



WEEKLY REPORT

HQ Program Highlights

Stabilization Programming:

Preparations were ongoing for the fourth Bala Baluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meeting, which was rescheduled from November 4th to November 11th due to security concerns following an attack on the Farah Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD) offices. Four additional roll-out plans were prepared for Kushk-e Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis and Moqor Districts. The second Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting went ahead on November 6th.

Communications and Outreach:

Communications “Training of Trainers” workshops were carried out at the Herat HQ offices for communications staff from Farah, Badghis, and Herat Provincial Support Teams (PSTs) and the Bala Baluk District Support Team (DST).

Capacity Building:

RFPs, POs, and contracts were prepared for teachers for vocational courses in Farah Province. Orientation for all recently hired SIKA-West staff was conducted. To date, sixty nine separate training modules have been developed for use in SIKA West capacity building activities.

Community Development:

HQ coordinated with Farah PST and DST staff to conduct the technical survey of three community center refurbishment projects in Shiwan, Dehzak, and Kanisk communities and complete a prefeasibility study on water intakes located in six communities of Bala Baluk district.

Administration:

To date, 103 employees (29 female, 74 male) have been hired, and 46 positions are under process.

Farah Province

Summary of Achievements

As part of the grants process, initial surveys were conducted to estimate costs for water dividers in four villages of Bala Baluk District. Meetings were held with the Deputy PST Managers to refine the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) and discuss potential training for district counterparts. Forty-Four community members attended the second Pusht-e Rod DSC meeting, including 31 DSC members and 13 observers. Five literacy teachers have been contracted to provide teaching services to 125 women in Bala Baluk over a six month period. Purchase Orders for Adult Computer Programming Training for GIRoA staff have been approved by Farah DRRD, and submitted to USAID for approval. To date, 17 employees (2 female, 15 male) have been hired, and nine positions are in the recruitment process.

Specific Milestones Achieved

- Fifty-one people (31 DSC members, seven Farah SIKA-West staff members, and 13 observers) attended the second Pusht-e Rod DSC at the District Governor's offices on November 6th. During the meeting the Farah PST Manager spoke on issues such as good governance, development, and SOI mitigation, and relevant PST team members gave presentations on Stabilization, Communications, Community Development, and M&E. At the next meeting, DSC members will start identifying sources of instability.
- The Farah PST communications team and the Bala Baluk DST communications team participated in the Communications Skills Building training in HQ on November 6th-7th.
- The Farah PST Gender Officer participated in the Farah Literacy Department meeting on November 4th, which was held to share information and lessons learned on literacy courses that have been run in the province to date.
- The PST team purchased equipment for Bala Baluk literacy courses, including planned courses in the villages of Dehzak, Shiwan, Kanesk, Grani, and Ganjabad.
- The Bala Baluk gender officer and recently recruited literacy teachers (4 females and 1 male) participated in the two-day "Literacy Program Roll-Out" workshop conducted by the HQ Capacity Building Department on November 6th-7th. During the workshop the teachers developed six-month literacy activity plans.
- The Communications Department completed the Farah Provincial profile, which was forwarded to the OSC home office in the US to be reviewed.
- The Farah PST Community Development team carried out an initial survey to estimate costs for water dividers projects in the villages of Teppa Sadat, Tudanak-e Haji Malek Sher, Tudanak-e Abdul Wodud, and Tudanak-e Abdul Ghani of Bala Baluk District.
- The Farah PST Deputy Manager travelled to Herat to work with the Communications STTA Consultant to develop and finalize the SPC.
- The Herat HQ Stabilization Programming team conducted a field mission to Farah province on November 3rd to provide stabilization training to PST staff in preparation for engagement in key districts. The team also gave guidance to the PST on District Stabilization Matrix (DSM) follow-up activities and on how to draw the *Mullahs* and influential elders into the next Bala Baluk DSC meeting.
- Collection of information for the Farah, Bala Baluk, and Pusht-e Rod SPCs continued. The SPC has been sorted into seventeen initial sections covering the gamut of government and NGO activities, from Agriculture through Women's Services. The activity is in the final stages of data verification. The Deputy PST Managers from Herat, Badghis, and Farah are working together to research and refine current information, including filling gaps and ensuring contacts are accurate. An illustrator is also working on 25 draft designs for the sections.
- In Pusht-e Rod and Bala Baluk districts the PST Gender Officer worked on producing a list of influential women from within the district who will provide data on gender concerns. The Gender Officer is also attempting to identify original female members of the Bala Baluk DSC and is expecting updates next week.
- The Capacity Building Department prepared purchase orders for qualified organizations and statements of work for skilled trainers to provide training services for six vocational training sub-

projects in Bala Baluk. Five Pashto literacy teachers have also been hired to provide teaching services for five literacy sub-projects in Bala Baluk District for 125 women over a six-month period. RFPs have also been prepared for another six literacy courses in Pust-e Rod District.

- As part of gender programming, the Farah Gender Working Group is working closely with the UN Habitat, HOLD and WADAN clinic to access information on services available to women in the province.

Challenges/Action

- The issue of insecurity in key areas--particularly in Bala Baluk and Pusht-e Rod districts--is one of the main challenges to the project. On November 4th, Herat HQ Community Development Officer Ali Attash was injured in a grenade attack at the Farah DRRD offices. He is currently receiving medical treatment in a private hospital in Herat.

Forward Looking

- The Community Development Department plans to conduct initial surveys of water dividers in Grani and Ganjabad villages of Bala Baluk District.
- Preparations for the fourth Bala Baluk DSC meeting on November 11th.
- Communications staff plan to meet with the District Governor and coordinate communications training for the Pusht-e Rod District Governor's staff.
- On November 11th, the Bala Baluk DST Communications Officer will conduct a communications needs assessment with the DSC communications focal points.
- Community Development technicians are expecting to work on design, drawing, and estimates for three community center refurbishment projects in Shiwan, Dehzak and Kanisk communities.
- Community Development technicians are expecting to develop estimates and designs of Bala Baluk DPP#3 (water divider construction) and submit it to COP for review.
- Community Development technicians are expecting to assist Farah PST and DST staff to conduct prefeasibility study on Bala Baluk DPP#4 (three water divider construction & three Community Center Refurbishment projects) and Pusht-e Rod DPP#1 (three water divider construction & four school refurbishment projects)

Badghis Province

Summary of Achievements

During the week, informal interviews were conducted to obtain communications-related baseline data in Qadis and Moqor Districts. PST staff also contacted influential persons in targeted districts in order to open a dialogue regarding DSC formation. To date, 10 employees (1 female, 9 male) have been hired, and nine positions are in the recruitment process.

Specific Milestones Achieved

- During the week, the Badghis PST M&E officer completed three key informant interviews with district entities in Qadis and Moqor Districts.
- PST staff identified and made contact with influential persons in Qadis and Moqor Districts in order to start the process of gathering community support for an inaugural DSC meeting.

- The PST team also collected data for the SPC from the Badghis Education Department covering numbers of existing schools, male and female teachers, and which villages have schools.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- The PST will make the necessary logistical preparations for roll-out in Qadis and Moqor districts.
- Initial discussions will continue over the roll-out with respective officials such as the DRRD director and, if possible, with Moqor district entities officials.
- Trainings will be conducted for new recruits by different departments so that they are well-prepared to fulfill their duties.

Herat Province

Summary of Achievements

During the week Herat PST coordinated the second Shindand DSC meeting and collected data from governmental departments for the Shindand SPC. The PST Manager, PST Deputy Manager, PST M&E officer, and Gender Officer held a meeting with Herat DRRD Director and discussed the roll-out activities for Koshk-e Rabat Sangi District on November 6th. They also started data collection for needs assessment from DRRD staff and will conduct the needs assessment in the coming week. To date, 12 employees (1 female, 11 male) have been hired, and 11 positions are in the recruitment process.

Specific Milestones Achieved

- The Herat PST team collected data for the Shindand SPC from Herat government departments, including the Economic Department, Education Department, DAIL, and the Justice Department.
- On November 6th, the Herat PST Manager, PST Deputy Manager, PST M&E Officer and Gender Officer met with the DRRD director to discuss roll-out plans for Koshk-e Rabat Sangi District. The director expressed his willingness and promised to work closely with the PST team.
- The Herat PST team started data collection for Pashtun Zarghun District Profile.
- The Herat PST Grant Officers worked on refining engineering templates (maintenance and security templates for construction projects).
- The Herat PST Manager participated in the recruitment process for the PST Community Mobilizer, DST Community Mobilizer, and DST Technician.
- Herat PST started data collection for Needs Assessment of DRRD staff.

Challenges/Action

- NSTR

Forward Looking

- Collect data for the Shindand District SPC.

- Take part in the recruitment process of the Shindand DST staff.
- Meet with DRRD officials to conduct needs assessment from DRRD staff.
- Meet with DRRD officials to discuss the roll-out in Kosh-e Rabat Sangi District.
- Engineering officers and technicians to work on some engineering templates (maintenance and security templates for construction projects).
- Data collection for the Pashtun Zarghun District Profile.
- The Herat PST to participate in the next shindand DSC meeting.
- The Herat PST to participate in the orientation session on the SIKA-West program for the Koshk-e Rabat Sangi district governor.
- On November 11th, the PST Communications Officer will participate in the second Shindand DSC meeting and present the Communications Department roles and responsibilities, and also train the DSC members on the main elements of communications.
- On November 14th, the Communications Officer will conduct a training on “How to develop a communications plan” for District Governor communications focal points in Shindand district.

Images



Herat PST Manager, HQ Stability Officer, discuss roll-out plans with the Herat DRRD director on November 6th



HQ Community Development Officer provides training to new recruits & Bala Baluk DST



Community Development Officers providing training to the Pusht-e rod DSC on November 6th



DSC members discuss stabilization at the second Pusht-e rod DSC meeting