

# Weekly Bullets

## Farah Province

- On May 5<sup>th</sup>, a six-month grant-funded vocational embroidery training course was kicked off in Kanisk Pain village in Bala Boluk District for 15 women.
- The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association visited the Addicts' Rehabilitation Clinic in the district center. This visit was part of plans to develop awareness raising materials, which will be disseminated during an upcoming anti-drug campaign aimed at youth.
- Literacy courses in five communities of Bala Boluk District have been extended for three months in order to meet Department of Education requirements. In response additional work plan development training was provided to instructors.
- The May 6<sup>th</sup> Khak-e-Safayd DSC introductory meeting was postponed due to an AGE attack on an ANP checkpoint on the way to the district center. Increased AGE activity and responses to poppy eradication programs are having a minor impact on project roll out in some less secure areas.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup>, management suspended a literacy course in Shar-e-Kohna Village, Pusht-e Rod District due to a verbal threat made against the literacy teacher by a man claiming to be with the Taliban. The man threatened to burn the school down if classes were not stopped. In light of the recent burning of a girls school in Naw Bahar Village, Bala Boluk District, and the departure of senior CDC members from Shar-e-Kohna Village due to security reasons, management have suspended classes until an investigation can be completed.



Bala Boluk women take part in a grant-funded vocational embroidery course on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Badghis Province

- On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Qadis Youth Association organized a meeting with the Director of Badghis Information and Culture Department. An overview of the last month's activities was provided to the department, specifically covering the ongoing education campaign, which included a school cleaning and volleyball tournament. The Youth Association requested support for future activities and in response the Director offered a computer skills-building training course funded by the Information and Culture Directorate. News of the meeting was broadcast on local Badghis radio.
- On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Badghis Gender Working Group meeting was held with participation of representatives from government line departments, NGOs and INGOs. The participants exchanged information on gender-related activities currently being implemented in Badghis Province. Requests were made to DRRD/Stability Program to provide seeds to the women that have received agricultural training in Qadis District under other program funding, and to provide literacy trainings to the Badghis Carpet Weaving Union members. These issues will be discussed and support will be provided if requests meet gender component criteria.
- On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Muqur District Governor and Badghis Provincial Governors' Spokesman were provided with Media training. The training covered media relations, interview techniques and writing press releases. Following this training the District Governor plans to broadcast the government's activities and achievements in Muqur district on local media.



The Director of Badghis Information and Culture Department pledged to support the Qadis Youth Association and offered them a computer skills-building training course on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Internal Communications training, a ‘soft’ mitigating activity aimed at improving coordination among government line departments, was provided to 13 Qadis District Government staff on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Qadis DSC members have identified lack of communication and coordination between district government staff as a source of instability in the district.

## Herat Province

- On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> Shindand DSC meeting was held with participation of 90 people including 24 DDA members, 18 line department representatives, 43 community observers and 5 representatives from Pashtun Zarghun DSC. In response to the DG’s invitation to the event, one of the 15 *Mullahs* present said they appreciated being included. “*Ulema* have been marginalized and are not respected despite the very vital roles in leading the community toward peace and prosperity”, said the *Mullah*. At the meeting the District Governor distributed gifts to the *Mullahs* to recognize their support.
- On April 30<sup>th</sup>, ‘How to Develop a Communications Plan’ training was provided to 13 focal points from Pashtun Zarghun Farmers’ Associations and Saffron producers. By the end of the training, a draft communications plan, with small scale marketing activities, was developed by the focal points.
- On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Shindand District Government officials held their third monthly coordination meeting in line with the Shindand District Governor communications plan. In the meeting the new District Governor was introduced to the participants. The District Governor requested the district officials to work as a team to develop a stable society.
- On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a public meeting with 48 farmers to highlight the importance of the agricultural sector in building the district economy. An overview of the district government activities and achievements, especially in agriculture was provided to the farmers. Prior to the meeting the District Agriculture Manager was provided with support to produce a two-minute video explaining how to destroy insects. The farmers were happy with the video and found it a very good method to teach them agriculture techniques. “Teach how to fish, instead of giving fish,” said one of the farmers.
- In Shindand, five literacy courses for 125 female beneficiaries were ongoing.



*Mullahs* in Shindand District recognize the importance of the DSC meeting and attend the 7<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.



Farmers receive an instruction DVD containing methods of destroying insects during a public meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Ghor Province

- The Chaghcharan DSC introductory meeting was successfully held with the participation of high ranking provincial and district officials on May 1<sup>st</sup>. In this meeting, 80 people including 24 DDA members, 44 line departments’ representatives and 12 community observers participated. During the meeting, which was broadcast on Chaghcharan National TV, the Ghor Provincial Deputy Director welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of Stability Programming. “The objective of the Stability Program is to bridge the gaps between government and people and involve the people in the decision making process”, said the Ghor DRRD Director.



The Chaghcharan DSC meeting was broadcast by the Chaghcharan National TV on May 1<sup>st</sup>