



# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - WEST

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS  
OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 04, 2013



“Peace is prosperity, we want peace,” wrote a school boy during the Peace campaign in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District of Herat Province.

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This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM.

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**Submitted to:**

USAID Afghanistan

**Prepared by:**

AECOM International Development

**DISCLAIMER:**

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor and the Education Department organized a Peace campaign on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Almost 200 boys and girls wrote peace messages and drew peace symbols on papers and kites to show how keen they are to bring peace to their community.
- The second round of the “How to Develop a Concept Note” training was provided to eight members of Cheshma Dozak Sofla and Kumuri CDCs in Muqur District on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. They submitted their concept notes to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP). The IRC showed interest and will consider it a priority for future projects. The NABDP will also share the concept notes with their senior management.

## ONGOING GRANTS ACTIVITIES:

- To date 137 light infrastructure grant projects including water divider, bridge, culvert, flood protection wall, community center refurbishment and road rehabilitation are ongoing.
- To date 69 vocational grant trainings including tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving, carpentry and auto-mechanic are ongoing in Farah, Herat, Badghis and Ghor Provinces.

## DISTRICT GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY:

- The Muqur Sectorial Manager monitored the progress of the tailoring vocational training in Zargarha village on October 29<sup>th</sup>. And on October 30<sup>th</sup>, the District Governor’s representative visited the tailoring and auto-mechanic vocational trainings in Cheshma Dozak village.
- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Qadis District Manager visited the embroidery and blanket making vocational trainings in Chaprodaha and Haji Qurbanha villages. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, he visited the tailoring training in Dahi Berenj village. These visits are part of the District Governor communications plan to utilize the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services.
- The Shindand District Governor and a DDA representative visited the tailoring vocational training in Chwani village on November 4<sup>th</sup>. “I am happy and I appreciate you attending this course, though far from family and children. Your efforts will make a better society,” said the DG.



**Women in Haji Qurbanha village in Qadis District practice blanket making skills. By the end of the training 25 women will have the skills to start a business.**



**Laborers working to construct a flood protection wall in Qala Yosuf Khan Village in Pashtun Zarghun District.**

## FARAH PROVINCE

- Training on “How to Develop a Concept Note” was provided to four members of Doken CDC in Pusht-e Rod District on October 29<sup>th</sup>. This training will be followed by support for the CDCs to submit these funding requests to third party organizations, using the Farah Service Provider Catalog (SPC).
- During the week seven copies of SPC was distributed to the line-departments.
- The Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 15 people from organizations interested in gender activities on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The participants shared their gender activities in Farah Province. The DoWA Director recognized the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program for providing vocational and literacy programs for women in insecure villages and asked other organizations to work in those areas as well.
- The Health Education courses in Doken and Qala Massow villages in Pusht-e Rod District were completed. By the end of the three-month training, 50 women learned basic health education.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 33 labor intensive infrastructure grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Baluk and Pusht Rod Districts.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing 6 auto-mechanics (100 men), 4 tailoring (35 women, 35 men), 2 carpentry (30 men), 1 health education (25 women) , 3 literacy (50 women, 25 men) and 1 English language course (11 men) in Bala Baluk, Pusht Rod , Khak-e-Safayd and Farah Center



**The DoWA Director appreciated the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program for providing vocational and literacy programs for women in insecure villages and asked other organizations to work in those areas as well.**



**Laborers working to construct a water dicider in Gerani Ziyarat Village in Bala Boluk District.**

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Muqur and Qadis District Governors’ organized their first monthly coordination meeting with the Badghis Acting Provincial Governor (APG) on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The DGs reported their activities, which included the achievements of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program. The APG requested the DGs to provide a list of the ongoing projects in their districts.
- The Muqur Sectorial Manager monitored the progress of the tailoring vocational training in Zargarha village on October 29<sup>th</sup>. “This is your responsibility to use this opportunity and improve your skills to start a business,” said the Sectorial Manager. And on October 30<sup>th</sup>, the District Governor’s representative visited the tailoring and auto-mechanic vocational trainings in Cheshma Dozak village.
- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Qadis District Manager visited the



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embroidery and blanket making vocational trainings in Chaprodaha and Haji Qurbanha villages. And on October 30<sup>th</sup>, he visited the tailoring training in Dahi Berenj village. These visits are part of the District Governor's communications plan to utilize the sub-projects implemented by CDCs as a tool to show how the government is delivering on services.

- The second round of the “How to Develop a Concept Note” training was provided to eight members of Cheshma Dozak Sofla and Kumuri CDCs in Muqur District on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. By the end of the training the CDCs developed concept notes for their proposed projects. The CDCs' representatives organized separate meetings with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) in Badghis Province and submitted their concept notes. The IRC showed interest and will consider it a priority for future projects. The NABDP will also share the concept notes with their senior management.
- During the week, five tailoring vocational training courses for 100 women in Qadis District were inaugurated.
- The Badghis Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of 12 people from organizations interested in gender activities on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The DRRD and DoWA Directors shared their ongoing gender activities in Badghis Province.
- The weekly coordination meeting with the DRRD was held on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Badghis PST Manager provided a briefing about the last week's activities and future plan.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing 4 auto-mechanic (100 men), 19 tailoring (405 women) and 3 carpentry (75 men) courses in Muqur and Qadis Districts.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 61 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/flood protection/road rehabilitation) in Qadis & Muqur Districts.



**Laborers working to construct a culvert in Haji Qurbanha Village in Qadis District.**

## HERAT PROVINCE

- “Peace is prosperity, we want peace,” wrote a school boy during the Peace campaign in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District of Herat Province. The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor and the Education Department organized a Peace campaign on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Almost 200 boys and girls wrote peace messages and drew peace symbols on papers and kites to show how keen they are to bring peace to their community. “We are tired of insecurity, we want peace to go to school and study freely,” said a boy during the campaign. The event was broadcast at the Herat Radio and Television of Afghanistan and the TOLO TV.
- Conflict Resolution training was provided to 16 members of the Pashtun Zarghun Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) and the district government staff on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Applying the techniques learned during the training, the TCRC identified seven ongoing conflicts in the district. At the end of the training, the Acting District Governor assigned the TCRC to resolve two of the identified conflicts including land dispute between two families in which resulted in death of two people.
- A meeting was held with the DRRD Director with participation of SIKA-West Senior Staff on October 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss and provide answers to the feedbacks received from the DRRD for the Herat Service



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Providers Catalog (SPC). Both parties agreed to hold more discussion to bring the necessary changes in the SPC.

- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, in-line with his communications plan, organized a public meeting with 47 women on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The DG encouraged the women to be more active and attend the district events. The women shared their social, political and economic concerns with the DG and asked him to provide vocational trainings opportunities for women. By the end of the meeting the women agreed to establish a women shura and introduce a communications focal point to the DG.
- The Shindand District Governor and a DDA representative visited the tailoring vocational training in Chwani village on November 4<sup>th</sup>. “I am happy and I appreciate you attending this course, though far from family and children. Your efforts will make a better society,” said the DG.
- A five-month embroidery vocational training for 20 women was inaugurated in Robat Naw village in Shindand District on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Herat Gender Working Group meeting was held on October 30<sup>th</sup> with participation of 15 people from government and non-government organizations with an interest in gender activities at Herat Department of Women Affairs (DoWA). Participants shared their organizations gender-related activities. The DoWA Director asked the SIKA-West to introduce a focal point for the DoWA Gender Committee. This committee monitors the gender-related activities in Herat Province.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 37 labor intensive grants, including Flood Protection Walls/School, Refurbishment/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), 1 embroidery (20 women) and 5 literacy (125 women) courses in Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.



**Laborers working to construct a flood protection wall in Qala Yosuf Khan Village in Pashtun Zarghun District.**

## **GHOR PROVINCE**

- The Shahrak Acting District Governor held a public meeting with 50 *Ulemas* and religious leaders on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting aimed to highlight the roles and responsibilities of *Ulema* in increasing the people’s awareness on importance of education. The Acting DG asked the *Ulema* to talk about the benefits of education at their sermons.
- The Shahrak 6<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting was held with participation of 64 people on October 31<sup>st</sup>. An overview of the status of the implementation of mitigation activities was presented. The DSC members were informed that due to the severe winter in Shahrak District they can’t implement light infrastructure projects and should identify alternative short-term mitigation activities.
- As part of the plan to have DSC meetings independently led, the Shahrak Acting District Governor along with 13 staff received the Stability Analysis Mechanism training on November 04<sup>th</sup>.



**Laborers working to construct a culvert in Akhta Khana Sofla village in Chaghcharan District.**

- Training on “How to Develop a Concept Note” was provided to three members of Shahrak Mohajerin CDC in Chaghcharan District on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The monthly DRRD coordination meeting was held with participation of 35 representatives from government and non-government organizations in Ghor on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The participants shared their organizations’ activities, achievements and challenges during the last month.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 5 labor intensive grants, (Road Rehabilitation/Culverts) in Chaghcharan District.

## **WHAT’S NEXT**

- Farah Khak-e-Safayd DSC meeting will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah the handover ceremony of the completed projects in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts will be organized.
- Badghis Qadis DG monitor the progress of the tailoring course in Arbab Yusuf village
- Herat Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Pashtun Zarghun DGs visit the light infrastructure projects.
- Ghor Chaghcharan Acting District Governor will organize a meeting with students and teachers in support of peace promotion on November 5<sup>th</sup>.