




**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 22, 2014

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

**FROM:** Sepideh Keyvanshad, Acting Mission Director 

**SUBJECT:** Response to the Inquiry Letter (SIGAR-14-89-SP)

**REF:** SIGAR-14-89-SP- Inquiry Letter- Korak Uzbeki School Collapse  
in Sar-i-Pul, Afghanistan dated September 9, 2014

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the media reports of a roof collapse at the Korak Uzbeki School in Sar-i-Pul that injured students. The school in question was built under the World Bank's Educational Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) in 2011. USAID did not provide any funding for EQUIP in 2011, and, therefore, did not contribute to the Korak Uzbeki School or its construction. USAID has contacted World Bank to learn more about the circumstances surrounding this incident.

- 1. Has USAID independently confirmed the recent media reports of the damaged school in the Kork area of Sar-i-Pul Province and determined whether it was constructed using NSP funds?*

The school is not a part of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP). The World Bank has indicated that the school is located in the Kawarak village in Sar-i-Pul province. It was built in 2011 under EQUIP by the local shura (community council) via a community contract.

- 2. Additionally, has USAID asked the World Bank, which administers USAID's support of the NSP through the ARTF, what it has done to verify the recent media reports concerning the damaged school?*

The World Bank confirmed the school was not constructed under the NSP and was not funded by USAID. The World Bank also advised USAID that the

Ministry of Education (MoE) confirmed the school's roof did not collapse on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, and there was no structural failure. Rather the plaster ceiling in one of the classrooms separated from the roof structure and fell on the students, injuring a total of 27 primary grade students. The World Bank informed USAID that a MoE School Monitoring Team visited the students in the hospital and visited the school, verifying these facts.

3. *If the school was built by the NSP as reported, what have USAID and the World Bank done to determine (a) why the classroom's roof collapsed and (b) who was responsible for the construction and maintenance of the school building? What has NSP done to hold those responsible accountable?*

The World Bank confirmed the school was not constructed under the NSP, and was not funded by USAID. The World Bank team, including its engineer, is working closely with the MoE's infrastructure department (ISD) on improving quality and monitoring of school construction.

Should you require further information on this school ceiling incident please consult directly with the World Bank.