

# WEEKLY REPORT

## Farah Province

### Milestones Achieved

- On January 20<sup>th</sup> as part of communications capacity building for farmers, a training session on “How to Develop a Communications Plan” was provided to 26 farmers from Pusht-e Rod District. Six farmers were selected as communications focal points. At the end of the training, a communications need assessment was also completed.
- As part of coordination activities for the monitoring of literacy courses, a meeting was held with the Bala Baluk Education Department Director on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Director of Education Department expressed his full support and plans to introduce one focal point from Education Department to monitor the literacy courses.
- The Director of the Literacy Department provided 78 literacy books for the Pusht-e Rod District literacy classes.
- Three literacy courses for 63 people (23 female and 40 male) kicked off in Massow, Shahr-e Kohna and Qala Massow communities in Pusht-e Rod District. The courses will continue for six months. Literacy courses continued in Bala Baluk District.
- As part of government capacity building activities identified following a needs assessment, a six-month computer course for 11 DRRD staff (2 female and 9 male) was started.
- As part of gender-related activities, a six-month tailoring course was launched for 15 women in Dehzak community of Bala Baluk District.
- The Community Development team completed the Community Development Council (CDC) capacity assessment of Shiwan and Kanisk CDCs, featured in DPP #1 in Bala Baluk District on January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Technical packages including design, drawings, BoQ, price estimations, and work plans of water divider refurbishment projects that will be implemented by 11 CDCs featured in DPP #3 and three CDCs in DPP #4 in Bala Baluk District were completed.
- To date 35 employees (9 female, 26 male) have been hired, and 9 positions are being recruited.



Local women receive instruction at the Shiwan Literacy Course, Bala Baluk

### Challenges/Action

- NSTR

### Forward Looking

- Early next week staff will start the technical survey of 26 water divider projects located in Gaskin, Gajkin Mohamad Ali Khan and Tapa Shiran CDCs featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod District.
- Work on the DPP primary cost estimation of water divider projects recommended in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod District will continue.

## Badghis Province

### Milestones Achieved

- Communications Skills Building training was provided to 11 Qadis District Government staff on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- On January 19<sup>th</sup>, “Main Elements of Communications” training was provided to another 11 Qadis District Government staff. A communications need assessment was completed and two staff were selected as the communications focal points.
- On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Communications Skills Building training was provided to 14 Qadis DSC members.
- A gender-related meeting was organized by the Badghis Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA) on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Eighteen people, including USAID and civil society organizations’ representatives participated in the meeting. During the meeting some participants asked if it was possible that influential women were invited to the next Qadis DSC meeting. A proposal was also made to organize a handicraft fair on International Women’s Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, allowing local women to sell unsold stock.
- As part of the gender-related activities, a meeting was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Qadis Agricultural Department with 20 female representatives from Qadis CDCs. The meeting focused on identifying the problems women face in Qadis District. The women asked the MRRD/SIKA-West to provide vocational trainings and literacy courses for women and involve them in the decision making process.
- To date 22 employees (2 female, 20 male) have been hired and 12 positions are being recruited.



Gender meeting, Badghis DoWA-  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.



Meeting with 20 female Qadis CDC  
representatives, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

### Challenges/Action

- NSTR

### Forward Looking

- Conduct Main Elements of Communications training with representatives from Qadis District youth on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Conduct capacity building needs assessment with DRRD staff.
- Meet with the Education Department and Health Department Directors to discuss education and health problems in the target districts.

## Herat Province

### Milestones Achieved

- A poster and banner was designed for an anti-corruption meeting among government officials, which was held at the Shindand District Governor's compound on January 21<sup>st</sup>, with the participation of 64 people, including District Governor. The anti-corruption banner will remain hanging in the Shindand government's conference room to increase government awareness of the dangers of corruption. The 500 posters will be distributed to government facilities including mosques, schools and health clinics across the district. Both the poster and the banner are activities included in the District Government communications plan, and respond to an important root cause for instability identified by the Shindand DSC.
- Shindand District Governor's Office (DGO) Communications Plan was finalized and signed by the Acting District Governor. This communication plan is designed to help the DGO to effectively manage communications throughout the district in order to mitigate sources of instability, and improve the community's perception of government activities in the district. The six-month plan includes 26 specific activities and tries to address different audiences at the district level.
- On January 16<sup>th</sup>, "Communication Skills Building" training was provided to 58 members of farmers' cooperatives in Shindand District. The training focused on raising the farmers' awareness of the main elements of communications and select communications focal points. During the training topics including how to deliver a message, the benefits of a message, tools of communications and different methods of communications were delivered. At the end of the training fourteen farmers were chosen as communications focal points. The communication need assessment was also conducted during the training.
- To date 25 employees (4 female, 21 male) have been hired and 8 positions are being recruited.



Anti-corruption meeting and poster distribution, Shindand District.



"Communication Skills Building" training, Shindand, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### Challenges/Action

- NSTR

### Forward Looking

- Conduct the second Pashtun Zarghun DSC meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Conduct the "How to Develop a Communications Plan" training for the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Women's Shura on January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Conduct the "How to Develop a Communications Plan" training to Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Government communications focal points on January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Conduct Communications training for Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DSC members on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Additional Herat-based HQ Support

- On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Stabilization Programming, the Stability Success Inventory (SSI) and Monitoring Stability Trends trainings orientation were provided to Stability Program Officers.
- To date 78 employees (22 female, 56 male) have been hired and 15 positions are being recruited.