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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

QUARTERLY REPORT
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013



The Farah DRRD launched the Farah Service Providers Fair on December 8th, which was attended by 2,000 people.

JANUARY 2014

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QUARTERLY REPORT
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013

Submitted to:

USAID Afghanistan

Prepared by:

AECOM International Development

DISCLAIMER:

The authors' views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

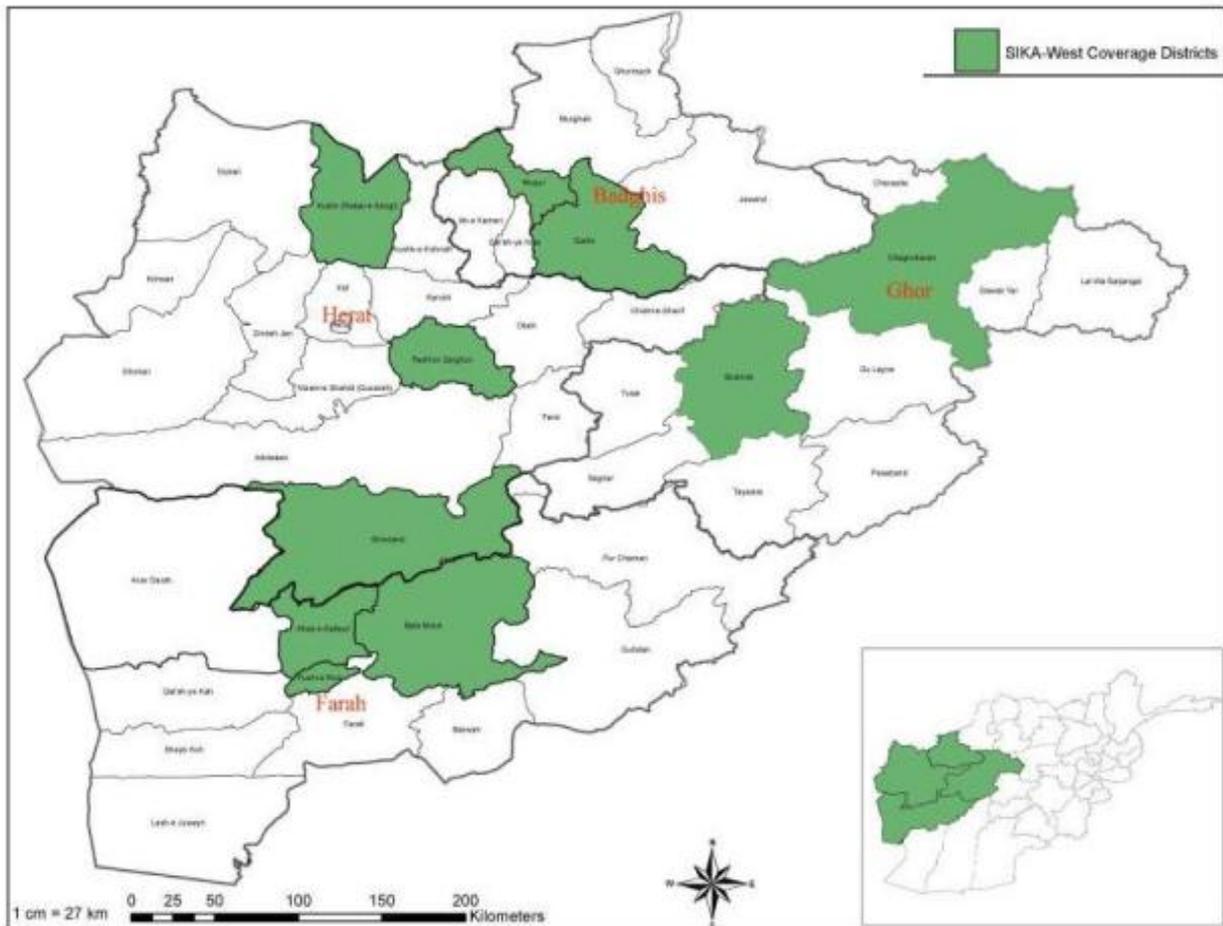
AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CBGD	Capacity Building and Gender Department
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industries
CDC	Community Development Councils
CHA	Coordination in Humanitarian Assistance
COP	Chief of Party
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Portfolio
DE	District Entities
DoLSA	Department of Labor and Social Affairs
DoWA	Department of Women’s Affairs
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DRRD	Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DSC	District Stabilization Committee
DSM	District Stability Matrix
DST	District Support Team
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IR	Intermediate Result
MISTI	Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Intervention
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
OSC	Overseas Strategic Consulting
PST	Provincial Support Team
SAM	Stability Analysis Mechanism
SIKA	Stability in Key Areas
SOI	Source of Instability
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

BACKGROUND

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) – West program on January 29, 2012. Following this initial award AECOM’s implementing partner, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) signed an implementation letter in late August 2012, which allowed the program to move ahead with rollout, beyond the original pilot district of Bala Boluk. The SIKA-West program is intended to support Provincial and District Governments, and to increase stability and pave the way for transition in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor. This program is administered through the MRRD in cooperation with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) working in partnership with USAID and AECOM.

This report summarizes SIKA-West activities undertaken within the four Intermediate Results (IRs) and the overarching capacity building and gender program components during the months of October-December 2013. The report provides a programmatic overview of the IRs and then breaks activities down by geographic focus, detailing successes and challenges in the four provinces and 10 districts where SIKA-West works. The report also details SIKA-West relations with MRRD, IDLG, communities and other stakeholders. A map outlining the 10 districts where SIKA-West works is below.

Map I: SIKA-West Implementation Districts



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STABILIZATION SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting period, in cooperation with the relevant District Governors' Offices, 26 DSC meetings were organized. The meetings reached a total of 1,833 people (374 female and 1,459 male) in Farah, Herat, Badghis, and Ghor Provinces (*See chart 1 for details*). Participants included line-department representatives, District Development Assembly (DDA) members, religious and tribal leaders, and community observers. These DSC meetings provided an opportunity to prioritize previously proposed mitigation activities and discuss the impact of the first contract period project activities.

As of the reporting date, Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRC) have been established in all 10 target districts. Conflict resolution training has been provided to the TCRCs to enable them to identify, prioritize, and resolve conflicts at the district level. During December, the TCRCs resolved five conflicts in Pashtun Zarghun, Muqur, Chaghcharan, and Pusht-e Rod Districts.

The Chaghcharan TCRC successfully mediated and resolved the conflicts among the Taimani tribes during a weeklong series of meetings and discussions among representatives of three sub-tribes from Taimani tribes from December 4th to 12th. The Taimani tribes were in conflicts dating from 1984 over a murder. During these years, many people have been killed or lost their property. The TCRC invited the representatives of these tribes, the Ghor Province High Peace Council, and the Chaghcharan Deputy Provincial Governor to mediate among the conflicting parties. Following a total of five meetings with the different parties, they came to an agreement that they would stop creating problems. The conflicting parties agreed to help the displaced families return to their villages and recover their properties.

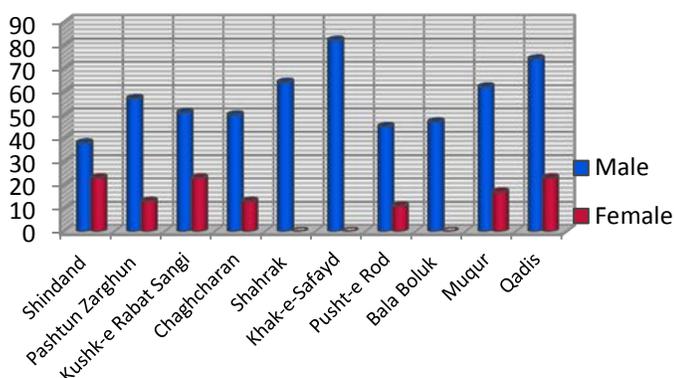
Below is a table detailing SIKA-West's progress towards achieving Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicator targets. Currently, second year indicator targets have been prepared for USAID approval and are included in this report.

Table I- IRI PMP Targets

Provincial and district entities increasingly address sources of instability and take measures to respond to the population's development and governance concerns

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	100	26	105
1.2	Increase in percentage of SIKA-West target districts where DEs use the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) methodology to identify and address sources of instability (SOIs)	100%	100%	0%	100% 10/10 Districts

Chart 1: Quarterly Average DSC meeting participants disaggregated by gender



#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
1.3	Number of activities planned against SOIs identified through SAM stabilization work sessions in SIKA-West districts	105	150	20	512
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	3,000	710	4,180
1.5	Number of activities which address identified SOIs and included in a District Project Portfolio (DPP), which is approved by the DRRD	70	240	5	286
1.6	Number of target districts in which the SAM tool has been used to identify activities that mitigate SOIs	7	10	10	10

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the quarter, district entities completed 37 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans, such as producing a series of factsheets, conducting coordination meetings, and disseminating awareness raising messages.

The Districts Governors, women and youth associations in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Muqur, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shahrak, and Chaghcharan organized 37 public meetings with total participation of 2,292 men and 495 women. These meetings focused on Peace, Stability and Education in the community.

As part of the activities to build the capacity of the district entities to find financial resources from third party organizations for their proposed projects, 19 Advocacy and Concept Note trainings were provided to CDC members and youths (168 men, 43 women) in Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shindand, Muqur, Qadis, Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, Khak-e-Safayd, Chaghcharan, and Shahrak Districts.

The Herat Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) was approved by the Herat DRRD and the Directorate of Information and Culture. The distribution process will be started by late January. The Ghor SPC is under review by SIKA-West, and the Badghis SPC is under review by USAID. During December, 115 copies of the Farah SPC have been distributed to the district entities and influential people.

Table 2 - IR2 PMP Targets

Provincial and district entities understand which organizations and line departments work within their geographic areas, what kind of services they provide, and how the population can access those services.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
2.1	Number of DEs and PAs using the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC)	21	30	51	51
2.2	Number of technical assistance activities provided to DEs by SIKA-West for the development of a project which has the potential for support from a provider listed in the SPC	36	50	54	54

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
2.3	Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the SPC	7	10	0	0
2.4	Number of people who received information provided by District Entities about services listed in the SPC via visits, radio, TV, e-mail, and letter	26,400	32,534	54,350	54,350
2.5	Number of training workshops held on Service Provider Catalogue usage for District Entities	9	50	51	64

Table 3 - IR3 PMP Targets

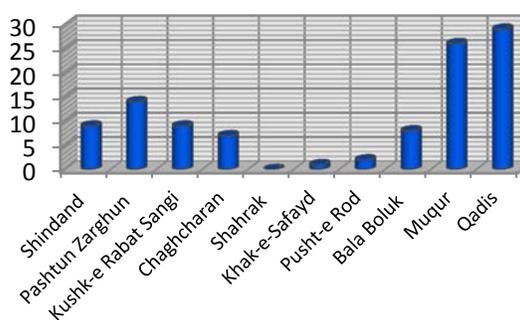
Provincial authorities (PAs) improve their ability to communicate with district entities to help them better understand their population's needs and prioritize basic service delivery interventions.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
3.1	Percent increase in the number of regular meetings held between Provincial authorities and DEs	30%	30%	NTR	NTR ¹
3.2	Percent increase in the district residents reporting that District Entities listen to their grievances	15%	15%	NTR	NTR
3.3	Number of PAs and DEs with a communications strategy or plan in place	9	8	2	15
3.4	Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs or PAs as outlined in the communications strategy or plan	9	16	37	106
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	80	7	77

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

As of the reporting date, 107 refurbishment projects were ongoing in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e Safayd, Qadis, Muqur, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, and Shindand Districts (See chart 2&3). These projects include refurbishment of several important community buildings and the construction of water dividers. Local CDCs implement these programs under Fixed Obligation Grants, with oversight provided by the MRRD/Stability Program Community Mobilizers and M&E personnel. DSC members identified all grant-related sub-projects.

Chart 2: Number of ongoing refurbishment projects per district



¹ A baseline for this indicator has been collected for Herat, Badghis, and Farah and will be collected from Ghor Province prior to the end of the first contract period. The impact assessment will be conducted during the first quarter of the option period.

As of the reporting date, 27 refurbishment projects were completed, including ten projects in Bala Boluk, six projects in Pusht-e Rod, two projects in Chaghcharan, four projects in Muqur, and five projects in Qadis District. These projects included community center refurbishment, water dividers, culverts and aqueduct construction.

During the quarter, 66 new refurbishment projects worth \$109,293 in community contribution were awarded to the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Pashtun Zarghun, Chaghcharan, Muqur, and Qadis Districts CDCs.

Five-day Project Management trainings were provided to 413 members of 92 CDCs in all 10 target districts. Following these trainings, the CDCs will receive their first milestone payments, allowing them to break ground on labor-intensive projects in their villages.

Chart 3: Number of refurbishment projects (ongoing/completed)

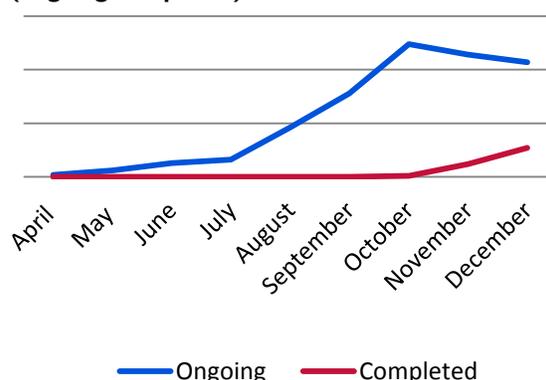


Table 4- IR4 PMP Targets

Provincial authorities improve basic service delivery by using GIRoA, CDCs, DDAs and ASOP DCCs. These bodies improve capacity to plan, design, implement and monitor tasks, with a focus on labor-intensive projects or productive infrastructure.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against SOIs	72	120	102 started	201 ²
4.2	Percentage of population in targeted districts reporting increased satisfaction with GIRoA basic services	15%	15%	NTR	NTR
4.3	Percent increase of district residents reporting basic services in target districts are delivered in a fair and transparent manner	25%	25%	NTR	NTR
4.4	Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions	9,000	46,800	12,043 ³	12,043
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	120	102	201
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	216,000	700,000	132,875	322,104
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	120	3	69
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	9,600	11,668	11,668 ⁴

² As of the reporting date, 37 projects have been completed and 164 projects are ongoing.

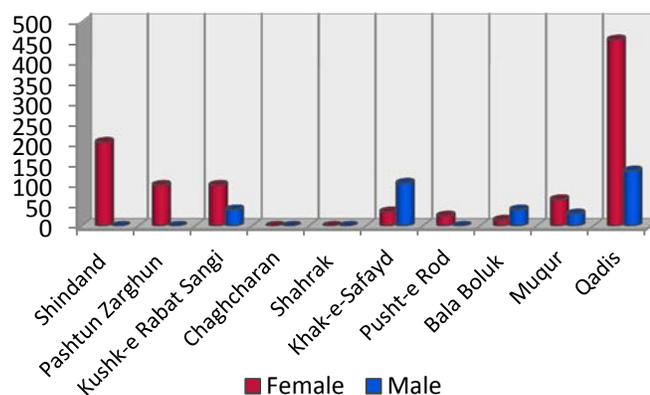
³ This figure is measured once the grant is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

⁴ This figure is measured once the training is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

As of the reporting date, 59 vocational trainings grants worth \$38,588 in community contributions and 12 non-grant vocational trainings are ongoing. These trainings are designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services for women in target districts of SIKA-West. In total, 350 men and 1,000 women are benefiting from these training courses (See chart 4).

Chart 4: Number of vocational trainings trainees in each district



A total of 47 interventions for women, including trainings and meetings, increased female participation in District Entity activities and decision making process. The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Women's Association organized a public meeting with 82 people including *Ulema*, government officials and women on December 4th. The District Governor highlighted the importance of women in community development and peace.

On December 3rd, two literacy courses in Chin Farsi and Chin Afghani villages in Pusht-e Rod District were completed. Twenty-five local men and twenty-five local women learned basic literacy skills during the nine-month trainings. The six-month auto-mechanic training for 15 men in Garmak village in Bala Boluk District was completed on November 6th.

Five literacy courses in Shindand District were completed. During the nine-month trainings, 125 women learned basic literacy skills. Four literacy course graduates from Nasr Abad village in Shindand District successfully passed the entrance exam of the Education Department and were enrolled in the 7th grade class.

The Shindand carpet weaving students in Qala Rahmdel, Qala Mohammad, Chahar Goosh and Rabat Zoriha villages sold 59 of the carpets they weaved and earned \$3,000. The CDCs give 50% of the income to the students and buy carpet weaving materials with the rest of the income.

Table 5- Gender and Program PMP objectives

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
6	Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services (Assets, credit, income or employment)	10%	25%	0%	7.5%
7	Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/ programming	75%	75%	NTR	NTR
8	Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entities activities	27	36	47	131
9	Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	110	92	233

PROVINCIAL & DISTRICT OVERVIEW

FARAH PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

In order to improve communication and planning between existing provincial and district entities on gender issues, SIKA-West organizes regular meetings at the provincial level. On October 30th, the Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 15 people from organizations interested in gender activities. The participants shared their gender activities in Farah Province. The DoWA Director recognized the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program for providing vocational and literacy programs for women in insecure villages and asked other organizations to work in those areas as well.

The monthly coordination meeting between the Farah Provincial Governor and the Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, and Khak-e-Safayd Districts Governors was held on November 12th. The SIKA-West IDLG Regional Coordinator and the DRRD Director attended the meeting as well. The Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod DGs briefed the Provincial Governor on the status of the projects in their districts, especially the handover ceremony of the completed projects. The Khak-e-Safayd DG provided an overview of the sources of instability in the district.

On November 5th, 10 projects, which included construction of 79 water dividers in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts, were officially handed over to the Farah DRRD. More than 70 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs, and media attended the event. “Implementation of such projects build trust between the government and the community,” said the Bala Boluk district Governor. “These water dividers will improve the irrigation systems,” said the Tapa Sadat CDC Head.

The Farah DRRD launched the Farah Service Providers Fair on December 8th. More than 30 government and non-government organizations presented their services to 2,000 community members. “The Farah Service Providers Fair is an initiative by Farah DRRD to inform the people about the available services provided by government and non-government organizations,” said the DRRD Director. The Deputy Provincial Governor highlighted the importance of such activities and said these initiatives will build trust between the government and the community. During the one-day fair, 90 copies of the Farah Service Providers Catalog (SPC) were distributed. The event was welcomed and broadcast by a number of local and national media.

On December 10th, a meeting was held between the Farah Provincial Governor, the DRRD Director and the Dehzak Bala CDC. The Dehzak Bala CDC delayed and stopped the implementation of the community center rehabilitation project without clear reasons. At the end of the meeting, the CDC agreed to restart the implementation of the project as soon as possible.



Eng. Rauf , the Farah DRRD Director cutting the ribbon at the Projects Completion Handover ceremony on November 5th.



More than 30 government and non-government organizations presented their services to 2,000 visitors at the Farah Service Providers Fair on December 8th.

A meeting was held with the Director of the Farah Chamber of Commerce and Industries Directorate (CCI) on December 30th. The meeting aimed to link the graduates of the vocational training with CCI in order to provide them with job opportunities. A list of 26 men and women who graduated from tailoring, embroidery, auto-mechanic, and mobile phone repairing courses was submitted. The Director of CCI will send the list to their main office in Kabul for further support. Further updates on this initiative will be provided.

TRAINING:

In line with the Communications & Outreach Department activities, training on the use of the Farah Service Provider Catalog (SPC) was provided to provincial government employees on October 13th. On October 26th, the same training was also provided to the representatives of departments of Transportation, Counter Narcotics, Gas and Petroleum and Finance.

BALA BOLUK DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

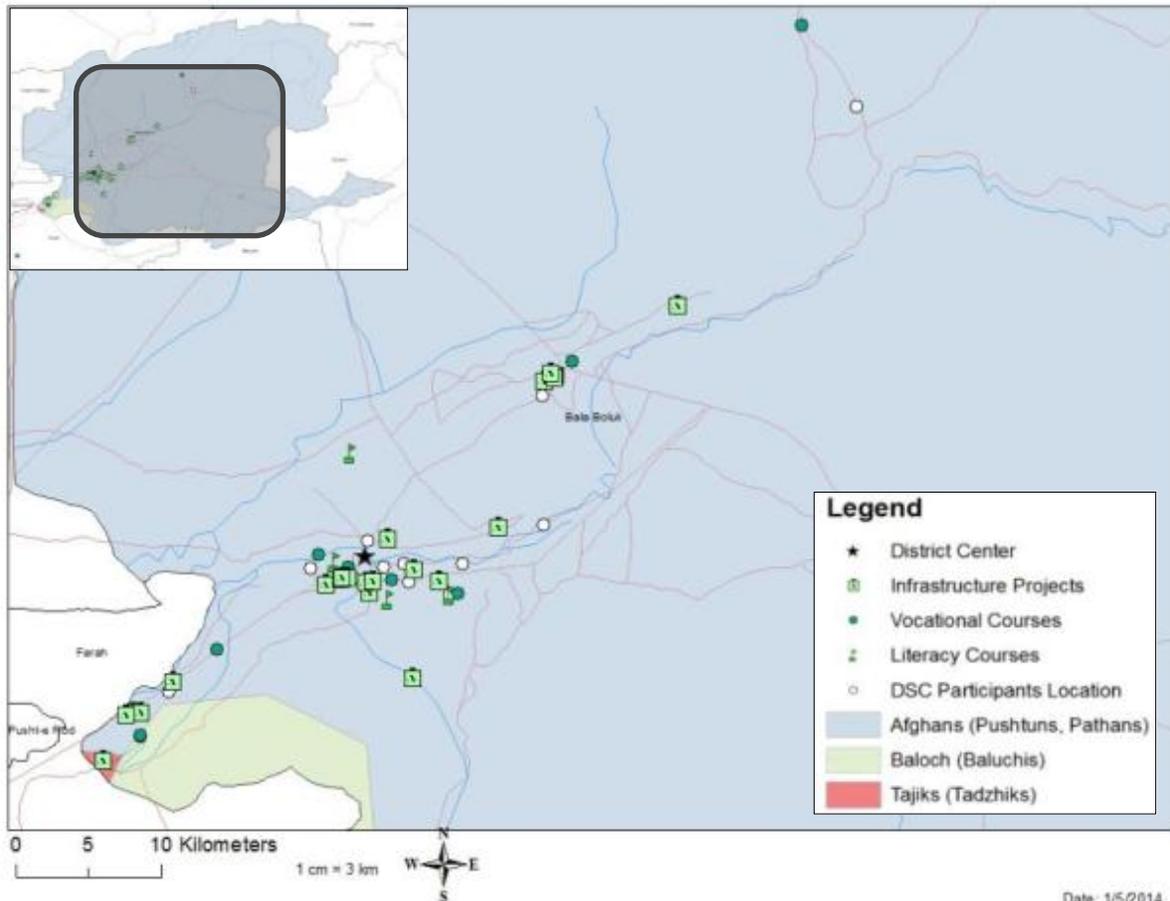
As part of the Stabilization Department's plan to have District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meetings independently led by DGs, Stability Analysis Mechanism training was provided to the Bala Boluk District Governor, together with selected DSC members. Following the training, the Bala Boluk District Governor successfully organized the 14th DSC meeting independently on October 22nd with 41 people in attendance. The DG briefed the participants on the status of the ongoing mitigation activities in the district. The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) was assigned to follow up on the tribal conflict in Kanesk village between Achakzai and Barakzai tribes. The Achakzai tribe accused the Barakzai tribe of killing the Achakzai Police Commander.

As a component of the Stabilization Department's Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) activities, Conflict Resolution Training was provided to 28 members of the Bala Boluk TCRC.

On December 21st, the Bala Boluk District Governor organized a meeting with 15 representatives of the Kochi district nomads. The Kochis shared their concerns including lack of veterinary facilities and lack of National Identity Cards (Tazkara). The DG will facilitate a meeting with the Provincial Governor and relevant departments to provide an opportunity for the Kochis' representatives to address these issues.

A pre-DSC meeting and training was held with the Bala Boluk District Governor on December 23rd. The DG was briefed on the agenda and talking points for the DSC meeting which was scheduled for December 25th. The Bala Boluk DSC meeting was held with participation of 54 people. Following the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training, the DSC members identified water disputes as sources of instability. To address these issues, the participants proposed 10 new projects.

Map 2: Bala Boluk Activities and DSC Members



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On October 9th, as part of the activities to boost agricultural production in Bala Boluk District, the Farmers’ Association, with the support of the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), provided ‘wheat cultivation’ training to 20 farmers. On November 11th, the Bala Boluk Farmers’ Association organized a “Hashar”, a traditional volunteer scheme, to clean a water canal in Kalkola village. Almost 50 farmers attended the event and cleaned the canal. “Such kinds of programs bring unity among the residents,” said an elder.



The Bala Boluk Farmers’ Association organized a ‘Hashar’, a traditional volunteer scheme, to clean a water canal in Kalkola village.

The Bala Boluk District Governor distributed Eid messages on October 14th. The DG printed 500 flyers and disseminated these flyers at public gatherings and bazaars.

On November 25th, the Bala Boluk Dokin CDC received support to develop and submit a concept note to Farah DRRD and DAIL in order to obtain funding for a project which was surveyed and designed five years ago and approved by the Ministry of Water and Power. Follow up meetings will be organized to assess the outcome of this initiative.

As part of the activities to help the Allah Dad Community Development Council (CDC) in Bala Boluk to find other resources to refurbish the Allah Dad community center, an Advocacy and Concept Note training was provided to nine members of this CDC on November 28th. A follow up training on ‘How to Develop a Concept Note’ training was provided to the CDC on December 24th. By the end of the training, the CDC drafted their concept note. Follow up training and mentoring will be provided to this CDC to finalize their concept note and submit it to the third party organizations including Haj and Religious Affairs Department and Ulema Shura.

The Bala Boluk District Governor held a meeting with 18 youths to listen to their challenges and problems on December 30th. Youth shared their concerns including lack of education facilities in the villages. The DG assigned his representative to facilitate a meeting with the Directorate of Education to address these issues.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five-day Project Management training was provided to 20 members of five CDCs from Bala Boluk from October 1st to 6th. The same training was provided to 16 members of four CDCs from Bala Boluk on December 21st.

As of the reporting date, 10 light refurbishment projects have been completed including refurbishment of one community center and construction of 70 water dividers.

CDCs are implementing eight labor intensive refurbishment grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Boluk District.



A recently completed water divider in Upper Shiwan-Naser Zoo - Bala-Boluk.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Three literacy course graduates from Dehzak village in Bala Boluk District successfully passed the entrance exam of the Education Department and were enrolled in the 5th grade class. The six-month auto-mechanic training for 15 men in Garmak village in Bala Boluk District was completed on November 6th. Coordination will be done with the third party organizations to link these graduates to market.

CDCs are implementing one auto-mechanic (20 men) and two tailoring (15 women, 15 men) courses in Bala Boluk District (*See Annex B for details*).

PUSHT-E ROD DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

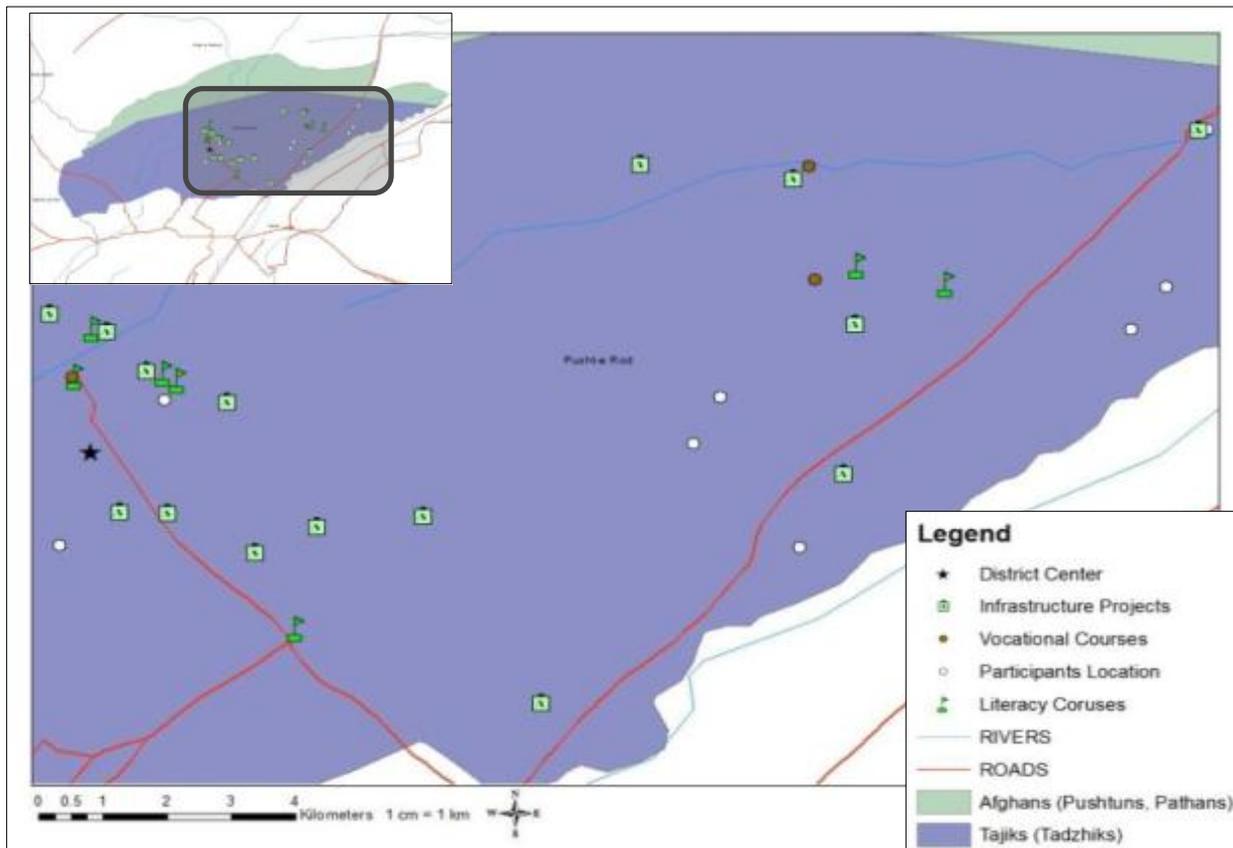
As part of the Stabilization Department’s plan to have DSC meetings independently led, Stability Analysis Mechanism training was provided to the Pusht Rod District Governor, together with selected DSC members on October 9th. A follow up training was provided to the Pusht-e Rod DG on November 12th.

During the quarter, with support of the District Governor, three DSC meetings were held on October 23rd, November 17th, and December 24th with a total participation of 168 people, including 32 women. The participants reviewed the previously identified sources of instability, root causes, and mitigation activities and discussed ongoing projects. A female representative who completed the Health Education course appreciated the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program. “Now I am able to provide basic health services to my children,” she said. The DSC members identified the water dispute as a source of instability in the community and following a lengthy discussion, they proposed eight new mitigation activities. Advocacy and concept note trainings will be provided to the CDCs to enable them to find financial resources from third party organizations.

As a component of the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) activities, Conflict Resolution Training was provided to 14 members of the Pusht-e Rod TCRC on October 8th. The same training was provided to the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, the TCRC and *Ulema* on November 26th. The TCRC spoke about their recent conflict resolution activities in Kosha village over a family dispute between a bride and her father-in-law.

The Pusht-e Rod TCRC organized a meeting to mediate between two farmers who had a conflict over an irrigation canal on December 3rd. This conflict was prioritized during the last TCRC meeting. The TCRC invited both parties to a meeting and following a lengthy discussion resolved the conflict to the satisfaction of both parties.

Map 3: Pusht-e Rod Activities and DSC Members Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On October 1st, a media training was provided to 15 youth association members from Pusht-e Rod District. By the end of the training, participants learned about media relations, interview techniques, and how to write press releases.

The youth association held a meeting with farmers and the District Governor on October 7th to discuss the dangers of poppy cultivation. Farmers and youth asked the DG to help them stop poppy cultivation and find alternative crops.

To strengthen the communications between the youth and the DG, youth association organized a meeting with the District Governor on November 10th. Youth shared their education concerns and challenges, including the scholarships allocated for this district. Youth complained that influential people use these

scholarships instead of needy and qualified people. The DG will facilitate a meeting with the Education Department to follow up this issue.

Training on Advocacy and Concept Note Development was provided to 20 youths from Pusht-e Rod District on December 4th. At the end of the training, one copy of the Farah SPC was distributed to each participant.

The Pusht-e Rod District Governor distributed Eid messages on October 14th. The DG printed 500 flyers and disseminated these flyers at public gatherings and bazaars. The DG initiated a radio roundtable to raise the farmers' knowledge on new methods of cucumber and onion cultivation. Almost 30 farmers were contacted to share their questions, and on October 24th, two agriculture specialists provided answers to these questions through Faryad Radio. An SMS campaign was conducted to inform the farmers about the dates of the radio program.

The Pusht-e Rod District Governor held a meeting with 15 farmers on December 23rd. The farmers shared their agriculture challenges and asked the DG to provide them with fertilizer and improved seeds. The DG pledged to respond to these requests and deliver their messages to the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL).

Two agriculture experts provide answers to farmers' questions about cucumber and onion cultivation at Faryad Radio on October 24th.

Training on "How to Develop a Concept Note" was provided to four members of Doken CDC on October 29th. A follow up 'Concept Note' training was provided to this CDC on November 17th. The CDC representatives worked to draft a concept note for a flood protection wall project. The CDC will receive more support, and the final concept note will be submitted to the relevant service providers.

On December 24th, Advocacy training was provided to eight members of the Jan Khani Massow CDC in Pusht-e Rod District. By the end of the training, the CDC representatives understood how to do advocacy for their activities and how to share their concerns with the government and non-government organizations. The CDC will receive Concept Note training to enable them to find financial resources from third party organizations for the proposed canal excavation project in Massow village.



Eight members of Jan Khani Massow CDC received Advocacy training to enable them to find financial resources from third party organizations on December 24th.

On November 26th, the Farmers' Association organized a coordination meeting with 16 farmers. The meeting aimed to find a way to address the farmers' concerns including lack of a proper irrigation system. Following a lengthy discussion, the farmers decided to lobby the national traders to invest in the agricultural sectors.

On December 17th, the residents of Massow, Ab Sourakh, Konder and Chin Farsi villages in Pusht-e Rod District made a call to the district 'Complaint Hotline Phone' and complained about a water dispute within these villages. Following two meetings held between these people and the Pusht-e Rod Chief of Police, a number of issues related to the conflict have been addressed. A third meeting will be held with participation of the DG and the influential elders to solve the conflict completely, with a follow up report provided to USAID.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five-day Project Management training was provided to 10 members of three CDCs from October 1st to 6th. The same training was provided to four members of one CDC from Pusht-e Rod District on December 21st.

CDCs are implementing two labor intensive refurbishment grants (irrigation projects/school surrounding wall) in Pusht-e Rod District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

On December 3rd, two literacy courses in Chin Farsi and Chin Afghani villages in Pusht-e Rod District were completed. 25 local men and 25 local women learned basic literacy skills during the nine-month trainings.

CDCs are implementing one health education (25 women) training in Pusht-e Rod District. (See Annex B for details).



One of the recently completed water dividers in Qala Massow village in Pusht-e Rod District. The Qala Massow CDC will complete 15 water dividers which will improve irrigation system in Pusht-e Rod District.

KHAK-E SAFAYD DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

The 3rd Khak-e Safayd DSC meeting, which was scheduled for October 27th, was cancelled because the Farah Provincial Governor asked the District Governor and influential people to attend a meeting at the provincial level. The DSC meeting was rescheduled for November 6th.

As part of the Stabilization Department's plan to have DSC meetings independently led, Stability Analysis Mechanism training was provided to the Khak-e-Safayd District Governor on November 12th. Additionally, Conflict Resolution training was provided to the DG on November 30th. The DG will cascade the conflict resolution skills to the TCRC.

During the quarter, two DSC meetings were held with a total participation of 149 people on November 6th and December 29th. The District Governor requested the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program to speed up the project implementation in the district. The DSC members identified poverty as a source of instability and proposed 10 mitigation activities. Advocacy and concept note trainings will be provided to the CDCs to enable them to find financial resources from third party organizations. By the end of the meeting, the Khak-e Safayd Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee had been established.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On October 1st, media training was provided to 15 youth association members in Khak-e-Safayd District. By the end of the training, participants learned about media relations, interview techniques, and how to write press releases.

Training on Advocacy and Concept Note Development was provided to 31 youths from Khak-e-Safayd District on December 5th. At the end of the training, one copy of the Farah SPC was distributed to each participant.



Two youths practice interviewing techniques during the 'Media' training on October 1st.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five-day Project Management training was provided for 24 Khak-e-Safed CDC members on October 8th. The same training was provided to four members of one CDC on December 21st.

CDC is implementing one labor intensive refurbishment grant (road rehabilitation) in Khak-e-Safayd District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

An auto-mechanic and a carpentry vocational training courses were inaugurated in Khak-e-Safayd District on December 3rd. By the end of the four-month training, 30 students will have the basic skills to work as carpenters.

CDCs are implementing four auto-mechanic (60 men), two carpet weaving (30 men) and three tailoring (15 men, 35 women) vocational trainings in Khak-e Safayd District (*See Annex B for details*).

BADGHIS PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Badghis Gender Working Group meetings were held with a total participation of 36 people from government and non-government organizations on October 30th and November 30th. Each organization including the DRRD and DoWA presented their gender-related activities in Badghis Province. The participants discussed approaches to increase the number of students at literacy classes. Most of the participants emphasized providing both vocational and literacy trainings for the students to encourage them to continue their education.

The Muqur and Qadis District Governors organized their first monthly coordination meeting with the Badghis Acting Provincial Governor (APG) on November 3rd. The DGs reported their activities, which included the achievements of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program. The APG requested the DGs to provide a list of the ongoing projects in their districts. The weekly coordination meetings with the DRRD were held on November 7th and 28th. The DRRD Director was briefed on the previous week's activities and future plans.

During the quarter, five coordination meetings were held with the Badghis DRRD. The DRRD was briefed on the MRRD/IDLG Stability activities, including the project management trainings in Qadis and Muqur. A meeting was held with the USAID representative and PST Manager on October 21st. The PST Manager was asked to improve coordination between the District Governors, Provincial Governors, and DRRD.

On December 3rd, a ceremony was held for 11 DRRD staff that completed a seven-month computer class. All students received a completion certificate. The three Badghis DRRD Service Provides Catalogue (SPC) focal points received SPC training on December 4th. Topics included SPC usage, maintenance and the data collection process.

QADIS DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

On October 8th, the Stabilization Department supported the Qadis TCRC to hold a meeting to resolve a marriage dispute between two district families. Following a lengthy discussion with both families, it was agreed that the young woman will decide whether to continue with the marriage or seek a divorce. The father of the young woman will speak with his daughter and the result will be shared with the TCRC.

During the quarter, with support of the Qadis District Governor, three DSC meetings were held on October 27th, November 27th, and December 25th with a total participation of 300 people, including 71 women. The DOWA Director appreciated the MRRD/IDLG stability program and asked the DSC members to continue their support for women. A female representative asked the participants to provide opportunities for women to take part in the decision making process. The *Ulema* and women representatives delivered speeches about peace and stability in the community. After a long discussion, the participants prioritized the resolution of two land disputes in Qadis District. Thirty people have been selected to attend at the next TCRC meeting and mediate between the conflicting parties. The DSC members identified the tribal conflict as a source of instability in the community and proposed awareness raising mitigation activities. The DSC members also prioritized three conflicts over a land dispute and internal tribal conflicts and assigned the TCRC to mediate between the conflicting parties.

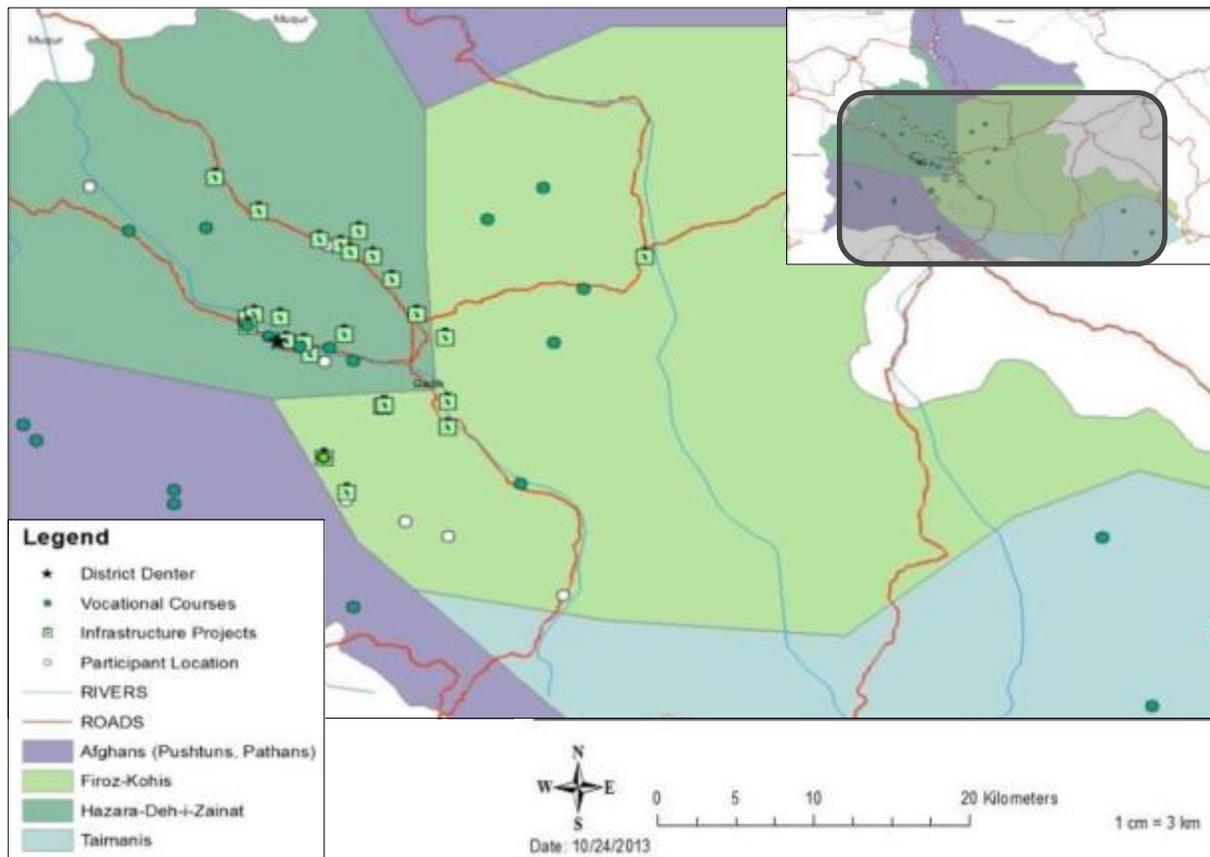


Participants at the Qadis DSC meeting received informative factsheets about the Youth Association's achievements and how to apply and get a Tazkira (national ID card) on December 25th.

On November 18th, a coordination meeting was held with 14 CDCs from Qadis District. The CDCs shared their experiences, achievements, and challenges during the implementation of the vocational trainings. The CDCs asked SIKa-West to provide heaters for the vocational trainings courses.

An introduction meeting was held with the new Qadis District Governor on December 4th to brief him on the MRRD/IDLG Stability program objectives and components.

Map 4: Qadis Activities and DSC Members Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

To improve community engagement, the Qadis District Governor monitored the carpentry vocational training course in Jawaleq Sofla village on October 1st. “We are grateful and thank the government for providing these opportunities,” said a community representative. On October 29th, the District Manager visited the embroidery and blanket making vocational trainings in Chaprodaha and Haji Qurbanha villages, and on October 30th, he visited the tailoring training in Dahi Berenj village. The Qadis District Governor’s representative visited the tailoring vocational training in Arbab Mohammad Yusuf village in Qadis District on November 7th. The students asked him to provide more tailoring machines. The Qadis District Governor visited the work progress of the aqueduct construction project in Chaprodaha village in Qadis District on December 24th.



Women in Haji Qurbanha village in Qadis District practice blanket making skills. By the end of the training, 25 women will have the skills to start a business.

The Qadis District Governor held the third monthly coordination meeting with 14 district government officials on October 23rd. The government officials exchanged their previous month’s activities and challenges and shared their plan for the next month. On November 21st, the DG conducted a monthly coordination meeting with 17 line department managers, using the opportunity to also introduce Mr. Alim Khan as the new district chief of police.

The Qadis new District Governor organized an introductory meeting with 103 community elders, Ulema, youth, government officials and CDC members on December 22nd. The DG outlined his future plans for this district and asked the community to support the government in bringing peace and security.

The Qadis District Governor organized a Peace meeting with participation of 109 government officials, *Ulema*, youth and women on December 1st. The meeting aimed to raise the people’s awareness on the importance of peace and stability and build a strong relationship between the government and community. Speeches about peace and stability were delivered by government officials and women. A woman asked the government to rescue the boy who was kidnapped from Qadis District a few days before.



The Qadis District Governor organized a Peace meeting with participation of 109 government officials, Ulema, youth and women on December 1st.

The Qadis Youth Association organized a meeting with 41 community elders, the Qadis District Governor, and government officials on October 3rd. Youths shared the association’s activities and achievements. “Youth have significant role in bringing stability in the community,” said the DG’s representative and appreciated their activities in Qadis District, especially the anti-addiction and education campaigns. On November 26th, the Association received support to produce and print 2000 factsheets highlighting the association’s activities and achievements. These factsheets will be distributed during the public meetings and gatherings.

Advocacy and Concept Note training was provided to three members of Shorak Shar Arman CDC on December 2nd. A follow up training was provided to this CDC on December 28th. The training aimed to help the CDC to write a concept note for their proposed road rehabilitation project and find financial resources. By the end of the training, the CDC drafted their concept note. Follow up training and mentoring will be provided to this CDC to finalize their concept note and submit it to the relevant organizations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

During the quarter, a five-day Project Management training was provided to 103 members of CDCs in Qadis District.

CDCs are implementing 29 labor intensive light refurbishment grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/road rehabilitation) in Qadis District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

CDCs are implementing 22 tailoring (385 women, 60 men), three carpentry (45 men), two auto-mechanic (30 men), two embroidery (45 women), and one quilt making (25 women) courses in Qadis District. (*See Annex B for details*).



The Zard Alogak CDC completed the construction of one of the three culverts in Zard Alogak village in Qadis District.

MUQUR DISTRICT

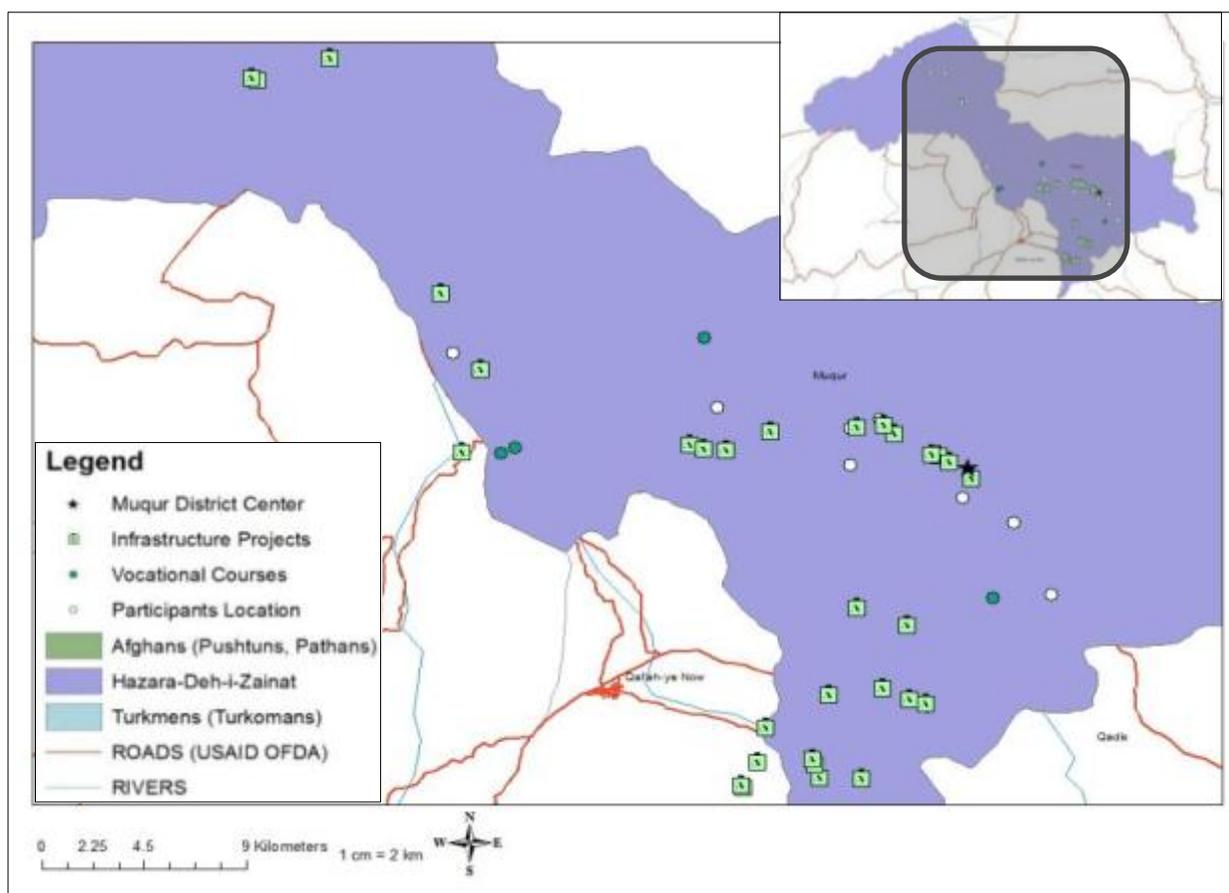
STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

During the quarter, with support of the District Governor, three DSC meetings were held on October 23rd, November 25th, and December 30th with a total participation of 224 people including 53 women. The District Governor and representatives of DDA, DRRD, *Ulema*, and women delivered speeches about the importance of peace and stability in the community. The DSC members were updated on the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities. The participants identified tribal conflict as a source of instability in the community and proposed to construct a community center for social gatherings and conflict resolution meetings. The DSC members will receive advocacy and concept note trainings to enable them to find financial resources.

The Muqur *Ulema* and Tribal Engagement meeting was held with participation of 33 people on October 6th to resolve the tribal conflict between Tajikha tribe over the murder of one person and the conflict between Zad Ali and Andari tribes which resulted in the deaths of 10 people. Eight people have been chosen to follow up on the conflict between Tajikha and a team of 30 people were assigned to work on the conflict between ZadAli and Andari tribes.

On December 11th, the Muqur TCRC organized a mediation session between the Jakana and Yosufzai tribes to resolve their conflict over a murder case. The Muqur TCRC members and the District Governor mediated between the conflicting parties and successfully resolved their conflict. The conflicting parties pledged to stop further violence and work together to find the real murderer.

Map 5: Muqur Activities and DSC Members



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

To improve community engagement, the Muqur Sectorial Manager visited the work progress of the culvert construction projects in Jakana and Niazi villages in Muqur District on October 27th. On October 28th, the Qadis Village Manager and DDA head visited the tailoring vocational training course in Arbab Sarwar village. “Government tries to support the district residents. This course was facilitated by the government to empower the district women economically,” said the Village Manager. The Sectorial Manager monitored the progress of the tailoring vocational training in Zargarha village on October 29th. “This is your responsibility to use this opportunity and improve your skills to start a business,” said the Sectorial Manager.

Muqur Sectorial Manager visited the work in-progress of the culvert construction in Jakana Village in Muqur District.

On October 30th, the District Governor’s representative visited the tailoring and auto-mechanic vocational trainings in Cheshma Dozak village. The Muqur DG visited the work progress of the road rehabilitation project in Qarghach village. The government involvement in the project cycle utilizes the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services. The Qarghach CDC would complete the rehabilitation of the road in one month, employing 234 community members.

The Communications & Outreach Department provided “Concept Note Development” training to eight members of two CDCs in Muqur District on October 10th. This training will be followed by support for the CDCs to submit these funding requests to third party organizations, using the Service Provider Catalog. The second round of the “How to Develop a Concept Note” training was provided to eight members of Cheshma Dozak Sofla and Kumuri CDCs in Muqur District on November 3rd. By the end of the training, the CDCs developed concept notes for their proposed projects. The CDC representatives organized separate meetings with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) in Badghis Province and submitted their concept notes. The IRC showed interest and will consider it a priority for future projects. The NABDP will also share the concept notes with their senior management.

The Muqur District Governor organized a public meeting with 60 farmers to share the government activities in the agriculture sector and listen to the farmers’ concerns on October 28th. A farmer representative requested the District Governor to provide improved seeds for the farmers and rehabilitate their irrigation systems.

On November 19th, the Muqur District Governor conducted an anti-corruption meeting with participation of 36 district line department representatives. The DG along with the Head of the District National Directorate of Security asked all the line departments to combat corruption.

The Muqur District Governor held a meeting with representatives of youth associations on December 29th. Youth shared their concerns in the district including lack of expert teachers, lack of education facilities, and insecurity. The District Governor will organize a meeting with the Directorate of Education with participation of youth representatives to share these issues. The DG will also share these issues at the upcoming quarterly meeting between the Provincial Governor and the District Governors.

The Muqur District Executive Manager held the monthly coordination meeting with district government senior officials on December 4th. The participants discussed the need for qualified doctors in Muqur and agreed to organize a meeting with the Badghis Directorate of Public Health. They also tasked the District Mayor to control stores that sell expired foods.

On December 8th, the Muqur District Governor organized a meeting with 56 district elders to promote peace and stability in the community and raise people’s awareness of their roles in supporting the government to bring peace and stability. The Chief of Police emphasized and asked the participants to cooperate with the police to ensure people are protected.

Internal Communications training was provided to 31 Muqur government officials on December 1st. At the end of the training, participants understood the importance of internal communications in improving service delivery and communications to the public.



Youth representatives shared their concerns in the district including lack of education facilities and insecurity at the coordination meeting with the Muqur District Governor on December 29th.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

During the quarter, a five-day Project Management training was provided to 144 members of 34 CDCs in Muqur District.

On November 21st, a project technical training was conducted for 10 CDC members. This training will help CDC members to better manage project implementation.

CDCs are implementing 26 labor intensive light refurbishment grants (culverts/irrigation/canal protection/road rehabilitation) in Muqur District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

CDCs are implementing two auto-mechanics (30 men), three carpet weaving (45 men) and three tailoring (65 women) courses in Muqur District (*See Annex B for details*).

HERAT PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts Governors, with support provided by the Communications & Outreach Department, held their monthly coordination meeting with the Herat Provincial Governor. The Provincial Governor asked the DGs to provide a list of all ongoing projects in the target districts. At the end of the meeting, an appreciation letter was given to the Provincial Governor.

The monthly DRRD coordination meeting was held with participation of 33 representatives from government and non-government organizations in Herat on October 27th. The participants shared their organizations' activities, achievements, and challenges during the previous month.

The weekly coordination meetings with the DRRD were held on October 5th and 12th and November 10th and 29th. An overview of the previous weeks' activities and challenges was shared with the DRRD. Additional coordination meeting was held with the DRRD Director with participation of SIKA-West senior staff on October 29th to discuss and provide answers to the feedback received from the DRRD for the Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC). Both parties agreed to hold more discussion to bring the necessary changes in the SPC.

The Herat Gender Working Group meetings were held on October 30th and December 1st with a total participation of 30 people from government and non-government organizations with an interest in gender activities at Herat Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA). Participants shared their organizations' gender-related activities. The DoWA Director asked SIKA-West to introduce a focal point for the DoWA Gender Committee. This committee monitors gender-related activities in Herat Province. The participants gave some suggestions to consider gender mainstreaming in remote areas including conducting awareness raising campaigns and trainings.

On November 17th and December 18th, coordination meetings were held with the Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist and SIKA-West senior staff. An overview of SIKA-West gender-related



Work is ongoing to rehabilitate a road in Dahan Shoor Sorkhabi village in Muqur District. The CDC would complete the project in two months which will provide transportation facility for 220 families.



The Herat Provincial Governor receiving an appreciation letter for his continued support of the MRRD/SIKA-West program (October 9, 2013).

activities was presented. The participants agreed to organize a monthly meeting and invite the Director of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) as well. The Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist showed interest to participate in the SIKA-West gender-related activities.

A coordination meeting was held with the Gender department of the Independent Human Rights Commission (IHRC) on December 17th. The SIKA-West and the IHRC representatives shared their gender-related activities including gender awareness, literacy, and vocational trainings in Herat Province.

A gender coordination meeting was held with the Herat Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) on December 25th. The DoWA was informed about the upcoming women's empowerment training and asked to introduce some participants from DoWA. The Director of DoWA will coordinate with the Ministry of Women Affairs to share the SIKA-West gender-related achievements on their website. And on December 24th, a gender coordination meeting was held with the Voice of Women Organization (VoWO). Both parties shared their gender-related activities in Herat. The SIKA-West and VoWO agreed to participate in the upcoming gender-related coordination meetings and activities and share lessons learned.

A meeting was held with the Justice Training Transition Program (JTTP) on November 5th to ask them to provide legal awareness trainings and anti-corruption and advocacy campaigns for the District Entities of the SIKA-West target districts. The JTTP showed interest and will share this issue with the JTTP main office in Kabul.

On December 28th, a meeting was held with the Herat Chamber of Commerce and Industries Directorate to find market and job opportunities for the Shindand carpet weaving students. The Chamber of Commerce introduced a focal point from the Carpet Sellers Union. A follow up meeting was held with the Union and they will inform SIKA-West if there are job opportunities for these students.

The Herat DRRD computer class was completed on December 7th. During the three-month training, 17 men and three women learned basic computer skills. Coordination has been done with the RAMP-UP/USAID funded project to hand over some their computers to these graduates.



17 men and three women from Herat DRRD completed a three-month computer course on December 17th.

SHINDAND DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

During the quarter with support of the Shindand District Governor, three DSC meetings were held with participation of 183 people including 69 women on October 22nd, November 25th, and December 23rd. The District Governor used the opportunity to talk about the importance of the presidential and provincial council elections and asked participants to encourage their communities to participate in the upcoming election. A female resident asked the DSC members to launch more vocational trainings for women so that they can improve their handicraft skills. Participants were updated on the status of mitigations activities as well as updated on Capacity Building and Communications activities and tribal conflicts. The DG also asked the CDCs to

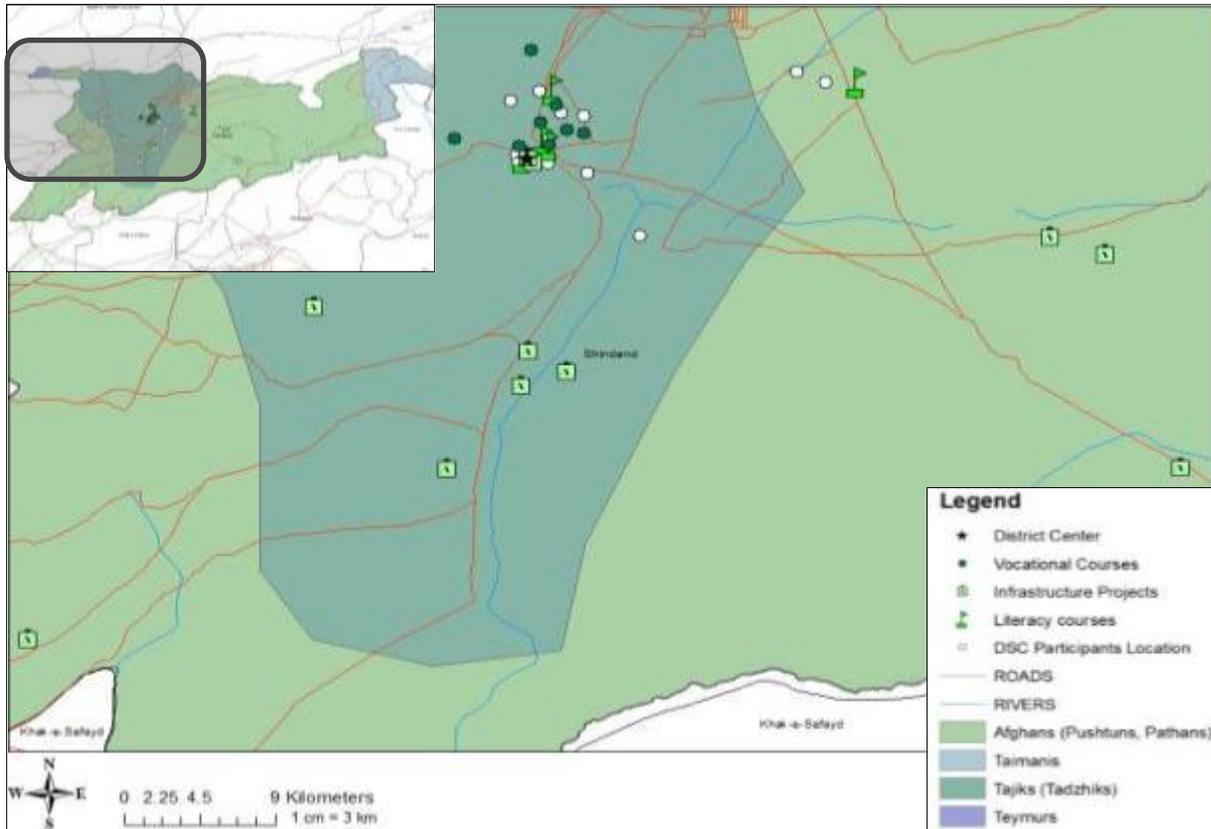


During the DSC meeting, Khadija, a woman representative talked about the importance of the stability program, which allowed women like her to attend such meetings and share their concerns.

implement their soft and hard projects with high quality. The DSC members were assigned to identify new sources of instability and propose some mitigation activities. The DSC members will receive advocacy and concept note trainings to enable them to find financial resources.

On October 8th, Conflict Resolution training was provided to 22 members of the Shindand TCRC to empower them to resolve conflicts within their district. The TCRC meeting was held on December 9th with participation of 30 TCRC members including the District Governor. The DG was selected as the head of the TCRC and all agreed to organize monthly TCRC meetings. A report of the recently resolved conflict over land was presented.

Map 6: Shindand District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

A “Communication Skills Training” was conducted for 46 women in Shindand District on November 20th. Participants were taught the basic elements of communications, messaging, and the importance of communications in their daily lives.

The Shindand District Governor along with the National Department of Security, DRRD, DDA, and CDC representatives monitored the carpet weaving vocational training course in Qala Rahmdel village on October 7th. “These projects will help poor and marginalized women to have better life and stable economy,” said the District Governor.

The Shindand Administrative Manager, eight district officials, and DDA members visited the progress of the carpet weaving vocational training in Rabat-e Zuria village on October 23rd. “Carpet weaving is a good source of income for women, so use this opportunity,” said the Administrative Manager.

The Shindand District Governor and a DDA representative visited the tailoring vocational training in Chwani village on November 4th. “I am happy and I appreciate you attending this course, though far from family and children. Your efforts will make a better society,” said the DG.

On November 19th, the Shindand District Governor held a public meeting with 40 District *Ulemas*. The meeting aimed to encourage *Ulema* to support poppy eradication in this district.

Advocacy and Concept Note training was provided to 20 members of the Shindand Women’s Association and Cultural and Social Young Women’s Association on December 3rd. These women will receive more support to develop concept notes and write proposals to locate funding through third party donors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Five-day Project Management training was provided to 12 members of three CDCs from Shindand on December 21st.

CDCs are implementing nine labor intensive grants, including flood protection walls, school refurbishment, road rehabilitation, culverts, and Kariz excavation in Shindand District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Five literacy courses in Shindand District were completed. During the nine-month trainings, 125 women learned basic literacy skills. Four literacy course graduates from Nasr Abad village in Shindand District successfully passed the entrance exam of the Education Department and were enrolled in the 7th grade class.

Gender Awareness training was provided to 17 women from Shindand District on December 9th. Topics included the definition of gender, difference between gender and sex, gender mainstreaming and gender equality.

The Shindand carpet weaving students in Qala Rahmdel, Qala Mohammad, Chahar Goosh and Rabat Zoriha villages sold 59 of the carpets they weaved and earned \$3,000. The CDCs give 50% of the income to the students and buy carpet weaving materials with the rest of the income.

CDCs are implementing five carpet weaving (125 women), three tailoring (60 women), and one embroidery (20 women) course in Shindand District (*See Amnex B for details*).

KUSHK RABAT-E SANGI DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Following commitment letters received from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor and community residents, SIKA-West resumed its activities on October 5th, following a three-week withdrawal of staff. The DG and the residents pledged to provide a security escort to staff during project implementation.



The Shindand DG and a DDA member visited the tailoring vocational training on Chwani Village on November 4th.



Laborers working to refurbish a high school and construction of a surrounding wall in Qala Haji Karam in Shindand District.



25 local women practicing carpet weaving skills in Qala Mohammad village in Shindand District.

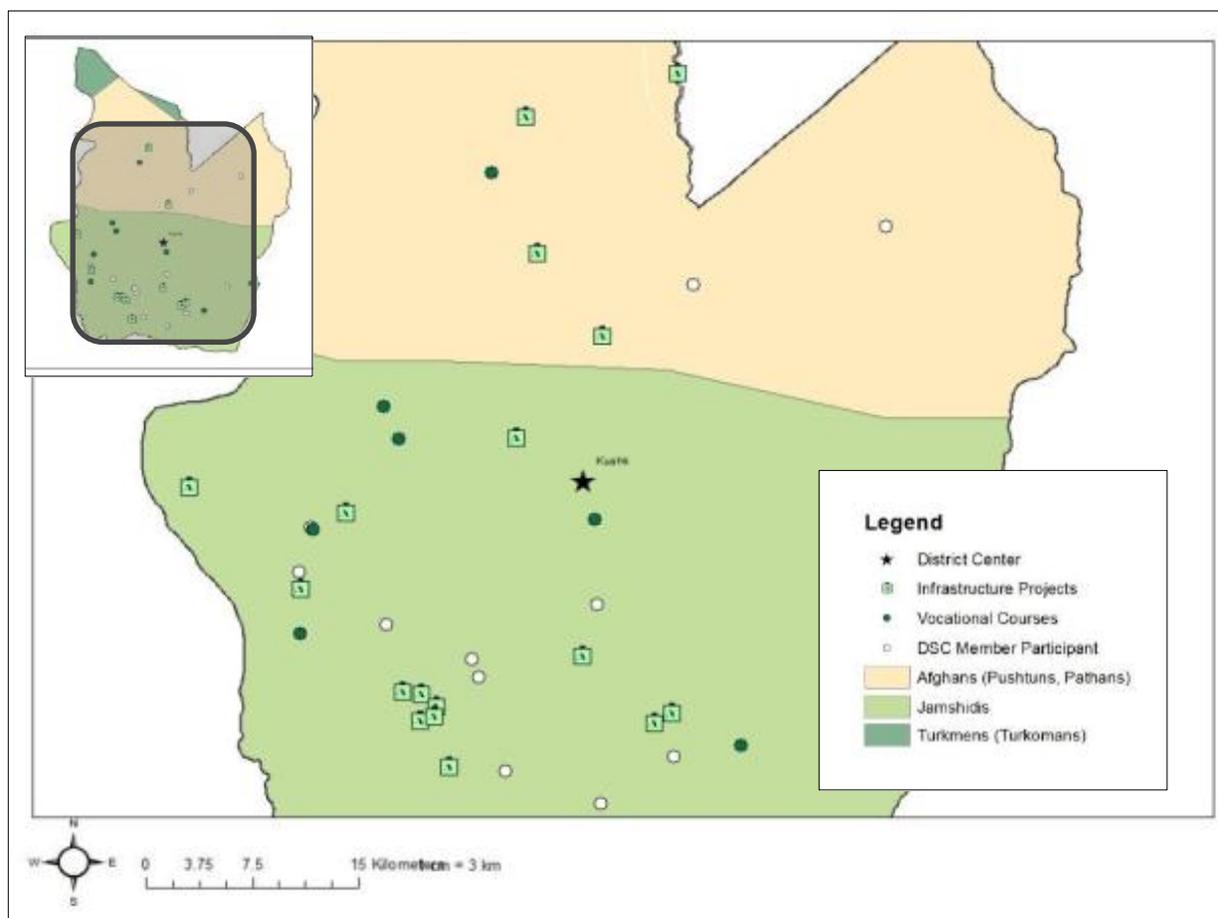
Training on Conflict Resolution Skills was provided to 30 members of the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) on November 11th. The TCRC organized a coordination meeting with the participation of the Deputy District Governor, high ranking officials, women, *Ulema*, and influential elders on December 11th. The TCRC assigned the District Governor as the head of TCRC and agreed to organize monthly meetings. During the meeting, two conflicts, one over a piece of land and the other over implementation of a project by a CDC, have been prioritized and the TCRC was assigned to work on these two conflicts.

During the quarter with support of the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, three DSC meetings were held with a total participation of 224 people including 70 women on October 13th, November 17th and December 25th. An overview of the status of the mitigation activities was presented. The DG asked the DSC members to provide security support to the technician staff to implement the projects properly. Following a discussion, 15 people have been chosen as the members of the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC). A women's representative asked the DSC to provide education opportunities for women so that they can continue their education. The DSC members identified two new sources of instability in the district including poppy cultivation and flood on the sides of the river. At the next DSC meeting, mitigation activities will be identified and proposed by the DSC members. Concept Note training will be provided to the CDCs to enable them to find financial resources from the relevant organizations. At the end of the meeting, the DG and DSC members inaugurated three refurbishment projects in Birjanag Hulya, Nazam Khan, and Tayel Mulki villages.



The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DG inaugurating the 2KM road graveling project in Tayel Mulki village in Pashtun Zarghun on Oct 13th.

Map 7: Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On October 9th, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Women’s Association, held an informative meeting with 80 mothers to raise their awareness on the importance of education. The association’s members will share these concerns with the Herat Provincial Council at a meeting scheduled for October 22nd. The association held a meeting with the Herat Provincial Council on October 22nd. Women asked the Provincial Council to pay more attention to women’s needs. The Provincial Council was extremely happy to see women travel from distant districts to meet with the government officials. On October 23rd, women met with 66 *Ulema*, elders, teachers, and government officials. The women asked the *Ulema* and teachers to raise public awareness on women’s rights and their roles in the community through their sermons and schools.

The Women’s Association held a coordination meeting with 41 women on November 18th. An overview of the previous month’s activities, including the meetings with the District Governor, the Herat Provincial Council and Women Affairs Department, was presented. The District Executive encouraged the women to apply for the vacant positions in the district. And on December 4th, the association organized a public meeting with 82 people including *Ulema*, government officials and women. The DG highlighted the importance of women in community development and peace. An *Ulema* representative talked about the significant roles women had since the beginning of Islam and said, “This is our responsibility to help the women to contribute in social, political and cultural issues in the community”.

“Peace is prosperity, we want peace,” wrote a school boy during the Peace campaign in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District of Herat Province. The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor and the Education Department organized a Peace campaign on October 30th. Almost 200 boys and girls wrote peace messages and drew peace symbols on papers and kites to show how keen they are to bring peace to their community. “We are tired of insecurity, we want peace to go to school and study freely,” said a boy during the campaign. The event was broadcast by the Herat Radio and Television of Afghanistan and the TOLO TV.



“Peace is prosperity, we want peace,” wrote a school boy during the Peace campaign in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District of Herat Province.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 85 parents, community leaders, youth, *Ulema* and government officials on December 22nd. The meeting aimed to highlight the importance of education in the society and encourage parents to send their children to school. An *Ulema* representative talked about the importance of education according to Islam. Some students read articles titled “Education is our right, peace is our right”, and asked the government to pay more attention to their education. At the end of the meeting, the DG distributed sports clothing to four boys and girls schools with the tag “Education is our right” on them.

On December 15th, the Herat Provincial Governor traveled to Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District to inaugurate two light refurbishment projects including construction of a protection wall and a road rehabilitation project. The District Governor provided detailed information about the projects to the Provincial Governor and briefed him on the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program in this district.



The Herat Provincial Governor and the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District officials cut the ribbon to inaugurate a road rehabilitation project in Khowja Gul Baidak village on December 15th.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Acting District Governor visited the tailoring course in Kotiha village on November 5th. At the end of the training, 20 women will learn the skills to work as local tailors. The Acting DG encouraged the women to use the opportunity provided for them by the government.

Training on ‘How to Develop a Budget’ was provided to 20 members of Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Women’s Association on December 29th. Topics included the definition of a budget, steps of preparing a budget and how to reduce unnecessary expenses. These women will be able to prepare a proper and cost-efficient budget for their activities both for the association and their families.

Advocacy and concept note training was provided to 18 members of Chahar Dara CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi on November 26th. As part of the activities to support this CDC to submit its funding requests to third party organizations, the representatives of the Chahar Dara Esmail Bai CDC held separate meetings with the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), Department of Natural Disaster Management, Department of Subordinate Water Zone of Harirod and the Economy Department on December 22nd and submitted a copy of their concept notes to these departments. These departments will share the concept notes with the relevant donors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five-day Project Management training was provided to four members of one CDC from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on December 22nd.

CDCs are implementing nine labor intensive grants, including flood protection walls and road rehabilitation, in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

On October 23rd, two welding vocational trainings for 30 men and four tailoring trainings for 80 women were inaugurated in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

Gender Awareness training was provided to 19 women from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on November 26th.

Topics included the definition of gender, difference between gender and sex, gender mainstreaming, and gender equality.

CDCs are implementing five tailoring (100 women) and two welding (40 men) courses in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District (*See Annex B for details*).



20 local men practicing welding skills in Allaf Haji Abdul village in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

PASHTUN ZARGHUN DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

As part of the plan to have DSC meetings independently led, Stability Analysis Mechanism training was provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, together with selected DSC members, on October 27th. During the quarter, the District Governor independently organized and facilitated three DSC meetings with a total participation of 210 people including 40 women on October 28th, November 27th and December 30th. The DG briefed the participants on the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities. Most of the CDCs asked to suspend the light refurbishment projects due to cold weather. The DG assigned the TCRC to mediate between the conflicting parties in Rawandan and Taqcha villages. The Communications Department coordinated with the Herat Radio and Television of Afghanistan (HRTA) to produce a news report from the DSC meeting. The HRTA broadcast the report on November 28th.



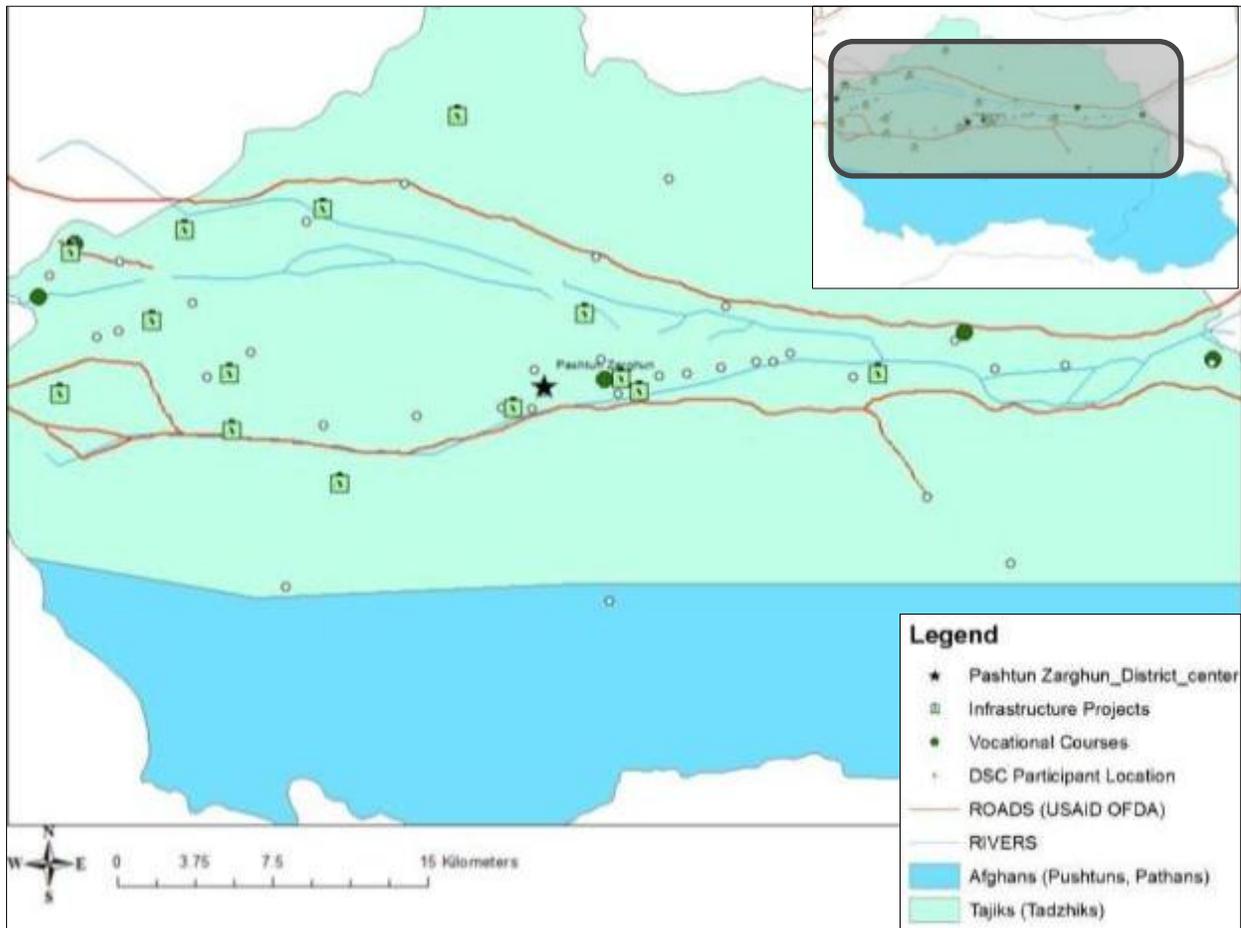
A women's representative stood in front of the people for the first time and talked about the importance of the DSC meeting in Pashtun Zarghun District.

Conflict Resolution training was provided to 16 members of the Pashtun Zarghun TCRC and the district government staff on November 4th. Applying the techniques learned during the training, the TCRC identified seven ongoing conflicts in the district. At the end of the training, the Acting District Governor assigned the TCRC to resolve two of the identified conflicts, including a land dispute between two families which resulted in the deaths of two people.

The Pashtun Zarghun TCRC meeting was held on November 29th with participation of 19 people, including the District Governor (DG) and the head of the District *Ulema* Council. The TCRC selected the DG as the head of the TCRC. The TCRC prioritized the resolution of family disputes in Pulpadeh, Shah

Abad, and Manzel villages. The TCRC travelled to Zaman Abad village to resolve a land dispute between two families on December 11th. Following a lengthy discussion, the TCRC resolved the conflict.

Map 8: Pashtun Zarghun District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor held a public meeting with 60 influential leaders and Afghan Local Police (ALP) on October 7th to build stronger relation between government and community residents. The DG and ALP talked about the importance of establishing security checkpoints in the district and villages. This issue will be shared with the provincial authorities.

The District Governor organized a public meeting with 47 women on October 30th. The DG encouraged the women to be more active and attend the district events. The women shared their social, political, and economic concerns with the DG and asked him to provide vocational training opportunities for women. By the end of the meeting the women agreed to establish a women’s shura and introduce a communications focal point to the DG.

The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor organized a coordination meeting with 50 elders and government officials including the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and Afghan National Police (ANP) on December 22nd. The Chief of Police explained their achievements and requested the community to support the police in bringing peace and security. The ALP and ANP agreed to organize a bi-weekly coordination meeting and regularly check and control the Pashtun Zarghun’s roads.

The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor along with the district mayor, CDC, and DDA members visited Qala Yusuf village on October 8th, spoke with residents, and inspected the community-run Tailoring vocational training program. The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor along with the DDA members and district elders visited the bridge construction project in Safidan village on October 23rd.

On November 6th, the Pashtun Zarghun Executive Manager, along with a Voice of America (VOA) reporter, visited a number of project sites, including a wall protection project and a tailoring course in Qala Yusuf Khan Village. The group also visited a tailoring course in Hassan Abad village. More than 70 people attended the event, including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs, and media. “Implementation of such projects build trust between the government and the community,” said the Bala Boluk district Governor. “These water dividers will improve the irrigation systems,” said the Tapa Sadat CDC Head. And on December 12th, the Pashtun Zarghun DRRD Social Worker visited Salimi village to check on the work progress of the flood protection wall construction.



One of the student at Qala Yusuf Khan tailoring course being interviewed by a VOA reporter on November 6th.

“Concept Note Development” training was provided to two CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun District on October 9th. This training will be followed by support for the CDCs to submit these funding requests to third party organizations, using the Herat Service Providers Catalog. On October 28th, eight members of two CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun received “How to Develop a Concept Note” training.

On November 20th, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor organized a drawing contest focusing on education and peace in the district. The contest was held between two male and one female district schools, with the theme covering the importance of education in ensuring peace and district development.



Drawing contest focusing on education and peace between males and females in Pashtun Zarghun district school.

A “Communication Skills Building Training” was conducted for 48 district women and women shura members in Pashtun Zarghun on November 25th. Participants were taught the importance of communications in sharing and advocating their needs, messaging, and audiences. The training was followed by group work.

Advocacy and concept note training was provided to 17 members of Kushk Haibat CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District on December 2nd. As part of the activities to support this CDC to submit its funding requests to third party organizations, the representatives of the Kushk Haibat Ha CDC separate meetings with the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), Department of Natural Disaster Management, Department of Subordinate Water Zone of Harirod and the Economy Department on December 22nd and submitted a copy of their concept notes to these departments. These departments will share the concept notes with the relevant donors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On October 6th, a meeting was held with the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor to address security concerns for the road construction project in Taqcha village. The DG briefed SIKA-West staff on the progress of the discussion with the community leaders and said 50 community leaders met with him and committed to provide security for the technical staff. The District Governor will also establish a security checkpoint to guarantee the implementation of the project.

Project Management training was provided to 12 members of three CDCs from Pashtun Zarghun District on October 5th.

CDCs are implementing 14 labor intensive grants, including flood protection walls, school refurbishment, road rehabilitation, culverts, and bridge construction in Pashtun Zarghun District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

A capacity building needs assessment was kicked off for five CDCs from Pashtun Zarghun District on December 30th. Once completed, the CDCs will receive the required trainings to enable them to implement their projects more successfully.

CDCs are implementing five tailoring (100 women) courses in Pashtun Zarghun District (*See Annex B for details*).



Laborers working to construct a flood protection wall in Qala Yosuf Khan Village in Pashtun Zarghun District.

GHOR PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

A coordination meeting was held with the Ghor DRRD Director and SIKA-West senior staff at Herat HQ office on October 9th. The DRRD Director asked SIKA-West to provide capacity building training to the DRRD staff. The DRRD Director will provide a list of the required trainings. At the end of the meeting, both parties agreed to organize monthly coordination meetings.

On October 13th, a coordination meeting was held with participation of representatives from SIKA-West, DRRD, NSP, NABDP, CHA, and Afghan Aid organizations. The DRRD Director informed the participants that there will be coordination and consultation meeting in the coming month with participation of 60 people from government and non-government organizations. The meeting aims to share the progress of all ongoing projects in Ghor Province.

The monthly DRRD coordination meeting was held with participation of 35 representatives from government and non-government organizations in Ghor on November 2nd. The participants shared their organizations' activities, achievements and challenges during the last month.

The Ghor Provincial Youth Council communications plan was approved by the Youth Association and USAID. The Ghor Gender Working Group was established and organized its first meeting on October 28th. Eighteen representatives from organizations interested in gender activities attended the meeting. Participants shared gender-related activities in Ghor Province.

The Ghor Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 17 people from government and non-government organizations on December 2nd. The participants exchanged information about their organization's gender-related activities in Ghor.

CHAGHCHARAN DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

As part of the Stabilization Department's plan to have DSC meetings independently led, Stability Analysis Mechanism training was provided to the Chaghcharan DSC. The 7th Chaghcharan DSC meeting was held on October 27th with 68 people in attendance, including 22 women. An overview of the status of

the implementation of the mitigation activities was presented. Women asked the government officials to provide them more opportunities to share their grievances.

On November 24th, a pre-DSC meeting was conducted for 18 women from Chaghcharan District in order to discuss SAM training. The 8th Chaghcharan DSC meeting was held with participation of 69 people (47 men, 22 women) on November 27th. The Deputy Provincial Governor highlighted the importance of the DSC meeting as a platform for the community to share their concerns. The DSC members were informed that due to freezing temperatures in winter, light refurbishment projects will be suspended. On November 30th, a lessons' learned session was conducted and participants shared the DSC meeting challenges.

A pre-DSC meeting and training was held with the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor on December 24th. The DPG was briefed about the agenda and talking points for the DSC meeting which was scheduled for December 25th. The Chaghcharan DSC meeting was held with participation of the 53 people including seven women. An overview of the Chaghcharan Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) achievements including resolving the conflict between Taimani sub-tribes was presented. A female representative complained about the lack of capacity building activities for women in the district and asked the government to pay more attention to this area.

On December 1st, the Chaghcharan Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) held a meeting to resolve the conflict between two CDCs in Sanama Olya Cluster. The Haji Ebrahim CDC claimed that the rehabilitation of 1.5 KM road project is near their village and they should be the implementer of this project not the Charchaga CDC. The TCRC mediated between these two CDCs and successfully resolved the conflict. And on December 2nd, the TCRC resolved another conflict between Tala CDC and Tasraqai CDC over the implementation of a project in Zartalay cluster.

The TCRC successfully mediated and resolved the conflicts among the Taimani tribes during a weeklong series of meetings and discussions among representatives of three sub-tribes from Taimani tribes from December 4th to 12th. The Taimani tribes were in conflicts dating from 1984 over a murder. During these years, many people have been killed or lost their properties. The TCRC invited the representatives of these tribes, the Ghor Province High Peace Council, and the Chaghcharan Deputy Provincial Governor to mediate among the conflicting parties. Following a total of five meetings with the different parties, they came to an agreement that they would stop creating problems. The conflicting parties agreed to help the displaced families return to their villages and recover their properties.

The TCRC held an emergency meeting and assigned six TCRC members to travel to Siah Kohak village and resolve a conflict over a recent murder on December 10th. The TCRC talked and mediated between the conflicting parties to avoid further casualties. The conflicting parties agreed to stop the fighting and release the hostages, and asked the TCRC to talk to the government officials to follow up on this issue and punish the criminals.

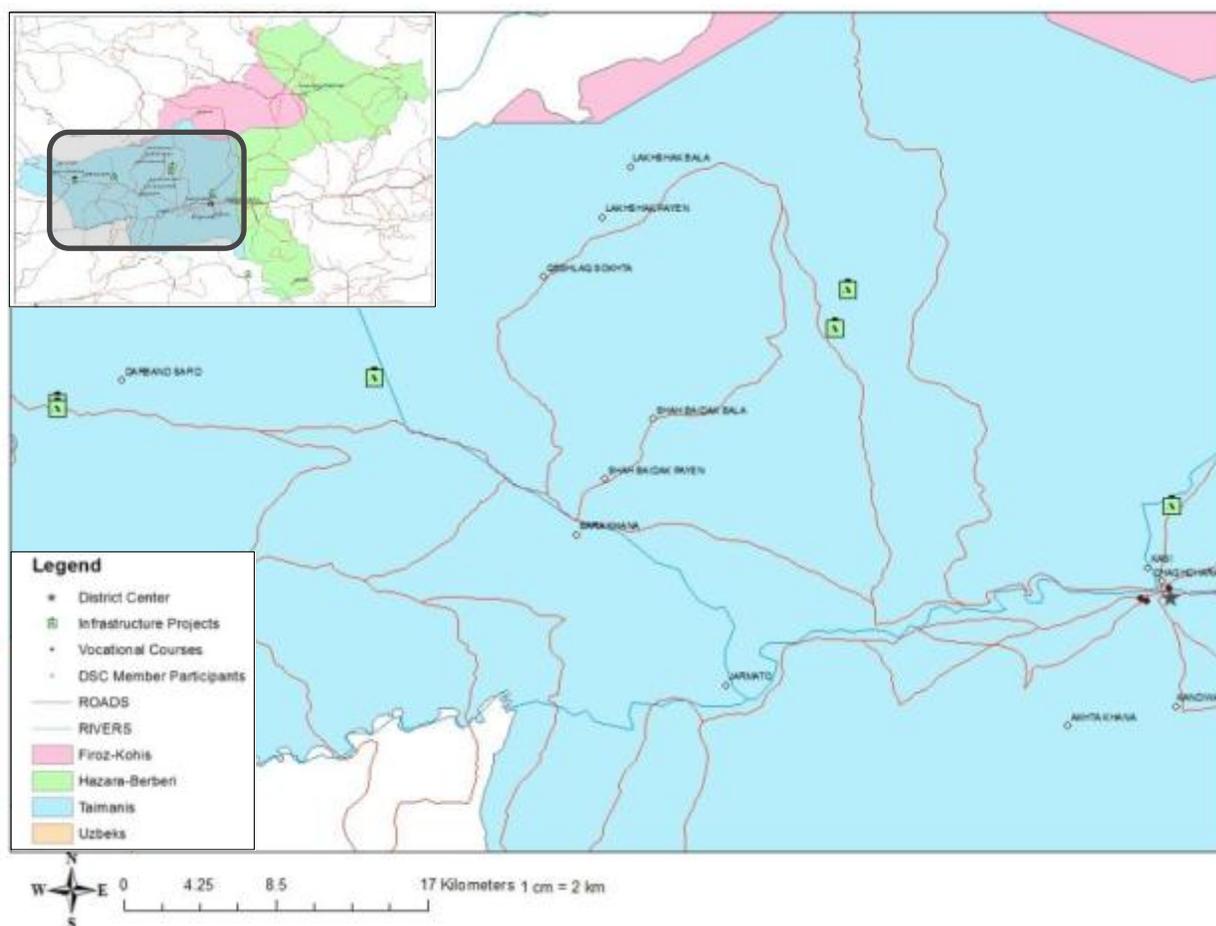


The 8th Chaghcharan DSC meeting was held with participation of 69 people on November 27th.



The Taimnai Tribes representatives embraced and agreed that they would stop creating problems.

Map 9: Chaghcharan District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On October 12th, the Communications & Outreach Department established a District Hotline for the Chaghcharan District Governor’s office. This hotline, manned by a government official allows residents to share concerns with district officials. On December 18th, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor received support and printed 1,000 contact directory cards and asked the residents to share their concerns through these numbers. In addition, the Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan broadcast the advertisement.

Training on “How to Develop a Concept Note” was provided to three members of Shahrak Mohajerin CDC in Chaghcharan District on October 29th. Follow-up concept note trainings were provided to four members of this CDC on November 26th and to four members of Aqajani CDC on November 27th.

On October 24th, the Ghor Acting Deputy Provincial Governor held a public meeting with 26 representatives of Ghor Youth Council. “Without the community support, especially youth, the government will not be able to bring peace and stability,” said the Acting Deputy Provincial Governor.

The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor held a coordination meeting with 18 representatives of government staff on November 17th. The participants shared their previous month’s activities and their future plans. The Deputy briefed the participants on his recent official trip to France. He visited the France Justice, Law, Police and Criminal officials and obtained experience and knowledge that he will share with the relevant directorates in Ghor.

On December 2nd, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, conducted an SMS campaign to raise the people's awareness about the government activities and achievements. 140 elders, *Ulema* and influential people received the SMS.

An "Internal Communications Training" for 15 participants from the Chaghcharan District Government Staff was held on November 21st. This training aimed to improve communications between GIRoA officials at the district level.

Thirty members of the Ghor Provincial Youth Association received Media training on November 18th. Youth learned the importance of communications, messaging, and basic elements of communications. The association members will use these skills to share their activities and achievements using the available media outlets.



Thirty members of the Ghor Provincial Youth Association received 'Media' training on November 18th.

On November 12th, the Ghor Provincial Youth Association organized its first monthly coordination meeting with 30 youths. The head of the association, who attended the previous DSC meetings, briefed the youth about the DSC meetings and the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC). He recognized the DSC meetings as a platform to share the youth association's achievements and challenges with the government officials and elders.

The Ghor Youth Association organized a one-hour radio program on the harms of drug addiction and treatment methods on December 22nd. The Head of the Ghor Provincial addiction treatment clinic and a religious scholar were invited to this program and answered people's questions through Sadai Adalat Radio. The association will organize a follow-up meeting with the Head of the Ghor Provincial addiction treatment clinic to assess the impact of the radio program.



The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized a one-hour radio program on the harms of drug addiction and treatment methods on December 22nd.

On December 29th, the Youth Association organized a 'Peace' meeting with participation of 51 *Ulema*, women, elders and government officials. The youth representatives, *Ulema* and women delivered speeches about the importance of peace in the community and asked to deliver these messages to the community members through social gatherings, sermons and schools. The event was broadcast by Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan and other social media.

The Ghor Youth Association organized a monthly coordination meeting with 18 members of the association on December 24th. The Deputy of the association gave an overview of the previous month's activities and achievements and appreciated the youth for their hard work.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On November 19th, a 5 km road rehabilitation project was inaugurated in Jermato-e-Ulia village of Chaghcharan district. This road will improve the rural transportation network within Chaghcharan District.

On November 20th, project technical training was conducted for six foremen and supervisors of Jermat-e-Ulia, Charchaga, and Dara Asiab CDCs. This training will help foremen to better manage project implementation.

As part of capacity building activities for Chaghcharan District, five CDC members attended a five-day project management training on November 24th. At the end of the training, this CDC will receive its first milestone payment enabling work to start on respective projects.

On December 31st, two projects, which included construction of culverts in Akhta Khana Sofla and Nahoor Shewig villages in Chaghcharan, were officially handed over to the Ghor DRRD. More than 110 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs and media attended the event. “Implementation of such projects build trust between the government and community as they respond to the people’s needs,” said the Ghor DRRD Director Mr. Eng. Mohammad Zolal. These culverts help the people transport their products to the district center on a daily basis. The event was broadcast by Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan, Tolo, Asr and Azadi radio.



Eng. Zolal, the Ghor DRRD Director and Mrs. Paida Gol, Head of Afghan Women Support organization cutting the ribbon at the Projects’ Completion Handover ceremony on December 31st

CDCs are implementing seven labor intensive grants (road rehabilitation/culverts) in Chaghcharan District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Gender mainstreaming training was provided to 14 women in Chaghcharan on December 29th. Topics included the definition of gender, difference between gender and sex, gender mainstreaming and gender equality. These women will cascade the information to the local women at their community.

SHAHRAK DISTRICT

As part of the plan to have DSC meetings independently led, the Shahrak Acting District Governor along with 13 staff received the Stability Analysis Mechanism training. The 6th Shahrak DSC meeting was held with participation of 64 people on October 31st. An overview of the status of the implementation of mitigation activities was presented. The DSC members were informed that due to the severe winter in Shahrak District they can’t implement light refurbishment projects and should identify alternative short-term mitigation activities.

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 15 members of the Shahrak Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC). The TCRC organized a meeting November 17th and had an open discussion covering a number of conflicts in Chaghcharan, focusing specifically on the conflicts in Allahyar village between Habibullah and Abdul Bashir which has resulted in the deaths of five people. The TCRC agreed to invite the representatives of both parties to Chaghcharan and offer mediation services.

Due to cold weather in Shahrak district, roads were closed and most of the activities were suspended. Conflict resolution training is scheduled for the Shahrak TCRC in mid-January 2014.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH:

The Shahrak District Government communications plan was approved by the District Governor and USAID. The Shahrak District Governor, in-line with his communications plan, organized the first monthly coordination meeting with 11 district officials on October 23rd. The DG Executive Manager asked the participants to fully coordinate and cooperate with the MRRD/IDLG stability program.

The Shahrak Acting District Governor held a public meeting with 50 *Ulemas* and religious leaders on October 30th. The meeting aimed to highlight the roles and responsibilities of *Ulema* in increasing the people’s awareness on the importance of education. The Acting DG asked the *Ulema* to talk about the

benefits of education at their sermons. And on November 26th, he held a meeting with 35 district *Ulema* and elders. The ADG briefed the participants on the government activities and achievements in Shahrak District and requested the participants to support the government to deliver better services. The *Ulema* talked about the importance of unity and pledged to support the government.

On November 5th, the Ghor Acting Deputy Provincial Governor organized a visit to the Sultan Alaadin High School. The visit aimed at increasing school attendance and to encourage the students to continue their education.

An “Internal Communications Training” was provided for nine Shahrak District Governor staff on November 20th. This training will improve the capacity of District Governor staff to communicate with other government departments.



The Ghor Acting Provincial Governor encouraged the students to continue with their education during a visit on November 5th.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five-day Project Management training was started for four members of a CDC in Shahrak District on December 22nd. The same training was stated for 20 members of five CDCs from Shahrak District on December 29th.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

On December 22nd, Gender mainstreaming training was provided to 27 women in Shahrak District. Topics included the definition of gender, difference between gender and sex, gender mainstreaming and gender equality.

ADDITIONAL HQ SUPPORT

The District Governors Training and Coordination Workshop was launched on December 16th and 17th. Participants included the Herat Provincial Governor, the DRRD representatives, the District Governors, a USAID representative, and the IDLG-SIKA Unit. The workshop aimed to discuss the overall issues of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program and build better coordination. An overview of the SIKA-West achievements in target districts was presented.

The MRRD/IDLG Stability Program Quarterly Review meeting was held on November 18th-20th. Participants included the DRRD Directors from Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah Provinces, the USAID ACOR, the SIKA-West MRRD and IDLG Coordinators, and Afghan senior SIKA-West staff. The meeting was an opportunity to present an overview of the last quarter’s achievements, challenges and future plans, as well as open dialogue between SIKA-West and partners regarding district/provincial implementation of the program. On November 21st, the four DRRD directors compiled a list of action points, which SIKA-West will take on board during future activities.



The Herat Provincial Governor delivered speeches at the District Governors Training and Coordination Workshop, held on December 16th and 17th.

The SIKA-West Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP) held coordination meetings with the IDLG-SIKA Unit in Kabul from December 9th-11th. The SIKA-West DCoP shared the draft of the district government capacity building plan to align it with the IDLG capacity building strategy. An overview of the SIKA-West communications strategy was presented to IDLG. IDLG will organize a meeting with the SIKA-West Communications Department and will provide technical support.



The Badghis DRRD Director discussed the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program during the quarterly review meeting.

Orientation trainings were provided to 18 DRRD District Social Workers from all four target provinces. A detailed training about the MRRD programs including the National Solidarity Program (NSP), National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) and the MRRD policy was provided from December 22nd to 23rd. A detailed training about the SIKA-West components and activities was provided from December 24th to 26th. These social workers will be the DRRD focal points at the district level that will participate at the DSC meetings, do projects site visits and other related activities.

LESSONS LEARNED

Women's active participation at DSC meetings has been relatively low to date. In an attempt to attract more women to the DSC meetings and enable them to speak in public, thus receiving their input into the decision making and prioritization process, Public Speaking trainings will be provided to female DSC members. Women, who attended the Public Speaking training in September, actively participated in the DSC meetings and shared women's challenges in their community.

Following inspections of project sites and monitoring of project implementation, a new internal procurement procedure and funding withdrawal process has been developed for CDCs to secure the funding withdrawal. CDCs should have a procurement plan and based on that can withdraw the required amount.

During the "Concept Note" training in Badghis Province, it was observed that most of the CDCs' members are illiterate or have a low level of education. This makes it difficult for the CDCs to develop concept notes and find third party funding. To address this challenge, follow up trainings were provided to these CDCs which enabled them to develop some concept notes and to submit to IRC and NABDP. This approach will be applied to all target CDCs.

Provincial Government engagement is proving the key for implementation of the projects and resolving conflicts. The Chaghcharan DSC meeting selected the Zartalay CDC as the implementer of a 5 KM road rehabilitation project in Chaghcharan. The Mawlavi Qader and Mohammad Saleh, the heads of two CDCs in this cluster, were creating problems for the Zartalay CDC and wanted to be the implementers. The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor held a meeting with the conflicting parties and successfully resolved the conflict.

The M&E Department has found that a CDC in Badghis Province did not pay the salary of a vocational training instructor for two months. To make sure the instructors receive their salary on time, a SIKA-West Capacity Building Officer will be present when salary payments are made.

Data collection for Ghor Service Provider Catalog (SPC) was a time consuming task because most of the government and non-government organizations were not interested in providing data. To address this issue, several meetings and briefing sessions were held with the senior staff of these organizations on the importance of the SPC and its usages. Following these meetings, the organizations were convinced to provide the required data for the SPC.

The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) successfully resolved many conflicts in their districts. The procedure was that the TCRC invited the conflicting parties and the community elders to the district center to mediate and resolve their conflicts. To be more cost-efficient and help the TCRC to be sustainable, a new plan has been developed. The TCRC will travel to the conflicting areas instead of inviting many people to the district center.

To speed up the process of the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) development for Badghis and Ghor Provinces, a copy of the approved Farah SPC was given to the Ghor and Badghis DRRD for their general review and comments. Their comments and feedbacks have been incorporated in the Badghis and Ghor SPCs before sending for translation.

Government involvement in the planning process proved key to effective implementation of the activities at the provincial and district levels. Good coordination and collaboration with the Farah DRRD Director led to successful implementation of the Farah Service Providers Fair on December 8th. The Farah DRRD Director was completely involved in this activity, from the planning stage to implementation. This approach will be applied to future activities.

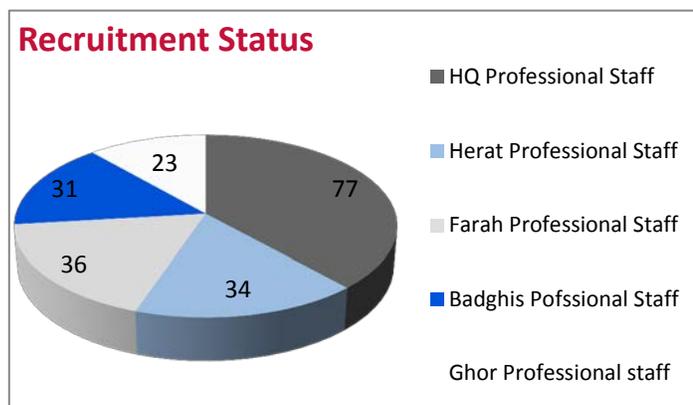
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the quarter, the M&E Department organized 289 monitoring visits covering different interventions by the MRRD/Stability Program, including DSC meetings, communications-related and capacity building trainings, and literacy and vocational training courses being instructed in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces. From these visits, an early warning report highlighting any issues with the implementation of these activities was compiled on a weekly basis to help SIKA-West management modify the implementation process.

As an extension to the SIKA-West baseline survey conducted in April and May 2013 in Herat, Farah, and Badghis, SIKA-West started surveying community members in two target districts of Ghor province (Chaghcharan and Shahrak) on October 7th. The baseline survey in Chaghcharan District was completed on November 21st. The Chaghcharan DST staff conducted interviews with 234 community residents (138 men, 96 women) in 15 villages in Chaghcharan District. The Shahrak District baseline survey will be started on mid-December.

RECRUITMENT STATUS

By the end of December, 253 employees had been recruited at the HQ, PST, and DST level, including 201 professional staff (23 females, 178 males) and 52 support staff (10 females, 42 males). To date, 21 positions are still in the recruitment process. In addition to this number, 21 STTAs have been directly hired as literacy and vocational training instructors.



DELIVERABLES

As per the SIKA-West contractual deliverables, the following documents were submitted to USAID:

- Weekly Reports
- September, October and November 2013 Monthly Report
- Quarterly Report July-September 2013
- Quarterly Financials and Workdays Report July-September 2013

ANNEX A: SIKA-WEST GRANT SUMMARY

#	Province	District	Under Development		Vetting To USAID		Grant Approved		Grant On-going		Grant Complete	
			#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
1	Farah	Bala Boluk					36	\$738,094	15	\$279,814	16	\$258,269
2		Pusht-E Rod					18	\$201,394	11	\$142,884	8	\$65,290
3		Khak-E Safed	3	\$71,565	1	\$98,708	10	\$156,349	10	\$156,350		
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun			1	\$79,440	23	\$626,945	19	\$454,220		
5		Shindand			5	\$242,760	25	\$831,629	15	\$406,815		
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi			6	\$242,889	25	\$679,079	18	\$406,449		
7	Ghor	Chaghcharan	5	\$302,100	4	\$207,000	13	\$485,562	3	\$161,232	2	\$37,395
8		Shahrak			1	\$38,000	7	\$445,375				
9	Badghis	Qadis	7	\$93,082	1	\$48,852	65	\$641,756	58	\$512,666	5	\$38,541
10		Muqur			2	\$73,463	44	\$663,303	32	\$426,642	4	\$30,277
			15	\$466,747	21	\$1,031,112	266	\$5,469,486	181	\$2,947,072	35	\$429,772

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