



**USAID** | **AFGHANISTAN**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)- WEST

WEEKLY USAID BULLET POINTS  
OCTOBER 22-28, 2013



Two agriculture experts provide answers to the farmers' questions about the cucumber and onion cultivation at Faryad Radio on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

October 22-28, 2013

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

### Highlights of the Week:

- The Pashtun Zarghun and Bala Boluk District Governors successfully organized and facilitated independent DSC meetings.
- The Pusht-e Rod District Governor, held a radio roundtable discussion to raise awareness on improved methods of cucumber and onion cultivation.
- The Ghor Gender Working Group was established and organized its first meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen representatives from organizations interested in gender activities attended the meeting.



The Pashtun Zarghun DG following receiving Stability Analysis Mechanism training successfully organized and facilitated the DSC meeting on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Ongoing Grants activities:

- To date 138 light infrastructure grant projects including water divider, bridge, culvert, flood protection wall, community center refurbishment and road rehabilitation are ongoing.
- To date 65 vocational grant trainings including tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving, carpentry and auto-mechanic are ongoing in Farah, Herat, Badghis and Ghor Provinces.



Laborers working to construct a culvert in Sultanha Village in Qadis District. Culvert construction is a mitigation activity identified by the DSC members.

### District Government Engagement with the Community:

- During the week as part of the strategy to improve the government engagement with the community, government officials of Qadis District visited the tailoring vocational training course in Arbab Sarwar village on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Muqur Sectorial Manager visited the work progress of the culvert construction projects in Jakana and Niazi villages on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Shindand Administrative Manager, eight district officials and DDA members visited the carpet weaving vocational training program in Rabat-e Zuria village on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. “Carpet weaving is a good source of income for women, use the opportunity,” said the Administrative Manager.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor along with the DDA members and district elders visited the bridge construction project in Safidan village on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Farah Province

- The Bala Boluk District Governor successfully organized the 14<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting independently on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with 41 people in attendance. The DG briefed the participants on the status of the ongoing mitigation activities in the district. The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) was assigned to follow up the tribal conflict in Kanesk village between Achakzai and Barakzai tribes. The Achakzai tribe accused Barakzai that the Achakzai Police Commander was killed by the Barakzai tribe.
- The Pusht-e Rod District Governor, in-line with his communications plan, to raise the farmers' knowledge on new methods of cucumber and onion cultivation, initiated a radio roundtable. Almost 30 farmers were contacted to share their questions and on October 24<sup>th</sup> two agriculture specialists provided answers to these questions through the Faryad Radio. To inform the farmers about the dates of the radio program an SMS campaign was conducted.
- On October 26<sup>th</sup>, training on Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) usage was provided to the representatives of departments of Transportation, Counter Narcotics, Gas and Petroleum and Finance. At the end of the training one copy of SPC was distributed to each department.
- The Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting was held with participation of 34 people on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. An overview of the sources of instability, root causes and mitigation activities that identified in the previous DSC meetings was reviewed. Separate DSC meeting was held with 29 women. Women discussed about illiteracy and unemployment in the community and proposed vocational and literacy programs.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 25 labor intensive infrastructure grants (irrigation projects/community center refurbishment/flood protection) in Bala Baluk and Pusht Rod Districts. Two grant projects are currently on hold due to security concerns.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing 9 vocational training grants (Auto-Mechanic, Embroidery, Tailoring, and Health Education), 7 literacy programs and 1 English language course in Bala Baluk, Pusht Rod and Farah Center.



Two agriculture experts provide answers to the farmers' questions about the cucumber and onion cultivation at Faryad Radio on October 24<sup>th</sup>.



Todanak Haji Malik Shir CDC completed the construction of water divider in Todanak Haji Malik Shir village in Bala Boluk District.

## Badghis Province

- The Muqur 8<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting was held with participation of 99 people including 25 women on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The District Governor and representatives of DDA, DRRD, Ulema and women delivered speeches about the importance of peace and stability in the community. An overview of the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities was presented. In this meeting the TCRC identified five ongoing conflicts in the district.
- The Qadis District Governor held the third monthly coordination meeting with the 14 district government officials on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The government officials exchanged their last month activities and challenges and shared their next month plan.
- The Muqur District Governor organized a public meeting with 60 farmers to share the government activities in agriculture sector and listen to the farmers' concerns on October 28<sup>th</sup>. A farmer representative requested the District Governor to provide improved seeds for the farmers and rehabilitate their irrigation systems.
- The Muqur Sectorial Manager visited the work progress of the culvert construction projects in Jakana and Niazi villages in Muqur District on October 27<sup>th</sup>. And on October 28<sup>th</sup> the Qadis Village Manager and DDA head visited the tailoring vocational training course in Arbab Sarwar village. "Government tries to support



Laborers working to construct a culvert in Sultanha Village in Qadis District. Culvert construction is a mitigation activity identified by the DSC members.

the district residents. This course was facilitated by the government to empower the district women economically,” said the Village Manager.

- The Qadis 10<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting was held with participation of 147 people including 39 women on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The DOWA Director appreciated the MRRD/IDLG stability program and asked the DSC members to continue their support for women. A woman representative asked the participants to provide the opportunities for women to take part in the decision making process.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, a coordination meeting was held with the Muqur District Governor and CDC members of Sang-e-Atash cluster to discuss the pending proposed projects. The CDC and District Governor pledged to implement the project properly and provide security escort to the technician team.
- The Capacity Building Department is implementing 2 Auto-Mechanic vocational training courses (30 men) and 2 Tailoring vocational training courses (40 women) in Muqur district and 2 Carpentry vocational training courses (30 men) in Qadis District.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 22 labor intensive light infrastructure grants (aqueducts/culverts/irrigation/flood protection/road rehabilitation) in Qadis & Muqur Districts.

## Herat Province

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Shindand DSC meeting was held with the participation of 81 district residents, including 31 women on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The District Governor used the opportunity and talked about the importance of the presidential and provincial council elections and asked them to encourage the community to participate in the upcoming election. A female resident asked the DSC members to launch more vocational trainings for women, so that they can improve their handicraft skills.
- As part of the plan to have DSC meetings independently led, Stability Analysis Mechanism training was provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, together with selected DSC members on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Following the training the District Governor independently organized and facilitated the 9<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> with 120 people in attendance including 21 women. By the end of the meeting, the DG assigned the TCRC to mediate between the conflicted parties in Rawandan and Taqcha villages. The SIKA-West support team attended the meeting will provide feedbacks to the DG to help him organize the upcoming DCS meetings more effectively.
- As part of the activities to share the women’s challenges in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi with the Herat Provincial Government, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Women’s Association organized a meeting with the Provincial Council on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Women asked the Provincial Council to pay more attention to women’s needs. The Provincial Council was extremely happy to see women travel from far district to meet with the government officials. And on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, women met with 66 Ulema, elders, teachers and government officials. The women asked the Ulema and teachers to raise the public awareness on the women’s rights and their roles in the community through their sermons and schools.
- The Shindand Administrative Manager, eight district officials and DDA members visited the progress of the carpet weaving vocational training in Rabat-e Zuria village on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. “Carpet weaving is a good source of income for women, so use this opportunity,” said the Administrative Manager.
- On October 28<sup>th</sup>, eight members of two CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun received “How to Develop a Concept Note” training. This training will be followed by support for the CDCs to submit these funding requests to third party organizations, using the Service Provider Catalogue.
- The monthly DRRD coordination meeting was held with participation of 33 representatives from government and non-government organizations in Herat on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The participants shared their organizations’ activities, achievements and challenges during the last month.



Muqur Sectorial Manager visited the work progress of the culvert construction in Jakana Village in Muqur District.



The Pashtun Zarghun DG following receiving Stability Analysis Mechanism training successfully organized and facilitated the DSC meeting on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>.



Tailoring vocational training is ongoing for 20 local women in Bahaie village in Pashtun Zarghun District.

- On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, two welding vocational trainings for 30 men and four tailoring trainings for 80 women were inaugurated in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor along with the DDA members and district elders visited the bridge construction project in Safidan village on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Community Development Department is implementing 9 labor intensive grants, (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 vocational trainings (125 Women) and 5 Tailoring Vocational trainings in Shindand and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.

## Ghor Province

- The 7<sup>th</sup> Chaghcharan DSC meeting was held on October 27<sup>th</sup> with 68 people in attendance including 22 women. An overview of the status of the implementation of the mitigation activities was presented. Women asked the government officials to provide them more opportunities to share their grievances.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, in-line with his communications plan, the Chaghcharan Acting Deputy Provincial Governor held a public meeting with 26 representatives of Ghor Youth Council. “Without the community support, especially youth, the government will not be able to bring peace and stability,” said the Acting Deputy Provincial Governor.
- The Shahrak District Governor, in-line with his communications plan, organized the first monthly coordination meeting with the 11 district officials on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The DG Executive Manager asked the participants to fully coordinate and cooperate with the MRRD/IDLG stability program.
- The Ghor Gender Working Group was established and organized its first meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen representatives from organizations interested in gender activities attended the meeting. Participants shared gender-related activities in Ghor Province.
- The Ghor Provincial Youth Council communications plan was approved by the Youth Association and USAID.
- During the week, as part of the SIKA-West baseline survey, 31 people including nine women have been interviewed in Pouza Leach Sufla and KIndiwal villages in Chaghcharan.



“Without the community support, especially youth, the government will not be able to bring peace and stability,” said the Acting Deputy Provincial Governor during the meeting with youth on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

## WHAT’S NEXT...

- **Farah** Khak-e-Safayd DSC meeting will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Farah** Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod will meet with the Provincial Governor to share their activities on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Badghis** Qadis DG will visit the embroidery vocational training in Chaproadha village on October 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Herat** Shindand DSC meeting will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Herat** Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DG will organize Kite Running to promote peace on October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Ghor** Shahrak DG will hold a meeting with Ulemas to increase school attendance on October 30<sup>th</sup>.