



# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - WEST

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS  
JANUARY 21-27, 2014



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

January 21-27, 2014

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January 21-27, 2014

**Submitted to:**

USAID Afghanistan

**Prepared by:**

AECOM International Development

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- The Shindand District Governor displayed his conviction to the stability process following a site visit of a road graveling project in Naw Abad village on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.
- As part of the District Government Capacity Index (DGCI), "How to Organize a Meeting" trainings were provided to 11 government staff from Shindand and 21 staff from Muqur. Topics included how to provide an agenda, the minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.
- Public Speaking and Conflict Resolution trainings were provided to 15 DSC members from Shahrak and Chaghcharan Districts on January 21<sup>st</sup>. By the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) for women had been established. The TCRCs will receive further training and support to identify and resolve conflicts at the district level.
- Following the SIKA-West information exchange visit to SIKA-North from January 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, a team from SIKA-North traveled to Herat on January 27<sup>th</sup>. An overview of the SIKA-West activities and components was presented. The Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) was explained to the SIKA-North. The mission will be continuing until January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- A closing ceremony was conducted for the carpentry vocational trainings in Qadis District on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

## ONGOING GRANTS ACTIVITIES:

- To date, 139 rehabilitation grant projects including water dividers, bridges, culverts, flood protection walls, community center refurbishments, and road rehabilitations are ongoing.
- To date, 52 vocational grant trainings including tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving, welding, carpentry, and auto-mechanic courses are ongoing in Farah, Herat, Badghis, and Ghor Provinces.



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



Work is ongoing to rehabilitate a 2-km road in Allaf Abdul village in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association met with the District Governor to share their education concerns on January 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- Advocacy training was provided to three Bala Boluk Kochis nomads on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The participants understood the importance of advocacy and how to advocate for their rights. By the end of the training, participants listed the needs that should be addressed through advocacy. Obtaining Tazkaras (ID) and veterinary clinics were on the top of the list.
- 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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.
- A five-day Project Management training was provided to the Khushk Aba CDC in Khak-e-Safayd District from January 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.
- CDCs are implementing 20 labor intensive rehabilitation grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts.
- CDCs are implementing vocational training courses including five auto-mechanics (85 men), four tailoring (45 women, 20 men), three carpentry (45 men), one Computer Course (2 women, 9 men), one English language course (11 men) and one Health Education course (25 women) in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e-Safayd, and Farah Center.



**The Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting was held with participation of 60 people on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



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

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- A 'Communication Skills Building' training was provided to 27 Muqur District Government staff on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Topics included the importance of communications and effective methods of communications.
- 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 27<sup>th</sup>. The DSC members reviewed the previous identified sources of



**27 government staff from Muqur District received 'Communication Skills Building' training on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

instability and root causes and proposed 15 new mitigation activities.

- A closing ceremony was conducted for the carpentry vocational trainings in Qadis District on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.
- Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 25 people including the Qadis District Governor and the TCRC members on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The training aimed to enable the participants to identify and resolve the conflicts at the district level.
- A two-day training on "How to Organize a Meeting" was provided to 21 government staff from Muqur District on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Topics included how to provide an agenda, minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting..
- Project Technical training was provided to eight members of four CDCs and one DRRD staff in Muqur District on January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The CDCs are implementing 67 labor intensive rehabilitation grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/flood protection/road rehabilitation) in Qadis & Muqur Districts.
- The CDCs are implementing two auto-mechanic (30 men), 27 tailoring (435 women, 120 men), one carpentry (15 men), two embroidery (45 women), and one quilt making (25 women) courses in Muqur and Qadis Districts.



**Work is ongoing to construct a culvert in Nayebha village in Qadis District.**

## HERAT PROVINCE

- The Shindand District Governor visited the work in-progress of the road graveling project in Naw Abad village on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 government service delivery and engagement with the community.<sup>1</sup>
- A follow up Advocacy training was provided to 18 members of Mahal Shahi CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 25<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- Advocacy training was provided to 18 members of the Khola Murgh Sofla CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The CDC will advocate finding financial resources to provide potable water for their village.



**The Shindand District Governor visiting a 3-km road graveling project in the Naw Abad Village on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, hours prior to the ambush.**

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

- The Pashtun Zarghun District Chief of Police organized a meeting with 78 police, elders and Arbabs on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Chief of Police appreciated the security forces for their hard work that released 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 25<sup>th</sup>. The CDC will develop a concept note for the retaining wall project.
- A pre-DSC meeting was held with the Shindand District Governor on January 20<sup>th</sup> to brief him on the talking points and agenda of the DSC meeting. The Shindand DG facilitated the DSC meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> 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 new source of instability and proposed some mitigation activities.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting was held with the participation of 76 people including seven women on January 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- A gender coordination meeting was held with the Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist and IDLG Regional Coordinator on January 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 training on “How to Organize a Meeting” was provided to 11 government staff from Shindand District on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Topics included how to provide an agenda, the minutes taking and how to effectively organize a meeting.
- Project Technical training was provided to eight members of four CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The same training was provided to six members of three CDCs in Shindand District on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- A meeting was held with the Herat Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) to follow up 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 8<sup>th</sup>. The DoWA requested the SIKA-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.



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



**Work is ongoing to construct a 40-meter flood protection wall in Kashmir Abad Hulya village in Pashtun Zarghun District.**



**20 local women practice tailoring skills in Hassan Abad village in Pashtun Zarghun District.**

- On January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Government Hotline received two calls, one from a laborer who complained about labor violations from a CDC which expects more work from the laborers. The second call was from a villager who reported that 63 Hello Trust Organization staff had been kidnaped. The DG, with the support of the security forces, successfully released the hostages. The other case is under investigation by the DG.
- 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.
- The CDCs are implementing 39 labor intensive rehabilitation grants, including Flood/School Protection Walls/Road Rehabilitation/Culverts in Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts.
- The CDCs are implementing 13 tailoring (260 women), two welding (40 men), and one embroidery (20 women) courses in Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.

## GHOR PROVINCE

- The Shahrak District Governor held an informative meeting with 36 *Ulema*, influential people and farmers on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 the 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.
- The Ghor Provincial Youth Association organized a meeting with 37 farmers to raise their awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 specially apple and apricot.
- 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.
- Public Speaking and Conflict Resolution trainings were provided to 15 DSC members from Shahrak and Chaghcharan Districts on January 21<sup>st</sup>. By the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) for women had been established. The TCRCs 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 21<sup>st</sup>. The DPG gave an overview of on how he will facilitate and organize the DSC meeting. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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



**The Shahrak DG organized a public meeting with Ulema, influential people and farmers to raise the people's awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

representative informed the farmers that the



**15 women from Shahrak and Chaghcharan received Public Speaking and Conflict Resolution training on January 21<sup>st</sup>.**

bring stability. A woman complained and requested for provision of job opportunities to local women. The DPG asked the Allah Yar village representatives to stop fighting and cooperate with the TCRC to resolve their tribal conflicts.

- On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.
- A coordination meeting was held with the Ghor DoWA on January 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- The CDCs are implementing 13 labor intensive rehabilitation grants (Road Rehabilitation/Culverts) in Chaghcharan District.

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

- Farah: Khak-e-Safayd youth will meet with the DG to share their concerns on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Badghis: Muqur DSC meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- M&E training with District entities will be conducted in target districts.
- Herat: Pashtun Zarghun DSC meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. And Concept Note trainings will be provided to Bazar and Gim CDCs on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Herat: Shindand DG will organize a meeting with Ulema on the dangers of poppy cultivation on January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor: Chaghcharan Youth Association will organize a running competition on the harms of addiction on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## SIKA-WEST GRANTS ACTIVITIES

#	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	\$265,877
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	1	\$38,000	0	\$0	7	\$453,261	6	\$407,375	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
			<b>24</b>	<b>\$1,326,955</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$653,382</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>\$5,779,228</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>\$3,985,514</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$500,533</b>