



# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - WEST

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS  
DECEMBER 17-24, 2013



A school-student read an article titled “Education is our right, peace is our right” at the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District education meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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**Submitted to:**

USAID Afghanistan

**Prepared by:**

AECOM International Development

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 50 parents, community leaders, youth, *Ulema* and government officials on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting aimed to highlight the importance of education in the society and encourage the parents to send their children to school. An *Ulema* representative talked about the importance of education according to the Islam. Some students read articles titled “Education is our right, peace is our right”, and asked the government to pay more attention to their education. At the end of the meeting, the DG distributed sports clothing to four boy and girl schools with the tag “Education is our right” on them.

## ONGOING GRANTS ACTIVITIES:

- To date, 157 light infrastructure grant projects including water dividers, bridges, culverts, flood protection walls, community center refurbishments, and road rehabilitations are ongoing.
- To date, 56 vocational grant trainings including tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving, welding, carpentry, and auto-mechanic courses are ongoing in Farah, Herat, Badghis, and Ghor Provinces.

## DISTRICT GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY:

- The Bala Boluk District Governor organized a meeting with 15 representatives of the district Kochi nomads. The Kochis shared their concerns including lack of veterinary facilities and lack of National Identity Card (Tazkara). The DG will facilitate a meeting with the Provincial Governor and relevant departments to provide the opportunity for the Kochis’s representatives to address these issues.
- The Pusht-e Rod District Governor held a meeting with 13 farmers on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The farmers shared their agriculture challenges and asked the DG to provide them fertilizer and improved seeds. The DG pledged to respond to these request and deliver their messages to the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL).
- The Qadis new District Governor organized an introductory meeting with almost 120 community elders, *Ulema*, youth, government officials and CDCs’ members on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor (DG) organized a coordination meeting with 50 elders and government officials on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Chief of Police explained about their achievements and requested the community to support the police in bringing peace and security.



The CDCs representatives from Pashtun Zarghun and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts met with the Department of Natural Disaster Management to find available resources for their proposed projects.



Laborers working to construct a six-meter bridge in Safidan Olya village in Pashtun Zarghin District. This bridge connects 25 villages to the Pashtun Zarghun District center.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the Bala Boluk District Governor organized a meeting with 15 representatives of the Kochi district nomads. The Kochis shared their concerns including lack of veterinary facilities and lack of National Identity Card (Tazkara). The DG will facilitate a meeting with the Provincial Governor and relevant departments to provide the opportunity for the Kochis's representatives to address these issues.
- The Pusht-e Rod District Governor held a meeting with 13 farmers on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The farmers shared their agriculture challenges and asked the DG to provide them fertilizer and improved seeds. The DG pledged to respond to these request and deliver their messages to the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL).
- A Pre-DSC meeting and training was held with the Bala Boluk District Governor on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The DG was briefed about the agenda and talking points for the DSC meeting which is scheduled for December 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Five-day Project Management training was kicked off for 16 members of four CDCs from Bala Boluk, four members of one CDC from Pusht-e Rod and four members of one CDC from Khak-e-Safayd District on December 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the residents of Massow, Ab Sourakh, Konder and Chin Farsi villages in Pusht-e Rod District made a call to the district 'Complaint Hotline Phone' and complained about a water dispute within these villages. Following two meetings held between these people and the Pusht-e Rod Chief of Police, a number of issues related to the conflict have been addressed. A third meeting will be held with participation of the DG and the influential elders to solve the conflict completely, with a follow up report provided to USAID
- The Community Development Department is implementing 23 labor intensive infrastructure grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts.
- The Capacity Building Department is 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.



**One of the recently completed water divider in Qala Massow village in Pusht-e Rod District. The Qala Massow CDC will complete 15 water dividers which improve irrigation system in Pusht-e Rod District.**

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Qadis new District Governor organized an introductory meeting with almost 120 community elders, *Ulema*, youth, government officials and CDCs' members on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The DG outlined his future plans for this district and asked the community to support the government in bringing peace and security.
- Five-day Project Management training was kicked off for 20 members of five CDCs from Qadis and 12 members of three CDCs from Muqur District on December 21<sup>st</sup>.



**The Zard Alogak CDC completed the construction of one of the three culverts in Zard Alogak village in Qadis District.**

- The Community Development Department is implementing 67 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/flood protection/road rehabilitation) in Qadis & Muqur Districts.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing four auto-mechanic (60 men), 22 tailoring (330 women, 120 men), three carpentry (45 men), one embroidery (25 women), and one quilt making (25 women) courses in Muqur and Qadis Districts.



**25 local women practice tailoring skills in Zargar Ha village in Muqur District. By the end of the five-month training these women will have the skills to start a business.**

## HERAT PROVINCE

- A Pre-DSC meeting and training was held with the Shindand District Governor on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The DG was briefed about the agenda and talking points for the DSC meeting which was scheduled for December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Shindand DSC meeting was held with participation of 84 people including 23 women on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The District Governor delivered speeches about good governance and stability in the community and asked the participants to support the security forces. The DG also asked the CDCs to implement their soft and hard projects with high quality. The DSC members were assigned to identify new sources of instability and propose some mitigation activities. The DSC members will receive advocacy and concept note trainings to enable them to find financial resources.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 50 parents, community leaders, youth, *Ulema* and government officials on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting aimed to highlight the importance of education in the society and encourage the parents to send their children to school. An *Ulema* representative talked about the importance of education according to the Islam. Some students read articles titled “Education is our right, peace is our right”, and asked the government to pay more attention to their education. At the end of the meeting, the DG distributed sports clothing to four boy and girl schools with the tag “Education is our right” on them.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor (DG) organized a coordination meeting with 50 elders and government officials including the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and Afghan National Police (ANP) on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Chief of Police explained about their achievements and requested the community to support the police in bringing peace and security. The ALP and ANP agreed to organize a bi-weekly coordination meeting and regularly check and control the Pashtun Zarghun’s roads.
- Five-day Project Management training was started for 12 members of three CDCs from Shindand on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The same training was started for four members of one CDC from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the end of the education meeting the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DG distributed sport cloths with the tag “Education is our right” on them.**



**Fashkan CDC working to construct a 30-meter protection wall in Fashkan village in Pashtun Zarghun District.**

- A coordination meeting was held with the Gender department of the Independent Human Rights Commission (IHRC) on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The SIKA-West and the IHRC representatives shared their gender-related activities including gender awareness, literacy and vocational trainings in Herat Province.
- As part of the activities to support the CDCs to submit their funding requests to third party organizations, the representatives of the Kushk Haibat Ha CDC from Pashtun Zarghun and the Chahar Dara Esmail Bai CDC from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District held separate meetings with the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), Department of Natural Disaster Management, Department of Subordinate Water Zone of Harirod and the Economy Department on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and submitted a copy of their concept notes to these departments. These departments will share the concept notes with the relevant donors.
- On December 18<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held with the Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist, SIKA-West IDLG Coordinator and SIKA-West senior staff. An overview of the SIKA-West gender-related activities was presented. The Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist showed interest to participate in the SIKA-West gender-related activities.
- Community Development Department is implementing 51 labor intensive grants, including Flood/School Protection Walls/Road Rehabilitation/Culverts in Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing five carpet weaving (125 women), 14 tailoring (280 women), two welding (40 men), and one embroidery (20 women) courses in Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.



**20 local men practice welding skills in Allaf Haji Abdul village in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.**

## **GHOR PROVINCE**

- The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized a one-hour radio program on the harms of drug addiction and treatment methods on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Head of the Ghor Provincial addiction treatment clinic and a religious scholar were invited to this program and answered to the people's questions through the Sadai Adalat Radio. The association will organize a follow-up meeting with the Head of the Ghor Provincial addiction treatment clinic to assess the impact of the radio program.
- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, as part of the 'Complaint Hotline Phone' activities, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor received support and printed 1000 contact directory cards and asked the residents to share their concerns through these numbers. In addition, the Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan broadcast the advertisement.
- The Chaghcharan Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) held an immediate meeting and assigned six TCRC members to travel to Siah Kohak village and resolve the recently conflict over a murder on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The TCRC talked and mediated between the



**The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized a one-hour radio program on the harms of drug addiction and treatment methods on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.**



**Laborers working to rehabilitate a 5-KM road in Barre Khana village in Chaghcharan District.**

conflicting parties to avoid further casualties. The conflicting parties agreed to stop the fighting and release the hostages, and asked the TCRC to talk to the government officials to follow up this issue and punish the criminals.

- Five-day Project Management training was kicked off for four members of a CDC in Shahrak District On December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Gender mainstreaming training was provided to 27 women in Shahrak District. Topics included the definition of gender, difference between gender and sex, gender mainstreaming and gender equality.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 11 labor intensive grants (Road Rehabilitation/Culverts) in Chaghcharan District.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Farah: Pusht-e Rod farmers will receive Advocacy training. And the DSC meeting will be held on December 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: Bala Boluk DSC meeting will be held on December 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Khak-e-Safayd DSC meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis: Qadis DSC meeting will be held on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Muqur District Governor will meet with the new youth association on December 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Herat: Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Pashtun Zarghun DSC meetings will be held on December 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. And five-day SIKA-West Orientation training will be provided for 18 District Social Workers on December 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor: Chaghcharan DSC meeting will be held on December 25<sup>th</sup>. And the youth will organize a peace meeting with *Ulema* on December 29<sup>th</sup>.
- During the coming week, the fourth milestone payments of two projects in Qadis District 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					36	\$734,820	12	\$254,778	16	\$258,269
2		Pusht-E Rod					18	\$201,394	15	\$166,562	7	\$60,670
3		Khak-E Safed	3	\$71,565	1	\$98,708	10	\$156,349	9	\$57,642		
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun			1	\$79,440	23	\$626,945	19	\$454,220		
5		Shindand			5	\$242,760	25	\$831,629	15	\$406,815		
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi			6	\$242,889	25	\$679,079	19	\$455,062		
7	Ghor	Chaghcharan			4	\$207,000	13	\$485,562	5	\$198,627	2	\$37,395

8		Shahrak			1	\$38,000	7	\$453,261				
9	Badghis	Qadis	7	\$93,082	1	\$48,852	65	\$641,756	58	\$472,328	5	\$38,541.30
10		Muqur			2	\$73,463	44	\$663,303	33	\$333,131		
			<b>10</b>	<b>\$164,647</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$1,031,112</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>\$5,474,098</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>\$2,799,165</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$394,875.30</b>