



# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - WEST

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS  
NOVEMBER 12-18, 2013



The MRRD/IDLG Stability Program Quarterly Review meeting was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, bringing together representatives from USAID, MRRD, IDLG and SIKA-West.

November 12-18, 2013

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

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS  
November 12-18, 2013

**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.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- The MRRD/IDLG Stability Program Quarterly Review meeting was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Participants included the DRRD Directors' from Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah Provinces, the USAID ACOR, the SIKA-West MRRD and IDLG Coordinators, and Afghan senior SIKA-West staff. The meeting was an opportunity to present an overview of the last quarter's achievements, challenges and future plans, as well as open dialogue between SIKA-West and partners regarding district/provincial implementation of the program. Next month a review will also be held with IDLG staff, inviting all 10 District Governor's to Herat.

## ONGOING GRANTS ACTIVITIES:

- To date, 130 light infrastructure grant projects including water dividers, bridges, culverts, flood protection walls, community center refurbishments and road rehabilitation are ongoing.
- To date, 59 vocational grant trainings including tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving, welding, carpentry and auto-mechanic courses are ongoing in Farah, Herat, Badghis and Ghor Provinces.

## PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES AND DISTRICTS ENTITIES COORDINATION MEETINGS:

- The monthly coordination meeting between the Farah Provincial Governor and the Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk and Khak-e-Safayd Districts Governors was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The SIKA-West IDLG Regional Coordinator and the DRRD Director also attended the meeting. The Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod DGs briefed the Provincial Governor on the status of the projects in their districts, specially the handover ceremony of completed projects. The Khak-e-Safayd DG provided an overview of the sources of instability in the district.
- The Chaghcharan Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) meeting was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The TCRC discussed conflicts in Chaghcharan focusing on the conflicts in Allahyar village between Habibullah and Abdul Bashir, which resulted in death of five people.
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor held a coordination meeting with 18 representatives of government staff on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The participants shared their last month activities and their future plans. The Deputy briefed the participants on his recent official trip to France. He visited the France Justice, Law, Police and Criminal officials and obtained new experience and knowledge that he will share with the relevant directorates in Ghor.



**The Badghis DRRD Director discussed the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program during the quarterly review meeting.**



**The Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Khak-e-Safayd District Governors coordination meeting with the Farah Provincial Governor.**

## FARAH PROVINCE

- On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Bala Boluk Farmers' Association organized a "Hashar", traditional volunteer scheme, to clean a water canal in Kalkola village. Almost 50 farmers attended the event and cleaned the canal. "Such kinds of programs bring unity among the residents," said an elder.
- A follow up 'Concept Note' training was provided to three representatives of Doken CDC in Pusht-e Rod District on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The CDC representatives worked to draft a concept note for a flood protection wall project. The CDC will receive more support and the final concept note will be submitted to the relevant service providers.
- As part of the Stabilization Department's plan to have DSC meetings independently led, Stability Analysis Mechanism training was provided to the Bala Boluk, Pusht Rod and Khak-e-Safayd Districts Governors on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Bala Boluk DG shared his experience about the last DSC meeting he independently organized.
- The monthly coordination meeting between the Farah Provincial Governor and the Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk and Khak-e-Safayd Districts Governors was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The SIKA-West IDLG Regional Coordinator and the DRRD Director attended the meeting as well. The Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod DGs briefed the Provincial Governor on the status of the projects in their districts, specially the handover ceremony of the completed projects. The Khak-e-Safayd DG provided an overview of the sources of instability in the district.
- The Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting was held on November 17<sup>th</sup> with 48 people in attendance. The participants reviewed the previous identified sources of instability, root causes and mitigation activities, and discussed ongoing projects. A woman representative who completed the Health Education course appreciated the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program. "Now I am able to provide basic health services for my children," she said. A separate meeting was held with three influential women and an update of the mitigation activities were presented to them.
- Following a security assessment and communications from the National Department Security (NDS) SIKA-West has temporarily suspended staff travel in Bala Boluk, and all staff have been pulled back to Farah PST/DRRD Offices.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 25 labor intensive infrastructure grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Boluk and Pusht Rod Districts.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing 6 auto-mechanics (100 men), 5 tailoring (85 women, 30 men), 2 carpentry (30 men), 2 literacy courses (25 women, 25 men), 1 Computer Course (2 women, 9 men) and 1 English language course (11 men) in Bala Boluk, Pusht Rod, Khak-e-Safayd and Farah Center.



**The Bala Boluk Farmers' Association organized a 'Hashar', a traditional volunteer scheme, to clean a water canal in Kalkola village.**



**A recently completed water divider in Jan Khani village ,Pusht-e Rod District.**

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On November 18<sup>th</sup>, a coordination meeting was held with 14 CDCs from Qadis District. The CDCs shared their experiences, achievements and challenges they had during the implementation of the vocational trainings. The CDCs asked the SIKA-West to provide heaters for the vocational trainings courses.
- The first draft of the Badghis Service Providers Catalog (SPC) was completed.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing 6 auto-mechanic (130 men), 22 tailoring (475 women), 3 carpentry (75 men), 1 embroidery (25 women) and 1 quilt making (25 women) courses in Muqur and Qadis Districts.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 62 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/flood protection/road rehabilitation) in Qadis & Muqur Districts.



**25 local women practice tailoring skills in Cheshma Dozak Olya village in Muqur District.**

## HERAT PROVINCE

- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Women's Shura held a coordination meeting with 41 women on November 18<sup>th</sup>. An overview of the last month activities including the meetings with the District Governor, the Herat Provincial Council and Women Affairs Department was presented. The District Executive encouraged the women to apply for the vacant positions in the district.
- Five literacy courses in Shindand District were completed. During the nine-month trainings 100 women learned basic literacy skills.
- On November 17<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held with the Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist and SIKA-West senior staff. An overview of the SIKA-West gender-related activities was presented. The participants agreed to organize a monthly meeting and invite the Director of Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) as well.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting was held with participation of 62 people including 22 women on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Overviews of the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities were presented. A women's representative asked the DSC to provide education opportunities for women so that they can continue their education.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 38 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 5 carpet weaving (125 women), 14 tailoring (280 women), 2 welding (40 men) and 1 embroidery (20 women) courses in Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.



**An interview was conducted with the students of the Shindand Literacy courses to evaluate their literacy skills.**



**Laborers working to construct a culvert in Kushk-e-Sirwan village in Pashtun Zarghun District.**

## GHOR PROVINCE

- On November 12<sup>th</sup>, the Ghor Provincial Youth Association, in-line with its communications plan, organized its first monthly coordination meeting with 30 youths. The head of the association who attended the previous DSC meetings briefed the youth about the DSC meetings and the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC). He recognized the DSC meetings as a platform to share the youth association's achievements and challenges with the government officials and elders.
- The Chaghcharan Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) meeting was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The TCRC had an open discussion covering a number of conflicts in Chaghcharan, focusing specifically on the conflicts in Allahyar village between Habibullah and Abdul Bashir which has resulted in death of five people. The TCRC agreed to invite the representatives of both parties to Chaghcharan and offer mediation services.
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor held a coordination meeting with 18 representatives of government staff on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The participants shared their last month activities and their future plans. The Deputy briefed the participants on his recent official trip to France. He visited the France Justice, Law, Police and Criminal officials and obtained new experience and knowledge that he will share with the relevant directorates in Ghor.
- Thirty members of the Ghor Provincial Youth Association received Media training on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Youth learned the importance of communication, messaging, and basic elements of communications. The association members will, use these skills to share their activities and achievements using the available media outlets.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 5 labor intensive grants, (Road Rehabilitation/Culverts) in Chaghcharan District.



**The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor held a coordination meeting with 18 representatives of government staff on November 17<sup>th</sup>.**



**Thirty members of the Ghor Provincial Youth Association received 'Media' training on November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Farah Pusht-e Rod DG will organize a meeting with *Ulema* on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis Muqur DG will organize an anti-addiction meeting with *Ulema* on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Herat Shindand DG will organize a meeting with *Ulema* on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor Shahrak DG will organize an anti-addiction meeting with *Ulema* on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## SIKA-WEST GRANTS ACTIVITIES

#	Province	District	Under Development		Vetting To USAID		Grant Approved		Grant On-going		Grant Complete	
			#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
1	Farah	Bala Boluk	5	\$55,000	1	\$48,602	33	\$696,365	14	\$256,070	14	\$234,192
2		Pusht-E Rod	1	\$20,000			21	\$278,083	14	\$158,895	3	\$22,389
3		Khak-E Safed	3	\$71,295			10	\$156,349	9	\$57,642		
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	4	\$121,500	1	\$45,661	20	\$499,881	19	\$454,220		
5		Shindand	8	\$323,000			17	\$523,259	8	\$111,876		
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi	8	\$289,213			19	\$460,608	19	\$455,062		
7	Ghor	Chaghcharan	9	\$509,100	1	\$265,113	9	\$275,674	3	\$77,161		
8		Shahrak			8	\$550,000	7	\$453,261				
9	Badghis	Qadis	12	\$180,282	2		60	\$513,926	59	\$476,385		
10		Muqur	10	\$163,700	2	\$73,463	32	\$366,039	30	\$291,741		
			60	\$1,733,090	15	\$982,839	228	\$4,223,445	175	\$2,339,052	17	\$256,581