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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
JANUARY 2014



Pashtun Zarghun District Governor and youth put their hands together and pledged to actively participate in government activities on January 15th.

February 2014

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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
January 2014

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

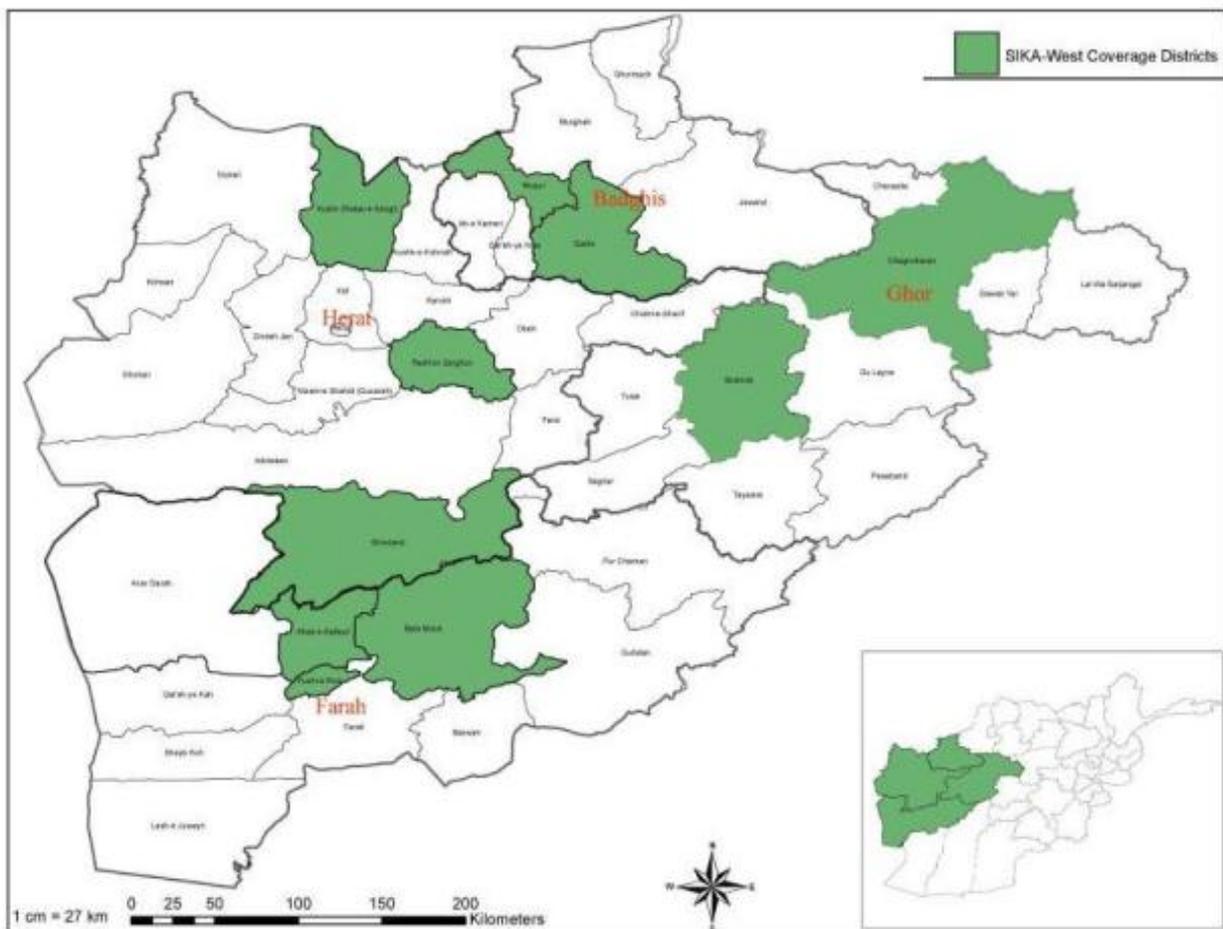
AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CBGD	Capacity Building and Gender Department
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industries
CDC	Community Development Councils
CHA	Coordination in Humanitarian Assistance
COP	Chief of Party
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
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 month of January 2014. 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 1: SIKA-West Implementation Districts



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STABILIZATION SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting period, in cooperation with the relevant District Governors' Offices, seven DSC meetings were organized. The meetings reached a total of 482 people (69 female and 413 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. The DSC meetings provided an opportunity to prioritize previously proposed mitigation activities and to discuss the impact of the first contract period project activities. The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRC) received Conflict resolution training to enable them to identify, prioritize and resolve the conflicts at the district level. During January, the TCRCs resolved three conflicts in Pashtun Zarghun, Muqur and Pusht-e Rod Districts.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- During the month, seven District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meetings were held in Farah, Badghis, Herat, and Ghor Provinces.
- 482 people participated in the DSC sessions.
- Conflict Resolution Skills trainings were provided to 73 TCRC members in Muqur, Qadis and Shahrak Districts.
- During January, the TCRCs resolved three conflicts in Muqur, Pashtun Zarghun and Pusht-e Rod Districts.

During the month of January, the DSC meetings were not held in Bala Boluk and Khak-e-Safayd Districts due to security concerns. The DSC meeting in Shahrak was canceled due to severe cold weather and heavy snow.

From January 12th-14th, the Shahrak TCRC traveled to Masjed Negar and Kharnak villages to mediate between the conflicting parties in these villages. These villages were in conflict over a murder since last year. The residents of the villages couldn't travel between these two villages. The TCRC organized two meetings with the conflicting parties and partially resolved the conflict. The conflicting parties agreed to allow the residents to travel between the villages. The TCRC and the Shahrak *Ulema* Council will organize another meeting to resolve the conflict completely.

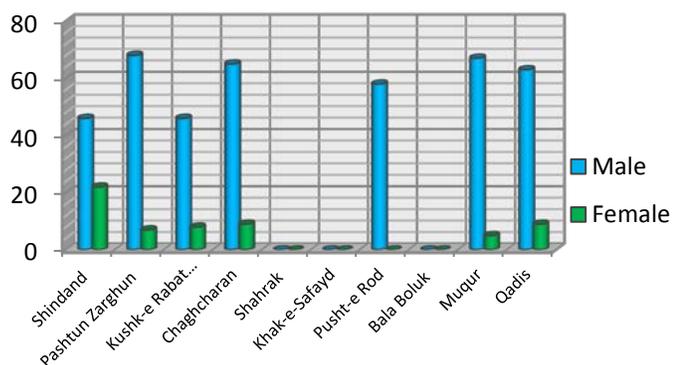


Chart 1: DSC meeting participants disaggregated by gender

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	Jan 2014	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	100	7	112

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Jan 2014	Cumulative Total
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
1.3	Number of activities planned against SOIs identified through SAM stabilization work sessions in SIKA-West districts	105	150	165	677
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	3,000	158	4,338
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	0	286
1.6	Number of target districts in which the SAM tool has been used to identify activities that mitigate SOIs	7	10	7	10

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the month, district entities completed 20 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.

To improve communication between the district government and the residents, the District Governors organized seven site visits to the vocational and refurbishment projects in Qadis, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Chaghcharan.

The Districts Government Hotline received a total of 29 calls from the residents complaining about different issues in Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Muqur, Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun and Chaghcharan Districts. *(Details are reported in the communications section for each district).*

As part of the activities to build capacity of the district entities to find financial resources from third party organizations for their proposed projects, Advocacy and Concept Note trainings were provided to CDCs' members and youths (48 men, 11 women) in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Muqur, Chaghcharan and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.

The Herat Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) has been approved and sent for publication. The first round of the Herat Service Providers Fair is planned for April 2014. The Badghis SPC has been sent to DRRD for their review and approval. The USAID has approved the Ghor SPC and is currently under translation. The second round of the Farah Service Providers Fair is scheduled for April 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- 12,960 people from district entities and provincial authorities received information about the services listed in the SPC.
- 59 members of Qadis, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e-Safayd, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shindand and Pashtun Zarghun Districts received Advocacy and Concept Note trainings.
- District entities completed 20 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plan.
- During the month, 66 government officials received communications-related trainings in Muqur, Qadis and Pusht-e Rod District.

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	Jan 2014	Cumulative Total
2.1	Number of DEs and PAs using the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC)	21	30	2	53
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	11	53
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	12,960	67,310
2.5	Number of training workshops held on Service Provider Catalogue usage for District Entities	9	50	8	38

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	Jan 2014	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	0	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	20	126
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	80	3	80

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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting month, 143 light refurbishment projects were ongoing in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e Safayd, Qadis, Muqur, Kushk Rabat-Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, and Shindand Districts (See chart 2&3). These projects include refurbishment of several important community buildings, and 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 identify all grant-related sub-projects.

As of the reporting date, 35 refurbishment projects including 11 projects in Bala Boluk, nine projects in Pusht-e Rod, two projects in Chaghcharan, six projects in Muqur and five projects in Qadis District were completed. These projects included community center refurbishment, water dividers, culverts and aqueduct construction.

During January, 35 new refurbishment projects worth \$123,779 in community contribution were awarded to the Chaghcharan and Muqur Districts CDCs.

Five-day Project Management trainings were provided to 46 members of 10 CDCs in all 10 target districts.

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	Jan 2014	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against SOIs	72	120	39 started	253 ¹
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

Chart 2: Number of ongoing refurbishment projects per district

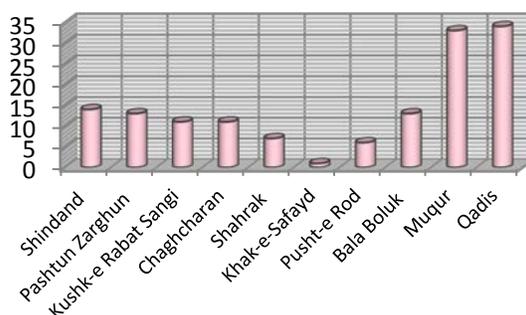
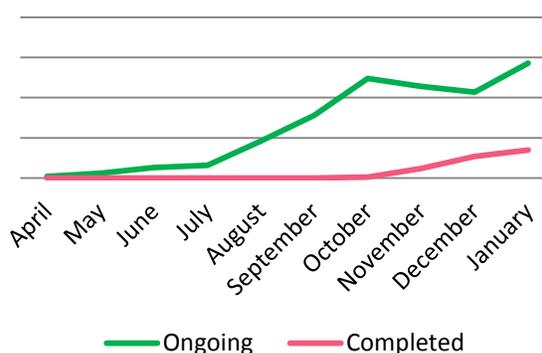


Chart 3: Number of refurbishment projects (ongoing/completed)



¹ As of the reporting date, 37 projects have been completed and 164 projects are ongoing.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Jan 2014	Cumulative Total
4.4	Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions	9,000	46,800	3,177 ¹	15,220
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	120	39	253
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	216,000	700,000	125,943	454,586
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	120	4	73
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	9,600	14,931	26,599 ²

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

As of the reporting date, 54 vocational trainings grants worth \$36,014 in community contributions and 13 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, 415 men and 890 women are benefiting from these training courses (*See chart 4*).

Public Speaking and Gender Mainstreaming training was provided to 12 female DSC members from Bala Boluk District, seven female DSC members from Qadis District. At the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) for women was established. The TCRC will receive further trainings to enable them to resolve the conflicts at the district levels.

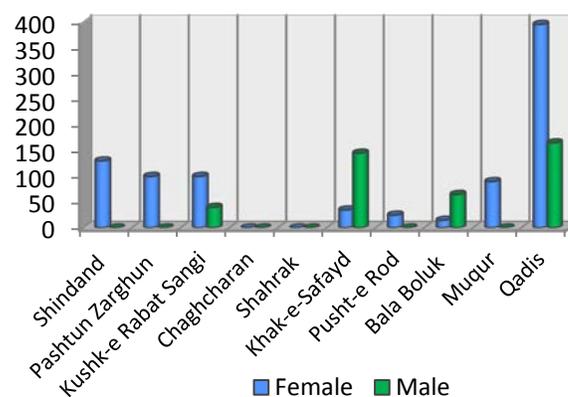
Two carpentry vocational training courses in Jawaleq Olya and Jawaleq Sofla villages in Qadis District were completed. During the five-month training, 30 men learned carpentry skills. Six of these graduates opened carpentry shops and the rest are looking for financial resources to start their business.

Five carpet weaving vocational training courses have been completed in Shindand District. 125 women learned carpet weaving skills during the five-month trainings. At the end of the training, as part of sustainability efforts, the Qala Rahmdel CDC changed the training venue into a profit-making carpet weaving center, with weavers receiving 50% of any carpet sold and the remaining funds being used to purchase materials for new carpets.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- 54 vocational trainings grant worth \$36,014 in community contributions and 12 vocational and literacy non-grant trainings were ongoing.
- 415 men and 890 women are receiving vocational and literacy trainings.
- As of reporting date, 588 women and 234 men graduated from literacy and vocational training courses.
- Two carpentry vocational training courses in Jawaleq Olya and Jawaleq Sofla villages in Qadis District were completed. During the five-month training, 30 men learned carpentry skills.
- Five carpet weaving vocational training courses have been completed in Shindand District. 125 women learned carpet weaving skills.

Chart 4: Number of vocational trainings trainees in each district



¹ This figure is measured once the grant is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

² This figure is measured once the training is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

Table 5- Gender and Program PMP objectives

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Jan 2014	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%	13%	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	13	131
9	Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	110	51	233

PROVINCIAL & DISTRICT OVERVIEW

FARAH PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

A meeting was held with the Director of the Farah Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) on January 6th. The meeting aimed to find job opportunities for vocational trainings graduates. A list of the graduates will be submitted to the DoLSA for further support.

A coordination meeting was held with the Farah Department of Literacy on January 15th. The meeting aimed to link the literacy trainings graduates to this department to support them with school enrollment. The Department of Literacy pledged to support these students. A meeting and interviews will be conducted with the graduates to see if they will be interested in continuing with their education.

A coordination meeting was held with the Farah DRRD Director on January 7th. An overview of the SIKA-West gender activities was presented and the DRRD Director was updated on an upcoming Public Speaking and Gender Mainstreaming training for women.

The Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held with the participation of 15 people from government and non-government organizations with an interest in gender-related activities on January 8th. The participants discussed possible ways to find market and job opportunities for the vocational training graduates. A meeting will be held with the Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) to allocate a room for the vocational training graduates to establish a fair and sell their products.



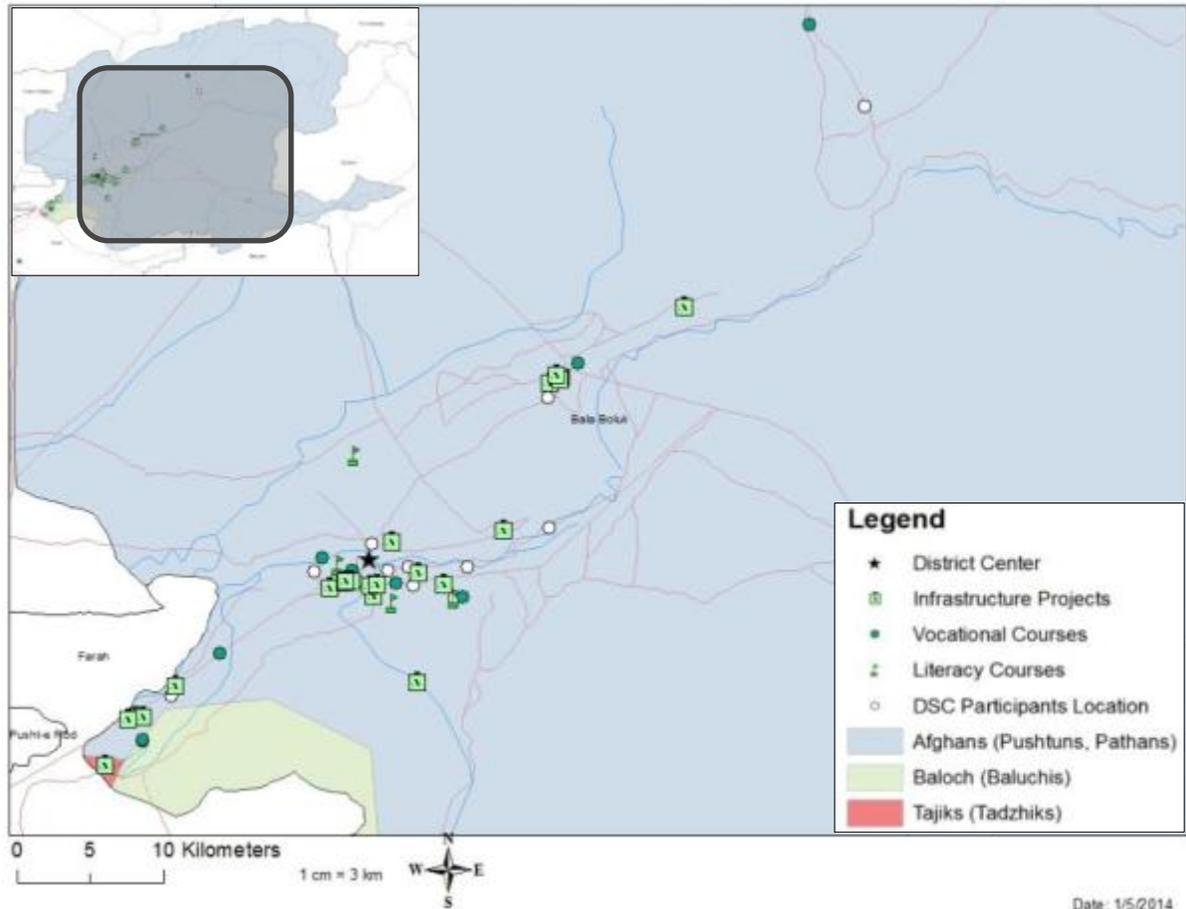
Representatives from government and non-government organizations discuss possible ways to find market and job opportunities for the vocational training graduates at a Farah Gender Working Group meeting.

BALA BOLUK DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Following a security assessment and communication from the National Directorate of Security (NDS), SIKA-West has temporarily suspended a staff travel in Bala Boluk, and all staff have been pulled back to Farah PST/DRRD Offices.

Map 2: Bala Boluk Activities and DSC Members



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

As part of the follow up activity to help the Bala Boluk District Kochi nomads to obtain National Identity Cards (Tazkara), the Kochi nomads' representatives met with the Bala Boluk Tazkara Distribution Manager on January 9th. They also submitted a petition to the Provincial Governor to get his approval to transfer the Tazkara registration book to the district center. Advocacy training was provided to three Kochis nomads on January 27th. The participants understood the importance of advocacy and how to advocate for their rights. Following several meetings with district and provincial authorities to transfer the Tazkara registration book to the district center, the Provincial



Mr. Gul Mohammad, a Kochis in Bala Boluk District displays his National Identity Card (Tazkara).

Governor approved and the Kochi nomads are now able to register at the district level. “We are happy that we are receiving Tazkara, now we can vote in the upcoming election,” said one of the Kochis.

On January 15th, the Allah Dad CDC in Bala Boluk District organized a meeting with the Department of Haj and Religious Affairs (DHRA) to submit their concept note for the community center refurbishment project. The DHRA will coordinate with the High Peace Council to find financial resources for this project.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As of the reporting date, 11 refurbishment projects have been completed including refurbishment of one community center and 75 water dividers.

Project Technical training was provided to foremen and supervisors of ten CDCs in Bala Boluk District on January 28th.

The Community Development Department is implementing 11 labor intensive refurbishment grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Boluk District.



Work is ongoing to refurbish a culvert in Goor Abad village in Bala Boluk District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Public Speaking and Gender Mainstreaming training was provided to 12 female DSC members from Bala Boluk District on January 12th. At the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) for women has been established. The TCRC will receive further trainings to enable them to resolve the conflicts at the district levels.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing one auto-mechanic (20 men) and two tailoring (15 women, 15 men) courses in Bala Boluk District (*See Annex B for details*).

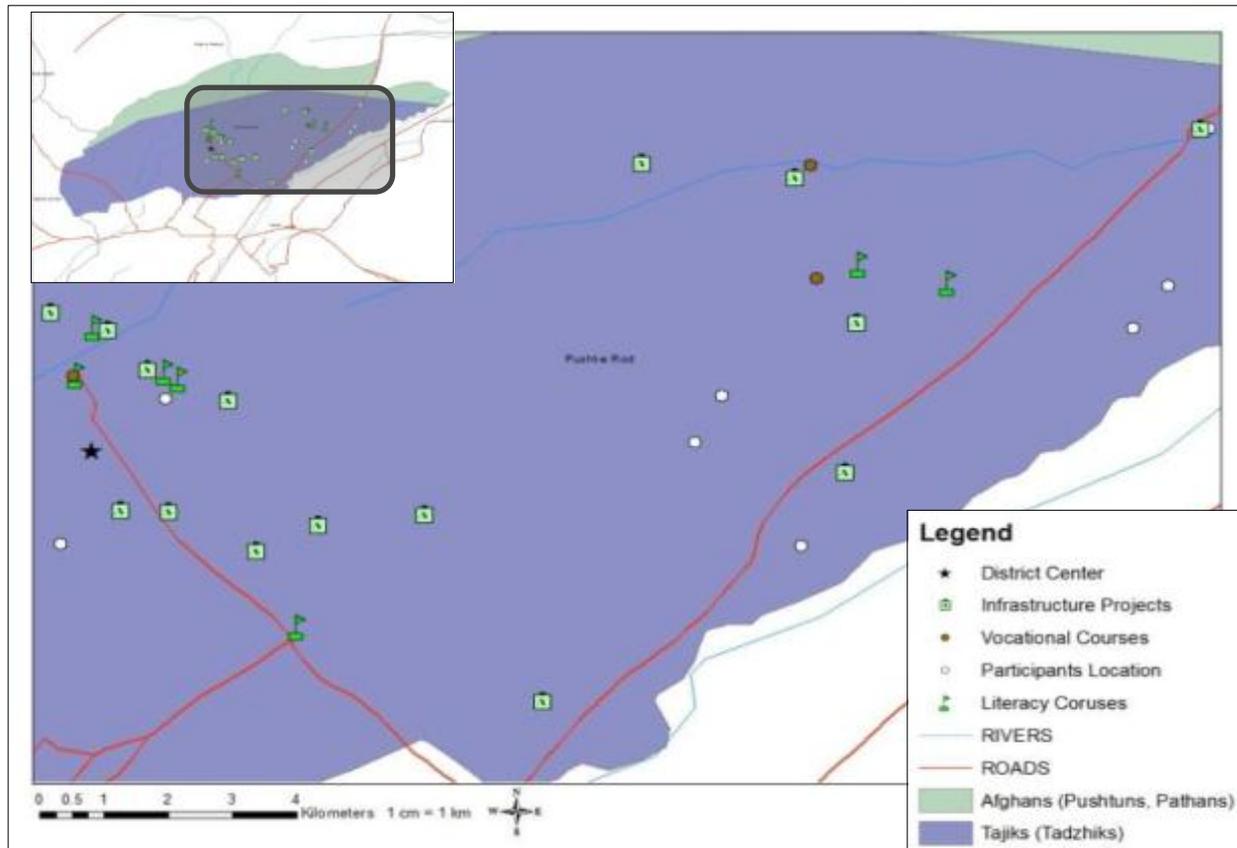
PUSHT-E ROD DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

A pre-DSC meeting and training was held with the Pusht-e Rod District Governor to enable him to organize the DSC meeting independently. The DG successfully organized the DSC meeting with participation of 60 people on January 23rd. The DG informed the participants that the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program has been extended, and asked the DSC members to propose mitigation activities that will bring stability in the area and create job opportunities for the people. By the end of the meeting, the DSC members prioritized and proposed 10 new mitigation activities.

The Pusht-e Rod women DSC meeting was held with participation of eight influential women on January 30th. The participants talked about the sources of instability including lack of people’s awareness about Islamic rules. To raise the people’s awareness, the women proposed to ask the *Ulema* and elders to talk about this issue during their sermons.

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



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association's representatives organized a coordination meeting with the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) on January 2nd. The youth shared their concerns including lack of job opportunities and lack of expert teachers. They also requested the DPG to provide them office space to allow them to expand activities. The DPG appreciated the youth and pledged to follow up these issues. The event was broadcast at the Farah Radio and Television of Afghanistan and published on Taand website.¹

The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association met with the District Governor to share their education concerns on January 26th. The youth shared their education concerns including lack of literacy programs, school buildings and lack of professional teachers. The DG will facilitate a meeting with the Department of Education to share these concerns.

Ten members of the Jan Khani Massow CDC in Pusht-e Rod District received Advocacy and Concept Note training on January 19th. The CDC drafted a concept note for the canal excavation project. Further support will be provided to the CDC to submit their concept note to third party organizations.

¹ - <http://www.taand.com/archives/16913>

Media training was provided to 20 members of Pusht-e Rod Farmers' Association on January 19th. Topics covered the importance of communication, interview techniques and how to write a press release. The Farmers' Association will use these skills to report their activities through the local media.¹

The Pusht-e Rod farmers held a joint meeting with the Finance Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA), the Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) and Economy Department on January 30th. The FAIDA briefed the farmers on the process of getting loans for farmers. The farmers with support of the FAIDA will develop a proposal to receive loans.

The Pusht-e Rod District Governor held a monthly coordination meeting with nine District Government officials on January 19th. The participants reported their previous month activities and challenges to the DG.

The Pusht-e Rod District Government Hotline received a call about a water dispute between two farmers. The DG successfully resolved the dispute.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As of the reporting date, nine refurbishment projects including 83 water dividers have been completed.

The Community Development Department is implementing three labor intensive refurbishment grants (irrigation projects/school surrounding wall) in Pusht-e Rod District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Public Speaking and Gender Mainstreaming training was provided to seven female DSC members from Pusht-e Rod District on January 12th. At the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) for women has been established. The TCRC will receive further trainings to enable them to resolve the conflicts at the district levels.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing one health education (25 women) training in Pusht-e Rod District. (*See Annex B for details*).

KHAK-E SAFAYD DISTRICT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five-day Project Management training was provided to the Khushk Aba CDC in Khak-e-Safayd District from January 19th-21st.

The Community Development Department is implementing one labor intensive refurbishment grant (road rehabilitation) in Khak-e-Safayd District.



Members of Pusht-e Rod Farmers' Association practice how to write a press release during the Media training on January 19th.



Work is ongoing to construct a 391-meter surrounding wall for Mulla Mohammad Yaqub high school in Pusht-e Rod District.

¹ -<http://www.larawbar.net/39190.html>
<http://www.zarlakht.net/fullcontent.php?id=7570>

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Public Speaking and Gender Mainstreaming training was provided to nine female DSC members from Khak-e-Safayd District on January 12th. At the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) for women has been established. The TCRC will receive further trainings to enable them to resolve the conflicts at the district levels.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing four auto-mechanic (60 men), three carpentry (45 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

Separate meetings were held with the Director of the Badghis Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) and Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) on December 31st and January 4th. The meetings aimed to find job opportunities for the carpentry vocational training graduates. A list of the graduates was submitted to the DoLSA for further assistance. The DoLSA and CCI will coordinate with other organizations for further support.

The Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 21 representatives from government and non-government organizations on January 11th. Each organization presented its gender-related activities in Badghis Province. The participants will organize a meeting with the Provincial Governor to request a place at the center for women to sell their products.

The weekly coordination meetings with Badghis DRRD were held on January 16th and 30th. An overview of the previous weeks' activities and future plan was presented to the DRRD.

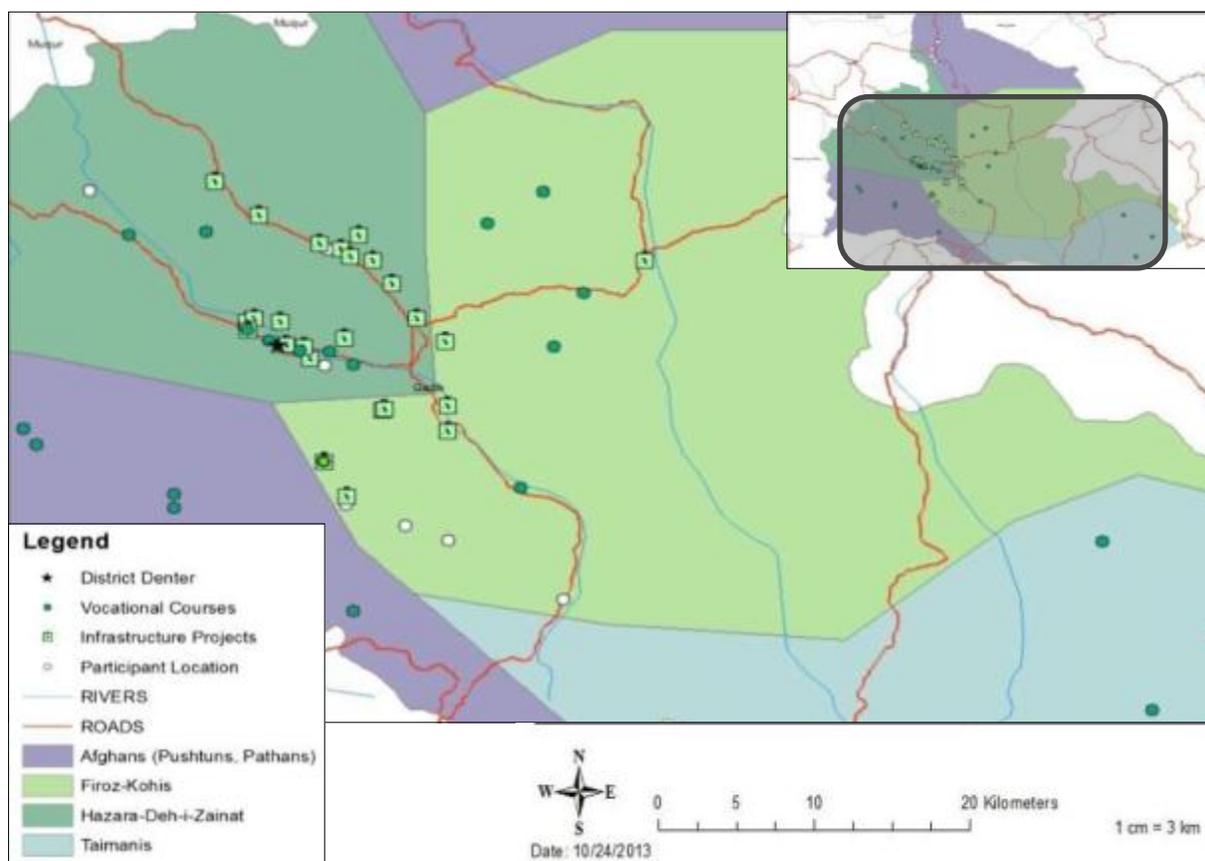
QADIS DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

A pre-DSC meeting and training was held with the Qadis District Governor. The DG explained the agenda and talking points he developed and explained how he will organize the DSC meeting. The DG successfully organized the DSC meeting with participation of 90 people including 13 women on January 27th. The DSC members reviewed the previous identified sources of instability and root causes and proposed 15 new mitigation activities.

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 25 people including the Qadis District Governor and the TCRC members on January 22nd. The training aimed to enable the participants to identify and resolve the conflicts at the district level.

Map 4: Qadis Activities and DSC Members Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Internal Communications training was provided to 19 government staff from Qadis District on January 9th. Topics included internal communications skills, good governance, principles of communications and effective communications. The Qadis District Governor received support to write a press release to the local media that covered the communications training held on January 9th.

The Qadis District governor organized the monthly coordination meeting with 13 district government senior staff from Education, Municipality, Haj and Religious Affairs, Afghan National Police, Economy and Telecommunications Departments on January 5th. A number of issues including the relocation of a public transportation station and ways to improve service delivering to the community were discussed.

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor and the DRRD representative along with CDC members visited tailoring training courses in Mohammad Ali Khan and Naebha villages on January 28th. The DG asked the trainees to use this training opportunity to help their families.



Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor, and the DRRD representative visited a tailoring training course in Mohammad Ali Khan Village on January 28th.

The Qadis District Government Hotline received two calls complaining that the Comprehensive Health Clinic (CHC) didn't distribute food items to a needy woman and another complain that a villager doesn't

pay back his loan. The DG followed up on the issue and the CHC pledged to provide food to the woman if she meets the criteria.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As of the reporting date, five refurbishment projects including seven culverts have been completed.

Project Technical training was provided to four members of two CDCs in Qadis District on January 18th.

The Community Development Department is implementing 32 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/road rehabilitation) in Qadis District.



Work is ongoing to refurbish a culvert in Nayeoha village in Qadis District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Training on ‘Site Visit Monitoring’ was provided to three Qadis District Government staff. The trainings aimed to enable the district government officials monitor the work progress of projects being implemented by CDCs.

Two carpentry vocational training courses in Jawaleq Olya and Jawaleq Sofla villages in Qadis District were completed. During the five-month training, 30 men learned carpentry skills. Six of these graduates opened carpentry shops and the rest are looking for financial resources to start their business. A closing ceremony was conducted on January 22nd. The DG’s representative asked the graduates to start their business and help their community members. At the end of the ceremony, the 30 graduates received toolkits.



30 graduates of the carpentry trainings in Qadis District received toolkits to start their business on January 22nd.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing 22 tailoring (325 women, 120 men), one carpentry (15 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*).

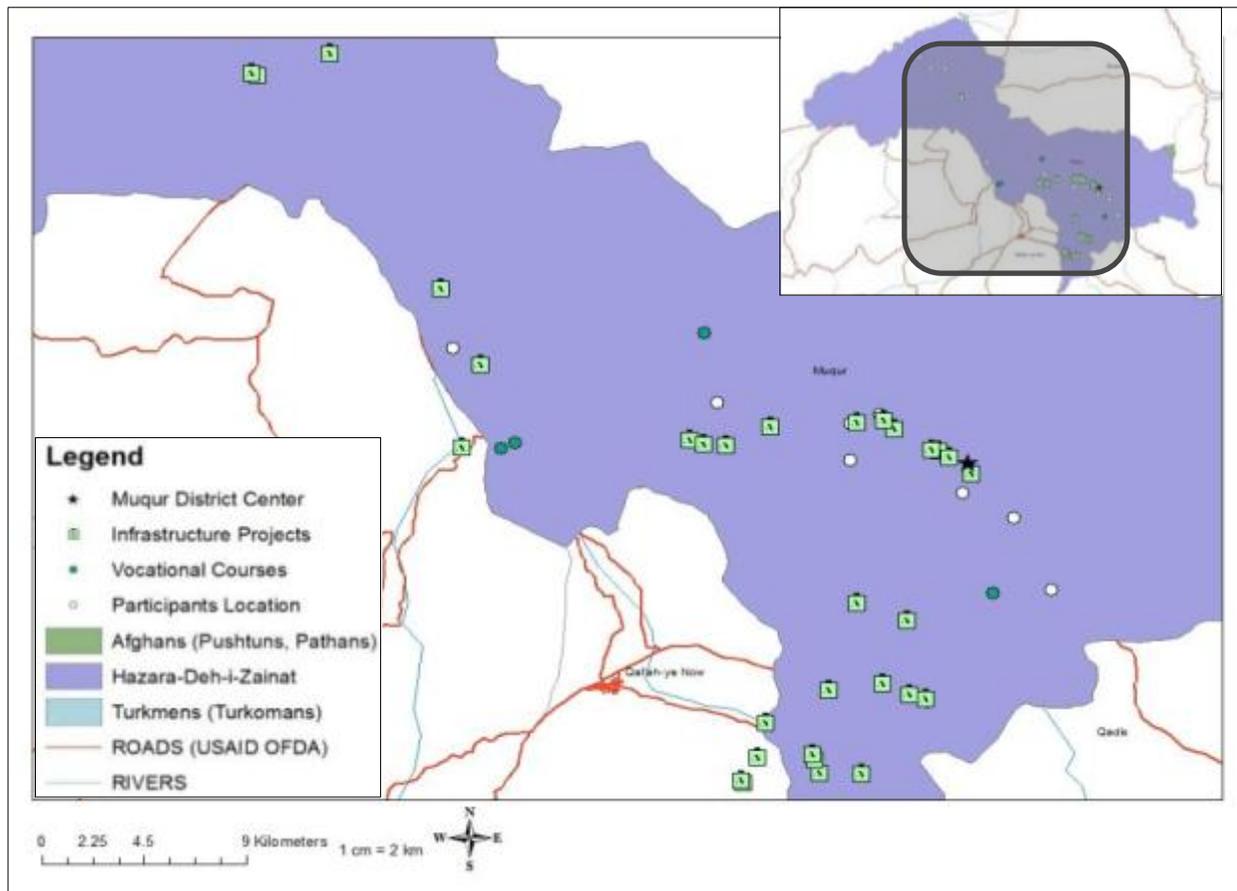
MUQR DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to the Muqr DG and the TCRC on January 12th. At the end of the training, eight members of the TCRC have been assigned to travel to the Surkhabi and Jakana villages to mediate between the conflicting parties over a marriage dispute. From January 15th-16th, the Muqr TCRC traveled to Surkhabi and Jakana villages to mediate between the conflicting parties. This dispute led to a tribal conflict in these villages. Although the TCRC had negotiated between the conflicting parties to resolve the conflict amicably, the conflicting parties decided to divorce.

Mr. Haji Abdul Hadi, the Muqr District Governor, organized a DSC meeting with participation of 72 people including five women on January 28th. “These are the people who decide to live under fear or in a peaceful environment,” said the DG. The participants reviewed the previously identified sources of instability including poverty and unemployment. Following a lengthy discussion, they proposed 13 new mitigation activities.

Map 5: Muqur Activities and DSC Members



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Muqur District Governor organized a coordination meeting with the 13 district government staff on January 12th. Participants discussed different issues including the use of expired food and medicines in the Bazar and speeding of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA)'s vehicles in residential areas. As part of the follow up activities to address these issues, a traffic policeman has been hired to control the speed of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP)'s vehicles in residential areas. In addition, the DG with support of the police collected expired food and medicines from the Bazaars and destroyed them on January 26th.

For the first time, the Muqur District residents had the chance to meet with high ranking provincial authorities. On January 15th, the Muqur District Governor organized a meeting with participation of 111 people including the high ranking provincial authorities, *Ulema* and community elders. The Provincial Director of Education delivered speeches about the importance of education and peace in the community and asked the participants to support the Education Department to re-open the schools which were closed due to insecurity. *Ulema's* representatives pledged to provide necessary support for the Education Department. The Director of Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) talked about the need to protect forest and natural resources and pledged to provide improved seeds for the farmers.

On January 19th, the Qarghach and Zad-Naser CDCs in Muqur District received Advocacy and Concept Note training to enable them to find financial resources for the community center refurbishment project. These CDCs will receive follow-up training during the coming week.

A ‘Communication Skills Building’ training was provided to 27 Muqur District Government staff on January 22nd. Topics included the importance of communications and effective methods of communications.

The Muqur District Government Hotline received five calls about a complaint over an irrigation dispute, a tribal conflict, a complaint from a Turkish company that pollutes water, a family marriage and a loan dispute. The District Governor with support of the local shura resolved the conflicts.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As of the reporting date, six refurbishment projects including eight culverts and a 120-m water canal have been completed.

Project Technical training was provided to eight members of four CDCs and one DRRD staff in Muqur District on January 21st.

The Community Development Department is implementing 32 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (culverts/irrigation/canal protection/road rehabilitation) in Muqur District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Training on ‘Site Visit Monitoring’ was provided to four Muqur District Government staff. The trainings aimed to enable the district government officials monitor the work progress of projects being implemented by CDCs.

A two-day training on “How to Organize a Meeting” was provided to 21 government staff from Muqur District on January 26th. Topics included how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing two auto-mechanics (30 men) and four tailoring (90 women) courses in Muqur District (*See Annex B for details*).



27 government staff from Muqur District received ‘Communication Skills Building’ training on January 22nd.



20 local women practice tailoring skills in Zad Ali village in Muqur District.

HERAT PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Herat Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of the USAID officials and 18 representatives from government and non-government organizations with an interest in gender activities on January 6th. The meeting focused on: what procedures should be applied to attract people’s interest to participate in gender-related activities and trainings and how to find job opportunities for the vocational training graduates. The participants recommended raising the religious leaders and parents’ awareness on gender and gender mainstreaming, do marketing assessment before conducting vocational trainings and providing toolkits at the end of the trainings for the students.

The Herat DoWA organized a coordination meeting with the organizations interested in gender activities on January 29th. The meeting aimed to ask these organizations to provide support to celebrate the International Women’s Day on March 8th. The DoWA requested the SIKA-West to provide 20 banners, 1000 brochures and share SIKA-West gender-related achievements during the celebration.

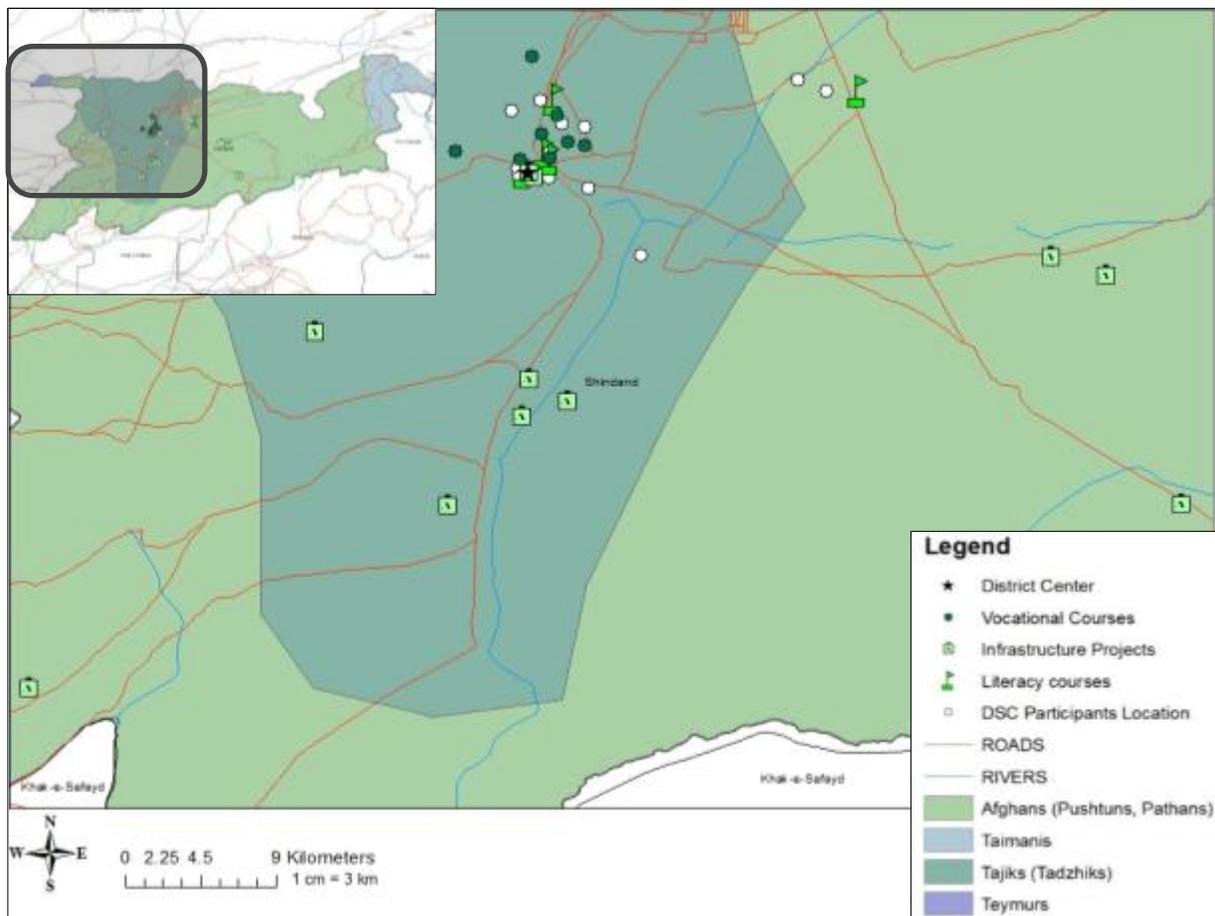
The weekly coordination meetings with the Herat DRRD were held on January 9th and 30th. An overview of the last weeks' activities and challenges was presented.

SHINDAND DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

A pre-DSC meeting was held with the Shindand District Governor on January 20th to brief him on the talking points and agenda of the DSC meeting. The Shindand DG facilitated the DSC meeting on January 21st with the participation of 68 people including 22 women. The DG asked the CDCs to implement high quality projects. The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) gave an overview of their activities and achievements. The DSC members identified poppy cultivation as a source of instability and proposed some mitigation activities.

Map 6: Shindand District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Shindand District Governor visited the work in-progress of the road graveling project in Naw Abad village on January 22nd. When the DG's convoy was returning from the project site, Anti-Government Elements opened fire on the vehicles. During the Taliban ambush the Shindand District Governor stood his ground, directing his staff to take wounded policemen to the closest medical center. In the first few minutes of the attack one ANP member was killed and two wounded. The DG instructed his staff to evacuate the ANP personnel and the SIKA-West staff, but stayed behind himself until all AGE forces

were either killed or had left the area. The DG has always been a strong supporter of USAID projects which funded GIRoA activities in rural communities, and his actions during the attack have proved his conviction to bringing stability to Shindand through improved government service delivery and engagement with the community.¹

The Shindand District Governor (DG) organized a meeting with 50 female teachers on January 20th. The teachers shared their concerns including insecurity and lack of drinking water. The DG will coordinate with security forces to find a solution and provide security. Coordination and lobbying will be done with relevant organizations to provide drinking water for the schools.



Teachers from Shindand talked about their education concerns in the district during a meeting on January 20th.

Following a concept note training provided to two women’s associations in Shindand District, the associations developed concept notes for the proposed literacy and tailoring training courses. The associations submitted their concept note to the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) and Zardozi, a local non-governmental organization. The UNDP showed interest and will prioritize this concept when searching for funding.

The Shindand District Government Hotline received three calls about a land dispute, a family dispute and a murder case. The land and family disputes were successfully resolved by the DG. The other case is under process.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Project Technical training was provided to six members of three CDCs in Shindand District on January 23rd.

The Community Development Department is implementing 10 labor intensive grants, including flood protection walls, school refurbishment, road rehabilitation, culverts, and Kariz excavation in Shindand District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

A training on “How to Organize a Meeting” was provided to 11 government staff from Shindand District on January 22nd. Topics included how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

Five carpet weaving vocational training courses have been completed in Shindand District. 125 women learned carpet weaving skills during the five-month trainings. At the end of the training, as part of sustainability efforts, the Qala Rahmdel CDC changed the training venue into a profit-making carpet weaving center, with weavers receiving 50% of any carpet sold, and the remaining funds being used to purchase materials for new carpets.



“I am proud that I can help my family and have an income”. Maryam-Qala-e-Rahmdel Carpet Weaver

A coordination meeting was held with the US Army/Cultural Support Team in Shindand District on January 15th. An overview of the SIKA-West components

¹ <http://www.watan24.com/index.php/political/item/1281-11>

especially the gender-related activities was presented. The US Army showed interest and asked the SIKA-West to organize further meetings to find ways to improve gender mainstreaming and engagement in the community.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing five tailoring (125 women), and one embroidery (20 women) course in Shindand District (See Annex B for details).

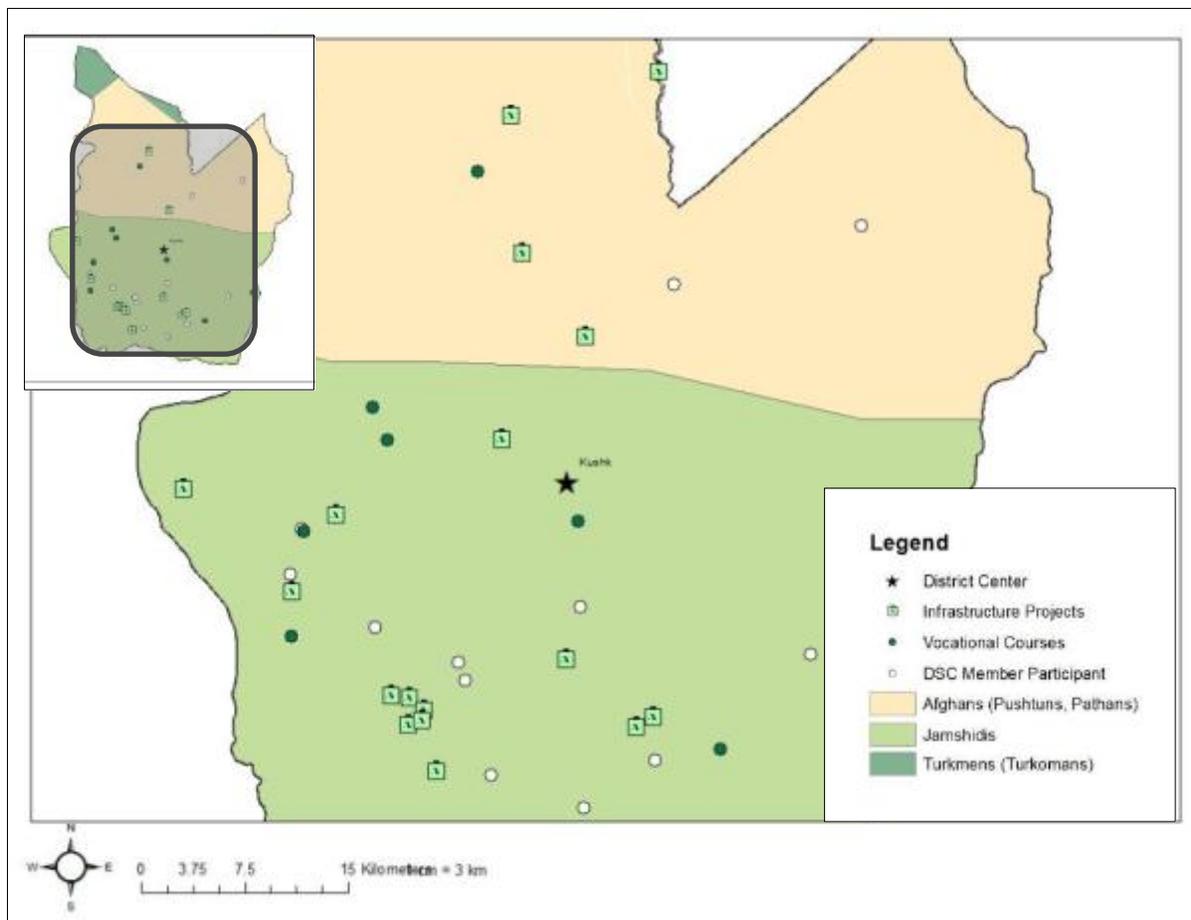
KUSHK RABAT-E SANGI DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Report Writing training was provide to the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, DRRD focal point and three district key staff on January 12th. These participants will cascade the training to the TCRC members to enable them to report their activities and achievements.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting was held with the participation of 76 people including seven women on January 26th. An overview of the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities was presented. The DSC members analyzed the previous identified sources of instability and proposed four mitigation activities. The DG, DDA representatives and *Ulema* announced their support for the Stability Program.

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



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor received support to create a Facebook page. Through this page the DG posts district government achievements and activities, job vacancies and important events. By the end of January, all 10 target district government offices will have Facebook pages. Further support and trainings will be provided to the DGs.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 120 people including government officials, *Ulema* and community elders on January 15th. Speeches about the dangers of poppy cultivation and use were delivered by the Police Commander and *Ulema*. The community elders and *Arbabs* pledged to support the government in combating poppy cultivation.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor along with the Herat DRRD representatives and CDC members visited the work in progress of the protection wall refurbishment project in Rabat-e Sangi Sharqi village on January 19th. On January 22nd and 25th, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, the Executive Manager and the DRRD Social Workers visited the work in progress of the road graveling projects in Birjanak Hulya, Shaltury, Nazam Khan villages and a protection wall construction in Rabat-e Sangi Sharqi village.

Advocacy training was provided to 18 members of the Khola Murgh Sofla CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on January 27th. The CDC will advocate for finding financial resources to provide potable water for their village.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government Hotline received four calls complaining about *Arbabs* not working properly, a land dispute and selection of an *Arbab* for Haji Bazaq & Teel Maliki Ha villages. The DG with support of the District Property Manager resolved the land dispute. The other issues are under investigation by the DG.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A one-day technical training was provided to the foremen and supervisors of five CDCs, DRRD and District Governor focal points in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on January 12th.

A five-day Project Management training was provided to 24 members of six CDCs in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District from January 25th-30th.

The Community Development Department is implementing 11 labor intensive grants, including flood protection walls and road rehabilitation, in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Training on 'Site Visit Monitoring' was provided to four Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government staff. The trainings aimed to enable the district government officials monitor the work progress of projects being implemented by CDCs.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing five tailoring (100 women) and two welding (40 men) courses in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District (*See Annex B for details*).



Mr. Jailani Daqiq, the Director of Counter Narcotics delivered speeches about the dangers of poppy cultivation during the meeting in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on January 15th.



Work is ongoing to rehabilitate a 90-meter protection wall in Khalvak village in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

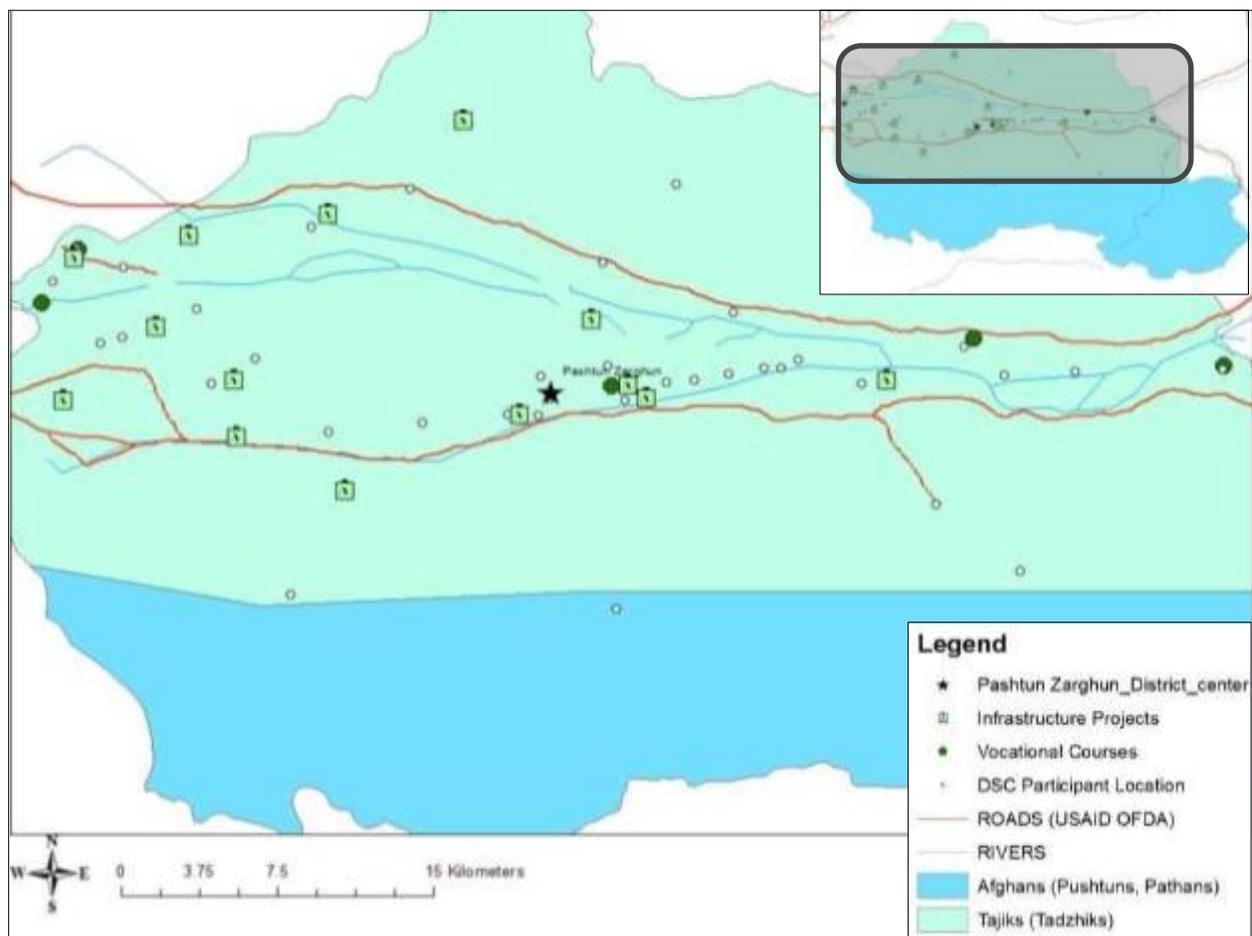
PASHTUN ZARGHUN DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

The Pashtun Zarghun Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) was held with the participation of 13 TCRC members on January 6th. The TCRC identified three conflicts including a recent murder and family disputes. The TCRC will mediate between the conflicting parties during the coming weeks.

Mr. Rashid Wahidi, the Pashtun Zarghun Deputy District Governor, organized a DSC meeting with participation of 75 people including seven women on January 28th. The DSC members reviewed the previous identified sources of instability and proposed eight new mitigation activities. The CDCs' representatives complained about the delay of their milestone payment which resulted in slow implementation of the projects. The participants asked the SIKA-West to provide them Advocacy training to find financial resources for their community center construction project.

Map 8: Pashtun Zarghun District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On January 15th, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor organized a meeting with 56 *Ulema*, *Arbabs* and youth to highlight the roles of youth in the district government activities and decision making process. *Ulema* pledged to support the youth to actively participate in the government activities. The District Governor encouraged the youth to continue their education and join the government.

The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor held a monthly coordination meeting with 15 district government high ranking officials on January 14th. All participants shared their last month activities and challenges.

A Concept Note training was provided to the Mahal Shahi CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 20th. The CDC will receive Advocacy training to write a concept note for the school equipment project and submit it to third party organizations for funding. A follow up Advocacy training was provided to 18 members of this CDC on January 25th. Further support will be provided to this CDC to develop a concept note and submit it to third party organizations for the financial support for their school equipment project.

The Pashtun Zarghun District Chief of Police organized a meeting with 78 police, elders and Arbabs on January 27th. The Chief of Police appreciated the security forces for their hard work that led to the release of 63 Hello Trust Organization staff who were abducted recently. He also encouraged the elders to cooperate with the government to respond to such incidents quickly.

Advocacy training was provided to 18 members of Gim CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 25th. The CDC will develop a concept note for the retaining wall project.

The Pashtun Zarghun Deputy District Governor along with ten district government officials visited the work progress of the road graveling project in Kushk-e-Sirwan village on January 20th. “Implementation of such projects in poor community brings stability and peace,” said the Deputy District Governor.

During the month, the Pashtun Zarghun District Government Hotline received nine calls, one from a laborer who complained about labor violations from a CDC which expects more work from the laborers, a villager who reported that 63 Hello Trust Organization staff had been kidnaped, a land dispute, a theft case, a request to construct small bridges and a request for information on how to irrigate Saffron. The DG, with the support of the security forces, successfully released the hostages. The other cases are under investigation by the DG.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A one-day technical training was provided to supervisors and foremen of Tonian and Khushk-e-Sirvan CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 6th. The same training was provided to eight members of four CDCs on January 27th.

Five-day Project Management training was provided to eight members of two CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun District from December 31st to January 6th.



Pashtun Zarghun District Governor and youth put their hands together and pledged to actively participate in government activities on January 15th.



The Pashtun Zarghun DDA Head appreciating the security forces for their hardworking in releasing the hostages at the meeting on January 27th.



Salimi CDC is implementing a 100-meter protection wall and two culvert rehabilitation projects in Pashtun Zarghun District.

The Community Development Department is implementing 12 labor intensive grants, including flood protection walls, school refurbishment, road rehabilitation, culverts, and bridge construction in Pashtun Zarghun District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Training on ‘Site Visit Monitoring’ was provided to four Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff. The trainings aimed to enable the district government officials monitor the work progress of projects being implemented by CDCs.

The Capacity Building Department is implementing five tailoring (100 women) courses in Pashtun Zarghun District (*See Annex B for details*).

GHOR PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Ghor Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 10 people from government and non-government organizations on January 6th. The participants shared their gender-related activities in Ghor Province and recommended establishing a women shura in Shahrak District.

A coordination meeting was held with the Ghor DoWA on January 20th. The DoWA Director asked the SIKA-West to provide management, computer and English trainings for women. The DoWA Director also encouraged the SIKA-West to pay particular attention to women’s concerns and support them organize a public meeting with *Ulema* to encourage people’s awareness of women’s rights in Islam.

A meeting was held with the Ghor DRRD Director and the Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) on January 11th to discuss potential target districts in Ghor Province. The DRRD and DPG proposed the Dawlat Yar, Charsada and Du-Layna districts.

On January 22nd, a meeting was held with the Agency for Humanitarian and Development Assistance for Afghanistan (AHDAA), an organization which works in the risk reduction management field. The meeting aimed to discuss coordination with the organization to provide Risk Management training for Ghor government staff. A list of trainees will be submitted to AHDAA to develop training materials.

CHAGHCHARAN DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Public Speaking and Conflict Resolution trainings were provided to 13 DSC members from Chaghcharan Districts on January 21st. By the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) for women had been established. The TCRC will receive further training and support to identify and resolve conflicts at the district level.

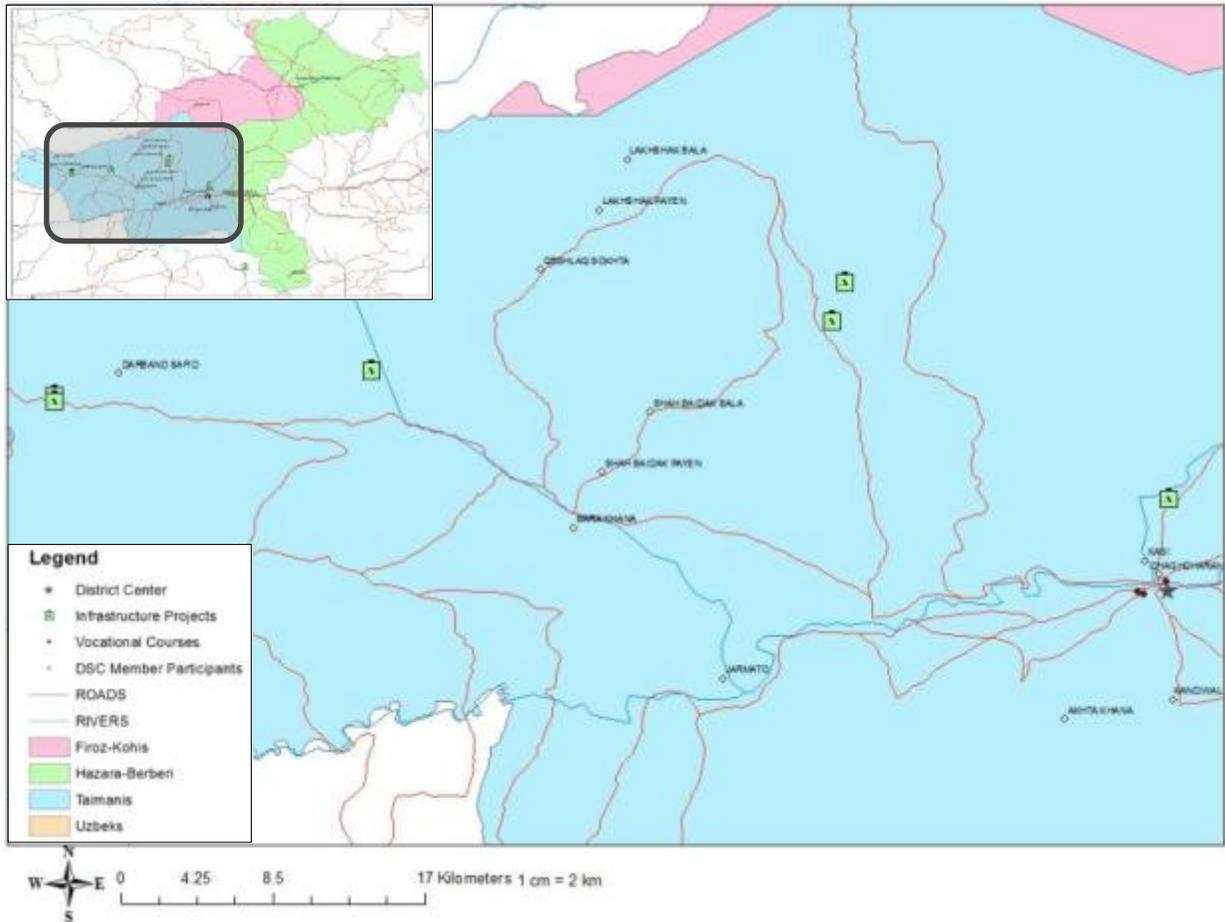
A pre-DSC meeting and training was held with the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) and the DRRD Director on January 21st. The DPG gave an overview on how he will facilitate and organize the DSC meeting. On January 22nd, the DPG organized the DSC meeting with the participation of 74 people including nine women. The DRRD Director asked the DSC members to propose projects that bring stability. A woman complained and requested for provision of job opportunities to



Women from Chaghcharan received Public Speaking and Conflict Resolution training on January 21st.

local women. The DPG asked the Allah Yar village representatives to stop fighting and cooperate with the TCRC to resolve their tribal conflicts.

Map 9: Chaghcharan District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) organized a meeting with 55 teachers and students to listen to their education concerns on January 28th. “Lack of professional teachers and low salary of teachers are the main concerns,” said one of the teachers. A female teacher asked the DPG to facilitate extra-curriculum trainings for female students. The DPG informed the participants that Management, English and Computer trainings will be provided to 60 women and asked them to participate in these trainings.¹



Teachers and students share their education concerns at the public meeting on January 28th.

¹ - http://www.jame-ghor.com/news/persian/news_1392/0253_29012014_news.htm
http://newsvim.blogspot.com/2014/01/blog-post_29.html

The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized an anti-poppy cultivation meeting with 40 farmers, youth and religious leaders on January 19th. “Poppy cultivation is forbidden in Islam, we are responsible for stopping poppy cultivation,” said a religious leader. *Ulema* pledged to raise the people’s awareness on the dangers of poppy and support the government to eradicate poppy cultivation.¹

The Youth Association organized a meeting with 37 farmers to raise their awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation on January 23rd. The youth representative informed the farmers that the government will destroy their fields if they grow poppy. A farmer requested the government to provide alternative crops especially apple and apricot.

The Youth Association organized a televised round table on the dangers of poppy cultivation and drug addiction with participation of a religious elder, Education Department and Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) on January 30th. The participants discussed topics on religion, social and economic aspects. The round table was broadcast on the RTA.



The Ghor Provincial Youth Association organized a televised round table on the dangers of poppy cultivation and drug addiction on January 30th.

An Advocacy and Concept Note training was provided to five members of Seyab CDC in Chaghcharan District On January 18th. The CDC will receive follow up training and mentoring to develop a concept note for their pipe scheme construction project and submit it to third party organizations for funding

The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) received support to conduct a radio interview with the Adalat Radio. The DPG delivered messages on government activities and asked the residents to assist with resolving tribal conflicts.

The Chaghcharan District Government Hotline received five calls complaining about government and non-government organizations poor implementation of projects and requesting the district government to provide humanitarian aid for them. These calls will be followed up by the District Governor.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As of the reporting date, two refurbishment projects including three culverts have been completed.

A five-day Project Management training was kicked off for 16 members of four CDCs in Chaghcharan District on January 18th.

The Community Development Department is implementing 11 labor intensive grants (road rehabilitation/culverts) in Chaghcharan District.



5-KM Road rehabilitation is ongoing in Jarmato Ulia village in Chaghcharan District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Training on ‘Site Visit Monitoring’ was provided to three Chaghcharan District Government staff. The trainings aimed to enable the district government officials monitor the work progress of projects being implemented by CDCs.

¹ -<http://www.radiozohal.com/?p=8103>,
http://www.jame-ghor.com/news/persian/news_1392/0248_20012014_news.htm#.Ut3wB7QVRrQ

SHAHRAK DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 28 members of the Shahrak TCRC on January 7th. The TCRC will work at the district level to identify, prioritize and resolve conflicts.

From January 12th-14th, the Shahrak TCRC traveled to Masjed Negar and Kharnak villages to mediate between the conflicting parties in these villages. These villages were in conflict over a murder since last year. The residents of the villages couldn't travel between these two villages. The TCRC organized two meetings with the conflicting parties and partially resolved the conflict. The conflicting parties agreed to allow the residents to travel between the villages. The TCRC and the Shahrak *Ulema* Council will organize another meeting to resolve the conflict completely.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

A Peace meeting was held in Shahrak District with participation of 40 influential people including government officials, *Ulema* and elders on January 7th. *Ulema*, government staff and youth delivered speeches about the importance of peace and unity in the community. "We want the *Ulema* to actively take part in the tribal conflict resolution activities," said an influential elder.

On January 19th, the Shahrak Acting District Governor held a public meeting with 41 *Ulema*, teachers and community elders to highlight the importance of education and encourage the people to send their children to school. An opportunity was given to the teachers to share their education concerns. The *Ulema* pledged to support the government to re-open the schools that are closed due to insecurity.¹

The Shahrak Acting District Governor (ADG) organized a meeting with 30 youths to talk about the importance of peace, unity and stability in the community on January 15th. The youth requested the ADG to support them to establish a youth association in Shahrak District. The ADG will support the youth to establish the association. The youth wrote an agreement stating they will reinforce peace and stability, raise people's awareness on the dangers of tribal conflicts and encourage other youth to continue their education.²

The Shahrak District Governor held an informative meeting with 36 *Ulema*, influential people and farmers on January 22nd. The meeting aimed to raise the people's awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation. "There are many addicts in the district, the only solution to combat this crisis is to cooperate with the government and raise people's awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation and use," said one of the elders. A farmer requested the government to provide alternative crops and improved seeds for the farmers.

Mr. Shahpasan Pahlavi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor (ADG) held a meeting with 32 *Ulema* and community elders to address the issue of the vacant position of a judge in the district on January 29th. The Shahrak district has not had a judge for almost five years due to security concerns. The ADG requested the *Ulema* to support the government to send a judge to this district. The *Ulema* and elders wrote an



40 influential people from Shahrak District gathered and discussed the importance of peace and unity in the community on January 7th.

¹ - http://www.jame-ghor.com/news/persian/news_1392/0247_20012014_news.htm, http://newsvim.blogspot.com/2014/01/blog-post_21.html

² - <http://www.radiozohal.com/?p=8087>

agreement and petition to the Provincial governor and pledged to support the government. A meeting will be held with the Provincial Governor and this issue will be shared with him.¹

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Four members of the Sar Cheshma CDC in Shahrak District received five-day Project Management training.

The Community Development Department is implementing seven labor intensive grants (road rehabilitation/protection wall/pipe scheme) in Shahrak District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Training on ‘Site Visit Monitoring’ was provided to four Shahrak District Government staff. The trainings aimed to enable the district government officials monitor the work progress of projects being implemented by CDCs.

HERAT HQ SUPPORT

A coordination meeting was held with the National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) on January 2nd. An overview of activities was presented by both NABDP and the SIKA-West. SIKA-West requested the NABDP to provide an updated list of the DDA members and a copy of the District Development Plan (DDP) in order to coordinate more closely with DDA members. The NABDP will provide the list once finalized by Kabul office.

As part of the District Government Capacity Index (DGCI) survey, a third party organization, Tadbeer, has been contracted to implement the initial assessment. A four-day assessment training was provided to the assessment team from January 5th-8th. Topics included interview techniques, good governance and the purpose of the District Government Capacity Index. The DGCI assessment has been completed for all ten target districts. The assessment has been analyzed and District Governors will receive Strategic Planning, Management, Public Outreach, Service Delivery trainings based on the assessment findings.

Two SIKA-West staff conducted a look and learn visit to the SIKA-North to share lessons learned and experiences from January 13th to 18th. The SIKA-North presented an overview of their activities and strategies. The SIKA-West staff participated in a Stability Working Group meeting in Baghlan-e-Jadid District and later organized a meeting with the Baghlan District Governor. Following the SIKA-West information exchange visit to SIKA-North, a team from SIKA-North traveled to Herat on January 27th. An overview of the SIKA-West activities and components was presented. The Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) was explained to the SIKA-North. The mission ended on January 30th.

On January 19th, a meeting was held with the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) to link the vocational trainings graduates to this program and to find market and job opportunities for them. The AREDP will inform the SIKA-West on the upcoming exhibition and invite the graduates to participate in this exhibition and sell their products.

A gender coordination meeting was held with the Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist and IDLG Regional Coordinator on January 21st. The meeting aimed to incorporate the Gender Specialist opinion into the new Gender Strategy Plan for SIKA-West. Some issues including women empowerment trainings were proposed by the Gender Specialist. She also recommended having a gender focal point for each district.

A meeting was held with the Herat Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) to follow up on the issue of sharing the SIKA-West success stories on the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) website and to coordinate the International Women’s Day celebration on March 8th. The DoWA requested the SIKA-

¹ - http://www.jame-ghor.com/news/persian/news_1392/0254_01022014_news.htm#Uu8w8vmSzko

West to provide banners, bill boards and brochures with women related messages on them. The DoWA will coordinate with the MoWA for the success stories.

LESSONS LEARNED

To ensure the District Governors are aware of the status of the projects, a representative from the District Governor will be assigned to accompany the SIKA-West technicians during project site visits. Involvement of the district government in project site visits will ensure timely projects implementation and improved project quality.

Building linkage between the district residents and the provincial authorities proved a key to address the district residents' challenges and concerns. The Bala Boluk Kochi nomads were having problems of lack of National Identity Card (Tazkara). The Kochi nomads met with the provincial authorities to transfer the Tazkara registration book to the district center, the Provincial Governor approved and the Kochi nomads are now able to register at the district level.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the month, the M&E Department organized 110 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 issues with the implementation of activities was compiled on a weekly basis to help SIKA-West management modify the implementation process.

DELIVERABLES

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

- December 2013 Monthly Report
- Weekly Reports

ANNEX A: SIKA-WEST GRANT SUMMARY

#	Province	District	Under Development		Vetting To USAID		Grant Approved		Grant On-going		Grant Complete	
			#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
1	Farah	Bala Boluk	2	\$110,000	0	\$0	36	\$738,094	15	\$317,979	17	\$269,138
2		Pusht-E Rod	3	\$198,500	3	\$176,505	18	\$201,394	7	\$106,746	11	\$94,648
3		Khak-E Safed	4	\$269,000	0	\$0	11	\$163,172	11	\$163,173	0	\$0
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	1	\$80,000	1	\$79,440	23	\$626,945	19	\$473,392	2	\$28,451
5		Shindand	4	\$216,000	5	\$63,799	25	\$831,629	19	\$489,329	0	\$0
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi	0	\$0	0	\$0	25	\$679,079	18	\$430,236	0	\$0
7	Ghor	Chaghcharan	5	\$302,100	5	\$288,175	18	\$765,784	11	\$448,167	2	\$37,395
8		Shahrak	0	\$0	0	\$0	7	\$453,261	7	\$453,261	0	\$0
9	Badghis	Qadis	3	\$68,355	0	\$0	69	\$666,585	63	\$577,782	5	\$38,541
10		Muqur	1	\$45,000	1	\$45,463	44	\$653,285	38	\$571,335	5	\$35,620
			23	\$1,288,955	15	\$653,382	276	\$5,779,228	208	\$4,031,400	42	\$503,794

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