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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
FEBRUARY 2014



Education supplies were provided to three high schools in Ghor Province on February 18th.

MARCH 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM.

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
FEBRUARY 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

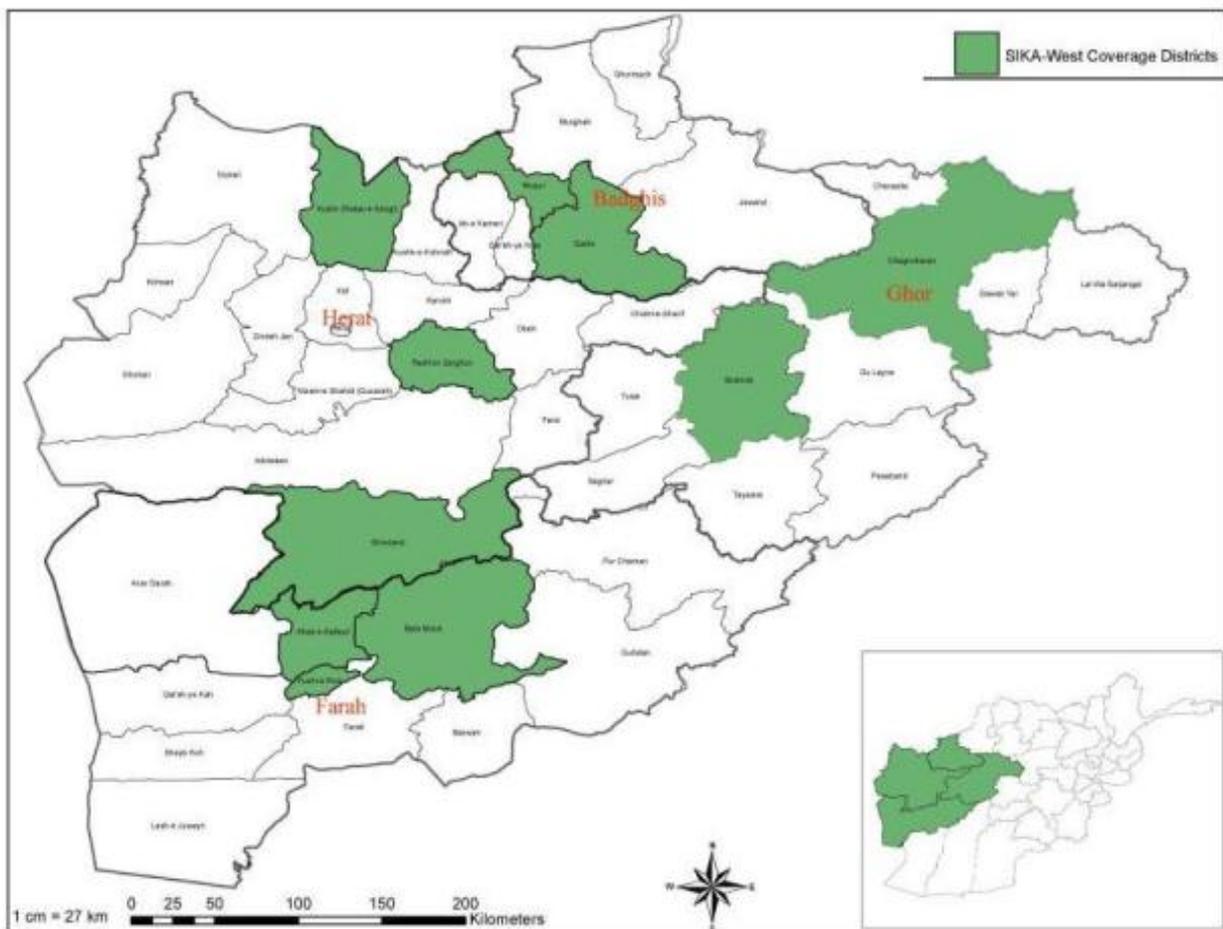
AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CBGD	Capacity Building and Gender Department
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industries
CDC	Community Development Councils
CHA	Coordination in Humanitarian Assistance
COP	Chief of Party
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
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 February 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, eight DSC meetings were organized. The meetings reached a total of 540 people (58 female and 482 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.

Conflict Resolution Skills trainings were provided to 69 (49 males, 20 females) Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members in Muqur, Pusht-e Rod and Shindand Districts to enable them to identify, prioritize and resolve the conflicts at the district level. During February, the TCRCs resolved four conflicts in Pashtun Zarghun, Pusht-e Rod and Muqur Districts.

The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor rescheduled the DSC meeting from February 26th to March 2nd because of an urgent meeting. The DSC meeting in Shahrak was canceled due to severe cold weather and heavy snow.

Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to the Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod District Governors, their deputies and the District Social Workers. The same training was provided to the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, his secretary and DRRD social workers on February 13th.

The Muqur TCRC successfully resolved the conflict between the Hichka and Kalan Khana villages. These two villages had been in conflict since 2003 over the use of an irrigation canal and many people have been injured or lost their property during the last 10 years. The TCRC traveled to Hichka village on February 15th and organized a meeting with the conflicting parties. By the end of the session, an agreement letter was signed and the conflict was resolved peacefully.

The Pashtun Zarghun TCRC organized a mediation session between two families who were in conflict over a gunshot injury to one of the villagers. The TCRC successfully mediated between the conflicting parties and resolved the conflict. The accused person agreed to pay the medical expenses of the injured party.

Below is a table detailing SIKAWest's progress towards achieving Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicator targets. Currently the PMP is under review and third year targets are being formulated.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- During the month, eight District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meetings were held in Farah, Badghis, Herat and Ghor Provinces.
- 540 people participated in the DSC sessions.
- Conflict Resolution Skills trainings were provided to 69 (49 males, 20 females) TCRC members in Muqur, Pusht-e Rod and Shindand Districts.
- During February, the TCRCs resolved four conflicts in Muqur, Pusht-e Rod, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.

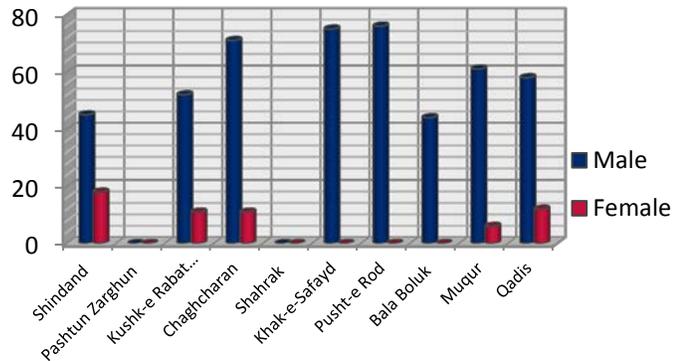


Chart 1: DSC meeting participants disaggregated by gender

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	Feb 2014	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	100	8	120
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	0	571
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	3,000	186	4,524
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	12	298
1.6	Number of target districts in which the SAM tool has been used to identify activities that mitigate SOIs	7	10	8	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 residents, District Governors organized 10 site visits to vocational and refurbishment projects in Qadis, Muqur, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts.

The Districts Government Hotline received a total of 26 calls from residents complaining about different issues, including land, family, marriage and security in Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, Qadis, Muqur, Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun and Chaghcharan Districts. The District Governors successfully responded to nine complaints and resolved the conflicts. The other complaints are under review by the respective DGs.

Advocacy and Concept Note trainings were provided to 36 members of CDCs in Muqur, Shindand and Pashtun Zarghun Districts. These were part of the activities to build capacity of the district entities to find financial resources from third party organizations as well as to develop concept notes for requesting government assistance for their proposed projects.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

- 38,980 people from district entities and provincial authorities received information about the services listed in the SPC.
- 36 members of Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun and Muqur CDCs received Advocacy and Concept Note trainings.
- During the month, 32 government and non-government officials received communications-related trainings.
- The District Governors organized 10 site visits to the projects in Qadis, Muqur, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts.

The Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) bi-yearly production has been handed over to PRRD with continued SIKA-West administration and advocacy support. IDLG recently requested that the SPC be signed off by the Provincial Governor as a Provincial Government Service Provider Catalogue. SIKA-West will support this initiative for Ghor and Badghis SPCs. The Badghis and Herat SPCs have been sent for publication. The Ghor SPC has been translated and will be sent to DRRD and IDLG for their review and approval. The first round of the Herat Service Providers Fair is planned for April 2014.

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	Feb 2014	Cumulative Total
2.1	Number of DEs and PAs using the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC)	21	30	0	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	5	61
2.3	Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the SPC	7	10	2	2
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	38,980	106,290
2.5	Number of training workshops held on Service Provider Catalogue usage for District Entities	9	50	1	20

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	Feb 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	9	16	20	145

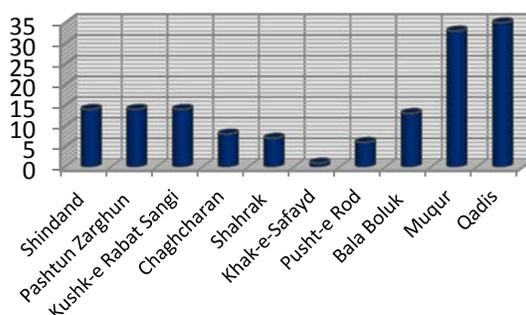
¹ A baseline for this indicator has been collected for Herat, Badghis, and Farah and will be collected from Ghor Province prior to the end of the first contract period. The impact assessment will be conducted during the second quarter of the option period.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Feb 2014	Cumulative Total
	communications strategy or plan				
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	80	2	82

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting month, 145 light 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 charts 2 and 3). These projects include refurbishment of water dividers, roads, boundary walls, protection walls, gabion walls, surrounding walls for schools, and culvert rehabilitation. 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.

Chart 2: Number of ongoing refurbishment projects per district



As of the reporting date, 47 refurbishment projects were completed, including thirteen projects in Bala Boluk, nine projects in Pusht-e Rod, five projects in Chaghcharan, ten projects in Muqur, five projects in Qadis and five projects in Pashtun Zarghun District. These projects included community center refurbishment, water dividers, culverts and aqueduct construction.

During February, six new refurbishment projects worth \$24,209 in community contribution were awarded to the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District CDCs.

Project Technical training was provided to foremen and supervisors of 40 CDCs in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Muqur and Qadis Districts by the DRRD representatives, with SIKA-West technicians present to provide ongoing mentoring support.

On February 23rd, 10 projects, which included refurbishment of 77 water dividers in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts, were officially handed over to the Farah DRRD. More than 72 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs and media attended the event. "These water dividers will improve the irrigation systems," said Mohammad Karim Kahn a district resident.

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

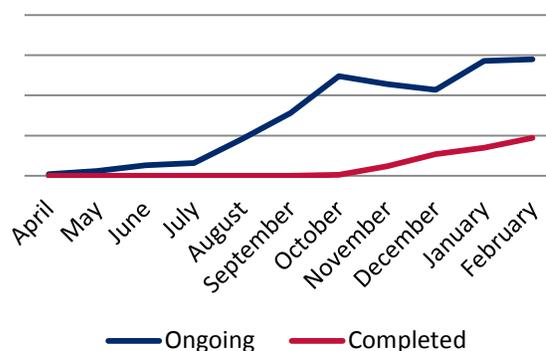


Table 4- IR4 PMP Targets

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	Feb 2014	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against SOIs	72	120	11 started	256 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	7,420 ³	22,640
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	120	11	256
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	216,000	700,000	27,225	\$486,433
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	120	5	69
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	9,600	28,862	55,461 ⁴

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Capacity Building and Gender Department (CBGD) has a crosscutting role of facilitating training and technical services identified as solutions for a selection of prioritized root causes of instability. CBGD is responsible for the integration of gender across all four streams of effort, targeting gender awareness initiatives and training programs, improving women’s access to DEs and creating space for female voices and participation.

The Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 10 people from government and non-government organizations on February 22nd. The UNAMA representative pledged to provide legal services to the women’s associations. The Head of the Capacity Building Department of the Provincial Government will invite the women’s associations to the upcoming capacity building trainings.

During the reporting period, trainings on “How to Develop a Work Plan” were provided to nine Bala Boluk, twenty-three Pusht-e Rod, thirteen Qadis, sixteen Muqur, twenty Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and eighteen Pashtun Zarghun District government staff. These were done to reflect engagement in planning between government line government staff and SIKa-West.

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.

As a way of improving the way government staff conduct meetings, Meeting Management Skills trainings were provided to 15 Khak-e-Safayd, 14 Qadis, 14 Pashtun Zarghun and 10 Shahrak District Government staff with topics that included how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

On February 18th, three projects, which included provision of education supplies for three high schools in Ghor Province, were handed over to the Ghor DRRD. More than 63 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs and media attended the event. The supplies included 600 student desks, 17 book shelves, 33 office desks, 96 chairs, four sets of furniture, eight desks for laboratory, 30 white boards, 50 meters Moquette and two carpets.

Table 5- Gender and Program PMP objectives

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Feb 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%	12.5%	9.5%
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	2	134
9	Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	110	36	325

PROVINCIAL & DISTRICT OVERVIEW

FARAH PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

On February 23rd, 10 projects, which included refurbishment of 77 water dividers in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts, were officially handed over to the Farah DRRD. “These water dividers will improve the irrigation systems in this area,” said Mohammad Karim Kahn a district resident.

The weekly coordination meeting with the Farah DRRD was held on February 1st. An overview of the previous week’s activities and challenges was presented.

The computer training course in DRRD was completed on February 9th. During the six-month training, 11 DRRD staff learned basic computer skills.



The Farah DRRD Director and the Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts officials cut the ribbon at the project completion handover ceremony on February 23rd.

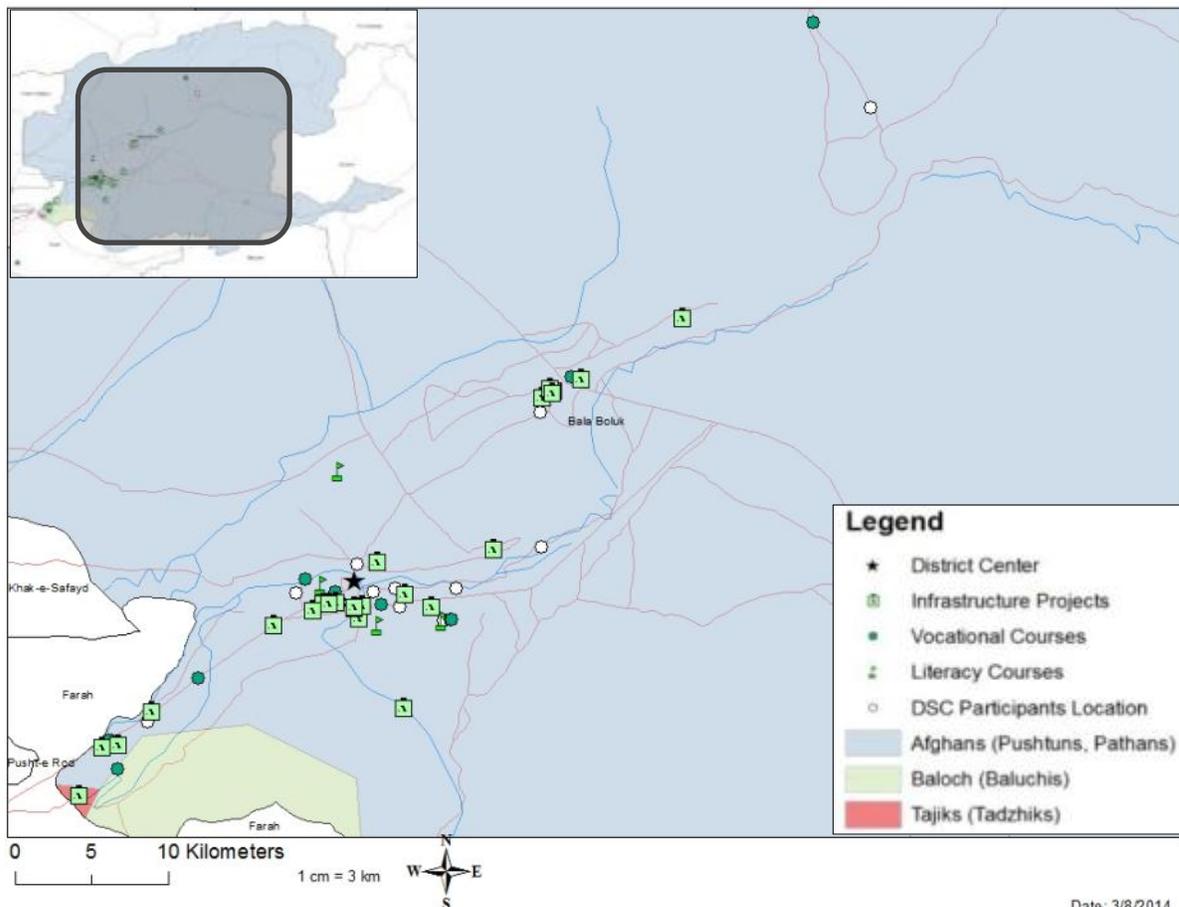
BALA BOLUK DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Refresher Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to the Bala Boluk District Governor, his deputy and the District Social Worker on February 12th. By the end of the training, the participants learned how to identify sources of instability, root causes and mitigation activities. They were also briefed on how to prepare an agenda and talking points for a DSC meeting. Refresher SAM training was provided to the Bala Boluk District Governor, the Admin Manager, the Executive Manager and the District Social Worker on February 18th.

The Bala Boluk DSC meeting was held with participation of 44 people on February 25th. Mr. Ghulam Mohaideen, a DDA member, talked about the importance and impact of the Stability Program in bringing peace and stability in Bala Boluk. Following some discussions on poverty and unemployment, a previously identified source of instability, the DSC members prioritized nine new mitigation activities, including road and protection wall rehabilitation.

Map 2: Bala Boluk Activities and DSC Members



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Haji Sayed Mohammad, the Bala Boluk District Governor, along with the District Social Worker, visited the recently completed community center refurbishment project in Kanesk Paeen village on February 18th. The project site visit is part of the district government's strategy to utilize the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services.

Thirteen farmers held a meeting with the Bala Boluk District Agriculture Manager on February 13th. Farmers shared their agricultural concerns including plant diseases, irrigation and lack of improved seeds. The Agriculture Manager organized a meeting with the DAIL and shared the farmers' concerns. To address the farmers' problems and help them improve their agricultural production, DAIL provided 2,500 fertile and infertile saplings to the farmers.



To address the farmers' problems and help them improve their agricultural production, Farah DAIL provided 2,500 fertile and infertile saplings to the farmers.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On February 25th, led by the DRRD with the support of SIKA-West technicians, Project Technical training was provided to foremen and supervisors of five CDCs in Bala Boluk District.

CDCs are implementing 13 labor intensive refurbishment grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Boluk District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Closing ceremonies were held for the embroidery vocational training in Kanesk Pain, tailoring in Naw Abad and auto-mechanic training in Shiwan Wasat villages in Bala Boluk District on February 10th, 17th and 23rd respectively. Toolkits and certificates were distributed to 30 local men and 15 women graduates and follow up support will be provided by MRRD SIKA-West to secure employment and/or support community enterprises.

One-on-one mentoring on Meeting Management Skills was provided to three government staff in Bala Boluk District. The participants learned how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

PUSHT-E ROD DISTRICT

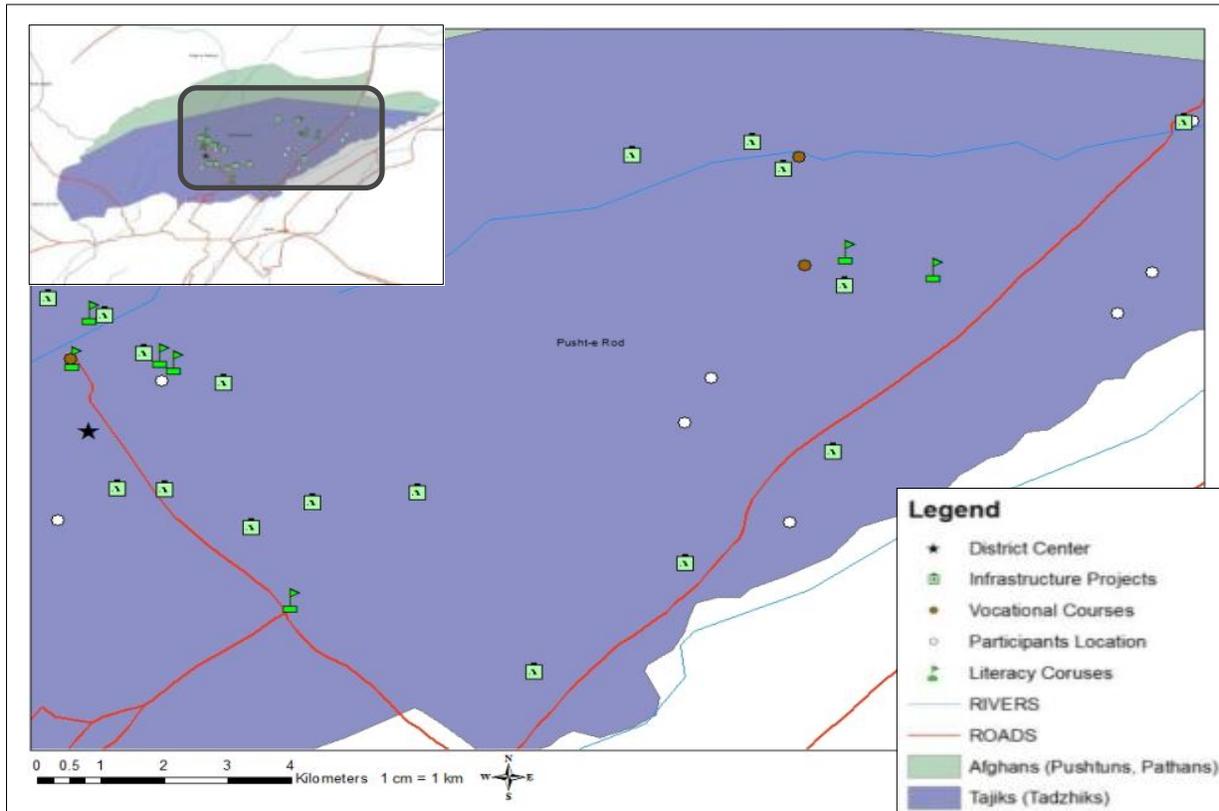
STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

The Pusht-e Rod Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) identified and prioritized a recent land dispute in Gajgin village in Push-e Rod District. With support of the District Governor, the conflicting parties have been invited to the district center and, through a mediation session, the conflict was resolved on February 5th.

Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, his deputy and the District Social Workers on February 12th. By the end of the training, the participants learned how to identify sources of instability, root causes and mitigation activities. They also were briefed on how to prepare an agenda and talking point for a DSC meeting.

The Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting was held with participation of 92 people on February 23rd. An overview of the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities was presented. The DRRD Director asked the DSC members to propose public welfare projects which bring stability in the community. The Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided and the DSC members proposed five new mitigation activities, including road and flood protection wall rehabilitation projects.

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



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Mr. Ghussuddin, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, visited the work in-progress of the surrounding wall rehabilitation project in Massow village on February 2nd. “The district government office is always open for residents to hear their concerns,” said the DG.

With support and coordination of the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, training on “Plant Pests” was provided to 15 farmers on February 11th. An expert from Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) presented the different ways to destroy the plan pests.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Led by the DRRD with support from SIKA-West, Project Technical training was provided to foremen and supervisors of two CDCs in Pusht-e Rod.

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



Mr. Ghussuddin, the Pusht-e Rod District governor, visited the work in-progress of the surrounding wall rehabilitation project in Massow village on February 2nd.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

On February 13th, a meeting was held with the Pusht-e Rod Women's Association, established by SIKAWest, to discuss their work plan and duties. The women's association agreed to organize monthly coordination meetings.

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to the Pusht-e Rod women's Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) on February 13th. At the end of the training the TCRC identified a family dispute between a woman and her husband. The TCRC, with support of influential Ulema, mediated and talked to the couple. Finally, the conflict was resolved and the woman returned to her house.

On February 27th, the Pusht-e Rod women's TCRC organized a mediation session between two families who had a marriage dispute in Massow village. The TCRC organized meetings with the conflicting parties. Both conflicting parties agreed to the marriage and the conflict was resolved in peace.

Training on "How to Develop a work Plan" was provided to 23 Pusht-e Rod District government staff on February 12th. Topics included types of planning, elements of planning and how to prepare a work plan. These staff will receive further support and mentoring to prepare their monthly work plan.

One-on-one mentoring on "How to Develop a Work Plan" was provided to 11 Pusht-e Rod District government staff. The participants learned about and practiced how to prepare a work plan. The staff developed their work plans and sent them to the District Governor for review and approval.



The Pusht-e Rod District Government staff received "How to Develop a Work Plan" training on February 12th. The staff will receive further support and mentoring to prepare their monthly work plan.

KHAK-E SAFAYD DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

The Khak-e-Safayd DSC meeting was held with participation of 75 people on February 19th. The District Governor requested the DSC members to propose mitigation activities that bring stability in the community and provide job opportunities for the residents. Following the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training, the DSC members proposed seven new mitigation activities including protection wall and road rehabilitation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

The Farah Gender Officer organized a coordination meeting with the Khak-e-Safayd District Governor on February 2nd. The DG appreciated the SIKAWest gender-related activities, especially the establishment of TCRC for women and pledged to provide support.

Two-day Meeting Management Skills training was provided to 15 Khak-e-Safayd District Government staff on February 22nd. Topics included how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting. The same training was provided to Khak-e-Safayd District Governor on February 26th.

One-on-one mentoring on Meeting Management Skills was provided to three government staff in Khak-e-Safayd District. The participants learned and practiced how to prepare an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Badghis Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 17 people from government and non-government organizations on February 11th. The participants discussed the upcoming International Women's Day, the establishment of the TCRC for women and provision of a market place at the center for women to sell their products. On February 17th, a follow up meeting was held with the Provincial Governor (PG). The PG asked the Gender Working Group to develop a proposal for the Marketplace for Women.

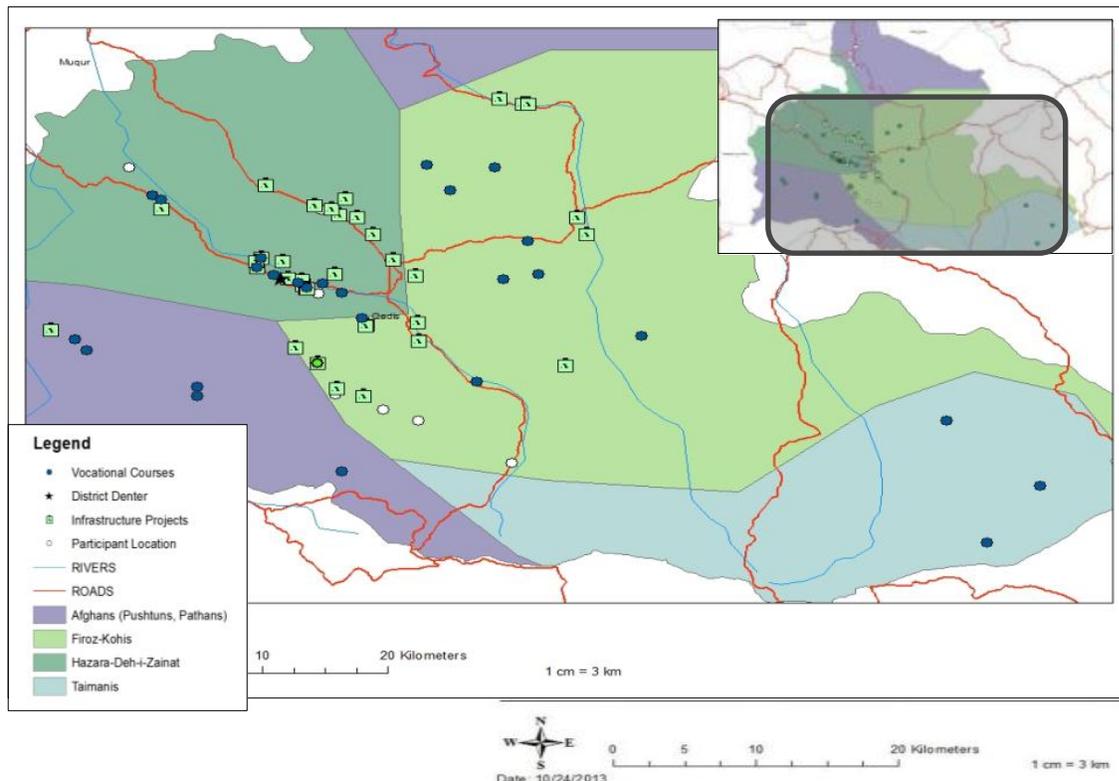
The weekly coordination meetings with the Badghis DRRD were held on February 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th. An overview of the previous week's activities and future plan was presented.

QADIS DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

A pre-DSC meeting and training was provided to the Qadis District Governor, the Admin Manager, the Executive Manager and the DRRD Social Worker on February 18th. The Qadis DSC meeting was held with participation of 70 people including 12 women on February 19th. The DRRD Director requested influential people and Ulema to cooperate with the DRRD to negotiate for the release of the DRRD staff kidnapped by the Taliban. The Head of the Badghis Provincial High Peace Council stated that they are ready to negotiate with the Taliban to release the hostages. An overview of the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities was presented.

Map 4: Qadis Activities and DSC Members Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On February 22nd, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor organized an Inter-Districts Meeting with the participation of 66 people including the Ab-kamari District Governor, the Muqur Executive Manager, the DRRD Director, the Provincial Governor's representative and influential people from Qadis, Muqur and Ab-Kamari Districts. Different topics including security, development and conflict resolution were discussed. The Ab-Kamari DG highlighted the role of the people in bringing peace and stability in the community. "This meeting shows that the government and people are working together to bring peace and development in these three districts," he added.

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor, organized a coordination meeting with 16 government staff on February 26th. The participants discussed different issues including security preparedness for the upcoming Presidential Election. The DG highlighted that no government authority is allowed to use government properties during the election period. The DG asked the security forces to be prepared for the Presidential Election.

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor visited the tailoring training courses in Raees Sayed Mohammad and Naw Abad Zad Saleh on February 17th. The project site visits are part of the district governments' strategy to utilize the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On February 16th, Project Technical training was provided to the foremen and supervisors of eight CDCs in Qadis District by the DRRD representative, with SIKA-West technicians present to provide ongoing mentoring support.

CDCs are implementing 35 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/road rehabilitation) in Qadis District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Closing ceremonies were held for the tailoring vocational training in Arbab Sarwar, Kamenji Olya and Dehak Sofla, Quilt making in Haji Qurbanha and embroidery in Chaprodaha villages in Qadis District on February 25th, 26th and 27th. Toolkits were distributed and follow support will be provided by MRRD SIKA-West to secure employment and/or support community enterprises.

A training on "How to Prepare a Work Plan" was provided to 13 Qadis District Government staff on February 5th. Topics included type of planning, elements of planning and how to prepare a work plan. These staff will receive further support and mentoring to prepare their monthly work plan.

Meeting Management Skills training was provided to 14 Qadis District Government staff including the District



On February 22nd, an Inter-Districts Meeting was held with the participation of 66 people. "This meeting shows that the government and people are working together to bring peace and development in these three districts," said the Ab-Kamari District Governor.



A training on "How to Prepare a Work Plan" was provided to 13 Qadis District Government staff on February 5th. The staff will receive further support and mentoring to prepare their monthly work plan.

Governor on February 23rd. Topics included how to prepare an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

MUQUR DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

A pre-DSC meeting and Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to the Muqur District Governor and DRRD Social Worker on February 23rd. The DSC meeting is scheduled for February 25th. The Muqur DSC meeting was held with participation of 67 people including six women. The DSC members asked the SIKA-West to speed up the process of milestone payment for the projects. Following a discussion about unemployment, the participants prioritized eight new mitigation activities.

The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) discussed conflict resolution activities and identified a conflict between the Tajik-ha tribe over a murder and the other case between Mamaka tribe over land. The TCRC will follow up on these conflicts at the next TCRC meeting. At the end of the meeting, peace brochures and district hotline phone cards were distributed.

An introductory meeting was held with Mr. Haji Abdul Hadi, the Muqur new District Governor on February 5th. The District Governor was briefed on the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program's components and achievements. The DG expressed his full support and asked the SIKA-West to provide capacity building trainings for the district government staff.

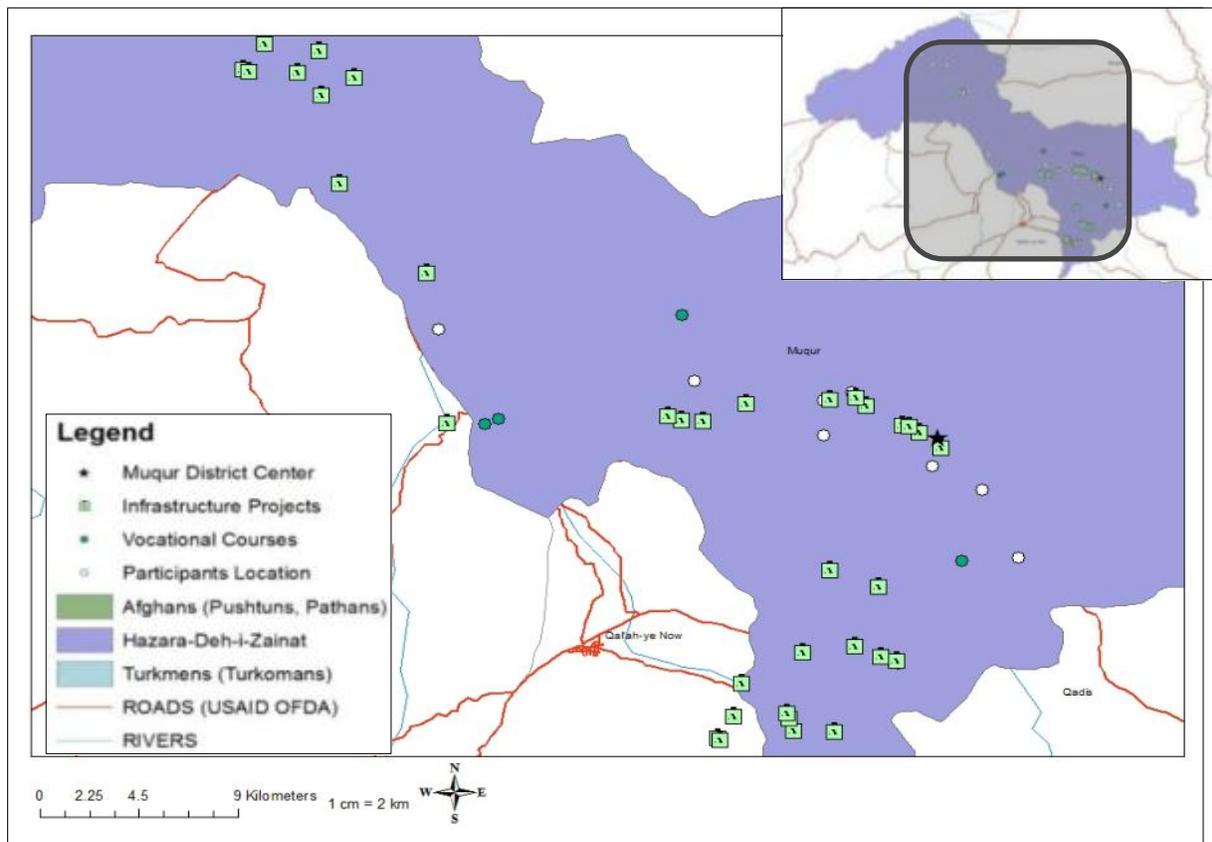
Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 24 Muqur TCRC members including the District Governor on February 12th. At the end of the training, the TCRC discussed the conflict between two tribes (Kalan Khan and Hichka) over a water dispute which was identified in the last DSC meeting. The TCRC assigned a group of six members to travel to these villages and mediate between the conflicting parties.

The Muqur Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) successfully resolved the conflict between the Hichka and Kalan Khana villages. These two villages were in conflict over the use of an irrigation canal since 2003. Many people have been injured or lost their properties during the last 10 years. The TCRC traveled to Hichka village on February 15th and organized a meeting with the conflicting parties. By the end of the session, an agreement letter was signed and the conflict was resolved peacefully.



The Muqur Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee successfully resolved the conflict between the Hichka and Kalan Khana villages over an irrigation canal.

Map 5: Muqur Activities and DSC Members



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

On February 1st, the Qarghach and Zad-Naser CDCs in Muqur District received follow up Advocacy and Concept Note training to enable them to find financial resources for the community center refurbishment project. Following the Advocacy and Concept Note trainings, the Qarghach and Zad Naser CDCs successfully developed a concept note for their pipe scheme project on February 10th. These CDCs submitted the concept note to the National Area Based Development Program (NABDP). The NABDP will send the concept note to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) for further consideration.

To raise the Muqur district government staff’s awareness on the dangers and disadvantages of corruption, the District Governor organized an anti-corruption meeting with 33 district staff on February 4th. The DG highlighted the responsibilities of the district government in providing good services to the residents. “Corruption paints a bad picture of our government,” said Mr. Abdul Azeem Habibi, the Afghan National Police (ANP) Commander. “We all should put our hands together and combat corruption,” said Mr. Mohammad Afzal, the Muqur DDA Head.



Mr. Haji Abdul Haji, the Muqur District Governor, organized an anti-corruption meeting with 33 district government staff on February 4th.

To improve communication between the district government and residents, the Muqur District Governor’s representative visited a tailoring vocational training course in Cheshma Dozak village in Muqur on February 5th. The

DG representative gave an overview of the district government activities and achievements.

The Muqur District Governor organized a monthly coordination meeting with 15 high ranking district government staff on February 11th. Each representative talked about their activities and challenges. The discussion focused on the absence of some staff at their duty station. At the end of the meeting, all participants agreed to be always present at their duty stations and to sign their attendance sheets at the start and end of each working day.

Mr. Haji Abdul Hadi, the Muqur District Governor visited the tailoring vocational training course in Zargarha village. The project site visits are part of the district governments' strategy to utilize the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services.

Mr. Haji Abdul Hadi, the Muqur District Governor, organized a meeting with 22 representatives of the Afghan Civilian and Esalat Youth Associations on February 23rd. Youth shared their concerns including unemployment, illiteracy and illegal travel of some youth to neighboring countries. The DG pledged to improve the education services and asked the youth to cooperate with the district government.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On February 22th, Project Technical training was provided to foremen and supervisors of six CDCs in Muqur District by the DRRD representative, with SIKA-West technicians present to provide ongoing mentoring support.

CDCs are implementing 33 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (culverts/irrigation/canal protection/road rehabilitation) in Muqur District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

A closing ceremony was held for the tailoring vocational training in Cheshma Dozak Sofla and auto-mechanic training in Cheshma Dozak Olya in Muqur District on February 22nd. At the end of the ceremony, toolkits were distributed to the 30 graduates and follow up support will be provided by MRRD SIKA-West.

Training on "How to Develop a Work Plan" was provided to 16 Muqur District government staff on February 12th. Topics included types of planning, elements of planning and how to prepare a work plan. These staff will receive further support and mentoring to prepare their monthly work plan.

One-on-One mentoring on Meeting Management Skills was provided to 12 government staff in Muqur District. The participants learned and practiced how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

HERAT PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

On February 10th, a coordination meeting was held with the Herat DoWA. The DoWA Director was informed about the Pashtun Zarghun Women's Association which was established by the SIKA-West. An approval letter will be issued to this association by the Provincial Governor. In addition, the DoWA agreed to have a space created for the carpet weaving graduates to sell their carpets at the upcoming exhibition for the International Women's Day.

The Herat Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 16 people from government and non-government organizations on February 12th. Two themes were discussed: finding job opportunities for vocational trainings graduates and providing support to women's associations at the district level. The participants proposed provision of marketing trainings for the graduates. The

participants will share the second issue (provision of support to women associations at district level) with their senior management.

A coordination meeting was held with the DRRD partners on February 23rd. The meeting aimed to share lessons learned and experiences. An overview of the SIKA-West activities and achievements was presented. The DRRD Director pledged to support all the partners to implement their projects successfully.

SHINDAND DISTRICT

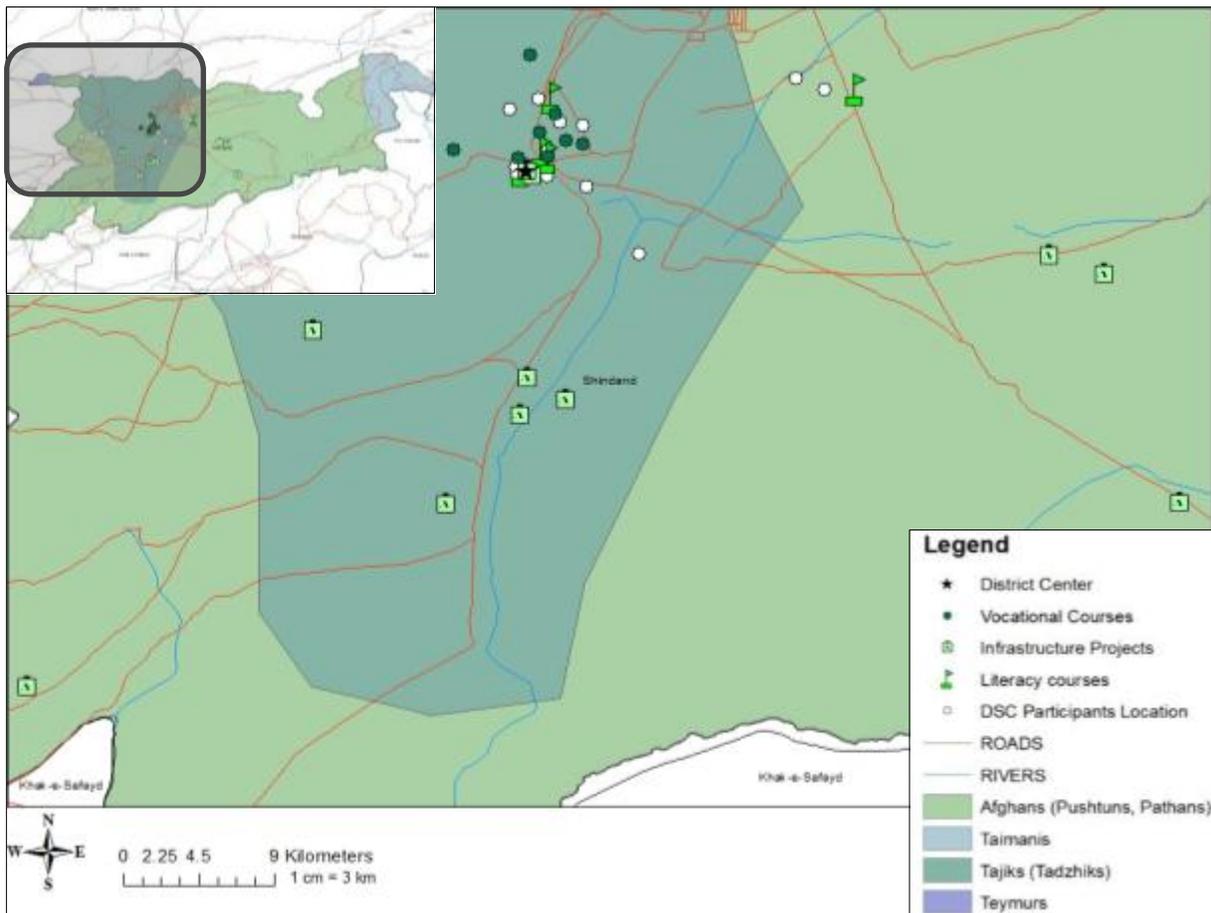
STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 31 TCRC members including 10 women in Shindand District on February 10th.

A pre-DSC meeting and facilitation training was provided to the Shindand District Governor on February 16th. The DG prepared the agenda and talking points of the DSC meeting which is scheduled for February 18th.

The Shindand DSC meeting was held with participation of 63 people including 18 women on February 18th. An overview of the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities was presented. The CDCs asked the SIKA-West to speed up the process of the milestone payment to complete their project on time. By the end of the meeting, the DSC members proposed a new mitigation activity, water intake, in Mullah Naspand-Paen village.

Map 6: Shindand District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Advocacy and Concept Note training was provided to 14 members of Khoja Nooh CDC in Shindand District on February 10th. At the end of the training the CDC drafted a concept note for a vocational tailoring training course for women. Further support and mentoring will be provided to this CDC to finalize the concept note and assist with sourcing financial resources from third party organizations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Project Technical training was provided to the foremen and supervisors of five CDCs in Shindand District by the DRRD representative, with SIKA-West technicians present to provide ongoing mentoring support.

CDCs are implementing 14 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 Develop a Concept Note” was provided to nine members of Khoja Noh CDC in Shindand District on February 17th. Further support will be provided to this CDC to develop a concept note for excavation of two canals in their village.

One-on-One mentoring on Meeting Management Skills was provided to 11 government staff in Shindand District. The participants learned how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

One-on-One mentoring on “How to Develop a work Plan” was provided to seven Shindand District government staff. The participants learned and practiced how to prepare a work plan.

A Closing ceremony was held for the carpet weaving vocational trainings and literacy courses in Shindand on February 25th. Certificates and toolkits were distributed to the graduates to start their business.

KUSHK RABAT-E SANGI DISTRICT

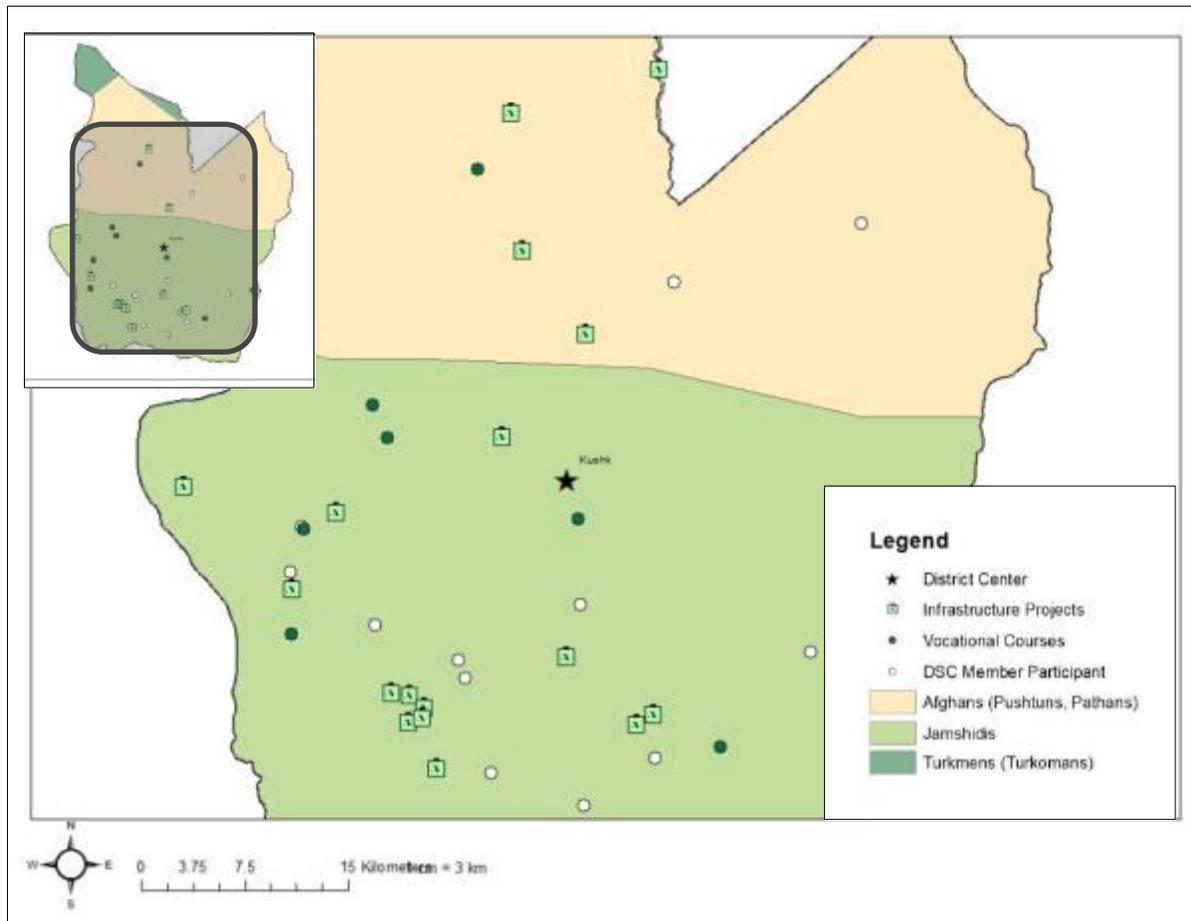
STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

A refresher Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor on February 22nd. The District Governor finalized the agenda and talking points of the DSC meeting. On February 24th, the District Governor organized the DSC meeting with participation of 102 people including 15 women. Participants delivered speeches about stability, peace and unity and asked the CDCs to implement high quality projects. By the end of the meeting, the DSC members proposed 19 new mitigation activities including schools, roads and flood protection wall refurbishment.



Eng. Shir Aqa Sarwary, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, facilitated the monthly DSC meeting on February 24th.

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



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor with support of the Herat Theater Office organized an Anti-corruption Drama on February 9th. The drama aimed to raise awareness of district government staff on the dangers of corruption and highlight their responsibilities in combating corruption. At the end of the drama, posters with anti-corruption messages were distributed to the audience. “We, together will eradicate corruption,” read one of the messages.

As part of the on-going anti-corruption campaign, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 60 district entities, Ulema and women on February 17th. The DG highlighted the role and responsibility of people in combating corruption. At the end of the meeting, an Anti-corruption Drama was performed. The drama aimed to raise awareness of district government staff on the dangers of corruption and highlight their responsibilities in combating corruption.



An anti-corruption drama was performed in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District to raise awareness of district government staff on the dangers of corruption on February 9th.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a security coordination meeting with 75 security staff on February 4th. The National Department of Security (NDS) provided an update of the security situation in the area. The participants highlighted the importance of security during the upcoming Presidential election.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Project Technical training was provided to the foremen and supervisors of 11 CDCs in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District by the DRRD representative, with SIKA-West technicians present to provide ongoing mentoring support.

CDCs are implementing 14 labor intensive grants, including flood protection walls and road rehabilitation, in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

A training on “How to Prepare a Work Plan” was provided to 20 Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government staff on February 10th. Topics included types of planning, elements of planning and how to prepare a work plan. The district government staff will receive further support and mentoring to prepare their monthly work plan.

One-on-One mentoring on “How to Develop a work Plan” was provided to five Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District government staff. The participants learned and practiced how to prepare a work plan.

PASHTUN ZARGHUN DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

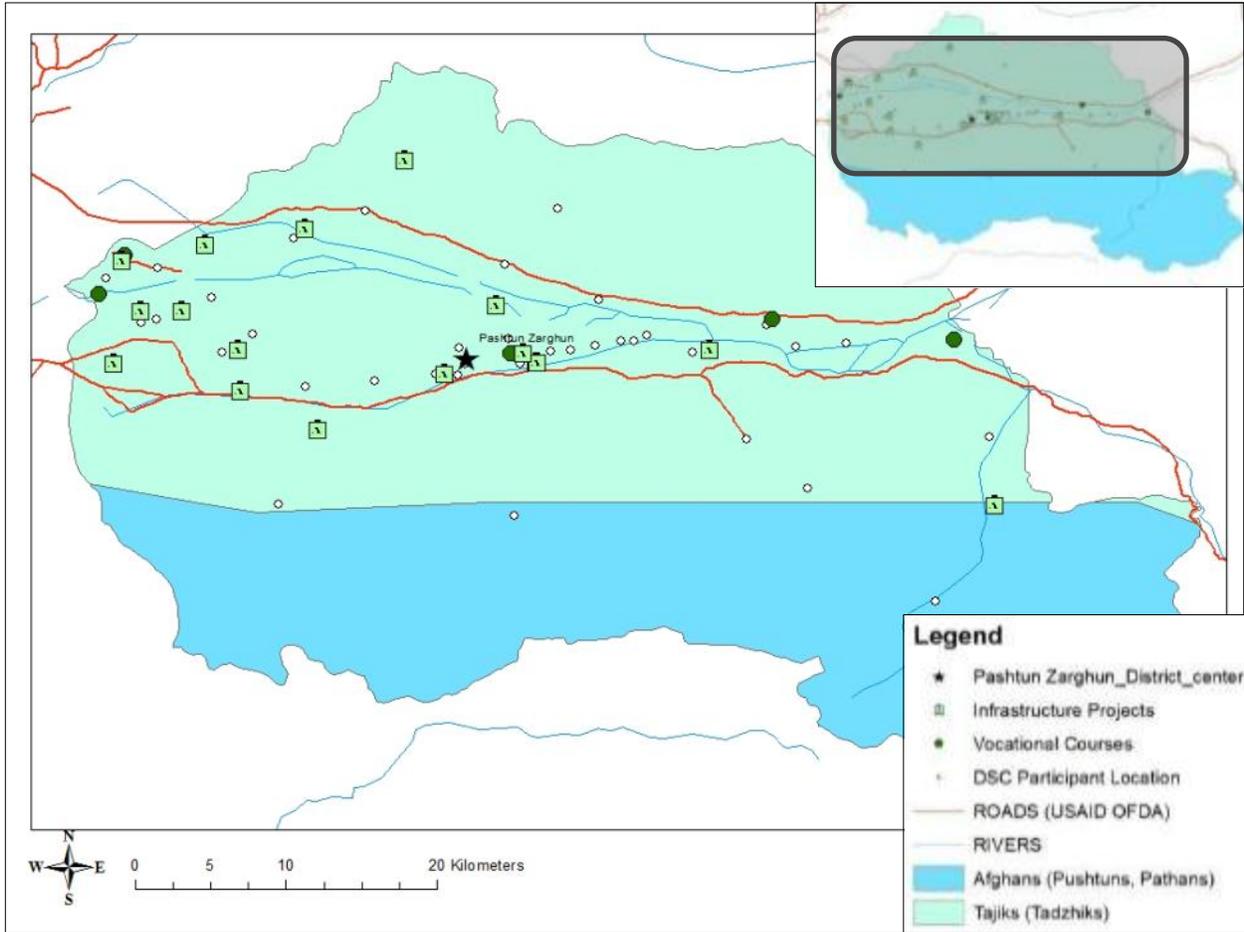
On February 11th, the Pashtun Zarghun Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) organized a mediation session between two families who were in conflict over a gunshot injury. The TCRC successfully mediated between the conflicting parties and resolved the conflict. The accused person agreed to pay the medical expenses.

A pre-DSC meeting and training was provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor and his deputy on February 23rd. The DG rescheduled the DSC meeting from February 26th to March 2nd because of an urgent meeting.



On February 26th, Project Technical training was provided to the foremen and supervisors of six CDCs in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

Map 8: Pashtun Zarghun District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Follow up Advocacy training was provided to 18 members of Gim CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District on February 1st. The CDC will develop a concept note for the retaining wall project from the third party organizations.

The Pashtun Zarghun Deputy District Governor visited the work in-progress of the road rehabilitation project in Kushk Sirwan village on February 1st. This project was recently stopped due to conflict between an elder and CDC members. Following mediation between the conflicting parties, the CDC resumed the implementation of the project.

Mr. Rashid Wahidi, the Pashtun Zarghun Executive Manager, visited the work progress of the protection wall refurbishment project in Khoja-Ha village on February 9th. The project site visit is part of the district government strategy to utilize the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services. On February 9th, Mr. Abdullah Nasrat, the Kushk



Mr. Rashid Wahidi, the Pashtun Zarghun Executive Manager, visited the work progress of the protection wall refurbishment project in Khoja-Ha village on February 9th.

Rabat-e Sangi Executive Manager, visited the work progress of the retaining wall refurbishment project in Khalawak Sofla village.

To improve communication between the district government and the residents, Mr. Eng. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor visited the work in-progress of the retaining wall and culvert rehabilitation project in Salimi village on February 17th. The Salimi CDC completed the 100-m retaining wall and one culvert project in four months.

The SIKA-West technicians and the DRRD Social Worker visited the protection wall and culvert refurbishment project in Deh Shadi Ha village in Pashtun Zarghun District on February 12th. During the four months, the CDC completed the refurbishment of 74-m stone masonry protection wall and one culvert.



A 100-m retaining wall and one culvert rehabilitation project was implemented by Salimi CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On February 17th, Project Technical training was provided to the foremen and supervisors of three CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun by the DRRD representative, with SIKA-West technicians present to provide ongoing mentoring support.

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



Laborers working to rehabilitate a 218-m school surrounding wall in Ghoran village in Pashtun Zarghun District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Meeting Management Skills training was provided to 14 Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff including the District Governor on February 10th. Topics included how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting. One-on-One mentoring will be provided to each participant to enable them to organize a meeting effectively.

On February 18th, training on “How to Develop a work Plan” was provided to 18 Pashtun Zarghun District government staff. Topics included types of planning, elements of planning and how to prepare a work plan. The same training was provided to seven Shindand District government staff on February 19th.



Meeting Management Skills training was provided to 14 Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff including the District Governor on February 10th.

One-on-One mentoring on Meeting Management Skills was provided to four government staff in Pashtun Zarghun District. The participants learned and practiced how to prepare an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

One-on-One mentoring on “How to Develop a work Plan” was provided to three Pashtun Zarghun District government staff. The participants learned and practiced how to prepare a work plan.

GHOR PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Ghor Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 12 people from governmental and non-governmental organizations on February 9th. The participants asked the SIKA-West to provide Gender Mainstreaming trainings for men and women in the villages. The participants also recommended providing capacity building trainings and job opportunities for women.

CHAGHCHARAN DISTRICT

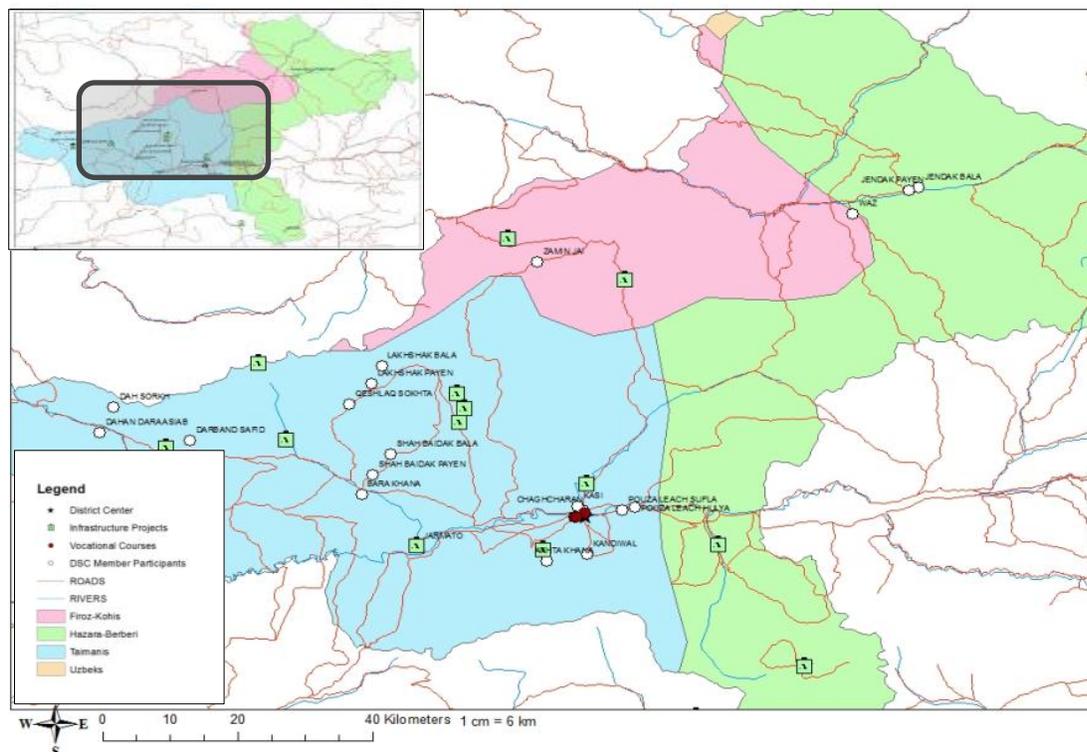
STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

The Chaghcharan TCRC organized separate meetings with the representatives of the Zai Reza and Yarfolad tribes on February 4th. These two tribes are in conflict over an old murder case. The Presidential election campaign has increased the tension between these tribes and they are failing to negotiate with each other. The TCRC will try to mediate and resolve the conflict after the Presidential election.

A refresher Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, his secretary and DRRD social workers on February 13th. The participants reviewed how to identify sources of instability, root causes and mitigation activities.

Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Provincial Deputy Governor, organized the Chaghcharan DSC meeting with participation of 82 people including 11 women on February 19th. The DSC members emphasized the need for mitigation activities that address unemployment and poverty in the community. Following a lengthy discussion they proposed five mitigation activities including culvert and protection wall refurbishment. At the end of the meeting, the Education Department gave an appreciation letter to the SIKA-West for the provision of education supplies to three high schools in Ghor Province.

Map 9: Chaghcharan District Activities and DSC Member Locations



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG), received support and produced a short video clip on February 1st. The clip delivers anti-corruption messages and encourages people to support the government in combating corruption. The DPG asked the residents to share their concerns through the Chaghcharan Hotline Phone and Complaint Box. The video clip was broadcast at the Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) from February 1st to 20th.

The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) held a coordination meeting with 35 government staff including the Provincial Governor on February 2nd. The DPG presented an overview of the January, 2014 government activities and services to the participants and asked them to address the complaints they receive through the Hotline Phone.

On February 2nd, the Ghor Provincial Youth Association organized a meeting with 45 youths and students to emphasize the importance of peace in the community. Speeches about the importance of peace were delivered. “There won’t be peace and stability in the district without youth contribution,” said Malalai Ghori a youth representatives.

The Youth Association successfully organized three separate Peace Dialogues with total participation of 90 youths (30 participants in each session) and the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members. Different peace-related topics were discussed and shared with the participants. Youth talked about the barriers in bringing peace and stability including lack of trust between the government and the tribal elders and administration corruption. The TCRC presented an update of their achievements to the youth. At the end of the dialogue, the participants pledged to support the TCRC and the government at the provincial and district level.

Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, sent an SMS to 140 people in Chaghcharan District on February 9th and 10th. The DPG informed the people that government was distributing wheat for drought affected families. SMS is proving to be a good approach in Chaghcharan to inform the residents about government activities.

Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG), organized a meeting with 28 government staff to discuss about good governance on February 12th. The DPG talked about low capacity of some government staff who were not hired based on their capacity and talent but relations.



Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG), received support and produced a short video clip delivering anti-corruption messages and encourages people to support the government in combating corruption.



“There won’t be peace and stability in the district without youth contribution,” said Malalai Ghori, the Ghor Provincial Youth Association’s member at the meeting on February 2nd.



Mr. Amir Khan, a resident in Chaghcharan reads the SMS received from the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor. The DPG sent SMS to inform residents that the government was distributing wheat to drought affected families.

The Head of the Youth Association complained about corruption and said that qualified youth cannot join the government offices due to corruption. The DPG encouraged the media to raise people's awareness on the dangers of corruption.

A coordination meeting was held between the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) and 40 members of the Youth Association on February 20th. Youth gave an overview of their previous month activities and achievements. The DPG encouraged the youth to support the government to bring peace and development.

Mr. Mohammad Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG), conducted a TV interview with the Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) and a radio interview with the Adalaat Radio on February 26th. The DPG gave an overview of the government achievements in 2013 and future plans for development at the district and village level. "Approximately 1,260 projects including development, education, agriculture, security and good governance were implemented last year," said Mr. Tookhi, the DPG.

The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized a live radio program to raise people's awareness about the Association's objectives, activities and achievements on February 27th. During the 30-minute program, the Head of the Association gave a detailed presentation of the association and answered the people's calls.



Mr. Mohammad Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, conducted a TV interview with the Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan and gave an overview of the government achievements last year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On February 11th, a meeting was held with the Ghalmin cluster CDC, the DRRD and head of the DDA to address the issue of the culvert refurbishment project in Qala Zobair village. Some CDC members did not want to implement this project in the village. This project had been proposed by the DSC members. By the end of the meeting, it was agreed to implement the project at the proposed location.

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

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

On February 18th, three projects, which included provision of education supplies for three high schools in Ghor Province, were handed over to the Ghor DRRD and the Department of Education. More than 63 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs and media attended the event. The supplies included 600 student desks, 17 book shelves, 33 office desks, 96 chairs, four sets of furniture, eight desks for laboratory, 30 white boards, 50 meters Moquette and two carpets.

Training on Conflict Resolution Skills was provided to five female members of the Chaghcharan Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) on February 22nd. Further support will be provided to these women to enable them to identify and resolve conflicts.



On February 18th, three projects, which included provision of education supplies for three high schools in Ghor Province were handed over to the Ghor DRRD.

SHAHRAK DISTRICT

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

The DSC meeting in Shahrak was canceled due to severe cold weather and heavy snow.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Shahrak Acting District Governor held a coordination meeting with ten district government staff on February 3rd. The participants complained about the poor performance of the police and asked them to be more active to bring peace and security in the district. The participants thanked the ADG for organizing public meetings with Ulema and elders.

Mr. Shahpasan Pahlavi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, organized a public meeting with 34 teachers, youth and Ulema on February 10th. The meeting aimed to highlight the importance of peace and unity in the community. A religious leader talked about the roles of youth in bringing peace and requested the teachers to encourage their students in bringing peace and unity. At the end of the meeting the participants wrote an agreement stating that youth, Ulema and teachers will work to bring unity and resolve tribal conflicts, combat discrimination and support the government to deliver quality services.

To address the issue of the vacant position of a judge in Shahrak District, the Acting District Governor and two Ulema organized a meeting with Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor on February 13th and submitted the agreement letter signed by the Ulema that they will support the government in providing security to the judge. Mr. Tookhi will organize a meeting with the high ranking provincial government staff and inform them that the people will provide security for the judge.

On February 16th, the district entities from Shahrak District including the Executive Manager, the Chief of Police and a representative from Health Office gave an overview of available services that can be accessed to 34 farmers invited. "This is our responsibility to inform the residents about the government services and help them access these services," said the Executive Manager.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CDCs are implementing seven labor intensive grants (road rehabilitation/protection wall/pipe scheme) in Shahrak District.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER

Meeting Management Skills training was provided to 10 Shahrak District Government staff on February 18th. Topics included how to prepare an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.

One-on-One mentoring on Meeting Management Skills was provided to six government staff in Shahrak District. The participants learned and practiced how to prepare an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.



"Youth of Shahrak District are united in bringing peace, stability and development to this district," said Mr. Ziaulhaq, a student in Shahrak District.



Government staff in Shahrak District informed farmers about the available government services on February 16th.

HERAT HQ SUPPORT

A five-day Advanced Communications training was started for the IDLG spokespersons and DRRD communications focal points from the four target provinces on February 3rd. Topics included crisis communications management, interview techniques, communications plan, messaging and press release. The training provided a platform for the IDLG and DRRD to strengthen their communication.

A coordination meeting was held with the Regional Manager of the National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) in Herat on February 12th. The meeting focused on how to increase the participation of DDA members at the DSC meetings. The NABDP Manager explained how DDAs are functioning and highlighted that DDAs will be changed to District Coordination Councils (DCCs). The NABDP advised the SIKA-West to continue their work with the DDAs using the current procedure until this change is applied.



A five-day Advanced Communications training was kicked off for the IDLG spokespersons and DRRD communications focal points from the four target provinces.

LESSONS LEARNED

For DSC meetings to be more effective, a new approach has been set up for types and number of participants at the meetings. At the previous DSC meetings the number of observers was increased which made it difficult for the facilitators to control the meeting and run it based on the agenda. Most of the observers were not familiar with the Stability Program and the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) process; therefore, they brought up irrelevant issues at these meetings. To address this issue, the District Governors now invite specific participants who always attend the DSC meetings.

Inter-Districts coordination and cooperation proved the key for successful implementation of the projects, meetings and conflict resolution. The Bala Boluk District Governor participated at the Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting and shared his experiences on how they identify the sources of instability and how they implement their projects successfully. The Bala Boluk DG observed how Pusht-e Rod DSC members run the meeting and implement their projects. He will deliver these experiences to the Bala Boluk DSC members.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the month, the M&E Department organized 134 monitoring visits covering different interventions by the MRRD/Stability Program, including DSC meetings, communications-related and capacity building trainings, literacy and vocational training courses being instructed in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces. In addition, 16 joint monitoring visits with DSWs and district government staff were also conducted during the month. 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:

- January 2014 Monthly Report
- Weekly Reports

ANNEX A: SIKA-WEST GRANT SUMMARY

#	Province	District	Under Development		Vetting to USAID		Grant Approved		Grant On-Going				Grant Complete	
			#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	Hard	Soft	\$	#	\$
1	Farah	Bala Boluk	5	\$233,495	2	\$103,000	36	\$738,094	14	13	1	\$309,979	18	\$277,138
2		Pusht-E Rod	7	\$379,505	3	\$176,505	21	\$377,899	6	6	0	\$102,246	12	\$99,148
3		Khak-E Safed	5	\$367,000	1	\$60,000	11	\$163,172	11	1	10	\$163,173	0	\$0
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	5	\$239,440	0	\$0	23	\$626,945	14	14	0	\$469,768	8	\$77,737
5		Shindand	6	\$342,150	0	\$0	25	\$831,629	14	14	0	\$451,229	5	\$68,489
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi	1	\$66,600	0	\$0	25	\$679,078	21	14	7	\$554,381	3	\$117,947
7	Ghor	Chaghcharan	5	\$302,100	0	\$0	18	\$765,784	8	8	0	\$421,319	5	\$38,100
8		Shahrak			0	\$0	7	\$453,261	7	7	0	\$453,261	0	\$0
9	Badghis	Qadis	2	\$81,500	0	\$0	69	\$666,585	54	35	19	\$560,464	13	\$93,001
10		Muqur	1	\$45,463	1	\$45,463	44	\$653,285	33	33	0	\$514,419	10	\$92,536
			37	\$2,057,253	7	\$384,968	279	\$5,955,732	182	145	37	\$4,000,239	74	\$864,096

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