

WEEKLY REPORT

Farah Province

Milestones Achieved

- On January 6th, the fourth Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting was held with participation of 50 people, including 17 DSC members, 19 District Entities representatives and 14 observers. The meeting was aimed to discuss the prioritization of the projects recommended by the DSC members in the third DSC meeting. During the meeting Sources of Instabilities (SOIs) analysis process was reviewed so that the DSC members could prioritize projects that match MRRD/SIKA-West criteria. During the meeting the projects prioritization has been discussed and after a long discussion the canal excavation of Massow, protection wall of Panj Joft Gow and Shah-r Kohna water dividers were prioritized as the first three projects. Also poppy cultivation was identified as one of the SOI and introducing crops to farmers to replace poppy cultivation was recommended as a mitigating activity.
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- Fourth Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting,
January 6th, 2013.
- The sixth Bala Baluk DSC meeting was held on January 8th with participation of 37 people including 18 DSC members, 12 District Entities representatives and 7 observers. The objectives of the meeting were to provide the District Project Portfolio (DPP) status to DSC members, discuss the Community Development Councils (CDCs) roles in project implementation and ask the DSC members to support the SIKA-West technical staff as well as its implementing partners in terms of security during the projects implementation. The DSC members appreciated the MRRD/SIKA-West and expressed their full commitments. The District Governor emphasized the role of Stability Program in bringing peace and stability and asked to start the projects as soon as possible. The PST Manager reviewed the projects that are being approved in Bala Baluk communities.
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- Sixth Bala Baluk DSC meeting,
January 8th, 2013.
- Project Priority Agreements (PPA) for Ganjabad, Gerani, Farahroad, Tapa Sadat and Khoja Khedr water divider projects featured in DPP #3 in Bala Baluk District were signed.
 - Six key informant interviews with Pusht-e Rod Community Development Councils' representatives were completed for a communications related baseline.
 - An Introduction to Capacity Building orientation training was provided to 16 newly recruited Farah PST and DST staff on January 6th.
 - As part of the follow up activities for the Farah Gender Working group meetings, a meeting was held with Director of Service Women Relief Center for Afghanistan (SWRCA), a local NGO based in Farah Province, to enroll the 15 women who recently completed the drug treatment program in to the Carpet weaving training courses. The SWRCA Director agreed to enroll these women in these courses but asked for the coordination with Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA). To coordinate this issue a

meeting was held with DoLSA but since they have already introduced the women to these courses, they were unable to enroll these 15 women in to the Carpet Weaving courses.

- To date 31 employees (7 female, 24 male) have been hired, and 8 positions are being recruited.

Challenges/Action

- On January 7th, as part of coordination activities for Pashtu Literacy courses, a meeting was held with Farah Literacy Department. The purpose of this meeting was to submit the Implementing Letter to Literacy Department. The Director of Literacy Department said that he has shared this issue with the Ministry of Education (MOE). Since MRRD/SIKA-West doesn't have Protocol from the MOE for these courses and also the duration of these courses are not 9 months based on the MOE policy, the MOE asked the Farah Literacy Department to stop these courses. But the Farah Literacy Department strongly supported this program and asked the MOE to cooperate as well. At the end of the meeting, he promised to continue their assistance and also gave two samples of text books to print for these courses.
- The feasibility survey of 500m Massow canal excavation/reshaping featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod District was canceled due to insecurity.

Forward Looking

- Start feasibility survey of Panj Joft Gaw canal protection wall featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e Rod District.
- 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.
- Ongoing monitoring of Pashtu Literacy Courses in Bala Baluk District.
- Develop the site plan for water divider projects in Piho, Amin Abad and Safarak villages in DPP #4 in Bala Baluk District for the purpose of technical package compilation.

Badghis Province

Milestones Achieved

- As part of preparations for the second Qadis and Moqur inaugural DSC meetings, a team of HQ staff traveled to Badghis Province on January 6th. Subsequently, a meeting was held with all Badghis PST and DST staff and discussed about the challenges in the first Qadis DSC meeting and recommendations to address these challenges for the upcoming meetings.
 - Orientation trainings including Intro to Stabilization Program, Communications, M&E, Resource Development and Human Resources were provided to Badghis PST and DST staff.
 - On January 6th, meeting was held with Badghis Economic Director and shared the progress of the Stability Program in Badghis PST and was invited to attend the second Qadis DSC meeting.
- On January 8th, the second Qadis DSC meeting was held with participation of 51 people, including 29 DSC members and 22 influential community leaders. It's worth mentioning that six



The second Qadis DSC meeting,
January 8th, 2013.

District Development Assembly (DDA) female members and one representative of the Badghis Provincial Peace Council attended this meeting. This meeting aimed on identifying SOIs, root causes and mitigation activities to address these SOIs. The following are the SOIs and root causes identified and analyzed by the DSC members: unemployment, insecurity, interference of foreign countries particularly Pakistan and Iran, illiteracy, lack of coordination and cooperation between the Government institutions.

- To date 15 employees (2 female, 13 male) have been hired and 19 positions are being recruited.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Conduct the Moqur DSC inaugural meeting on January 9th.
- Continue data collection from Qadis and Moqur CDCs.

Herat Province

Milestones Achieved

- As part of the coordination for the second Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and fourth Shindand DSC meetings, a meeting was held with Herat DRRD Director on January 5th. During the meeting they have discussed about the mentioned DSC meetings and DRRD Director was invited to attend the meetings as well.
- On January 7th, the second Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DSC meeting was held with participation of 54 people including 35 DSC members, 2 District Entities representatives and 15 observers. The District Governor announced his full support and asked the DSC members to collaborate with the Stability Program. One of the *Ulema* spoke about the relation of Islam and Stability and the benefits of stability and peace for the community. After a discussion over the Stability Program budget limitation for the target districts, projects criteria and SOI analysis, the following SOIs, root causes were identified: insecurity, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, tribal conflicts, foreign influences, unfair Justice of the GIRoA, and Lack of Trust between GIRoA and Local Community and then recommended conducting literacy courses, providing vocational trainings, road construction, poultry farms, agriculture expanding as mitigation activities.
- The fourth Shindand DSC meeting was held on January 8th, with participation of 53 people including 15 DSC members, 32 District Entities representatives and 6 observers. The meeting was aimed to discuss Shindand budget limitation and prioritization of the projects recommended by DSC members in the third DSC meeting. The PST team spoke on the criteria of the projects the DSC members could recommend as the mitigating activities for the SOIs, and a list of the projects that are not according to the criteria of the Stability Program were explained during this meeting. Since some of the DSC members were absent for this



Second Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DSC meeting, January 7th, 2013.



Fourth Shindand DSC meeting, January 8th, 2013.

meeting the Projects Prioritization was postponed for another meeting which will be held in a few days.

- The first draft of Pashtun Zarghun District Profile was developed. The District Profile includes the information on ethnic and tribal groups living in the district, different services available including health, education, agriculture, economy, media and etc. The District Profile is under the revision and soon will be circulated to the managers and USAID for review.
- On January 6th, the Main Elements of Communications training was provided to 47 farmers in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District. The training helped the farmers to understand the importance of communications for communicating their needs. The main objective of this training was to select focal points from different farmers' cooperatives in the district. At the end 9 farmers were nominated as the communications focal points and will receive further training to make a communications plan.
- To date 26 employees (5 female, 21 male) have been hired and 8 positions are being recruited.



Main Elements of Communications
Training, January 6th, 2013.

Challenges/Action

- The Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DSC members and District Governor did not support the MRRD/SIKA-West program. The DSC members disagreed to include the far villages of the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi under this program and strongly mentioned that if MRRD/ SIKA-West want to implement any project in insecure areas of this district they won't cooperate in the monitoring of the projects. The DSC members without consideration of the identified SOIs frequently insisted on implementing projects in the district center. Though the PST staff could control the meeting and in some extent convinced the DSC members, it would be a challenge for the next DSC meetings.

Forward Looking

- Follow up recruitment of Shindand literacy teachers' candidates and Pashtun Zarghun DST staff.
- Conduct the "Main Elements of Communications Training" to Pashtun Zarghun District staff.

Additional Herat-HQ Support

- One hundred "Towards Peace in Afghanistan" posters were distributed to journalists in western region. These posters carry the promises made by the journalists during the conflict sensitive reporting training conducted on December 2012.
- To date 76 employees (22 female, 54 male) have been hired and 20 positions are being recruited.

Challenges/Action

- Community Development Department mission to Badghis Province on Jan 8th canceled due to the inclement weather. The main purpose of this mission was to interview the shortlisted candidates as well as conduct Principles of Surveying, and surveying check lists orientation trainings for the PST and DST staff. The training is rescheduled for January 16th.