

WEEKLY REPORT

Farah Province

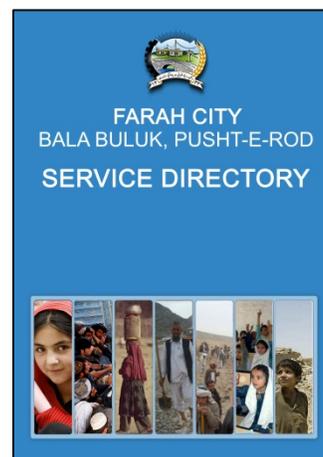
Milestones Achieved

- Thirty-seven people (19 DSC members, 10 District Entities (DE) Representatives, and 8 observers) attended the third Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting at the District Governor's offices on December 9th. The meeting focused on two Sources of Instability (SOI) in Pusht-e Rod District: the presence of anti-government elements and poppy cultivation. During the discussions the DSC members proposed the following mitigating activities: inviting the *Ulema* and influential people to the next DCS meetings, and introducing crops to farmers to replace poppy cultivation. During the meeting the Deputy Chief of Party spoke on the criteria of the projects the DSC members can propose as the mitigating activities of SOIs. The meeting also allowed an opportunity to provide training on District Stabilization Matrix (DSM), the use of the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) tool to identify SOIs and propose mitigating activities.



Pusht-e Rod District, third DSC meeting, December 9th.2012.

- On December 12th the fifth Bala Baluk DSC meeting was held with participation of 26 people including the District Governor, 16 DSC members, 10 District Entities, and 5 observers. The District Governor requested the DSC members to improve coordination and support the Stability Program. The Farah PST Manager gave an update on projects that had been approved by MRRD, specifically the community center refurbishment and construction of water dividers. He requested that DSC members cooperate in implementation and monitoring of these projects. One of the DSC members proposed to hold the next DSC meeting in an alternate location to allow people better access.
- On December 11th, the first draft of the Farah, Bala Baluk and Pusht-e Rod, Service Provider Catalogue (SPC) was completed and forwarded to USAID. The SPC covers all available services in the provincial center and the districts of Bala Baluk and Pusht-e Rod in three separate sections. Each section contains locally-designed illustrations and symbols showing the available services. Through the SPC, DRRD/Farah will build trust and goodwill with Farah residents by connecting communities and service providers.
- The Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held with the participation of 11 members. The purpose of the meeting was to give an overview of the gender-related activities MRRD will be able to provide for women in Bala Baluk District and conduct "Gender Mainstreaming Training."
- A pre-feasibility study of the refurbishment of four high schools in Massow, Chapak, Tapah Shiran communities and the district center of Pusht-e Rod, included in DPP # 1 (High school refurbishment) was started.
- To date 30 employees (seven female, 23 male) have been hired, and four positions are being recruited.



Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Work on the technical package (design, drawings, quantity estimation, work plan and detailed cost breakdown) of DPP # 3 (Construction of water dividers) in Bala Buluk district and cost estimation of DPP #1 projects in Pusht-e Rod District.
- Key informant interviews with district entities in Pusht-e Rod District will be conducted as part of communications baseline assessment.

Badghis Province

Milestones Achieved

- As part of coordination activities, a meeting was held with the Director of Badghis Economy Department on December 9th. During the meeting Badghis PST Manager introduced the Stability Program, including the objectives of the program in Badghis Province and was asked to provide support. The Economy Department Director was invited to participate in the upcoming DSC meetings.
- To date 10 employees (1 female, 9 male) have been hired and 20 positions are being recruited.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Meeting with Badghis Provincial Council to invite them to the DSC meetings.
- Prepare for the second Qadis DSC meeting.
- Identify DRRD counterparts and conduct capacity building needs assessments.

Herat Province

Milestones Achieved

- On December 9th, a meeting was held with Acting Shindand District Governor to discuss the third Shindand DSC meeting and brief him about the Stability Program. On December 11th, the third DSC meeting was held in Shindand, where the root causes of illiteracy and the presence of insurgents were discussed. During the meeting DSC members asked that sectors such agriculture, health, and education be included in project plans. A more detailed summary of the meeting will be provided in the monthly report.
- Training on the “Main Elements of Communications” was provided to 19 Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District senior managers and staff on December 12th. The training covered the main elements of communication, messaging, and why communication matters in the daily work of district government.

A needs assessment was conducted to determine existing communications protocols, the quantity and quality of communications efforts, and gaps in the existing communications system at the district level. At the end of the training three communication focal points have been selected to receive further trainings in order to be able to develop the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Communications Plan.

- On December 10th, the Herat Gender Working Group meeting was held with the participation of 11 people from government line departments and NGOs interested in gender-related interventions.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the gender-related activities that these organizations are involved in, and how to link their activities with the gender components of our Stability Program. The participants proposed different interventions including: disseminating awareness; raising brochures; and providing vocational training to former female drug users.

- To date 21 employees (4 female, 17 male) have been hired and 13 positions are being recruited.



Herat Gender Working Group meeting at DRRD conference room on December 10th.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Prepare for the second Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DCS meeting on December 16th.
- Follow up recruitment of Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DST candidates.
- Meet with the Director of Herat DRRD, Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, and CDC head to discuss Pashtun Zarghun roll-out activities.

Additional Herat-HQ Support

- Five District Profiles were completed and sent to the provincially-based officials of USAID for review and comment. The completed district profiles of Bala Baluk, Shindand, Qadis, Moqur and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi provide key terrain, tribal, services and political information on the districts to inform SIKA WEST's stabilization analysis.
- To date 130 employees (34 female, 96 male) have been hired and 65 positions are being recruited.