

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS

Farah Province

- On May 15th, ‘Media’ training was provided to 25 government communications focal points from Farah Province. By the end of the training, participants learned about media relations, interview techniques and how to write press releases. The focal points will use the training to more effectively convey government messages to the public.
- On May 19th, as part of capacity building activities for Pusht-e Rod and Bala Boluk Community Development Councils (CDCs), 28 CDC members participated in the 4th round of the project management training. At the end of the training each CDC will receive its first milestone payment, enabling work to start on respective projects.
- On May 19th, in-line with the District Governor’s communications plan, ‘marketing’ training was provided to 16 farmers in Pusht-e Rod District. Agriculture is the main economic mainstay in this District. At the end of the training farmers understood the importance of marketing and segmentation of their market. “We need agricultural loans and other possible solutions to extend our agriculture in the district”, said one of the farmers.
- On May 14th, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor organized the monthly coordination meeting with district line managers. An overview of the government activities was presented. The District Governor emphasized the importance of the coordination meetings and said, “Regular meetings will help to have better coordination and collaboration at the district level”.
- On May 20th, a meeting was held with the Farah DRRD Director. The meeting aimed to provide an update of the MRRD/Stability program communications activities in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts. A copy of the awareness raising materials produced for these districts including factsheets, folders and posters were given to the Director.
- A five-month auto-mechanic vocational training was kicked off for 15 men in Dehzak Akbar Abadi community in Bala Boluk District.
- The Khojahan and Gerani Ziyarat CDCs have been working on the foundations of water dividers, part of projects aimed at improving agriculture.
- On May 16th, the Farah PST Manager participated in the Farah Provincial Council coordination meeting. An overview of the MRRD/Stability program objectives, current infrastructure and vocational training projects was given to the participants.



“Today’s training is a one step toward reaching our people through media,” said the DRRD Deputy Director at the end of the media training on May 15th.



Community members working on the foundation of the Abdul Rahim water divider, a grant implemented by the Khojahan CDC.

Badghis Province

- On May 19th, in-line with the communications plan, the Qadis District Governor held a meeting with 83 *Ulema*, *Arbabs* (community leaders) and government officials. The meeting aimed to exchange information regarding peace and unity in the community. “Unity and harmony amongst Qadis residents will solve most of our problems,” said the District Governor. One of the leaders emphasized *Mullahs*’ responsibilities regarding peace promotion across the

district and said, “Holy Quran insists on unity and peace and advises us to bring peace to each other and be united to solve problems”. All participants pledged to disseminate the DG’s peace messages.

- On May 14th, the 3rd Muqur DSC meeting was held with support of the District Governor. More than 100 people attended, including 10 DDA members, 15 line departments’ representatives and 79 community observers. The DSC members were updated on mitigating activities, and discussed the SOIs and root causes identified in the previous meetings.
- On May 19th, the ‘Introduction to Gender’ training was provided to 40 female students and 9 female teachers in Qadis District.



83 Ulema, Arbabs (community leaders) and government officials participated in a public meeting organized by the Qadis District Governor on May 19th.

Herat Province

- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District women’s *shura* received support to develop a six-month communications plan. The communications plan contains a range of activities to raise women’s capacity to improve their participation and engagement in district activities and the decision making process.
- The weekly coordination meeting with DRRD and MRRD/SIKA-West Regional Coordinator was held on May 18th. During the meeting, the previous week’s activities and challenges were shared.
- On May 19th, a meeting was held with the new Pashtun Zarghun District Governor to brief him on the MRRD/Stability program.
- On May 20th, a meeting was held with the Shindand District Governor and key DSC members to discuss the project prioritization in-line with the SIKA-West project criteria. Following a lengthy discussion a number of projects were prioritized for Shindand District.



The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor was briefed about the MRRD/Stability program during a meeting on May 19th.

Ghor Province

- On May 20th, the 1st regular Chaghcharan DSC meeting was held with participation of 59 people including 25 DDA members (20 males, 5 females), 17 line departments’ representatives and 17 observers. The MRRD/Stability program’s objectives and structures were explained and Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to the participants. The DSC members identified 11 Sources of Instability (SOIs) including tribal conflicts, presence of illegal armed groups, poverty and unemployment, lack of law enforcement, government conservative act, uneven development, illiteracy and lack of education, foreign destabilizing, low educated Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and wrong and negative rumors among communities.



Participants identify SOIs during the 1st Chaghcharan DSC meeting on May 20th.