

WEEKLY REPORT

Farah Province

Milestones Achieved

- A one-page “Building Bala Baluk District’s Future” handout was developed, which highlights the activities of the Bala Baluk District government. The one-pager was distributed by the District Governor to tribal elders and other influential people at a major shura on January 15th. The one-pager is the first of a number of communications materials planned under the Bala Baluk District Government communications plan. The one-pager highlights activities such as the development of programs, delivering legal justice and conflict resolution through the district court, social services, and tackling security issues.
- On January 13th, as part of communications capacity building for farmers, a training session on “How to Develop a Communications Plan” was provided to five focal points from Bala Baluk District. The purpose of the training was to improve farmers’ ability to communicate their needs to the government, and improve the Farmers’ Cooperative Unit (FCU) capacity to develop and implement a communications plan. By the end of the training a draft communications plan had been developed by the attendees.
- On January 15th, the weekly Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held at the Farah Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA). Ten representatives from government line departments and NGOs interested in gender-related interventions participated in the meeting. Discussions focused on identifying potential projects for women in Bala Baluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts, including bee keeping, fish farming and carpet weaving.
- The site plan for water divider projects in Piho, Aminabad and Safarak villages featured in DPP #4 in Bala Baluk District were prepared.
- The environmental screening of Dehzak, Shiwan and Kanisk community center refurbishment projects in DPP #1, and water divider projects in Farahroad, Tapa Sadat, Khoja Khedr, Gerani and Ganjabad villages, featured in DPP #3 in Bala Baluk District were completed.
- To date 36 employees (9 female, 27 male) have been hired, and 12 positions are being recruited.



Distribution of the District Government’s one-pager at a major Shura on January 15th.



Farah Gender Working Group meeting, January 15th.

Challenges/Action

- The feasibility surveys of canals in Panj Joft Gaw and Massow were canceled due to security concerns. A coordination meeting was then held on January 12th, with the Farah Police Commander to discuss security issues. Following the meeting, the Police Commander pledged 100 security personnel to support the PST staff while the survey is conducted.

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Forward Looking

- Start feasibility survey of Panj Joft Gaw and Massow canal featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod.
- Sign the Project Priority Agreement (PPA) for water divider projects in Piho, Amin Abad and Safarak villages featured in DPP #4 in Bala Baluk District.
- Perform a capacity assessment of three Community Development Councils (CDCs) within DPP #1 (Shiwan, Dehzak and Kanisk villages) in Bala Baluk District.
- Complete the technical package for Piho, Amin Abad and Safarak village's water divider projects featured in DPP #4 in Bala Baluk District.
- Launch three Pashto Literacy Courses in Pusht-e Rod District.
- Launch one tailoring course in Bala Baluk District.

Badghis Province

Milestones Achieved

- The Moqur DSC was formally established on January 9th. The DSC was officially formed and 28 (5 females, 23 males) out of the 52 attendees were proposed as DSC members. Participants included District Entity representatives, District Development Assembly (DDA) members, influential tribal leaders, Community Development Council (CDC) members, the Badghis DRRD Director and the District Governor.
- The Badghis Gender Working Group was established during an inauguration meeting on January 15th, including 15 people from government departments and NGOs. The DRRD Deputy Director, USAID representatives, DoWA Director, and a representative from the Literacy Department attended the meeting. During the meeting an overview of the MRRD/SIKA-West gender components was provided to the participants. The DoWA Director said the Women's Shura which organized by DoWA will also join the Gender Working Group in future meetings. At the end of the meeting all the participants agreed to conduct a three-day gender-related training in Badghis.
- On January 14th, Communications Skills Building training was provided to nine Qadis District Government officials. At the end of the session a communications needs assessment was completed.
- To date 17 employees (2 female, 15 male) have been hired and 16 positions are being recruited.



Challenges/Action

- A group of five elders from Moqur complained about the recruitment process of SIKA-West and warned the PST if they don't accept their recommendation for staff they will not attend the DSC meetings and will not permit the PST/DST members to go to Moqur district. To address this issue a meeting was held with Badghis DRRD Director and he has said he will work with the elders to come up with a solution.

Forward Looking

- Meet with the Qadis Women’s Shura representatives on January 22nd.
- Conduct Communications training for the Qadis District Government officials on January 17th.

Herat Province

Milestones Achieved

- On January 15th, a Communications Skills Building training was provided to 38 Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Women Shura Representatives. The training aimed to raise women’s 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, four women were chosen as communications focal points and will receive further trainings to develop a communications plan for their Shura.
- As part of gender-related activities, the Herat Gender Working Group met on January 15th, including 12 people from government departments and NGOs involved in gender interventions. During the meeting, the participants proposed activities including, conducting health awareness trainings and producing banners for International Women’s Day (March 8th).
- To date 26 employees (5 female, 21 male) have been hired and 8 positions are being recruited.



Communications Skills Building training for Women Shura, January 15th.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Continue data collection for Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Pashtun Zarghun Districts Service Providers Catalogues (SPCs).
- Conduct the communications training for Shindand cooperatives on January 16th.

Additional Herat-HQ Support

- Designs and drawings of Piho, Safarak and Aminabad villages’ water divider projects featured in DPP #4 in Bala Baluk District were started and are expected to be completed by January 22nd.
- To date 77 employees (22 female, 55 male) have been hired and 18 positions are being recruited.