

WEEKLY REPORT

Farah Province

Milestones Achieved

- The Farah PST Manager participated in a major Shura held for transitioning responsibility from foreign forces to Afghan forces in Khak-e-Safayd District on February 23rd. In this Shura, approximately 150 people, including the Farah Provincial Governor participated.

During the meeting, an overview of the MRRD/Stability Program was given to the participants who were asked to support the roll-out into this District. The Farah Provincial Governor expressed his full support and asked the participants to cooperate with the Stability Program.

At the end of the meeting, 500 copies of a one-page handout which highlights the activities and achievements of the Khak-e-Safayd District government were distributed. The one-pager contains information on the responsibilities of the District Governor's office and different services available in the district and was developed by SIKA West.



One-pager distribution during the transition shura in Khak-e-Safayd on February 23rd.

- The “Conflict Resolution Skills” training was provided to 10 Bala Boluk District government staff on February 23rd.
- The Capacity Needs Assessment Forms for Pusht-e Rod DPP#1 were signed by Shahr-e-Kohna CDC for water divider projects and Khoja Abdullah Bidar and Chapak Doken CDCs for school refurbishment projects.
- The Project Priority Agreement (PPA) with Chapak Doken and Tapa Shiran CDCs for high school refurbishment projects featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP #1 were signed.
- The technical design, drawings and cost breakdown of the Chapak Doken high school refurbishment project featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP # 1 was completed.
- In Bala Boluk the tailoring vocational training for 15 women and five literacy courses for 125 female beneficiaries remain ongoing.
- In Pusht-e Rod, three literacy courses for 75 students (25 female, 50 male) remain ongoing.
- In Farah DRRD the computer course for 11 people (2 females and 9 males) remains ongoing.
- To date 31 employees including 23 professional staff (1 female, 22 males) and 8 support staff (1 female, 7 males) have been hired and 11 positions are in the recruitment process. In addition to this number, 16 STTAs have been directly hired as literacy, computer and vocational training instructors.

Challenges/Action

- The feasibility survey of Massow secondary school refurbishment project that was prioritized by the DSC members during the fourth Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting was canceled due to an official request by Massow CDC which is also signed by the District Governor. The Massow CDC requested to construct a new

building since the existing school is in a very bad condition and cannot be rehabilitated. This issue will be shared with the DSC members at the next DSC meeting.

- The feasibility survey of Balandi water divider project featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP # 1 was canceled. The respective CDC rejected the implementing of this project due to internal conflict among the community and security issues. This issue will be shared with the DSC members at the next DSC meeting.

Forward Looking

- Conduct Media training to Pusht-e Rod District government staff on February 26th.
- Conduct “How to Make a Communication Plan” training to Pusht-e Rod farmers on February 26th.

Badghis Province

Milestones Achieved

- On February 24th, the second Qadis DSC meeting was held with participation of 69 people including 28 DSC members, 31 District Entities’ representatives and 10 community observers. The meeting aimed to discuss project specifications and prioritization of the SOIs identified during the last DSC meeting. The project criteria were explained to the DSC members and, after a group discussion, approximately 100 projects were proposed as mitigating activities.
- On February 24th, Media training was provided to 21 youths from Qadis District. The training aimed to increase knowledge in media relations, how to write effective press releases and press interview techniques. Qadis youth will use these media techniques in their upcoming communications activities, especially in public awareness campaigns.
- The Qadis Youth Association six-month communications plan was finalized on February 24th. The Youth Association is the only youth entity in the district with more than 500 members from different sub-districts and villages. The communications plan aims to increase their membership, engage alienated youth and conduct public awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of education and the effects of drug use.
- The Badghis Gender Working Group meeting saw 40 representatives from government and non-government organizations meet at Badghis Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) on February 20th.

The DoWA Acting Director provided an overview of the MRRD/Stability Program Gender activities including the upcoming literacy and vocational trainings in Qadis and Muqur Districts to the participants.

The main focus of the meeting was to exchange information on “Career Guidance to Students at Local Girls’ Schools” program which is planned by DoWA. The program aims to



Project criteria were explained to Qadis DSC members on February 24th during the third DSC meeting.



Youth from Qadis practice interview techniques during the Media Training held on February 24th.



Badghis Gender Working Group meeting held on February 20th at Badghis DoWA.

increase the capacity of students in selecting their field of study. The students will be interviewed about their future study plans which will be broadcast on television and radio in Badghis.

- A series of capacity building training sessions were provided to 3 Muqur District government and 4 DST staff on February 19th. Sessions included: Project Site Assessment, Report Writing, Conflict Resolution Skills, Main Elements of Communications, Grant Application, Site Survey and Checklist, PPA and CDC Needs Assessments.
- Training on “Project Cycle Management” was provided to 7 Qadis District government and 3 DST staff on February 21st.
- How to Make a Communication Plan training was provided to 3 Qadis farmers communication focal points on February 18th. By the end of the training a six-month communication plan was drafted.
- On February 24th, Introduction to Gender training was provided to 12 female members of the Qadis DSC and DDA.
- To date, 30 employees including 22 professional staff (2 females, 20 males) and 8 support staff (0 female, 8 males) have been hired, and 5 positions are in the recruitment process.

Challenges/Action

- The Media training for Qadis District Governor, scheduled for February 25th, was postponed because the District Governor was participating in a military operation outside the district capital.

Forward Looking

- Conduct the 2nd Muqur DSC meeting scheduled for February 26th.
- Conduct the Project Cycle Management training to Muqur District government staff.

Herat Province

Milestones Achieved

- Five Shindand DSC members have been invited to participate in the 3rd Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting held on February 20th. This exchange provided an opportunity for DSC members to share knowledge and experience in regards to SOIs and Mitigating Activity identification.

The 3rd Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting was held with participation of 45 people (42 males, 3 females) including the Deputy District Governor, District Entities’ representatives and community observers.

The meeting was organized to review the Sources of Instability (SOIs) identified by the DSC members at the previous DSC meetings and identify Mitigating Activities (MAs) for these SIOs. During the meeting, through a Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) session the DSC members reviewed the SOIs and could identify the root causes. The Projects criteria was explained to the participants and the DSC members identified the Root Causes and proposed MAs including canal intakes , protection wall and culvert construction, school and road rehabilitation, vocational trainings, public awareness campaigns and capacity building trainings.



Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC members identify Root Causes and propose Mitigating Activities during the 3rd DSC meeting on February 20th.

- On February 25th, as part of the communication activities in Shindand District government Communication Plan, the monthly coordination meeting of the District Governor with district managers was held. During the meeting the participants were briefed on the District Government activities in the last month. The District Governor listened to the concerns and challenges and suggested solutions. The monthly government coordination meeting is a keystone in MRRD/Stability Program’s efforts to achieve better coordination in the Shindand District Government.
- Following the 5th Shindand and 3rd Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meetings, a Lessons Learned session was held with participation of HQ and PST staff on February 23rd to discuss the successes and challenges at the DSC meetings.
- Training on “Conflict Resolution Skills” and “Grant Applications Forms” were provided to 18 Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff on February 24th.
- As part of the communication capacity building activities for Pashtun Zarghun District government staff, training on “How to Develop a Communication Plan” was provided to three government staff and one DDA member on February 25th. By the end of the training, the participants learned how to design and integrate communication activities into a coherent plan.
- In Shindand, five literacy courses for 125 female beneficiaries remain ongoing.
- To date 31 employees including 26 professional staff (4 females, 22 males) and 5 support staff (1 female, 4 males) have been hired, and 5 positions are in the recruitment process. In addition to this number, 5 STTAs have been directly hired as literacy instructors.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Conduct the feasibility survey of water intake construction, Kariz lining and school renovation projects within the five blocks of Shindand District.
- Conduct the 3rd Pashtun Zarghun DSC meeting scheduled for March 3rd.
- Review the six-month literacy course work plan with Shindand Literacy Teachers from February 26-27th.

Ghor Province

Milestones Achieved

- In continuing our roll-out into Ghor Province, the Ghor DRRD representatives and Stability Program Officer traveled to Shahrak District and conducted a meeting on February 19th. Those present included the District Governor, District Entities’ representatives and influential tribal leaders. The participants were provided with MRRD/Stability Program objectives and informed about the roll-out in this district. The District Governor expressed his full support and is looking forward to roll-out in Shahrak District.

Given the operational challenges in rolling out into Shahrak, it will follow the full roll into Chaghcharan.



Roll-out meeting with Shahrak District influential leaders on February 19th.

Challenges/Action

- Winter weather and insecurity is the main concern.

Forward Looking

- Conduct coordination meeting with Ghor DRRD and Deputy Provincial Governor.

Additional Herat-based HQ Support

- On February 20th, an internal Media training was provided to 7 MRRD/Stability Program staff in Herat.
- To date 85 employees including 60 professional staff (12 females, 48 males) and 25 support staff (12 females, 13 males) have been hired, and 17 positions are in the recruitment process.