

WEEKLY REPORT

Farah Province

Milestones Achieved

- On January 29th, as part of coordination activities, a meeting was held with Farah Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA) with participation of DoWA Director, Pusht-e Rod and Bala Baluk literacy instructors, USAID and PRT representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate the vocational trainings in Bala Baluk and literacy classes in Bala Baluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts. Discussion focused on professional development planning for DoWA staff and lessons learned from literacy courses. At the end of the meeting a representative from DoWA was selected to coordinate the vocational trainings in Bala Baluk District.
- As part of activities to collect information for, and promote the use of the Service Provider Catalogues (SPC), a list of all available services and contact details was prepared for Bala Baluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts. The list will be presented to DSC members during the next Bala Baluk and Pusht-e Rod DSC meetings.
- The technical survey of 21 water divider projects in Gajgin, Tapa and Tapa Shiran CDCs featured in DPP # 1 in Pusht-e Rod District were completed.
- The cost estimation for water divider and school refurbishment projects featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod District were completed.
- A series of capacity building trainings including the CDC Grants Application Process, Surveying and Making Checklists, Report Writing and Project Site Visit Assessments were provided to 11 Bala Baluk District Government staff on January 29th.
- The Project Priority Agreement (PPA) and Mirab Agreements for water divider projects in Gajgin, Tapa and Tapa Shiran CDCs featured in DPP # 1 in Pusht-e Rod District were signed.
- On January 29th 19 Grant Applications for Bala Baluk District were submitted to USAID for review and approval.
- In Bala Baluk, one vocational training for 15 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 25 employees (Professional staff: 2 female, 19 male; and Support staff: 1 female, 3 male) have been hired, and 9 positions are being recruited. In addition to this number, 10 STTAs have been directly hired as literacy, computer and tailoring instructors.



Coordination meeting held with Farah DoWA to discuss vocational and literacy trainings on January 29th.



Capacity Building trainings for Bala Baluk District Government staff held on January 29th.

Challenges/Action

- The feasibility surveys for proposed projects in Massow and Panj Joft Gow communities in Pusht-e Rod were again postponed due to security concerns. This has been an ongoing issue for the past three weeks. At a coordination meeting on January 12th the Pusht-e Rod Police Commander pledged 100 security personnel to enable the survey to go ahead, however, since that time due to other priorities he cannot provide the personnel. This issue will be shared at the upcoming DSC meeting on February 10th, and DSC members and observers will be asked to help provide a solution to overcome the hold up to the survey.

Forward Looking

- On February 3rd a four-day community development training will be held in Herat for PST and DST staff, covering Environmental Screening, Project Survey, Quality Control, Construction Material and Basics of Concrete.
- Sign the Project Priority Agreement (PPA) and Mirab Agreement with the Gaskin, Balandi, Tong Namada, Shahr-e Kohna and Qala Mullah CDCs for projects featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod District.
- Complete the drawings and quantity estimation of water divider projects in Tapa Shiran and Gajgin CDCs featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod District.
- Conduct the fifth Pusht-e Rod and seventh Bala Baluk DSC meetings scheduled for February 2nd and 5th.

Badghis Province

Milestones Achieved

- Main Elements of Communications training was provided to 15 youths from Qadis District on January 23rd. At the end of the training, three youths were selected as the communications focal points. On January 26th, training on “How to Develop a Communications Plan” was provided to these three focal points and a six-month communications plan was drafted.
- On January 26th, the Stability Success Inventory (SSI) and Monitoring Stability Trends trainings orientation were provided to Qadis and Moqur DST team leaders.
- Data collection for Badghis, Qadis and Moqur SPCs continued.
- To date 26 employees (Professional staff: 2 female, 16 male; Support staff: 0 female, 8 male) have been hired, and 8 positions are being recruited.



Youths from Qadis District receiving communications training, on January 23rd.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- On January 30th, a team from HQ will travel to Badghis to conduct trainings including Conflict Resolution, Leadership, Management and Meeting Management Skills to PST and DST staff.

- Conduct a series of Capacity Building trainings including, Project Cycle Management, CDC Grants Application Process, Survey and Checklist, Report Writing and Project Site Visit Assessment to Qadis District government staff.
- Conduct the second Moqur DSC meeting on February 5th.

Herat Province

Milestones Achieved

- On January 27th and 28th, separate trainings on “How to Develop a Communications Plan” were provided to the nine Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Women’s Shura members; three District Government; and nine farmers’ cooperatives communications focal points. At the end of the trainings communications plans were drafted.
- The second Pashtun Zarghun DSC meeting was held on January 28th with the participation of 54 people including, 32 DSC members (5 female, 27 male), 21 District Entities and 1 observer. During the meeting trainings on Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), Sources of Instability (SOI) analysis, Mitigation activities and Project Prioritization were provided. The participants identified the following SOIs: unemployment, illiteracy, foreign destabilizing influences; lack of law enforcement, government corruption and insecurity. Following a discussion the root causes of these SOIs were identified as lack of government support to the agriculture sector, lack of a market for agricultural production, lack of vocational trainings for men and women, lack of education facilities, presence of insurgent groups, lack of public awareness on national benefits and lack of GIRoA control on borders. The participants proposed some mitigation activities which will be finalized in the next DSC meeting.
- On January 29th, “Conflict Resolution Skills” training was provided to 56 Shindand District Government staff. The topics included definition of conflict, positive and negative conflict, causes of conflict, mediation skills, importance of negotiation in conflict resolution and who is a good mediator. An open discussion was organized and participants shared their opinions on conflict resolution skills.
- Training on “Six-month Work Plan Development” was provided from January 28th - 30th to five literacy instructors in charge of the Shindand literacy courses.
- To date 26 employees (Professional staff: 4 female, 17 male; Support staff: 1 female, 4 male) have been hired, and 9 positions are being recruited.



Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Women’s Shura communications focal points receive training on January 28th.



Second Pashtun Zarghun DSC meeting held on January 28th.



Conflict Resolution Skills training in Shindand on January 29th.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Conduct a series of Capacity Building trainings including, Survey and Checklist, Report Writing and Project Site Visit Assessment to Shindand District government staff.
- Conduct “Main Elements of Communications” training to Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DSC members and Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff scheduled on February 3rd and 4th.

Additional Herat-based HQ Support

- On January 28th, a meeting was held with the head of Radio Faryad in Herat Province. The meeting was held to discuss different possibilities for radio coverage of Bala Baluk District through the existing Radio Faryad network in Farah city. Establishing a radio in Bala Baluk is an identified mitigation activity proposed by the Bala Baluk DSC, but not endorsed by the Farah provincial governor.
- On January 28th and 29th, the Communication and Outreach Department conducted “Communications Plan” training for Badghis, Farah and Herat PSTs, Bala Baluk DST and HQ communication officers. The training aimed to improve the quality of district entity communication plans, as the basis for all communications activities at the district level.
- To date 78 employees (Professional staff: 13 female, 45 male; Support staff: 9 female, 11 male) have been hired, and 18 positions are being recruited.