**Project Title and Code:** SIGAR LL-02: Lessons Learned from Aid Coordination in Afghanistan  
**Date:** January 26, 2015  
**Interviewees:** Grant McLeod, Subject Matter Expert / Consultant  
**Location:** Kabul, Afghanistan

**Purpose:**

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**Summary of Key Discussion:**

- Aid coordination went through a dramatic reform between 1998 – to 2011; OECD; Busan recognizes fragility, but is anchored in the idea of recipient as mature partner; Who will own the agenda when there is a non-existent partner?; Afghanistan could not express development agenda; CG was dying standard; Idea came from WB work after WW II; Mode of crisis meant no plan or new mechanism; Want to move quick; No staff stability; Longer time horizon leads to stability in coordination;

- Afghanistan is not typical; Politically driven; Political agendas lead to trying to make capitals happy; Funding is not always altruistic; TMAF is robust, but some benchmarks are impossible; Can lead to money not going forward; Incentivization right now;

- No government took wind out of sails; Tests robustness of system; The Afghan government wants to revisit the aid coordination system; They have developed a plan for the reform agenda tabled at the London Conference; Donors seeking to support it; Government review of donor portfolios was not formal; Donors coordinated themselves;

- 5+3 functions well; Ambassador level; Heads of Agency level; Info sharing in Afghanistan is good; Executive model allows for coordination for easy stuff, but hard stuff is bilateral; Coordination was best with equal partners; US is quite cooperative; Nordics follow Paris; Other donors would never let go that much;

- The JCMB is a neutral structure; It is an inclusive body, not a Board of Directors; Does not have a clearly defined objective or work program; It is a good forum for communication, not decisions;

**Follow-up:**

- None