Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) Monitoring Program

First Quarter, Year IV

September 2014 - November 2014

Guide to Acronyms

ARAP	Afghanistan Rural Access Project
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
CDC	Community Development Council
CL	Community Liaison
CM	Community Monitor / Community Monitoring
CMORE	Common Monitoring and Reporting
DLP	Defect Liability Period
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EQUIP	Education Quality Improvement Program
FP	Facilitating Partner
GoA	Government of Afghanistan
IRD	International Relief & Development
ISD	Infrastructure Services Department (Ministry of Education)
IRDP	Irrigation Restoration and Development Project
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MoEW	Ministry of Education and Water
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoPW	Ministry of Public Works
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
MTC	Monitoring Training Center
NERAP	National Emergency Rural Access Program
NRAP	National Rural Access Program
NSP	National Solidarity Program
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OFWMP	On Farm Water Management Project
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMU	Provincial Management Unit
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
SA	Supervisory Agent
SG	Savings Group
SMS	School Management Shura
ToR	Terms of Reference
TPM	Third Party Monitoring
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WB	World Bank

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

1. Program Monitoring Introduction
2. Overall Program Summary
3. Education Quality Improvement Program Third Party Monitoring Summary
4. National Solidarity Program Third Party Monitoring Summary
5. National Rural Access Program Third Party Monitoring Summary
6. Irrigation Restoration and Development Project Third Party Monitoring Summary
7. On Farm Water Management Project Third Party Monitoring Summary
8. Education Quality Improvement Program Community Monitoring Summary
9. Irrigation Restoration and Development Project Community Monitoring Summary

Education Quality Improvement Program - Third Party Monitoring

1. First Quarter Findings
2. Trends and Analysis
3. Social Safeguards
4. Recommendations and Future Plans

National Solidarity Program - Third Party Monitoring

1. First Quarter Findings
2. Trends and Analysis
3. Social Safeguards
4. Recommendations and Future Plans

National Rural Access Project - Third Party Monitoring

1. First Quarter Findings
2. Trends and Analysis
3. Social Safeguards
4. Recommendations and Future Plans

Irrigation Restoration and Development Project - Third Party Monitoring

1. First Quarter Findings
2. Trends and Analysis
3. Social Safeguards
4. Recommendations and Future Plans

On Farm Water Management Project - Third Party Monitoring

1. First Quarter Findings
2. Trends and Analysis
3. Social Safeguards
4. Recommendations and Future Plans

Irrigation Restoration and Development Project - Local Monitoring

1. First Quarter Findings
2. Trends and Analysis
3. Social Safeguards
4. Recommendations and Future Plans

Education Quality Improvement Program - Local Monitoring

1. First Quarter Findings
2. Trends and Analysis
3. Social Safeguards
4. Recommendations and Future Plans

Executive Summary – First Quarter

Program Monitoring

During the first quarter of Year IV (September through November, 2014), International Relief & Development (IRD) conducted 495 project inspections across the Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP), the National Solidarity Program (NSP), the National Rural Access Program (NRAP), the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (IRDP), and the On Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP). Projects inspected this quarter were located in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. IRD third party monitoring (TPM) teams performed these inspections while 24 new Local Monitors (LMs) were also added.

IRD's total Year IV contractual requirement is 1,950 TPM project inspections as well as the training and deployment of 60 additional LMs. (Figure 1)

Program	First Quarter	Year-to-date	Year IV Targets
EQUIP TPM	148	148	550
NSP TPM	205	205	800
NRAP TPM	106	106	400
IRDP TPM	26	26	100
OFWMP TPM	10	10	100
TPM Total	**495**	**495**	**1950**
IRDP LM*	7 (258)	7	40
EQUIP LM*	17 (265)	17	20
LM Total	**24**	**24**	**60**

Figure 1: First quarter deliverables versus Year IV targets.

*The Local Monitoring (LM) programs have targets based on the number of new LMs trained, but they also generate inspection reports from each seven observations.

Overall Program Summary

During the first quarter of Year IV the IRD Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) Monitoring Program has continued implementation of existing TPM and LM programs and a new TPM program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

OFWMP TPM INITIATED

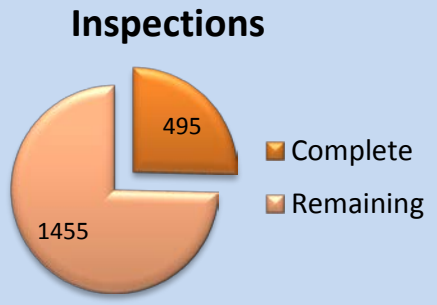
The latest addition to the program, On Farm Water Management Project TPM began in the first quarter of Year IV.

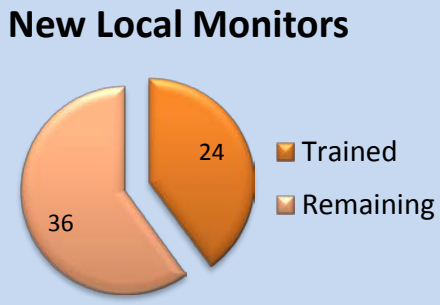
EQUIP LM NEARING MARK

The EQUIP LM program has already added 85% of the new LMs for Year IV. This boosts the impact and number of observations for the current year.

NSP FIDUCIARY MONITORING

As part of expanding the moniroting under the NSP, provincial level monitoring of the financial documents will be done in Year IV. The monitoring will review each province in both the first and second halves of the year.





Per the Year IV work plan, TPM continued across all previous four programs (EQUIP, NSP, NRAP, IRDP) and was initiated the On Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP).

IRD TPM engineers use a 5-point grading scale when evaluating projects. Engineers assess and grade various components of construction in order to calculate an overall grade that reflects the quality of the project as a whole. A grade that is below average (<3.00) indicates the project has some deficiencies, generally minor, and some rework or rectification may be required. A grade of 'average' (3.00) means that the construction conforms to specifications and is constructed of overall satisfactory quality. Anything graded above average (>3.00) exceeds expectations.

The first quarter TPM inspections generally found well performing programs with project scores above average across all sectors; however, all four programs continuing from Year III saw a slight decline in scores. (Figure 2)

Program	Q1, YIII	Q2, YIII	Q3, YIII	Q4, YIII	Q1, YIV
EQUIP TPM	3.10	3.03	3.18	3.13	3.07
IRDP TPM	3.85	3.98	3.89	3.88	3.79
NRAP TPM	3.29	3.57	3.58	3.65	3.22
NSP TPM	3.09	3.57	3.58	3.81	3.51
OFWMP TPM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.88
Total	**3.33**	**3.54**	**3.55**	**3.62**	**3.49**

Figure 2: Average overall TPM project grades by program over time.

The LM programs also continued on IRDP and EQUIP projects. The targets for new LMs under IRDP and EQUIP are 40 and 20, respectively. As of the end of the quarter, 24 new LMs have been trained and deployed with IRDP and EQUIP utilizing 7 and 17, respectively. Additionally, LMs from Year III with active projects are still providing daily observations.

IRD continued reporting of critical deviations to partner ministries during the quarter and also ensures delivery of critical deviations on a daily basis. This reporting assists the ministries in identifying, tracking, and rectifying issues.

Education Quality Improvement Program Third Party Monitoring (EQUIP TPM)

IRD is the Supervisory Agent (SA) for EQUIP projects during construction. In this capacity, IRD provides a comprehensive record of construction progress and quality of EQUIP funded facilities including schools, provincial education departments (PED), and administrative buildings. IRD compares the contractual requirements with actual construction work performed and reports deviations to the World Bank and the Ministry of Education (MoE) for use in providing quality assurance. In addition to these education facility construction activities, EQUIP is also funding projects under a Missing Component (MC) program to add components to schools constructed earlier either by EQUIP or through other programs. EQUIP funded MoE buildings are designed and constructed throughout all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Due to an increase in the student population over the last few years and a lack of sufficient school structures, many students attended classes in tents or other temporary facilities not designed or well-suited for classrooms. Schools with buildings are often overcrowded and subsequently students must study in shifts. EQUIP projects address these challenges and provide a standardized education environment for all students throughout the country, while the EQUIP monitoring program provides oversight of project implementation to assist the Ministry in achieving high quality construction.

During the first quarter of Year IV the IRD ARTF EQUIP monitoring team conducted 148 inspections in 30 provinces. Of the sites inspected this quarter, 58% were graded 3.00 or higher. Even with this lower than usual showing, EQUIP still has above average grades with a quarterly average of 3.07.

In total, 550 inspections are targeted for EQUIP TPM in Year IV, and the 148 inspections conducted this quarter represent 27% of the annual target.

National Solidarity Program Third Party Monitoring (NSP TPM)

NSP receives funding from ARTF and is executed through the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development (MRRD). NSP has two primary goals: to strengthen local governance and to lay the foundations of community managed sub-projects comprising reconstruction and development. Local governance is fostered by establishment of Community Development Councils (CDCs) at local levels, chosen by the adult populace, that direct a democratically selected priority of development projects for their community. NSP reconstruction efforts are aimed at improving access of rural communities to social and productive infrastructure and services; almost all NSP projects involve construction of infrastructure. NSP currently has about 20,000 projects under active contract and 57,000 completed, with another 3,500 approved, in all 34 provinces across Afghanistan. IRD is the SA for monitoring a sampling of NSP infrastructure projects, observing for compliance of actual construction work with NSP's design criteria and rules for implementation. IRD monitors NSP projects in six sectors: education, power, irrigation, rural development, transportation, and water supply and sanitation. IRD's monitoring of even a fraction of NSP projects provides vital third party engineering and social observation and analysis for the World Bank to ensure the efficient expenditure of their grants and to aid MRRD in its management of the program.

During the first quarter of Year IV, IRD conducted 205 inspections of NSP projects in 25 provinces. The average overall grade was 3.51, meaning most projects were well above 'average' and even higher than last quarter. Additionally, all sectors scored well and were all at least 3.37 overall. This quarter saw the development of provincial-level fiduciary monitoring that will be initiated in the second quarter.

The Year IV target for NSP TPM is again 800 inspections and the 205 completed in the first quarter represent 26% of that total.

National Rural Access Project Third Party Monitoring (NRAP TPM)

NRAP is an ARTF program executed jointly through MRRD and the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW). Its purpose is to build and rehabilitate secondary and tertiary roads and bridges across Afghanistan. Secondary roads, managed by MoPW, connect district centers to each other and to provincial capitals. Tertiary roads, managed by MRRD, connect individual villages to larger road networks to provide basic access. IRD monitors these projects during and after construction to provide vital third party engineering observation and analysis for the World Bank to ensure the efficient expenditure of their grants and to aid the ministries in their management of the program. IRD inspects and evaluates the construction quality of these projects, reports findings to the World Bank, and coordinates with the ministries to address any issues found.

In order to assess the overall quality of each NRAP project, every component (culverts, retaining walls, etc.) of road and bridge projects are assigned a weighted grade, and then an average grade of all the components is calculated. IRD's formula for calculating the overall grade for NRAP inspections includes the design as a separate component in the overall grade. The design grade, for example, accounts for a road section that may be well-constructed according to the original design, but does not incorporate the requisite number of drainage structures and is thus subject to serious erosion. The formula gives more weight to components that compose a higher percentage of the work effort; for example, the more culverts in the project the higher the relative weight of the culvert grade.

In Year IV, NRAP TPM has expanded to include monitoring of maintenance projects. These projects monitor the condition of the roads covered by the newly initiated maintenance program and also assess the contractors' capabilities to implement the programs.

During the first quarter of Year IV IRD conducted 106 inspections of NRAP roads and bridges in 17 provinces. The average overall grade of projects this quarter was 3.22, which is a considerable drop from last quarter's 3.65. However, this is attributable to the inclusion of monitoring maintenance work which is just beginning and will take some time to improve.

The NRAP monitoring program had a target to complete 400 inspections in Year IV. The 106 inspections completed in the first quarter represent nearly 27% of the annual target.

Irrigation Restoration & Development Program Third Party Monitoring (IRDP TPM)

IRD, as the SA, monitors projects funded by IRDP. In this capacity, IRD provides a record of the construction progress and quality of IRDP projects at the time of inspection. IRD compares the contractual requirements with actual construction work performed and reports deviations to the World Bank and the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) for their use in providing quality assurance. In addition to irrigation canals, IRDP also funds projects under the Emergency Irrigation and Rehabilitation Program (EIRP) which includes automatic weather stations. IRDP projects have been implemented throughout all 34 provinces of Afghanistan to restore existing irrigation schemes and develop new ones. Prior to IRDP, a majority of the countries existing irrigation schemes were malfunctioning due to poor quality construction and a lack of maintenance. Erosion from flood waters and the resulting sedimentation hampered the effectiveness of irrigation and the displacement of farmers during times of conflict resulted in disrepair from lack of maintenance, severely hindering the agricultural industry. IRDP was created to address these challenges and provide standardized designs and specifications for canals throughout the country.

Similar to road projects, canals are evaluated in segments and each component is graded in order to calculate an overall project grade from the component averages.

In the first quarter, IRD completed 26 IRDP TPM inspections on 13 canal projects located in five provinces. The overall average grade of the projects inspected this quarter was 3.79 with every project rating above 3.00. This continues to be a strong performing program.

The Year IV target is 100 inspection reports. The first quarter total of 26 represents 26% of the annual target.

On Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP TPM)

In the first quarter of Year IV, IRD initiated inspections of the OFWMP. The project is providing farmers with improved, reliable, and equitable distribution of irrigation water to increase agricultural productivity. While primary and secondary conveyance infrastructure is being restored and rehabilitated under various other projects, physical improvements of tertiary irrigation facilities are equally important to complement effectiveness of the upstream developments. The latter is thus crucial for enhancing farm incomes and improving food security.

Similar to IRDP TPM, this program inspects canal and irrigation systems and covers both underway and completed projects.

In the first quarter, IRD completed 10 OFWMP TPM inspections on 10 irrigation projects located in four provinces. The overall average grade of the projects inspected this quarter was 3.88, a very high rating that follows the trend set by IRDP.

The Year IV target is 100 inspection reports. The first quarter total of 10 represents 10% of the annual target.

Irrigation Restoration & Development Program Local Monitoring (IRDP LM)

Under the Local Monitoring program, IRD utilizes Local Monitors (LMs), community members who have been trained and provided guidance on the contractual requirements of ongoing canal construction. LMs transmit timely (often daily) observations on the progress of construction to IRD's Kabul office for analysis by IRD engineers. Utilizing community members to monitor IRDP projects provides real time oversight of construction more consistently and cost effectively than traditional third party monitoring which uses IRD's professional engineers who travel to project sites to conduct one-off unique inspections to validate the quality of construction. LMs are community members residing in the vicinity of projects providing convenient access to the construction site on a daily basis in order to send observations by smartphone to IRD engineers in Kabul. Additionally, LMs provide a conduit for local Community Development Councils (CDCs) to relay feedback to MoEW regarding their requirements, concerns, and expectations for the project in their community, while facilitating more effective monitoring of construction progress and quality oversight by MoEW. LMs are selected through a process which includes input from the local CDC and from existing IRD local monitors when available. To be selected, nominated individuals must meet specific selection criteria, including an adequate level of literacy.

During the first quarter, the IRDP LM program trained and deployed seven new LMs and generated 258 reports on a total of 20 active projects. This quarter, LMs provided 1,806 observations from project sites, which included less than 1% deviations (0.94%); deviations are relayed to MoEW to facilitate corrective action and thereby increase the overall quality of completed projects.

In total, the IRDP LM program is expected to train and deploy 40 new LMs in Year IV. As of the end of the first quarter seven have been trained and deployed, which is 18% of the annual target.

Education Quality Improvement Program Local Monitoring (EQUIP LM)

In a format identical to the IRDP LM program, IRD utilizes LMs, selected in coordination with the School Management Shura (SMS) and CDC, to provide nearly real time information from EQUIP project sites located throughout the country.

In the first quarter, 17 new LMs were trained and deployed which resulted in 47 LMs monitoring 47 EQUIP projects. These LMs relayed 1,855 observations to IRD's Kabul office, which resulted in 265 inspection reports produced in the quarter. These observations included 24 deviations that were reported to MoE to assist their quality assurance program.

Overall, the EQUIP LM program has a target of 20 new LMs in Year IV. The 17 new LMs trained and deployed in the first quarter represent 85% of the annual target.

Education Quality Improvement Program – Third Party Monitoring

First Quarter, Year IV

1. First Quarter Findings

In the first quarter of Year IV, International Relief & Development (IRD) produced 148 Third Party Monitoring (TPM) inspection reports for an equal number of Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) projects located in 30 provinces. The projects inspected this quarter were comprised of 74 schools, 71 madrasas and three Provincial Education Department (PED) facilities. The first quarter deliverables contributed 26.9% to the year's contractual target of 550 reports. Of the 148 projects inspected in the first quarter of Year IV, 25 were completed and 123 were still under construction.

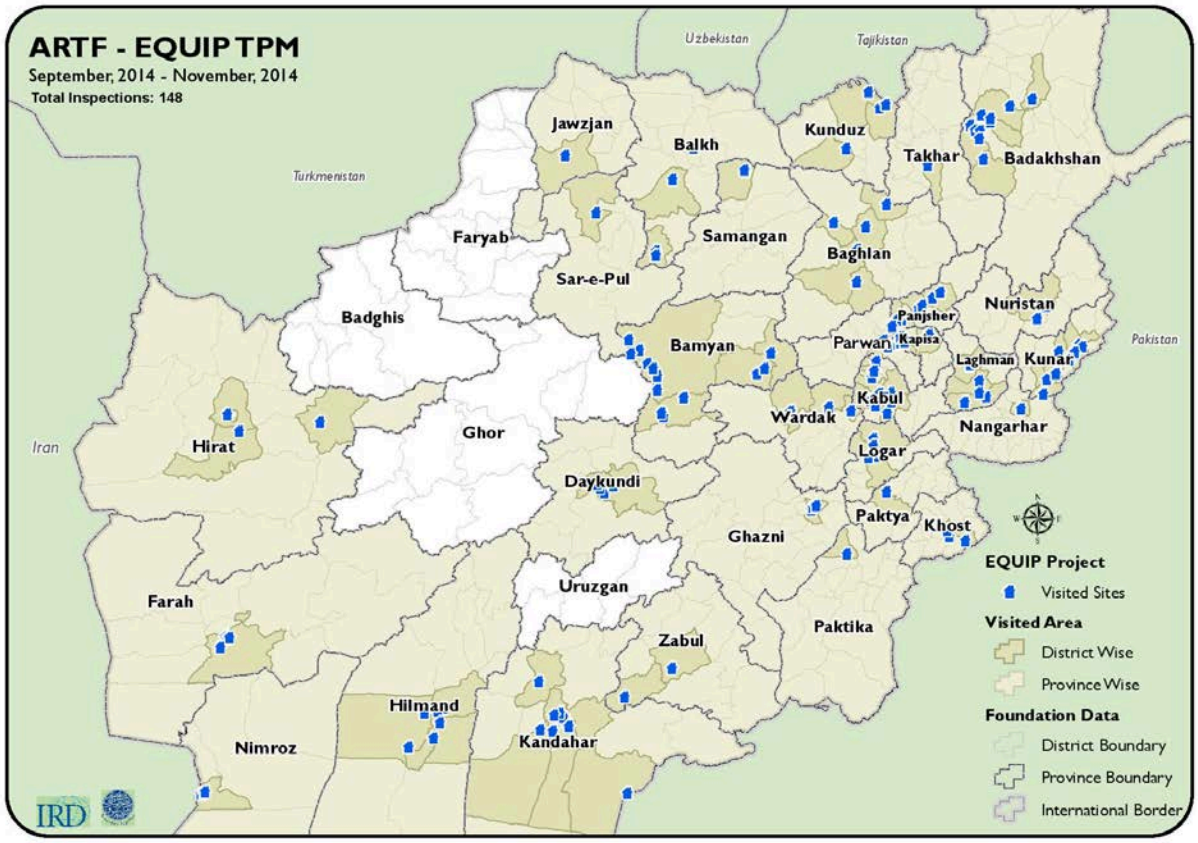


Figure 1: EQUIP TPM project inspections in the first quarter of Year IV

In Year IV, IRD is prioritizing project inspections as follows:

1. Completed EQUIP I and II projects not previously inspected
2. Projects completed after a prior inspection
3. EQUIP I and II projects still under construction
4. Projects still under construction, receiving additional funding for construction of facilities
5. Projects still under construction, receiving additional funding for missing components
6. Projects still under construction, to verify rectification of previously reported deviations.

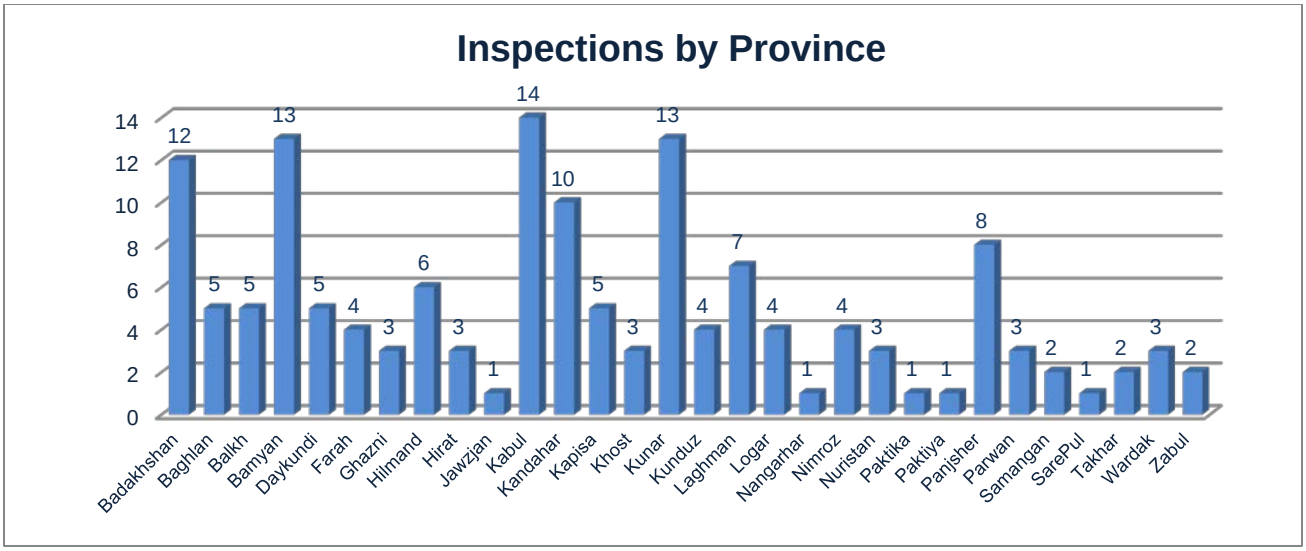


Figure 2: EQUIP TPM project inspections by province in the first quarter of Year IV

The average grade for all EQUIP inspections this quarter was 3.07, which is above average yet slightly lower than the previous quarter which averaged 3.13. An above average overall grade represents a good level of quality across the program. The highest graded project inspected this quarter was the Arghanchkhow High School (IRD-EQ-1698) in Badakhshan Province which was rated 3.88; another 84 projects were graded average or above, from 3.00 to 3.75. The remaining 63 projects were graded below average, from 2.26 to 2.99.

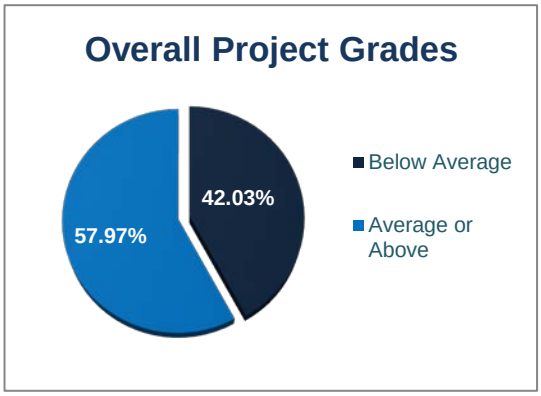


Figure 3: EQUIP TPM project grades above and below average in the first quarter of Year IV

2. Trends and Analysis

The first quarter of Year IV was the 17th quarter of IRD's EQUIP TPM program. Since the start of the EQUIP TPM program there has been a steady rise in student enrollment at most schools across the country. A frequent finding of TPM inspections is inadequate school size to accommodate the increasing student population. The number and sizes of newly constructed facilities are often insufficient, indicating a failure to accurately estimate the requirements in the planning and design phase. In many cases, the number of students enrolled in schools upon completion of construction is more than the designed capacity of the classrooms and number of desks installed. This results in school administrators sheltering students in makeshift outdoor classrooms, in tents or in open-air classes on the school grounds. Another frequently observed shortfall in planning and design of EQUIP projects is improper site selection. EQUIP schools are often observed to be built in areas prone to floods or landslides, putting the students, staff and facilities at risk. Additionally, lack of maintenance of EQUIP buildings after completion of construction is often observed adversely affecting the lifespan

of the project.

IRD relays all construction deficiencies observed during third party monitoring inspections to the Ministry of Education (MoE) and holds weekly meetings with MoE to discuss open deviations and plans for corrective actions. Deviations deemed to be of a critical nature are reported to MoE the day of discovery to facilitate immediate remedial action. Generally, reported deviations are remedied in a reasonable timeframe, but occasionally rectifications are stalled due to a lack of funds.

3. Social Safeguards

EQUIP is promoting education for girls by emphasizing the importance of female teachers and students in each component activity. Gender percentages of student enrollment at EQUIP schools is tracked by third party monitors, as is classroom capacity. Incidents of student populations exceeding classroom capacity were a regular occurrence observed throughout this quarter, in one such case there were 160 students per classroom including the new classrooms under construction at a boy's high school in Ghazni Province. Forty schools averaged over 97 students per classroom, of which 19 were combined gender and 21 were gender exclusive. The average number of students per classroom in all-boys and all-girls schools was equal at 66, and combined gender schools averaged 74 students per classroom. Approximately a quarter of combined gender schools operate on a shift system with one gender attending the morning shift and the other attending the afternoon shift, thus co-ed schools are often still segregated by gender.

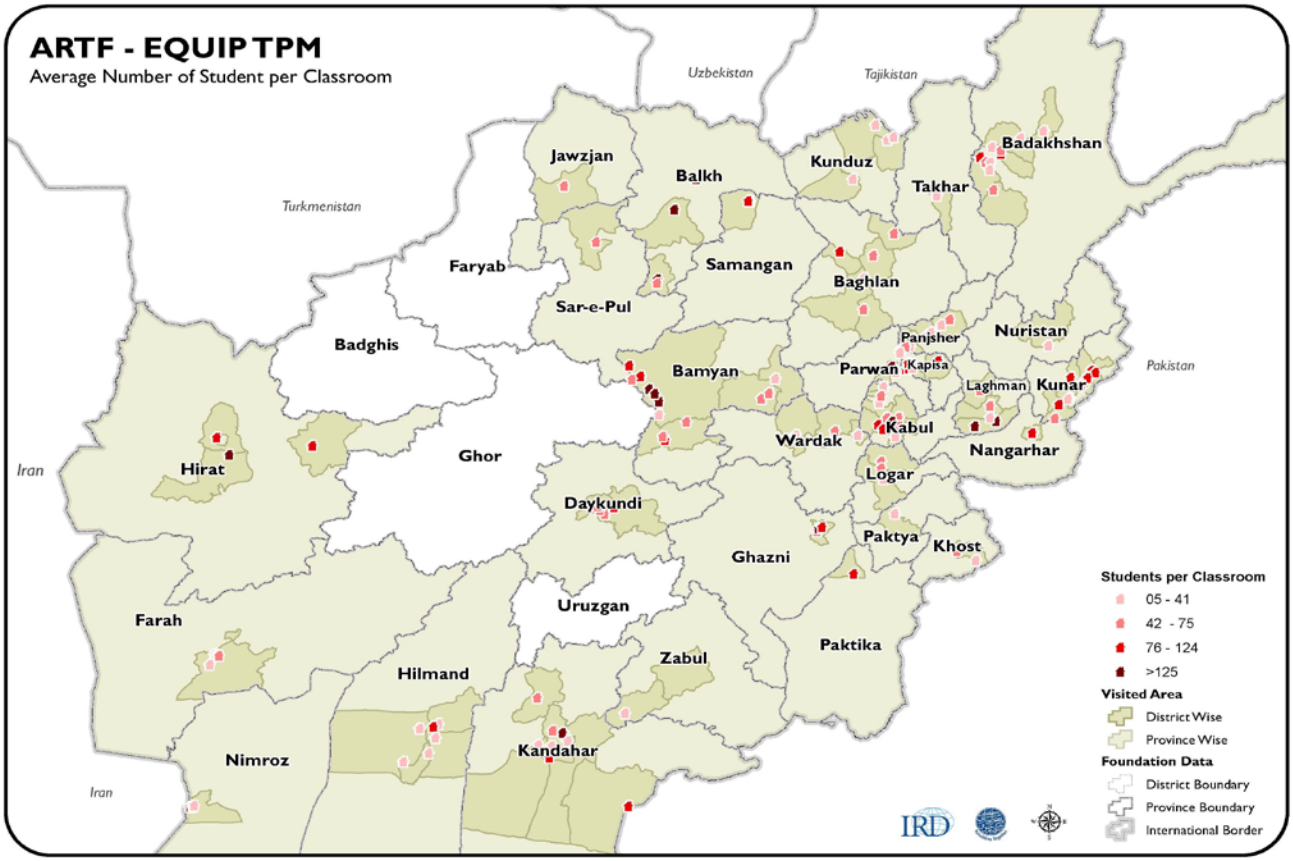


Figure 4: Number of enrolled students per classroom at EQUIP TPM projects inspected in the first quarter of Year IV

4. Recommendations and Future Plans

- Most EQUIP schools are not budgeted or designed to include a boundary wall. Subsequently, many have walls added with funding from other organizations, the local community, or remain lacking perimeter walls entirely. Given the concerns expressed by local communities regarding the necessity of a boundary wall encircling school grounds, and the varying quality of construction of these structures observed among those funded through alternate means, it would be beneficial for funding of a boundary wall to be allocated for all EQUIP school projects. A majority of the schools inspected this quarter did not have EQUIP-funded boundary walls.

- Improvement is needed in roof design and quality of roof construction. Generally, basic construction knowledge is insufficient to ensure that a satisfactory level of structural safety is achieved in the construction of steel or concrete beams and arch type roofs; close quality assurance oversight during construction is required but often lacking. Improper roof construction presents the greatest life safety threat in the event of earthquake or heavy snow. Spacing of reinforcing bars and proper concrete cover is vital to the strength of a concrete structure but is not obvious to many under-skilled construction workers. Concrete construction therefore necessitates close quality assurance by experienced personnel prior to concrete placement and at frequent intervals during the building process. Training is needed on design, construction, and monitoring of roofs.

Project Highlight

Matun District, Khost Province
IRD-EQ-1867

Khost Administrative Building

Noor Khan works as a caretaker at the construction site of the new Khost Administrative Building, an Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) funded facility. As a caretaker, everyday Noor Khan distributes construction equipment such as shovels, axes, and wheelbarrows to the laborers at the start of their work day, and at the end of the day he collects and accounts for the equipment, storing it in a secure room.

Noor attended school up to the secondary level, and hopes to further his education someday. He has a strong desire for his children, four boys and two girls, to be well educated, and is grateful for programs such as EQUIP which expand educational opportunities for the youth of Afghanistan. All of Noor's school age children are currently enrolled in primary school, and Noor enjoys helping them with their studies after work.

Noor says he earns a decent salary from his work as a caretaker, and he is able to adequately care for his family with the income. When construction of the Khost Administrative Building is complete, he hopes to find similar work on other infrastructure development projects in the area, which he says serve the community not only in their primary purpose of improving the nation's infrastructure but also play a vital role in providing employment opportunities for Afghans like himself.

- Quality control (QC) measures by contractors and quality assurance (QA) by MoE representatives needs improvement. While MoE has taken steps to greatly improve their own QA it remains insufficient, and there needs to be a viable plan to ensure that contractors are held accountable for implementing their own QC processes. Additionally, laborers constructing Community Contract (CC) funded schools must receive training to ensure standards of workmanship are maintained.

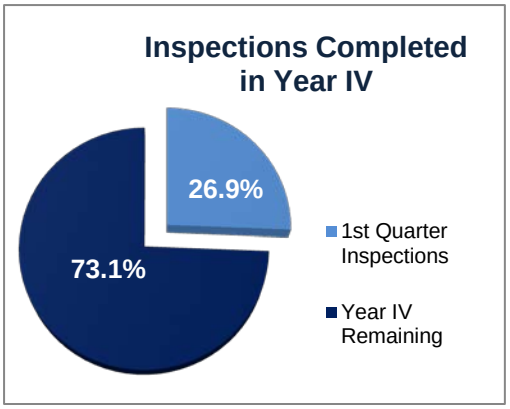


Figure 5: EQUIP TPM inspections completed in the first quarter of Year IV

The first quarter deliverables contributed 26.9% to the year's contractual target of 550 reports. An additional 402 inspection reports will be delivered in the following quarters of Year IV. In Year IV, IRD will conduct 550 inspections of EQUIP facilities across the country.

National Solidarity Program – Third Party Monitoring

First Quarter, Year IV

1. First Quarter Findings

In the first quarter of Year IV, International Relief & Development (IRD) conducted 205 inspections of National Solidarity Program (NSP) projects in 25 provinces throughout Afghanistan. This quarter's inspections comprise 25.6% of the 800 deliverables required in contract Year IV

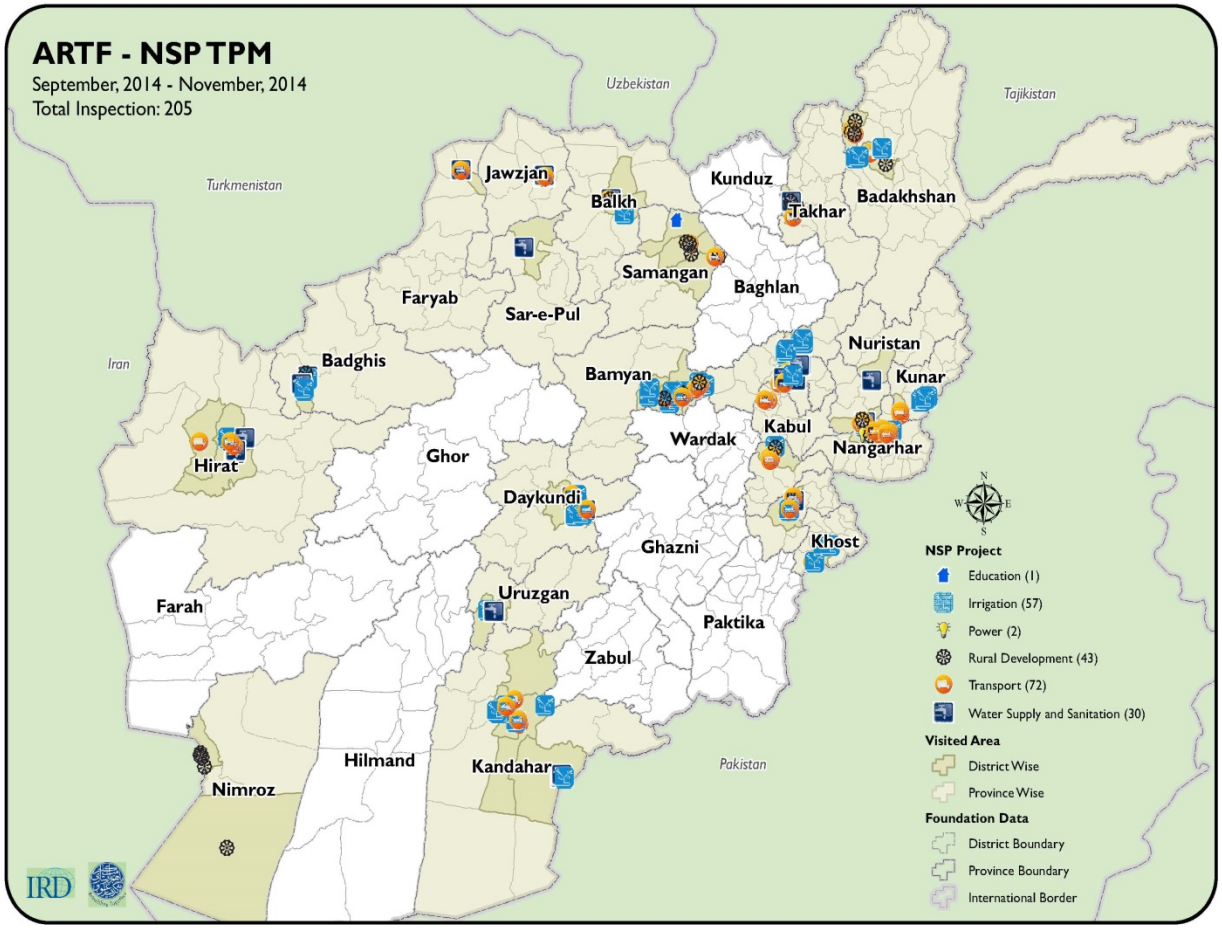


Figure 1: NSP TPM project inspections in the first quarter of Year IV

Of the 205 projects inspected this quarter, 47 were complete, 157 ongoing, and in one instance construction was found to be too early to evaluate as no work had commenced. At the request of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the majority of inspections are performed on projects still under construction in order to correct deviations observed prior to the contractor's demobilization from site. In Year IV, 732 site visits will be made to CDCs that have received or are going to receive a second block grant under NSP III, and all inspections this quarter were of projects that meet that criterion. Additionally, two financial management inspections will be conducted at each Provincial Management Unit (PMU), once in the first six months and once in the latter half of the year. In the first quarter, in conjunction with the World Bank and NSP, the financial management inspection format has

been developed and an initial joint inspection has been carried out. In the second quarter, all remaining PMU's will be visited.

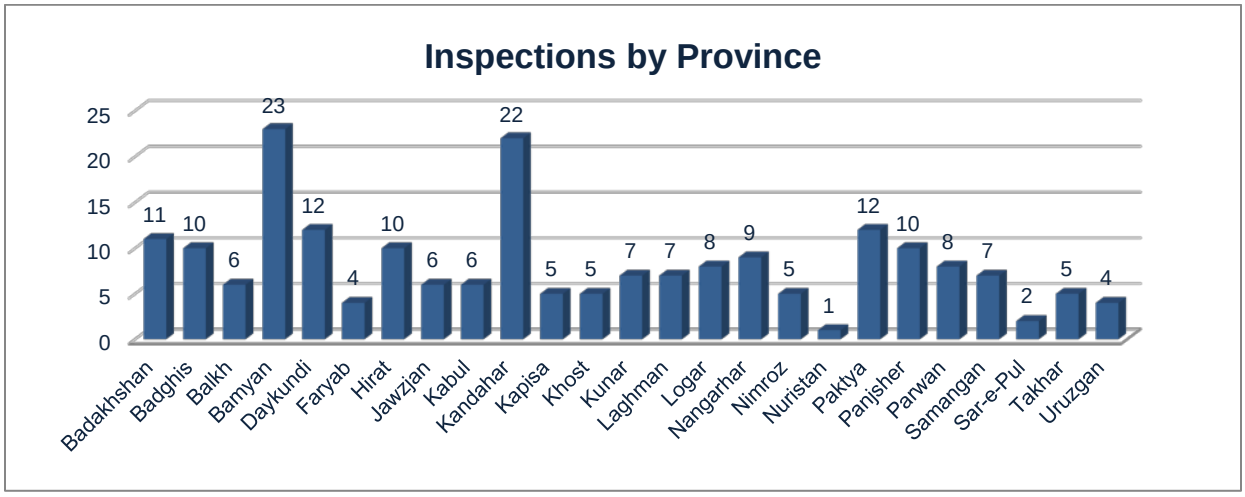


Figure 2: NSP TPM first quarter inspections by province

An NSP representative, either from the PMU or from the Facilitating Partner (FP), accompanied IRD field engineers on 96% of inspections (197 out of 205) conducted this quarter, compared to 85% in Year III, and 62% in Year II. IRD engineers contacted the PMU prior to each inspection to obtain project plans and discuss the upcoming inspection. Additionally, IRD provides an out-briefing to the PMU or FP after each inspection to discuss key findings. A greater degree of cooperation has been evident between the three parties, as the benefits of monitoring have been realized in the quality of the end product, which is reflected in the increased participation of NSP representatives in site visits.

2. Trends and Analysis

The average overall grade of the 205 NSP projects inspected in the first quarter was 3.51, slightly lower than the previous quarter's average of 3.81. Broken down by category, the average grade for materials was 3.50, workmanship 3.44, and design 3.58. By project, 171 were graded above average (>3.00) and 13 of those received a grade of 4.00 or above, 22 were average (3.00), and 11 below average.

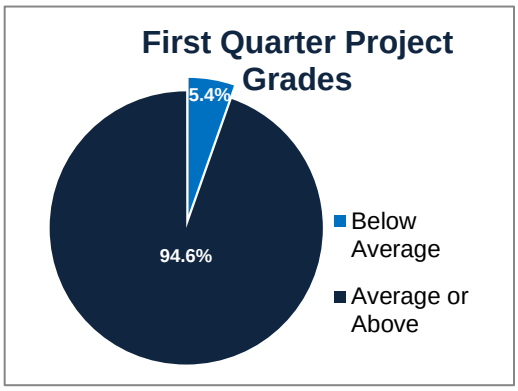


Figure 3: Overall project grades above and below average in the first quarter of Year IV

The 47 completed projects inspected this quarter averaged a maintenance grade of 3.10. Maintenance is typically graded lower than the other categories. NSP requires each CDC to write an operations and maintenance (O&M) plan for every project, which is one of the items that IRD inspects. There is a strong correlation between implementation of effective maintenance and having a written plan in-place, however, O&M plans are often not executed as written, and conversely some CDCs institute good maintenance despite having no written plan. Since the start of NSP TPM there has been a slight but steady increase in the number of projects with documented O&M plans available at project sites. In this quarter a written O&M plan was available at 40 of the 47 completed sites (85%).

2.1 Facilitating Partner Grading

Facilitating Partner	No. of Projects Inspected	Average Overall Grade	Sectors
BRAC	5	3.89	Transport, R/Dev., Power
SDO	6	3.83	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation
Afghan Aid	13	3.72	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation, WS/S, Education
ZOA	2	3.63	Irrigation, WS/S
IRC	13	3.55	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation
CARE	12	3.52	Transport, R/Dev., WS/S, Irrigation
UN-Habitat	84	3.50	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation, WS/S, Power
MADERA	13	3.48	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation, WS/S
NPO/RRAA	10	3.47	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation, WS/S
DACAAR	4	3.47	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation, WS/S
ACTED	10	3.44	Transport, R/Dev., WS/S
AKDN	4	3.38	Transport, Irrigation
Oxfam	12	3.34	Transport, Irrigation, WS/S
Action Aid	6	3.33	Transport, R/Dev., WS/S
Relief International	7	3.22	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation
ANCC	4	3.00	Transport, R/Dev., Irrigation, WS/S

Figure 4: NSP project grades by facilitating partner

IRD inspects NSP projects in six general sectors: power, irrigation, rural development, transportation, water supply and sanitation, and education. The quality of work differs slightly between each sector, therefore in order to provide comparison and consistent analysis the following sections are organized by sectors rather than attempting to generalize at the program level.

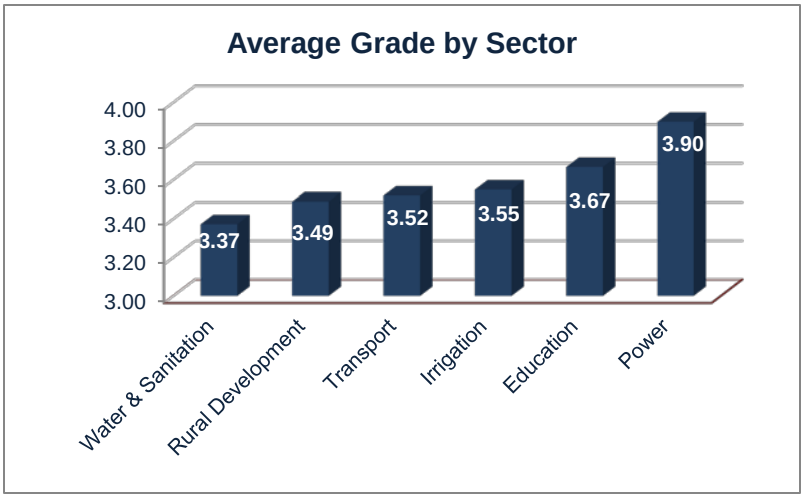


Figure 5: NSP project grades by sector in the first quarter of Year IV

2.1 Power

In the first quarter of Year IV, IRD engineers inspected two power sector projects in two provinces; both were micro-hydropower plant (MHP) projects. Power projects as a sector achieved an average overall grade of 3.90, the highest of all sectors this quarter.

2.2 Irrigation

IRD inspected 56 irrigation projects in 17 provinces in the first quarter. These included 31 protection walls, 15 canals, six water reservoirs, two pipe schemes, and one each aqueduct and super passage projects. The average grade for irrigation projects this quarter was 3.55, which is slightly lower than the previous quarter but on-par with previous averages for this sector.

2.3 Rural Development

IRD inspected 43 rural development projects in 17 provinces in the first quarter: one boundary wall for a community center, and 42 community centers. This sector received an overall average grade of 3.49, which is a similar figure to rural development project grades seen in previous quarters.

2.4 Transportation

In the first quarter, IRD inspected 72 transportation projects in 21 provinces, including 27 retaining walls, 26 tertiary roads, seven culverts, five pathways, three bridges (one pedestrian bridge), two wash construction projects, and one each side ditch and intake construction. This sector received an overall average grade of 3.52, which is a similar grade as has been seen in previous quarters for transportation projects.

2.5 Water Supply and Sanitation

IRD inspected 30 water supply and sanitation projects across 18 provinces in the first quarter. Of these, 16 were shallow well projects, six were deep bored wells, three each water supply reservoirs and latrine construction projects, and two water supply networks. The average grade for water supply and sanitation projects was 3.37, which, as with irrigation, is slightly lower than the last quarter but comparable to historical averages for this sector.

2.6 Education

This is the first quarter that NSP project monitoring has included the education sector. One education project was inspected this quarter as a trial to assist in development of the inspection format; further projects in this sector will be inspected in the future. The single education project inspected in the first quarter received a relatively high grade of 3.67.

3. Social Safeguards

Of the 205 projects inspected in the first quarter, 77% (157 CDCs) included females on the council, with an average of 7.4 women for every 9.1 men in these combined-gender CDCs. This figure exceeds IRD's historic average findings of approximately 60% of CDCs with female inclusion. A record of CDC meetings in the previous three months was available at 139 projects, which averaged 3.7 meetings during that time period. Only seven of the CDCs that did not have a mixed-gender membership had a separate female-only sub-CDC established. Of those, six of the seven had records of meetings by the female sub-CDCs.

Female participation in the project identification process was documented at 52% of projects inspected this quarter (107 out of 205), which is lower than the historic findings of approximately 69%. Facilitating partners (FPs) reported that they employed 898 females working at field offices on 84% of projects (173 of 205); these female field staff made 612 visits to project sites in the first quarter. UN-Habitat reported the highest number of female field staff.

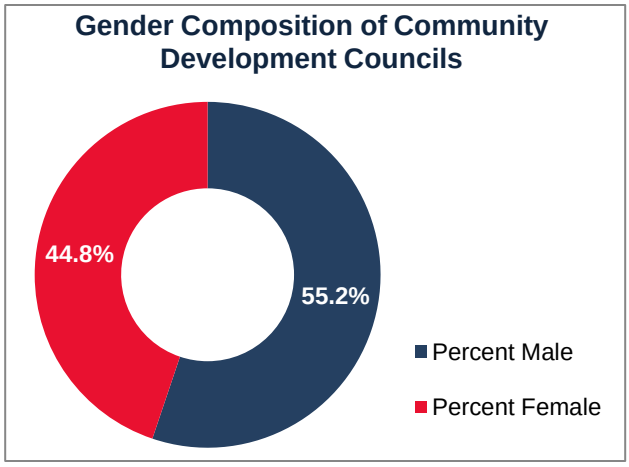


Figure 6: Gender composition of CDC councils

Fifty-one projects inspected in the first quarter had a grievance mechanism established, a sharp increase compared to the last two quarters. Nine grievances were recorded, all of which had been resolved by the time of IRD's inspection. FPs had a social safeguard point of contact at 191 field offices, of which 172 had provided safeguard training to the communities. One hundred and fifty-seven provided a monthly report to the NSP PMU office. Social safeguards were documented at only 53 of the 205 projects inspected this quarter.

Of the 157 projects still under construction, first aid kits or personal protective equipment were not available at any site. Safety training was provided at 22 sites. Seventeen projects borrowed aggregates from a river bed, but there were no long-term environmental effects observed from this practice.

4. Recommendations and Future Plans

- NSP should ensure project implementation proceeds in accordance with the work plan because delays in project completion can result in increased costs due to fluctuations in the local market. In one example encountered this quarter, a gabion wall designed to be 116 meters long had to be downsized to 95 meters due to a spike in material prices after excessive delays in the construction process.

- IRD has observed many sites in this and previous quarters where the community cannot afford the fuel cost for generators supplying electricity to pumps for water networks. In one case encountered in the first quarter, the community sent a request to the PMU for a solar water pump but the request has not been approved. Solar water pumps are a good option for sustaining water supply projects in remote villages that cannot afford basic operating costs.

In Year IV, IRD's Terms of Reference with the World Bank dictates a target of 800 NSP inspections; IRD plans to perform 225 of these inspections during the second quarter of Year IV.

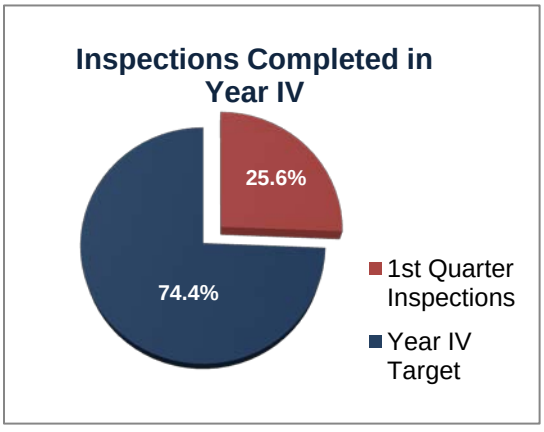


Figure 7: NSP project inspections completed in the first quarter and the annual target

Project Highlight

Behsud District, Nangarhar Province
IRD-NS-70809

Itefaq Mina Village Stone Masonry Protection Wall

Itefaq Mina is a small community in the Behsud District of Nangarhar Province, which lies in a valley alongside the Kabul River, one of the most voluminous rivers in Afghanistan. The village has long thrived on the agricultural opportunities its proximity to the river has afforded it, but each year when the river swells with melted snow Itefaq Mina suffers from severe flooding.

Asadullah, the Community Development Council (CDC) treasurer of Itefaq Mina told a visiting International Relief & Development (IRD) engineer what his village endures each spring. “During the annual floods, our entire community is forced move to nearby villages because those who stay risk getting swept up by flood waters. Many children from Itefaq Mina have drowned in the river. The flash floods strike without warning and anyone walking or playing outside will drown,” he said.

In 2013, the National Solidarity Program (NSP) asked the residents of Iftaq Mina to identify a development project which would be most beneficial to their community. A protection wall was declared their number one priority and the project was implemented by the CDC in November 2013. As of September 2014 it is 94% complete and is already capable of protecting the community against flooding.

Asadullah said, “Our communityis very happy with the protection wall and the aid which enabled its construction. The people of our village are looking forward to being able to stay in their homes in the spring. We would not have been able to afford this project by ourselves without the aid we received.”

National Rural Access Program - Third Party Monitoring

First Quarter, Year IV

1. First Quarter Findings

During the first quarter of Year IV, IRD produced 106 inspection reports for National Rural Access Program (NRAP) projects in 17 provinces. This quarter's NRAP inspections comprise 26.5% of the 400 total reports that are to be completed in Year IV.

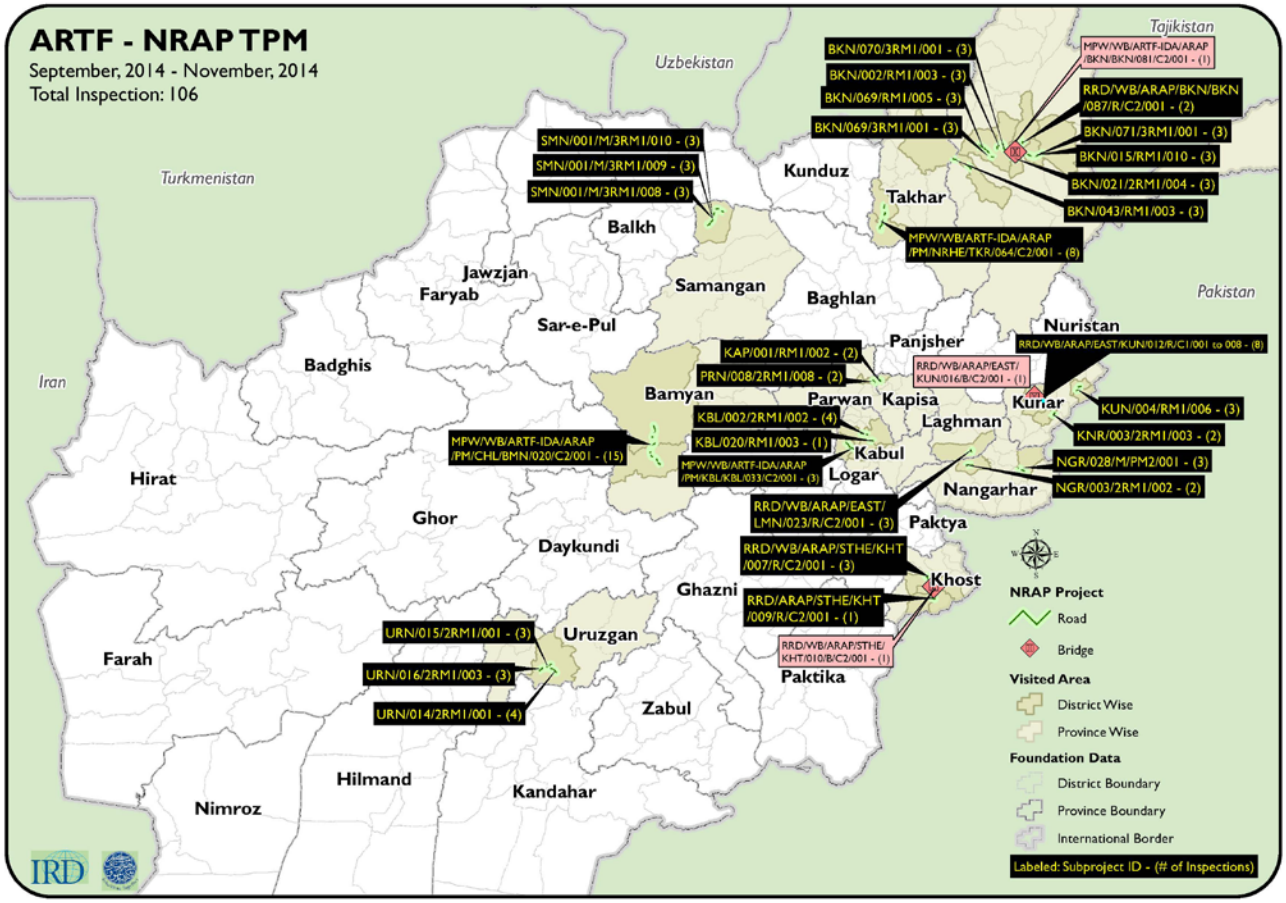


Figure 1: NRAP TPM project inspections in the first quarter of Year IV

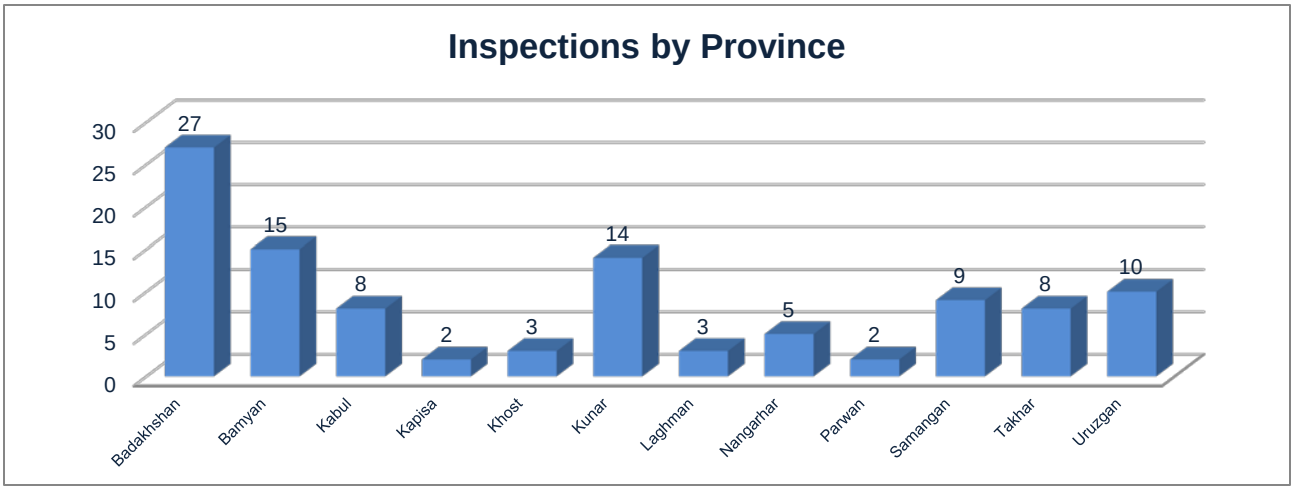


Figure 2: NRAP TPM first quarter inspections by province

The 106 inspections conducted in the first quarter included 88 monitoring inspections of 19 sub-projects undergoing periodic maintenance, and 18 inspections to evaluate construction quality and progress of eight sub-projects: five tertiary roads, two bridges, and one box culvert. Of these eight sub-projects, one was complete and the remaining seven were still under construction upon inspection. Among the periodic maintenance sub-projects, two were adjudged to be too early to evaluate as little or no maintenance work had commenced. Four kilometers is the maximum length of road that can reasonably be inspected by an engineer in one site visit and therefore constitutes one inspection for reporting purposes. Road projects often exceed four kilometers in length, so the number of inspections often far exceeds the number of projects inspected. The overall average grade for all NRAP inspections conducted in the first quarter was 3.22, which is slightly lower than the

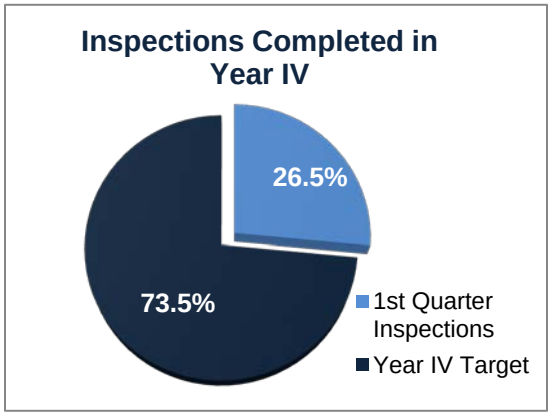


Figure 3: Inspections completed in the first quarter and the annual target

previous quarter's average of 3.65. The decline may be attributed to a number of periodic maintenance contracts monitored this quarter which generally complied with specifications but frequently the materials used for repairs was observed to be of substandard quality. Periodic maintenance monitoring was added to the NRAP TPM scope of work in Year IV, and thus not factored into previous quarters grades. The average grade for construction sub-projects when separated from maintenance monitoring is 3.39, whereas periodic maintenance contracts received a lower average figure of 3.13. Of the eight construction sub-projects inspected, two were graded 4.00 or above, five were above average (greater than 3.00 but less than 4.00), and one tertiary road in Badakhshan Province received an overall grade of below average. Among the 19 periodic maintenance

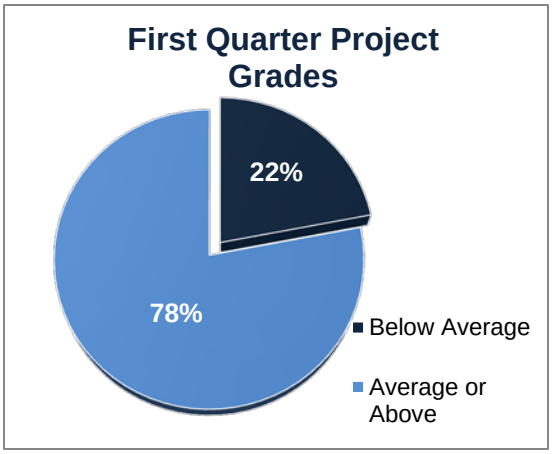


Figure 4: Overall grades, above and below average, in the first quarter of Year IV

sub-projects inspected, two were graded 4.00, eight were above average, two were average, five were below average (typically due to poor quality materials, as stated above), and two sub-projects were deemed too early to evaluate. An above average overall grade represents a good level of quality across the program.

The table below provides the average overall grade per contractor implementing projects inspected in the first quarter.

Contractor name	Number of sub-projects	Type of sub-project	Average grade
Akbar Nasrat Construction Company	1	Gravel Road	4.13
Alaska Construction Company	1	Box culvert	4.00
Habib Noor Ashizai Construction Company	1	Gravel Road	3.84
Sultan Bashir Construction Company	1	Gravel Road	3.83
Bakhtar Afghan Construction Company	2	Bridge/Gravel Road	3.59
Shams Afghan Construction Company	4	Gravel Roads	3.54
Bakhtar Afghan Construction Company	1	Gravel Road	3.53
Bost Global Construction Company	1	Bridge	3.50
Samim Wafa Construction Company	1	Asphalt Road	3.16
Enayat Bashir Construction Company	2	Asphalt Road/Gravel Road	3.16/Too early to evaluate
Local Communities "CDCs	1	Gravel Road	3.15
Ghullam Nabi Yaqobi Construction Company	7	Gravel Roads/Asphalt Road	3.08
Emdad Construction Company	1	Gravel Road	2.91
Saman Sazan Construction Company	1	Gravel Road	2.91
Mutahid Safi Construction Company	3	Gravel Roads	2.50/ Too early to evaluate

Figure 5: Average overall grade per contractor for projects inspected in the first quarter of Year IV

2. Trends and Analysis

All construction inspections conducted in the first quarter were of sub-projects funded by the Afghanistan Rural Access Project (ARAP), which began in 2013 replacing the National Emergency Rural Access Program (NERAP). In addition to these, inspections were also conducted on roads that were due to receive periodic maintenance under ARAP; periodic maintenance is a new initiative designed to prolong the life span of roads built previously. As in past quarters, bridges were generally found to be well-constructed, but causeways were the highest graded road component this quarter averaging 4.12. Side drains were once again the lowest graded component; on periodic maintenance contracts it is often found that in the process of renewing a road's wearing surface the drains become blocked with material and they are not cleaned out after resurfacing, thus negating their utility.

This quarter a lack of progress on periodic maintenance contracts was evident, particularly those awarded to the Mutahid Safi Construction Company in the provinces of Kunar and Nangahar, and the Enayat Bashir Construction Company in Samangan Province. Despite these contracts being awarded up to three months ago, the contractors had yet to mobilize any resources to begin maintenance work as of the end of the first quarter. Given the difficulties of conducting construction activities in winter weather conditions in Afghanistan, it is recommended that these contractors be held accountable and instructed to expedite the

work they are being paid to implement. If this does not happen in the very near future it is unlikely that the maintenance work will be completed before next spring due to winter weather conditions impeding progress.

When compared with the previous quarter, there have been very few contract awards for road construction in the first quarter of Year IV. The reason for this is unclear. IRD monitored a number of contracts this quarter that were awarded to a single contractor across multiple provinces, which seems to have had a negative effect on the quality of work as the contractors resources were apparently spread too thin.

Two coordination meetings were held between IRD and NRAP in the first quarter to discuss recent findings. No technical meetings were conducted in this timeframe. Technical meetings need to be held regularly to identify trends, address specific defects, prepare action plans for rectification of open deviations, and to compile feedback regarding the program. It is expected that these meetings will recommence in December 2014.

3. Social and Environmental Safeguards

An individual engineer is able to monitor a maximum of four kilometers of road in one site visit and most road sub-projects far exceed this length, thus there is inevitably more inspections conducted than sub-projects. This quarter's 106 inspections were conducted on 19 periodic maintenance sub-projects and eight construction sub-projects. Social and environmental safeguards are best analyzed at the sub-project level rather than looking at individual inspections because a single contractor will often be responsible for the full length of a sub-project so the actions taken on safeguards will apply to the entire contract. It should also be noted that roads inspected that are nominated to receive periodic maintenance do not have a social or environmental safeguard component.

Social and environmental safeguards applied to eight sub-projects this quarter, and all had formal or informal community involvement in the site selection, although none had evidence of women being consulted during planning. An established formal grievance handling system was in place at all construction sub-projects visited during the quarter, but no grievances were recorded. Given that very few sub-projects were visited this quarter, very little land was required, amounting to a total of 1,079 square meters at two sub-project sites. In all cases it was donated freely without coercion or resettlement necessary, and in both cases an abbreviated resettlement plan had been developed. No compensation was paid to any of the landowners. Only 24 trees required removal to accommodate road and bridge construction. At three of the eight projects, the contractor had a physical copy of the EMSP checklist. Two projects were found to be using sand or gravel obtained from riverbeds but, in IRD's judgment these particular cases did not cause long-term detrimental environmental effects. Safeguard training was provided to site engineers at four projects. Laborers properly outfitted with personal protective equipment were not observed at any project sites; this represents a drop from the last quarter but has historically been a common finding.

4. Recommendations and Future Plans

- As reported in the previous quarter, it was noted that multiple contract awards to a single company degraded the quality of construction. Contractors should not be awarded more contracts at any one

time than they have capacity to complete concurrently. In the case of small contractors, they should be assessed for their ability to deliver a quality product before being awarded more technical sub-projects or a greater volume of contracts.

- Rehabilitation of existing structures was not included in the scope of work of periodic maintenance contracts. Many structures display minor damage to culverts and side drains that are filled with sediment. As these defects can be easily remedied it is recommended that basic rehabilitation be included in maintenance contracts to prevent the conditions from worsening over time. Side drains are particularly negatively affected after road surfaces have been scarified and the new surface has been laid.

- At a number of sub-projects, low quality materials were observed stockpiled to be used in road build up and wearing course. Substandard materials will adversely affect the success of periodic maintenance; it is recommended that proper material testing be conducted on all materials prior to their use in maintenance activities. On a positive note, in November evidence of material testing was observed on a much more frequent basis on periodic maintenance sub-projects. Material testing should be routine with all contracts and both the ministries and UNOPS should ensure that contractors are held responsible for internal quality control.

Project Highlight

Hirat Province
IRD-NR-0353

Airport to Jalwarcha Road

Arbab Ebrahim is an elder in the Community Development Council (CDC) of Jalwarcha Village in Hirat Province. Recently he talked to a visiting International Relief & Development (IRD) engineer to discuss the new road connecting Jalwarcha Village to the airport, a National Rural Access Program (NRAP) funded project. Arbab Ebrahim said the road has brought significant benefits to his community, especially for the younger generations. Prior to construction of the new thoroughfare it took nearly an hour to reach Hirat, and in particular the university, which is now a 15 minute drive from the village. He believes the new road is encouraging more youth of his community to pursue higher education as they are no longer dissuaded by the arduous commute.

The road has also become important for agriculture in the area. Local farmer Hazrat Sha told IRD the cost of transporting his goods to Hirat, the largest market in the region, has been cut in half since the opening of the new road. The road passes through a fertile agricultural region, and the reduced transportation costs have allowed Hazrat Sha to invest more of his money into cultivating a greater proportion of his land.

Arbab Ebrahim also addressed the easier access to medical care available to his community, particularly for the elderly, which used to be difficult. The nearest clinic previously could only be accessed by way of a rough, muddy road and was a long, slow journey. Now accessible via the new road, the clinics and hospitals in Hirat can be reached quickly and conveniently.

IRD is working with the ministries to identify additional construction projects for inspection in the second quarter of Year IV.

Irrigation Restoration and Development Project - Third Party Monitoring

First Quarter, Year IV

1. First Quarter Findings

During the first quarter of Year IV, the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project Third Party Monitoring (IRDP TPM) program produced 26 inspection reports from 13 canal projects in five provinces, which comprise 26% of the 100 total reports scheduled in Year IV. (Figure 1)

This quarter was the ninth quarter IRD monitored IRDP projects, and continual improvements have been evident throughout the lifespan of the TPM program. In the first quarter of Year IV, all graded projects were rated above average (3.00–4.00). In general, IRDP projects are found to be built to a satisfactory standard and these figures further support that view.

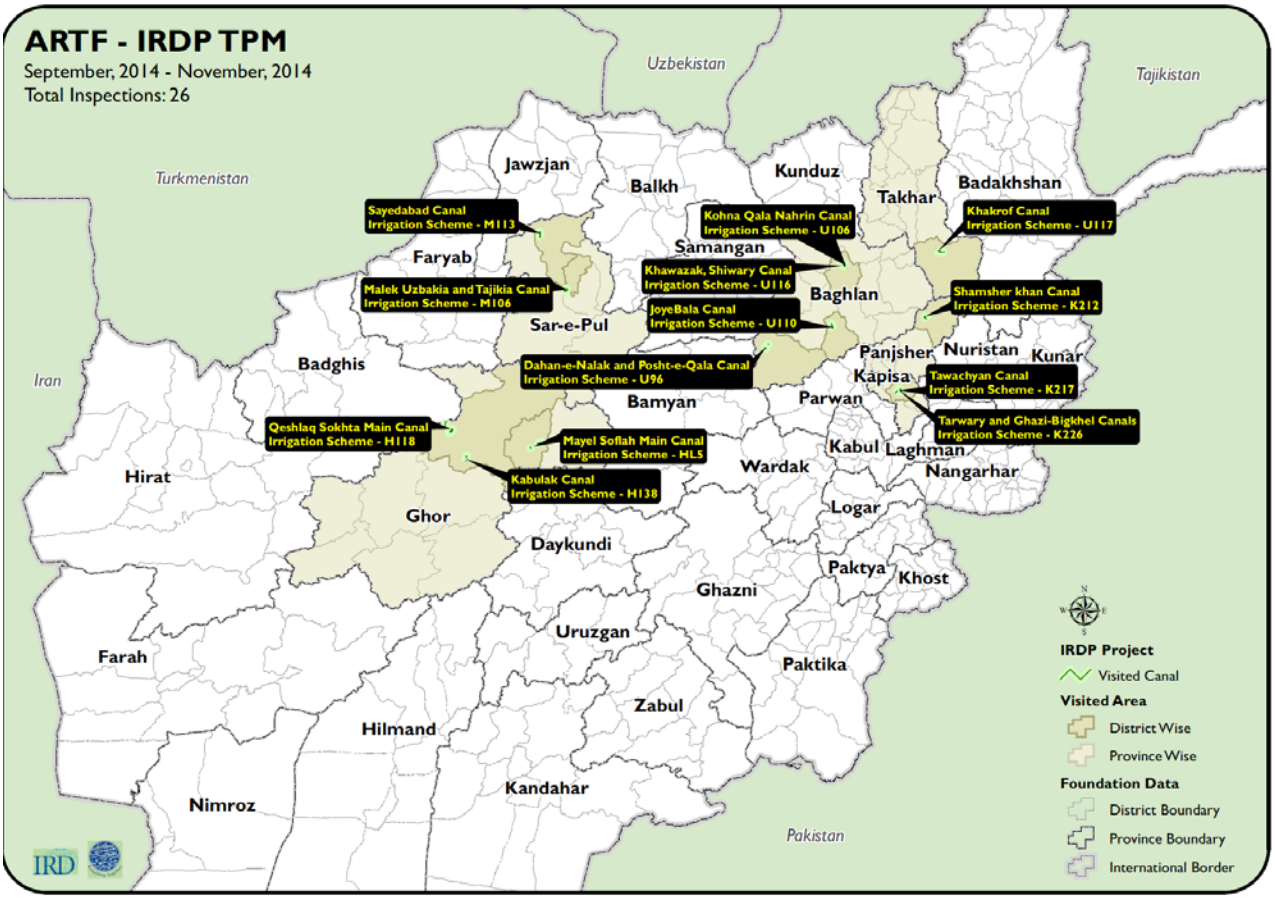


Figure 1: IRDP TPM project inspections in the first quarter of Year IV

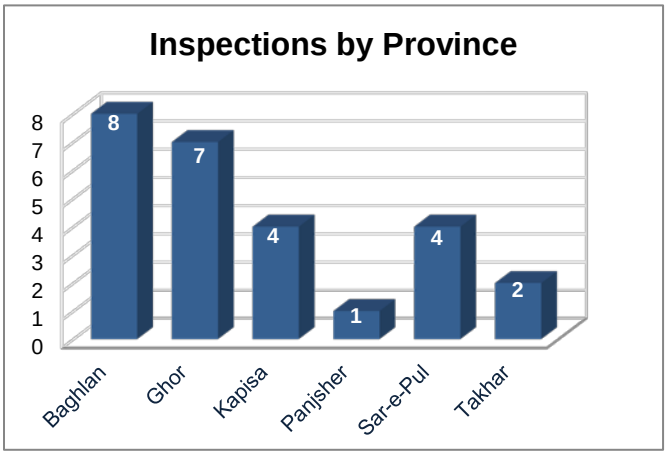


Figure 2: IRDP TPM first quarter inspections by province

Overall, the quality of construction of IRDP projects tends to be stronger than that observed on other programs. IRDP project designs are developed at the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) regional offices and then refined at the MoEW Kabul office in partnership with their consultant, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO). As site conditions come to light during construction, MoEW regional offices make changes to the design documents and modify contracts accordingly, notifying MoEW-Kabul of the modifications. The excellent quality of IRDP designs is a reflection of the Ministry's skilled and capable workforce, and their experience with irrigation techniques.

Throughout this quarter as in previous quarters, International Relief & Development (IRD) maintained a deviation tracker, which is shared with MoEW on a weekly and monthly basis in regularly scheduled coordination meetings, to report newly observed deviations and track the status of previously reported open issues. In addition to the weekly reporting of deficiencies, time sensitive or critical deviations discovered are relayed to the Ministry the day they are observed by IRD monitors. Deviations are tracked and monitored through IRD's Common Monitoring and Reporting (CMORE) platform. Weekly reporting of deviations and same-day notification of critical observations allows MoEW to promptly direct contractors to take remedial action before construction defects are exacerbated or built-upon and covered up. In most cases, the Ministry is able to rectify observed deviations without accruing delays in the construction schedule.

2. Trends and Analysis

Among the 13 canals inspected this quarter, 10 were under construction upon inspection and three were 100% complete. The quality of canal construction observed this quarter was consistently above average, with individual project grades ranging from 3.22 to 4.00.

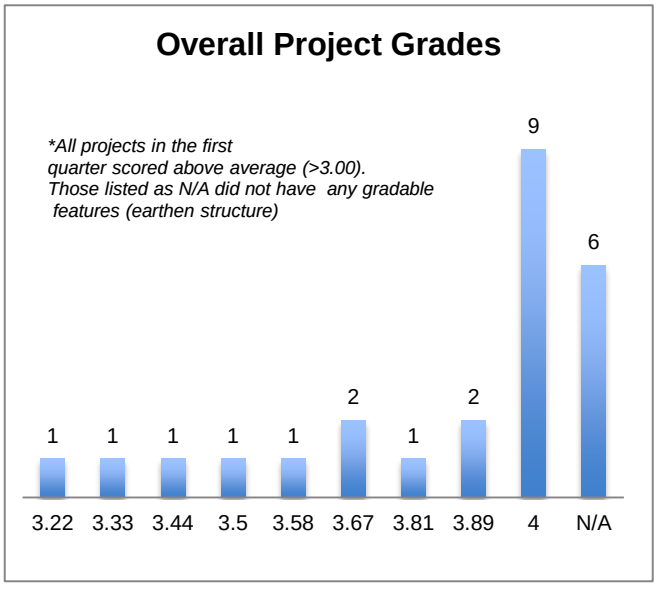


Figure 3: Overall grades of IRDP projects inspected in the first quarter

The average grade of all IRDP TPM inspections in the first quarter was 3.79. Nearly all elements of canal construction observed this quarter were graded above average; no project had an overall score below average which demonstrates consistently good quality materials, design and workmanship in IRDP construction. A contributing factor to the relatively high quality found on IRDP projects may be the importance rural Afghan communities place on irrigation for agriculture, which is a major component in their economic livelihood. There is also a clear correlation between the successes of the IRDP program and the high degree of attention MoEW has given to ensure quality design and construction. MoEW regional representatives nearly always accompany IRD engineers on site inspections, demonstrating their dedication to the construction management process.

3. Social Safeguards

In the first quarter, 26 inspections of 13 canals were conducted, during which information regarding social safeguards was collected. All social safeguard protocols were followed, with the notable exception of consulting women of the community prior to initial approval and funding of these IRDP projects and a lack of formal grievence redress mechanisms. There were some incidences encountered this quarter of construction materials found to have been mined from rivers, but no long-term detrimental environmental impacts are anticipated from these incidents.

4. Recommendations and Future Plans

The following recommendations are provided based on third party monitoring observations in the first quarter of Year IV.

- When designs are changed to adapt construction to meet site requirements, MoEW should provide the revised design drawings and new specifications to IRD for reference during site inspections.

- The Qeshlaq Sokhta Canal Irrigation Scheme (IRD-IRDP-085), inspected this quarter, showed that the canal has no water source other than rainwater. The large irrigation scheme was found to have been constructed of good quality materials and exhibited skillful workmanship, but with no consistent water source it provides little value; the budget would have been better allocated to another project.

- Punch list items (i.e. deviations which need to be addressed prior to handover of an otherwise completed project) were observed on some of the completed canals inspected this quarter, yet MoEW continues to report their status as “complete”. The Ministry is requested to rectify all open deviations before handover of these projects.

- The Hydrology and Water Management Department is requested to provide IRD an updated list of automatic weather stations (hydrological stations, meteorological stations, snow survey stations, and cableways) throughout Afghanistan for inspection planning purposes, and all updated design drawings of the guardhouses at these stations for reference upon inspection, and to provide their action plan for all the identified deviations.

IRD will continue to send critical deviations and time sensitive observations to MoEW’s Kabul headquarters and their provincial offices on a daily basis as they arise to facilitate prompt corrective action. This approach, which began in Year II, has proven a highly effective tool for the Ministry’s quality control program resulting in increased rates of corrected deviations. Weekly reporting of deviations and monthly coordination with MoEW/UNFAO also began in Year II and will continue throughout Year IV.

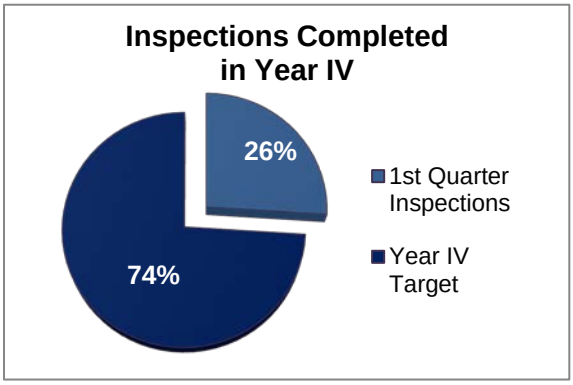


Figure 4: IRDP TPM inspections completed in Year IV

Project Highlight

Khinjan District, Baghlan Province
IRD-IRDP-118
Joye Bala Canal Irrigation Scheme

Forty year old Haji Aslam farms 14 jeribs (2.8 hectares) of land which is irrigated by the Joye Bala Canal in the Khinjan District of Baghlan Province. The Joye Bala Canal was recently rehabilitated by the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (IRDP) to reconstruct sections of the irrigation scheme which had fallen into disrepair. Shortly after completion of the renovation work, Aslam spoke to a visiting International Relief & Development (IRD) engineer about the problems which plagued the canal prior to rehabilitation. The existing intake and other structures had been constructed of local materials including timber, brush, boulders and soil, which made it susceptible to damage when the river level rose each spring. The canal intake suffered from severe erosion, and debris and sediment build-up at the intake partially blocked the flow of water. The local community was unable to meet the demanding maintenance needs of the poorly built structure, and thus the sediment and erosion problems became exacerbated over the years and the amount of land irrigated by the scheme gradually diminished.

Haji Aslam said that since the reconstruction of the intake structure was completed, the Joye Bala Canal now irrigates substantially more land, resulting in increased crop yields throughout the region. He is grateful for the economic benefits he is already realizing from this development project, and expressed gratitude on behalf of all the farmers in his community.

On-Farm Water Management Project - Third Party Monitoring

First Quarter, Year IV

1. First Quarter Findings

The On-Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP) was added to IRD's monitoring portfolio in Year IV. The objective of OFWMP for Afghanistan is to improve agricultural productivity in project areas by enhancing the efficiency of water used. IRD was asked to monitor the infrastructure investment part of the program, which helps rehabilitate and improve the farm-based irrigation branches.

During the first quarter of Year IV, Third Party Monitoring (TPM) of OFWMP produced 10 inspection reports from 10 irrigation canals in four provinces. This quarter's deliverables comprise 10% of the 100 total reports planned in Year IV.

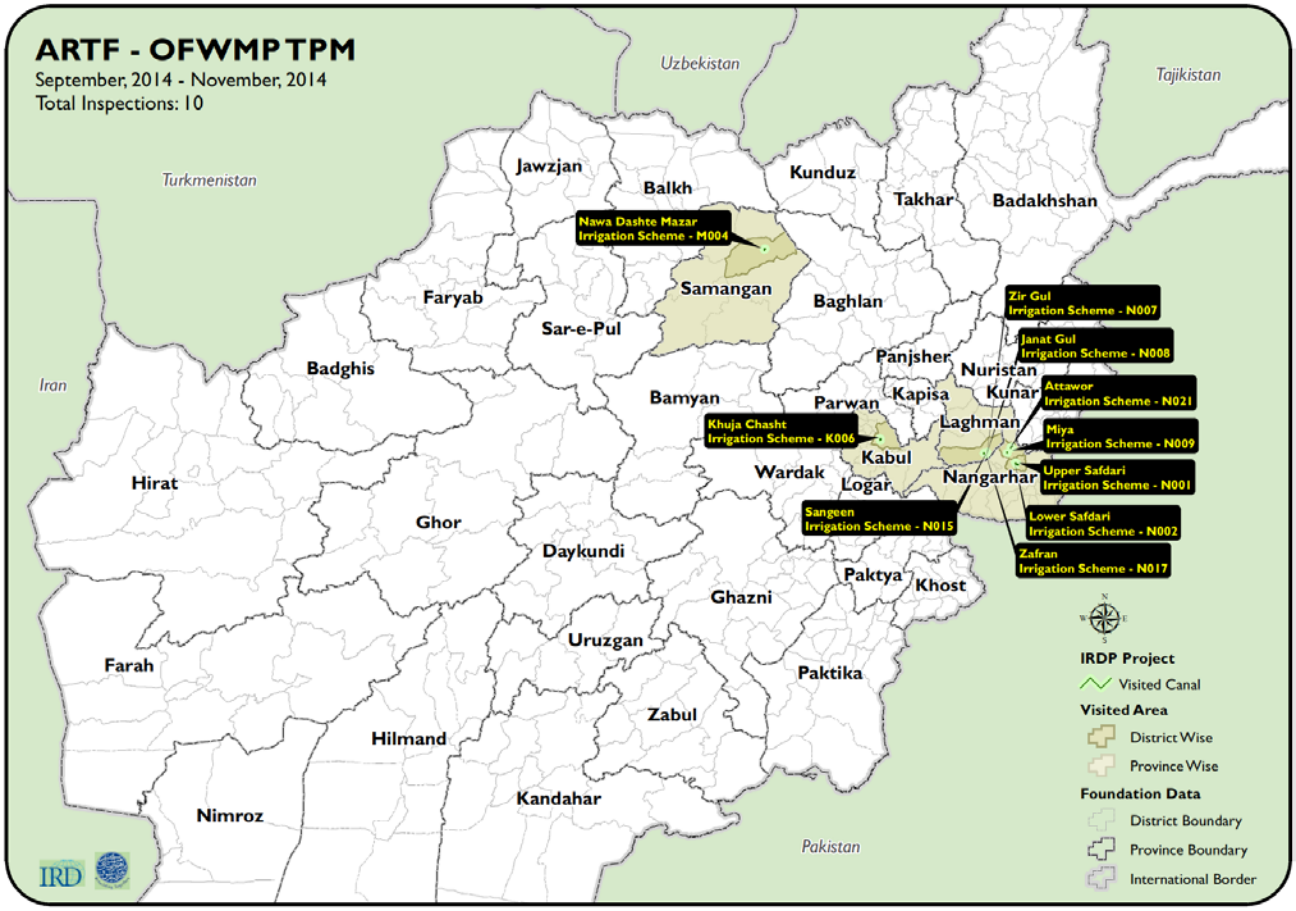


Figure 1: OFWMP TPM project inspections in the first quarter of Year IV

Among the 10 canals inspected this quarter, construction was still underway at one project site, and the others were 100% complete. The overall quality of canal construction observed this quarter was consistently above average, with individual project grades ranging from 3.40 to 4.00.

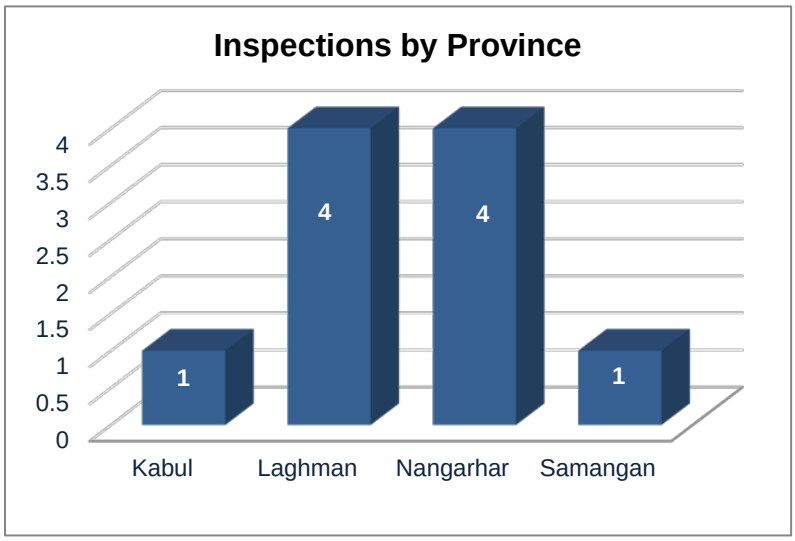


Figure 2: OFWMP TPM inspections by province in the first quarter of Year IV

The overall average grade for all OFWMP inspections in the first quarter was 3.88. This represents a high level of quality across the program. At the start of OFWMP monitoring IRD developed a deviation tracker, which is shared with the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) on a weekly and monthly basis in regularly scheduled coordination meetings, to report on newly observed deviations and track the status of previously reported open issues. In addition to the weekly reporting of deviations, any time sensitive or critical deviations discovered are relayed to the Ministry the day that they are observed by IRD monitors. Deviations are tracked and monitored through IRD's Common Monitoring and Reporting (CMORE) platform. Weekly reporting of deviations and same-day notification of critical observations allows the Ministry to promptly direct contractors to take remedial action before construction defects are exacerbated or built-upon and covered up.

2. Trends and Analysis

This quarter was the first quarter of the OFWMP TPM program conducted by IRD. In general, OFWMP construction has been observed to be of good quality. In the first quarter of Year IV, all graded projects were rated above average (3.40 - 4.00).

Nearly all elements of canal construction observed this quarter were graded above average; no project had an overall score below average which demonstrates reliably good quality in all aspects of construction including material quality, design quality and workmanship. This is partially attributable to the importance rural Afghan communities place on irrigation for agriculture on their economic livelihood, but IRD believes that it is also influenced by the high degree of attention MAIL has given to ensure quality construction. In the first quarter of OFWMP monitoring, MAIL regional representatives demonstrated their dedication to the construction management process by actively participating in site inspections alongside IRD engineers.

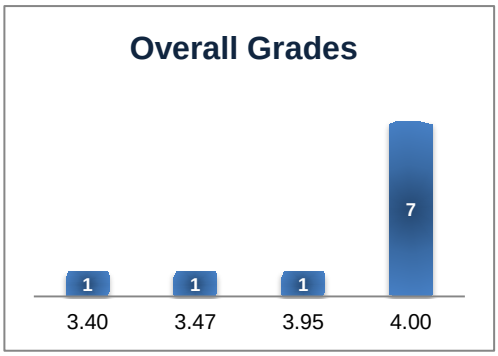


Figure 3: OFWMP TPM overall grades in the first quarter of Year IV

3. Social Safeguards

In the first quarter 10 inspections of 10 canals were conducted, during which information regarding social safeguard issues was collected. All social safeguard protocols were followed, with the notable exception of consulting women of the community prior to initial approval and funding of these projects. There were some incidents encountered this quarter of construction materials found to have been mined from rivers, but no long-term detrimental environmental impacts are anticipated from these incidents.

4. Recommendations and Future Plans

The following recommendations are provided based on third party monitoring observations in the first quarter of Year IV.

- OFWMP project designs are developed at the MAIL office in Kabul. As site conditions come to light during construction, the Ministry may make changes to the design documents and modify contracts accordingly. When designs are revised and/or contracts modified the updated documents should be provided to IRD for reference during site inspections.

- OFWMP should direct the contractor of the Khuja Chasht Irrigation Scheme (IRD-OFWM-036) to rectify all reported deviations before proceeding with other construction activities. The project is in an early stage of construction; directing correction of deficiencies now should prevent the contractor from repeating similar deviations as the work progresses.

- Punch list items (i.e. deviations which need to be addressed prior to handover of an otherwise completed project) were observed on some of the completed canals inspected this quarter, yet MAIL continues to report their status as “complete”. The Ministry is requested to rectify all open deviations before handover of these projects.

IRD will relay critical deviations and time sensitive observations to MAIL’s Kabul headquarters and their provincial offices on a daily basis as they arise to facilitate prompt corrective action.

The Year IV annual target for OFWMP TPM is 100 inspection reports, of which 10 inspection reports were submitted in the first quarter of this year; the inspected reports completed this quarter comprise 10% of the annual target.

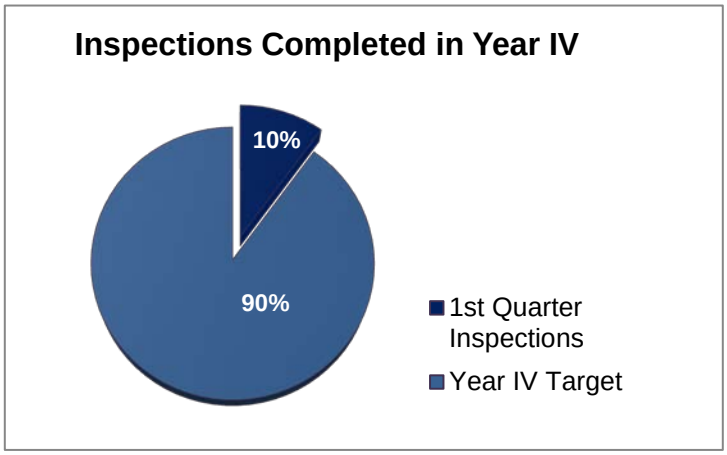


Figure 3: OFWMP TPM inspections completed in the first quarter of Year

Project Highlight

Khiwa District, Nangarhar Province
IRD-OFWM-083

Attawor Canal Irrigation Scheme

Haji Ali Khan, the 48 year old son of Haji Ghani Khan, lives in Attawor Village in the Khiwa District of Nangarhar Province. Khan owns 30 jeribs (6 hectares) of land where he grows wheat, clover, onions, cauliflower, and citrus trees.

Haji Ali Khan's land is irrigated by the Attawor Canal Irrigation Scheme, but due to the poor condition of the canal the irrigation in recent years has been unreliable. Most of the areas agricultural land did not get enough water and subsequently crop yields have waned. The intake structure was in good condition but the alignment of the canal was not and needed a canal lining, protection walls, wash culverts, siphon structures, flumes, foot bridges and culverts.

Haji Ali Khan said that the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock, On Farm Water Management (OFWM) provided funds to rehabilitate the scheme. Part of the ongoing restoration work includes controlling the loss of water by placing canal linings at all critical portions of the scheme, installing turnout structures, and construction of footway and motorway bridges, and social structures. Khan said that after completion of ongoing construction, area farmers will receive enough water to irrigate their fields and increase their crop yields. Already Haji Ali Khan says he has experienced significant improvements, before rehabilitation of the scheme began he spent 12 hours irrigating his land, a task which he can now accomplish in 2 hours.

Currently, the operation and maintenance of the scheme is carried out by the Mirab system which supervises a fair distribution of water among users along the alignment of the canal.

Education Quality Improvement Program - Local Monitoring
First Quarter, Year IV

1. First Quarter Findings

As of the end of the first quarter of Year IV, there are 47 Local Monitors (LMs) actively monitoring an equal number of Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) construction projects. These 47 LMs transmitted 1,855 observations to International Relief & Development (IRD) in the first quarter (September through November 2014), which resulted in 265 deliverable reports submitted to the World Bank (every seven inspection observations encompass one deliverable report). (Figure 1)

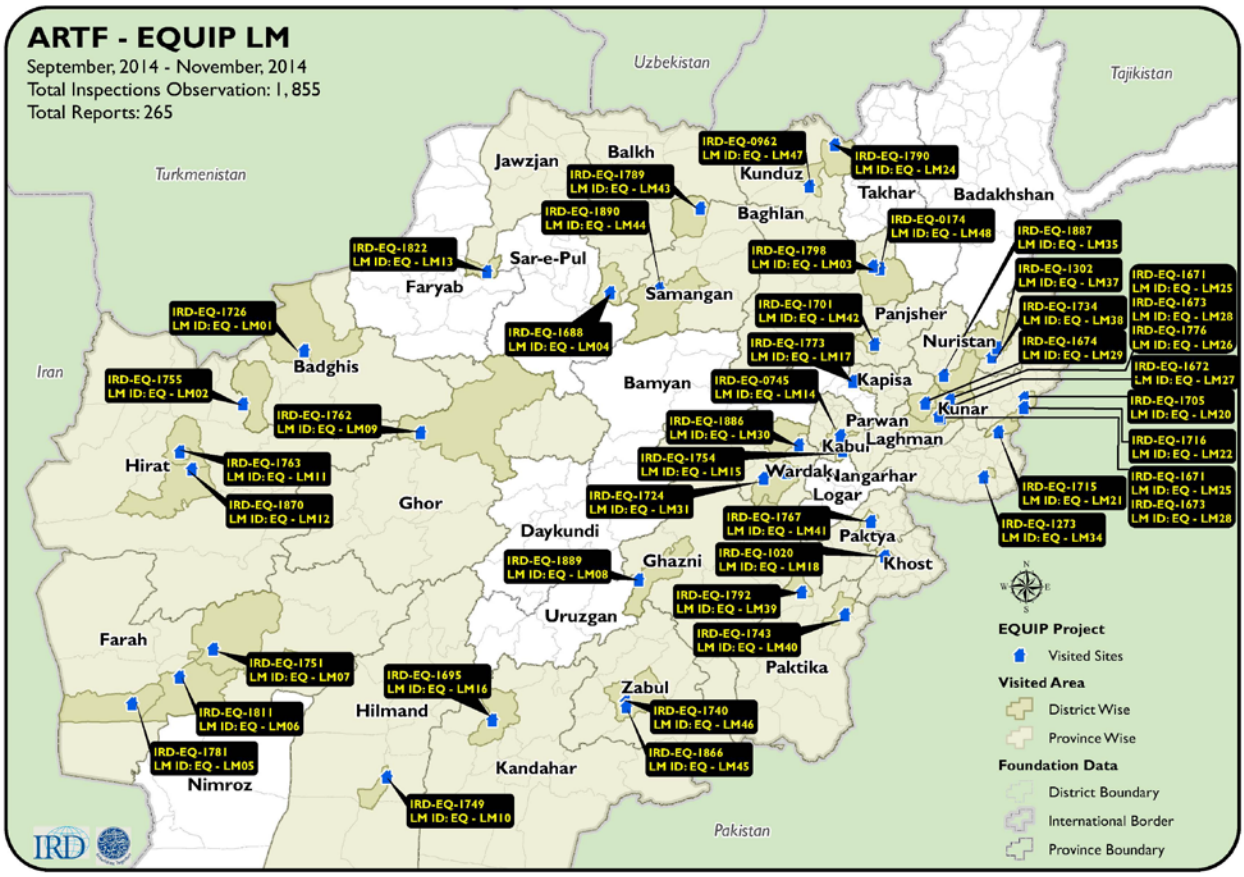


Figure 1: EQUIP LM project inspections in the first quarter of Year IV

In the fourth quarter of Year III, there were 31 EQUIP projects monitored by LMs. In Year IV, the IRDP LM program will expand by 20 new LMs monitoring projects nominated by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Seventeen of the 20 new LMs began monitoring projects in the first quarter; an additional three LMs will be added to the program in the second quarter, pending nomination of projects by MoE, to meet the Year IV target of 50 monitored projects and 20 new LMs.

Construction of two schools, the Hakim Abad School (IRD-EQ-1671) and the Kanda Girls School (IRD-EQ-1672), was completed in the first quarter and close-out inspection reports were submitted in November 2014.

Three projects, the Khawan Girls School (IRD-EQ-0035), the Khawan Boys School (IRD-EQ-0037), and the Karzai School (IRD-EQ-0090), all in Badakhshan Province, were not accessible for the first two months of this quarter due to ANA operations against the Taliban along the domestic routes leading to their locations. In November, IRD gained access to the project sites via Tajikistan and found that the schools were not under construction; rather all had been built to completion more than two years ago, with the exception of furniture supply and some minor carpentry work which is in-progress. Subsequently, these three schools were removed from the EQUIP LM portfolio and replaced with other EQUIP construction projects, monitoring of which will begin in the second quarter of YIV.

As observed last year, first quarter inspection observations demonstrated that a majority of EQUIP construction complies with design and specifications and is generally of good quality. Out of the 1,855 LM observations submitted this quarter, 24 were deviations (approximately 1.29% of all observations). These deviations were shared with MoE's Infrastructure Services Department (ISD) on a weekly basis to facilitate timely remedial action.

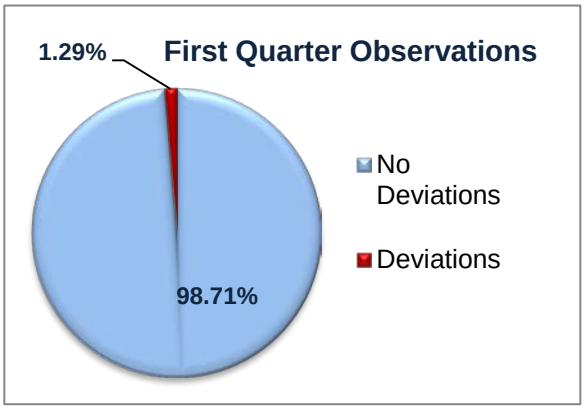


Figure 2: EQUIP LM observations in the first quarter of Year IV

2. Trends and Analysis

The most frequently observed deviations noted were instances of laborers working on unsafe scaffolding and/or not equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), and concrete mixed by hand rather than by machine. None of these recurring deviations are generally of a highly critical nature.

Since the beginning of the EQUIP LM program, 94 deviations have been identified through local monitoring, all of which were reported to the Ministry. To date, 84 of these deviations have been rectified at the direction of MoE which clearly demonstrates the value of the LM program. Among the corrected deviations were critical structural deviations identified through LM observations in the first quarter, which were reported to ISD and promptly corrected. The daily observations provided through local monitoring facilitated immediate correction of serious deviations.

Feedback from Community Development Councils (CDC) and School Management Shura (SMS) committees continued to express satisfaction with the LM program in the first quarter as was conveyed throughout Year III. Many CDC's have stated that monitoring projects through the employment of LMs has been greatly beneficial by providing them a means to track project progress and easily communicate concerns and suggestions, thereby enabling them to actively participate in the project implementation process. Citing these benefits, and the economic efficiency of the program, some CDCs and SMS have expressed an interest in using trained LMs to monitor other construction projects in their respective communities.

The real-time feedback LMs provide to the Ministry is a key enabler of MoE's ability to direct timely corrective actions in response to construction deviations while construction is on-going, thus preventing expensive corrective actions after construction completion.

3. Social Safeguards

Community members are regularly consulted by EQUIP LMs during project inspections to collect feedback on the use of social safeguard measures and determine the usefulness of those measures. Failure to include females in CDCs and/or consult females during construction, and a lack of established formal grievance systems continued to be the most prevalent weaknesses in social safeguards reported by LMs this quarter. No additional land was required for any of the EQUIP LM projects monitored in the first quarter.

4. Recommendations and Future Plans

Listed below are recommendations to improve the EQUIP program based on observations from local monitors this quarter.

- Electricity and a source of safe drinking water should be included in the scope of work of all future EQUIP projects.
- When wells are included in school construction, basic laboratory tests should be performed to ensure the water does not present a health risk to those that consume it.
- Female participation in CDC's should be mandated, and consultation of females should be incorporated into planning and construction.
- Often, contractors fail to provide laborers PPE and/or safe scaffolding at construction sites. Safety precautions must be enforced.
- When latrines are designed, the student population (number of students and gender composition) should be taken into account and constructed accordingly.
- Boundary walls are often not included in the scope of EQUIP projects, and the absence of this element of construction is frequently cited as a concern by parents and school administrators, particularly at schools with female students. Boundary walls should be included in the design and construction of all future EQUIP projects.
- Additional funding is needed to designate a 'Safe Play Area' for students at each school location.

As of the end of the first quarter, 17 new LMs have been added to the program in Year IV. An additional three LMs will be added to the program in the second quarter to meet the Year IV target of 50 monitored projects in total.

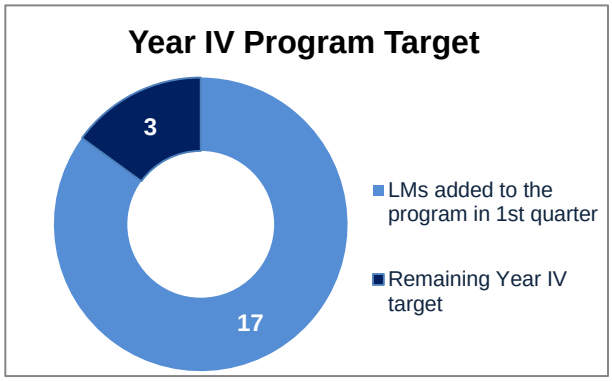


Figure 3: EQUIP LM program expansion in Year IV

Local Monitor Profile

Paroon District, Nuristan Province
IRD-EQ-1734

Mawawi Abdullah
Local Monitor
Dewa Girls School

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Mawlawi Abdullah was born in 1964 in Nuristan Province to the middle class family of Sher Ali. After completing primary school, Malawi continued his education in Islamic Studies at a local college. Today, he works at Nuristan Public Hospital and farms one jerib of agricultural land. Additionally, Mawlawi serves as clergy at a mosque in his hometown, and recently assumed the responsibilities of a Local Monitor, overseeing construction of school in his village.

Construction of the Dewa Girls School (IRD-EQ-1734) is being funded by the Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP). As a Local Monitor, Mawlawi observes the construction progress daily and transmits his observations using a smartphone application to International Relief & Development (IRD) engineers in Kabul. The local Community Development Council (CDC) who nominated Mawlawi for the job have been satisfied with his work and are grateful for the quality control improvements they have witnessed as the construction has progressed, improvements which are directly attributable to Mawlawi's efforts.

Mawlawi is thankful for the expanded education opportunities this school will offer the youth of his village which will lead to a better future for his country, and he is proud to take part in the program.

Irrigation Restoration and Development Project - Local Monitoring

First Quarter, Year IV

1. First Quarter Findings

In the first quarter of Year IV, the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project Local Monitoring (IRDP LM) program received observations from 25 local monitors overseeing construction of 20 irrigation canals. Among these 25 Local Monitors (LMs), seven were new LMs added to the program in the first quarter of Year IV. In addition to the 25 local monitors that reported this quarter, another six LMs assigned to four projects were unable to submit observations because there were no construction activities at their assigned projects this reporting period. In total, International Relief & Development (IRD) accepted 1,806 inspection observations in the first quarter, and from those observations produced 258 deliverable reports (every seven observations constitute one report deliverable).

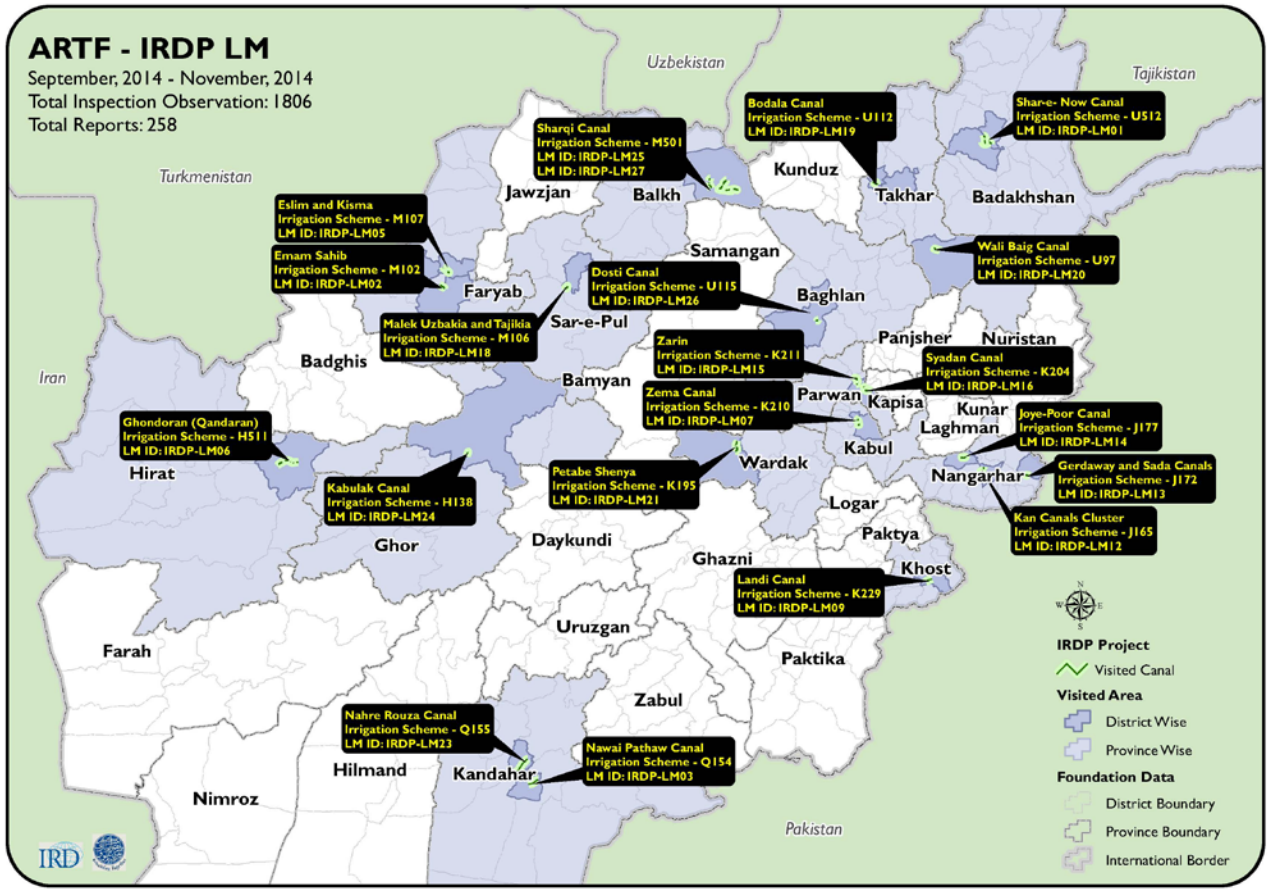

Figure 1: IRDP LM monitored projects in the first quarter of Year IV

In general, the quality of construction observed at IRDP projects this quarter was high and mirrored what was seen by IRD's third party monitoring of other projects within the IRDP program. Less than 1% of the observations submitted by LMs in the first quarter were deviations; most of the monitored construction was of good quality and was built in accordance with designs and specifications. IRD considers IRDP to be a well implemented program with projects generally constructed of good quality. All deviations reported by LMs are forwarded on a weekly basis to the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) regional offices and their headquarters in Kabul to enable the Ministry to facilitate timely corrective action. IRD uses an automated system-generated spreadsheet to log and track deviations; this spreadsheet was developed to speed reporting and communication in a format which MoEW can update to annotate the current status of remedial actions. In addition to weekly deviation reporting, in the first quarter IRD relayed critical and time sensitive deviations on a daily basis, when they were received from the field. This approach has provided the Ministry the ability to respond immediately to time sensitive issues and halt improper construction from proceeding. During the first quarter, MoEW made concerted efforts to use the observations provided by IRD as a quality assurance tool to enforce contract requirements.

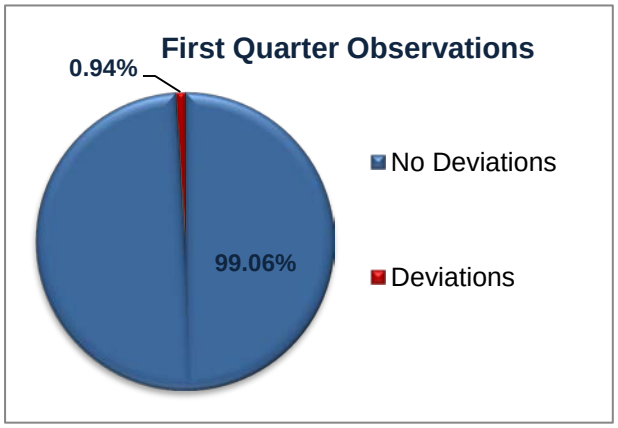

Figure 2: IRDP LM observations in the first quarter of Year IV

2. Trends and Analysis

The overall quality of construction observed on IRDP LM canals in the first quarter of Year IV was generally above average. The quality of materials, workmanship and design observed on IRDP projects continues to meet more uniformly high standards when compared to other programs. Efforts by MoEW to enforce safety standards and use of personal protective equipment have resulted in a positive trend of construction laborers properly outfitted with appropriate safety gear. A marked improvement in concrete structures was noted in many projects this quarter, with more contractors using good quality formwork and mixing concrete by machine as required by specifications, and many instances of skillful stonemasonry were reported as well. While the overall high quality of irrigation projects is partially attributable to the relative importance of irrigation to the livelihood of the surrounding agricultural communities and the resulting support from local residents, the positive impact of LMs also plays a significant role. In addition to providing real-time feedback to the ministries on construction quality and progress, LMs also facilitate active community involvement by enabling the CDCs and other local residents to relay their thoughts and concerns to MoEW through discourse with the local monitor.

Feedback from Community Development Councils (CDCs) during the first quarter of Year IV consistently conveyed that the LM program aided their ability to participate in the construction process. The daily observations generated by LMs enabled CDCs to track construction quality and progress to assure it met

community needs. Additionally, the program gave them a conduit for reporting their concerns to MoEW in Kabul so these issues could be addressed in a timely manner. CDC comments reflected a higher level of satisfaction with the canals which had LMs than those without. Based on the successful use of LMs to monitor canal construction, the CDCs have mimicked the program by using trained LMs to monitor other construction projects in their villages.

Likewise, MoEW has shown a growing enthusiasm for the LM program, and has increasingly used the feedback and observations provided by LMs to proactively manage construction quality and contract compliance. During Year III, UNFAO and MoEW requested expansion of the LM program to cover additional canals, another sign of the success of the LM program.

During the first quarter of Year IV, IRD maintained a deviation tracker which was shared with MoEW on a daily (when time critical and sensitive deviations were received from the field), weekly, and monthly basis to report newly observed deviations and to track the status of previously reported open issues. Deviations are tracked and monitored through IRD's Common Monitoring and Reporting (CMORE) platform. Providing regular, frequent updates on deviations and time critical observations allows MoEW to give real-time feedback and direction to the contractor in order to rectify deviations before they are covered or built upon. In most cases, MoEW is able to take prompt corrective action to rectify observed deviations.

Month	Number	Rectified	Pending
September	5	5	0
October	7	0	7
November	5	0	5

Figure 3: Number of reported deviations per month in the first quarter of Year IV

3. Social Safeguards

The LM program collects information regarding social safeguards from monitored projects to confirm the use of social safeguard measures and determine the effectiveness of those measures. Community members are consulted by LMs to provide feedback on social safeguards. Notable social safeguard weaknesses uncovered through local monitoring were a failure to include females in CDCs and/or to consult females during construction, and a lack of established formal grievance systems. Although formal grievance systems were not in place, it was noted that no grievances had been raised. No additional land was required for any of the IRDP LM projects monitored in the first quarter of Year IV. Regarding environmental protection measures, it was reported that the mining of materials from rivers, when observed, was not inflicting environmental damage.

4. Recommendations and Future Plans

- Contractors that do not complete work in accordance with the approved design and specifications should not be considered for new awards. All canal projects should be implemented according to the approved designs, specifications, and other contractual requirements. Copies of the latest approved contract packages, including revised design drawings, should be provided to IRD for accurate monitoring of construction and deficiency reporting.

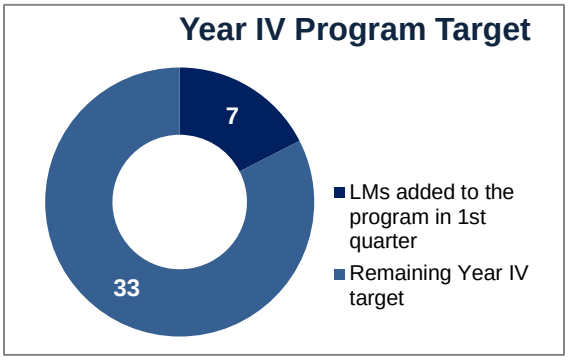

Figure 4: IRDP LM program expansion in Year IV

- Problems identified during construction should be resolved as soon as possible and approved variances noted in the design. All deviations found in “completed” canals should be rectified before final hand-over of the project.

- MoEW is requested to give priority to time critical observations and direct the contractors to take immediate remedial actions to prevent further complications.

- As winter weather is now impacting most provinces, contractors should implement curing plans to avoid concrete and mortar from freezing and related damage from occurring.

In the second quarter of Year IV, IRD will continue to send critical deviations and time sensitive observations to MoEW on a daily basis for prompt corrective action. This approach, which began in Year II, has proven a highly effective tool of the MoEW quality control program resulting in increased rates of corrected deviations.

In Year IV, IRD will add 40 new LMs to the program. As of the end of the first quarter, seven new LMs have been selected, trained and commenced monitoring; another 33 LMs will be added to the program in the following months.

Local Monitor Profile

Khost Province
IRD-IRDP-338

Mohammad Nabi
Local Monitor
Landi Canal

Mohammad Nabi was born 22 years ago in Khost Province, where he and his family still reside. He began school when he was seven years old and graduated from high school in 2013. He is currently in his second year of studying economics at Shaikh Zaid University.

The Landi Canal Irrigation Scheme in Mohammad Nabi’s hometown is currently being rehabilitated with funds provided by the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (IRDP). Prior to the on-going reconstruction, the locally constructed canal was in disrepair, and local farmers bore the burden of financing frequent costly repairs to maintain a modicum of irrigation water flowing to the surrounding agricultural land. The regions farmers could afford little more than minor maintenance on the rudimentary structure and reconstruction was not financially feasible.

In September 2014, the local Community Development Council (CDC) selected Mohammad Nabi to work as a Local Monitor (LM) overseeing construction of the Landi Canal Irrigation Scheme. As an LM, Mohmammad Nabi monitors the canal construction and submits his observations daily by smartphone to International Relief & Development (IRD) engineers in Kabul.

The CDC has been very grateful for Mohammad Nabi`s efforts as an LM. They appreciate having a local resident to represent the community’s interests in daily interactions with the construction company, and a means of providing feedback to the Ministry facilitating the project. Mohammad Nabi tells IRD he enjoys taking part in the development project, and the extra income he earns as an LM alleviates the burden of University tuition. Local residents look forward to completion of the irrigation scheme and the increase in crop yields it will provide; agriculture is a cornerstone of their economy and the canal improvements will greatly benefit the surrounding farmland.