

# WEEKLY REPORT

## Farah Province

### Milestones Achieved

- The seventh Bala Buluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meeting was held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, with participation of 36 people including 13 DSC members, 5 District Entities' representatives and 18 community observers. During the meeting the DSC was updated on stability programming activities that had been completed since the last DSC meeting, including technical surveys, CDC assessments, and projects approved by USAID. During the meeting some of the DSC members said they were not satisfied with the way projects had been allocated, however, following a lengthy discussion it was decided that the remaining project funds would be spent on tackling unemployment by implementing the following projects: a male tailoring vocational training course in Now Abad Village, male literacy trainings in Qazi Abad and Azoo Villages, motorbike repair vocational trainings in Zarmardan, Bakhsh Abad and Bar Zao Villages, and auto mechanic vocational training in Now Bahar village.
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- Date: 02/12/2013 10:42:01:01 Lat: 32.619307 Lon: 62.457660 Alt: 731.3 m Course: 163.5
- Bala Buluk DSC members prioritized vocational and literacy trainings during the seventh DSC meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- On February 17<sup>th</sup>, a successful Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held among 17 people from different governmental and non-governmental organizations. Each month representatives from organizations with a focus on women's affairs meet to exchange information and push their programs forward. This month's meeting aimed to inform the members about the vocational and literacy trainings organized in Farah by the Stability Program, and to provide Gender Mainstreaming Part-III training. During the meeting participants convinced the Farah Laborers Association to register 15 women, who recently completed a drug treatment program at WADAN clinic, in the next vocational training course organized by the Farah Department of Labors and Social Affairs (DoLSA). A representative from Coordination in Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) also agreed to implement midwifery training in Bala Buluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts if requested by MRRD/Stability Program. Gender mainstreaming training was provided, and at the end of the meeting the participants asked the MRRD/Stability Program to design a poster and plan a performance to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Farah Province.
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- Date: 02/17/2013 11:41:22:22 Lat: 32.374847 Lon: 62.125873 Alt: 667.9 m Course: 254.8
- Farah Gender Working Group members received the Gender Mainstreaming training on February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- As part of a follow up to advocacy activities supporting an improvement in Bala Buluk radio coverage, a meeting was held with the Head of Farah Radio and Television of Afghanistan (FRTA) to discuss technical solutions to boost radio coverage. The FRTA Head said improvements could be made if the MRRD/Stability Program provided some technical equipment. It was also mentioned that youths could be trained and then broadcast stability-related programs. Following this meeting a team from HQ will travel to Farah to conduct a feasibility survey and assessment.

- The Project Priority Agreement (PPA) and Mirab Agreement forms with Safarak CDC for water divider projects featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP # 1 were signed.
- The CDC Capacity Needs Assessments' with Safarak and Qala Mulla Aman CDCs for water divider projects featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP #1 were signed.
- The technical design, drawings and cost breakdown of the Tapa Shiran High School refurbishment/renovation project featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP #1 was prepared.
- In Bala Buluk, a tailoring vocational training for 15 women, and five literacy courses for 125 female beneficiaries are ongoing.
- In Pusht-e-Rod, three literacy courses for 75 students (25 female, 50 male) are ongoing.
- In Farah DRRD one computer course for 11 people (2 females and 9 males) is on 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 4 positions are in the recruitment process. In addition to this number, 16 STTAs have been directly hired as literacy, computer and vocational trainings instructors.

### Challenges/Action

- NSTR

### Forward Looking

- Sign the CDC Capacity Needs Assessment form with Shahr-e-Kohna CDC for water divider projects and Khoja Abdulla Bidar high school refurbishment project featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP #1.
- Sign the PPA with Balandi CDC for water divider projects and Chapak Doken and Tapa Shiran CDCs for high school refurbishment projects featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP #1.
- Conduct the technical survey of Massow canal excavation/reshaping project featured in Pusht-e Rod DPP #1.
- Conduct the feasibility survey of Massow secondary school refurbishment project that was reprioritized by DSC members during the fourth Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Badghis Province

### Milestones Achieved

- The bi-weekly meeting with USAID representative was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> at Badghis PST office, during which the previous two weeks' achievements and challenges were shared. The USAID representative requested Stability Program support training Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) staff to provide career guidance to students at local girls' schools. An exhibition for women to market and sell their products for International Women Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> was also discussed.
- 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.



Bi-weekly meeting with USAID representative at Badghis PST office on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Challenges/Action

- NSTR

## Forward Looking

- Conduct the third Qadis and second Muqur DSC meetings scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Hold the Badghis Gender Working Group meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Conduct a series of capacity building trainings including Project Cycle Management, Project Site Visit, Conflict Resolution Skills, Site Survey and Checklist, Report Writing, Project Site Assessment and Communications for Qadis and Muqur Districts Government staff.

## Herat Province

### Milestones Achieved

- A series of capacity building trainings including, Conflict Resolution Skills, PPA, CDC Needs Assessment, Report Writing and Project Site Assessment was provided to 26 staff from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District line departments on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Five literacy courses for 125 women in Shindand District officially kicked off with an opening ceremony on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 55 people attended, including the District Governor, Literacy Department representatives, and members of the Shindand Women’s Shura and DSC members. Speeches on the importance and benefits of education were delivered during the ceremony, which ended with the handing out of books and stationery to teachers and students.
- As part of activities to improve DSC members communications capacity, five Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC members have been introduced by the District Governor and DSC members to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Shindand DSC meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>. This exchange provides an opportunity for DSC members to share knowledge and experiences in regards to SOIs and mitigating activity identification.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Shindand DSC meeting was held on February 18<sup>th</sup> with participation of 82 people, including 33 DSC members (5 females, 28 males), 13 District Entities’ representatives and 36 observers. During the meeting projects criteria was explained to the participants and the DSC prioritized 36 hard and soft mitigating activities from previous DSC meetings, including carpeting and tailoring vocational trainings, water divider and protection wall construction, canal rehabilitation, school refurbishment and road rehabilitation.
- The Shindand District Governor received support to produce materials highlighting the activities of the district government. A set of factsheets is being developed for distribution to media and Shindand residents. A folder was designed to showcase the district and hold the factsheets. The first factsheet which focuses on education encourages and instructs parents on school registration for the upcoming year. Both the folder and the



Ribbon cutting at Shindand Literacy courses opening ceremony on February 17<sup>th</sup>.



Shindand DSC members review the projects criteria at the 5<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>.



factsheet are part of the district government communications plan, and work to combat illiteracy and lack of education among Shindand residents which have been identified as SOIs by Shindand DSC members.

- To speed up the process of data collection for the Herat Service Providers Catalogue (SPC), the first three out of seven university graduates have been hired as part-time interns for a six-week period. Along with data collection they will also be provided with different capacity building trainings. This on-the-job mentoring provides valuable opportunities for graduates yet to snare their first employment opportunity.
- In Shindand, five literacy courses for 125 female beneficiaries are ongoing.
- To date 30 employees including 25 professional staff (4 females, 21 males) and 5 support staff (1 female, 4 males) has been hired, and 6 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 third Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Conduct the Grants Application Process training to Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Additional Herat-based HQ Support

- As part of roll-out activities for Ghor Province a team from HQ traveled to Chaghcharan in order to make the initial preparations for Chaghcharan and Shahrak Districts. The Stability Program team briefed Ghor USAID focal point and Department of State representatives on the MRRD/Stability Program. The USAID representatives are looking forward to a roll-out in Ghor Province and promised to provide support for the implementation of the program. Following that, a meeting was held with Ghor DRRD Director. The Director has offered his full cooperation and support for Stability Program and will provide office space in the DRRD building and other support for the Ghor PST. In addition, a meeting was held with the Ghor Provincial Governor and he was briefed on the Stability Program objectives. The Governor has appointed his Deputy to be the Chair of Chaghcharan DSC and offered the Provincial Government Compound as the venue for the Chaghcharan DSC meetings.
- To date 86 employees including 62 professional staff (13 females, 49 males) and 24 support staff (11 females, 13 males) have been hired, and 15 positions are in the recruitment process.



Ghor Provincial Governor, DRRD Director, Stability Team and USAID National Staff representative at the Ghor Province roll-out meeting