

# Weekly Bullets

## Farah Province

- The third round of Project Management Training was kicked off for 43 members of 10 Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod CDCs and three DRRD staff on April 29<sup>th</sup>. By the end of the five-day training, participants will learn how to prepare a project work plan, procurement plan, activity summary and timeline.
- On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting was held with participation of 41 people including 7 DDA members, 17 line departments' representatives and 17 observers. At the meeting an overview of the proposed mitigating activities and District Project Portfolio (DPP) status was provided to the participants. DSC members also identified new projects, replacing postponed projects in Massow and Panj Goft Gow villages.
- The Bala Boluk District Governor received support to produce 300 posters disseminating a peace-related message. The posters, which were put up in mosques, quoted a peace message from the Holy Quran, "All Muslims are brothers, bring peace to each other", as well as a message from the District Governor, "You are responsible for the security in your own village".
- During the week, three Bala Boluk CDCs started vocational training courses, including tailoring for 15 women, mobile phone repair for 15 men, and auto-mechanic repair for 15 men over a five month period. The communities were so keen to learn that they moved ahead with these classes even though first milestone payments are still being processed.



The Pusht-e Rod District Governor distributes gifts to the invited *mullah* during the DSC meeting to recognize their support and presence in the decision making process.

## Badghis Province

- On April 26<sup>th</sup>, more than two hundred youths, district officials, parents, teachers and students watched the final match of a nine-day volleyball tournament organized by the Qadis Youth Association at a local high school. This initiative was part of the association's communication plan to encourage parents to send their kids to school. Banners with education messages calling for increased school enrollment were hung around the court and the winning team received a trophy from the Department of Information and Culture.
- During the week, feasibility surveys of six proposed projects in Qadis and one project in Muqur District were completed.
- Computer capacity building training for 11 Badghis DRRD staff remains ongoing.



Almost two hundred people watch the final match of the volleyball tournament organized by the Qadis Youth Association in support of school attendance.

## Herat Province

- In line with the Shindand District Governor communications plan, the District Governor sent a bulk SMS phone message to elders and *Ulema* requesting support for the government's poppy eradication campaign. The message said that stopping poppy-growing in the district could lead to a USD1 million reward that could be used for provincial priorities, especially in agricultural development. The District Governor found the bulk SMS a quick and efficient way to inform key local actors about district government activities and decisions<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Through the "governor-led eradication program," governors that self-initiate eradication of poppy in their provinces are reimbursed at the rate of USD 135 per hectare. The strategy also shifted from central eradication to governor-led eradication. [https://www.cimicweb.org/cmo/afg/Documents/Security/CFC\\_Afghanistan\\_Opium-Poppies-and-Security\\_July2012.pdf](https://www.cimicweb.org/cmo/afg/Documents/Security/CFC_Afghanistan_Opium-Poppies-and-Security_July2012.pdf)

- In Shindand, five literacy courses for 125 female beneficiaries were ongoing.

## **Ghor Province**

- Preparations have been made to conduct the Chaghcharan introductory DSC meeting scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>. A team from HQ traveled to Chaghcharan to facilitate the meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Additional Herat-based HQ Support**

- On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, advocacy training was provided to 15 provincial and district communications officers. The training focused on how to use the new Service Provider Catalogue (SPC) to assist vulnerable groups to advocate for their needs. The training covered the basic elements of advocacy including choosing the issue and advocacy objective, how to do research, identifying the target of the advocacy campaign and potential allies and drawing up an advocacy plan. District Communication officers will cascade these skills to vulnerable groups such as women, returnees or people with disabilities to encourage them to assert their rights, raise their voice and advocate for their needs.
- As part of the baseline survey, to date 167 villages have been surveyed in three provinces, and over 1,800 people (40% of whom were women) interviewed. In total M&E staff have conducted 23 data quality control spot checks
- On April 27<sup>th</sup>, SIKA-West senior staff attended the Special Provincial Development Committee meeting organized by Herat Economy Director with participation of Herat Provincial Governor, DRRD director, USAID representative, Herat Economy Director, and provincial government line directors. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss reports requested by the Herat Provincial Governor and Economy Director.
- Training on DSC Meeting facilitation and stabilization programming was provided to three PST Stability Officers from April 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Topics included report writing, work plan, stabilization strategies and programming and implementation of mitigation activities.