

WEEKLY REPORT

HQ Program Highlights

Stabilization Programming:

Ground work was laid for the Kushk-e Rabat-e Sangi roll-out, along with the coordination of the second Shindand DSC meeting, which attracted 81 people, including seven women. District Stabilization Committee (DSC) formation training was also conducted for recently recruited staff as part of orientation training. Two additional roll out plans for Qadis and Muqur Districts were prepared and submitted to the Chief of Party for approval.

Communications and Outreach:

A strategy tackling violence against women was pushed forward with the print order of 2,200 brochures, which will be released on Elimination of Violence against Women Day. A one-day communications training work shop was held in Shindand for the District Governor's staff as part of an ongoing training series aimed at building capacity. Invitations were sent out to local journalists inviting them to a Conflict Reporting Training in Herat in early December.

Capacity Building:

Coordination of internal capacity building trainings at the HQ and provincial level was continued, with a focus on orientation training for new staff and grant-related capacity building training for DRRD officials. Capacity Building was also instrumental in pushing gender-related activities forward, including recruiting female District Stabilization Committee (DSC) members in Shindand and the inaugural meeting of the Shindand Working Group.

Community Development:

Capacity building training was a focus for the Community Development Department with Farah PST, DST and DRRD staff receiving "Basics of Surveying" training, and PST Community Development staff receiving "Water Divider Theoretical and Practical Surveying". Activities related to the District Project Portfolio (DPP) included final site survey, quantity estimates, drawings and bill of quantities for community center refurbishment projects, and pre-feasibility surveys of water dividers.

Administration:

To date 106 employees (29 female, 77 male) have been hired and 49 positions in the recruitment process.

Farah Province

Summary of Achievements

Ninety-five community leaders attended the fourth Bala Baluk DSC meeting, including 61 influential *Mullahs*, who agreed to act as mediators between anti-government elements and GIRoA officials.

Working with the Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA), 2,200 brochures tackling violence against women have been ordered for release on International Elimination of Violence against Women Day. Grant-related capacity building training was provided to DRRD officials, and surveys and pre-feasibility studies were completed on numerous projects included in the DPP. To date 19 employees (2 female, 17 male) have been hired and 9 positions are under process.

Specific Milestones Achieved

- As part of gender-related activities, an order was made to produce a print run of 1,000 Pashto, 1000 Dari, and 200 English-language copies of a brochure for the Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA), tackling violence against women. The “*Creating Lives Free of Violence*” brochure will be released for Elimination of Violence against Women Day on November 25th.
- Ninety-five community members attended the fourth Bala Baluk DSC meeting on November 11th, an increase of 51 people over the previous meeting’s numbers. The increase in attendance was due to an invitation to influential *Mullahs* to participate in the DSC meeting, to which 61 *Mullahs* responded, along with 20 tribal elders who acted as observers. Following the DSC meeting the *Mullahs* stated they would support stabilization activities in the area by acting as mediators between anti-government elements and GIRoA officials.
- As part of grant management capacity building training, Farah PST, DST and DRRD staff were provided with the “Basics of Surveying” training on November 13th at the Farah DRRD. “Water Divider Theoretical and Practical Surveying” training was also provided to recently recruited PST Community Development staff.
- Working in coordination with the Department of Education, 26 course books were issued to literacy teachers, who have been contracted to provide literacy course to 125 women in Bala Baluk District.
- The final site survey, quantity estimate, drawings and bill of quantities (BoQ) were completed for a community refurbishment project located in Shiwan community in Bala Baluk District. The final site survey for an additional two community center refurbishment projects located in Dehzak and Kanisk communities were also started, along with prefeasibility surveys of water dividers in six communities of Bala Buluk districts, which are included in the DPP.
- Invitations were sent out to Farah-based journalists inviting them to attend a “Conflict Sensitive Reporting Training” in Herat City in early December. Training will help define what conflict is, how it starts, types of violence, and the journalists role in framing stories.
- In Pusht-e Rod District, it has proved impossible to locate any female District Development Assembly members, therefore a list is being made of any influential women in the district who could be included as a DSC member.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Next week, surveys, drawings, estimates, and bill of quantities based on the final site survey of the Dehzak and Kanisk community center refurbishment projects will be prepared.
- On November 18th, a communications skills training session will be held for 25 Pusht-e Rod District Governor staff, and on November 20th a one-day communications skills training session will also be held for Bala Baluk District Governor staff.

- Literacy courses are set to kick off for 125-women in Bala Baluk District.

Badghis Province

Summary of Achievements

In Badghis activities focused predominately on information collection, along with the first draft of the Qadis District Profile completed and being reviewed. Invitations were also sent out to local journalists inviting them to a reporting training in Herat in early December. To date 10 employees (1 female, 9 male) have been hired and 9 positions in the recruitment process.

Specific Milestones Achieved

- The first draft of the Qadis District Profile was completed and circulated internally for managers' inputs.
- Information on member numbers and contact details was gathered from the head of Qadis Community Development Council.
- Five key informant interviews with district entities were completed in in Qadis and Moqur Districts.
- Invitations were sent out to Badghis-based journalists inviting them to attend a “Conflict Sensitive Reporting Training” in Herat City in early December. Training will help define what conflict is, how it starts, types of violence, and the journalists role in framing stories.

Challenges/Action

- There is an ongoing challenge locating a secure guesthouse for visiting staff. The operations department is working on a solution to this issue.

Forward Looking

- Preparations are being made for roll-out into Qadis and Moqur districts. Meetings will be organized with key stakeholders, especially with the DRRD Director and if possible with Qadis and Moqur DEs to introduce the program.
- Badghis PST M&E officer will complete key informant interviews with district entities in Qadis and Moqur Districts

Herat Province

Summary of Achievements

Gender was a big part of this week's focus in Herat province with 16 people from eight organizations attending the first Gender Working Group, as well as seven women attending the second Shindand DSC meeting. A communications workshop was also held for Shindand District Governor's staff. To date 13 employees (2 female, 11 male) have been hired and 11 positions are under process.

Specific Milestones Achieved

- The inaugural Herat Gender Working Group was held on November 10th, with membership from the Director of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), Director of the Herat DRRD, SIKA-West senior staff and other influential Herat gender. The Gender Working Group will be held on a weekly basis, and has proved successful in other target districts in identifying gender-related sources of instability and mitigating activities.

- The second Shindand DSC meeting was held on November 11th, with 81 community members attending, including seven women, who were invited through the District Development Assembly (DDA). This is the first time women have been involved in a DSC meeting, and will be a valuable resource in providing a gender-related opinion in the district. During the meeting discussions covered potential mitigating activities, including literacy, tailoring, agriculture and poultry projects for Shindand women, along with other animal husbandry projects and well digging projects.
- A one-day strategic communications training workshop was held for staff at the Shindand District Governor's office. This training was part of series of communications trainings that will be provided to these staff members.
- Herat PST met with Kushk-e Rabat-e Sangi district governor to discuss upcoming roll-out activities, and gain his support.
- Herat PST team met with director of Herat DRRD for preparation of Shindand 2nd DSC meeting.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Data collection will continue on the Shindand District Profile and Pashtun Zarghun District Profile.
- Ongoing meetings with DRRD officials and the District Governor to discuss roll-out in Koshk-e-Rabat Sangi District.

Images

**Stabilization in Key Areas (SIKA) – West
Weekly Report, November 10-14, 2012**



Shindand 2nd DSC Meeting, Nov 11, 2012

**Participation of women at Shindand 2nd
DSC Meeting, Nov 11, 2012**



Bala Buluk 4th DSC Meeting, Nov 11, 2012

**Basics of Surveying Training, Nov 13, 2012, Farah
DRRD Compound**