

SIGAR

**Special Inspector General for
Afghanistan Reconstruction**

OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

USAID'S AFGHANISTAN DRIP IRRIGATION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT: MOST
DEMONSTRATION PLOTS THAT SIGAR
INSPECTED WERE NOT BEING USED AS
INTENDED



SEPTEMBER 2020

SIGAR 20-53-SP



SIGAR

Office of the Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

September 15, 2020

The Honorable John Barsa
Acting Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Dr. Tina Dooley-Jones
USAID Mission Director for Afghanistan

In December 2016, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded DT Global (formerly AECOM International Development Inc.) a 5-year contract for \$87.9 million to execute the Strengthening Watershed and Irrigation Management (SWIM) program. The purpose of the program is to support the Government of Afghanistan in strengthening its water resource management capacity and increasing agricultural water productivity.

Based on the significant role agriculture plays in the Afghan economy and the need for water in light of the recent¹ devastating drought, SIGAR initiated a review of two elements of the SWIM program related to providing greater water capacity: drip irrigation² and irrigation canals. Our objectives were to determine the extent to which (1) drip irrigation demonstration plots are installed and being used, and (2) irrigation canals under construction are structurally sound and progressing as scheduled.

Of 72 installed drip irrigation demonstration plots, SIGAR inspected 25 of them and found that 23, or 92 percent, either were no longer installed or were not being used as intended. Afghan farmers told SIGAR inspectors that they were not using the drip irrigation system for various reasons, including (1) lack of water, (2) damaged system components, and (3) lack of fuel for the generator to operate the irrigation system.

SIGAR inspected six of the eight irrigation canals under construction³ and found that four were progressing according to schedule and appeared structurally sound. Construction of one canal was stopped in August 2019 because of subcontractor non-performance and as of May 2020 DT Global was still in the process of obtaining bids to award a new subcontract. Another canal had structural damage caused by the installation of a water line that broke through the canal wall, which compromised the integrity of the canal. We are making two recommendations in this report to enhance the impact, effectiveness, and oversight of two components of the SWIM program. SIGAR is recommending that the USAID Mission Director for Afghanistan

1. Take the appropriate oversight actions, including site visits, to ensure that the irrigation demonstration plots are being used as intended; and
2. Conduct an engineering evaluation of the water pipeline intersecting the Jalal Abad irrigation canal to determine what steps should be taken to maintain the integrity of both the canal and the water pipeline.

We provided a draft copy of this report to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for comment on August 5, 2020. We received comments on August 29, 2020. In its comments, USAID agreed with SIGAR's two recommendations. For the first recommendation, USAID stated it would (1) continue conducting follow-up

¹ The recent 2018 drought was the worst drought in decades. SIGAR October 2018 Quarterly Report p.133

² Drip irrigation is a crop irrigation system that can save water by controlling the delivery of water directly to individual plants through a network of tubes or pipes.

³ Two of the on-going irrigation canals being developed were not inspected due to security concerns.



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site visits to demonstration plot locations which began in September, 2019, and will continue this practice for the remainder of the project; and (2) request the Afghanistan Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Activity to conduct a third-party assessment of the demonstration plots to fully understand the reasons the plots are no longer being utilized. For the second recommendation, USAID stated that an engineering evaluation and assessment was completed at the two points where the water pipeline bisected the canal, and the structural issues at the two locations were addressed to protect the integrity of the canal and the water pipeline. USAID's full comments are included in appendix III.

We conducted our work in Washington, D.C. and Kabul Afghanistan from September 2019, through June 2020, in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*. SIGAR performed this work under the authority of Public Law No. 110-181, as amended, and the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Should you or your staff have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Benjamin Piccolo, Director of Special Projects, at (703) 545-2192 or benjamin.j.piccolo.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Sopko".

John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

The Afghan agricultural sector, which directly employs approximately 40 percent of Afghanistan’s labor force and supports an estimated 80 percent of the total population, forms the foundation of Afghanistan’s formal economy. Due to its economic significance, developing Afghanistan’s agricultural sector has long been a priority for donors. USAID’s current strategy states, “Agriculture, the biggest driver of the Afghan economy, presents major opportunities for job creation, poverty reduction, and economic growth.”⁴ A severe drought in 2018 affected large swaths of Afghanistan and amplified the urgent need to strengthen Afghanistan’s water resource management capacity.

Based on the growing need for water, SIGAR initiated a review of two elements of the SWIM program related to providing greater water capacity. Our objectives were to determine the extent to which (1) drip irrigation demonstration plots are installed and being used and (2) irrigation canals under construction are structurally sound and progressing as scheduled.

To accomplish these objectives, we selected 25 of 72 installed drip irrigation demonstration plots. The 25 installed drip irrigation demonstration plots were chosen by selecting the first plot installed in 2017 and then selecting the next 24 plots in chronological order from this starting point. We inspected six of the eight irrigation canals under construction for any structural concerns or any other issues that could prevent successful completion of the canals.⁵ Additionally, we obtained a construction schedule from DT Global that specifies when the canal projects are to be completed. We interviewed officials from USAID and DT Global. We did not use computer-processed data. We conducted our work in Washington, D.C., and Kabul, Afghanistan, from September 2019 through June 2020.

BACKGROUND

In December 2016, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded DT Global (formerly AECOM International Development Inc.) a 5-year contract for \$87.9 million to execute the Strengthening Watershed and Irrigation Management program (SWIM). As of April 8, 2020, \$26.44 million had been disbursed. The SWIM project’s objectives are to (1) support the Government of Afghanistan in strengthening water resource management capacity and coordinate with the USAID Regional Agriculture Development Programs to increase agricultural water productivity, (2) rehabilitate poor performing irrigation infrastructure and restore degraded-upland watersheds, (3) provide training to enhance the technical expertise of local entities to manage water resource, and (4) provide grants to communities and nongovernmental organizations to foster community watershed management. SWIM operates only in the northern region of Afghanistan; however, the contract has the option to allow the program to expand to the west and south after the initial phase.

As required for all programs, USAID provides oversight through the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan that is an essential step to manage the process of assessing and reporting progress towards achieving projects outputs and outcomes.

Two components of the SWIM program include the drip irrigation demonstration plot program and the construction of irrigation canals. The stated purpose of the drip irrigation demonstration plots is to strengthen the capacity of local entities to manage water resources by developing their technical capacity to sustainably manage water resources. In most cases farmers who participated in the drip irrigation demonstration plot project were provided with two bundles of plastic pipe with drip connection pipes, shovels, a wheelbarrow, a 2,000-liter water tank with steel stand, a 5KW generator, and approximately 4,000 Afghanis (about 53 USD) in cash for system installation. The 72 installed demonstration plots cost approximately \$75,535 (about \$1,049

⁴ SIGAR, Quarterly Report, April 2020, p.138.

⁵ Two of the ongoing irrigation canals being developed were not inspected due to security concerns.

per plot). An additional 80 plots in progress or planned will cost approximately \$146,419. According to the implementing partner, DT Global, subcontractors were hired to install the drip irrigation systems.

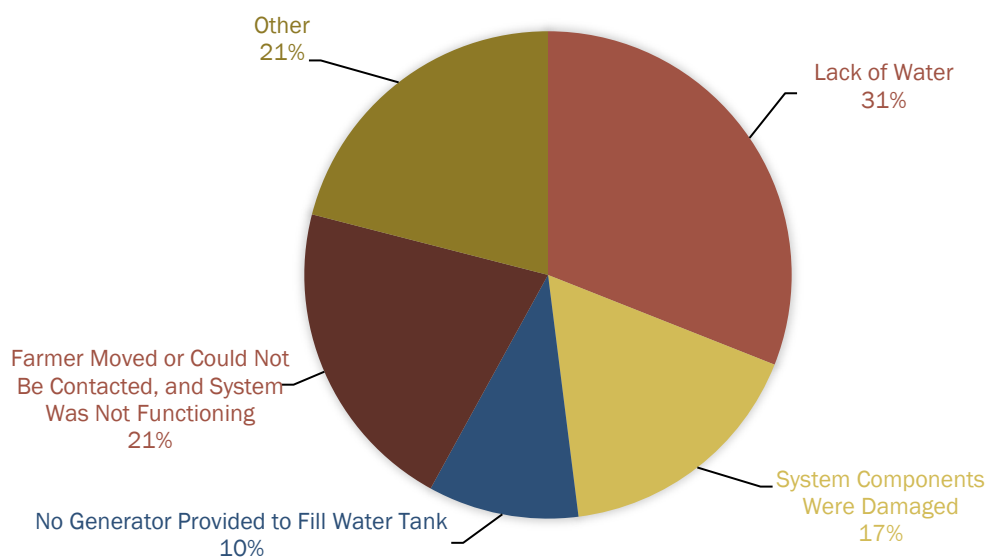
The second element of the SWIM program that SIGAR inspected was the construction of eight canals. Canal construction is expected to increase the sustainable and productive use of water in agriculture. The eight irrigation canals under construction are projected to cost about \$5 million.

TWENTY-THREE OF 25 DRIP IRRIGATION DEMONSTRATION PLOTS WERE NOT BEING USED AS INTENDED

SIGAR inspectors found that of the 25 drip irrigation demonstration plots inspected, 23 of them were not being used as intended. (See appendix I for complete list of plots reviewed and their status.) In many instances, the drip irrigation piping and other components used to irrigate the fields were removed from the field and were piled up in a corner of the farmer’s shed or house. Farmers told us they removed the drip irrigation systems from their fields for many reasons, including (1) lack of water; (2) damaged system components; (3) lack of a generator to fill the water tank; (4) the farmer moved or could not be contacted and the system wasn’t functioning; and (5) various other reasons why the system was not functioning (see Figure 1). Additionally, according to information provided by DT Global, subcontractors did not begin to conduct post-installation site visits to determine the irrigation system’s effectiveness until they were requested by USAID shortly before September 2019. Therefore, the plots SIGAR inspected that were installed in 2017 and 2018 never had a post-installation site visit. As a result, USAID was unaware that many of the drip irrigation systems were not being used.

Figure 1 depicts the reasons why the drip irrigation demonstration plots were not being used by the Afghan farmers.

Figure 1 - Reasons Why Drip Irrigation Systems Are Not Being Used



Source: SIGAR Inspection Reports

Examples of what SIGAR inspectors observed at three farms equipped with demonstration plots are described below to illustrate the problems we found.

Jalal Abad Village in Jowzjan Province

At one Jalal Abad village drip irrigation demonstration plot in Jowzjan Province, inspectors found all of the drip irrigation piping components had been removed from the field and haphazardly strewn about in the farmer's house. According to the farmer, he removed the drip irrigation pipes from the field because of a lack of water and due to a leak in the water tank.

Photo 1 - Irrigation Piping Components Stored within Farmer's House



Source: SIGAR, March 2, 2020

Qanjowgheh Village in Jowzjan Province

The farmer told our inspectors that the project was started and completed in 2017. There was no piping or drip system installed on site and all the system components were stored in the farmer's house. According to the farmer, the pipe components were removed due to the lack of water.

Photo 2 - Irrigation Piping Components Stored Within Farmer's House



Source: SIGAR, March 2, 2020

Jar Sayeda Village in Balkh Province

On this farm, the farmer told SIGAR inspectors that the drip irrigation project was completed in 2018. The SIGAR inspectors observed that the drip irrigation system was not installed and the components were located in the house. The farmer stated he removed the drip irrigation system because he could not afford fuel for the generator to operate the drip irrigation system.

Photo 3 - Irrigation Piping Components Stored Within Farmer's House



Source: SIGAR, March 16, 2020

FOUR OF SIX IRRIGATION CANALS WERE ON SCHEDULE AND APPEARED STRUCTURALLY SOUND WHILE PROBLEMS WERE IDENTIFIED AT TWO OTHERS

Of the six irrigation canals SIGAR examined that are part of the SWIM program, SIGAR inspectors found four were on schedule and appeared to be structurally sound (see appendix II for a complete list of irrigation canals). Below are two examples of canals that were on schedule and appeared structurally sound—Hasan Abad Canal and Joyzendan Canal.

Hasan Abad Canal

The Hasan Abad irrigation canal is 12.6 kilometers in length with a total irrigable area of 1,120 hectares and cost \$581,475 to construct. SIGAR inspectors who examined the irrigation canal on March 2, 2020, observed that the canal was complete. A community member said the canal was very useful to the community because the canal will help avoid wasting water.

Photo 4 - Hasan Abad Canal



Source: SIGAR, March 2, 2019

Photo 5 - Hasan Abad Canal



Source: SIGAR, March 2, 2020

Joyzendan Canal

The Joyzendan irrigation canal is planned to be 3.19 kilometers in length with a total irrigable area of 760 hectares and cost \$236,145. As of May 2, 2020, construction work on the canal was ongoing, with about 50 percent of work completed, according to SIGAR inspectors. SIGAR interviewed the SWIM engineer on-site, who said that the canal's completion date is expected to be September 25, 2020.

Photo 6 - Joyzendan Canal



Source: SIGAR, March 17, 2020

Photo 7 - Joyzendan Canal



Source: SIGAR, March 17, 2020

Despite the progress being made at four canals, we identified problems at the two remaining canals we inspected. First, the Balkh canal is experiencing significant delays as a result of DT Global having to replace the subcontractor to complete the canal. Second, the Jalal Abad canal had been intersected by a water pipeline that threatened the canal's structural integrity (see appendix III for the status of the canals).

Balkh Canal

The Balkh irrigation canal is planned to be 14.4 kilometers in length with a total irrigable area of 5,040 hectares. The canal was scheduled to be completed by April 2020, at a cost of approximately \$1 million. However, according to SIGAR inspectors who interviewed the canal site engineer on March 5, 2020, work on the project had stopped because the subcontractor had been fired for non-performance. According to the site engineer, the construction work for this canal was started in 2018 and the subcontractor was terminated in August 2019. At the time the contract was terminated a little more than 50 percent of the work had been completed.

In May 2020, DT Global, the implementing partner, told SIGAR inspectors that it is performing maintenance with local laborers on the canal and a new Request for Performance (RFP) has been prepared and will be competed with a selected group of contractors. The current estimated completion date for the Balkh canal project is now January 2021. Additionally, DT Global informed SIGAR that the terminated subcontractor had not been paid for work that was not completed and DT Global had completed a review of cost and technical proposals for the completion of the canal and does not anticipate needing additional funds to complete the project.

Photo 8 - Balkh Canal



Source: SIGAR, March 5, 2019

Photo 9 - Balkh Canal



Source: SIGAR, March 5, 2019

Jalal Abad Canal

The Jalal Abad irrigation canal is planned to be 8.56 kilometers in length with a total irrigable area of 2,200 hectares and cost about \$1.1 million. According to SIGAR inspectors who examined the irrigation canal and interviewed a site engineer on March 2, 2020, the construction work was started in September 2018, and was completed in December 2019. The construction work included both stone masonry and irrigation gates.

Overall, the canal construction appeared structurally sound; however, a section of the wall had been breached to install a water pipeline (See photos below). According to SIGAR engineers, this situation could pose a threat both to the functioning and the integrity of the canal. For example, (1) the irrigation water supply could be insufficient due to the breach in the canal walls, (2) the supporting soil stability around the canal walls could be compromised by water flowing into the intersecting water pipeline trench, (3) the stability of the water pipeline trench could become compromised over time by irrigation water flooding, and (4) over time the degradation of a protective steel pipe sleeve—due to rust and water flow erosion—covering the water pipeline could cause the pipe sleeve to crack or break leading to a damaged or broken waterline.

Photo 10 - Section of Jalal Abad Canal Wall Breached to Install a Water Pipeline



Source: SIGAR, March 2, 2020

Photo 11 - Different Angle of Jalal Abad Canal Wall Breached to Install a Water Pipeline



Source: SIGAR, May 20, 2020

CONCLUSION

Improving the delivery of water to Afghanistan farmland is a well-intentioned and a worthwhile goal. However, 23 of the first 25 demonstration projects funded by USAID are not being used as intended, due to, among other things, a lack of water or the need for a generator to fill the water tanks. Unless USAID provides the oversight required, there is a risk that funds will be wasted for the other 47 installed demonstration plots in the initial group of projects as well as 80 more planned. In addition, the Jalal Abad irrigation canal appears to have structural defects. If left unattended, these issues could undermine the project's intended agricultural benefits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To enhance the impact, effectiveness and oversight of the SWIM project, SIGAR is recommending that the USAID Mission Director for Afghanistan:

- 1. Take the appropriate oversight actions, including site visits to ensure that the demo plots are being used as intended.**
- 2. Conduct an engineering evaluation of the water pipeline intersecting the Jalal Abad irrigation canal to determine what steps should be taken to maintain the integrity of both the canal and the water pipeline.**

AGENCY COMMENTS

In its comments, USAID agreed with SIGAR's two recommendations. For the first recommendation, USAID stated it would: (1) continue conducting follow-up site visits to demonstration plot locations which began in September 2019 and continue this practice for the remainder of the project, and (2) request the Afghanistan Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Activity to conduct a third-party assessment of the demonstration plots to fully understand the reasons the plots are no longer being utilized. Although USAID requested that we close this recommendation, the recommendation will remain open until we receive supporting documentation to confirm that the third party assessment was completed and is being used to guide selection of future demonstration plots.

For the second recommendation, USAID stated that an engineering evaluation and assessment was completed at the two points where the water pipeline bisected the canal, and the structural issues at the two locations were addressed to protect the integrity of the canal and the water pipeline. Although USAID requested that we also close this recommendation, it will remain open until we receive supporting documentation to confirm that appropriate actions were taken.

APPENDIX I - DRIP IRRIGATION DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

Table 1 - Drip Irrigation Demonstration Plots

Name of Drip Irrigation Demonstration Plot	Observations	
	Does the plot appear to be functioning as intended? (Yes/No)	Are there any maintenance problems with the plot? (Yes/No)
Hasan Abad (Asamuddin)	No	Yes
Hasan Abad - Qasim	No	Yes
Jalal Abad (Abdul Wahab)	No	Yes
Jalal Abad (Mohammad Berdi)	No	Yes
Qanjowgheh (Haji Mohammad)	No	Yes
Qanjowgheh (Aafizullah)	Yes	No
Ghaznigaki Ibrahim Khel	No	Yes
Jalal Abad (Haji Shasayed)	Farm not located	Farm not located
Jo-i-Zandan	No	Yes
Kushka (Haji Muhtabar Shah)	No	Yes
Balkh (Najibullah)	No	Yes
Char Sang (Nasrullah)	No	Yes
Char Sang (Haji Alamshah)	No	Yes
Zowli (Ali Asghar)	No	Yes
Zowli (Mohammad)	No	Yes
Palo (Maryam)	No	Yes
Qezel Kend	No	Yes
Qezel Kend (Ata Mohammad)	No	Yes
Khairabad (Malim Qurban)	No	Yes
Torpighle (Abdul Hakim)	No	Yes
Qipchaq (Haji Bismullah)	No	Yes
Jar Sayeda (Rasoul)	No	Yes
Aka Khel (Gul Zaman)	No	Yes
Aka Khel (Hakim)	No	Yes
Aka Khel (Amir Jan)	No	Yes

Source: SIGAR Inspection Reports

APPENDIX II - IRRIGATION CANALS COMPLETED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Table 2 - Irrigation Canals Completed or Under Construction

Name of Canal	Province	Length (km)	Estimated Start and End Dates	Cost of Canal (USD)	Current Status of Irrigation Canal According to Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) and DT Global
Balkh	Balkh	14.4	June 2020 – Jan 2021	\$983,465	As of March 5, 2020, no work was being done because the contractor was fired for non-performance in August 2019. At the time, only 53.1% of the work had been completed. As of May 2, a new request for proposal was competed with a group of contractors and the revised completion date is January 2021.
Hasan Abad	Jowzjan	12.6	Joint work scheduled for May–July 2020	\$581,476	As of March 2, 2020, canal construction work was completed. However, the area around the canal was backfilled but not compacted indicating that some work was ongoing.
Jalal Abad	Jowzjan	8.56	Joint work scheduled for May–July 2020	\$1,091,968	This canal was inspected on March 2, 2020. According to the Strengthening Watershed and Irrigation Management (SWIM) program engineer, construction was completed in December 2019. However, some issues were identified threatening the functioning and integrity of the canal due to the installation of a water pipeline.
Qanjughha	Jowzjan	9.8	Joint work scheduled for May–July 2020	\$443,943	This canal was inspected on March 2, 2020. According to the SWIM engineer, construction was completed in December 2019. However, the area around the canal was backfilled but not compacted indicating that some work was ongoing.
Joyzendan	Samangan	3.19	Contractor is on site and work is ongoing	\$236,145	As of May 2, 2020, construction work on the canal was ongoing, with about 50 percent of work completed.

Choghi	Samangan	7.22	Contractor is on site and work is ongoing	\$245,421	As of May 2, 2020, construction work on the canal was ongoing, with about 46 percent of work completed.
Qadeem Intake and Canal	Balkh	20.58	Dec 2019 – Jul 2021	\$1,052,534	Due to security concerns, IWA did not conduct an inspection at this canal construction site.
Shah Gadai	Balkh	4.3	Dec 2019 – Jun 2020	\$272,692	Due to security concerns, IWA did not conduct an inspection at this canal construction site.
Total				\$4,907,643	

Source: SIGAR Inspection Reports



MEMORANDUM

August 28, 2020

TO: John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)

FROM: Tina Dooley-Jones, Mission Director *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Mission Response to draft SIGAR Special Project Report titled: "USAID's Afghanistan Drip Irrigation Demonstration Project: Most Demonstration Plots that SIGAR Inspected Were Not Being Used as Intended" (SIGAR-20-XX-SP)

REF: SIGAR Transmittal Email dated August 5, 2020

USAID would like to thank SIGAR for the opportunity to comment on the draft "USAID's Afghanistan Drip Irrigation Demonstration Project: Most Demonstration Plots that SIGAR Inspected Were Not Being Used as Intended" report.

In December 2016, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded DT Global (formerly AECOM International Development Inc.) a five-year contract for \$87.9 million to execute the Strengthening Watershed and Irrigation Management program (SWIM). As of June 30, 2020, \$42.6 million had been expended.

The Afghan agricultural sector, which directly employs approximately 40% of Afghanistan's labor force and supports an estimated 80% of the total population, forms the foundation of Afghanistan's formal economy. Due to its economic significance, developing Afghanistan's agricultural sector has long been a priority for donors. USAID's current strategy states that "agriculture, the biggest driver of the Afghan economy, presents major opportunities for job creation, poverty reduction, and economic growth." A severe drought in 2018 affected large swaths of Afghanistan and amplified the urgent need to strengthen Afghanistan's water resource management capacity.

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USAID Afghanistan noted that SIGAR inspectors found that of the 25 drip irrigation demonstration plots in the sample, 23 of them were not being used as intended. In many instances the drip irrigation piping and other components used to irrigate the fields were removed from the field and were piled up in a corner of the farmer's shed or house. Farmers told SIGAR they removed the drip irrigation systems from their fields for many reasons, including: (1) lack of water; (2) damaged system components; (3) lack of a generator to fill the water tank; and (4) various other reasons, such as, the need to build a new house on the farm land. Additionally, according to information provided by DT Global, the sub-contractors did not begin to conduct post installation site visits to determine the irrigation system's effectiveness until they were requested by USAID shortly before September 2019.

The draft report states that SIGAR inspected six of the eight irrigation canals under construction and found that four were progressing according to schedule and appeared structurally sound. Construction of the Balkh canal was stopped in September 2019 for non-performance and during the SIGAR inspection DT Global was in the process of obtaining bids to award a new subcontract. In June 2020, SWIM awarded a new subcontract for the Balkh canal with a completion date of March 2021. The SIGAR inspection identified structural damage to the Jalal Abad canal in Jawzjan province caused by the installation of a water line that broke through the canal wall and compromised the integrity of the canal.

To enhance the impact, effectiveness, and oversight of two components of the SWIM program, SIGAR recommends the USAID Mission in Afghanistan to:

- 1. Take the appropriate oversight actions, including site visits, to ensure that the irrigation demonstration plots are being used as intended.*

USAID/Afghanistan concurs with the recommendation.

As SIGAR reported, the SWIM program has been conducting follow-up site visits to demonstration plot locations since September 2019. As shown in Table 1 below, SWIM's monitoring and evaluation team conducted 35

follow-up site visits in late 2019 and is continuing this practice within a three- to six-month period following the installation of equipment at each demonstration plot location during 2020 and shall continue this practice for the remainder of the project.

Table 1. Follow-up site visits conducted by SWIM in 2019.

Province	Total demo plots established	Total demo plots surveyed
Balkh	31	11
Samangan	21	10
Baghlan	6	0
Jawzjan	14	14
Total	72	35

USAID/Afghanistan will request the Afghanistan Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Activity (AMELA), to conduct a third-party assessment of the demonstration plots to fully understand the reasons the plots are no longer being utilized, and to continue carrying out third party monitoring of SWIM's Component 2 and 3 activities in addition to SWIM's follow up site visits.

SWIM's follow-up site visits and the AMELA assessments will guide the selection and implementation of future demonstration plots for SWIM and other OAG activities involved in demonstrating new technologies.

Based on the above actions, USAID/Afghanistan requests closure of Recommendation 1.

2. *Conduct an engineering evaluation of the water pipeline intersecting the Jalal Abad irrigation canal to determine what steps should be taken to maintain the integrity of both the canal and the water pipeline.*

USAID/Afghanistan concurs with the recommendation.

The SWIM program is aware of the World Bank's Citizen's Charter Afghanistan Project, managed by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) that is installing a water supply pipeline adjacent to the Jalalabad canal and that this pipeline crosses the canal at two points where SWIM is rehabilitating the canal.

SWIM conducted an engineering evaluation at one crossing point in early July 2020 and corrected the situation to ensure the integrity of both the canal and the water pipeline. The MRRD and officials from the River Basin Authority and local communities were consulted and approved the measures undertaken by SWIM.

MRRD completed its pipeline work in August 2020 and SWIM has conducted an engineering assessment for the second crossing point. SWIM has addressed the structural issues at the two locations where the pipeline bisects the canal to protect the integrity of the canal and the water pipeline.

Based on the above actions, USAID/Afghanistan requests closure of Recommendation 2.

cc: Blake Chrystal, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/Afghanistan
Jeffrey Levine, Director Office of Agriculture, USAID/Afghanistan
Elizabeth A. Chambers, Controller, USAID/Afghanistan
U.S. Embassy/Kabul
OAPA Audit

This project was conducted
under project code SP-229.

SIGAR's Mission

The mission of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) is to enhance oversight of programs for the reconstruction of Afghanistan by conducting independent and objective audits, inspections, and investigations on the use of taxpayer dollars and related funds. SIGAR works to provide accurate and balanced information, evaluations, analysis, and recommendations to help the U.S. Congress, U.S. agencies, and other decision-makers to make informed oversight, policy, and funding decisions to:

- improve effectiveness of the overall reconstruction strategy and its component programs;
- improve management and accountability over funds administered by U.S. and Afghan agencies and their contractors;
- improve contracting and contract management processes;
- prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and
- advance U.S. interests in reconstructing Afghanistan.

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