



THE AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION TRUST FUND

Guidance Notes Series:

Third Party Monitoring

Third Party Monitoring (TPM) is an additional layer added to the standard World Bank monitoring framework (see Guidance Note no 1 “ARTF Monitoring”). The ARTF TPM agents are contracted directly by the World Bank, as the ARTF Administrator, and ensure independent verification of the eligibility of recurrent cost financing and of the quality of infrastructure financed by the ARTF Investment Window under select projects.

ARTF TPM takes two tracks:

2.1 ARTF Monitoring Agent for the Recurrent Cost Window

Under the Recurrent Cost Window (RCW) the ARTF provides financing to the Government of Afghanistan’s civilian operating budget. Disbursements are made for eligible, civilian operating expenditures of the Government.

The ARTF Monitoring Agent (MA) works on the RCW. The MA (an accounting firm) is contracted by the World Bank and has been in place since 2002 to monitor the civilian operating budget financed through the RCW of the ARTF. The MA monitors, reviews and reports on the civilian operating budget to ensure the operating budget is processed and implemented in accordance with a set of eligibility criteria agreed between Government and the World Bank as the ARTF Administrator. The purpose of the MA is to ensure all expenditures financed from the RCW are eligible – and to deduct ineligible expenditure monitoring 100 % of civilian operating budget expenditures. Monitoring is undertaken in two stages: Desk reviews of expenditure is followed by selective site visits to ensure supporting documentation is in place.

2.2 ARTF Supervisory Agent for the Investment Window

A third party monitoring agent (the ARTF Supervisory Agent), was put in place in 2011 to carry out on-site supervision and reporting on projects in 34 provinces.

Several national programs feature construction of large numbers of scattered physical investments across the country. While the ARTF Administrator carries out regular supervision missions including visits to project sites, the prevailing security situation, the inaccessibility of projects, a low-capacity environment, and the considerate financial resources from donors, necessitates additional verification.

Using smart phones, satellite imagery and innovative technology the Supervisory Agent (SA) carries out on-site visits, reviews and reports on the physical progress, quality of construction and usage of physical investments for selected projects supported by the ARTF. The SA operates in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, including highly insecure areas, to collect data from project sites and report back to the World Bank and government ministries.

As part of its reporting responsibility, the SA submits monthly and quarterly status reports to Government (implementing line ministries) and the World Bank. These reports include individual site inspection reviews of project sites and an update on progress towards output targets. Quarterly reports are shared with donors and include analysis on program progress, deviations, and challenges detected in project trends and need for remedial actions.

An online mapping-based database is available to donors, including basic project and location information of the ARTF portfolio.

The above tools are available at www.artf.af

The program is following five projects:

The National Solidarity Program III



Afghanistan Rural Access Project



The Education Quality Improvement Project II



The Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development Project



The On-Farm Water Management Project

