7,094	551	7,645
Percentage			100%	0	100%			100%			

*Note: The CDC is Shidli Kalay, located in the Nari district of Kunar province. The physical progress of the project was at 0%, as the CDC only purchased project tools such as wheelbarrows, hand trowels, and pickaxes. Subsequently, social issues arose within the CDC, leading to extensive communication efforts that ultimately yielded no results. After careful consideration, it was agreed by the FP DACAAR to close the project, deeming it as "Failed".

Table 2.4.2: Number of actual cash for work subproject by sector

Sector	# of SPs	Total Actual Budget (AFN)	% of Actual Budget	Average Budget per SP
Transport ¹⁴	4,192	5,880,046,657	59.43%	1,404,830
Irrigation ¹⁵	3,309	3,927,335,221	39.63%	1,186,865
Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene	98	48,414,649	0.49%	494,027
Education				
Environmental/Climate	21	22,782,090	0.23%	1,084,861
Building	20	17,790,156	0.18%	889,508
Power	5	2,956,123	0.03%	591,225
Agricultural	1	1,190,550	0.01%	1,190,550
Grand Total	7,646	9,900,515,446	100.00%	977,409

INSIGHTS

Improving access to basic services in rural communities

Years of conflict in Afghanistan, have left infrastructure in a bad state; particularly in rural areas. In Jabobi village of Nad Ali district in Helmand, 54-year-old Abdul Satar explains the challenges that communities have faced with road access, "Each winter, this road would have to be closed. The damaged bridge is located in a circle and many accidents have occurred there." He recalls one of the worst accidents, - "A motorcycle collided with a truck. The motorcycle was carrying a woman and her two children. On collision, the two children were thrown into the water. The distraught mother immediately jumped into the water to save her children, seriously injuring herself."

CRLP rehabilitated the bridge through Cash for Work activities. The bridge connects more than 25 villages, many of which are poor and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. "Restoration of access will contribute toward the revitalisation of agricultural activity," Abdul says. He owns a flour mill but it was hardly earning him an income because of the reduced productivity in the district.

In Shakor Aqa, another village in the same district, 52-year-old Haji Juma Khan narrates his ordeal. "When our children and women got sick, we transported them in difficult conditions. Many times, our patients died on the way to the hospital." Haji owns eight acres of land but economic challenges have pushed him and his 14-member family into extreme poverty. "We used to farm, but when we harvested the produce, we could not transport it to the market because of the road." A long moment of silence follows before he explains how constant conflict between the Taliban and the police made life in their village complex. "No one could come and live here. The Taliban were laying mines along the roads. Connecting roads were closed. It was not safe to travel."

The project has installed a road which connects 7 CDCs and more than 20 villages. It also connects Kandahar-Herat highway to Lashkargah through Nad Ali district. Haji and his community are ecstatic. "It is a great gift for us that the constructed road has been converted into a public road. Now there are vehicles day and night. We can easily transport our product to the market." Before the CRLP supported this community, the price of land had depreciated to as low as 100,000 afghanis per acre. The community boasts that the project has restored the value of their land to nearly 400,000 afghanis per acre.

¹⁴ Over 98% of the subprojects fall within the transport and irrigation sectors, with these sectors also receiving 99% of the block grant allocation. The Transport sector includes subprojects such as tertiary road graveling and extension, rural road basic access extension, repairing and construction, maintenance of intra- and inter-community level streets and roads, culverts repairing and construction, pathway repairing and construction, gabion wall, retaining wall and protection wall repairing, extension and construction, PCC side ditch repairing and construction, construction of stairs in the hilly areas, causeway construction and RCC bridge construction.

¹⁵ The Irrigation sector includes subprojects such as canal, karez and drainage cleaning, extension, repairing and construction, protection wall and gabion wall repairing, extension and construction, water reservoir, intake, water divider, aqueducts and watershed extension, repairing and construction, construction/ maintenance of small check dams, pipe scheme repairing and construction, super passage Construction, storm water drainage canals cleaning, spring box repairing, siphon construction and culverts construction.



Rehabilitated road in Shakor Aqa village of Helmand

3. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 2: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Urban Areas

Table 3.1: Overall progress of the LiW until 31 August 2024

No.	City	Community Consultation Completed	Scoping Completed	Design Completed	Handed Over	Closed
1	Kabul	200	200	200	189	109
2	Kandahar	77	77	77	77	68
3	Herat	72	72	72	72	57
4	Jalalabad	46	46	46	46	40
5	Mazar	46	46	46	46	45
6	Kunduz	38	38	38	38	38
7	Bamyan	13	13	13	13	13
8	Khost	28	28	28	28	22
Total		520	520	520	509	392

Table 3.2: Progress of LiW in reporting period TA2 2024 (May - August 2024)

No.	City	Community Consultation Completed	Scoping Completed	Design Completed	Handed Over	Closed
1	Kabul	0	0	0	76	29
2	Kandahar	0	0	0	9	25
3	Herat	0	0	0	16	33
4	Jalalabad	0	0	0	9	14
5	Mazar	0	0	0	1	17
6	Kunduz	0	0	0	0	12

7	Bamyan	0	0	0	1	5
8	Khost	0	0	0	9	8
Total		0	0	0	121	143

Table 3.3: Summary of physical progress during reporting period for AF

No.	City	Community Consultation Completed	Scoping Completed	Design Completed	Handed Over	Closed
IDA Fund						
1	Kabul	52	40	22	0	0
2	Jalalabad	22	19	8	0	0
3	Herat	34	28	4	0	0
Sub Total		108	87	34	0	0
ARTF Fund						
4	Kandahar	45	45	12	0	0
5	Mazar	23	22	3	0	0
6	Gardiz	20	20	5	0	0
7	Ghazni	21	14	4	0	0
Sub Total		109	101	24	0	0
Total		217	188	58	0	0

Table 3.4 Overall number of labor days for ongoing subprojects - as of 31 August 2024

No.	City	Total No. of HHs Directly Benefited	Labour Days Generated	Estimated Labor's Wage Paid (USD)	No. of Male HHs (Laborers)	No. of Female HHs (Laborers)	% of Female HHs (Laborers)	Total No. of IDPs Directly Benefited
1	Kabul	55,275	1,672,774	10,782,783	49,991	5,284	9.56	535
2	Kandahar	20,401	656,951	4,329,599	19,524	877	4.30	376
3	Herat	25,393	617,708	4,209,717	21,947	3,446	13.57	3974
4	Jalalabad	18,546	502,557	3,103,935	16,028	2,518	13.58	2516
5	Mazar	11,758	420,299	2,629,068	10,394	1,364	11.60	853
6	Kunduz	9,130	237,446	1,523,811	7,297	1,833	20.08	463
7	Bamyan	4,242	134,745	771,760	3,727	515	12.14	49
8	Khost	9,380	273,257	1,906,044	8,502	878	9.36	468
Total		154,125	4,515,736	29,256,717	137,410	16,715	10.85	9,234

Table 3.5: Number of labor days for ongoing subprojects May - August 2024

No.	City	Total No. of HHs Directly Benefited	Labour Days Generated	Estimated Labor's Wage Paid (USD)	No. of Male HHs (Laborers)	No. of Female HHs (Laborers)	% of Female HHs (Laborers)	Total No. of IDPs Directly Benefited
1	Kabul	15,915	462,734	3,243,030	14,632	1,283	8.06	155
2	Kandahar	4,192	159,785	371,890	4,158	34	0.81	21
3	Herat	13,490	409,584	941,743	11,714	1,776	13.17	2,289
4	Jalalabad	1,939	74,598	320,300	1,692	247	12.74	154
5	Mazar	541	28,572	270,284	480	61	11.28	2
6	Kunduz	0	0	59,822	0	0	0.00	0
7	Bamyan	1	2,062	6,759	1	0	0.00	0
8	Khost	1,665	63,048	445,587	1,494	171	10.27	99
Total		37,743	1,200,382	5,659,415	34,171	3,572	9.46	2,720

Table 3.6: Overall number of subprojects closed and handed over by sector

Sector	KBL	KND	HRT	JLB	MZR	KNZ	KST	BMN	Total	Percentage
Transport ¹⁶	192	64	63	26	37	36	22	6	446	85.77%
Irrigation		1	7	9				4	21	4.04%
Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Education										
Environmental/Climate	8	12	2	11	9	2	6	3	53	10.19%
Building										
Agricultural										
Grand Total	200	77	72	46	46	38	28	13	520	100%

3.1 Progress per City

3.1.1 Kabul (40% of Parent Project and 40% of AF subprojects)

The implementation of Labor Intensive Works (LiW) subprojects in Kabul is proceeding smoothly, with effective coordination mechanisms established with Kabul Municipality. Throughout May to August 2024, regular and ad-hoc coordination meetings were conducted with Kabul Municipality and the Directorate of the Ministry of Economy in Kabul, focusing on project progress, plans, and pertinent issues, including ensuring access to women beneficiaries.

In the period under review, 76 LiW projects were successfully completed and handed over to the community, while 29 subprojects were closed. These initiatives directly benefited 15,915 households, with individuals engaged as labor, of which 8.06% were females. Approximately US\$ 3,243,030 was disbursed in wages to the labor force during this period.

As of the end of the period, a total of 52 community consultations, 40 scoping exercises, and 22 designs were completed for subprojects under additional financing. Six contracts were subsequently signed, and contractors have begun mobilization in the field for implementation.

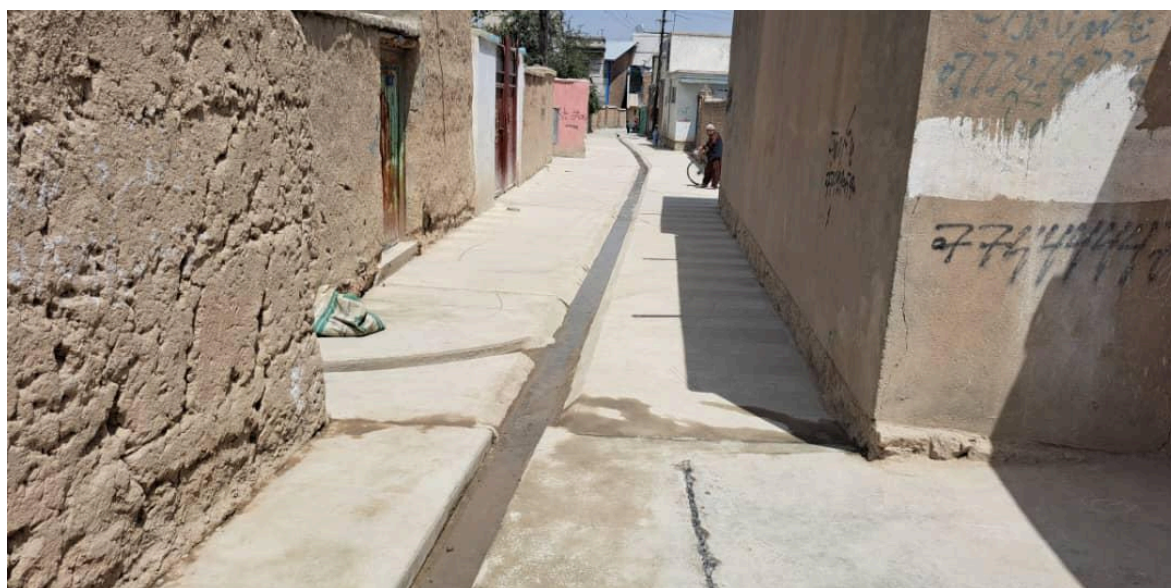


Photo: Street paved under project Upgrading BiBi Hogai Mosque Abasquli Village streets (L=913m), Gozar #24, District #6, Kabul City on 19 Aug 2024.

¹⁶ This sector encompasses various types of subprojects, including the construction and rehabilitation of streets, tertiary roads, side drains, culverts, etc.

3.1.2 Kandahar (15% of Parent Project and 14% of AF subprojects)

The subproject LiW implementation in Kandahar is progressing smoothly, and appropriate coordination mechanisms have been established with Kandahar local de facto authorities, including the Office of the Kandahar Governor and the Municipality. During the TA2 2024 reporting period, several coordination meetings were held with the Municipality, other UN agencies and communities. The project progress, plan and issues were discussed.

Between May - August, 9 subprojects were completed and handed over to the community and 25 subprojects were closed. 4,192 HHs directly benefited (assigned as labor) from the ongoing subprojects, out of which 0.81% were females. An estimated US\$ 371,890 were paid to laborers.

As of the end of TA2 2024 reporting period, 45 community consultations, 45 scoping exercises, and 12 designs were completed for subprojects under additional financing. Four contracts were subsequently signed, and contractors have begun mobilization in the field for implementation.



Photo: Construction of Plum Concrete Surface Street in District 12 of Kandahar Province on 23 May 2024 by laborers

3.1.3 Herat (14% of Parent Project and 9% of AF subprojects)

The subproject LiW implementation in Herat is progressing smoothly. A strong stakeholder management relationship was maintained with the DFA in Herat.

In the TA2 2024 reporting period, 16 subprojects were completed and handed over to the community and 33 subprojects were closed. A total of 13,490 HHs directly benefited (assigned as labor) from the ongoing subprojects, out of which 13.17% were females. An estimated US\$ 941,743 were paid to laborers.

As of the end of the reporting period, a total of 34 community consultations, 28 scoping exercises, and 4 designs were completed for subprojects under additional financing. One contract was subsequently signed, and the contractor has begun mobilization in the field for implementation.



Photo: Construction of Plum Concrete Surface Street in District 10 of Herat Province on 14 May 2024.

3.1.4 Jalalabad (10% of Parent Project and 12% of AF subprojects)

The subproject LiW implementation in Jalalabad is progressing smoothly. No major issues were reported during the period. Strong stakeholder management and relationships were maintained with the DFA provincial authorities, in particular with the Jalalabad Municipality. A coordination meeting was held to discuss the project's progress, plans and challenges, including women participation and their working environment. The mayor of Jalalabad Municipality emphasized the importance of coordination between UNOPS and the project stakeholders.

In the TA2 2024 reporting period, 9 subprojects were completed and handed over to the community and 14 subprojects were closed. A total of 1,939 HHs directly benefited (assigned as labor) from the ongoing subprojects, out of which 12.74% were females. An estimated US\$ 320,300 were paid to laborers.

As of the end of the reporting period, 22 community consultations, 19 scoping exercises, and 8 designs were completed for subprojects under additional financing. Two contracts were subsequently signed, and the contractor has begun mobilization in the field for implementation.

3.1.5 Mazar-e-Sharif (9% of Parent Project and 9% of AF subprojects)

The implementation of LiW works under Component 2 is progressing smoothly in Mazar-e-Sharif city. Appropriate coordination mechanisms were established with the DFA Local authorities in Mazar-e-Sharif, particularly with the office of Mazar Mayor. During the reporting period, several coordination meetings were held with the Mayor. The project progress, plan and challenges including women engagement in the LiW works were discussed.

In the reporting period, 1 subproject was completed and handed over to the community. 17 subprojects were closed. 541 HHs directly benefited (assigned as labor) from the ongoing subprojects, out of which 11.28% were females. An estimated US\$ 270,284 were paid to laborers.

As of the end of August 2024, a total of 23 community consultations, 22 scoping exercises, and 3 designs were completed for subprojects under additional financing.



Photo: Paved street uses by the girls students in project Construction of Plum Concrete of Ariana Street #8 In District # 10 Of Mazar-E- Sharif City on 20 May 2024.

3.1.6 Kunduz (7% of Parent Project subprojects)

The implementation of the CRLP LiW under Component 2 was smoothly completed in Kunduz city. Strong stakeholder management and relationships were built and maintained with the DFA local authorities. During the reporting period, regular coordination meetings were held at the provincial level departments, particularly with the office of Kunduz Mayor. The project progress, plans and issues were discussed.

In the reporting period, 12 subprojects were closed.

Kunduz is not included under the AF.

3.1.7 Khost (3% of Parent Project subprojects)

The implementation of CRL Project Component 2 is progressing smoothly in Khost city. Strong stakeholder management was maintained with the DFA local authorities. During the reporting period, several coordination meetings were held at the provincial level departments, particularly with the office of Khost Mayor. The project progress, plans and issues were discussed.

In the TA2 2024 period, 9 subprojects were completed and handed over to the community and 8 subprojects were closed. 1,665 HHs directly benefited (assigned as labor) from the ongoing subprojects, out of which 10.27% were females. An estimated US\$ 445,587 were paid to laborers.

Khost is not included in the AF.



Photo: Construction of a water reservoir in Spera District of Khost Province on 30 June 2024.

3.1.8 Bamyan (2% of Parent Project subprojects)

The construction works of all subprojects in Bamyan were completed in November 2023 except the handover of one project which was delayed to the TA2 2024 period due to contractor failure to pay laborers wages and supplier dues. Following persistent engagement with the contractor, the laborers wages and supplier dues were paid in May 2024 and the project was handed over to the community.

In the TA2 2024 reporting period, 1 subproject was completed and handed over to the community and 5 subprojects were closed.



Photo: Completed construction of a protection wall in District 4 of Bamyan Province on 13 August 2024.

3.1.9 Gardiz (8% of AF subprojects)

The community consultation and scoping of subprojects under additional financing of CRLP Component 2 is progressing smoothly in Gardiz city. Strong stakeholder management was maintained with the DFA local authorities. During the TA2 2024 reporting period, several coordination meetings were held at the provincial level departments, particularly with the office of Gardiz Mayor. The project progress, plans and issues were discussed.

As of 31 August 2024, 20 community consultations, 20 scoping exercises, and 5 designs were completed for subprojects under additional financing. Four contracts were subsequently signed, and the contractor has begun mobilization in the field for implementation.



Photo: Canal Cleaning and Construction of 5 Water Dividers in Gardiz on 02 July 2024.

3.1.10 Ghazni (8% of AF subprojects)

The community consultation and scoping of subprojects under additional financing of CRLP Component 2 is progressing smoothly in Ghazni city. Strong stakeholder management was maintained with the DFA local authorities. During the TA2 2024 reporting period, several coordination meetings were held at the provincial level departments, particularly with the office of Ghazni Mayor. The project progress, plans and issues were discussed.

As of 31 August 2024, a total of 21 community consultations, 14 scoping exercises, and 4 designs were completed for subprojects under additional financing. One contract was subsequently signed, and the contractor has begun mobilization in the field for implementation.



Photo: Laborers receiving morning induction training in District 3 of Ghazni City on 29 Sep 2024.

Insights

Hope in the midst of despair: CRLP helps families survive adversity

In the bustling heart of Khost, Hamid's small shop was more than just a business; it was the lifeline of his family, nurturing their dreams and aspirations. Each day, Hamid devoted himself to this modest venture, ensuring that his loved ones were supported through its earnings. However, when his mother fell gravely ill, the financial strain quickly threatened the shop's existence, forcing the family to divert their limited resources to urgent medical care.

Upon returning to his shop, Hamid was met with bare shelves—a poignant symbol of their dwindling resources and dashed hopes. Faced with the prospect of closing the business that had sustained them, the atmosphere at home grew heavy with despair. Hamid's search for alternative employment yielded little, leaving him and his family feeling trapped. With the high number of people seeking employment in his community, he was not optimistic about his chances of getting a job. In the midst of their despair, a beacon of hope emerged when the CRLP commenced subprojects in their community.

Zainab, Hamid's sister, was registered as an eligible person for labor intensive works on a road construction site. She began earning a daily wage of 450 AFN daily. Recognizing the shop's importance to their family's survival, Zainab selflessly dedicated her earnings to reviving her brother's business. "The losses we have experienced in our community have been many. But they have made us to stand for one another," she explains. Zainab expresses a sense of pride and relief as business at the shop improves.

The harsh realities of women's lives in Afghanistan have seen many of them struggle to maintain their self worth. Many women who are engaged in the project use their wages to contribute to the upkeep of their family. The project has helped them to feel valued in their homes as well as in the community.

Naghma, lives with her husband and 4 children in PD6 in Kabul. She is proud to have worked on the plum street in her community that was rehabilitated under the project. "When my children play on the street, they tell their friends of the work I did," she beams. Naghma and her husband could barely make ends meet for the family. Some days they would have nothing to eat. They were contemplating pulling their children out of school. Like Zainab, the money she earned as a laborer saved her family.

4. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 3: Social Grants for Women and Most Vulnerable in Rural and Urban areas

Throughout this reporting period, social grants continued to be disbursed to the most vulnerable households, with a particular focus on female-headed households. The delivery process involved a detailed and transparent identification of eligible households, ensuring that the assistance reached those who needed it the most. To ensure community participation and inclusivity, the female CDC wings played an active role in conducting outreach sessions and participating in the beneficiary selection processes.

UNOPS received numerous success stories from beneficiaries, expressing their appreciation and positive feedback regarding the impact of the grant on their lives. The SG has played a critical role in helping households meet their basic needs, alleviating some of the financial burdens they face. As a result, a significant number of beneficiaries have expressed their desire for the SG program to be extended for an additional two to three cycles, highlighting its importance and effectiveness in providing support during challenging times.

In both rural and urban areas, significant progress was made. Social grant distribution was completed for 6,461 communities. This includes 5,945 communities in rural areas and 516 project sites in urban areas.

A total of 124,950 households were identified as eligible beneficiaries across both areas. Social grants were distributed to 122,440 beneficiaries, comprising 84,388 in rural and 38,052 in urban, with 57.2% of the recipients being female-headed households. The shortfall in coverage occurred only in Helmand province, due to budget limitations for that location.

Table 4.1: Social Grant status

Component 3 in Rural and Urban Areas								
Lot #	# of Provinces/Cities	# of CDCs beneficiaries selection completed	# of eligible HHs identified	# of CDCs food distribution completed	¹⁷ Total # of beneficiary HHs received the SG	# of FHH received food packages	# of HHs with DHH received food package	# of HHs with drug addicted persons received food package
1	3	1,092	19,326	1,092	19,325	11,076	8,166	83
2	6	1,033	18,732	1,033	18,732	10,314	7,951	467
3	4	710	12,000	710	11,999	7,340	4,524	135
4	4	1,464	20,593	1,464	18,123	9,568	7,984	571
5	5	785	6,724	785	6,714	3,394	3,096	224
6	4	861	9,496	861	9,495	6,181	3,100	214
Total for Rural		5,945	86,871	5,945	84,388	47,873	34,821	1,694
1	Kunduz	34	2,380	34	2,380	1,128	1,061	191
2	Kabul	200	14,260	200	14,249	8,678	5,285	286
2	Bamyan	13	988	13	988	532	427	29
3	Herat	72	4,826	72	4,826	2,916	1,286	624
3	Mazar	46	3,291	46	3,291	1,994	1,265	32
4	Kandahar	77	6,883	77	6,867	3,768	2,761	338
5	Khost	28	1,773	28	1,773	877	776	120
6	Nangarhar	46	3,678	46	3,678	2,292	1,325	61
Total for Urban		516	38,079	516	38,052	22,185	14,186	1,681
Grand Total		6,461	124,950	6,461	122,440	70,058	49,007	3,375

¹⁷ Not all eligible HHS identified received SG due to budget constraints



Photo: Food Package Distribution to 314 HHs in 58 CDCs in Nawor district of Ghazni Province in June 2024



Photo : Food Package Distribution to 314 HHs in 58 CDCs in Nawor district of Ghazni Province in June 2024

INSIGHTS

Leaving no one behind

58-year-old Bibi Razema lives with her 11-member family in Imam Barah Muhammadi Masjid CDC in

Nahr-i-Saraj district, Helmand province. She is an elderly, poor widow. Bibi has been displaced from Nawazd district. She owns no land for farming and has no house in the village. Her sons are young and there is no one to work with her to support the family. Despite her circumstances, no one in the village has offered Bibi and her family any assistance. Communities in the remote district of Nahr-i-Saraj are mostly illiterate and rely on agriculture for their livelihood. Now, many have had to look for work outside as lack of farming inputs has impacted their productivity.

"We haven't cooked in this house for several days," Bibi explained sorrowfully, "I have been washing clothes for villagers to try and earn money. I have had to rent a house for 4000 Pakistani rupees (approx USD15) per month even though I am very poor." She fears her children will be illiterate. Whilst communities welcome displaced families, they are not always able to offer them any social support.

Bibi's story is not unique. Years of war and conflict have forced many families into extreme poverty. Many families have become internally displaced exposing them to food insecurity. By working closely with community development councils, CRLP has been able to identify the most vulnerable members of the community and offer emergency support through social grants.

In Sheragha Sherdan Khil Village - Khoshi district – Logar Province, Zargul was selected to receive a social grant as a person with disability. He has not had a reliable source of income for his family of 8 (his wife, 3 sons and 4 daughters) for several years. In a patriarchal society where the man is expected to provide for his family, Zargul has struggled with his inability to meet his family's needs. Zargul seeks work in villagers' farms in order to feed his family. During fall and winter, there is little opportunity for such work. "I was in bad condition before the month of Ramadan," he says, "but this food package has solved my existing problems until Eid Ul Fitr." Relief is evident on his face.

Provision of social grants has been an effective way of reaching the most vulnerable in communities and ensuring that no one is left behind.



Distribution of social grants to the most vulnerable members of the community

5. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 4: Strengthening Community Institutions

Sub-Committees Establishment:

Rural Areas: 17,895 male wing and 17,895 female wing CDC sub-committees are established.

Urban Areas: 598 male wing and 598 female wing CDC sub-committees are established.

Total: 18,493 Sub-Committees are established in rural and urban areas.

Table 5.1: Actual Number of participants trained under C4 in Rural and Urban areas

Total Communities to be Covered	Actual # of Communities Trained	Average CDC Members Trained		Average Sub-Committee Members Trained		Average Community Members Trained		Total Participants Trained	Male/Female Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female
Rural: Per Community Participants Trained										
5,968	1	10	10	26	34	10	11	101	46	55
	Rural: Overall Participants Trained (All Lots Summary)									
	5,965	59,650	59,650	155,090	202,810	59,650	65,615	602,465	274,390	328,075
Urban: Per Community Participants Trained										
598	1	10	10	8	12	10	13	63	28	35
	Urban: Overall Participants Trained (All Lots Summary)									
	598	5,980	5,980	4,784	7,176	5,980	7,774	37,674	16,744	20,930
Grand Total										
6,566	6,563	65,630	65,630	159,874	209,986	65,630	73,389	640,139	291,134	349,005

Table 5.2: Number of Grain Banks and Kitchen Gardens Created

Lot #	Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3	Lot 4	Lot 5	Lot 6
# of Grain Banks Created	905	1,003	573	1,473	474	860
# of Kitchen Gardens Created	803	2,354	716	5,057	1,598	1,909

Health and Nutrition Training

UNICEF delivered the Health and nutrition training sessions in only 139 CDCs across nine provinces, that is, Nimroz, Laghman, Kabul, Kunar, Bamyan, Panjshir, Herat, Kapisa and Samangan Provinces. There was no further progress due to the DFA suspension of UNICEF activities in September 2023.

Good coordination existed among the UNICEF and CRLP staff and FPs. Project field staff were available to support UNICEF colleagues in the field to maintain the coordination with CDCs/Sub-Committees and create a conducive environment for them to train the targeted groups but due to suspension from DFA, the trainings did not proceed.

Table 5.4: Number of CDCs trained and visits conducted

Total CDCs to be covered	# of CDCs Trained	% of progress as per CDCs	# of Food and Nutrition Visits	# of Health Visits	# of Women Trained Food and Nutrition	# of Women Trained Health	Total (Men & Women Trained)
5,968	139	2%	139	129	3,539	3,079	6,520



Photo: The community training for Component 4 is ongoing in Qargha and Langar CDC in Nawur district, Ghazni province on 14 May 2024.

INSIGHTS

Laying strong foundations for sustainable development

In the CRLP, communities are not just beneficiaries, they are decision makers. The project takes a community-driven approach where communities are heavily involved in all aspects of the project from initiating, planning, implementation, monitoring, controlling, reporting, and all communications. This integration of local ownership has made the project successful and this community-centric approach supports longer term resilience. To date, CRLP has strengthened 6,563 community institutions. Through these institutions, training has been delivered to bolster household and community resilience.

One intervention was the establishment of kitchen gardens to boost nutrition and food security in communities. "I had nothing to eat for days. I was hopeless and begged my neighbors to provide me with food," Khaista Lal explains. Khaista is from a remote village in Kandahar where restrictions on women are strictly enforced. "With my kitchen garden, I can manage my home expenses by delivering the vegetables to the market. I earn 550 AFN on a weekly basis." Khaista has gone from begging to starting her own business. She shares her experience with community members. "We have so many vulnerable families living here. I share my experience with other women in the community so that they too can grow kitchen gardens and support their families."

"In my community this is the only kitchen garden, and everyone buys vegetables from it," another woman, Ahmad explains. "I earn money on a daily basis to support my family," Ahmad is 55 years old. She lives with 26 members of her family in Nahrisirang District of Helmand Province. She has five sons who survive on part time jobs. On most of the days her sons come home empty-handed. "One of my sons recently started working as an unskilled laborer with the CRL project. When I was trained on kitchen gardening, I convinced him to buy more seed packs for me," she continues. "Many people in our village do not know about eating and planting vegetables. Now they are learning from my garden." This sharing of knowledge helps build community solidarity.

In Khwaja Omari district of Ghazni Province, Sardar Khan has managed to turn his kitchen garden into an income generating project. He purchased plastic sheeting and has constructed a large shed. Sardar grows eggplants, tomatoes, peppers, okra and cabbage. He sells his produce at the market. "I am overjoyed that our kitchen garden has grown to produce more fresh vegetables than my family can feed on. Selling at the open market is now covering my other living costs."

Communities have been trained on a variety of topics, such as development planning, the establishment of grain banks, community-based disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and mitigation practices and interventions. Some programs on well-being and health have specifically targeted women.



Sardar's expanding vegetable business

RETURNEES AND IDPS

Parent project

Lot #	Region	FP Name	# of Provinces	# of returnees HHs benefitting			# of IDP HHs benefitting		
				CFW	LIW	SG	CFW	LIW	SG ¹⁸
1	North East (Kunduz)	AKF	3	-	172	-	366	463	
2	Center (Kabul)	ACTED	6	70	584	-	3,514	592	
3	North West (Mazar)	AfghanAID	4	-	84	-	1,130	847	
4	South (Kandahar)	CHA	4	-	259	12	6,143	448	
5	South East (Khost)	CDDO	5	74	41	-	2,307	468	
6	East (Jalalabad)	DACAAR	4	381	287	26	4,490	2516	
7	Herat				100			3923	
8	Bamyan				0			49	
Total			26	525	1,527	38	17,950	9,306	

6. PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 5: UNOPS Implementation Support

6.1 MIS and GIS

- During the period, a new feature was developed to backup the CRLP database transaction logs from the domain server to the backup server.
- The new report formats for C2 and C3 were developed and implemented in the MIS to enhance data tracking and streamline reporting processes.
- 110 CDCs were reopened as per requests from the FP and Finance for reconciliation and to address inaccurate reporting of the expenditures.
- GIS standard maps were prepared for 8 urban cities and shared with the World Bank.
- The MIS team is working to integrate the CRLP MIS with oneUNOPS (oneUNOPS is the corporate enterprise system platform) in order to automate financial reporting.
- Support to the FP database officers was provided on a daily basis.
- C2 data verification and data entry continue to be conducted by the UNOPS MIS team.

¹⁸ The Project monitoring forms for SG do not capture the data on IDPs. The Forms have been revised for AF and will start reporting for the AF when activities start.

INSIGHTS

Enhancing Data Accuracy Through Role Separation

The development of the MIS platform for CRLP has been an exhilarating journey full of challenges and opportunities. At the start of the project, data entry and verification were both handled by database officers within the facilitating partners. In spite of their best intentions, too many errors occurred, particularly with invalid forms that were approved without proper review. The team learnt very quickly how combining these two roles increased the risk of mistakes. Individual bias makes it easy for one to overlook details or assume their data was correct.

To address this, the project introduced a data management strategy that designated roles and responsibilities without giving any one person multiple roles. In this case, the database officer handles data entry, and the provincial manager is responsible for verification and quality assurance. This two-step approach has improved data accuracy significantly.

Key Learnings:

- Dividing tasks such as data entry and verification among different individuals helps prevent conflicts of interest and increases accountability.
- Implementing a two-step process that assigns distinct roles for data entry and verification introduces multiple layers of oversight. This approach minimizes the risk of errors and enhances data integrity.
- Assigning quality assurance tasks to someone not involved in data entry allows for a more objective review process, enhancing the overall credibility of the data.

As the project grows and dynamics in the implementation evolve, MIS is continually being improved to feed result framework indicators, to monitor progress and document compliance with relevant Environmental and Social instruments; and to automate progress reports for management and accountability purposes.

6.2 Human Resources / Staffing

UNOPS has a staff complement for the project of one hundred thirty seven (137) as of 31 August 2024. Eleven (11) positions are vacant, with nine (9) under recruitment.

During the reporting period, seven staff separated/resigned from the project.

- 1 Civil Engineer on 31 May 2024
- 1 Community Liaison Senior Associate on 10 June 2024
- 1 Head of Project on 31 July 2024
- 2 QA/QC engineers on 16 and 31 July
- 1 Security assistant on 24 July 2024
- 2 Construction Management Engineers on 31 July 2024

During the reporting period, twenty-four (24) staff were recruited and onboarded:

- 1 Project Management Senior Assistant under PIU on 11 May 2024
- 3 Program Management Associates, and 1 Lead Civil Engineer under C2 on 15 May 2024
- 1 Procurement Advisor on 23 May 2024
- 1 Procurement Specialist, 1 Finance Specialist, 5 Health, Safety, Social and Environmental Senior associates (C2) and 2 Health, Safety, Social and Environmental Senior Associates under C1 on 01 June 2024
- 1 Programme Director on 01 July 2024
- 2 Community Liaison Senior Associates, 1 Civil Engineer and 1 Construction Management Engineer on 01 July 2024 under C2
- 1 Community Liaison Senior Associate on 10 July 2024 under C1
- 1 Lead Construction Management Engineer on 01 August 2024, under C2
- 1 Communication Specialist on 14 August 2024
- 1 Finance Associate on 25 August 2024

INSIGHTS

Meet women breaking barriers to support vulnerable communities - Engineer Zohal Farzeen, Construction Management Engineer, CRLP

Each morning Zohal Farzeen makes a 30 km commute to the UNOPS office in Kabul. Like many of the female workers, she uses the shuttle provided by the project. She often reflects on the journey she has traveled from a young girl whose curiosity and technical mindset sparked her interest in engineering. She recalls days spent solving problems for her family. One special memory is of her twin brother's electric bicycle. Whenever it had problems, Zohal's father would call on her to check it. Often, older family members would have tried to fix it, and failed. "I would always eventually repair it myself. In the process I learned that attention to detail is crucial in technical work, as small issues can lead to significant problems," she chuckles.

In school, Zohal loved mathematics and physics. Today, she holds a Civil Engineering degree from Kabul University and is currently pursuing a Master's in Engineering Management from the University of East London. Zohal joined CRLP in June 2022 as a Construction Management Engineer. "My typical day starts with prioritizing tasks for both work and family. I organize my schedule to ensure I meet project deadlines while also being present for my children. This allows me to maintain harmony in both aspects of my life". Zohal is a mother of two and she emphasizes the need to achieve a balance in her personal and professional life.

Zohal takes pride in empowering vulnerable women by providing job opportunities and advocating for their needs. This includes identifying meaningful activities within the subprojects that women can carry out whilst maintaining their dignity. "In my free time, I like to unwind and spend time in my kitchen. I love to cook," she says, "My favorite dish to cook is Qabeli Palaw". She however flatly refuses to share the secret that makes hers truly delicious.

When asked what has enabled her to succeed in this predominantly male industry, Zohal attests her progress to the inspiration she has received from strong female role models like Engineer Zaha Hadid*. She also points out key values that have been her compass-dedication, resilience and a steadfast commitment to succeed.

In three years, Zohal envisions herself in the top management at the United Nations. "As an Afghan woman who understands the challenges faced by females in my country, I aim to address their difficulties from a leadership position. I believe that those who have experienced hardship are best equipped to advocate for change."

Zohal's hope and aspiration is to contribute to a world where everyone can find happiness and live free from injustice. The experience she has gained from the CRLP, which prioritizes the engagement of women will surely prove an asset in her goals.

**Zaha Hadid is a renowned Iraqi-British architect and engineer. She was known for her innovative and futuristic designs that often featured sweeping curves and unique geometric forms. Zaha Hadid was the first woman to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize, and her significant works include the Galaxy SOHO in Beijing and the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, Azerbaijan. Her contributions have greatly influenced architecture and inspired many women in engineering and design fields.*

6.3 Financial Management

- [T2 Interim Unaudited Financial Report \(IUFR\)](#) for the period ending 31 August 2024 for the Parent and AF project.
- [Interim Financial Statement](#) produced as of 31 August 2024.
- The project budgets for parent project, AF-ARTF and AF-IDA are approved by WB.
- Operational processes for the new fund flow management have been finalized.
- Progress was made on the overall project expenditure reporting and reconciliation.
- Clean audit reports were shared with the World Bank.
- Capacity building sessions have been conducted with Facilitating Partners.

6.4 Communication

- The communication strategy was updated during June 2024. This is a live document which will continue to be revised periodically to ensure that it remains relevant to the project.

- During the period, Communications continued to ensure that the weekly report was circulated and shared with the World Bank on schedule.
- Monthly thematic results and slide decks for the months of June, July, August 2024 were developed and shared with the World Bank.
- Each month photos were shared with the World Bank on OneDrive reflecting the main thematic areas for communications - women engagement, climate change, returnees, private sector development and people using infrastructure.
- OneDrive has become the repository for sharing photos, stories and videos with the Bank.
- Field missions were conducted to Kandahar, Nangarhar and Kabul provinces for content gathering.
- Subsequently, ten success stories and one case study were developed on the thematic areas and shared with the World Bank during the reporting period.
- 3 videos were produced to highlight the impact of the project under the different components.
- The project's website and Facebook page were updated with latest news, procurement opportunities and project reports.
- Capacity building was conducted for FPs and project teams on Photography and Interview techniques to improve quality and quantity of content collection by teams on the ground.

INSIGHTS

Navigating the challenges of storytelling in a fragile context

Afghanistan has often been labeled one of the most challenging countries for women to live in, particularly since the takeover by the Taliban in August 2021. In this environment, restrictions have intensified—women have faced bans on working with NGOs and the UN, limitations on their public presence, and have been barred from higher education. Moreover, limitations on travel without a mahram has restricted their access to essential social services. Yet, amidst these challenges, the CRLP has emerged as a beacon of hope, enabling women to engage in short-term income opportunities and capacity-building initiatives in both rural and urban areas.

One of the aspirations of CRLP is commitment to storytelling, even in a context where sharing some of the narratives poses significant risks. The project has navigated these challenges by building strong community ties, fostering solidarity, and establishing unwritten permission for women's participation. By strengthening local institutions, including female wings and subcommittees, CRLP has created pathways for women to engage safely and meaningfully.

Leveraging existing structures has played a crucial role in CRLP's success. The facilitating partners, with their deep roots in the communities, have been invaluable. Capacity-building officers, social mobilizers, and gender focal points provide essential channels for communication and serve as sources of information on success stories. To enhance its storytelling capabilities, CRLP has implemented targeted training for staff and partners, empowering them to identify and share success stories through photography and narrative. This capacity-building initiative ensures that stories of resilient women are captured and celebrated, despite the surrounding restrictions.

Moreover, CRLP has established a community of practice by designating Communications focal points among facilitating partners. This collaborative effort ensures that success stories are documented and shared in monthly and quarterly reports, amplifying project impact. In regions where movement for women is less restricted, CRLP has seized the opportunity to film activities and the achievements of the women involved. By maximizing these moments, the project reinforces the importance of partnering and community support in navigating these turbulent times.

Through determination and innovation, the CRLP is contributing to the transformation of the narrative for women in Afghanistan, illustrating their resilience and the networks that can be established to support them. Through CRLP activities, the project has witnessed examples of the enduring spirit of women striving for a better future, even in the most challenging contexts. By prioritizing community engagement, leveraging existing resources, and fostering a culture of storytelling, the project continues to seek and create avenues for women's voices to be heard.

6.5 Quality Assurance and Quality Control

The Quality Assurance and Quality Control function supports the implementation of projects under Component 2 in the urban areas. The following activities have been carried out during the period:

- 35 kick-off meetings were held for C2 contractors. The contractors were presented with the project's QA/QC system, methodology, and processes.
- 55 QC plans of the C2 contractors were reviewed and endorsed during May-August 2024.
- 227 physical inspections of the material quality test were conducted in different projects across multiple cities to ensure the quality of work.
- A total of 189 Quality Control and Assurance inspections were carried out on physical sites. While no significant problems were found, several projects had minor problems, which were fixed with the application of remedial measures:
 - Out of 189 projects, 25 had sub-base materials whose quality did not meet technical specifications; they were replaced with materials of good quality.
 - In 3 projects, the quality of stones which did not meet the technical specification requirements were replaced.

- In 2 projects, the stone masonry pointing was of poor quality. The contractor was instructed to complete the stone masonry pointing in accordance with the requirements and drawings. Follow up visits confirmed that the contractor completed the stone masonry in accordance with instructed standards.
- In 10 projects, inferior aggregate quality was rejected. Following engineers' instructions, the contractors replaced it with good quality aggregate materials.
- The concrete mixing ratio in 21 projects did not meet the specifications of the concrete mix design. The contractor was instructed to produce concrete as per the approved concrete mix design. As per the given instruction and follow-up site visits conducted, the contractors prepared the mix of concrete according to the mix design ratio which fulfilled the project requirements.
- In 2 projects, the formwork of concrete works was not as per the design and technical specification. Follow-up visits confirmed that the contractor replaced the formwork as per instruction and met the requirements of the project.
- In 9 sites, the concrete showed poor workmanship, and the contractor was instructed to prevent this deficiency in the future.
- In 16 sites, oversized boulders that did not adhere to design and specification standards were used in the concrete. All boulders were replaced and the contractors were instructed to use the boulders according to the specifications.
- In 8 projects, the subgrade material did not conform to the specifications. The contractor was instructed to replace it with good quality material, which was done.
- 371 daily reports from the contractors were reviewed and technical concerns were shared with the contractors.
- 201 concrete mix designs were reviewed, revised and approved.
- 951 materials quality test results were reviewed.
- 118 technical meetings were conducted with the contractor and UNOPS construction management engineers for the improvement of quality.

INSIGHTS

Quality Assurance proves a formidable catalyst for growth under CRLP

The basic services that UNOPS is providing under the CRLP are not just roads, canals or protection walls. They form the backbone of communities - connecting families to their loved ones across villages, enabling children to access schools, expectant mothers to reach clinics on time, farmers to produce food and providing a safeguard against climatic shocks.

In a complex context where economic challenges have affected most companies, UNOPS has endeavored to promote quality workmanship and delivery of construction works at 516 urban subprojects and selected rural subprojects. Before going to tender, the team prepares a design package. This contains drawings, technical specifications, work plans, bill of materials and machinery list amongst others. This first step alone, is a lesson for contractors in best practices for project planning. When a contractor has been awarded a project, QC/QA holds an induction session with the contractors. They follow this up with virtual and physical site inspections where documentation, materials quality, workmanship and concrete mix ratio are verified. From the inception of the project to date, CRLP has seen the improvement in the standard of delivery by contractors. But more impressive is the impact of the project on the broader construction sector.

CRLP has ignited the reopening and expansion of material testing laboratories across the country. The increased demand of QC test services in the 8 provinces under the project has resulted in reopening of at least 12 labs in Kabul, Jalalabad, Kunduz, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Khost, Bamyan and Kandahar. This sector had downsized significantly in the past few years. Now many labs are expanding their businesses. With contractors increased appreciation of the cost benefits of quality tests, the labs will be able to sustain their businesses.

Construction material suppliers have experienced a surge in business opportunities through CRLP. Due to decades of insurgency and war, suppliers had restricted themselves to a limited boundary beyond the cities in which they operate. The expanse and geographical spread of the project has encouraged them to extend their product offering to unserved markets. Further, they have discovered good sources of dressed stone and sub-base materials in previously inaccessible locations. Joint inspections with UNOPS, contractors and suppliers for construction materials source approval has instilled quality standards and environmental stewardship, a key lever for responsible and sustainable development. CRLP has boosted the capacity of material suppliers, and positioned them for future business opportunities.

The operating environment within Afghanistan remains fragile and uncertain. Consequently, the job market has shrunk considerably. The high unemployment rate is a major driver for migration especially among skilled and qualified workers. CRLP on the other hand has provided local job opportunities for technicians and engineers. All 8,165 subprojects (although awarded in batches to contractors and FPs) have required a minimum of 1 engineer, and 2 qualified technicians. This outcome has seen the objective of strengthening household income and resilience extend beyond vulnerable communities to professionals within the country. CRLP has contributed to strengthening an enabling environment to revive the construction sector.



6.6 Procurement

6.6.1 Components 1, 3 and 4 (Parent Project)

The following activities were completed during TA2 2024 reporting period:

- Project reports were received from all facilitating partners.
- Invoices for final payments were received from ACTED and Afghanaid. They are pending the approval of the final completion reports and final reconciliation to eliminate any discrepancies in the data.
- Authorization for the use of assets purchased under parent contracts to implement AF contracts was granted to all FPs for AF except RRAA where a transfer from Afghan aid is being processed.
- Donation of the part of the assets to AKF is being processed.
- Q2 2024 report of CDDO was received and is under review.
- Annual verification under Grant Support Agreement (GSA) with CDDO was conducted on 2 July 2024.

6.6.2 Components 1, 3 and 4 (Additional Financing)

- 5 FPs have signed contracts for the additional financing.
 - During the TA2 2024 reporting period, the remaining FPs contracts for additional financing were signed (ACTED, RRAA and DACAAR).
- An amendment¹⁹ for additional financing was signed with CDDO.
- Monthly reports under all FP contracts were received and approved.
- Insurance/self-insurance required by Article 6 of the General Conditions of Contract (GCC) is being discussed with all FPs, which is challenging given the limitations on service provision in Afghanistan. The procurement team is actively following up on this matter with FPs.

6.6.3 Component 2 (Parent Project)

- 520 contracts were awarded to 172 contractors since the beginning of the project
 - During the TA2 2024 reporting period, 9 awards were granted, and 9 contracts to 5 contractors
- The procurement plan and tracking sheets were reviewed and updated on a regular basis.
- The following actions have been taken to improve the speed of the procurement process and contract management:
 - Leveraging previous procurement processes to create a shortlist for limited competition.
 - Review and adjustment of the evaluation criteria to address the challenges with evaluation and review and incorporate lessons learned from the parent project.

6.6.4 Component 2 (Additional Financing)

- 24 awards were approved and 18 contracts signed since the inception of AF
 - All 24 awards were approved during the TA2 2024 reporting period.
- The total number of contractors awarded contracts from the start of Additional Financing is 14.
 - All 14 contractors were awarded contracts during the reporting period.

¹⁹ The amendment of the procurement plan in accordance with contract amendments is planned for discussion in the Implementation Support Mission scheduled for October 2024.

INSIGHTS

A local brand of responsible procurement

Years of conflict and war in Afghanistan resulted in an economy supported largely through international aid. When this aid came to a halt following the events of 21 August 2021, local businesses were incapacitated. Against this background, CRLP needed partnerships with contractors to deliver on basic services in urban areas. Initial tenders were unsuccessful due to low supplier capacity as evidenced by the poor quality submissions. This was further amplified by the high volume of tenders posted within that short period. Innovation and out-of-the-box thinking were the only way to move the project forward.

The procurement team developed a tailored, needs-based, vendor capacity building workshop. The training covered the aspects of the tender, outlining expectations and criteria for success. In 2023, 235 vendors attended the first capacity building workshop. In 2024, 150 new suppliers joined the workshop. In addition to this, contractors were encouraged to form joint ventures to boost their capacity. This is not typically encouraged in traditional procurement but in the local context, it would facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building. Pre-bid meetings are now systematically incorporated in all the works tender processes. These interventions paid off, and the quality of bids improved. Knowledge sharing and one-on-one sessions were also scheduled regularly with contractors to discuss key areas and address any topical issues. The team proactively provides feedback to failed bidders. This level of transparency has helped to enhance contractors' capacity and built trust within the market.

The procurement approach adopted by this project is notably innovative compared to traditional procurement methods. Traditional procurement often prioritizes cost and efficiency, whereas CRLP emphasizes sustainability and social impact. Companies owned and run by women, youth and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to participate in tenders. Inclusive and ethical practices are embedded through requirements for female representation and fair labor practices in all CRLP contracts. Such progressive procurement models can be powerful tools for change to recover from the socio-economic impact of the country's history and reduce inequality.

Now procurement is faced with a new 'challenge'. Tenders can receive up to 80 submissions per lot. Given the volume of tenders going out for the project, this high volume throttles the tender evaluation process. On the other hand, this is testament to the invigorated capacity of contractors, particularly in the construction sector. Agility and adaptability within the project have taught the team to view every challenge as an opportunity to achieve its immediate objectives while contributing to broader sustainable development goals.



Cement wholesalers have experienced a business boost as a result of CRLP subprojects

6.7 Environmental and Social Management & Gender

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). Key areas of achievement included subproject screening, preparation and implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), awareness training for Facilitating Partners (FPs) and urban contractors, and effective stakeholder engagement. Additionally, improvements were made in labor management procedures, gender integration, and the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

As part of the subproject scoping process, the project team carried out thorough Environmental and Social (ES) screenings to identify potential risks. Based on these assessments, appropriate mitigation measures were proposed to address any environmental or social concerns, ensuring that risks were managed effectively and the project maintained high standards of compliance and sustainability.

6.7.1 Environmental and Social Commitment Plan

Activities and progress of this section are prepared in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and ESCP. The ESCP sets out material measures and actions that UNOPS shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the ES instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the World Bank.

Material Measure and Action	Progress
Monitoring and Reporting	
Regular reporting/Quarterly (not tri-annually) to the WB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E&S quarterly progress reports were prepared and submitted to the WB. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q2 2022 Quarterly Report - submitted on 14 August 2022 Q3 2022 Quarterly Report - submitted on 14 November 2022 Q4 2022 Quarterly Report - submitted on 31 January 2023 Q1 2023 Quarterly Report - submitted on 16 May 2023 Q2 2023 Quarterly Report - submitted on 9 August 2023 Q3 2023 Quarterly Report - submitted on 16 November 2023 Q4 2023 Quarterly Report - submitted on 16 February 2024 1st Tri-annual Report - submitted on 15 June 2024 2nd Tri-annual Report - to be submitted on 15 October 2024 In addition to the above, weekly reports were prepared and submitted to the WB in order to provide them with regular progress updates on the project implementation.
Incident Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 social incident occurred during the reporting period. The incident involved conflict between the contractor's laborers and a community member. This led to a physical altercation in which 6 laborers were affected. A detailed investigation report and a comprehensive corrective action plan were submitted to the WB. All the steps were completed and the report is closed other than ongoing monitoring.
Contractors & FPs Quarterly E&S Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FPs submitted E&S updates as part of the quarterly reports. The reports have been reviewed and comments provided.
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS	
Organizational Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current HR includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSSE Analyst GRM Senior Associate Recruitment of 7 Environmental and Social Safeguards Senior Associates (2 for C1 and 5 for C2) was finalized and personnel joined the project on 1 June 2024. For the AF, the E&S and health and safety personnel were added to the FP staff structure. Each FP will hire 1 Environmental and Social Management Officer and 1 Health and Safety Officer to manage safeguard activities at the FP level and at project sites. The ToR was prepared and shared with FPs to recruit the staff accordingly. Each contractor will hire 1 dedicated HSSE person in their key staff list under C2 to manage safeguard activities at the project site.

E&S Assessment	<p>Environmental & Social Screening/Assessment of subprojects under the parent project were completed for C1 & C2. The potential risks were identified and mitigation measures were proposed. A total of 8,165 subprojects have been screened under the parent project from which 1,610 Simplified ESMPs were prepared for the medium to high risk SPs. For the low risk projects, no ESMP is required. E&S Screening/assessment is ongoing under C2 for AF.</p> <p>C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,645 E&S screenings were completed under the parent project (1,305 for AKF; 1,750 for CHA; 1,090 for DACAAR; 966 for Afghanistan; 899 for CDDO; and 1,635 for ACTED). • 1,090 simplified ESMPs were prepared based on the result of the screening forms. <p>C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 520 subprojects were screened under the parent project from which 520 simplified ESMPs were developed. • 188 E&S screenings have been completed for the AF during the reporting period. • Based on these screenings, 58 Simplified ESMPs were prepared under the AF and added to the works contract for contractors.
Management of Contractors	<p>C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCP, ESMF & SEP shared with FPs to manage their activities accordingly. • 110 proposals were checked/reviewed and 105 project site visits were conducted by CfW engineers during the reporting period to ensure safeguard requirements are in place. • Spot checks conducted during the reporting period indicated that 56% of laborers were equipped with the required PPE under C1. • The UNOPS safeguard team is in close communication with FP focal points and regularly discusses E&S-related issues. • The FPs' quarterly reports were reviewed and comments provided. • All FPs signed the Code of Conduct. • 97 E&S spot checks have been conducted since the commencement of CRLP. Spot check findings are provided at the end of this table. No spot checks were conducted during the reporting period. • For the training provided to the FPs and laborers, see row on Capacity support. <p>C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E&S requirements were incorporated in the bidding document/processes, on an ongoing basis. • Contractors signed the Code of Conduct. • 102 site inspections were conducted during the reporting period. Inspection findings are provided at the end of this table. • For the training provided to the contractors and laborers, see row on Capacity support.
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS	
Labor Management Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the reporting period, significant progress was achieved in implementing the Labor Management Procedure (LMP). • Safeguard training was cascaded daily to laborers under both C1 and C2, ensuring that all workers are aware of safety protocols and best practices. Laborers were equipped with the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), enhancing their safety and compliance with occupational health standards. Training sessions on LMP were conducted, covering essential aspects such as worker rights, grievance mechanisms, and safety protocols. Regular inspections were carried out to ensure adherence to the LMP, with a particular focus on the proper use of PPE and the observance of safety measures. • The Code of conduct was signed by FPs, contractors, and laborers, underscoring their commitment to maintaining a safe and respectful working environment. • These efforts collectively demonstrate a strong approach to labor management and a commitment to continuous improvement in safeguarding worker welfare. • Safe working environment was provided for females at the project site and they were assigned to culturally acceptable works (cleaning, traffic management, PPE distribution, water spray, curing of concrete). • 1,028 grievances/cases have been registered through different GRM uptake channels, of which 135 grievances were received during the reporting period. • Timely action was taken by the project team and contractors for grievance redress.

	For GRM details, please refer to section 6.7.2.
Occupational Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNOPS applies the OHS risk assessment procedure, beginning with hazard identification, where potential sources of harm in the workplace are systematically identified. For C2, the risk assessment documents are stored in the shared drive. For C1, the FPs upload the documents directly to the CRL MIS and they keep the original documents in the project file at the site. These hazards could be physical (e.g. machinery), chemical (e.g. toxic substances), or psychological (e.g. stress). Following the assessment, risk control measures are implemented to either eliminate or reduce risks to acceptable levels. Control measures can include engineering solutions, administrative changes, providing protective equipment, or training workers. After controls are applied, the process involves monitoring / inspections / spot checks and reviewing the effectiveness of these measures to ensure that they are working as intended. <p>C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE was provided to the laborers based on the PPE proposal, ensuring their safety and compliance with health and safety regulations. The necessary equipment, including helmets, gloves, and other protective gear, was distributed to workers based on the specific tasks and risks associated with their roles. Access was granted to the FP safeguarding focal points to undertake OHS training on the UNOPS learning platform. <p>C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation measures were included in the Simplified ESMP and disclosed prior to the signing of the contract between UNOPS and implementing contractors. OHS training sessions were provided for contractors. This process is ongoing. For more details, please refer to the capacity building section below within this table. All laborers (male and female) were equipped with proper PPE at the project sites. Health and Safety toolbox talks were conducted with laborers by UNOPS and contractors safeguard team on a daily basis before work commencement. First Aid Kits are available for each subproject site and are managed by trained personnel. HSSE Training was provided by UNOPS for project HSSE personnel. The training covered the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working at height Traffic Management Excavation and confined space Electricity and Energy source Lifting and hazardous substances
Grievance Mechanism for Project Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to GRM section 6.7.2.
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT	
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention & Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard training on environmental management and pollution prevention was conducted for two FPs (AKF & CHA) and 58 contractors. Mitigation measures were included in the Simplified ESMP and disclosed prior to the signing of contracts between UNOPS and implementing NGO/ contractors. Construction materials and resources such as stone, gravel, soil, crush, water and other required materials were purchased from suppliers (Open market). Air pollution was managed by water spraying and dampening where necessary and practice of good housekeeping at all work sites. The inspection reports show that 90% of the inspections indicate effective dust control through water sprinkling. For the remaining 10%, the contractors were instructed to meet requirements by thorough review of the areas or conditions where dust management was not adequately implemented and put in measures to control the dust. Recommendations to non-compliant contractors included analysis of times or locations where water sprinkling was lacking and increasing the frequency of sprinkling in high-dust areas or during dry, windy conditions. Waste was treated or disposed of from the site to the designated landfill on a regular basis. Waste materials were transported to the municipality-designated

	<p>disposal areas. No need for selection of additional disposal sites was identified during the period under review.</p> <p>Certain materials and construction waste are not reusable and thus must be disposed of at municipality-designated landfills. The contractor is responsible for transferring these waste materials to the landfill.</p> <p>The types of waste generated across the sites include:</p> <p>Concrete Waste: Excess or leftover concrete from mixing, pouring, and shaping activities, Concrete Debris, Broken pieces of concrete, bricks, and similar construction waste.</p> <p>Soil and Excavated Material: Excess soil, sand, rocks, mud, clay, and other natural substances removed during site preparation and excavation.</p> <p>Organic Waste: Plant materials, leaves, and silt, primarily from canal cleaning activities.</p> <p>Community-generated waste: Waste generated from residential areas, such as household refuse, food scraps, yard waste, bottles, and plastic bags, along with discarded materials from construction sites, including debris, rubble, and other leftover construction materials</p> <p>These waste materials require careful handling and disposal to avoid environmental impacts. Following standard practices, the contractor securely transports non-reusable waste to designated landfill sites. Given the small-scale nature of these rehabilitation projects, the amount of waste generated is limited. However, all waste produced is managed responsibly and properly disposed of by the contractor.</p>
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY	
Community Health & Safety	<p>C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions on community health and safety were conducted for two FPs (AKF and CHA) under the additional financing. These sessions aimed to equip the FPs with the necessary knowledge and tools to ensure the safety of the communities involved in and around project sites. • Laborers working on the projects were provided with Community Health and Safety inductions by the FPs, ensuring they are well-informed about safety protocols and best practices. • No issues relating to community health and safety were identified during the reporting period, reflecting the effectiveness of the training and safety measures in place. <p>C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions on Community Health and Safety were conducted at subprojects and this process is ongoing. Laborers received induction on Community Health and Safety from their contractors. • Community Health and Safety risks were identified, and appropriate mitigation measures were included in the simplified ESMP. • No issues with regard to community health and safety were identified during the inspection. • The contractors implemented the proposed mitigation measures highlighted in the ESMP, helping to manage the risks. • No grievance has yet been received concerning community health and safety.
Traffic & Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and road safety measures were prepared and adopted as part of the Generic ESMP in the ESMF. • Traffic and road safety measures were developed and integrated into the ESMP. The inclusion of these safety protocols in the ESMP reflects a proactive approach to mitigating traffic-related hazards throughout the project's duration. • Traffic and road safety measures were designed to address potential risks associated with project-related traffic and ensure the safety of both workers and the surrounding community. • Prior to the contracts with the contractors, simplified versions of the ESMP, incorporating key mitigation strategies, were disclosed. This ensured that all stakeholders, including contractors, were fully aware of their responsibilities related to traffic and road safety before contracts were signed. • By making this information available early on, the project ensured that safety protocols were well understood and could be implemented without delay during the construction and operational phases • To manage traffic effectively, a system of traffic control was implemented, which included assigning traffic controllers at project sites to oversee vehicle movements and maintain safety on the roads.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to traffic personnel, the project sites installed safety tapes and safety signs. These precautions created clear boundaries around work areas, reducing the risk of accidents and ensuring that workers and passersby were adequately warned of potential hazards. • The combination of these traffic management and safety measures contributed to the smooth and safe execution of project activities, prioritizing the well-being of both workers and the local community. • No specific issues on traffic and road safety were flagged under C1 during the reporting period.
SEA/SH Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEA/SH Action Plan was prepared and adopted as a separate document from the ESMF, upon WB request. Due to its sensitivity, the SEA/SH Action Plan is not disclosed publicly but is managed closely by the Gender focal point. • For more details, please refer to Gender section 6.7.3.
Security Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security risk management measures were included and adopted as part of the ESMF. • FPs and contractors are responsible for the security of their staff and assets. • No security incident was reported at the project sites during the reporting period. • For further details, please see Section 6.7.4 - Security.
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE	
Chance Finds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chance Find Procedures were prepared and adopted as part of the ESMF and included in simplified ESMP. • No chance finds were made during the reporting period. • All the FPs & contractors are advised to stop work immediately upon discovery of any material with possible archaeological, historical, paleontological or other cultural value, to notify relevant authorities and ensure that Chance Find Procedures are carefully followed.
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	
Stakeholder Engagement Preparation and Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) highlighted the successful implementation of stakeholder engagement, information disclosure, and community consultations across various stages of the project. • This effort ensured that all stakeholders could meaningfully participate in the process and benefit from the project's outcomes. • The SEP emphasized inclusivity, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, and outlined multiple key activities aimed at ensuring transparency and broad stakeholder participation. • Key Achievements in Stakeholder Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Successful and Inclusive Participation: All relevant stakeholders, that is, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, female-headed households, internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities, and other vulnerable groups, were able to engage in consultations effectively. Their voices were heard, and their needs and concerns were addressed, allowing them to fully benefit from the project. This level of inclusiveness reflects a commitment to social equity and ensuring that marginalized voices are part of the decision-making process. ◦ Multilingual Information Disclosure: To facilitate effective communication, information was disseminated in multiple languages - Pashto, Dari, English, and other local languages - making sure that language barriers did not prevent stakeholders from accessing essential project information. This multilingual approach was crucial in ensuring that the information reached diverse communities, allowing for informed participation across various segments of society. • Key Activities Implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Revision and Disclosure of Environmental and Social Documents: The ESMF was revised to reflect the requirements for additional financing and disclosed the websites of the WB and CRLP. This ensured transparency in project implementation and allowed stakeholders to review and understand the environmental and social safeguards guiding the project. ◦ Distribution of E&S instruments: Key documents such as the ESCP, ESMF, and SEP were shared with FPs to

	<p>manage their respective projects in alignment with these frameworks. This ensured that project execution remained compliant with environmental and social standards, and that FPs were well-informed of their roles and responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Outreach: GRM outreach materials were distributed to FPs and contractors. This widespread dissemination aimed to ensure that stakeholders had access to clear information on how to file grievances and seek resolution. The GRM is a vital part of the accountability framework, enabling communities to raise concerns and ensuring that their issues are addressed in a timely manner. ○ Ongoing Information Disclosure and Consultations: Regular consultations and information disclosure processes were continued under C1 and C2 of the project, ensuring ongoing community engagement. This continuous feedback loop ensured that communities were not only consulted at the outset but were kept informed and involved throughout the project's lifecycle.
Capacity Support (Training)	<p>C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safeguard refresher training was successfully conducted for two FPs, (AKF and CHA), under the additional financing phase of the project. During these sessions, 127 key staff members from both FPs received training on essential safeguard practices, including environmental and social (E&S) compliance, and health and safety protocols. ● The training also served as an opportunity to share lessons learned from previous project phases, address challenges encountered, and gather valuable feedback. ● Key takeaways from these trainings included a better understanding of safeguard procedures and the need for more efficient communication and coordination. ● Feedback from the participants highlighted the importance of continuous training and improvements to on-site safety measures. ● The remaining four FPs are scheduled to receive their refresher training sessions in late September and October 2024, ensuring that all partners are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to maintain high standards of safety and environmental management. ● 18,702 laborers have received safeguard induction by the FPs during the reporting period. This comprehensive training ensured that laborers were well-versed in health, safety, and environmental protocols, minimizing risks and promoting a safer working environment across all project sites. ● The focus on laborers' training reflects the project's commitment to safeguarding the workforce and reinforcing the importance of compliance at every level. ● For the AF, in addition to the FPs toolbox talks, the UNOPS Safeguard Team will also conduct site inductions/toolbox talks for the laborers during their spot checks and site visits under C1. <p>C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During the reporting period, a total of 35 safeguard orientation training sessions were conducted for contractor staff. These trainings aimed to ensure that both male and female contractor staff were well-versed in key safeguard measures to foster a safer and more compliant work environment. ● 34,329 laborers received HSSE induction from their contractors during this reporting period. This training ensured that laborers were informed of basic health and safety practices, and other key environmental and social responsibilities. ● By providing this induction, contractors have contributed to minimizing workplace risks and promoting better labor management across all project sites. ● UNOPS headquarters facilitated specialized health and safety training for 90 staff of the contractors, benefiting from this additional layer of guidance, reinforcing the critical importance of occupational health and safety measures in the project's implementation. ● 175 contractors' key staff received the training during the reporting period, helping to reinforce the project's commitment to safety, compliance, and worker welfare. ● Cumulatively, under C2, 555 safeguard training sessions were conducted by UNOPS for contractors in which 2,775 contractor key staff have been trained (Parent + AF) to focus on the cascading of Environmental and Social (E&S) and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) standards. ● 154,106 laborers have been trained under C2 (Parent + AF) by contractors to ensure

	<p>widespread adherence to safeguard practices and compliance with health, safety, and environmental regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This large-scale training initiative highlights the project's ongoing efforts to prioritize worker safety, reduce risks, and strengthen E&S compliance across all operational levels. • For the AF, in addition to the contractors, the UNOPS Safeguard Team will directly conduct site inductions/toolbox talks for the laborers at the project sites under C2. • The training sessions will focus on addressing potential hazards and ensuring compliance with safety protocols to mitigate risks commonly encountered at construction sites, thereby promoting a safer and more secure working environment for all personnel involved.
Project Grievance Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For GRM details, please refer to section 6.7.2.

E&S Spot-check findings under C1

The spot checks conducted for the parent project have provided valuable insights into the overall performance of the subprojects concerning Environmental, Social, Health, and Safety management practices, and grievance redress mechanisms (GRM). The Spot-check findings under C1 are as follows:

Table 6.7.7.1

Key findings of spot checks conducted for 97 subproject sites					
Indicator	# of Sites inspected	Requirements	# of compliant sites	Sites where indicator is not applicable	% of Compliance
Completed E&S Screening	97	All SPs should be screened	97		100%
Simplified ESMP Developed	97	S-ESMP is required for mid-high risk SPs	51	35	82%
Records of E&S Training available	97	The E&S training records should be available at all project sites	85		88%
Required PPE Available	97	15% of the workers (e.g. those who are engaged in mid-high risk activities such as stone crushing, working at height, or deep excavations) should have PPE	38	16	47%
Attendance Sheet Available	97	Attendance sheet should be available at all project sites	97		100%
GRM Poster Available	97	GRM poster should be available at all project sites	74		76%
CDCs Know GRM Channels	97	Communities and workers should know about the GRM	97		100%

		channels			
--	--	----------	--	--	--

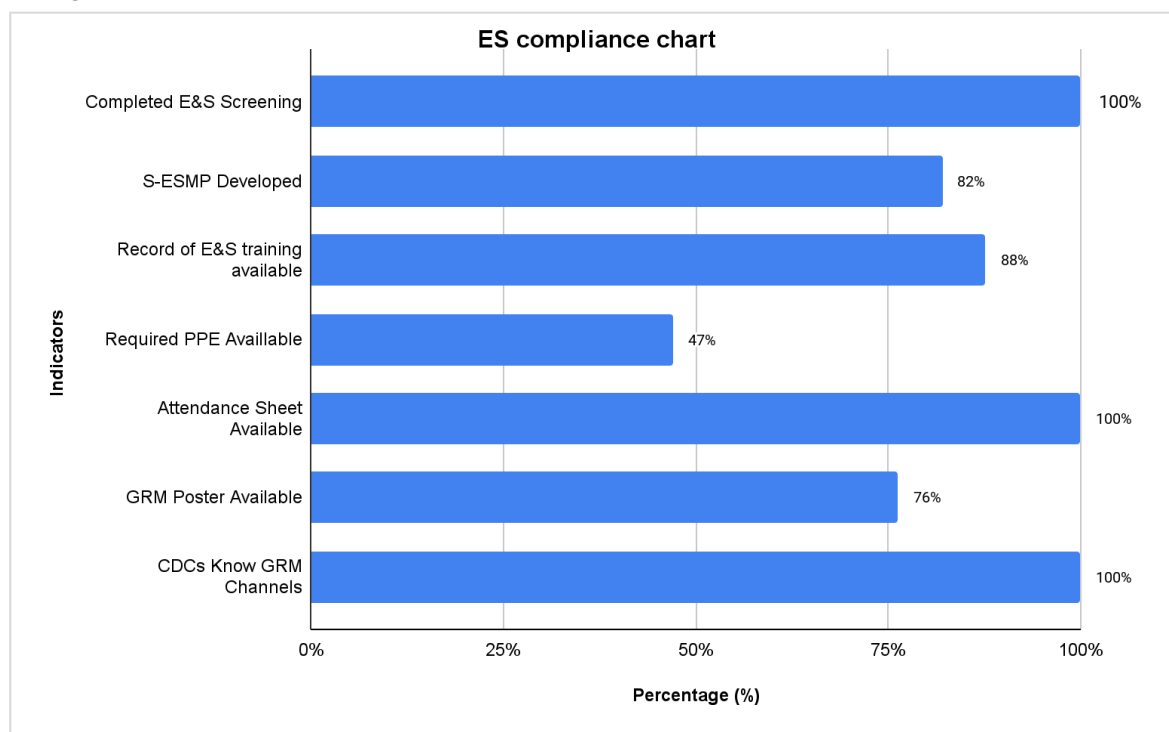
Note:

- From the 97 completed screening, 35 SPs did not require S-ESMP.
- Due to the low-risk nature of the activities, the use of PPE was not applicable. A proposal is under development for the availability of PPE for activities that are medium risk.

The above findings reflect that several areas require improvement to achieve 100% compliance. Under the additional financing, a comprehensive action plan will be implemented to address these shortfalls:

- The development and implementation of simplified ESMPs will be prioritized for the subprojects with medium and high impact.
- HSSE training and toolbox talks will be conducted consistently across all sites and trainings properly recorded.
- Improvements will be made on the availability of safety provisions, particularly PPE and first aid kits.
- Awareness and display of GRM posters in all subproject locations will be increased.

By addressing these areas, CRLP will strengthen commitment to E&S, safety, sustainability and full compliance moving forward.



E&S inspections findings under C2

102 site inspections were conducted during the reporting period. The following issues were checked at the sites and they were in compliance with the project requirements:

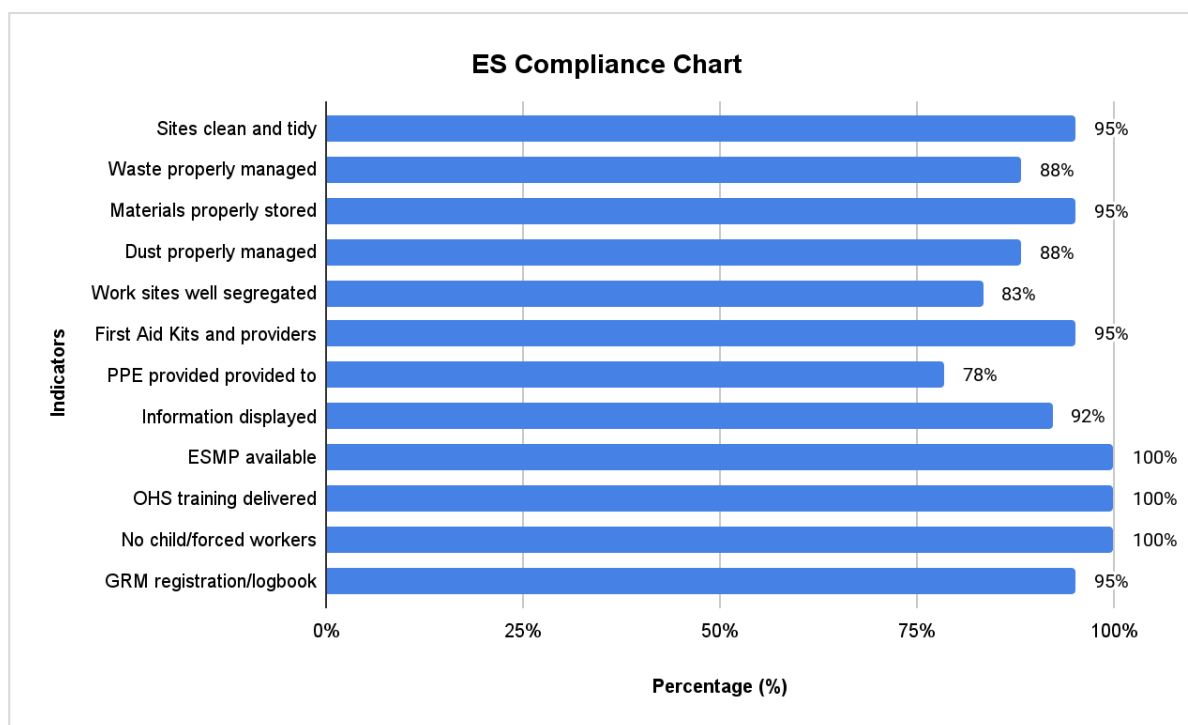
Inspection findings for 102 subproject Sites				
Indicators ²⁰	# of Sites inspected	# of Sites Compliant with E&S requirements	# of Sites not Compliant with the E&S requirements	% of Compliance
Project sites clean and tidy	102	97	5	95%

²⁰ The approach for inspections and spot checks is different because of the nature of the tools used for C1 & C2. The spot check form for C1 is very simple, while the C2 inspection form is more detailed. For AF, a unified inspection form for both C1 and C2 will be used, with only slight adjustments to account for the difference in tools used. This will help maintain consistency in our monitoring tools.

Waste properly managed	102	90	12	88%
Materials properly stored	102	97	5	95%
Dust properly managed	102	90	12	88%
Work sites well segregated, safety tapes in place, traffic management plan is in place, various site safety signs installed	102	85	17	83%
First Aid Kits and providers available	102	97	5	95%
PPE provided to the workers	102	80	22*	78%
Information (Safety roles, GRM, Emergency contact list) displayed	102	94	8	92%
ESMP available	102	102		100%
OHS training delivered	102	102		100%
No child/forced workers	102	102		100%
GRM registration/logbook available	102	97	5	95%

***Note:** In the remaining 22 SP sites, 80% of the laborer had PPE.

Inspection findings were noted and shared with the contractors for rectification. For each of the above-mentioned identified deficiencies, proper mitigation measures were proposed according to the project simplified ESMP, ESMF, labor management procedure, GRM guideline, and UNOPS health and safety management plan. UNOPS conducted follow-up inspections to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures are applied and corrective action has been taken by the contractor.



Corrective actions implemented by contractors:

1. Construction Safety PPE

- Workers were promptly provided with the necessary PPE.
- Contractors' health and safety officers now inspect workers' PPE daily.
- Workers are instructed to report to the Safety Officer if they need new or replacement PPE.

- Workers receive health and safety inductions on proper PPE use and maintenance.
- During safety talks, workers were encouraged to report any issues, including lack of PPE or unsafe practices, using the GRM system.
- Contractors were reminded to supply all required PPE in line with their contract.

2. Material storage and waste management

- The contractors disposed of waste in municipality-designated areas.
- Contractors segregated waste to improve waste management.
- Unusable materials and waste were separated at work sites.
- Segregated waste was taken to the designated municipal disposal areas.
- Contractors held awareness sessions for workers on how to collect, store, and segregate waste properly.

3. Site segregation and traffic control

- Site Isolation: The construction site was properly isolated to prevent unauthorized access.
- Safety Signage: Multiple safety sign boards were installed at the site.
- Traffic Management: Traffic controllers were assigned to control traffic and keep people, including children, away from the construction area.
- Safety Tape Installation: Safety tapes were placed around high-risk areas to enhance site segregation.
- Regular Monitoring: Safety officers now regularly inspect the segregation and signage to ensure they are maintained properly.

4. Dust control

- Review of the areas or conditions where dust management was not adequately implemented.
- Analyzing the times or locations where water sprinkling was insufficient or missed.
- Increasing the frequency of sprinkling in high-dust areas or during dry, windy conditions, to ensure continuous dust suppression.
- Regular monitoring of weather conditions can help adjust the schedule dynamically.

The contractors successfully addressed and rectified all findings and deficiencies noted during the inspection within the given timeline. This demonstrates their commitment to maintaining high standards of safety, quality, and compliance. By taking immediate corrective actions, the contractors ensured that all issues were resolved efficiently, minimizing any potential delays or disruptions to the project. Additionally, their ability to meet the specified timeline reflects effective project management and responsiveness to regulatory requirements. Going forward, regular monitoring and proactive maintenance will help prevent similar deficiencies from recurring, ensuring continuous adherence to established standards and project goals.



Photo 22: Cascading the ES training to laborers on 10 July 2024.



Photo 23: Traffic Management at the subproject sites 20 June 2024.



Photo 25: First Aid Kit, Safety tools and Signage in Workplaces 30 May 2024.

6.7.2 Grievance Redress

As per the requirement of the CRLP, under the parent project, all six FPs (Lots) each established two GRCs, one for normal grievances and one for SEA/GBV/SH grievances. Two FPs under additional financing have received training on grievance redress and SEA/GBV/SH while the rest will receive their GRM training in due course. Table 7.7.2.1 elaborates on the composition of GRCs formed by FPs.

Table 6.7.2.1: List of GRCs established by FPs

FP Name	LOT #	Normal GRC			SEA/GBV/SH GRC		
		Male Members	Female Members ²¹	Total GRC Members	Male Members	Female Members	Total GRC Members
AKF	1	12	4	16	12	4	16
ACTED	2	7	2	9	3	2	5
RRAA	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHA	4	7	1	8	3	1	4
CDDO	5	5	2	7	4	2	6
DACAAR	6	6	4	10	6	4	10
Total		37	13	50	16	9	25

²²As of the end of August 2024, 1,028 grievances/cases were registered through different GRM uptake channels, out of which 135 grievances were received in the second tri-annual period (May - August 2024).

²¹ The GRCs were established at the time when the DfA banned women working with I/NGOs. Therefore, some of the FPs did not include a female member in their GRC, noting that for the normal GRCs, the inclusion of female members is not mandatory. It is worth mentioning that women membership is mandatory for the GBV GRCs and the FPs have complied with that.

²² Note: RRAA is a newly onboarded FP. It was formerly part of a contract with 2 other NGOs (CHA and Afghanaid) who had formed GRCs. RRAA is yet to form GRTs both normal and GBV GRT.

Number of grievances reported by uptake channels

- The 1,028 grievances registered through to date were received from different uptake channels as follows:
 - 57.59% (592) of grievances were registered through the Awaaz Hotline number
 - 25.39% (261) of grievances were registered through petitions
 - 12.45%²³ (128) were received through verbal channels
 - 2.14% (22) grievances were registered via email
 - 1.07% (11) of cases are registered through SMS
 - 0.97% (10) grievances were received via social media
 - 0.39% (4) grievances were received through other channels
- The 135 grievances recorded during the reporting period (May - August) were analyzed as follows
 - 129 grievances were registered through Awaaz
 - 6 grievances have been received through CRL Shekayat
- No grievances have been registered through the web portal, likely due to the fact that connectivity level is weak in provinces compared to the capital. Therefore, people find it difficult to reach out to the project through that channel.

Table 6.7.2.2: Number of grievances registered by uptake channels

S.N	Uptake Channel	TA2 2024 period # of registered grievances	Cumulative # of registered grievances	Cumulative # of resolved grievances	Cumulative # of grievances under process
1	Hotline Number	129	592	579	13
2	Web Portal	0	0	0	0
3	Social Media	0	10	10	0
4	Verbal	0	128	128	0
5	Petition	0	261	261	0
6	Email	6	22	22	0
7	SMS	0	11	11	0
8	Other	0	4	4	0
Total		135	1,028	1,015	13

Table 6.7.2.3: Cases registered by main category (cumulative)

Type	Total	Male %	Female %	No Consent
Grievances	896	84.17%	11.82%	4.01%
Suggestions	93	94.62%	5.38%	0.0%
Enquiries	38	94.74%	5.26%	0.0%

Table 6.7.2.4: Cases registered by Reporting Period (May - August)

Type	Total	Male %	Female %	No Consent
Grievances	133	84.96%	9.77%	5.26%
Suggestions	0	0%	0%	0%
Enquiries	2	1.48%	0%	0%

Table 6.7.2.5: Number of cases reported by gender (cumulative)

Gender	# of registered grievances	# of resolved grievances	# of grievances under process
Male	879	867	12
Female	113	112	1
No Consent	36	36	0
Total	1,028	1,015	13

²³ Verbal cases are not recorded in MIS. However, verbal cases reported by CHA were registered in MIS. For AF, no verbal cases will be recorded in MIS

Table 6.7.2.6: Number of cases reported by gender in this reporting period (May - August)

Gender	# of registered grievances	# of resolved grievances	# of grievances under process
Male	115	115	0
Female	13	13	0
No Consent	7	7	0
Total	135	135	0

All the cases reported are low priority. Medium and High priority cases were not reported because there were no health and life threats to beneficiaries at the project sites.

Table 6.7.2.7: Grievances priority to date (cumulative)

Priority	# of grievances	Percentage
Low	1,028	100%
Medium	0	0%
High	0	0%
Total	1,028	100%

Table 6.7.2.8: Grievances priority in the reporting period (May - August)

Priority	# of grievances	Percentage
Low	135	100%
Medium	0	0%
High	0	0%
Total	135	100%

Grievances received through the GRC are not captured in the Results Framework. Several reasons make it challenging for these grievances to be tracked, for instance, changes in the membership of the GRCs, loss of logbooks in the community, literacy level and lack of office space for the GRCs. Many of the grievances at community level are resolved in verbal discussions or agreements. However, GRCs are encouraged to elevate grievances which they fail to resolve at community level.

Table 6.7.2.9: Issues registered by provinces

S.N	Provinces	# of Grievances Received and Resolved					Cumulative
		Before Q3 2023	During Q3 2023	During Q4 2023	During TA1 2024	During TA2 2024	
1	Bamyan	1	8	8	4	2	23
2	Herat	16	13	10	36	9	84
3	Kabul	29	33	58	38	79	237
4	Kapisa	12	3	0	0	0	15
5	Kandahar	23	32	5	0	5	65
6	Khost	31	18	14	17	10	90
7	Kunduz	3	5	7	6	1	22
8	Mazar	32	0	15	42	4	93
9	Nangarhar	205	0	9	6	19	239
10	Faryab	3	2	0	1	0	6
11	Wardak	6	0	1	0	0	7
12	Sare Pul	3	1	0	2	0	6
13	Badakhshan	2	4	0	0	0	6
14	Takhar	1	2	0	0	0	3
15	Uruzgan	70	20	0	9	1	100
16	Helmand	0	1	2	1	0	4
17	Baghlan	0	4	2	0	0	6
18	Laghman	0	1	0	0	1	2

19	Parwan	0	1	3	1	0	5
20	Ghazni	0	0	2	2	1	5
21	Paktya	0	0	0	4	1	5
22	Paktika	0	0	0	3	2	5
Total		437	148	136	172	135	1,028

Table 6.7.2.10: Grievances registered by category (excluding enquiries and suggestions)

Grievance Category	Grand Total	Percentage
Corruption	1	0.11%
Environmental/OHS	87	9.70
Financial Management & Procurement	11	1.23%
Gender	1	0.11%
Labor and Wages	534	59.53%
Misbehavior of Staff	9	1.00%
Other	52	5.80%
Recruitment & Staffing	21	2.45%
Social	25	2.79%
Stakeholder Consultation	2	0.22%
Subproject design	42	4.68%
Subproject Implementation	111	12.37%
Grand Total	896	100%

Table 6.7.2.11: Grievances registered by category (excluding enquiries, suggestions) in the reporting period (May - August)

Grievance Category	Grand Total	Percentage
Corruption	1	0.75%
Environmental/OHS	2	1.50%
Labor and Wages	84	63.16%
Misbehavior of Staff	4	3.01%
Recruitment & Staffing	2	1.50%
Social	3	2.26%
Subproject design	8	6.02%
Subproject Implementation	29	21.80%
Grand Total	133	100%

During the reporting period, all the grievance uptake channels (tollfree 410, email crl.shekayat@unops.org, Website www.acrlp.org and facebook) were active and responsive to the complainants' concerns.

INSIGHTS

Partnering for success- Successful collaboration CRLP/AWAAZ for grievance redress

“Good morning, you have reached Awaaz, how can I assist you?” -this is the constant buzz you hear in the Awaaz call center located within the UNOCA compound, just next to the CRLP Kabul office.

16 call operators, 10 of them women, are on standby at the Awaaz call center, 12 hours a day, every day of the year. As the name means, Awaaz (voice), they are literally providing a voice for the communities. Awaaz, is a UNOPS project offering a toll free telephone line across all major networks in Afghanistan.

This extensive reach made Awaaz a formidable partner for the CRLP Grievance Redress Mechanism. It can cover the expansive coverage of the project in both rural and urban areas. Effective redress mechanisms require confidentiality and transparency. Awaaz offers callers the rights to their own data. This means that every caller must give consent for their information to be saved and shared. The multilingual call center agents are well versed on the project and have call notes on the project close at hand.

Awaaz has integrated a robust CRM system which allows CRLP to receive notifications of any case received within minutes of it being logged. As a neutral player, Awaaz is able to provide feedback to case callers. They have a follow through loop that holds CRLP to account. Cases should be closed within 72 hours, with exception.

Awaaz complements CRLP GRM awareness through their own campaigns throughout the country. This helps even illiterate communities to recognise the GRM uptake channels at CRLP sites. It is no coincidence therefore that nearly 60% of grievances on the project are received through Awaaz.

The collaboration between CRLP and Awaaz has increased the efficiency of grievance handling. For instance, a community member called Awaaz on 9 June 2024 complaining that water was draining off a road constructed by the project into his basement. UNOPS engineers, along with the contractor went to inspect the site. After investigation, the source of the leak was established, which was unrelated to the drainage of the new road. The caller was satisfied with the handling of the matter and by 11 June the case was closed.

The collaboration of Awaaz and CRLP is a stellar example of how partnerships can deliver amplified results to vulnerable communities with full confidentiality and transparency .

6.7.3 Gender

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment + Gender Equality & Social Inclusion:

- The PSEAH, CoC, GBV Action Plan indicators and lessons learnt training were delivered to 127 staff of FPs (AKF & CHA).
- The same orientations were also delivered to contractors during their C2 kick-off meetings.
- 35 contractors (175 key staff) received orientation on PSEAH and Code of Conduct.
- Follow-up meetings were held with the FPs' GBV focal points and key achievements, challenges and their recommendations related to the increasing number of female laborers were discussed.
- PSEAH training was delivered to the newly hired UNOPS CRLP staff.

Code of Conduct:

- CRLP regularly ensures that the newly hired project staff, contractors and FPs sign CoC.
- 30 newly hired staff in the project signed the code of conduct during the reporting period.
- Orientation on Code of Conduct is planned to be conducted for all CRLP staff under the AF, by 31 December 2024.
- Follow up with FPs on signing of the Code of Conduct under the AF is yet to be scheduled as they had not hired all new staff by the end of the reporting period.

Monitoring Visits:

- On 6th June 2024, a joint field visit was conducted with the Communications Team in Shahrak Khurasan Upgrading of Shahrak-e Khurasan streets with plum concrete surface (L=500m), Gozar #19, District #16, Kabul City:
 - 13 females were employed as laborers for the subproject visited. 8 females were present at the site.
 - The female laborers expressed satisfaction with the project, as it provided them with a means to financially support their families.
 - However, they were asking for sustainable projects where they can support their families for a longer period of time.
 - Conversations were held with project engineers and Wakil Guzar who provided information about the working environment and how community people are satisfied and happy with the project.
 - As the community was facing serious issues with access before the plum concrete was installed, particularly women and children are happy using the new street.
- On 10th July 2024, a field visit was conducted in District 3 and 6 of Kabul Name: Upgrading of Bibi Hogai mosque Abasqule village streets (L= 913m), Gozar #24.
 - There were 130 male laborers and 10 females in district 3.
 - Female laborers were grateful for the working opportunities provided by the CRLP as they had no other source of income.
 - Female laborers were doing different activities like curing, traffic management, community awareness, washing dishes, providing water for laborers, sewing safeguard vests, and making traffic control flags.
 - Awareness about different GRM uptake channels and GRCs was provided to the laborers.
 - The Code of Conduct was signed by key staff of contractors and all laborers were provided orientation on CoC.
 - Female social organizers were hired. They signed contracts and were paid a fair salary.
- 25 spot checks were conducted to assess women's participation in the LiW and CfW activities.
 - The spot-checks assessed the ECA to ensure that the selected CDC met both ECA 1 and 2.
 - All the sampled CDCs in which the team were able to meet the Women CDC members met the ECA 2.
 - Women laborers appreciate the CRLP as it has created job opportunities for women and enabled them to support their families.
 - They are requesting WB/UNOPS for economic empowerment activities and extension of the projects.
- On 13 June 2024, a meeting was held with female staff of CRLP to discuss alternative working modalities such as working from home:
 - Female staff shared their suggestions and recommendations.
 - These have been submitted to the project management team for review and implementation.
- On 28 August 2024 a meeting was organized with female staff on the recent morality law of DfA and its impact on female staff. Female staff shared their concerns regarding the new morality law and mitigation measures were recommended to be considered.

- The GBV Action plan was updated for AF and shared with WB. Comments were received and addressed. Going forward, the GBV action plan tracker will be updated on a monthly basis.
- Meetings were held with GBV focal points of FPs to discuss challenges, recommendations and achievements. Women participation in the project is a great success. Women social organizers can visit women beneficiaries. However, they are still not allowed to go to offices. This excludes them from active decision making, networking and knowledge sharing with other staff - both male and female.
- For AF, the Gender team developed Terms of Reference (ToR) for GBV focal points of FPs. FPs have introduced new GBV focal points for AF, all of them are females.
- The project has ensured the needs of female staff of FP are met including transportation and internet connectivity.
- As part of knowledge sharing on gender, the gender officer participated in monthly meetings of UN Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) working group, and the GBV Risk Mitigation Measures series held on 8 and 15 August 2024.

CASA 1000 GBV Action Plan:

- The preparation of the GBV action plan for CASA 1000 is underway.

INSIGHTS

Creating an enabling environment for women to participate in income generating opportunities

Afghanistan has always been a culturally sensitive environment particularly regarding women and their participation in the public sphere. The restrictions on movement, education, employment and social life of women have complicated the delivery of programs such as CRLP, where participation of women is a key indicator of success. In the face of these challenges, the project has continued to make efforts to promote gender inclusion.

Community engagement has been intensified through development councils and local leadership. Establishing and fostering community trust is necessary to gain approval for the women to work. Through development councils, female social mobilisers have been able to engage women to participate in the decision making activities of the project, contributing to the membership of the development council and its subcommittees.

With the support of men in the community, the project has identified culturally acceptable activities which women can be employed to carry out at project sites. The work needed to be meaningful. A safe environment was not negotiable - women (and men) had to be convinced that safeguards were in place for health, safety and security, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, grievance redress mechanisms and GBV reporting and referral systems. CRLP has instituted and closely monitors these systems. Women work as traffic controllers, filling joints, housekeeping, bearing water, and in cement curing. At project sites, women wear their hijab as required. They are accompanied by their mahram if necessary. Welfare facilities are made available at all work sites.

Capacity building has proven to be a transformative tool in the achievement of women participation in the project. All project stakeholders are trained with intent and purpose. The project strengthens community institutions through various training including disaster risk management. This lays the foundation for sustainability of project interventions and social resilience. Project facilitating partners undergo a 5-day training program to instill the values, ethos and guidelines required to navigate project implementation. Capacity building is also extended to women. The project has included programs targeted at empowering women in health and nutrition, in addition to the general labor skills

In many communities, CRLP has improved gender relations at household level. Women feel more valued, in their household and at community level. The economic empowerment that comes with the wage payments has enabled women to sustain their families - buying food, paying fees, medical bills and in some cases even rental for their homes.

What is more, the project has provided a safe platform to strengthen women's social networks. The effect of the restrictive conditions on the mental health of Afghanistan women is sometimes overlooked and understated. The project provides access to referral pathways for mental, physical and reproductive health. As they work, the women share their common challenges, uplift one another and find comfort in projects like CRLP which provide a glimmer of hope for a better tomorrow.

6.7.4 Security

- The overall security situation in TA2 2024 reporting period was assessed as calm but unpredictable. There were no security incidents recorded in the CRLP Area of Responsibility (AoR), project teams' movement for project monitoring activities in the capital and regions was enabled, and CRLP project teams were able to access all the project sites.
- During the TA2 2024 reporting period, regular security coordination meetings were held with all FPs. The coordination meetings were held online as well in person in the provinces. The Security team also conducted site visits to provinces. The following is a region-wise update:
 - Northeast Region (Baghlan, Takhar & Badakhshan) - coordination meetings were held with FP in Kunduz and Baghlan. During security supervision and monitoring, the FPs were advised to follow and apply the risk mitigation measures proposed after the security assessment of the project sites.
 - North Region (Samangan, Saripul & Faryab) - Coordination meetings held with FP's project site staff and provincial management teams. A refresher session on security awareness was delivered to FPs in Samangan.

- West Region (Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor) - Regular coordination meetings were held with FPs Security Focal Point to address security-related issues/gaps at provincial and district level.
 - A Refresher Security Awareness Session was delivered to FPs in Herat province. The FP was advised to immediately report any safety and security incident to CRLP security focal point. Site Visit and Inspection were conducted to ensure that the FP is implementing SRM measures in their project sites according to the security plan.
- East Region (Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman & Nuristan) - Regular coordination meetings were held with FP Security Focal Points. It was ensured that they had full support from UNOPS.
 - Continuously the team leads in urban sites contacted to make sure they follow up risk mitigation measures. Separate missions together with the Rural team to Mohmand Dara and Kot districts of Nangarhar province and Alishang district of Laghman province and to Narai and Chawki district of Kunar province conducted, the intended missions were to monitor the project sites and deliver security sessions, to ensure the implementation of SOP, SMP and ESMF checklist and also brief the beneficiaries on security related matters. Some minor issues regarding the implementation of SMP were found and were shared with the FPs security focal points.
- South East Region (Khost, Paktya, Paktika and Ghazni) - Security sessions were delivered to FPs employees and CRLP workers in the various sites in urban and Sperra district of Khost and Gardez city of Paktia.
- South Region (Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan and Nimroz) - Held 4 coordination meetings, one with FP top management consisting of FP lot-4 manager, Provincial managers and project managers. The Project security requirements were explained and urged the management to nominate the provincial Security Focal Points for AF.
 - FP staff in Kandahar and Helmand were briefed on security awareness and reporting. In-person meetings were held with Security Focal Points including key staff and they were aware of the ongoing unpredictable security context.
- Central Region (Bamyan) - Coordination meetings have been held with FPs Security Focal Point to address security-related issues/gaps at provincial and district level.

6.8 Monitoring Findings

The project is aiming to complete 50 spot-checks by the end of 2024. So far, 25 have been completed, with plans in place to accomplish the remaining 25 within the next four months.

UNOPS has developed a monitoring spot-check template for FPs, intended to streamline and standardize the monitoring process under FPs. This template will help ensure consistency and effectiveness in monitoring efforts of FPs. The template outlines the areas of monitoring which covers ECA, Labor, SG, Quality Control, Finance, Training Usefulness and Community Satisfaction.

Quality control, safeguard, and rural regional teams are actively contributing to the spot-check monitoring process whilst undertaking their core tasks. Their involvement adds valuable expertise and diverse perspectives to ensure thorough oversight. By collaborating across these teams, UNOPS aims to effectively address any issues that arise during spot-checks and implement corrective measures where necessary.

In the TA2 2024 reporting period, monitoring spot-check was not conducted because of the FPs work completion.

7. THIRD PARTY MONITORING AGENT (TPMA)

Several joint WB, CRLP and TPMA coordination meetings were held to discuss a range of issues related to the TPMA processes, procedures and timelines. The TPMA Monitoring Framework, Protocol and Tools are being updated to comply with the new ECA being rolled out, and to respond to findings from recent reports.

Rural Area

The TPMA visited 300 subprojects in 13 provinces of rural areas during the TA2 2024 reporting period. 134 deviations were found. 75 of them have been closed and 59 of them are under rectification by FPs.

Urban Area

The TPMA infrastructure and social teams had no visits during the TA2 2024 reporting period.

Finance

The TPMA finance team shared Q2 2023 findings with UNOPS. UNOPS provided responses and supporting documents for final review.

INSIGHTS

Strengthening Monitoring System Approach

In a complex operating environment such as Afghanistan, where the needs of the communities can prove overwhelming, monitoring becomes a critical component of the project to provide information and ensure the use of such information by management to assess project effects – both intentional and unintentional – and their impact. To this end, CRLP has a multi-tier monitoring system:

- The first tier operates at the community level, where activities are overseen by a Community Participatory Monitoring Committee.
- The FP carries out its independent monitoring of the project implementation and identifies areas for improvement.
- The next level involves the UNOPS monitoring activities, whereby a number of spot checks and quality assurance visits are carried out.
- The final tier involves a third-party monitoring agent, providing independent oversight of program implementation and outcomes.

CRLP is a community driven project. Communities are at the center of planning, selecting projects and their beneficiaries. As such, these communities are vested in the project and its success. The Community Participatory Monitoring committee ensures that the most vulnerable members of the community benefit from the project. They hold their community accountable for holding meetings as required; and delivering project activities. In urban areas, they are inducted on the specifications of the project so that they provide oversight of the project on a day-to-day basis. The role of the committee extends to health and safety, environmental stewardship and grievance redress mechanisms.

Third party monitoring provides an independent perspective on project performance and is a necessary requirement in a complex operating environment like Afghanistan. TPM provides donors with an independent and objective, quality monitoring approach, providing confidence that the objectives of CRLP are achieved, to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent basic services in rural and urban areas of Afghanistan.

8. KEY CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The CRLP continues to manage and mitigate challenges that arise, and threaten or risk the smooth, efficient and timely implementation of the project. Three that challenged us in TA2 2024 are:

1. DfA Morality Law:

In May 2024, the DfA released the Morality Law in which they have codified a range of restrictions for women in Afghanistan. Women inclusion in CRL Project activities are the key criteria. The project aims to reach more women in urban and rural areas, ensure they have access to services and receive benefits from the activities.

The impact of the morality law is yet to be determined, but it would have a significant negative impact if the Project can't reach women in the communities due to restrictions imposed by the DfA based on the morality law.

Mitigation Plan:

The Project held various meetings with MRRD to ensure that they are aware of the risk and also to facilitate the inclusion of women in the project activities. In addition, the FPs and contractors will engage with the communities and engage women in culturally acceptable activities and workplaces.

2. Dissolution of CDCs by the DfA:

In May 2024, the MRRD sent a letter to MoEC referring to a “verbal” instruction from the DfA Supreme Leader on the dissolution of the CDCs. This delayed the mobilization of FPs for almost 3 months.

Mitigation Plan:

Following the dissolution of Community Development Councils (CDCs) by the DfA, the Project collaborated with the World Bank to develop new community mobilization guidelines. This initiative facilitates the execution of Component 1 (C1) activities through a Community Representative Group. Although the dissolution of the CDCs resulted in nearly three months of delays in the implementation of C1 activities, the Project has established a robust rollout plan to ensure the timely execution of rural activities within the overall Project implementation schedule.

3. TPMA Reporting timeline:

The TPMA conducted field visits for physical inspections and reviewed the expenditure/transactions. UNOPS received the May and June report on physical inspection of the infrastructure and the social aspects of the project. However, analysis and TPMA observations were unclear. The project flagged this issue with the TPMA and the WB in several meetings. It has been identified that there are fundamental challenges with the data collection process, analysis and reporting. TPMA, UNOPS and WB is now in the process of revising the TPMA protocol and instrument for the AF based on the lessons learned from the Parent project, particularly from the May-June Report.

On the expenditure reports, TPMA submitted the Q2 2023 expenditure report in August 2024, several months after the anticipated date of receipt. This led to challenges in addressing the findings identified in the report, including related to accessing project documentation from FPs who are no longer operating in the community locations. UNOPS raised concerns related to the challenges in receiving reports following such a lengthy delay and the associated consequences for the project.

Mitigation Plan:

TPMA, UNOPS and WB are in the process of reviewing and revising the TPMA protocol and instruments to ensure that the right data/information is collected from the field. A financial reporting timeline is being developed to track the timely submission of information both from TPMA to UNOPS and from UNOPS to TPMA. It is expected that these revisions will improve the quality and timeliness of reporting.

10. ANNEXES

Annex A: IUFR for the period ending 31 August 2024

- [IUFR produced for the period ending 31 August 2024](#)

Annex B: Interim Financial Statement as of 31 August 2024

- [Interim Financial Statement produced as of 31 August 2024](#)

Annex C: CRLP Staffing

Annex D: Result Framework

Annex E: Environmental and Social Commitment/Planned activities

Annex D: Results Framework

Project Development Objectives(s)							
The objective of the Project is to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas.							
Project Development Objectives Indicators							
Indicator Name	Baseline	End Target (PP+AF)	Progress up to Last Tri-annual	Current Tri-annual Progress	Cumulative Progress	Percentage Progress	Remarks
Provide short-term livelihood opportunities and urgent essential services in rural and urban areas							
Number of beneficiary households receiving livelihoods support (Number)	0	1,000,000	846,822	Field: 62,504	MIS:902,958 Field:909,326	90.3%	
Number of vulnerable households receiving social grants	0	150,000	118,043	4,397	122,440	81.6%	
Number of female-headed households receiving social grants	0	Monitored for progress	68,181	1,877	70,058		
Number of people with improved access to basic services	0	11,600,000	8,764,019	1,591,592	10,355,611 ²⁴	89.3%	
Intermediate Results Indicators by Components							
1. Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Rural Areas							
Number of working days created, Component 1	0	27,700,000	17,255,677	653,621	17,909,298	64.7%	
Number of working days created for women (<i>new indicator</i>)	0	Monitored for progress	995,761		995,761		
Number of beneficiary households receiving cash for work	0	900,000	732,077	23,126	755,201	83.9%	
Returnees in rural areas who have been provided with services and livelihoods (number) (<i>new indicator</i>)	0	Monitored for progress					

²⁴ Weekly report ending 3 September reported 10,022,364. The difference is due to review of some documents by finance causing a reduction in this indicator

Project Development Objectives(s)							
The objective of the Project is to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas.							
Project Development Objectives Indicators							
Indicator Name	Baseline	End Target (PP+AF)	Progress up to Last Tri-annual	Current Tri-annual Progress	Cumulative Progress	Percentage Progress	Remarks
Number/type of rural climate-resilient activities completed (clean water, sanitation, road rehabilitation, agroforestry, etc.)	0	6,000	7,094 Transport =2,508 Irrigation =1,740 Water Supply =45 Environmental=17 Building =14 Power =2 Agriculture =1	551 Transport =1,684 Irrigation =1,569 Water Supply =53 Environmental =4 Building =6 Power =3 Agriculture =1	7,645 Transport =4,192 Irrigation =3,309 Water Supply =98 Environmental=21 Building =20 Power =5 Agriculture =1	127.4%	
Number of people in rural areas benefiting from basic climate-resilient infrastructure services (clean water, sanitation, road rehabilitation, agroforestry, etc.) disaggregated by gender	0	8,000,000	6,125,880	470,262	6,596,142	82.5%	
People who benefit from improved access to sustainable transport infrastructure and services (number) <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	Monitored for progress	4,496,883	335,438	4,832,321		Only Transport
Displaced people (including returnees) and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	Monitored for progress					
Number of rural communities reached with program activities	0	7,000	5,275	691	5,966	99.5%	
2. Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Urban Areas							
Number of working days created, Component 2	0	5,700,000	3,150,914	892,051	MIS: 4,042,965 Field: 4,515,736	70.9%	

Project Development Objectives(s)							
The objective of the Project is to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas.							
Project Development Objectives Indicators							
Indicator Name	Baseline	End Target (PP+AF)	Progress up to Last Tri-annual	Current Tri-annual Progress	Cumulative Progress	Percentage Progress	Remarks
Number of working days created for women <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	Monitored for progress					
Number of beneficiary households receiving livelihood support through labor-intensive works	0	140,000	114,745	32,307	MIS: 147,052 Field: 154,125	105.0%	
Number of IDP and/or returnee households <i>(Marked for deletion)</i>	0	Monitored for progress	7,067	1,902 2720	MIS: 8,969 Field: 9,234		
Displaced people (returnees and IDPs) provided with services and livelihoods (number) <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	Monitored for progress					
Number/type of urban climate-resilient activities completed (road rehabilitation, water infrastructure, drainage, sanitation, canal cleaning, etc.)	0	659	388	110	498	75.6%	
Number of urban residents benefitting from basic climate-resilient infrastructure services (road rehabilitation, water infrastructure, drainage, sanitation, canal cleaning, etc.)	0	3,550,000	2,638,139	1,121,331	3,759,469	105.9%	
Urban residents who benefit from improved access to sustainable transport infrastructure and services <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	Monitored for progress					
Displaced people (returnees and IDPs) and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods (number) <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	Monitored for progress					
Number of cities reached with program activities	0	10	8	0	8	80.0%	
3. Social Grants for Women and the Most Vulnerable in Rural and Urban Areas							
Number of vulnerable households receiving cash transfers, social grants	0	150,000	118,043	4,397	122,440	81.6%	
Number of female-headed households	0	Monitored for progress	68,181	1,877	70,058		
Number of vulnerable households with persons with disabilities	0	Monitored for progress	49,951	2,430	52,382 ²⁵		

²⁵ The drug addicted indicator is missing from the result framework and therefore the figure is added with "Persons with disabilities" indicator

Project Development Objectives(s)							
The objective of the Project is to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas.							
Project Development Objectives Indicators							
Indicator Name	Baseline	End Target (PP+AF)	Progress up to Last Tri-annual	Current Tri-annual Progress	Cumulative Progress	Percentage Progress	Remarks
Number of women benefiting from women's economic activities assistance <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	Monitored for progress					
Share of rural female-headed households (C3b beneficiaries) engaged in a livelihood activity (Percentage) <i>(new indicator)</i>	0	40%					
4. Strengthening Community Institutions for Inclusive Service Delivery especially for Women							
Number of CDCs operating under the project and receiving social and technical support	0	7,400	6,695	0	6,695	90.5%	
Number of established CDCs with women participating	4,000	7,400	6,695	0	6,695	90.5%	
5. Implementation Support							
Percentage of grievances received that are resolved	0	70	97	98	98	100%	
Percentage of sampled community respondents (male/female) satisfied with project activities	0	70	100		100	100%	

Annex E: Environmental and Social Commitment/Planned Activities

September - December 2024

Material Measure and Action	Commitment/Planned Activities
Monitoring and Reporting	
Regular Reporting	Prepare and submit to the WB the 3rd TA Report for 1 September - 31 Dec 2024 by 15 February 2025. The Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Performance including the progress update on the implementation of ESCP, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and GRM will be provided in the TA Report.
Incident and Accidents	<p>Notify the WB within 48hrs after learning of the incident or accident using the reporting templates required by the WB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial incident report(Part B) within 48 hours • Incident investigation detailed report (Part C) within 10 days. Depending upon the nature of the investigation, it may take longer, but should not exceed 30 days. • Incident corrective action plan
Contractors' Quarterly Reports	<p>UNOPS to receive monthly and quarterly reports from the FPs. The ES is part of the overall FPs' monthly and quarterly progress reports.</p> <p>UNOPS to carry out regular inspection of the C2 Project site, and submit inspection reports to UNOPS and HQ and the WB.</p> <p>The ES performance from the FPs and Contractors Reports will be reflected in the 3rd TA report which is due by 15 Feb 2025</p>
ESS1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS	
Organizational Structure	<p>The organization structure is in place and will be maintained through the Project implementation for AF.</p> <p>Ensure the FPs and Contractors hire ES Specialists prior to the commencement of activities under the AF.</p>
Environmental and Social Assessment	UNOPS assesses the ES by using ES tools and instruments such as the ESHS guidelines, ES screening, ESMP, LMPS, Security Risk measures and the SEA/SH action plan.

Management of Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the E&S requirements in the ESHS specification of the procurement document and contracts with FPs and Contractors. • Ensure all FPs and contractors adhere to E&S standards and project requirements • Conducting safeguard training to 4 FPs (CDDO, DACAAR, ACTED, RRAA). The Training for AKF and CHA was delivered on 16 and 23 May 2024 respectively. • Conducting safeguard training for private contractors under the AF. • Conducting E&S coordination meetings with FPs & Contractors, as needed. • Conducting E&S regular monitoring/inspections/spot checks to ensure FPs & Contractors comply with E&S requirements.
ESS2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS	
Labor Management Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement labor management procedures to ensure fair, safe, and legal labor practices • Conducting LMP training for the laborers on a regular basis before the commencement of works. • Carry out inspections to ensure adherence to the LMP • Sign code of conduct by FPs and contractors key staff. The FPs and Contractors will cascade the CoC orientation to the laborers • Deploy female laborer wherever possible and ensure a safe working environment is provided
Occupational Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the ES screening is conducted properly for all SPs by the FPs and Contractors. • Ensure all the potential OHS are identified and appropriate mitigation measures/plans are proposed. • Ensure the implementation of OHS risk mitigation plans on the ground by the FPs and Contractors • Ensure, FPs and Contractors cascade the OHS training to all workers and training is recorded. • Ensure FPs and Contractors provide PPE for laborers proportionally based on the nature of the activities and risk level. • Ensure First Aid Kits are available at the Project site. • Conducting regular inspections to ensure OHS requirements are considered in project sites
Grievance Redress Mechanism for Project Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a transparent and accessible grievance mechanism for all project workers • Maintaining the Project GM throughout the project period
ESS4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY	
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimize resource use and minimize environmental impact through efficient practices and pollution prevention. • Assess environmental and social impacts, identify risks and propose mitigation plans in the ESMPS. • Conducting training on environmental management and pollution prevention to FPs & Contractors. • Monitor and report on resource use and pollution prevention

ESS4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY	
Community Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess and manage specific risk and impact to the community health and safety through proper screening of the SP, and identifying potential hazards/risks as a result of the project implementation. Implement mitigation measures and engage with communities to raise awareness of potential risks. Training session on community health and safety to contractors, FPs, and laborers. Regularly monitor and report on community health and safety.
Traffic & Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the safety of road users and project staff through effective traffic and road safety measures. Assess and manage traffic and road safety risk. Include mitigation measures in the Simplified ESMP and disclose prior to the signing of the contract between UNOPS and implementing NGOs/contractors. Training session on traffic and road safety to contractors, FPs, and laborers.
SEA/SH RISKS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Project SEA/SH Plan. Ensure the SEA/SH risk and mitigation measures are included in the ESMP, and added to the procurement document. Prevent and address SEA/SH risks within the project framework Provide training to all staff and contractors Establish a confidential reporting mechanism and ensure swift investigation and resolution of complaints. Signing of the code of conduct by UNOPS, FPs, Contractors, and Laborers.
Security Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with FPs to submit Security Management Plan and SOPs, and implement throughout the Project implementation. Maintain a secure environment for project staff, assets, and communities. Conduct regular Security Risk Assessments, and propose risk management measures. Implement a Security Management Plan
ESS10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	
Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle, ensuring their input and concerns are addressed. Information disclosure and regular community consultations Sharing the GRM outreach materials with FPs and Contractors and their availability on the FB page and on the project site. Maintaining the Project GM throughout the project period
Project Grievance Mechanism	Maintaining and operating an accessible Project GRM to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively in a transparent manner. The GRM will receive, register and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints including through the referral of survivors to relevant GVB service providers.

Capacity Support (Training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build the capacity of project staff, contractors, and local stakeholders in E&S management.• Implementing the Capacity Building Plan.• Delivering the training program covering essential E&S topics like E&S management, OHS, SEA/SH, and grievance mechanisms.
--	--