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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - WEST

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS
DECEMBER 31- JANUARY 6, 2014



Eng. Zolal, the Ghor DRRD Director and Mrs. Paida Gol, Head of the Afghan Women Support organization, cut the ribbon at a project handover ceremony on December 31st.

December 31- January 6, 2014

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Submitted to:

USAID Afghanistan

Prepared by:

AECOM International Development

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

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

ONGOING GRANTS ACTIVITIES:

- To date, 114 light infrastructure grant projects including water dividers, bridges, culverts, flood protection walls, community center refurbishments, and road rehabilitations are ongoing.
- To date, 53 vocational grant trainings including tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving, welding, carpentry, and auto-mechanic courses are ongoing in Farah, Herat, Badghis, and Ghor Provinces.

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY:

- As part of efforts to increase district government accountability and visibility, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor and DRRD representatives visited a water divider project in Zeer Joie village on December 31st. The government involvement in the project cycle utilizes the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services. The Zeer Joie CDC will construct eight water dividers in three months.
- The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association’s representatives organized a coordination meeting with the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) on January 2nd. The youth shared their concerns including lack of job opportunities and lack of expert teachers.
- The Qadis District governor organized the monthly coordination meeting with 13 district government senior staff from Education, Municipality, Haj and Religious Affairs, Afghan National Police, Economy and Telecommunications Departments on January 5th. A number of issues including the relocation of a public transportation station and ways to improve service delivering to the community were discussed.



15 men practice auto-mechanic repairing skills in Cheshma Dozak Sofla village in Muqur District.



Work ongoing to construct a culvert in Lak lak Khana village in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

FARAH PROVINCE

- The Pusht-e Rod District Governor and the DRRD representatives visited a water divider construction project in Zeer Joie village on December 31st. The government involvement in the project cycle utilizes the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering services. By the end of the three-month project the CDC will have constructed eight water dividers.
- The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association's representatives organized a coordination meeting with the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) on January 2nd. The youth shared their concerns including lack of job opportunities and lack of expert teachers. They also requested the DPG to provide them office space to allow them to

expand activities. The DPG appreciated the youth and pledged to follow up these issues. The event was broadcast at the Farah Radio and Television of Afghanistan and published on Taand website.¹

- The Pusht-e Rod TCRC organized a meeting to resolve a water dispute between the Payen Ab Nahr-e Massow and Sar Ab Chin villages. The TCRC prioritized this conflict on December 3rd, organized three meetings with conflicting parties and resolved the conflict on January 1st.
- A meeting was held with the Director of the Farah Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) on January 6th. The meeting aimed to find job opportunities for vocational trainings graduates. A list of the graduates will be submitted to the DoLSA for further support.
- During the week, three light infrastructure projects including construction of 35 water dividers in Chahar Deh, Mian Joie and Qala Massow villages in Pusht-e Rod district were completed.
- CDCs are implementing 15 labor intensive infrastructure grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts.
- CDCs are implementing 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.



The Pusht-e Rod DG and DRRD representatives checking progress on the water divider construction project in Zeer Joie village on December 31st.



The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association's representatives organized a coordination meeting with the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) on January 2nd.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

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

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

- Two carpentry vocational training courses in Jawaleq Olya and Jawaleq Sofla villages in Qadis District were completed. During the five-month training, 30 men learned carpentry skills. Six of these graduates opened carpentry shops and the rest are looking for financial resources to start their business.
- Separate meetings were held with the Director of the Badghis Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) and Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) on December 31st and January 4th. The meetings aimed to find job opportunities for the carpentry vocational training graduates. A list of the graduates was submitted to the DoLSA for further assistance. The DoLSA and CCI will coordinate with other organizations for the available support.



20 local women practice tailoring skills in Naebha village in Qadis District.

- During the week, two calls have been made to the Muqur District Government Hotline about a tribal conflict and a complaint from a Turkish company that pollutes water. The DG successfully resolved these issues.
- The Qadis District Government Hotline received one call complaining that the Comprehensive Health Clinic (CHC) didn't distribute food items to a needy woman. The DG followed up on the issue and the CHC pledged to provide food if she meets the requirements.
- The CDCs are implementing 59 labor intensive light infrastructure 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), 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 120-meter canal protection wall in Kham Abasi village in Muqur District.

HERAT PROVINCE

- A coordination meeting was held with the National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) on January 2nd. An overview of activities was presented by both NABDP and the SIKA-West. SIKA-West requested the NABDP to provide an updated list of the DDA members and a copy of the District Development Plan (DDP) in order to coordinate more closely with DDA members. The NABDP will provide the list once finalized by Kabul office.
- The Pashtun Zarghun Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) was held with the participation of 13 TCRC members on January 6th. The TCRC identified three conflicts including a recent murder and family disputes. The TCRC will mediate between the conflicting parties during the coming weeks.
- Five carpet weaving vocational training courses have been completed in Shindand District. 125 women learned carpet weaving skills during the five-month trainings. At the end of the training, as part of sustainability efforts, the Qala Rahmdel CDC changed the training venue into a profit-making carpet weaving center, with weavers receiving 50% of any carpet sold, and the remaining funds being used to purchase materials for new carpets.
- A one-day technical training was provided to supervisors and foremen of Tonian and Khushk-e-Sirvan CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 6th.

- Five-day Project Management training was provided to eight members of two CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun District from December 31st to January 6th.
- The Herat Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of USAID and 18 representatives from government and non-government organizations with an interest in gender activities on January 6th. The meeting focused on: what procedures should be applied to attract the people's interest to participate in gender-related activities and trainings and how to find job opportunities for the vocational training graduates. The participants recommended raising the religious leaders and parents' awareness on gender and gender mainstreaming, do marketing assessment before conducting vocational trainings and providing toolkits at the end of the trainings for the students.
- The weekly coordination meeting with the Herat DRRD was held on December 31st. An overview of the last week activities and next week plan was presented.
- During the week, five calls have been made to the Pashtun Zarghun District Government Hotline about land dispute, stealing and request to construct small bridges. The DG will follow up these issues.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government Hotline received two calls complaining about Arbabs not working properly. These issues are under investigation by the DG.
- The CDCs are implementing 33 labor intensive 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.



Work is ongoing to rehabilitate a 3-KM road and five culverts in Khalifa Rahmat Hulya village in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On December 31st, two projects, which included construction of culverts in Akhta Khana Sofla and Nahoor Shewig villages in Chaghcharan, were officially handed over to the Ghor DRRD. More than 110 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs and media attended the event. “Implementation of such projects builds trust between the government and community as they respond to the people’s needs,” said the Ghor DRRD Director Mr. Eng. Mohammad Zolal. These culverts help the people to transport their products to the district center on a daily basis. The event was broadcast by Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan, Tolo, Asr and Azadi radio.
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial governor organized a lessons learned session for the Chaghcharan DSC meeting which was held on December 25th. The participants shared the challenges they had and proposed recommendations for the next DSC meeting. The DPG restated that women need capacity building activities and asked the DSC members to consider this issue.



Mr. Shams, a religious leader, appreciating the Ghor DRRD for implementing projects' in an interview with Tolo TV at a project handover ceremony.

- The Ghor Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 10 people from government and non-government organizations on January 6th. The participants shared their gender-related activities in Ghor Province and recommended establishing a women shura in Shahrak District.
- The CDCs are implementing seven labor intensive grants (Road Rehabilitation/Culverts) in Chaghcharan District.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Farah: Bala Boluk DG and Kochis will meet with the Department of Kochis and Tribal Affairs on January 8th.
- Badghis: Provide Communications training for Qadis District Government staff on January 8th.
- Badghis: Qadis and Muqur DGs will organize a peace meeting with *Ulema* and elders on January 13th and 14th.
- Badghis: Muqur and Qadis TCRC meeting will be held on January 8th and 12th.
- Herat: Kushk Rabat-e Sangi TCRC meeting will be held on January 8th.
- Ghor: Chaghcharan Youth will hold a meeting with farmers about the harms of poppy cultivation on January 12th.
- Ghor: Shahrak DG will organize a meeting with youth about peace and unity on January 13th.
- Ghor: The Shahrak TCRC meeting will be held on January 9th.
- During the coming week, the fourth milestone payments of one project in Bala Boluk, one in Pusht-e Rod, one in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and one in Shindand 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	13	\$265,007	16	\$258,269
2		Pusht-E Rod	0	0	0	0	18	\$201,394	8	\$116,349	10	\$85,045
3		Khak-E Safed	1	\$58,000	1	\$98,708	11	\$163,172	10	\$156,350	0	0
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	0	0	1	\$79,440	23	\$626,945	19	\$454,220	0	0
5		Shindand	0	0	5	\$242,760	25	\$831,629	10	\$368,715	0	0
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi	0	0	6	\$242,889	25	\$679,079	18	\$430,236	0	0
7	Ghor	Chaghcharan	5	\$302,100.00	4	\$207,000	13	\$477,609	3	\$161,232	2	\$37,395
8		Shahrak	0	0	1	\$38,000	7	\$453,261	0	0	0	0
9	Badghis	Qadis	7	\$93,082	1	\$48,852	69	\$666,585	57	\$550,674	5	\$38,541.30
10		Muqur	0	0	2	\$73,463	44	\$653,285	33	\$404,092	4	\$30,277.00
			13	\$453,182.00	21	\$1,031,112.00	271	\$5,491,053.00	171	\$2,906,874.27	37	\$449,527.30