

# Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project (ACRLP)



## Q2, 2022 Progress Report

Kabul, Afghanistan | 14 August 2022



ARTF

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## List of Acronyms

ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
CDC	Community Development Council
CRLP	Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project
CTG	Committed to Good - Humanitarian Enablers
DFA	De Facto Authorities
ECA	Entry Criteria for Access
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
GA	Gozar Assembly
GDM	General Directorate of Municipalities
FM	Financial Management
FP	Facilitating Partner
LIW	Labor Intensive Works
PoM	Project Operations Manual
RFP	Request for Proposals
RFQ	Request for Quotations
TPMA	Third Party Monitoring Agent
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WB	World Bank

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Official Project Title	Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihood Project (ACRL)		
UNOPS Project ID	23455	Donor	The World Bank
Start Date	4 May 2022	End Date	30 April 2024
ARTF Project Financing	USD 265 million	Grant Budget	USD 100 million
Total funds received	USD 45,494,475	Fund balance	USD 43,574,822 <i>Per interim financial report</i>

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.1 Key Achievements

The project was signed on 4 May. This report is for the partial 2022 2nd quarter (4 May to 30 June). In order to provide the latest information for WB and ARTF donors, this report also covers the latest available information up to submission of report and thus also covers partial 3rd quarter (1 July to 14 August) and is marked with '*In Quarter 3*' or '*Q3:*' to indicate as such.

- **Human Resources:**
  - The recruitment, onboarding and training of CRLP's personnel (both the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) as well as those on CTG contracts) within the required timeframe.
- **Third Party Monitoring Agent (TPMA):**
  - The collaborative and timely agreement of the Terms of Reference for the TPMA within 30 days of signing the agreement.
- **Project Operations Manual (POM):**
  - The collaborative development and completion of POM, building on the World Bank team's experience and knowledge of previous projects and POMs and adapting to the new context and implementation by UNOPS.
- **Deliverables (30, 45, 60 days from the Effective Date):**
  - Satisfactorily met milestone deliverables set for 30 days from the Effective Date (procurement plan/partial and POM/draft), for 45 days from the Effective Date (workplan and budget) and for 60 days from the Effective Date (PIU established).

### 1.2 Key Challenges

- **De Facto Authorities (DFA):**
  - Navigating dynamics and interacting with DFA has taken some time and been a cause of delay to the project. An unpredictable environment and erratic interactions are likely to remain, with meetings sometimes leading to firm steps forward and sometimes to an impasse or further requests.

## 2 PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 1: RURAL

### 2.1 Facilitating Partners

- **A Request for Proposals (RfP):**

- The Provision of Consultancy Services as Facilitating Partners was launched on 12 May (sent to 21 NGOs operating in Afghanistan and also posted publicly on the website of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)).
- Pre-proposal Q+A meetings were held, including with the World Bank's participation.
- 53 proposals were received by the deadline of 16 June.

***In Quarter 3:***

- The Evaluation Committee completed the review and evaluation of proposals in June and began negotiations with offerors in July. UNOPS commenced reference checks and due diligence procedures in July and August. Legal contracts have been drafted.
- Negotiations have been finalised on Lot 1 and Lot 3.

### 2.2 Meetings with De Facto Authorities

- **Q3: 27 July meeting with Deputy Minister of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Mofti Mostaqim:** UNOPS had a preliminary informal meeting, to schedule a meeting when the Minister returns to Kabul following Haj/Eid/other travel. Preparation continues in advance of holding this meeting.

## 3 PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 2: URBAN

### 3.1 Scheduling of Labor Intensive Works (LiW):

A detailed schedule was developed based on the number of sub-projects per city, accounting for the winter weather period, and with the required associated human resourcing.

The World-Bank recommended sub-projects received by UNOPS were scoped for validation and those that comply with the CRL project's labor requirements and which have not started under previous contractors were prepared for procurement. These included:

- Kabul - 3 projects (district 1, 1, 12)
- Nangarhar - 2 projects (district 7, 9)
- Kandahar - 3 projects (district 12, 12, 12)
- Herat - 4 projects (district 15, 5, 9, 7)

### 3.2 Meetings with DFA

In pursuing unhindered access for the project, UNOPS prioritised the capital city Kabul, with the highest concentration (40%) of sub-projects and the seat of the de facto authorities. Shortly thereafter, UNOPS pursued access for implementation in the seven cities outside of Kabul and began preparations for the project and facilitating partners in rural areas.

By early August, the UNOPS Lead Construction Management Engineers had conducted successful meetings with Mayors and Governors for each of the 7 targeted cities (Kandahar, Jalalabad, Khost, Herat, Kunduz, Mazar-e Sharif and Bamyán) and, in each case, the Mayors and Governors have shown support and offered focal points for any assistance that may be required. Kandahar was the first to commence engagement with communities and scoping for sub-projects, with other cities following soon thereafter.

Details of the process are presented here for Kabul and each of the seven cities, to provide insight to the interactions and meetings with the de facto authorities and the progress of CRL Project activity thereafter.

### 3.2.1 Kabul (200 or 40% of CRLP sub-projects):

- **7 June meeting with Kabul Mayor** Mawlawee Abdul Rashid, **Director of Plan and Policy** Mohammad Asif Jalalzai and others. This was a straightforward and positive first meeting that led to the mayor signing and disseminating a letter to each of Kabul's districts requesting access and support for the CRL project. The Director of Plan and Policy, Mr Jalalzai, was designated as the focal point for the CRL Project. Shortly after the meeting and the distribution of the letter, however, the mayor indicated that we should not proceed with project implementation until further meetings had been held.
- **Further technical meetings** were subsequently held with the focal point and UNOPS wherein the KM team insisted on i) an MoU, ii) a role in the project team and iii) handover of projects to the authorities on completion. The Mayor then went on Haj/Eid/further travels and was absent from Kabul for 4 weeks.
- **Q3:** UNOPS was informed that the **KM had sent a letter to the Prime Minister's office** requesting instruction on how to proceed with coordination of the CRL Project.
- **Q3: 9 August meeting with Director of Plan and Policy (and KM's focal point for CRLP)** Mohammad Asif Jalalzai, **Deputy Director of Plan and Policy** Abdul Fatah Salahi and **Donor Coordination Manager** Ahmad Farid Bahman. The Kabul Municipality team informed UNOPS that the PM's office had instructed the KM to communicate with the Ministry of Economy (MoEc) for further coordination for CRLP implementation and that Mr. Jalalzai will arrange a meeting with the Ministry of Economy. The KM confirmed their consent for the CRL project, that they will not require involvement in micro level project management but request transparency in the process and good coordination between KM and CRLP team.

### 3.2.2 The project overall

- **Q3: 27 July meeting with Deputy Minister of Finance** Nazir Kabiri and a large team from the Ministry of Finance. UNOPS was requested to present a detailed introduction to the CRL Project and the MoF presented a series of questions, comments and recommendations, and confirmed their support for the project.
- **Q3: 2 August a letter was received from the Deputy Minister of Finance** Nazir Kabiri. The letter reiterated the questions and comments made during the meeting and requested UNOPS to respond to these. A response was drafted.

### 3.2.3 Cities outside of Kabul

- **Q3: 19 July meeting with General Director of Municipalities (GDM)** Moli Mohammad Halim Mostain and others. With support and facilitation of the CRLP's Advisor, this was a positive and straightforward meeting. The GDM agreed to communicate formally to the Mayor and to the Governor of each of the other 7 cities and the letters were collected from the GDM the following day. These letters opened the door to discussion in each of those cities and effectively enabled UNOPS to proceed with CRLP implementation.

### 3.2.4 Kandahar (77 or 15% of CRLP sub-projects)

#### *In Quarter 3:*

- **25 July meeting with Kandahar Mayor.** UNOPS' delivered the GDM's letter to the Mayor who extended support to CRLP and committed to circulate the letter to all relevant municipality departments.
- **26 July Director, Sectoral Department of Municipality** delivered letters to all 15 districts of Kandahar, requesting cooperation with UNOPS for the CRLP.
- **26 July meeting with Chief Engineer, Engineering Department of Municipality** Mr. Abdul Nabi, who extended his support and assistance. **Head of Department, City Governance of Municipality**, responsible for all matters related to GAs and CDCs, shared a full list of GAs and CDCs, including the contact details of the heads of CDCs and GAs and other related data. **Head of Department, GIS Department of Municipality** shared GIS maps of all GAs in Kandahar City with their boundaries and other details.

- **A Coordination Committee** was formed by the Sectoral Director, to include the heads of all relevant municipality departments and the UNOPS Kandahar team lead, to ensure proper coordination for the implementation of the CRLP and to meet as required to solve problems that may arise.
- **27 July meeting with the Governor of Kandahar** who extended his support and emphasised project quality in Kandahar. UNOPS presented the GDM's letter and a response letter was received.



**Figure 1:** Meeting with the Mayor of Kandahar to request support for the CRLP

### **3.2.5 Herat (72 or 14% of CRLP sub-projects)**



**Figure 2:** The project engineers visited one of the five LIW project sites in Herat District 11 and scoped the project

**In Quarter 3:**

- **3 August meeting with Herat Mayor** Hayatullah Mahajir, who welcomed the project, offered his willingness to support and introduced a focal point Mr. Ahmad Shah, to accompany UNOPS to meet the Herat Governor.
- **4 August meeting with Herat Governor** who received the GDM's letter, welcomed the project and instructed the focal point of Herat Municipality to cooperate with the UNOPS team.
- **5 August:** Herat municipality issued letters to all 15 districts to cooperate in the community engagement.
- **In August,** the UNOPS community mobilizers presented the project, handed over the municipality's letter to the district heads and requested them to gather the community. Meetings were then held to discuss the project objectives, types of project, the role of the Gozar wakils and the community, the beneficiaries and job creation opportunities, the criteria and positive list for sub-projects. The UNOPS team asked them to list projects that meet the project selection criteria.
- **The UNOPS Team received the lists of the LIW projects** recommended by the community. UNOPS construction management engineers visited the sites and scoped the project as per the scoping template requirements.



**Figure 3:** The project engineers visited one of the five project sites in Herat District 11 to scope the project.

### 3.2.6 Jelalabad (45 or 9% of CRLP sub-projects)

#### *In Quarter 3:*

- **1 August meeting with the Mayor** Mula Niamatullah Akhond and Sectorial Director Eng. Dost Mohammad Chardiwal. The Mayor of Nangarhar promised that Nangarhar Municipality will provide any needed assistance and support, and assigned Mr. Dost Mohammad Chardiwal sectorial director and Mr. Ibadullah and Haji Baz Mohammad Municipality Board Members as focal points for further coordination.
- **2 August meeting with Nangarhar Provincial Governor** Mula Mohammad Naeem Akhondzada, **Deputy Governor** Mawlawi Aminullah, **Mayor** Mula Niamatullah Akhond and **Sectorial Director** Eng. Dost Mohammad Chardiwal. UNOPS introduced the CRLP, the governor welcomed the project, committed to provide support and assistance including security personnel if needed, and appreciated the emphasis on Labor Intensive work for the most vulnerable families of Afghanistan.
- **7 August orientation session with Jalalabad Municipality 9th Nahai heads, Gozar Wakils and CDC heads** in the Municipality conference hall. The municipality expressed commitment to support the project activities as per the rules and regulation of the donor agencies, they emphasised transparency, accountability, quality and on time implementation of the sub projects and added that unemployment has increased.
- **11 August meeting with the 4th Nahya Head and 11 Guzar Assembly Heads,** who committed to support the project and also introduce the most vulnerable people to the project.



### 3.2.7 Mazar-e-Sharif City, Balkh Province (47 or 9% of sub-projects)



**Figure 4:** Labour intensive work in Mazar-e-Sharif

The CRLP began the community consultation in Mazar on 9 August 2022. Communities and GA members attended in strong numbers and project social and engineering teams introduced the CRLP, and its objectives, prior to subproject scoping. Awareness sessions will be held in each Mazar district throughout the month of August.

#### In Quarter 3:

- **1 August meeting with the Mayor** Mula Niamatullah Akhond and Sectorial Director Eng. Dost Mohammad Chardiwal. The Mayor of Nangarhar promised that Nangarhar Municipality will provide any needed assistance and support, and assigned Mr. Dost Mohammad Chardiwal sectorial director and Mr. Ibadullah and Haji Baz Mohammad Municipality Board Members as focal points for further coordination.
- **2 August meeting with Nangarhar Provincial Governor** Mula Mohammad Naeem Akhondzada, **Deputy Governor** Mawlawi Aminullah, **Mayor** Mula Niamatullah Akhond and **Sectorial Director** Eng. Dost Mohammad Chardiwal. UNOPS introduced the CRLP, the governor welcomed the project, committed to provide support and assistance including security personnel if needed, and appreciated the emphasis on labor intensive work for the vulnerable families of Afghanistan.
- **7 August orientation session with Jalalabad Municipality 9th Nahai heads, Gozar Wakils and CDC heads** in the Municipality conference hall. The municipality expressed commitment to support the project activities as per the rules and regulation of the donor agencies, they emphasised transparency, accountability, quality and on time implementation of the subprojects and added that unemployment has increased.



**Figure 5:** Community consultation session in Mazar-e-Sharif

### **3.2.8 Kunduz (34 or 7% of CRLP sub-projects)**

***In Quarter 3:***

- **2 August meeting with the Governor and Mayor of Kunduz.** The CRLP team gave the Governor the GDM's letter and briefed him on the project. The Governor gave the project his full support for implementation in the province and assigned an engineer as the Focal Point to facilitate CRLP implementation in Kunduz City.

### **3.2.9 Khost (13 or 3% of CRLP sub-projects)**

***In Quarter 3:***

- **2 August meeting with Advisor to the Mayor Mr. Kamayb, Acting Mayor En. Delwar Noori, M&E Head Mohamaullah Sherzai and the Head of Municipal Governance.** The UNOPS team introduced the project and the Acting Mayor expressed his support.
- **3 August meeting with Khost Mayor.** The CRLP team explained the CRLP objectives and implementation mechanisms and the Mayor welcomed the project.
- **3 August meeting with Khost Deputy Governor:** The Khost Mayor and CRLP team visited the Deputy Governor who expressed full support for the CRLP activities.
- **4 August meeting with Khost municipality representatives for all districts and Gozars:** UNOPS introduced the project and the role of Gozars and communities in the selection and implementation of the projects and briefed them on the types of projects, women's participation and community labor selection. The Gozar representatives welcomed the project and assured collaboration.

### **3.2.10 Bamyan (12 or 2% of CRLP sub-projects)**

***In Quarter 3:***

- **2 August meeting with Mayor Mowlavi Rozai Mohammad.** UNOPS presented the project and the mayor promised his and the Bamyan municipality personnel's full cooperation and support to the project and assigned Mr. Hadi Akbari as focal point to support the project team.
- **3 August meeting with Bamyan provincial governor, Mr. Abdullah Sarhadi.** UNOPS presented the GDM's letter and the details of the CRL project and development objectives.
- **3 August consultation meeting** with Gozar Wakils and Bamyan municipality staff in Bamyan municipality office. They welcomed the project and promised full cooperation and support to the subprojects selection and implementation based on the CRL project criteria. They also recommended that

the sub-projects should be selected as soon as possible because the weather conditions will soon change in Bamyan city and project implementation will be problematic during the cold season.

#### **4 ENTRY CRITERIA FOR ACCESS**

- Nothing to report in this quarter

#### **5 PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 3: SOCIAL GRANTS**

- Nothing to report in this quarter

#### **6 PROGRESS ON COMPONENT 4: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS**

- Nothing to report in this quarter

#### **7 HUMAN RESOURCES / STAFFING**

- Senior personnel: Key positions appointed for Rural Lead, Urban Lead, Senior Project Manager and Partnership Advisor.
- All personnel: Recruitment of all personnel complete, with only the selected M+E officer and Gender Specialist to commence work.
- The 'Start-up team' (head of project, procurement advisor, finance advisor) will be handing over during August to replacements for the duration/rest of the project.
- CRLP personnel completed an orientation training during 17-21 July, delivered by the World Bank and UNOPS. Most participants gathered together in person in Kabul, trainers were present in person and online.

#### **8 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The CRL project design (as articulated in the PAD) refers to the setting up of designated escrow accounts in Afghanistan International Bank (AIB) for cash disbursement to beneficiaries.

The CRL project team has also explored the options of AMANACARD and a Money Service Provider (MSP). A CRLP briefing note was developed (titled 'Solution for cash distribution') and discussed extensively with the World Bank. While the MSP brings some benefits to the management of the cash flow, there remain concerns that MSPs are a riskier proposition than the AIB escrow accounts.

#### **9 COMMUNICATION**

- The Project Operations Manual (POM) was finalised between the World Bank and UNOPS, copy-edited and sent for translation.
- Communications products were developed, including CRLP project briefs and presentation slides.
- A communications strategy is under development, which will include the development of a website and Facebook page and content gathering trips.

#### **10 PROCUREMENT**

A partial procurement plan was initially submitted and then a revised procurement plan for the CRL Project.

## 10.1 CRLP Components 1, 3 and 4

A Request for Proposals (RfP) for the Provision of Consultancy Services as Facilitating Partners was launched on 12 May (sent to 21 NGOs operating in Afghanistan and also posted publicly on the website of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)).

Pre-proposal Q+A meetings were held, including with the World Bank's participation. 53 proposals were received by the deadline of 16 June. The Evaluation Committee completed the review and evaluation of proposals in June and undertook negotiations with the NGOs in July. First ranked applicants were identified for Lots 1,3,4,5 and 6. Lot 2 was opened to a re-bid. References were sought for potential bidders. Legal contracts for the NGO FPs have been prepared and are expected to be signed by the end of August.

## 10.2 CRLP Component 2

By July 2022, three projects were identified as suitable for CRLP public works project activities: upgrading two sidewalks at Ibnicina Hospital, Kabul (US\$ 100,000 and US\$ 130,000) and another sidewalk at Block 3 Ahmad Shah Mena in Kabul (US\$ 100,000). Request for Quotation (RfQ) documents were prepared but were pending the meetings with the de facto authorities.

Further World-Bank recommended sub-projects received by UNOPS that have been scoped for validation, including those in cities outside of Kabul, are prepared for procurement processes.

Several meetings held with CRLP urban personnel in preparation for RfQs for sub-projects (including the process of raising requisition, providing the technical package, including design certificate from UNOPS IPMG, to provide the method statement (including, the work plan, Health, Safety, Social and Environmental plan, Quality Management Plan etc) along with the technical package to be used in the RFQ).

## 11 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT & GENDER

- The ESMF was disclosed by UNOPS on 13 July 2022 and on the UNOPS Afghanistan page on 14 July 2022.
- Training on CRLP's Environmental and Social Management (ESM) Framework and standards, on gender related and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) requirements and Grievance Response Mechanism (GRM) requirements was delivered to all CRLP personnel on 28 July 2022.
- The project's dedicated Gender Associate is recruited and the Gender Specialist (50% to the project and 50% to the country office) is in the final stages of recruitment.
- A Gender Action Plan has been developed for the CRL project.

## 12 SECURITY

- A security training was provided to all UNOPS personnel on 21 July, as per UNOPS requirements and the Project Operations Manual.
- The UNOPS Security Officer has prepared for the security assessments that will need to be conducted with the Facilitating Partners.

## 13 THIRD PARTY MONITORING AGENT (TPMA)

- Timely and collaborative development and agreement of TPMA Terms of Reference (ToR) with the WB, UNOPS and the TPMA team all present in Dubai from 24-27 May.
- The TPMA developed the protocol outline which was reviewed by WB and UNOPS during July.
- Nothing to report in this quarter on issues/deviations.

## Document Information

### Revision History

Date	Name	Title	Contribution
XX Aug 22	Katy WEBLEY	Head of Project	Created the document
XX Aug 22	Samiullah BAWAR	Senior Project Manager	Edited the document
XX Aug 22	Muhamad Syafiq SALEHUDIN	Planning & Coordination Officer	Review
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