



Quarterly Report

FEBRUARY 2017 – APRIL 2017

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund

SUPERVISORY AGENT: Management Systems International

Date: 11 July 2017

Management Systems International (MSI), a Tetra Tech company, staff prepared this paper to contribute to the discussion and understanding of the important development challenges facing policymakers and practitioners.



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Abbreviations

APSDP	Afghanistan Power Supply Distribution Project	ISD	Infrastructure Services Department
ARAP	Afghanistan Rural Access Project	MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund	MCG	Maintenance Cash Grants
BoQ	Bill of Quantities	MIS	Management Information System
CC	Community Contracting	MoEd	Ministry of Education
CCAP	Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project	MoEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
CDC	Community Development Council	MoPW	Ministry of Public Works
CDP	Community Development Plan	MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
CM	Citizen Monitors	MSI	Management Systems International
CPM	Community Participatory Monitoring	NCB	National Competitive Bidding
DLP	Defect Liability Period	NSP	National Solidarity Program
EIIC	Environmental Impact Identification Checklists	O&M	Operation and Maintenance
EMIS	Education Management Information System	OFWMP	On-Farm Water Management Project
EQUIP	Education Quality Improvement Program	PMU	Provincial Management Unit
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguard	QEG	Quality Enhancement Grant
FP	Facilitating Partner	RBG II	Repeater Block Grants II
GIRoA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	SA	Supervisory Agent
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism	TPM	Third Party Monitoring
IA	Irrigation Association	TTL	Task Team Lead
IRDP	Irrigation Restoration and Development Project		

Executive Summary

In the second quarter of Year II of the ongoing Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) third party monitoring (TPM) program, the Supervisory Agent (SA), led by Management Systems International and supported by Altai Consulting and the Champion Technical Training Center (CTTC), conducted 437 subproject site visits across all 34 provinces. In that same period of time, the SA also conducted a forced displacement mapping assignment (equivalent to 20 site visits), 34 National Solidarity Program (NSP) Provincial Management Unit (PMU) site visits for Management Information System (MIS) data verification, as well as submitted 695 verified observations from 34 trained Citizen Monitors (CMs) located in 17 provinces.

The 437 ARTF subprojects monitored in February, March and April 2017 received overall average grades for design, material and workmanship quality that were between satisfactory (3.0 for Education Quality Improvement Program [EQUIP]) and good (3.7 for On-Farm Water Management Project [OFWMP]). The grading results are similar to those observed in the first quarter of Year II.

Gradual improvements were reported in environmental and social safeguard (ESS), as well as in gender compliance. Sensitization and greater awareness at the ministries, proactive follow-up by the World Bank, and regular reminders through SA findings played a role in these gradual improvements. The degree of compliance varied from project to

project, but OFWMP and Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (IRDP) made the greatest improvements, followed by NSP and Afghanistan Rural Access Project (ARAP). EQUIP compliance lagged behind the other projects. Documentation, especially for Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs), continues to be a weak point on all the ARTF projects monitored.

280 deviations were reported in the second quarter in the course of 437 site visit reports. Seven of these were 'Life Safety' deviations that require immediate attention and rectification; 95 were 'major' deviations that could affect subproject sustainability and functionality within the next two years; and 178 were 'minor' deviations that could affect the subprojects' sustainability over a longer period of time. Of the 280 deviations that were reported, the majority (164) were related to material and workmanship quality, followed by 45 deviations that were related to operation and maintenance (O&M).

Since the start of the monitoring program in November 2015, the Government Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) ministries responsible for implementing the projects have addressed only 35% of the deviations reported by the SA. Only three of the reported 19 Life

Safety deviations have been verifiably rectified: two by the Ministry of Education (MoEd) -EQUIP implementation team and one by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) -NSP implementation team. Remaining 16 Life Safety Deviations (EQUIP-13, ARAP-2 and NSP-1) still need to be rectified.

In addition to conducting ten monthly coordination meetings with four GIROA ministries in the second quarter (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock [MAIL], MoED, Ministry of Energy and Water [MoEW], and Ministry of Public Works [MoPW]), the SA also conducted a quarterly workshop for each ministry in March to discuss probable causes and possible solutions for reported deviations. Two regional workshops were also conducted for regional IRDP-MoEW and OFWMP-MAIL teams, along with four training sessions for ARAP regional staff on how to use the mobile apps 'Fulcrum' and 'Open Camera.'

In the next quarter, the SA plans to monitor 492 subprojects distributed across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan and all ARTF monitored projects, except for Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP). Due to delays in the implementation of the CCAP, no CCAP site visits are planned.

ARTF TPM — Year II Second Quarter Report

In the second quarter of Year II of the ongoing ARTF TPM program, the SA conducted 437 subproject site visits across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan. The SA also completed a forced displacement mapping assignment (equivalent to 20 site visits), along with 34 NSP PMU site visits for the purpose of verifying MIS data. A breakdown of the site visits, which were conducted in the second quarter of Year II, is displayed in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1
Year II site visit targets, results, and remaining visits broken down by ARTF project

ARTF Projects	Year 2 Target	Quarter 2 Results	Year 2 Results To Date	Year 2 Remaining
ARAP	150	38	79	71
EQUIP	750	201	391	359
IRDP	100	28	53	47
NSP	800	149	295	505
OFWMP	100	21	44	56
APSDP	8		4	4
TOTAL	1,908	437 (23%)	866 (45%)	1,042 (55%)

In addition to conducting 437 site visits by subject matter experts (i.e. civil engineers and social scientists), the SA also submitted 695 verified observations to GIRoA ministries from 34 trained CMs located in 17 provinces in the second quarter of Year II. Of these 695 observations submitted by the CMs, 112 were noted as deviations which are in addition to 280 deviations reported by the subject matter experts of SA through site visits. The location and number of CMs, broken down by province, is shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 4

Subproject site visits by province in the second quarter of Year II

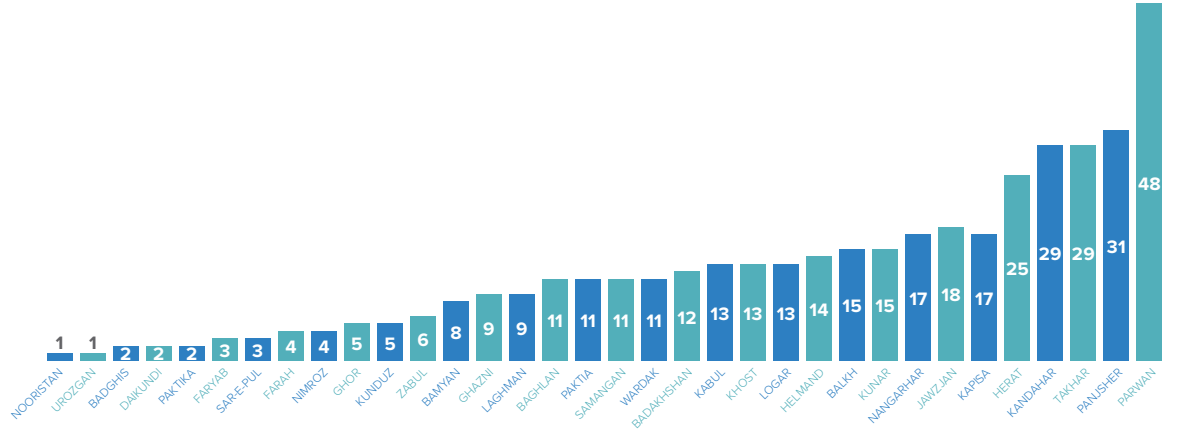


FIGURE 5

The SA provided Open Camera and Fulcrum training to the Ministry of Public Works ARAP Team-East Region, Nangarhar Province.



1. Findings

The large quantity of data that has accrued since the start of the ARTF monitoring program in November 2015 has allowed the SA to identify patterns related to all five ARTF projects' primary objectives:

- Design, material and workmanship quality
- Operation and maintenance compliance
- Environmental, gender, and social safeguard compliance
- GIRoA ministries, contractor, facilitating partner (FP), Irrigation Association (IA) and Mirab performance
- GIRoA ministries data verification

1.1. Project Quality and Compliance

Based on a five-point grading system (1 being the lowest, 3 being satisfactory, and 5 being the highest) applied by the SA on all subprojects monitored, Figure 6 shows the average overall project quality and compliance grades for the 437 ARTF subprojects monitored in the second quarter.



FIGURE 6
Average overall grades for subprojects monitored in the second quarter

Figure 6 shows that all 437 ARTF subprojects received overall average grades between satisfactory (3.0 for EQUIP) and good (3.7 for OFWMP). The trend is similar to what was observed in the first quarter. A breakdown of the individual ARTF project grades is provided below:

1.1.1. Afghanistan Rural Access Program (ARAP)

The SA conducted 38 site visits to ten ARAP subprojects in nine provinces, including one material testing assignment. MoPW and MRRD subprojects received the same grade (3.6) in the second quarter. Other than one asphalt road in Takhar, all nine subprojects that were monitored during the quarter received an overall grade of satisfactory or higher. Three asphalt and three gravel roads received an overall average grade of 4.0 (good). An example of good work is shown in Figure 7.

FIGURE 7
Samangan Province,
Feroz Nakhcher
District, Sayad to
Feroz Nakhcher
Road (MSI-AR-0141).



1.1.2. Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP)

In the second quarter of Year II, the SA monitored 201 EQUIP subprojects in 25 provinces, including four material testing assignments. EQUIP subprojects received an overall average grade of 3.0 (satisfactory) with 90 subprojects receiving unsatisfactory grades (below 3.0), 97 receiving satisfactory grades (between 3.0 and 3.9), and 10 receiving good grades

(4.0). The EQUIP subprojects continued to perform at a relatively lower level than those of the other four projects monitored by the SA (ARAP, IRDP, NSP and OFWMP), due to substandard design, workmanship, material quality and weak quality control by the ministry. An example of good work is shown in Figure 8.



FIGURE 8

Khost Province,
Mando Zayi
District, Mita Khan
High School
(MSI-EQ-1034).

1.1.3. Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (IRDP)

The SA visited 18 canals, and conducted three material testing assignments in 12 provinces. IRDP canals received an overall average grade of 3.6, which was slightly lower than in the previous quarter, but still satisfactory. An example of good work is shown in Figure 9.

FIGURE 9
Samangan Province,
Hazrat Sultan
District, Asiabad
Canal Irrigation
Scheme Phase III
(MSI-IRDP-0325).



1.1.4. National Solidarity Program (NSP)

The SA monitored 149 NSP subprojects in 34 provinces, including 54 completed subprojects with Maintenance Cash Grants (MCGs), 11 Administrative Buildings, 30 School Buildings, a forced displacement mapping exercise (equivalent to 20 site visits), and 34 PMU visits for MIS data verifications. The subprojects that were monitored covered six sectors (education, irrigation, power, rural development, transportation, and water supply and sanitation). The NSP subprojects monitored received an overall grade of 3.4, which was slightly lower than in the previous quarter, but still between satisfactory and good. An example of good work is shown in Figure 10.



FIGURE 10

Baghlan Province,
Dih Salah District,
Qasan Boys High
School, MSI-NS-
92277-DSCRW

1.1.5. On Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP)

The SA monitored 17 canals and conducted four material tests in six provinces. The OFWMP subprojects obtained the highest overall average grade of 3.7 (good) of the five ARTF projects monitored. However, the second quarter overall average grade was slightly lower than the previous quarter's grade (3.8). An example of good work is shown in Figure 11.

FIGURE 11
Herat Province, Injil District, Urdokhan Irrigation scheme (MSI-OFWM-183)



1.1.6 Data Utilization by the ministries

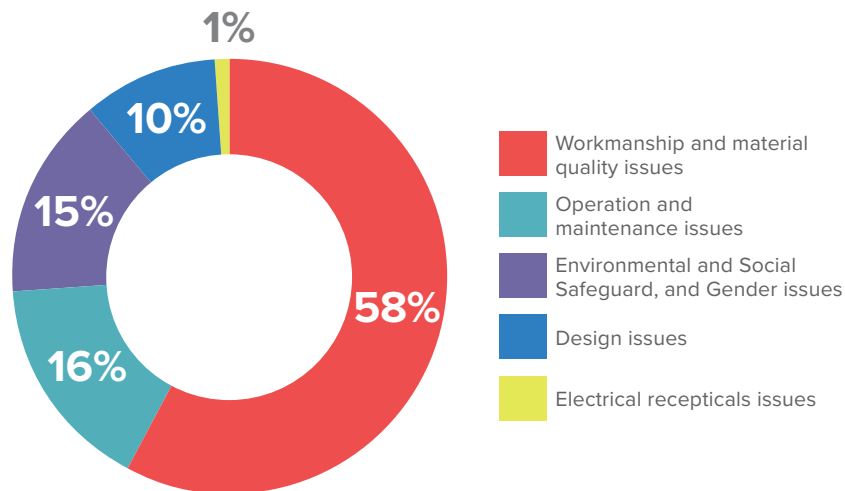
The SA reported 280 deviations in the second quarter. Seven of these were reported as 'Life Safety' issues, 95 as 'major' deviations that could affect subproject sustainability and functionality within the next two years, and 178 were reported as 'minor' deviations that could affect the subprojects' sustainability in the long-run. A summary of the deviations reported between November 2015 and April 2017 is given in Figure 12.

Nature of Deviations Reported	Year II 2nd Quarter	2015 to Year II 1st Quarter	Total Since Inception	Deviation Corrected by Ministries (Accepted by SA)	Deviations Still Open
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)=(B+C)	(E)	(F)=(D-E)
Potential Life Safety	7	12	19	3	16
Major	95	335	430	139	291
Minor	178	641	819	296	523
Total	280	988	1268	438	830
% of the Total	22%	78%	100%	35%	65%

FIGURE 12

Deviations reported, by nature, as of the second quarter of Year II

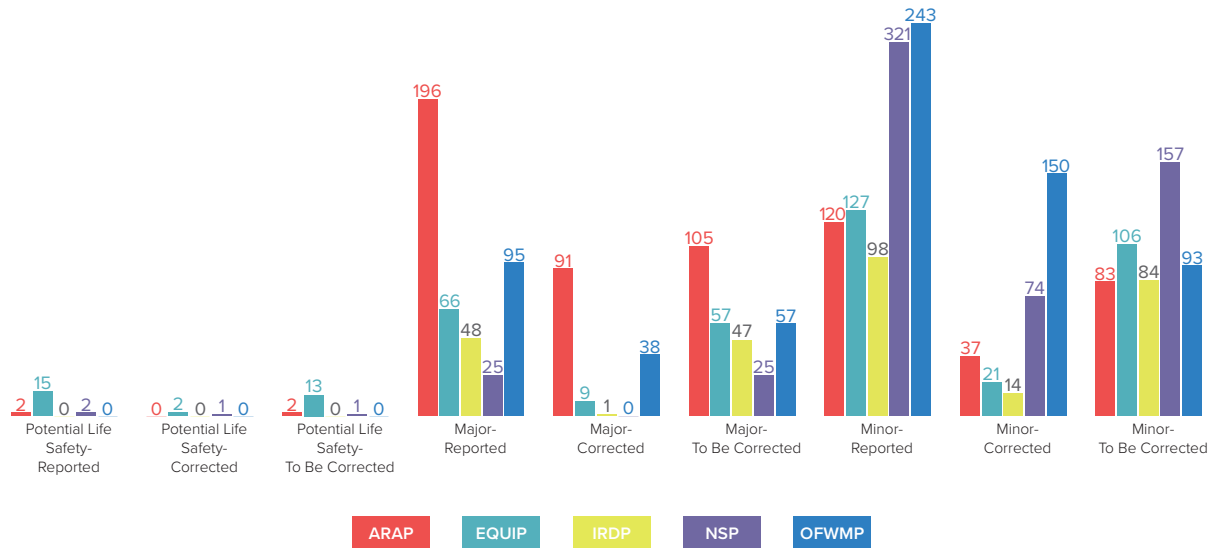
Of the 280 deviations reported, 164 were related to material and workmanship quality, and 45 were related to O&M. A summary of the deviations reported by category is given in Figure 13.

**FIGURE 13**

Deviations reported by category in the second quarter of Year II

The GIRoA ministries addressed only 35% of the total number of deviations reported. A breakdown of reported and rectified deviations by GIRoA ministry, is shown in Figure 14.

FIGURE 14
Status of reported and rectified deviations by GIRoA ministry in the second quarter of Year II



Only three of the 19 Life Safety deviations reported in the second quarter had been verifiably rectified by the MoEd-EQUIP (2) and MRRD-NSP (1). A total of 13 EQUIP ‘Life Safety’ deviations were yet to be rectified by the MoEd, while three (two from ARAP and one from NSP) were yet to be rectified by the MoPW and MRRD. A total of 291 major reported deviations still required rectification by all five of the relevant GIRoA ministries. The SA recommends frequent meetings with the World Bank TTLs and the GIRoA project implementation teams to review deviations in order to improve rectification results.

In terms of utilizing SA data to rectify reported deviations, the MAIL-OFWMP team had the highest rate of follow-up (56%) followed by

ARAP (40%), NSP (29%), EQUIP (15%), and IRDP (10%). The OFWMP team has been very proactive in utilizing the data submitted by the SA. It is important to note that NSP was closing out in the second quarter, and there were no Facilitating Partners to facilitate corrective actions with at the Community Development Council (CDC) level.

In the second quarter, the SA also identified a number of good practices on ARTF subprojects:

- **ARAP:** Qualified engineers and project managers, skilled and unskilled workers, and necessary equipment, were deployed at three out of four ongoing subprojects.

- **EQUIP:** The MoEd improved its SA data utilization from 3% in the first quarter to 15% in the second quarter.
- **IRDP:** Contractors hired skilled and unskilled workers from local communities at all subproject sites, except for one (MSI-IRDP-375). Mirabs were properly managing water use and canal maintenance at all canals visited.
- **OFWMP:** IAs at all subprojects visited were performing their duties according to their bylaws. At all 17 canal schemes, community members expressed satisfaction with the rehabilitation work.
- **OVERALL:** Other than NSP, all projects (ARAP, EQUIP, IRDP, and OFWMP) consistently facilitated monthly coordination meetings in order to discuss the deviations, their probable causes and possible solutions. Between the first and second quarters, there has been a steep increase in the number of coordination meetings, resulting in SA issues being addressed. NSP officially closed in March, and therefore, no longer has regular coordination meetings.

1.2. Environmental, Gender, and Social Safeguard Compliance

Based on three broad impact indicators agreed upon with the World Bank, second quarter ESS and gender findings have been categorized and summarized in the following subsections.

1.2.1. Environmental Friendly and Socially Sustainable Development

- **ARAP:** Compared to Year 1, an improvement was noticed on Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) compliance at ARAP subprojects in the second quarter of Year II. ESMP documentation was available at 75% of the subprojects monitored, whereas the compliance rate in Year I was only 26%. GRMs were established at all four ongoing subprojects, but documentation was not available at any ongoing site. Land was acquired at one subproject, and the land transfer document was available.
- **EQUIP:** The EQUIP project continued to perform poorly in terms of ESS compliance because of budgetary constraints (no budget for ESMP) and a reactive approach by the ministry. None of the subprojects had an ESMP or ESMP checklist available at the sites. Land was acquired at 94 sites, but land acquisition documents were available at only 29 of these subprojects. GRMs were in place at 47 subprojects, but documentation was available at only three subprojects.
- **IRDP:** The IRDP project continues to meet ESS requirements. An ESMP was available

at all 18 canals that were monitored. Local communities were involved in the selection of quarry sites, borrow pits, work camps and waste disposal depots at all subprojects monitored. Trees were cut down at three out of 18 subprojects, however tree replanting was not done at any of the subprojects, because replanting was planned for the end of each subproject's work. Sand and gravel were obtained from nearby rivers at 13 out of 18 subprojects, but no significant negative environmental impacts were reported. GRMs were in place at 16 of the 18 canals monitored, but documentation continues to be a weak point. GRM documents were available at only three sites. Land was acquired at one site, and the transfer documents were available.

- **NSP:** Compared to that of previous quarters, ESS compliance decreased at NSP subprojects monitored in the second quarter. ESMPs were available at 11 Repeater Block Grants (RBG) completed sites that were

visited. Land acquisition was required at 16 sites that were visited, and land transaction documents were available at only 14 sites. At 10 out of 42 RBG sites that were visited, CDC members were aware of GRMs, but no grievance was documented at any of these sites. CDCs reported that most conflicts were resolved verbally through the CDC or the conflict resolution committee.

- **OFWMP:** The OFWMP project continued to perform well in terms of ESS compliance. ESMPs were available at all 17 subprojects monitored. Trees were cut down at nine out of 17 subprojects, and tree replanting was not done at any of the subprojects, because replanting was planned for the end of the subprojects' work. Sand and gravel were obtained from nearby rivers at four out of 17 subprojects, but no significant negative environmental impacts were reported. GRMs were established at 16 of the 17 sites monitored, but records were available at only four sites.

1.2.2. Female Participation in Sustainable Development

- **ARAP:** Women were consulted at two out of four ongoing ARAP subprojects during the planning and implementation phases, but documentation for consultation was available at only one site.
- **EQUIP:** Women were consulted in the planning and implementation phases at 49 subprojects, but documents for consultation were available at only five sites. School Management Shuras (SMSs) were

established at 181 sites (92%), and women were SMS members at 79 subprojects (44%).

- **IRDP:** Women were consulted about project plans and prioritization at 16 out of 18 canal subprojects, and documentation was available at all but one subproject.
- **NSP:** At 70 of the 84 sites, women were members of the CDC. At 55 of 84 CDCs, women held office or were in decision-making

positions. Women were consulted during the planning and implementation phases at all subprojects, and documentation for women consultation was available at all sites. Community Participatory Monitoring (CPM) was established in three (4%) communities,

and all three CPMs had female members.

- **OFWMP:** The MAIL-OFWMP team held meetings with women at all 17 subprojects monitored, and documentation for women consultation was available at all sites.

1.2.3. Occupational Health and Safety

- **ARAP:** At all four ongoing subprojects, workers were equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). A first aid kit and an incident reporting mechanism were available at only one of the four ongoing sites.
- **EQUIP:** Workers were equipped with PPE, and a first aid kit was available at all ongoing sites. An incident reporting mechanism was not available at any of the ongoing subprojects.
- **IRDP:** Workers were equipped with PPE at all ongoing subprojects. An incident reporting

mechanism was available at only two of eight ongoing sites. A first aid kit was available at only one ongoing site.

- **NSP:** Workers were equipped with PPE at eight of 11 ongoing sites, and first aid kits were available at four ongoing sites.
- **OFWMP:** An incident reporting mechanism was available at all ongoing sites, and no life safety issues were observed. Laborers were equipped with PPE at nine sites, and first aid kits were available at eight of the 17 ongoing sites.

1.3. Capacity Building of Ministry Officials

Apart from conducting ten coordination meetings with four GIRoA ministries in the second quarter, the SA also conducted the following training workshops:

- A workshop for each ministry was conducted in March to discuss probable causes and possible solutions for deviations reported by the SA.
- Two regional workshops were conducted for the Kabul regional IRDP-MoEW and OFWMP-MAIL teams.
- Four training sessions on how to use the mobile apps 'Fulcrum' and 'Open Camera' were given to ARAP regional staff.

1.4. Participatory Monitoring Program

Based on site selection criteria agreed upon with the World Bank and the respective GIRoA ministries, 72 CMs have been identified for ongoing subprojects since the inception of the program. This has occurred on projects where the ministries requested a need for more frequent subproject monitoring. The CMs were provided with on-site training by the SA

prior to beginning their observations. The CMs communicated with the SA on a daily basis to discuss their subproject's progress and to receive guidance. The 34 CMs, which are currently active, submitted 695 observations from 17 sites in the second quarter. Figure 15 shows the CM observations reported on each ARTF project.

FIGURE 15
CM observations by project

Project	Number of Active CMs	OBSERVATIONS			
		Year 1	Year 2, 1st Quarter	Year 2, 2nd Quarter	Total to Date
ARAP	6	211	53	41	305
EQUIP	6	145	245	185	575
IRDP	6	431	287	196	914
OFWMP	16	490	392	273	1155
TOTAL	34	1,277	977	695	2,949

Information provided by the CMs impacts ARTF subprojects in many ways, including:

- To provide feedback to GIRoA ministries about important milestones and critical deviations which enables the ministries to take corrective actions before contractors demobilize at the sites. The CMs' observations helped the ministries to address 155 deviations, which were considered to be critical.
- To independently track activities at subproject sites to ensure construction schedules are met.
- To gather social and/or project information from the sites. This information can include social conflicts reported by the contractors, delivery of materials on the site, availability of contractors' engineers, work-in-progress reports, etc.

CM observations have proven a useful tool, especially for remote and insecure areas where it is difficult for the ministry officials to visit. Although all 34 CMs are in remote and insecure areas, 22 CMs are situated in very insecure areas where even the ministry

engineers cannot conduct regular quality control visits. The CMs, however, have been able to provide bi-weekly feedback from those sites.

(CDC members, IA, Mirab, etc.), they are less exposed to risk. Also, the SA has made a point to equip the CMs with simple smart phones to keep them low profile.

CMs are hired from the community where the subproject is implemented. Since the CMs are engaged from the same community and in consultation with the local stakeholders

Figure 16 shows CM locations with different color codes for insecure and remote areas.

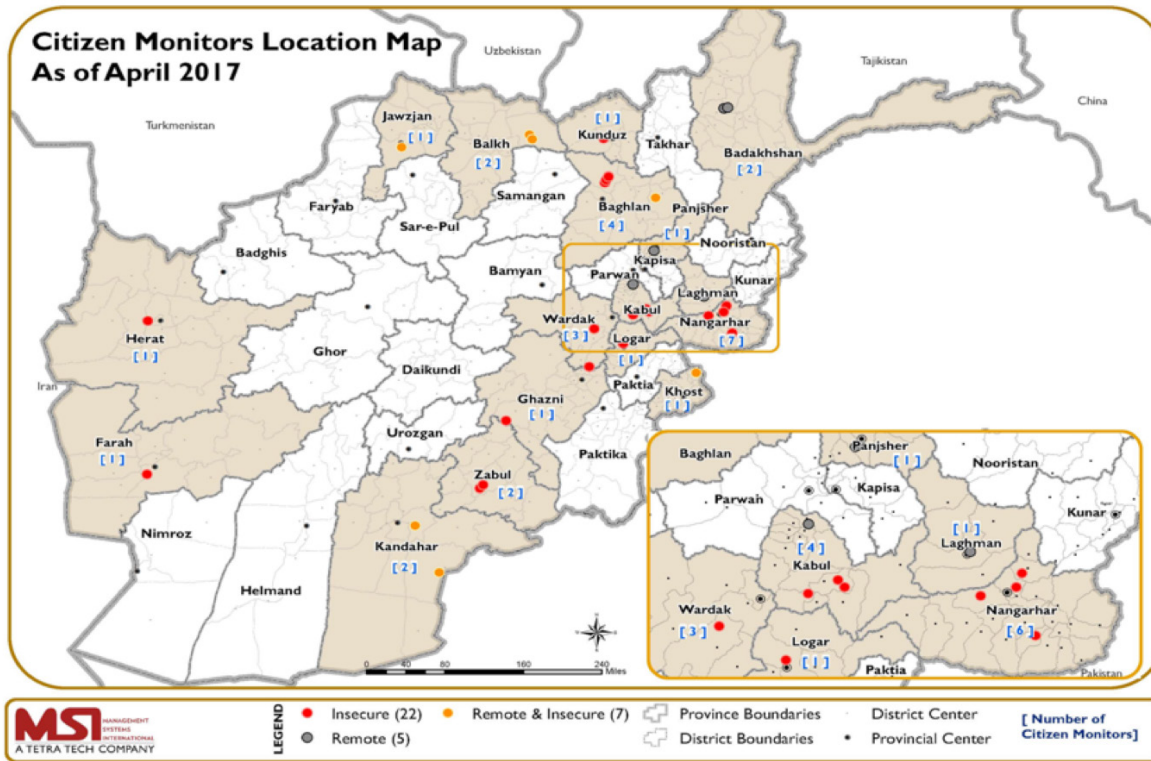


FIGURE 16
CM location by remoteness of area and security conditions

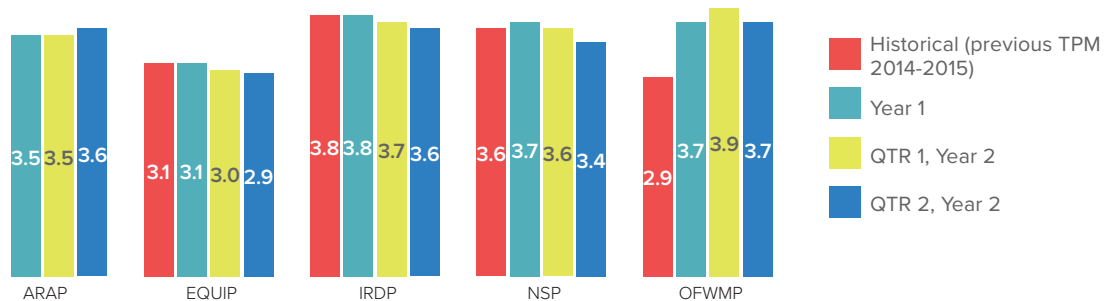
2. Trend Analysis

The SA used monitoring results gathered from September 2014 to April 2017 in order to conduct the following trend analysis:

- **OVERALL PROJECT PERFORMANCE ON INFRASTRUCTURE QUALITY:** Figure 17 compares the average overall grades for each project over the last three years. The grade differences on all but OFWMP are 0.2 or

less. OFWMP showed the greatest improvement over the past three years as a result of their good quality design drawing and effective quality control.

FIGURE 17
Overall average grade comparison by project



- **CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:** Further analysis showed that there are cross cutting deviations, which the SA has been reporting since November 2015, but these deviations have continued to reoccur. The GIRoA ministries should note these cross cutting deviations and address the root causes to avoid their reoccurrence in the future. The primary cross cutting deviations reported by the SA are:
 - » Lack of O&M plans and a funding mechanism in almost all projects
 - » Lack of documentation for women consultations and grievance redress mechanisms
 - » Lack of proper site planning, resulting in subprojects located in land slide and flood prone areas, as well as frequent design changes to suit the site requirements
 - » Delay in payment to the contractor resulting in delays to subproject completion
 - » Improper back filling (poor quality leveling and compaction)
 - » Inadequate bills of quantity (BoQs) and specifications resulting in poor quality materials

- PERFORMANCE ON NON-INFRASTRUCTURE (ESS & GENDER COMPLIANCE):** Based on historical data available, there have been gradual improvements in ESS and gender compliance by most of the subprojects monitored. Sensitization and greater awareness at the ministries, proactive follow-up by the World Bank, and regular reminders through SA findings could all be attributed to the reasons for this gradual improvement. The degree of compliance has varied from project to project. OFWMP and IRDP have registered greater improvements, followed by NSP and ARAP. EQUIP compliance

lags behind that of the other projects. Documentation, especially for GRMs, continues to be a weak point for all ARTF projects. Only 10% of the sites visited in the second quarter had GRM documentation available at the site. Individually, IRDP and OFWMP were relatively better with 21% and 25% compliance respectively, followed by EQUIP (6%). GRM records were not available at any of the ARAP or NSP sites monitored this quarter. Figure 18 shows the degree of compliance by each project in terms of five major ESS and gender indicators.

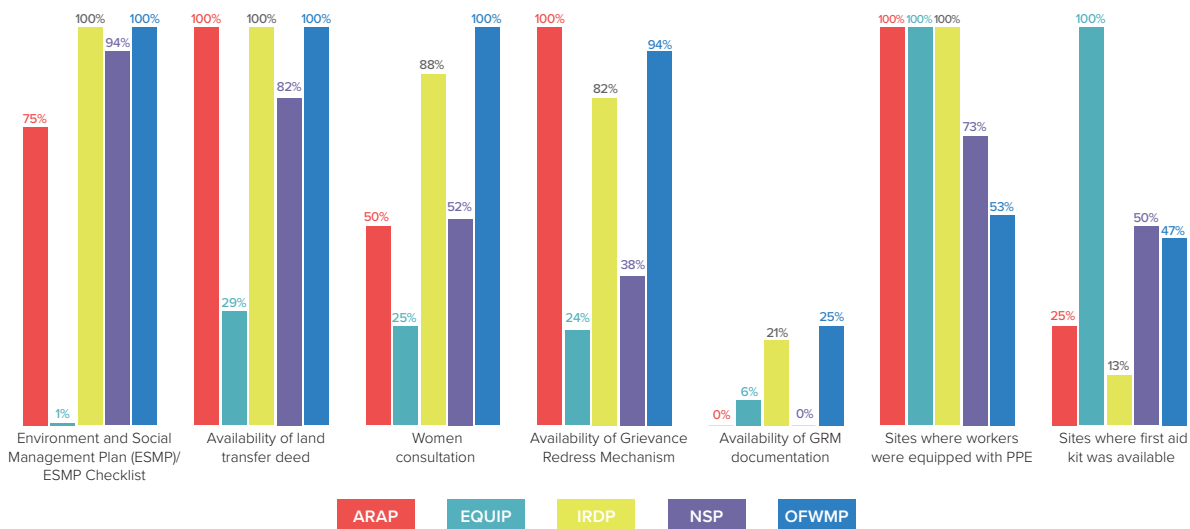


FIGURE 18

Degree of compliance by projects in five major ESS and gender compliance parameters

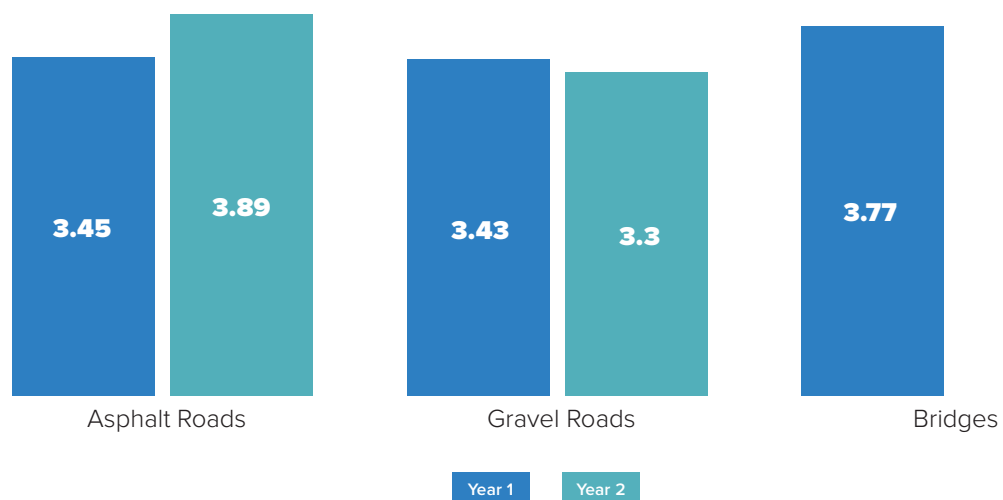
Apart from the general trends discussed above, other project-specific trends that were observed during the quarter are discussed below:

2.1. Afghanistan Rural Access Project

A number of trends were identified in the second quarter:

- At most ARAP subprojects under the Defect Liability Period (DLP), the contractor did not conduct maintenance on the roads per the DLP requirements. (MSI-AR-0147, MSI-AR-0143, MSI-AR-0141, MSI-AR-0091 & MSI-AR-0100).
- Two of the four ongoing ARAP subproject contracts need to be amended. (MSI-AR-0362) requires BoQ price modifications and structural design changes. (MSI-AR-0115) was incorrectly surveyed leading to inaccurate estimation for material quantities.
- A grievance logbook was not available at any of the ongoing sites.
- Most ARAP subprojects monitored this quarter received time extensions.
- Although material test results were available for review on all four ongoing ARAP subprojects, material warranties were not available at any of the subprojects.
- Analysis of Year II first and second quarter findings, in comparison with Year I findings, showed an improved quality of asphalt roads and a slightly decreased quality of the gravel roads that were monitored (see Figure 19).

FIGURE 19
ARAP subproject
performance trends



2.2. Education Quality Improvement Program

Trends that were identified in the second quarter include:

- A total of 90 subprojects (46%) were graded as unsatisfactory (between 2.6 to less than 3.0) and 39 subprojects (20%) were graded poor (2.5 to <2.0). See Figure 20.

Project Phase	< 2.0	2.1 to 2.5	2.6 to <3.0	3.0 to 3.5	3.6 to 4.0
EQUIP I	0	2	3	0	0
EQUIP II	0	2	5	1	1
EQUIP II ADD PP	2	33	81	52	10
EQUIP II Old PP			1		4
Total:	2	37	90	53	15
% of total for the quarter:	1%	19%	46%	27%	7%

FIGURE 20
Grades obtained by the subprojects monitored in the second quarter

- A comparison of overall grades given to 109 Community Contracted (CC) subprojects and 88 National Competitive Bidding (NCB) subprojects showed that subprojects implemented through the NCB process had a marginally higher quality of workmanship. NCB subprojects had an average overall grade of 3.2 (slightly above satisfactory) versus 2.8 (slightly below satisfactory) for CC subprojects. Figure 21 shows the breakdown of CC and NCB subproject sites visited this quarter by province.

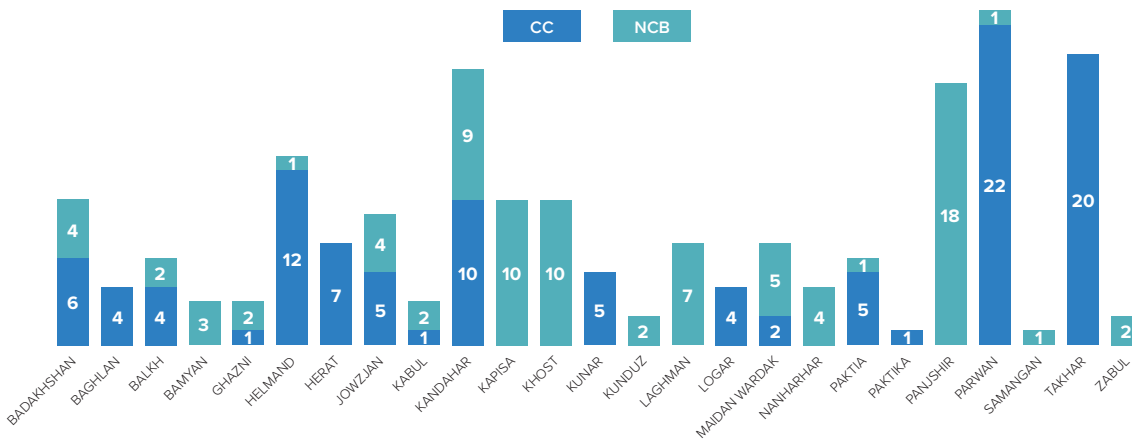
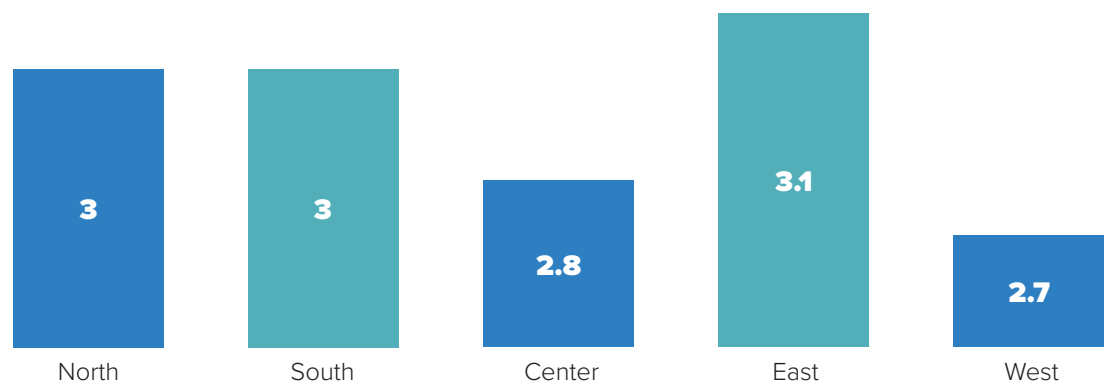


FIGURE 21
CC and NCB EQUIP subprojects visited in the first quarter and broken down by province

- The SA did a trend analysis by region for the subprojects, which were monitored during the quarter, and noted that the subprojects in the East region performed relatively better than those of the other regions, with a grade of 3.1 (slightly above satisfactory).

This was followed by the South and North regions (3.0), and the Central region (2.8). The Western region continues to obtain below satisfactory grades (2.7) in this quarter (see Figure 22).

FIGURE 22
Grades by region for the EQUIP sub-projects monitored during the quarter



- 44 schools were located in areas with a high risk of landslides, slope failures and flash floods.
- O&M plans were not available at 182 of the completed subprojects that were visited.
- Laboratory equipment, learning aids, and books procured through Quality Enhancement Grants (QEGs) were not utilized due to space constraints at 59 of the schools. The equipment was kept in storage.
- Electrical systems, such as junction boxes, switches, wiring, and lights, were not installed according to the design specifications at ten EQUIP subprojects.
- Spalling plaster and peeling paint was observed at 23 EQUIP schools. CC schools that were six to eight years old are in need of urgent repair and maintenance.
- Roof deviations were observed at six sites. These were primarily leaks and damaged/missing downspouts. Some flat roofs had inadequate slopes that allowed water to pond and seep through the ceiling below. Missing downspouts often led to peeling paint and spalling plaster.
- Compliance with environmental, gender and social safeguards continues to fall short. None of the subprojects had an ESMP available, and women were consulted at only 25% of the sites monitored during the quarter.

2.3. Irrigation Restoration and Development Project

The overall average grade for IRDP subprojects was satisfactory, although there was a slight decrease compared to the previous quarter (see Figure 23).

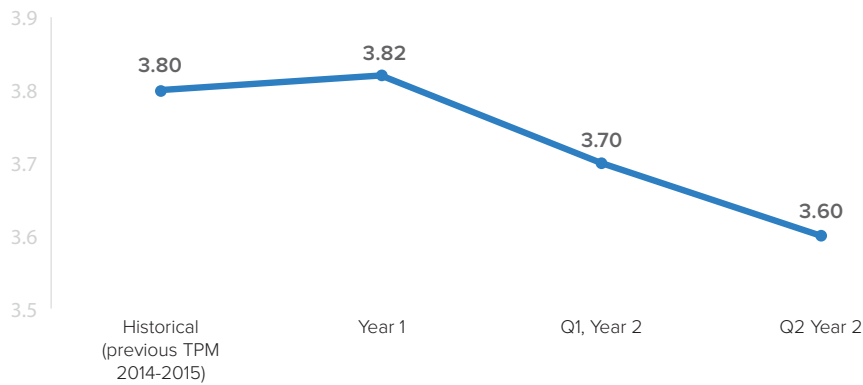


FIGURE 23
IRDP subproject overall average grades from 2014 to 2017

2.4. National Solidarity Program

Trends identified in the second quarter include:

- NSP subprojects consistently received satisfactory to good ratings from 2014 to 2017, though there has been a slight decrease at subprojects monitored in the first two quarter of Year 2 (see Figure 24).

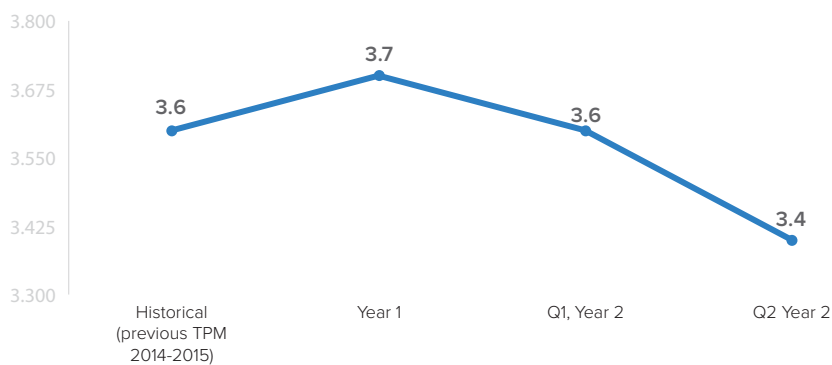
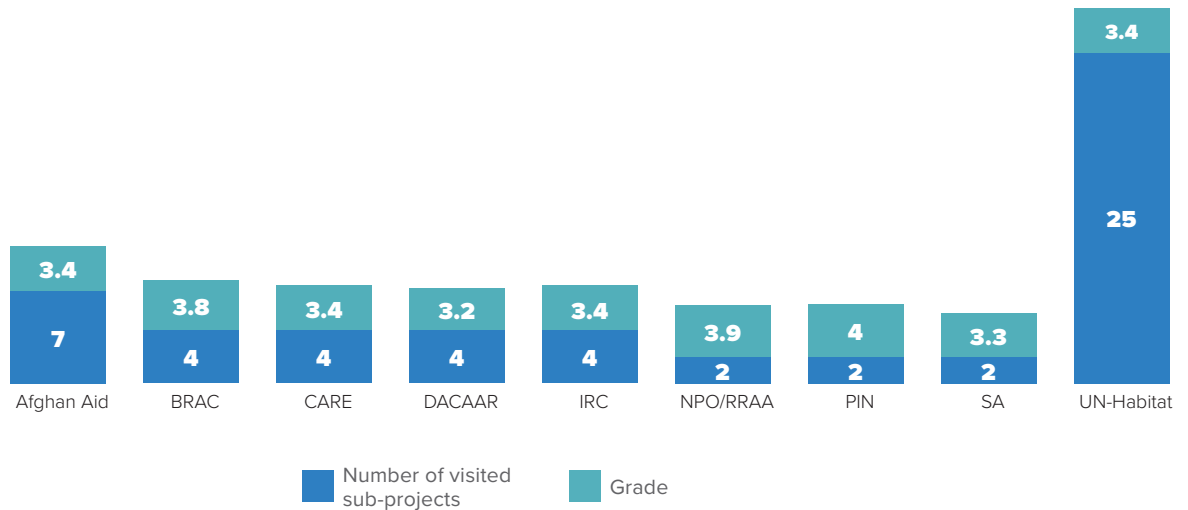


FIGURE 24
Performance trend of NSP subprojects

- Women signed onto CDPs in all subprojects monitored in Balkh, Logar, Kapisa, Nangarhar, Herat, Ghor, Samangan, Bamyan, Kabul, Farah, Paktia and Faryab provinces. Female participation was between 27% and 50% in Panjshir, Parwan, and Takhar provinces. There was no female participation in Ghazni and Baghlan provinces.
- An ESMP was available at 92% of completed NSP subprojects. ESMPs were not available at any NSP administrative building sites monitored.
- An Environmental Impact Identification Checklist (EIIIC) was available at 94% of the NSP completed subprojects. EIIICs were not available at any of the NSP administrative building sites visited.
- A comparison of overall subproject grades by FP is provided in Figure 25.

FIGURE 25
Subproject grade by facilitating partner.



2.5. On-Farm Water Management Project

Trends seen in the second quarter findings include:

- The SA reported satisfactory to good grades for OFWMP subprojects monitored in the scope of the current ARTF monitoring program, including the second quarter overall average grade of 3.7 (see Figure 26).

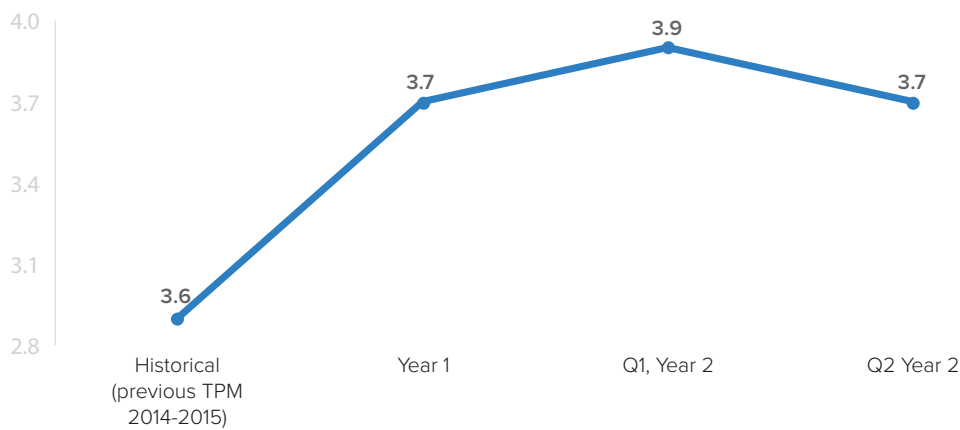


FIGURE 26
OFWMP
Performance Trend

- The OFWMP team responded to the highest number of deviations among all five projects (ARAP, EQUIP, IRDP, NSP and OFWMP) monitored by the SA in the quarter.

3. Lesson Learned and Recommendations

Based on the data collected in the second quarter of Year II, the Supervisory Agent was able to draw some lessons for each project, which broadly coincided with the pattern reported in the past. The project-specific lessons learned and resulting recommendations are discussed this section.

3.1. Afghanistan Rural Access Project

Important lessons learned in the second quarter and the resulting recommendations include:

- At two road subprojects (MSI-AR-0147 and MSI-AR-0143) under the Defect Liability Period (DLP), some works were missing from the construction period such as causeway expansion joints, retaining wall joint sealant, traffic signboards, side drains, painting for a culvert handrail steel pipe, patching for a culvert bed stone and concrete. An increased level of construction quality management and completion inspections may decrease the amount of unfinished work before the contractor demobilizes.
- At the time of the SA site visit, five ARAP road rehabilitation subprojects (MSI-AR-0147, MSI-AR-0143, MSI-AR-0141, MSI-AR-0091 & MSI-AR-0100) were nearing the end of their DLPs, but no maintenance was conducted on the deviations, which developed during this period. Immediate maintenance is recommended in order to avoid more costly damage.
- Contractors were awarded portfolios of roads spread throughout different provinces. It was generally observed that these contractors did not have the capacity to simultaneously monitor all roads under their contract. It is recommended that these maintenance contracts be packaged in a way to be more manageable to the potential contractors.
- Improper subgrade preparation is a perennial deviation. Good road foundations depend on good subgrade preparation. Contractors must be engaged to ensure subgrades are constructed properly.

3.2. Education Quality Improvement Program

Important lessons learned in this quarter and the resulting recommendations include:

- The quality of plaster and paint would benefit from waterproofing improvements, proper phasing of plaster and paint work, and better attention to quality management.
- Contracts should require, at a minimum, a sloped roof (recommend 6%), adequate scuppers, and downspouts leading to the ground, without exception.
- Roofs and structural supports must be designed to resist earthquakes and expected snow loads, to avoid life/safety issues.
- Greater attention needs to be paid to concrete quality. Segregation, smooth aggregate, improper mix design, and improper curing techniques were commonly observed deviations.
- A lack of O&M plans is a general trend across all projects. O&M plans and funding should be institutionalized in order to deal with minor repairs and maintenance. Many deviations, which were observed, were directly related to deferred maintenance. A properly implemented O&M plan will increase the lifespan of the project.
- Proper site surveys should be conducted to identify and mitigate environmental risks (i.e., flooding, landslides, hygiene issues).
- Schools should be sized to accommodate the actual number of students in a community.
- The payment processing system should be streamlined to avoid delays.
- Improved environmental, gender, and social safeguard compliance is required.
- Due to the lack of laboratories, libraries and resource rooms, QEG materials provided were not always used to their potential. The availability of resource rooms should be ensured before releasing a QEG to a school.
- Buildings should be designed and built with reinforced concrete structures and fire-dried brick masonry, because structures built with sun-dried bricks or mud walls are easily damaged and their lifespans are significantly shorter.

3.3. Irrigation Restoration and Development Project

Important lessons learned in the second quarter and resulting recommendations include:

- The MoEW should provide approved design changes to the SA before monitoring visits.
- A lack of GRM documentation was consistently observed at most of the sites. IRDP has done a good job at introducing GRMs at most of the sites, but the MoEW needs to focus on institutionalizing documentation supporting GRMs at all project sites.
- The IRDP should update their technical specifications. The latest version is from 2005.
- The IRDP needs to proactively utilize the data provided by the SA. The IRDP has not reported any corrective actions in the last seven months.

3.4. National Solidarity Program

Important lessons learned and recommendations from the second quarter monitoring period include:

- Design documents and BoQ's were not available at the PMU or MRRD/NSP for any of the District School Construction/ Rehabilitation Window (DSCRW) subprojects. The ministry should use a document control system to ensure that approved construction documents are available at the contractor, PMU, and ministry level.
- 23% of the subprojects were officially reported as completed, but some components were missing or incomplete. PMU engineers should conduct comprehensive completion inspections before signing off on the project documentation.
- Ongoing and completed projects were selected based on information provided by the ministry. Approximately 39% of these projects had not even started at the time of the inspections. The MRRD/NSP database should be updated on a regular basis to increase the effectiveness of the TPM program.
- One school was non-operational because it was located too far from the residential area. Greater care should be taken to define site locations and make site-specific designs.
- O&M plans should be institutionalized across all subprojects, and O&M training should be conducted at the CDC level.
- All NSP infrastructure subprojects should have ESMPs, Site Selection Criteria Checklists and/or Environmental Impact

Identification Checklist documents as part of their required environmental compliance. An EIIC should be prepared with an appropriate mitigation plan to address negative environmental impacts.

- CPM is a beneficial approach implemented by the MRRD/NSP to improve subproject

performance, improve transparency and accountability, and encourage a feedback mechanism at the community level to take corrective actions. Based on the data collected in the second quarter, only three communities (4%) had established CPMs.

3.5. On-Farm Water Management Project

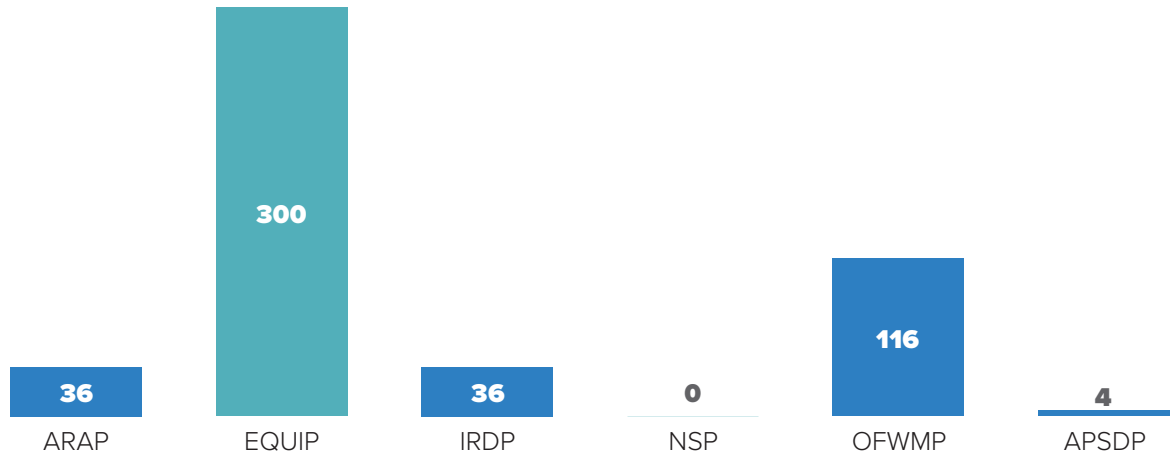
Some important lessons learned in the second quarter and resulting recommendations include:

- Mirabs are responsible for canal maintenance and repair through the use of dues collected from water end users. No O&M plan was available at any OFWMP subproject monitored in the second quarter. The SA is helping the MAIL team to institutionalize an O&M plan for each OFWMP subproject.
- The MAIL-OFWMP should publish updated OFWMP Technical Specifications as soon as possible.
- The MAIL-OFWMP should implement a material testing program at their project sites, including taking samples and operating material testing labs.
- MAIL-OFWMP should develop and implement a construction quality management plan for all subprojects in conjunction with the material testing program.

4. Third Quarter Objectives

In the third quarter, the SA plans to monitor 492 subprojects distributed between five ARTF projects and located across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Figure 27 shows the site distribution of sites, by project, to be monitored in the third quarter. Due to delays in implementation of the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP), no NSP site visits are planned in the third quarter.

FIGURE 27
ARTF subproject site visits to be conducted in the third quarter by the SA



5. Beneficiary Story

The SA noted many success stories from the field. One of the stories is presented below.

ARAP IMPACTING THE LIVES OF RURAL AFGHANS

A seven kilometer asphalt-surfaced road between Kunduz Emam Sahib main road and Arachi district was constructed in the Northeast of Kunduz province, approximately 30 Km from Kunduz City, at a total cost of AFN 107,648,890. It was funded under the Afghanistan Rural Access Project (ARAP). The road connects more than 20 local villages with the center of the district.

“The road has also impacted the economy of the area. Property prices have increased, and we can transport our crop yields to the center of the district at a lower cost and earn a higher profit.”

The SA field engineer spoke to Safi village community members, and Haji Naiem Safi narrated their story. “The road has tremendously increased the mobility between the villages and the center of the district. Before construction of the road, it was a challenge to go from one village to another, especially in winter and in the rainy season, when the entire road used to become mudpiles. During snow storms and in the rainy seasons, the Safi villagers were instead using Emam Sahib road to reach Kunduz City. It

was costly, time consuming and stressful, especially when there was a medical emergency. Since the completion of the road, we can reach anywhere in less time, and we spend much less on transportation than what we used to spend earlier. This has increased the mobility of the students who can easily access English language classes, computer courses and other technical classes in the center of the district.”



MoPW, Asphalt Road, Kunduz, Archi
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Haji Naiem Safi further added, “The road has also impacted the economy of the area. Property prices have increased. We can transport our crop yields to the center of the district at a lower cost and earn a higher profit.” Naim’s nephew Elyas said that, prior to the construction of this road, there were thieves along the road kidnapping and robbing, but now the Afghan National Police occasionally patrols the road and security has also improved in the area.



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FEBRUARY 2017 – APRIL 2017

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund