



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - WEST

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS
JANUARY 14-20, 2014



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

January 14-20, 2014

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Submitted to:

USAID Afghanistan

Prepared by:

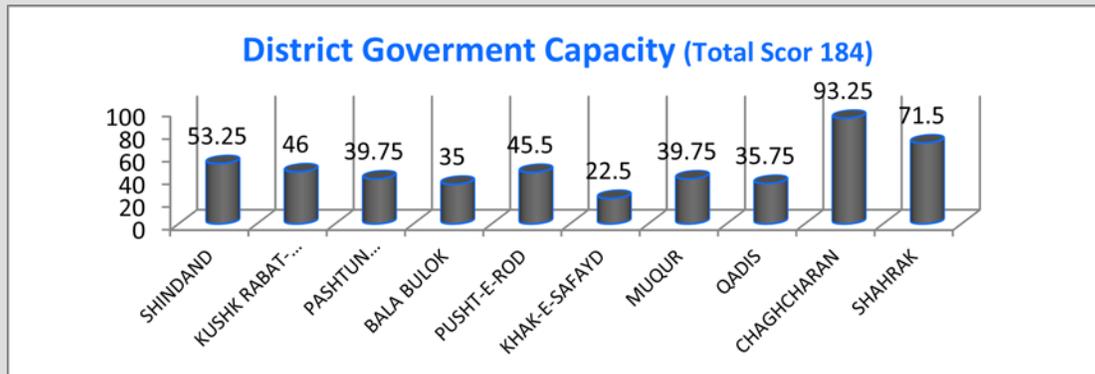
AECOM International Development

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- The District Government Capacity Index (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 Delivering trainings based on the assessment findings. See graph below for details:



- 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.

ONGOING GRANTS ACTIVITIES:

- To date, 126 rehabilitation grant projects including water dividers, bridges, culverts, flood protection walls, community center refurbishments, and road rehabilitations are ongoing.
- To date, 49 vocational grant trainings including tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving, welding, carpentry, and auto-mechanic courses are ongoing in Farah, Herat, Badghis, and Ghor Provinces.



15 local men practice carpentry skills in Sar Kari Kariz village in Khak-e-Safayd District.



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

FARAH PROVINCE

- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Pusht-e Rod District Government Hotline received a call about a water dispute between two farmers. The DG successfully resolved the dispute.
- CDCs are implementing 18 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), five tailoring (35 women, 50 men), two carpentry (30 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.



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.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- For the first time, the Muqur District residents had the chance to meet with high ranking provincial authorities. On January 19th, 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

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

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 protection of 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.
- From January 15th-16th, the Muqur TCRC traveled to Surkhabi and Jakana villages to mediate between the conflicting parties over a family marriage dispute. This family 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.
- Project Technical training was provided to four members of two CDCs in Qadis District on January 18th.
- The weekly coordination meeting with Badghis DRRD was held on January 16th. An overview of the previous week's activities and future plan was presented to the DRRD.
- The Qadis District Government Hotline received a call from a local resident complaining that a villager doesn't pay back his loan. This case is under review by the District Governor. Further updates to be provided.
- The Muqur District Government Hotline received a call about a complaint over an irrigation dispute. The District Governor with support of the local shura resolved the conflict.
- The CDCs are implementing 68 labor intensive rehabilitation grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/flood protection/road rehabilitation) in Qadis & Muqur Districts.
- The CDCs are implementing four auto-mechanic (60 men), 26 tailoring (415 women, 120 men), two carpentry (30 men), two embroidery (45 women), and one quilt making (25 women) courses in Muqur and Qadis Districts.



25 local women practice tailoring in Arbab Sarwar village in Qadis District. By the end of the five-month training, women will have the skills to start a business.

HERAT PROVINCE

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



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

- 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.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 120 people including government officials, 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.
- 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 Pashtun Zarghun Deputy District Governor along with the 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.
- 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 find market and job opportunities for them. The AREDP will inform the SIKA-West for the upcoming exhibition and invite the graduates to participate in this exhibition and sell their products.
- 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 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 Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government Hotline received two calls about 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 second case is under investigation by the DG.



Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Ulema and youth gathered and highlighted the importance of education on January 15th.

Ulema and community elders on January 15th.



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.



The Pashtun Zarghun District Government officials visited the work in progress of the road graveling project in Kushk-e-Sirwan village on January 20th.

- The Pashtun Zarghun District Government Hotline received two calls about a land dispute and a request for information on how to irrigate Saffron. The DG referred the first case to the Justice Department and the second one to DAIL.
- The CDCs are implementing 36 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.



Date: 01/19/2014 03:03:49 PM Lat: 34.236577 Lon: 62.695533 Alt: 3610.2 ft
20 local women practice tailoring skills in Qala-e-Yusuf Khan village in Pashtun Zarghun District.

GHOR PROVINCE

- 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 to stop 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
- 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.²
- 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.³
- 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
- 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



A youth representative is reading an article about the importance of education during the meeting on January 19th in Shahrak District. He asked the government to support the youth to continue their education.

¹ - <http://www.radiozohal.com/?p=8103>,
http://www.jame-ghor.com/news/persian/news_1392/0248_20012014_news.htm#.Ut3wB7QVRrQ
² - http://www.jame-ghor.com/news/persian/news_1392/0247_20012014_news.htm,
http://newsvim.blogspot.com/2014/01/blog-post_21.html
³ - <http://www.radiozohal.com/?p=8087>,
http://newsvim.blogspot.com/2014/01/blog-post_19.html

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.

- A five-day Project Management training was kicked off for 16 members of four CDCs in Chaghcharan District on January 18th.
- During the week, the Chaghcharan District Government Hotline received four calls requesting the district government to provide humanitarian aid for them. These calls will be followed up by the District Governor.
- The CDCs are implementing four labor intensive rehabilitation grants (Road Rehabilitation/Culverts) in Chaghcharan District.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Farah: Bala Boluk Kochi nomads will receive Advocacy training on January 27th.
- Farah: Pusht-e Rod and Khak-e-Safayd DSC meetings will be held on January 23rd and 26th.
- Badghis: Qadis TCRC meeting will be held on January 22nd. The Qadis DSC meeting is scheduled for January 26th.
- Badghis: Muqur District Government staff will receive Media training on January 22nd.
- Herat: Shindand District Governor will launch anti-corruption drama on January 27th.
- Herat: Shindand and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meetings will be held on January 20th and 21st.
- Ghor: Chaghcharan DSC meeting will be held on January 21st.
- During the coming week, the fourth milestone payments of one project in Muqur will be disbursed.

SIKA-WEST GRANTS ACTIVITIES

#	Province	District	Under Development		Vetting To USAID		Grant Approved		Grant On-going		Grant Complete	
			#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
1	Farah	Bala Boluk	0	\$0	0	\$0	36	\$738,094	12	\$254,778	17	\$265,877
2		Pusht-E Rod	3	\$198,500	3	\$176,505	18	\$201,394	7	\$106,746	11	\$86,966
3		Khak-E Safed	1	\$58,000	1	\$98,708	11	\$163,172	9	\$150,494	0	\$0
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	1	\$80,000	1	\$79,440	23	\$626,945	17	\$425,768	2	\$19,916
5		Shindand	4	\$216,000	5	\$242,760	25	\$831,629	13	\$434,325	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	3	\$161,232	2	\$37,395
8		Shahrak	1	\$38,000	1	\$38,000	7	\$453,261	1	\$99,500	0	\$0
9	Badghis	Qadis	7	\$93,082	1	\$48,852	69	\$666,585	57	\$550,674	5	\$38,541
10		Muqur	1	\$45,000	1	\$45,463	44	\$653,285	38	\$571,335	5	\$34,017
			23	\$1,030,682	18	\$1,017,903	276	\$5,779,228	175	\$3,185,087	42	\$482,712