

QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

INVESTMENT WINDOW

REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 1 TO 31 MARCH 2021

JULY 2021



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A2F	Access to Finance
AFN	Afghani(s) (currency)
ARAP	Afghanistan Rural Access Project
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
CCAP	Citizen's Charter Afghanistan Project
CCNP	Citizen's Charter National Project
CDC(s)	Community Development Council(s)
CDP	Community Development Plan
CPM	Community Participatory Monitoring
EATS	Emergency Agriculture and Food Supply
EQRA	Education Quality Reform in Afghanistan
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
EZ-KAR	Eshteghal Zaiee - Karmondena
FY	Financial Year (21st December to 20th December of the following year)
GHC	Grievance Handling Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IRDP	Irrigation Restoration and Development Project
MIS	Management Information System
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
PMU(s)	Project Management Unit(s)
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
REACH	Relief Activities for Afghan Communities and Household Project
SoE(s)	Statement(s) of Expenditure
TAGHIR	Tackling Afghanistan's Government HRM and Institutional Reforms
THRCP	Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project
TPMA	Third Party Monitoring Agent
USD	United States Dollar(s) (currency)
WEE-RDP	Women's Economic Empowerment Rural Development Project

1 OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND KEY FINDINGS

This report presents the findings from the physical and financial monitoring of the World Bank-funded investment projects in Afghanistan for the period January to March 2021 (Q1 2021)¹. We monitored Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)-financed projects, including the Citizens' Charter National Program (CCNP) COVID-19 relief effort during the quarter. This summary section provides an overview of our approach to monitoring activities and key findings for the quarter. It is followed by more detailed overviews of project-specific findings in the section 'Results from Physical Monitoring'.

1.1 PHYSICAL MONITORING

During the quarter, we physically monitored four investment projects and began monitoring the CCNP COVID-19 relief effort. Our physical monitoring activities are conducted as needed based on the requests of World Bank project teams. In Q1 2021, we continued monitoring four investment projects we had previously visited in 2020, undertaking 1,029 site visits to all 34 provinces, 190 districts, and interviewing 6,840 respondents, 19 percent of whom (1,284) were women. Government engineers and project staff accompanied us for 866 site visits to four projects: Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP), Cities Investment Project (CIP), Education Quality Reform in Afghanistan (EQRA), and Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project (THRCP).

In Q1 2021 we also began monitoring the implementation of the Citizens' Charter National Program (CCNP) COVID-19 relief effort². During Q1, we conducted 1,003 visits to across 26 provinces and 63 districts and interviewed 28,477 respondents, 13 percent of whom (3,737) were women.

Overall, there was a substantial increase in the total number of site visits we conducted this quarter, which rose from 715 in Q4 2020 to 2,032 in Q1 2021, due to the start of our monitoring of COVID-19 relief efforts. We adapted our approach to address the limitations posed mainly by the pandemic and uncertain security situations and conducted physical verification throughout the 34 provinces of the country. Figure 1 presents the physical monitoring activities by number of visits to provinces, sub-projects, and Community Development Councils (CDCs).

¹ We report separately on the results of monitoring for reimbursements under the ARTF Recurrent Cost Window. These reports are shared with ARTF donor partners but not made publicly available because they contain unofficial Government financial data.

² This followed on from monitoring of pilot activities in 2020. Distribution of relief in Relief Activities for Afghan Communities and Household (REACH) project areas had not yet started during this reporting period and will be monitored in subsequent quarters.

Figure 1: Map of TPM Activities in Q1 2021

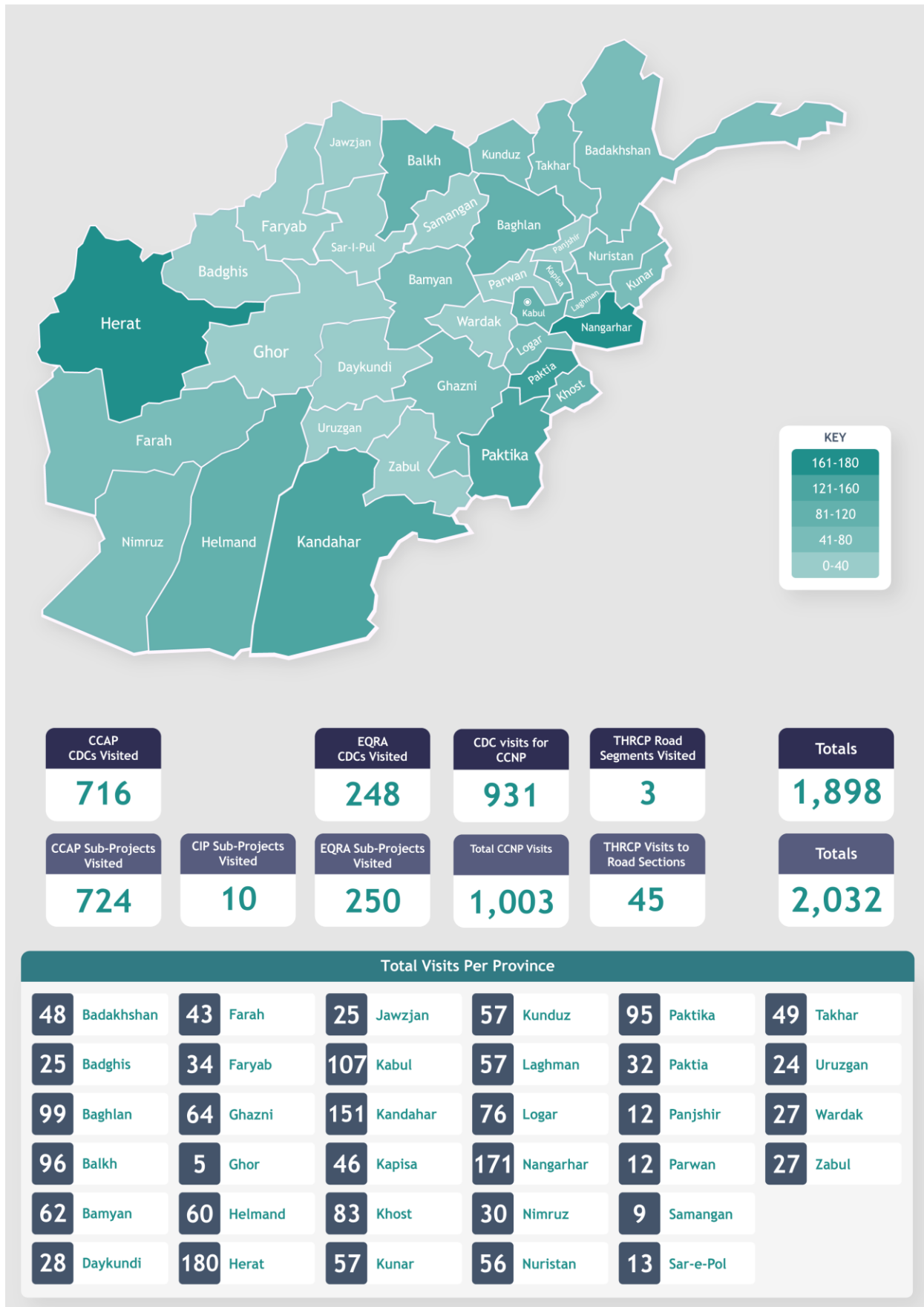


Figure 2: TPM Q1 2021 Interviews for Investment Projects

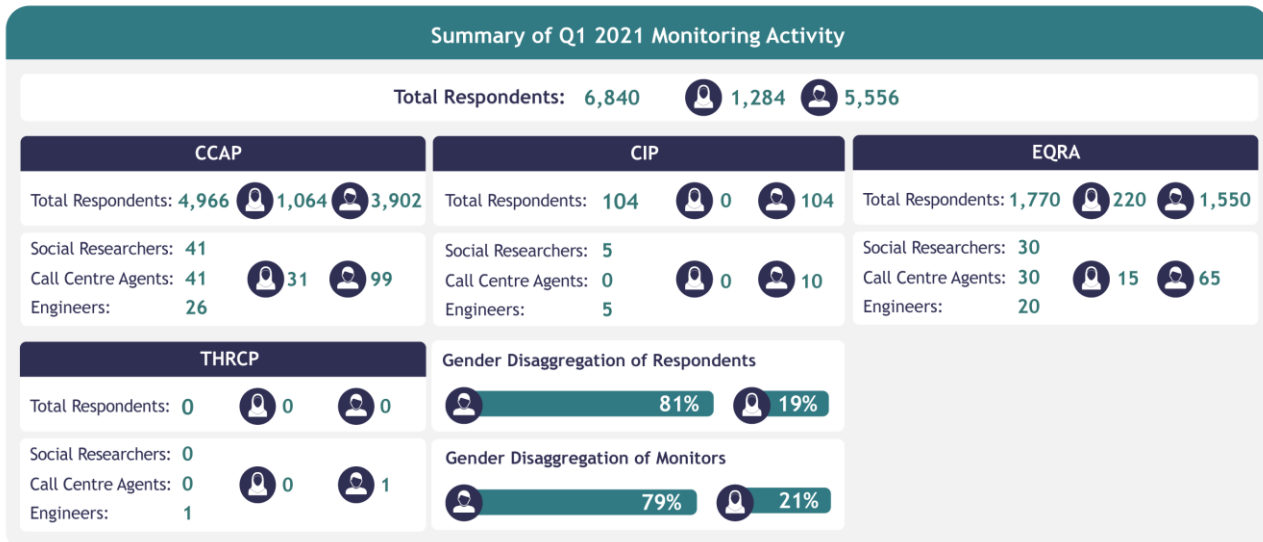


Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of site visits, and identifies the number of communities or locations visited, as well as the number of sub-projects assessed³.

The following sections provide an overview of our approach and key findings for physical monitoring activities of non-COVID-19 relief projects. Our approach, monitoring, and key findings for COVID-19 are presented in a separate section on page 11.

1.1.1 Project Scores and Ratings

We score and provide a rating for each sub-project using the system shown in Annex 1. The scores are based primarily on engineers' assessments of infrastructure, including the quality of design, materials used, and workmanship. In the case of completed or near-completed work, the likely effectiveness of any Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan is also assessed. These scores are then adjusted to account for the number and severity of any unauthorised changes, shortcomings, or faults found⁴. Finally, further adjustments are made to take account of any evidence of Good Practice, that is, additional work undertaken to an appropriate standard at no additional time or cost.

These adjusted scores for individual sub-projects are then converted into ratings, from Very Good to Very Poor, and aggregated to produce a project rating. Table 2 below provides overall project ratings, and detailed findings for each project can be found in the section 'Results from Physical Monitoring'.

³ Sub-projects are activities undertaken at local level. Communities may undertake more than one sub-project at the same time as part of the same project (under CCAP, for example, one CDC may undertake a water supply sub-project and canal rehabilitation sub-project).

⁴ These are referred to as 'deviations' in our reporting.

Table 1: Project Ratings in Q1 2021

PROJECT	RATING
CCAP	Average
CIP	Good
EQRA	Good
THRCP	Good

1.1.2 Deviations

In conducting site visits, our engineers assess infrastructure progress and the quality of work undertaken, recorded in the form of ‘Observations’. Some of these are reported as ‘deviations’ and classed as Critical, Major, or Minor. In short, a Critical deviation is one which, if not rectified, could lead to injury or death for current workers or future users or to failure of the sub-project as a whole; a Major deviation is one that is not life-threatening but affects the structural integrity or overall sustainability of the sub-project; a Minor deviation is often a cosmetic deviation not affecting structural integrity, usability or sustainability. Minor deviations can often be corrected with little effort and at a limited cost. See Annex 1 for details.

For each deviation, our engineers make an on-site estimate of the cost of rectification based on agreed range figures. These estimates are reviewed by the Financial Monitoring Team but are not based on a market exercise for the local or transported cost of labour and materials. We provide these estimates to help project teams and Government partners make decisions about how to rectify deviations.

Table 2: Deviations Identified in Q1 2021

	OBSERVATIONS	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL DEVIATIONS	DEVIATIONS AS % OF TOTAL OBSERVATIONS	ESTIMATED COST OF RECTIFICATION (USD) ⁵
CCAP	14,135	11	232	224	467	3%	176,160
CIP	253	1	2	6	9	4%	2,875
EQRA	6,478	7	57	170	234	4%	185,500
THRCP	543	0	10	30	40	8%	11,595
	21,409	19	301	430	750	4%	376,130

The deviations listed above are those reported between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021. All deviations are notified to project teams and Government partners via an online reporting platform allowing them to be allocated to provincial project teams for rectification. We hold regular meetings with project teams from implementing ministries to follow-up on actions taken.

⁵ Figures provided in AFN where available in the detailed overviews of project-specific findings.

As agreed with the World Bank and project teams, Minor deviations with an estimated rectification cost of under USD 50 are classified as ‘Notifications’. Table 4 below provides an overview of Notifications identified during Q1 2021.

Table 3: Q1 2021 Notifications

PROJECT	NOTIFICATIONS	NOTIFICATIONS AS %AGE OF OBSERVATIONS
CCAP	797	6%
CIP	2	0.4%
EQRA	328	6%
THRCP	0	0%
	1,127	5%

1.1.3 Rectifications of Deviations

In Q3 2020, we began reporting rectifications Government partners have made. In Q1 2021, a total of 4,456 deviations (54 Critical, 1,405 Major and 2,997 Minor) were rectified by eleven projects⁶. This was a substantial increase from Q4 2020 (2,268 deviations: 30 Critical, 695 Major and 1,543 Minor). Many of these were deviations reported earlier in 2020 and some were ‘legacy’ deviations identified by the previous Supervisory Agent. See Annex 2 for details of the four ongoing projects monitored during Q1, and the total number of rectifications.

The section on ‘Results from Physical Monitoring’ shows all deviations identified in Q4 by the projects and their status as at the time of reporting.

1.1.4 Good Practice

In Q1, we continued to identify Good Practice in all our reports, which we define as a sub-project undertaking additional work to a high standard at no extra cost or time. In Q1, we identified 25 examples of Good Practices from CCAP and EQRA.

Table 4: Examples of Good Practice in Q1 2021

PROJECT	NO.	DETAILS
CCAP	10	Examples of good practice included canal dimensions as constructed being greater than that as designed, constructing water reservoir walls using reinforced cement concrete rather than stone masonry, and the addition of weep holes to protection walls
EQRA	15	Examples of good practice included provision of water facilities at schools, installation of electrical system, and the provision of books and computers.
	25	

⁶ These figures include rectifications made by Afghanistan Agriculture Inputs Project, Afghanistan Rural Access Project, CCAP, CIP, EQRA, Education Quality Improvement Program, Higher Education Development Project, Irrigation, Restoration & Development Project, National Horticulture and Livestock Productivity Project, On-Farm Water Management Project and THRCP.

1.1.5 Ad Hoc Monitoring

As part of our physical monitoring, we undertook a number of ad hoc monitoring tasks to report on specific issues. These reports were separately submitted to the World Bank and project teams.

Table 5: Ad Hoc Monitoring in Q1 2021

PROJECT	TASK
EQRA	We finalised the results of a comparison of market rates for construction materials involving site visits to 13 school sub-projects. A final verification report was shared in February 2021.
Sehatmandi	Following a review of transactions involving Sehatmandi Service Providers in six provinces to assess whether any payments had been made to Anti-Government Entities we submitted an inception report in January 2021 and an initial report on findings for one Service Provider identifying a small number of potential issues. Our review was still ongoing by the end of Q1 2021, with a final report due during Q2 2021.
Emergency agriculture and food supply (EATS)	We conducted a post-review of recruitment processes to assess whether recruitment had been conducted in a fair and transparent manner. We submitted draft interim findings in March 2021 with a final report due during Q2 2021.
Verification of UNICEF Covid 19 Supplies	We conducted one verification of World-Bank funded supplies of COVID-19 consumables provided to UNICEF for distribution in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health.

1.2 MONITORING COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS

This quarter, we began monitoring the implementation of the CCNP COVID-19 relief effort to review compliance with agreed procedures and protocols during the beneficiary selection, procurement, and distribution phases of program implementation. We monitor the pre-distribution, distribution, and post-distribution⁷ of cash or in-kind items assistance across the country using quantitative and qualitative data collection methods.

1.2.1 Pre-distribution Monitoring

Findings from our pre-distribution monitoring activities draw on key informant interviews with prominent CDC leaders who were involved in the drafting of the beneficiary lists, pre-distribution planning and procurement. They are triangulated using interviews with community members. Key findings included:

- Overall, the program appeared to implement an effective beneficiary listing process that resulted in the listing of most eligible households. The majority of key informants (75 percent, 980 out of 1,311) reported that there were no issues or challenges with the beneficiary listing process within their CDC. For the 120 out of 621 CDCs where key informants reported that some eligible beneficiaries were not included on lists according to the Operations Manual, this was primarily due to the arrival of internally displaced people (IDP) or returnee households after the beneficiary

⁷ As agreed with the World Bank, we did not monitor post-distribution in Q1.

listing process had been completed or the use of outdated community profiles to compile beneficiary lists.

- There was limited evidence of any diversion of funds in the development of beneficiary lists, with only two verified reports indicating that community members had to pay in cash or in kind to be registered on the beneficiary list. For one of the two reports, which came from Nuristan province, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) has subsequently confirmed the report and provided an explanation⁸. Follow-up on a second report from Laghman province is still ongoing.

1.2.2 Distribution Monitoring

We monitor distribution through direct observations, on-site photographs, and key informant interviews. Our findings included:

- We observed no procurement issues in 87 percent of CDCs monitored. As our tools were not initially designed to rigorously record all procurement documents, we have adapted our data collection tools to provide further insights on procurement documentation in future quarters.
- Overall, almost all CDCs (99 percent) were distributing the same quantities of packages to all households. Similarly, we observed no visible issues with the quality of items distributed for 89 percent of CDCs assessed.
- Adherence to COVID-19 protection measures outlined in the Operations Manual during distribution was inconsistent.

1.2.3 Red Flag and Alert Notices

We identify and follow up on major irregularities during our monitoring activities and report to the World Bank project team and Government partners in the form of Red Flag Notices and Alert Notices. Red Flag Notices are issued in the event we find any of the following irregularities: cash or goods diversion, civil unrest at distribution sites, COVID-19 protective measures not being enforced, and procurement failures. Throughout the quarter, we shared 34 Red Flag Notices with the World Bank and Government partners. Until 20 May 2021, government partners had provided responses to nearly half (44 percent, n=15) of Red Flag Alerts issued.

⁸ Follow up from MRRD indicated that due to insufficient budget required to cover the cost of transporting relief packages, wealthier members of the community (based on a well-being analysis, which divides communities into different income groups) were asked for small voluntary contributions to support costs.

Table 6: Red Flags in Q1 2021

RED FLAGS BY CATEGORY	NUMBER
Cash or Goods Diversion	4
COVID-19 Protective Measures not enforced	24
Procurement Failures	3
Riots of Civil Unrest	3
	34

Alert Notices are issued if we find evidence that eligible beneficiaries have been excluded from receiving assistance, or ineligible households have been wrongfully included. We report findings on exclusions that may be due to errors in compiling beneficiary lists or those that may happen intentionally. In Q1 2021, we shared 178 Alert Notices with the World Bank and Government partners. Almost all Alert Notices (97 percent, n=173) were issued as a result of eligible households not being included in the beneficiary lists rather than wrongful inclusion. Up to 20 May 2021, government partners had provided responses to 62 Alert Notices (35 percent).

Table 7: Alert Notices in Q1 2021

ALERT NOTICES BY CATEGORY	NUMBER
Household Exclusion	173
Wrongful Household Inclusion	5
	178

1.3 FINANCIAL MONITORING

While our physical monitoring activities are conducted when requested in response to project management needs, our financial monitoring activities cover all active World Bank-funded projects. Our activities include Internal Control Assessments (ICAs), which start six months after project implementation begins and include annual follow-up of action plans developed to address the weaknesses we identified during the assessments. We also routinely review periodic Statements of Expenditure (SoEs) submitted by all project teams for disbursements by the World Bank. For infrastructure projects with physical monitoring activities, we also provide financial reviews of data collected during in-person site visits.

1.3.1 Internal Controls Assessments

ICAs evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of investment projects’ governance, risk management, and control processes intended to ensure the effective management of ARTF and IDA project funds. They include, but are not limited to, review of significant processes related to financial management, procurement, recruitment and HRM, governance and control environment.

Although the COVID pandemic affected the number of ICAs we were able to undertake in 2020, during Q1 ICAs for six PMUs were ongoing with planned reporting during Q3 2021: Tackling Afghanistan’s Government

HRM and Institutional Reforms (TAGHIR), Access to Finance (A2F), Eshteghal Zaiee - Karmondena (EZ-Kar) (implemented by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance [IDLG]), Women's Economic Empowerment Rural Development Project (WEE-RDP) and EZ Kar-Kabul Municipality and CASA CSP. Under our current contract, we have previously completed ICAs for two PMUs (Fiscal Performance Improvement Support [implemented by the Ministry of Finance], THRCP) and plan to complete ICAs for at least a further 14 PMUs in 2021. Under the previous TPMA contract, ICAs for 17 PMUs had been completed.

1.3.2 Statements of Expenditure

SoEs replaced Interim Unaudited Financial Reports as the basis for the World Bank's disbursement of funds to Investment Window projects in February 2020. We review each SoE to assist the World Bank in verifying that project expenditures are eligible for disbursement under applicable Grant or Financing Agreements. This process is a supplemental control measure introduced by the World Bank uniquely in Afghanistan, as one element of the ARTF Enhanced Fiduciary Control Framework.

After we receive an SoE, we review project procurement, payroll and project implementation and management expenditure. This process begins when Project Teams submit a Reporting Pack, which consists of an agreed list of financial documentation. We then conduct sample-based substantive testing of transactions through multiple rounds of review, requests for documentation or clarifications, and responses from project teams to allow for corrective action. After each review, we submit SoE Cover Letters to the World Bank outlining findings and their impact on the amounts claimed for replenishment.

Through this process, we identify Questionable Transactions, where evidence of authorisation or documentation was not made available during our review. Questionable Transactions are normally rectified once evidence has been provided but shared with project teams and the World Bank to support capacity building over time. We also identify Red Flags, where there is evidence that agreed World Bank or Government procurement procedures may not have been followed, or where there is a mismatch between project reporting systems and evidence from site visits. These are identified for the project team to review and take action and may be accompanied by additional monitoring. To minimise the risk of ineligible expenditure, payments identified as Questionable Transactions and Red Flags are withheld until issues are resolved and missing documentation provided.

In Q1 2021, we issued 29 SoE cover letters covering 22 projects that claimed a total of USD 83,415,268 for replenishment from the Bank. We sampled USD 51,780,621 (62 percent) of this amount for review and proposed adjustments totalling USD 4,617,107, which was net of USD 35,041 relating to reversals of errors we identified in previous quarters that had since been resolved.

We recommended USD 78,798,161 for replenishment. Overall, we recommended 95 percent of the total SoE claims for replenishment and questioned 5 percent of expenditure to be disbursed to the project, which have an opportunity to correct or complete required documentation, subject to re-review before replenishment. See Annex 3 for details of SoEs issued.

1.3.3 Potential Excess Payments

We undertake financial review of infrastructure sub-projects where we also conduct physical monitoring activities to assess whether financial records align with physical progress made, are properly documented, or meet other monitoring criteria.

We analyse expenditure incurred by each sub-project as of the date of the site visit and calculate the difference between the funds paid out for an individual contract and engineers' estimates of physical progress. Where financial expenditure for a sub-project exceeds physical progress by 35 percent or more, we flag this for the project team review and follow up if needed. However, since such differences can be a legitimate product of contractual arrangements, relate to materials purchased but not yet used or other factors, these payments are flagged only as 'potential' excess payments. In Q1 2021, we identified only two potential excess payments, both for CCAP, which totalled AFN 309,841.

1.4 LIMITATIONS

1.4.1 COVID-19

In Q1, we continued to operate under a COVID-19 Contingency Plan shared with the World Bank and reviewed on a regular basis. Under this Plan, to reduce the potential for infection involving our own staff or those with whom we came into contact, we continued to replace face-to-face individual and group interviews wherever possible by telephone calls, based on information received from community members and our own local contacts.

COVID-19 also impacted our ability to engage directly with Government counterparts, primarily for the purposes of obtaining project procurement documentation. The effect was sometimes to delay processing of Statements of Expenditure. We were also unable to conduct in-person capacity development activities with Government staff, especially at the Ministry of Finance.

1.4.2 Access to Female Respondents

Throughout this period, our ability to interact with women respondents was constrained by the need to conduct remote phone-based interviews rather than face-to-face interviews or group discussions. Limited telecommunications access and electricity to recharge mobile phones in remoter areas affected our ability to conduct interviews with both men and women. However, since male household members tend to control women's telephone access and use, remote calling reduced the number of women we were able to interview, even when using female call centre staff. This affected the overall percentage of female respondents, particularly for women who were not CDC office-bearers or sub-committee members.

The impact of this on our findings relates to the percentage of women we could interview in any one community. While a random sample of women nationwide can, statistically, provide a broad basis for

reporting, a much higher sample is required to provide evidence from a specific community or group of communities. The effect of being able to directly engage with fewer women than before is to make our findings less representative in terms of comparing findings between men and women. However, it does not make our findings less representative in terms of reporting community voices overall.

1.4.3 Access to Sub-Project Sites

During Q1, we conducted site visits in every province. We continued to monitor threats and planned our activities in response to emerging security issues, including in 'hard to reach' areas. We were unable to conduct data collection as planned in 179 sites (116 for CCAP and 63 for EQRA), often due to local insecurity. In some cases, bad weather conditions, including heavy rain, snow or avalanches, also prevented us from conducting planned visits. In cases where we are unable to access communities as planned, we identify substitute communities to make up for any anticipated or actual shortfall in the total number of site visits. We also make efforts to visit these sites in successive months. In Q1, we were able to visit 31 of the 135 sites where we faced access challenges in Q4 2020.

1.4.4 Programme Management Unit Responses

Some Programme Management Units (PMUs) have proven reluctant to share implementation plans to support our monitoring of COVID-19 Relief Efforts. On a number of occasions, our staff have been informed by a PMU that distribution is not taking place but have learned through community contacts that this has in fact occurred. Other distributions have been conducted without having been included in implementation plans.

To address both issues, regular meetings take place between our monitoring staff and Implementing Agency teams, in which specific examples are fed back for the PMUs to follow-up.

1.4.5 Verification of Beneficiary Lists

We initially planned to obtain the beneficiary lists from CDC office-bearers for our monitoring of COVID-19 Relief Efforts. This has not been possible in most instances due to various methodological constraints, and instead, we have tended to draw from the MIS. The forms on the MIS are an abbreviated version of the hard copy beneficiary lists that contain less information than the original form. Consequently, verifying the accuracy of beneficiary lists has proven time-consuming and does not allow a comprehensive verification of vulnerable households.

Based on our experiences this quarter, we have revised data collection tools to better record whether CDCs have developed beneficiary lists that adhere to the guidelines laid out in the Operations Manual.

2 RESULTS FROM PHYSICAL MONITORING

Whether monitoring in person or by telephone, we assess both infrastructure and ‘soft components’, where applicable. ‘Soft components’ include social mobilization activities such as CDC elections, the formation of CDC sub-committees, and community participatory activities. The findings below cover infrastructure and soft components, and the application of Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS).

2.1 DEVIATIONS

During Q1 2021, we identified a total of 750 new deviations (19 Critical, 301 Major and 430 Minor) in the projects we monitored this quarter. Over the same period, Government partners fully rectified a total of 1,703 deviations (17 Critical, 265 Major and 1,421 Minor); a further 650 deviations (21 Critical, 406 Major, and 223 Minor) were identified as non-rectifiable. Many of the fully rectified and non-rectifiable deviations were identified in previous quarters, and some were ‘legacy’ deviations identified by the previous TPMA agent. Annex 2 provides an overview of the Critical, Major and Minor deviations fully rectified in Q1 by project.

Just over one-third of deviations (34 percent) we identified this quarter were attributed to project management, often involving a lack of advance planning or on-site supervision, including 9 out of 19 Critical deviations. Poor workmanship can also be seen as a result of insufficient sub-project oversight, while O&M Plans, assessed only for completed or near-completed sub-projects often have insufficient community funds to implement them. Our findings in Q1 are consistent with those from past quarters.

The following sections provide a detailed overview of findings for each project we monitored this quarter.

Table 8: All Deviations Identified in Q1 2021 by Aspect

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL	%
Design	6	9	9	24	3%
Materials	0	26	73	99	13%
Workmanship	3	35	114	152	20%
O&M	0	122	52	174	23%
Project Management	9	78	168	255	34%
Social Safeguards	0	19	11	30	4%
Environmental Safeguards	1	12	3	16	2%
	19	301	430	750	

2.2 CITIZENS' CHARTER AFGHANISTAN PROJECT

In Q1, we undertook monitoring of 724 CCAP sub-projects in 34 provinces and 104 districts. Our engineers conducted in-person visits to 716 CDCs, monitoring 724 sub-projects. Of these, 630 are managed by MRRD and 94 by IDLG. Government engineers or project staff accompanied our teams on 609 sub-project visits.

2.2.1 Deviations

Our engineers identified 467 deviations in 48 percent (348 out of 724) of the sub-projects visited, whereas no deviations were noted in 52 percent (376 out of 724) of the sub-projects.

Table 9: CCAP Deviations in Q1 2021

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Deviations Identified in Q1	11	232	224	467
Estimated Rectification Cost (AFN)	2,238,768	8,797,591	2,713,095	13,749,454
Fully Rectified in Q1	7	112	648	767
Agreed as non-rectifiable	1	132	63	196
Open at the end of Q1	22	878	919	1,819

Of the eleven Critical deviations identified, six related to design issues. The most common attributed causes of Major deviations were O&M Plans not being implemented (53 percent of Major deviations, n=122), often due to a lack of CDC facilitation and community contributions (see O&M Plans in the Sub-Project Management section), as well as insufficient project management (19 percent, n=45).

In IDLG-managed sub-projects, we identified 4 Critical, 19 Major and 24 Minor deviations. MRRD sub-projects accounted for 7 Critical, 213 Major and 200 Minor deviations. The number of deviations for each are consistent in percentage terms with the share of CCAP projects being implemented by IDLG and MRRD.

Table 10: CCAP Deviations by Aspect Identified in Q1 2021

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Design	6	6	8	20
Materials	0	12	23	35
Workmanship	2	22	56	80
O&M	0	122	50	172
Project Management	2	45	78	125
Social Safeguards	0	15	7	22
Environmental Safeguards	1	10	2	13
	11	232	224	467

A majority of deviations (57 percent, n=267), and the largest number of Major deviations (31 percent n=66) were identified in potable water sub-projects for both MRRD and IDLG. For MRRD managed sub-projects potable water accounted for 63 percent (n=264), followed by small-scale irrigation 31 percent

(n=130) of all deviations. For IDLG managed sub-projects, road improvement accounted for 93 percent of all deviations.

2.2.2 Financial Review

Based on information collected during our in-person visits, we reviewed financial data for 724 sub-projects being implemented by 706 CDCs.

We estimated the cost of rectifying identified deviations during Q1 at AFN 13,749,454. We also identified two potential excess payments totalling AFN 309,841. Our assessment showed that there were 132 sub-projects where the assessed physical progress was 35 percent or more higher than the percentage of financial payments made and recorded. Of these 132 sub-projects, 131 are managed by the MMRD; the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) manage the one remaining sub-project.

For 23 of these sub-projects, we found that no payments had been made to the contractors, while assessed physical progress for 11 was at least 50 percent and 12 were 100 percent complete. From previous reporting, we believe these differences to arise from late submission of expenditure documentation by the CDCs (many of which are in remote areas and will have been affected by winter weather) as well as delays in entering this information into the MIS.

2.2.3 Sub-Project Status

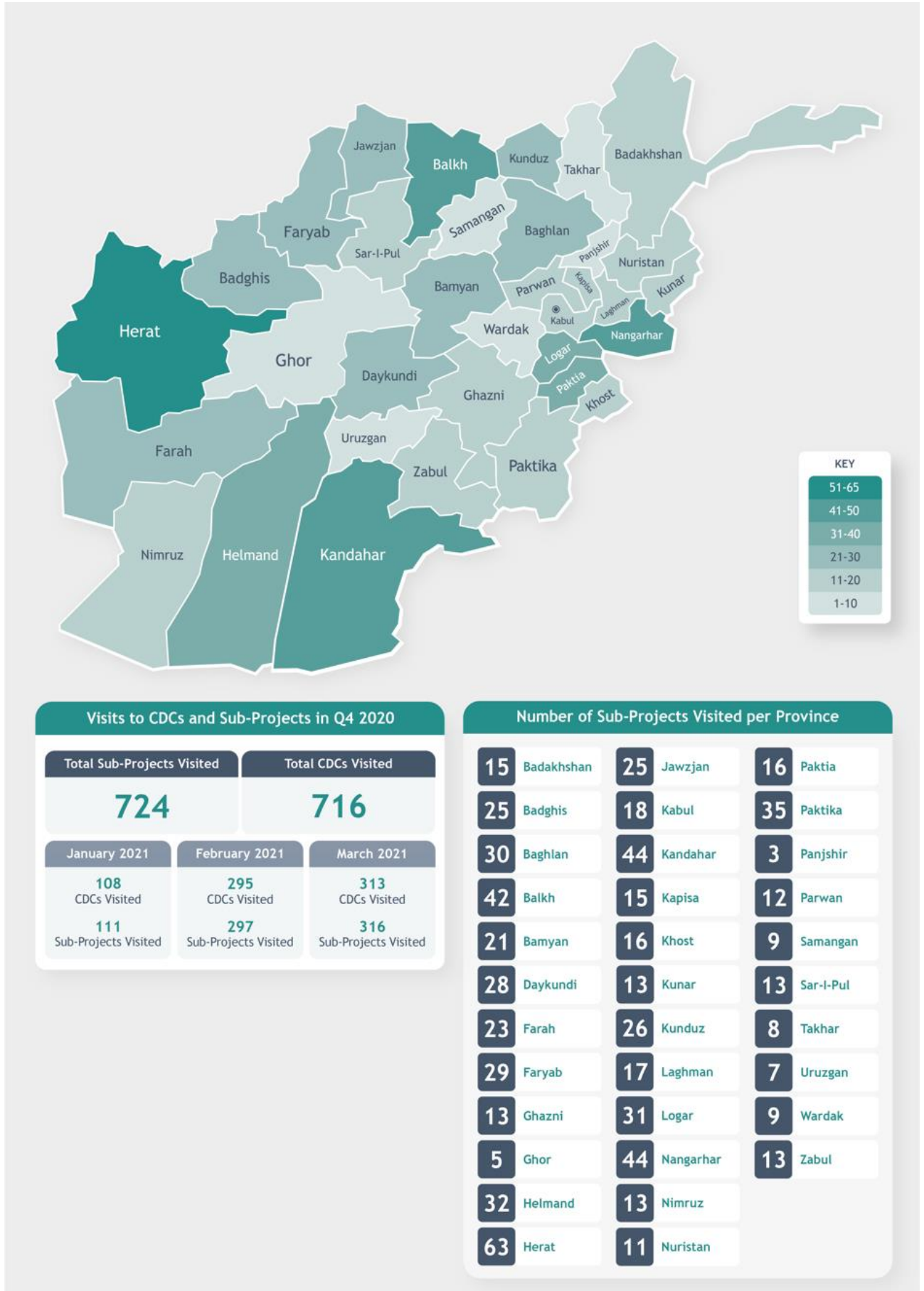
Our engineers assessed 568 sub-projects (79 percent) as Completed, compared with MRRD and IDLG MIS, which showed 494 sub-projects (68 percent) as Completed.

We identified 31 sub-projects where MIS reporting of physical progress was at least 15 percent greater compared to progress as assessed by our engineers.

2.2.4 Good Practice

In Q1, our engineers recorded ten examples of Good Practice: Six related to the extended length or width of canals being constructed, two to the construction of water reservoir walls using reinforced cement concrete (RCC) instead of stone masonry, and two to the addition of weep holes to protection walls.

Figure 3: Map of TPM Activities for CCAP in Q1 2021



2.2.5 Community Engagement

PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES

Five types of participatory activities are required by CCAP guidelines to assess community needs and improve sub-project planning: a Leaking Pot Exercise, Resource Mapping, a Seasonal Calendar, a Well-Being Analysis, and Women’s Mobility Mapping. In Q1, both men and women (89 percent in total, n=4,416) most commonly reported that the Well-Being Analysis had taken place. In contrast, only 60 percent (n=2,995) and 62 percent (n= 3,086) of respondents said that the Seasonal Calendar and Women’s Mobility Mapping respectively had occurred. Differences in responses between men and women were small; Women’s Mobility Mapping (in which only women participate) was the only case where a higher proportion of women than men reported the activity as having taken place. There were no major differences between the percentages of respondents from MRRD-managed sub-projects compared to IDLG-managed ones as to whether Resource Mapping, the Well-Being Analysis and Leaking Pot activities had taken place. However, a much larger proportion of respondents from MRRD-managed sub-projects recollected the Seasonal Calendar having taken place compared to IDLG-managed sub-projects, probably reflecting the rural nature of communities in MRRD-managed sub-projects.

Almost all (94 percent) respondents who reported that community mobilization activities had taken place also reported benefits from the activities, including increased knowledge relating to resourcing/financing and a reduction in traditional expenses such as dowries, greater knowledge about seasonal work, increased solidarity among community members and empowerment of women. The differences between reports of benefits from the activities were limited, with 97 percent of respondents reporting benefits from Resource Mapping and the Well-Being Analysis compared to 90 percent of respondents on Women’s Mobility Mapping.

CDC ELECTIONS

In Q1, the 4,966 respondents interviewed by call centre staff estimated the proportion of eligible voters that had participated in CDC elections at 80 percent for all male and female eligible voters and 48 percent for female voters. Of those (n=172) who noted challenges, the most reported reasons were Taliban interference and the fact that women were not allowed to participate due to cultural/family traditions. In the 30 communities where Taliban interference was reported, respondents most commonly explained that the Taliban had either prevented the election from happening or intimidated voters from participating.

Table 11: Percentage of Eligible Voters Participating in CDC Elections as Reported by Different Respondent Groups

ACTIVITY	WOMEN	MEN	IDLG	MRRD	TOTAL
Estimated percentage of eligible voters (male and female) that participated	80%	80%	78%	80%	80%
Estimated percentage of eligible female voters that participated	50%	47%	45%	49%	48%

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

Among CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members, most indicated that the CDC had conducted a participatory community analysis (92 percent, n=2,097) and process to define community priorities (92 percent, n=2,098) in preparing their Community Development Plan (CDP). Similarly, 92 percent (n=2,100) of all CDC-office bearers and sub-committee members said they had been consulted about the CDP, although female CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members reported a lower level of consultation (86 percent).

In terms of consultation with other community members, 98 percent of respondents said that elders and men had been consulted, and 93 percent said that women had been consulted.

SUB-COMMITTEE FORMATION

Three-quarters of all respondents (74 percent, n=3,684) stated that CDC sub-committees had been formed, with the same percentage response from IDLG-managed sub-projects and MRRD-managed ones. However, there were wide variations in responses depending on the gender and type of respondent. While almost all CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members (92 percent, n=2,099) stated that sub-committees had been formed, the figure was considerably lower among ordinary community members (61 percent, n=1,245) and those from the poorer quartiles (46 percent, n=161).

Of CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members reporting that sub-committees had been formed, 92 percent (n=1,932) said that Facilitating Partners had met the CDC to explain the roles and responsibilities of sub-committees, six percent (n=127) said that this had not happened, and two percent (n=40) said they did not know. In addition, 77 percent (n=1,606) said that the roles and responsibilities of sub-committees were clear to them, 18 percent (n=374) said that they were partially clear, and 5 percent (n=119) said that they were not clear.

2.2.6 CCAP Minimum Service Standards

From phone interviews, responses as to whether Minimum Service Standards had been achieved varied widely. While many reported that some standards had been met, year-round road access to the community and provision of electricity for at least 12 hours a day were those cited as the least available. In some communities, there was universal agreement that Minimum Service Standards were not being met.

The CCAP Minimum Service Standard most frequently reported by all community members as not being met related to the provision of electricity. In almost half (n=338) of the communities monitored in Q1, all community members agreed this Minimum Service Standard was not being met.

Table 12: CCAP Minimum Service Standards

MINIMUM SERVICE STANDARDS	RESPONDENTS REPORTING CCAP MINIMUM SERVICE STANDARDS MET	
	MRRD	
Is there an education facility within 3 km of the community?	3,068/4,316	71%
Is there a health facility within 5 km of the community?	2,235/4,316	52%
If there is a health facility within 5 km of the community, does the health center have a doctor?	2,163/2,235	97%
Does the village have access to clean drinking water for all community members?	2,502/4,316	58%
If the village has access to clean drinking water, is clean drinking water available all year round?	2,530/3,659	69%
Is there a canal or other source of water for irrigation or livestock?	2,391/4,316	55%
If there is a canal or other source of water for irrigation or livestock, is this water available all year round?	1,358/2,391	57%
Is the village accessible by road all year round?	1,730/4,316	40%
Does the village have public electricity for a minimum of 12 hours each day?	1,204/4,316	28%

2.2.7 Environmental Standards

Engineers identified two negative environmental impacts. However, these were related to health and safety out of the 721⁹ active sub-projects monitored during this reporting period. In Haji Abad village, Farah district, Farah (Sub-Project ID: 21-2101-M0090-1-b; implemented by MRRD), trees were growing under a cable line and need to be trimmed to prevent damage to the power lines in strong winds. In addition, in Yakh Dara village, Bagrami district, Kabul (Sub-Project ID: 01-0110-M0008-1-a; implemented by MRRD), garbage had been tossed in one of the wells that had been constructed.

Over three-quarters (88 percent) of sub-projects had an Environmental Screening Checklist available. Environmental health and safety management and first aid training had been provided to the workers in just over half (55 percent) of all sub-projects. In one-fifth of all sub-projects (19 percent), our engineers reported soil erosion and/or land degradation resulting from transportation of construction materials. This affected a much higher percentage of IDLG-implemented sub-projects than MRRD ones (36 percent versus 17 percent).

⁹ Three projects had not yet started so could not be assessed.

2.2.8 Environmental Safeguards

When CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members were asked if someone had been appointed to oversee risks to the environment and human health, over four-fifths (82 percent, n=1,872) reported that this had occurred. However, there were 22 sub-projects where every CDC-office bearer and sub-committee member agreed that no one had been appointed.

Engineers were also asked to report any other significant negative findings around environmental and social safeguards or gender. Engineers identified 17 instances that could potentially constitute a safeguards concern but were not captured in existing data collection instruments ... These instances have been reported for further review/discussion.

First Aid kits were not available at any sub-project sites where work was ongoing. No life safety issues were observed, but landmines were reported to be present within one kilometre of five MRRD-managed sub-projects. Eight sub-projects were found to be at risk from flooding, wind or landslide; none had mitigation measures in place or planned. Engineers also found that there was a risk of work contaminating drinking water at ten sub-projects.

2.2.9 Community Participatory Monitoring / Grievance Redress Mechanism

Two-thirds of respondents (66 percent, n=3,256) reported the establishment of Community Participatory Monitoring (CPM) or a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). There was little difference between IDLG-managed sub-projects (63 percent) and MRRD-managed ones (66 percent) but significant differences between respondent types on the issue.

As in previous reporting periods, CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members were more likely than other community members to report positively on this issue, and those from the poorer income quartiles, least likely. Overall, women were less likely than men to do so. Since awareness of a CPM or GRM is a precursor to being able to make use of it, this suggests that ordinary community members, and poorer ones in particular, may be being disadvantaged, as well as women compared to men.

Of those respondents who stated that a CPM/GRM had been established, ten percent (n=326) said that grievances had been reported. Apart from the small number (18 people) who did not know what the grievances were about, 308 respondents reported a total of 442 grievances. While these tended to relate to complaints about the sub-project design, construction delays, unequal access to sub-project benefits, allegations of corruption, theft, or fraud, around one-fifth referred to other concerns, such as lack of job opportunities (especially for women), or lack of water or electricity.

2.2.10 Gender

In Q1, women appear to have been consulted slightly less frequently than men (93 percent versus 98 percent) in identifying community priorities as part of CDP development. When asked whether issues

identified by women had been included in the CDP, just over two-thirds of respondents reported this was the case. There were no major differences between answers from male and female respondents (70 percent, n=2,732 versus 71 percent, n=752). In terms of social mobilization activities, both men (74 percent) and women (73 percent) reported on average that activities had taken place. Differences in responses between men and women were small; the Women Mobility Mapping was the only case where a greater share of women (66 percent) than men (61 percent). There were no major differences in the share of respondents recalling that an activity took place between MRRD-managed and IDLG-managed sub-projects for The Resource Mapping, Well-Being Analysis and Leaking Pot activities.

More than three-quarters (78 percent, n=394) of female CDC office-bearers or sub-committee members said they had received training on their roles and responsibilities, compared to 90 percent of male CDC office-bearers or sub-committee members who said they had received it (n=1,592). When asked whether their CDC included female members, more than two-thirds of respondents (69 percent, n=3,420) reported this was the case, but there were 29 communities across 14 provinces (Parwan, Wardak, Logar, Nangarhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Balkh, Badghis, Helmand, Kandahar, Zabol, Uruzgan, Paktika, Sar-I-Pul) where all respondents agreed there were none, all in sub-projects implemented by MRRD.

Women appear to have been involved significantly less in the functioning of sub-committees than men. Two-thirds of female respondents (68 percent, n=719) said that sub-committees had been established compared to more than three-quarters of male respondents (76 percent, n= 2,965). Three-quarters of female CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members (88 percent, n=376) stated that Facilitating Partners had met with CDCs to explain the roles and responsibilities of sub-committees, compared to 93 percent (n=1,556) of all male CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members.

There were differences between men and women in terms of knowing whether or not a CPM/GRM had been established: a ten percent difference between male and female CDC office-bearers and sub-committee members, and smaller differences between male and female ordinary community members, as well as between male and female community members from the poorer quartiles. However, among those who reported that a CPM/GRM was in place, when asked whether it included women members, 79 percent of women (n=513) agreed compared to 72 percent of men (n=1,880).

Only 57 of the 326 people who stated that grievances had been reported in their community were women, four of whom did not know what the grievances were about. The other 53 women referenced 74 complaints: 29 related to alleged corruption or fraud, eight to CDC mobilization, six to alleged theft, three to staff privilege, one to land acquisition and 23 to “other grievances”, only some of which were sub-project related.

2.2.11 Overall Assessment

- 26 sub-projects (4 percent) were rated as Very Good
- 491 sub-projects (68 percent) were rated Good
- 150 sub-projects (21 percent) were rated Average
- 44 sub-projects (6 percent) were rated Below Average
- 10 sub-projects (1 percent) were rated Poor

Based on the sub-projects monitored in this reporting period, we assess CCAP's performance as **Average**.

2.3 CITIES INVESTMENT PROJECT

In Q1, we undertook monitoring of ten CIP sub-projects in five provinces and six districts, in each case accompanied by Government engineers or project staff.

2.3.1 Deviations

Our engineers identified one Critical, two Major and six Minor deviations. Out of ten sub-projects, four had no identified deviations, three had Critical or Major deviations and three had only Minor deviations.

Table 13: CIP Deviations in Q1 2021

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Deviations Identified in Q1	1	2	6	9
Estimated Rectification Cost (USD)	23,200	112,100	87,800	223,100
Fully Rectified in Q1	0	0	1	1
Non-rectifiable	0	0	1	1
Open at the end of Q1	1	7	11	19

As highlighted in Table 14 below, most of the deviations identified were related to workmanship (6), followed by project management.

Table 14: CIP Deviations by Aspect Identified in Q1 2021

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Design	0	0	0	0
Materials	0	0	0	0
Project Management	0	2	1	3
Workmanship	1	0	5	6
	1	2	6	9

2.3.2 Financial Review

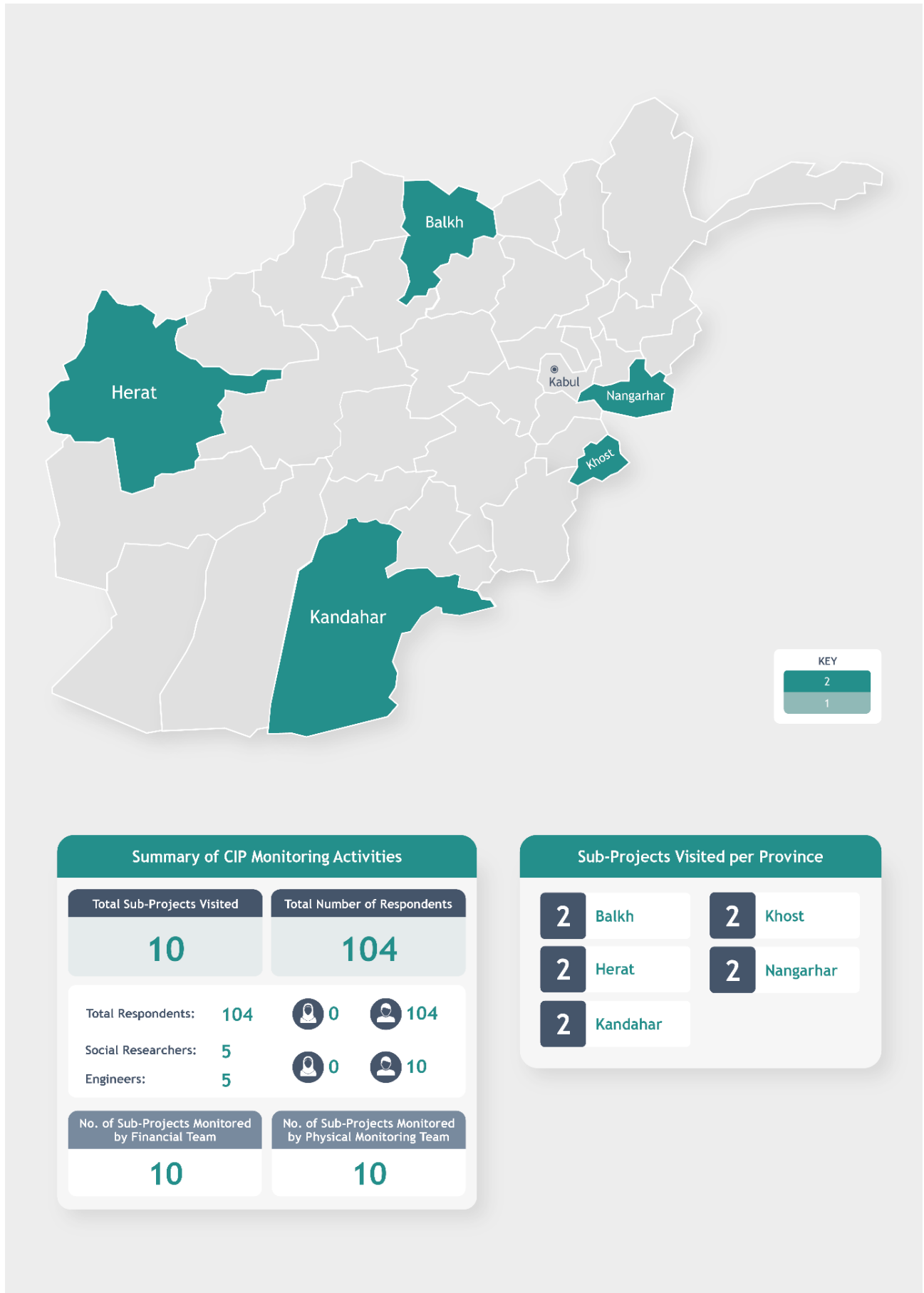
We reviewed financial data for all ten CIP sub-projects with in-person visits this quarter. Our financial review estimated the cost of rectifying identified deviations at AFN 223,100.

2.3.3 Sub-Project Status and Good Practice

Our engineers found that work was Completed and in the Defect Liability Period at two sub-projects and Ongoing at eight sub-projects, consistent with MIS reporting. Our engineers assessed that none of the ten sub-projects had been delayed or were currently subject to delay, although our engineers assessed three as behind schedule.

Our engineers found no instances of Good Practice in this reporting period.

Figure 4: Map of TPM Activities for CIP in Q1



Most deviations were identified as resulting from poor workmanship, resulting from insufficient supervision, whether by project engineers or the contractor. The Critical deviation arose from an unprotected power line and water pipe being placed adjacent to one another.

2.3.4 Health and Safety

To assess occupational health and safety, we look at whether there are measures to ensure site safety, signs of hygiene issues at labour camps, and evidence of child employment. While few sites had occupational health and safety plans, accident logbooks or incident reporting systems in place, we found that there was widespread, if not wholly complete, provision and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by labourers. Four out of eight sites had First Aid kits available. There were two reports of children being injured by machinery and passing traffic. One hygiene issue was reported, where wastewater and food were found in the workers’ accommodation. There was no evidence of minors working on-site.

Public safety measures at many sites were lacking: the majority did not have traffic signs, road markings, lights and/or barriers in use to safely redirect the traffic, nor safe diversion routes to redirect traffic.

2.3.5 Economic Disruption

There was limited evidence of economic disruption due to sub-project activities. Some shopkeepers said they had lost business as a result, but none that they had been obliged to relocate.

2.3.6 General Environmental Impact

Overall, we found limited evidence of negative environmental impact. Air pollution from dust, smoke or fumes was limited, as was noise pollution, although few sub-projects had a waste/debris disposal plan in place.

Table 15: Environmental Impact of Sub-Project Activities and Mitigation Measures

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	SUB-PROJECTS
Air Pollution	Medium=3 / Low=5
Protective measures for existing trees	Yes: 1
Noise	Medium=2 / Low=6
Waste/Debris Disposal Plan in place	Yes: 2

2.3.7 Land Acquisition and Resettlement

The engineer reported that land had not been required for sub-project construction, which was corroborated by the contractor, PIU and community respondents. The contractor and community respondents also added that no homes had been relocated due to sub-project construction.

2.3.8 Grievance Management

Feedback on Grievance Redress Mechanisms and Grievance Handling Committees (GHCs) often differed between respondents at the same location. In some cases, PIU staff said they had no knowledge of these mechanisms while community members or labourers said they were aware of them. None of the GHCs were reported to have women members.

The community respondents and labourers interviewed said they had not been told what to do if they were unhappy with the project. They were not aware of any formal committee dealing with complaints about the sub-project and they had not lodged any grievances about the sub-project.

2.3.9 Overall Assessment

Overall, of the ten sub-projects monitored, one was assessed as Very Good, six as Good, two as Average and one as Below Average. The overall rating for CIP based on sub-projects monitored in this period is **Good**.

2.4 EDUCATION QUALITY REFORM IN AFGHANISTAN

In Q1, we undertook monitoring of EQRA sub-projects in 15 provinces and 78 districts (see map on following page). Our engineers conducted in-person site visits to 248 CDCs, monitoring 250 sub-projects. Government engineers or project staff accompanied our teams on 204 sub-project visits. We did not visit Badghis and Uruzgan due to local insecurity.

2.4.1 Deviations

Table 16: EQRA Deviations in Q1 2021

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Deviations Identified in Q1	7	57	170	234
Estimated Rectification Cost (USD)	81,555	68,423	35,792	185,770
Fully Rectified in Q1	10	147	763	920
Non-rectifiable	19	147	104	270
Open at the end of Q1	42	192	449	683

2.4.2 Financial Review

We reviewed financial data received from the project’s MIS, covering all 248 CDCs and 250 sub-projects where we also conducted in-person site visits. No potential excess payments were identified.

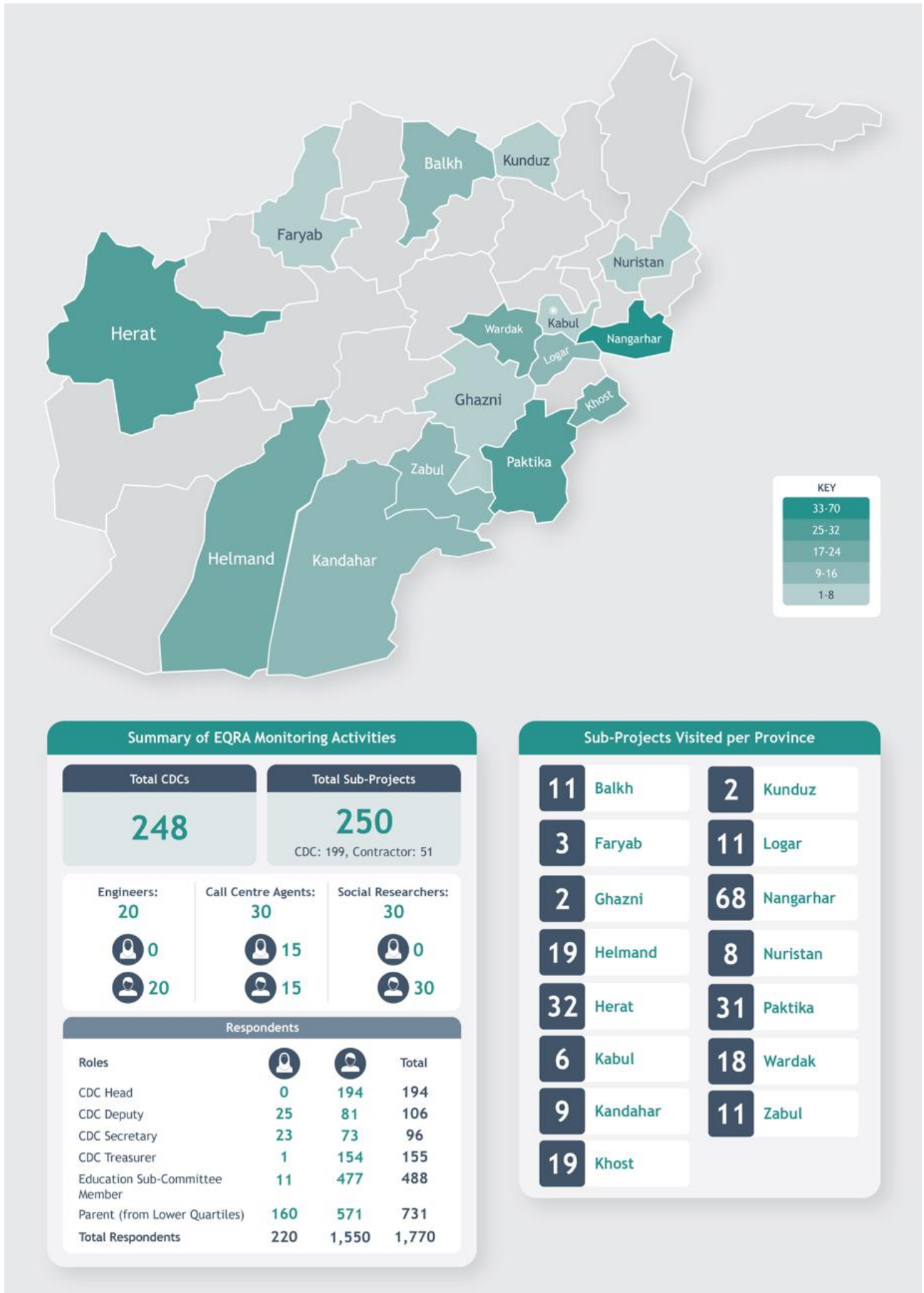
2.4.3 Sub-Project Status

At the time of our site visits, engineers assessed 20 sub-projects (eight percent) as Completed, compared with MIS reporting showing six sub-projects (two percent) as Completed. CDCs were responsible for more than three-quarters of sub-projects (80 percent, n=199) and contractors for the remainder (n=51).

2.4.4 Good Practice

Our engineers recorded 15 examples of Good Practice at twelve sub-projects, in Herat and Kabul (four each), Balkh and Khost (two each) and one in each Kandahar, Logar and Nangarhar. All except one were in sub-projects managed by CDCs. Most examples related to additional or enhanced work (replacing wooden windows with PVC windows, upgrading local toilets to flush toilets), or extending water facilities and adding solar panels.

Figure 4: Map of TPM Activities for EQRA in Q1 2021



Our engineers identified seven Critical and 57 Major deviations. Critical deviations were identified in two sub-projects each in Nuristan and Logar and one each in Faryab, Herat and Zabul. Most Critical deviations related to the selected site being vulnerable to landslide or flooding, without appropriate protective measures in place or planned. One-third of these were attributed to poor supervision by the CDC and project engineers.

Out of 250 sub-projects, 134 had no identified deviations and 63 had only one Minor deviation. In Q1, we conducted three visits and confirmed that previously reported deviations had been rectified.

Table 17: EQRA Deviations by Aspect Identified in Q1 2021

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Design	0	2	1	3
Materials	0	12	39	51
O&M Plan	0	0	2	2
Project Management	7	28	84	119
Social Safeguards	0	2	1	3
Workmanship	0	13	43	56
	7	57	170	234

2.4.5 Community Engagement

In 210 sites, all respondents agreed that the community had been consulted during the planning phase. Of those respondents who reported that concerns had been raised, the most common concerns related to the mismanagement of the sub-project (30 percent, n=94), the use of poor-quality materials or delays in completion (27 percent), potential insecurity and fear of the Taliban (17 percent), as well as about the location selected for the sub-project (11 percent, n=36) and possible corruption and crime (four percent, n=13).

EQRA guidelines encourage the establishment of a School Management Shura (SMS) to work with communities. All respondents agreed that an SMS had been established in 168 out of 250 sub-projects. Where an SMS had not yet been established, the main reason given by respondents was that the school was not yet operational, followed by teachers’ or the CDC’s reluctance to have an SMS.

2.4.6 Disaster Risk

In all, 49 schools were located in earthquake Zone I, 152 schools in earthquake Zone II, and 49 schools in earthquake Zone III¹⁰. Out of the eleven schools located on a steep slope prone to landslides, none had

¹⁰ The Ministry of Education and MRRD, with the assistance of the Danish Assistance to Afghan Rehabilitation and Technical Training (DAARTT), have divided Afghanistan into seismic zones for the purposes of determining which school designs are suitable. While schools in Zone I face the lowest level of seismic risk, those in Zone III face the greatest and require adaptations to school design.

retaining walls for protection. Additionally, of the 17 schools located near a river prone to flooding, only three had protective walls in place.

2.4.7 Environment, Health and Safety Standards

In terms of the number of trees cut down versus the number replanted across all sub-projects, an estimated 450 trees were cut down and an estimated 70 trees replanted to date. Respondents in Khost reported the highest numbers of trees cut down, with over 300 in total. Respondents in Nuristan also reported high numbers of trees cut down as 60.

Our engineers reported that workers were wearing PPE at 16 of the 31 ongoing sub-projects they assessed and only two sites had first aid kits available. Respondents at 86 sub-projects (34 percent) reported that either students, workers or community members had been injured. Most reported minor injuries affected workers due to falls while working, falling materials, and accidents involving machinery. In addition to minor injuries, respondents reported seven fatalities at five sub-project sites, including five workers, one school guard, and one CDC head. Six of the fatalities were attributed to bomb explosions at four of the sub-project sites, all of which were in Nangarhar province, while one fatality was linked to a collapsed wall on a sub-project in Zabul province.

Respondents reported injuries to community members at 14 sub-projects, all of which were minor injuries. In addition to minor injuries, the death of one worker was reported in Zabul province, as a result of a wall collapsing. Four other sub-projects in three communities in Nangarhar province also reported deaths due to bomb explosions at the sub-project site. These could not necessarily be linked to sub-project activities.

2.4.8 Grievance Redress Mechanism

More than three-quarters of respondents (77 percent, n=1,364) reported that a Grievance Handling Committee (GHC) had been established in their communities, while less than one-fifth (16 percent, n=278) said none had been established; the remainder (seven percent, n=128) did not know. More than half (61 percent, n=629) of CDC and Sub-Committee members, representing 152 communities, agreed that a GHC had been established. There were ten CDCs where all the CDC and Sub-Committee members agreed that a GHC had not yet been established.

The most common methods stated for reporting a grievance were: speaking directly to a GHC member (52 percent), phone calls (18 percent), complaints box (15 percent) and reporting a grievance in writing to the GHC (12 percent). Other methods that were less frequently cited included speaking to community elders or the district government office.

At the time of our visits, around 690 grievances had been reportedly lodged across 74 communities in eleven provinces since the inception of the sub-projects. On average, about half (45 percent) of these grievances were reported as resolved, including in provinces where more than 50 grievances were

reportedly lodged (Nangarhar with 286, Khost with 96, Herat with 81, Nuristan with 63 and Wardak with 62). In Kandahar and Balkh, none of the reported grievances had been resolved.

2.4.9 Gender

There were 213 CDCs where at least one respondent stated that women had been consulted during sub-project planning (67 percent), but only 67 sites where everyone agreed women had been consulted in the planning and implementation phases. In 34 communities, everyone agreed that women had not been consulted in either phase.

Where an SMS had been established, CDC office-bearers and Education Sub-Committee members from only 25 sub-projects agreed that it included female members, while in 99 sub-projects all CDC office-bearers and Education Sub-Committee members agreed it did not.

Consistent with previous reporting, a large majority of respondents said that the school location was suitable for boys and girls (98 and 90 percent, respectively), with all respondents from 231 sites (93 percent) agreeing the school's location was suitable for boys, and from 191 sites (77 percent) that it was suitable for girls. Where respondents disagreed with this, the reasons given included disapproval of co-education or of girls' education, lack of a boundary wall or adequate security at the school, distance between the school and community, and local insecurity.

Boundary walls are required for co-educational and girls' secondary and high schools. However, only seven out of 38 (18 percent) girls' and co-educational secondary and high schools monitored in Q1 had them in place at the time of monitoring, although work was Ongoing at 21 other sites. Ten schools do not have boundary walls included in their contracts.

2.4.10 Overall Assessment

Overall, three sub-projects were rated as **Very Good**, 190 as **Good**, 48 as **Average**, eight as **Below Average** and one as **Poor**. The overall rating for EQRA sub-projects monitored in Q1 2021 is **Good**.

2.5 TRANS-HINDUKUSH ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

In Q1, we undertook a total of 45 in-person monitoring visits to three segments in two provinces and two districts:¹¹

- Eighteen visits to Segment One in Doshi district, Baghlan
- Seventeen visits to Segment Two in Doshi district, Baghlan
- Ten visits to Segment Five in Shiber district, Bamyān.

Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) engineers or project staff accompanied our staff during all site visits.

2.5.1 Deviations

Table 17: THRCP Deviations in Q1 2021

	CRITICAL	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Deviations Identified in Q1	0	10	30	40
Estimated Rectification Cost (USD)	0	4,590	7,005	11,595
Fully Rectified in Q1	0	6	9	15
Non-rectifiable	1	4	0	5
Open at the end of Q1	5	161	128	294

No Critical deviations were identified during this monitoring period.

Work in Baghlan accounted for nearly all (n=38, 95 percent) deviations. Segment One in Baghlan accounted for the highest number of deviations (n=28, 70 percent) and the highest number of Major deviations (n=6, 60 percent).

Table 18: THRCP Deviations by Aspect Identified in Q1 2021

	MAJOR	MINOR	TOTAL
Design	1	0	1
Environmental Safeguards	2	1	3
Materials	2	11	13
Project Management	3	5	8
Social Safeguards	2	3	5
Workmanship	0	10	10
	10	30	40

¹¹ Segments are road portions of the project, which are divided into smaller 'sections'.

Out of 543 Observations made during Q1, we identified 40 deviations, including ten Major and 30 Minor deviations. Deviations were most frequently found in relation to retaining walls.

2.5.2 Financial Review

The estimated cost of rectifying deviations identified by our engineer in this period is USD 11,595¹².

2.5.3 Segment Status and Good Practice

Our engineer assessed work at Segments One, Two and Five as ‘Ongoing’, that is, construction activities were continuing at those sites during the monitoring period. This was consistent with reporting from MIS.

We did not identify any examples of Good Practice this quarter.

2.5.4 Contractor Performance

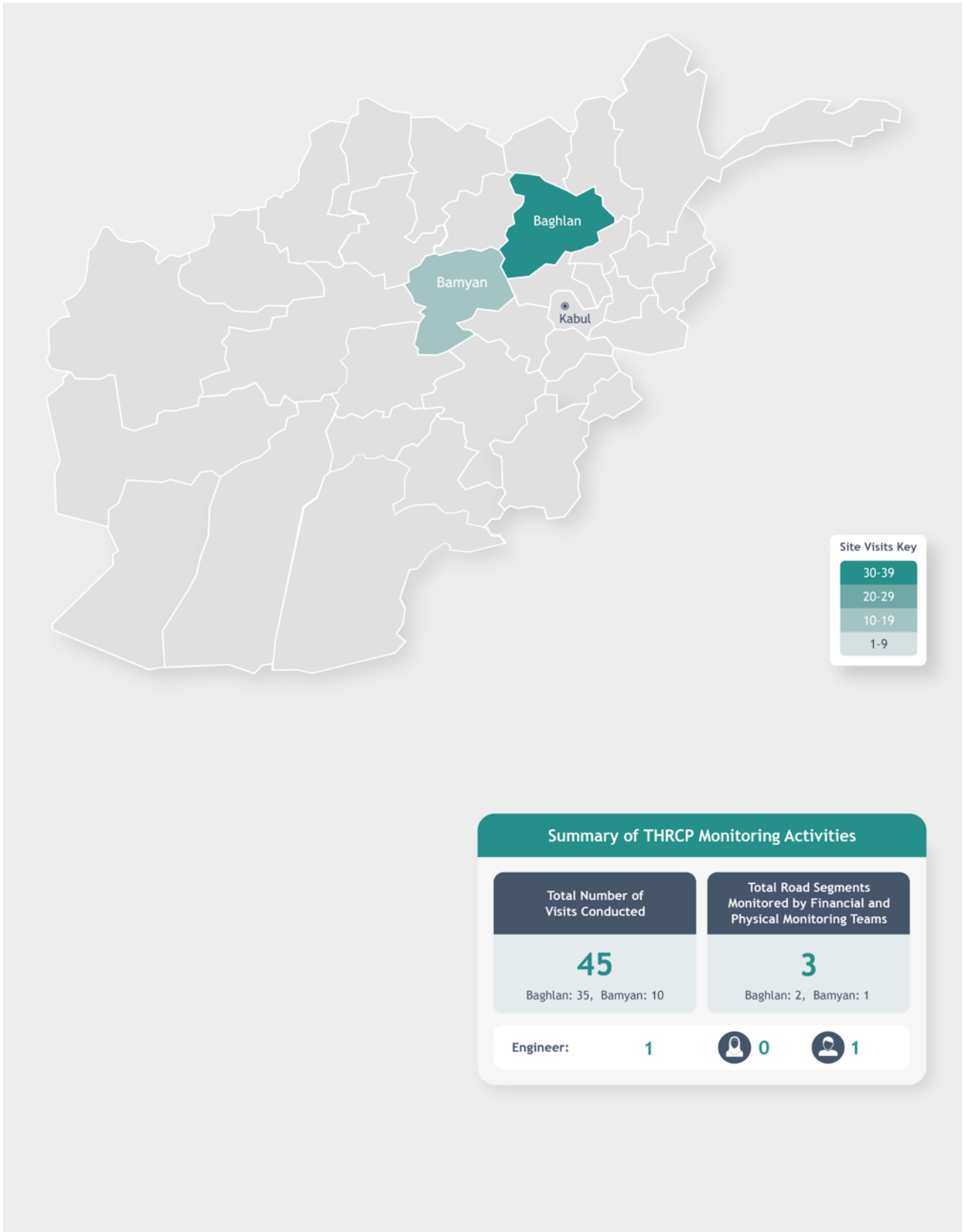
Our engineer found workers on site at all segments and stations where work was ongoing. Contractors’ project managers were not on site during any of the monitoring visits, although a Quality Control Manager was on site for stations where construction works were ongoing at the time of our visits in Segment Two.

During site visits, our engineer observed that construction materials were well stocked and protected against theft, mishandling or bad weather in all segments where work was ongoing in Baghlan and Bamyan. Contractors were also conducting materials testing according to contract requirements in all ongoing segments.

Most required documentation was available for inspection and appropriately stored.

¹² This figure is reported in USD to reflect the currency of the grant agreement and contracts.

Figure 5: Map of TPM Activities for THRC in Q1 2021



2.5.5 Environmental and Social Safeguards

Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) were available in all segments except Segment Five. However, our engineers identified soil pollution in all segments arising from dust pollution, attributed to the absence of a dust control plan and water tankers on site for spraying.

In Segments One and Two our engineers noted that sand or gravel had been removed from riverbeds and the contractor had not obtained written permission from the relevant Government department to do so. However, engineers reported that this did not appear to have had any negative impacts on riverbed morphology.

2.5.6 Health and Safety

Our engineers did not observe any hygiene or health issues in labour campsites. Workers were wearing PPE and had been given safety training in Segments One and Five however, First Aid kits were not available at either of these sites.

2.5.7 Land Acquisition

Across the three monitored segments, a total of 263,204 square meters of land had been acquired by the sub-projects, affecting 464 households and 96 businesses. Most land had been acquired through sub-project purchases from the owners, evidenced by land transfer documentation at the site. The monitoring team found for all segments that there was no clear compensation plan for affected businesses.

2.5.8 Overall Assessment

Overall, averaged for the whole reporting period, both Segments One and Two in Baghlan were rated as **Good**. At Segment One, a rating was not applied to one site during January and at Segment Two at two sites during January and one site in February and March as no new work had taken place. The rating for Baghlan segments as whole was **Good**.

Segment Five in Bamyán rated **Good**. A rating was not applied at three sites during February and one site during March as no new work had taken place.

The overall rating for THRC road segments monitored in Q1 2021 is **Good**.

3 RESULTS FROM FINANCIAL MONITORING

3.1 STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE REVIEWS

This section reports the results of Statement of Expenditure (SoE) reviews of project expenditure with cover letters ('Certificates') issued in Q1 2021 in respect of transactions incurred during the Afghan Government's Financial Year 1399 (corresponding to 22 December 2019 and 20 December 2020).

Table 19: Summary of SoE Review Results

	Q1 2021
SoE Cover Letters issued	29
Amount Claimed for Replenishment (USD)	83,415,268
Net Adjustments Proposed (USD)	(4,617,107)
Amount Recommended for Replenishment (USD)	78,798,161
Sample Value (USD)	51,780,621
Sample Coverage	62%

During Q1 2021, we issued 29 SoE cover letters covering 22 projects that claimed a total of USD 83,415,268 for replenishment from the Bank. We sampled USD 51,780,621 (62 percent) of this amount and proposed adjustments totalling USD 4,617,107, which was net of USD 35,041 relating to reversals of errors we identified in previous quarters that had since been resolved and therefore recommended for replenishment.

We recommended USD 78,798,161 for replenishment; our findings amounted to five percent of SoE claims. The findings primarily related to claims for operational advances that had not been properly settled and missing supporting documentation. We anticipate that the amounts involved will be recommended for replenishment once the reported issues have been resolved.

We also reported on internal control weaknesses identified during our SoE reviews. These primarily related to non-compliance with procurement and financial policies, and disclosure errors in the submitted SoEs. We made recommendations to projects on how the identified weaknesses and risks should be addressed to support a strengthened control environment.

Where adjustments are proposed, these normally arise from non-compliance with applicable procurement regulations and the late submission of the documentation (including copies of relevant authorisations) needed to allow reimbursement to occur. In a majority of cases, this documentation is submitted as part of a later SoE, thus allowing replenishment to proceed.

4 REFINING OUR APPROACH

4.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Following the submission of individual project reports for Q1 2020, we solicited written feedback from each World Bank Task Team as part of a standard quarterly report feedback process. Over this quarter, we also conducted feedback sessions on Q4 2020 reports with Task Teams and Government PIUs, providing an opportunity to explain in detail what findings they found useful and where information gaps remained. In addition to this formal feedback process, we hold regular meetings with the engineering departments of various Government entities to review deviations found, to discuss issues as they arise, and to support World Bank Implementation Support Missions.

4.2 ADAPTING OUR METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

In Q1, we continued to revise and amend the data collection tools in consultation with World Bank and Government partner teams, to address information gaps, to remove outdated questions, and to strengthen the consistency of language used across projects as part of developing portfolio-level analysis and reporting.

On questions where the knowledge or incentives of different respondent types might be variable, we have increased the use of consensus-based reporting where all respondents within specific communities agree on a response to a specific question. By doing so, we can better identify the specific communities where sub-projects may be performing well or require follow-up.

4.3 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DIGITAL PLATFORM

During this quarter, our Digital Platform Unit continued to conduct platform walk-throughs targeting Task Teams, and group training sessions with Government users to enable them to record and update information about deviations found and rectified. We also provided informal follow-up mentorship via email and Skype. In total, we conducted eight different demonstrations and training sessions on the use of our digital platform with three ministries and three Bank Task Teams.

Table 20: Digital Platform Training

ENTITY	PROJECT	TRAINING DATE
Ministry of Public Works	THRCP	12 January 2021
IDLG	CCAP	13 January 2021
World Bank	CCAP	19 January 2021
World Bank	CCAP	27 January 2021
World Bank	CIP	28 January 2021
MRRD	CCAP	02 February 2021
MRRD	EQRA	03 February 2021
World Bank	THRCP	02 March 2021

ANNEX 1: INFRASTRUCTURE SCORING AND RATING

Initial Scoring and Rating

DEFINITION	INITIAL SCORE	INITIAL RATING
Design		
The design was created with full consideration of the site requirements. The design is fully appropriate and allows for 100 percent of intended functionality and design life.	5	Very Good
The design responds to almost all site requirements; however, small considerations could have reduced wear and tear and lowered maintenance requirements. Intended functionality is between 90 percent and 100 percent and design life is not impacted.	4.0 - 4.9	Good
The design responds only to the major requirements of the site. Some of the design may be inappropriate or missing important elements, causing the sub-project to have between 70 percent and 90 percent of intended functionality and a shorter design life.	3.0 - 3.9	Average
The design does not respond to all major requirements of the site. Much of the design may be inappropriate or missing important elements, severely lowering functionality to between 40 percent and 70 percent. Sustainability is negatively impacted, and the sub-project will require more maintenance than otherwise would be necessary.	2.0 - 2.9	Below Average
The design responds only to a minority of the major requirements of the site. The design may be largely inappropriate or missing important elements, making the sub-project unsustainable and non-functional in a number of identifiable areas (between 10 and 40 percent). Portions of the design may have not been feasibly implemented.	1.0 - 1.9	Poor
The design does not consider any of the major requirements of the site. The design is inappropriate, making the sub-project unsustainable and non-functional (below 10 percent). Identified deficiencies cannot be remedied without affecting the sub-project budget or timeframe and may not be capable of rectification.	0.0 - 0.9	Very Poor
Materials		
The materials used meet all the technical specifications and exceed them in some areas.	5	Very Good
The materials used meet all the technical specifications.	4.0 - 4.9	Good
The materials used meet the major specifications, with some evident deficiencies that can be remedied without affecting the sub-project budget or timeframe.	3.0 - 3.9	Average
The materials used deviate from the technical specifications, with a number of evident deficiencies that can be remedied but are likely to affect the sub-project budget or timeframe.	2.0 - 2.9	Below Average
Many of the materials used deviate from the technical specifications, with many evident deficiencies that cannot be remedied without affecting the sub-project budget or timeframe.	1.0 - 1.9	Poor

DEFINITION	INITIAL SCORE	INITIAL RATING
All, or almost all of the materials used deviate from the technical specifications requiring serious reworking, up to and including complete replacement. Identified deficiencies cannot be remedied without affecting the sub-project budget or timeframe and may not be capable of rectification.	0.0 - 0.9	Very Poor
Workmanship		
The quality of workmanship meets all the technical specifications and exceeds them in some areas.	5	Very Good
The quality of workmanship meets all the technical specifications.	4.0 - 4.9	Good
The quality of workmanship meets the major specifications, with some evident deficiencies that can be remedied without affecting the sub-project budget or timeframe.	3.0 - 3.9	Average
The quality of workmanship meets the technical specifications, with a number of evident deficiencies that can be remedied but are likely to affect the sub-project budget or timeframe.	2.0 - 2.9	Below Average
The workmanship quality deviates significantly from the technical specifications, with many evident deficiencies that cannot be remedied without affecting the sub-project budget or timeframe.	1.0 - 1.9	Poor
In all, or almost all cases, the quality of workmanship deviates from the technical specifications requiring serious reworking, up to and including complete replacement. Identified deficiencies cannot be remedied without affecting the sub-project budget or timeframe and may not be capable of rectification.	0.0 - 0.9	Very Poor
Operations and Maintenance (applicable to Completed sub-projects)		
The O&M Plan is fully funded and being implemented. It meets all the requirements of the site or sub-project, exceeds it in some identifiable areas, and is expected to be sustainable over the entire design life of the sub-project.	5	Very Good
The O&M Plan meets all the requirements of the site or sub-project and fully funded. If not already being implemented, it is expected to be fully funded and to be sustainable over the entire design life.	4.0 - 4.9	Good
The O&M Plan meets the major requirements of the site or sub-project. The majority of funds needed are in place to support implementation.	3.0 - 3.9	Average
The O&M Plan meets some but not all of the major requirements of the site or sub-project. A minority of the funds needed to support implementation are in place. If not already being implemented the Plan is not expected to be fully funded.	2.0 - 2.9	Below Average
The O&M Plan meets very few of the major requirements of the site or sub-project.	1.0 - 1.9	Poor
The O&M Plan does not support or is likely to fail to support the sustainability of the site or sub-project.	0.0 - 0.9	Very Poor

Deviation Definitions

CATEGORIES	DEFINITION
Critical	Failure to construct infrastructure in a way that protects workers or community members during construction and requiring urgent mitigation before work can continue.
	For completed infrastructure, failure to construct infrastructure in a way that protects community members or users.
	A non-recoverable negative impact in terms of structural quality, functionality or sustainability.

CATEGORIES	DEFINITION
Major	Capable of being rectified but not within existing budget and/or timeframe for completion. A significant negative impact in terms of overall structural quality, functionality and/or sustainability. Not capable of being rectified and resulting in agreed budget and timeframe for completion being exceeded.
Minor	Capable of being rectified within existing budget and/or timeframe for completion. No significant negative impact in terms of overall structural quality, functionality and/or sustainability. Not capable of being rectified but no negative effect on agreed budget and timeframe for completion.
Notification	Minor deviations identified with an estimated rectification cost of under USD 50 are treated as Notifications, listed and supplied to the Government project team for resolution.

Scoring and Final Rating

A final sub-project rating takes into account the number and nature of deviations identified as well as evidence of Good Practice. For reporting at project level the average of final ratings for all sub-projects monitored in each reporting period is taken.

SCORE	DEVIATIONS	FINAL RATING
5.00	No deviations	Very Good
	Not more than 4 Minor deviations	Good
3.00-4.99	No Critical deviations	Good
	1 Critical deviation	Below Average
	More than 1 Critical deviation	Poor
	Not more than 2 Major deviations	Good
	Not more than 5 Major deviations	Average
	More than 5 Major deviations	Below Average
	Not more than 4 Minor deviations	Good
	Not more than 10 Minor deviations	Average
	More than 10 Minor deviations	Below Average
	2.00-2.99	No Critical deviations
1 Critical deviation		Poor
More than 1 Critical deviation		Very Poor
Not more than 2 Major deviations		Below Average
More than 2 Major deviations		Poor
0.00-1.99	Not more than 4 Minor deviations	Below Average
	More than 4 Minor deviations	Poor
	Not more than 1 Critical deviation, not more than 5 Major deviations, or not more than 10 Minor deviations	Poor
	More than 1 Critical deviation, more than 5 Major deviations, or more than 10 Minor deviations	Very Poor

ANNEX 2: DEVIATIONS AND RECTIFICATIONS IN Q1 2021¹³

CRITICAL			
	NEW	RECTIFIED	OPEN DEVIATIONS ¹⁴
CCAP	11	7	22
CIP	1	0	1
EQRA	7	10	42
THRCP	0	0	5
	19	17	70

MAJOR			
	NEW	RECTIFIED	OPEN DEVIATIONS
CCAP	232	112	878
CIP	2	0	7
EQRA	57	147	192
THRCP	10	6	161
	301	265	1,238

MINOR			
	NEW	RECTIFIED	OPEN DEVIATIONS
CCAP	224	648	919
CIP	6	1	11
EQRA	170	763	449
THRCP	30	9	128
	430	1,421	1,507
Total	750	1,703	2,815

¹³ This annex only presents figures from the four ongoing sub-projects which we monitored during Q1

¹⁴ Figures for open deviations are for the end of Q1 and reflect the agreed reclassification of deviations for CCAP and EQRA. They also do not include non-rectifiable deviations.

ANNEX 3: STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE ISSUED IN Q1 2021

PROJECT ID	PROJECT	PERIOD	TOTAL	ADJUSTMENTS	REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS QUARTER SOE	REPLENISHMENT (USD)
P128048	A2F	Q4 1399	1,623,818	(12,801)	-	1,611,017
P172109	AGASP	Q3-Q4 1399	1,226,807	-	-	1,226,807
P164762	ALASP	Q1-Q2 1399	381,357	(93,263)	-	288,094
P125961	ARAP (Ministry of Public Works)	Q3 1399	1,657,060	(307,841)	-	1,349,219
P125961	ARAP (MRRD)	Q3 1399	2,581,617	(690,927)	-	1,890,690
P125961	ARAP (MRRD)	Q4 1399	1,728,683	(1,167,894) ¹⁵	-	560,789
P132742	ASDP II	Q4 1399	594,698	(12,161)	-	582,537
P160606	ASGRP	Q3-Q4 1399	152,374	(401)	-	151,973
P149410	CASA CSP	Q2 1399	204,070	(6,559)	-	197,511
P149410	CASA CSP	Q3 1399	33,532	-	-	33,532
P160567	CCAP (MRRD) OpEx	Q2 1399	5,076,104	(1,327,400) ¹⁶	-	3,748,704

¹⁵ This primarily relates to contract reference RRD/WB/ARAP/NRAP/KBL/KAP/033/B/C2/001. According to the evaluation report, the lowest evaluated bidder was not selected, and we were not provided with the bidding documents of this bidder to verify the grounds for non-selection. We have considered the cumulative payments to the successful bidder of USD 1,155,022 as ineligible, not just payments made in the period (USD 266,430). We will recommend the payments for replenishment upon receipt and satisfactory review of the lowest bidder's bid documentation.

¹⁶ This primarily relates to USD 1,086,642 (M16s: 57, 89, 1314) being claimed on the SoE for operational advances that have not yet been acquitted, hence not eligible for replenishment.

PROJECT ID	PROJECT	PERIOD	TOTAL	ADJUSTMENTS	REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS QUARTER SOE	REPLENISHMENT (USD)
P160567	CCAP (MRRD) OpEx	Q3 1399	10,628,653	(696,856)	-	9,931,797
P160567	CCAP (MRRD) CDC Lot 4	Q3 1399	6,668,008	(3,452)	31,589	6,696,145
P160567	CCAP (MRRD) CDC Lot 5	Q4 1399	6,886,799	(239)	3,452	6,890,012
P173775	Covid-19 ERHPP	Q3-Q4 1399	16,500,714	-	-	16,500,714
P156894	Digital CASA	Q3-Q4 1399	680,202	(8)	-	680,194
P159378	EQRA (MoE)	Q4 1399	807,872	(138,036)	-	669,836
P159378	EQRA (MRRD) CDC Lot 2	Q2 1399	6,385,398	(41,142)	-	6,344,256
P159378	EQRA (MRRD) CDC Lot 3	Q3 1399	5,874,310	(6,452)	-	5,867,858
P166127	EZ-Kar (MoEc)	Q4 1399	308,993	(323)	-	308,670
P166127	EZ-Kar (MoFA)	Q4 1399	100,623	(4,582)	-	96,041
P159655	FSP	Q3 1399	2,208,480	(48,415)	-	2,160,065
P125597	KMDP	Q4 1399	2,869,986	(68,703)	-	2,801,283
P131864	KUTEI	Q3 & Q4 1399	4,494,348	(3,293)	-	4,491,055
P161348	MASOB	Q2 & Q4 1399	921,942	(823)	-	921,119
P132944	NHRP	Q3 1399	335,117	(20,138)	-	314,979
P132944	NHRP	Q4 1399	505,534	-	-	505,534
P168266	PAISA (DAB)	Q3 & Q4 1399	14,183	-	-	14,183
P147147	UDSP	Q4 1399	1,963,986	(439)	-	1,963,547
Total			83,415,268	(4,652,148)	35,041	78,798,161

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