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Hashar - District Government Organizes Volunteers to Rehabilitate Community Center



Photo: USAID-SIKA-WEST

By organizing the Hashar to assist the community in repairing its community center, the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Government took the lead to address a community problem, using available district resources and district government personnel.

“Government efforts for voluntary work bridge the gap between government and residents. Today’s Hashar encouraged the people to be united and address their community problems together, along with the government.”

**Mr. Fazl Ahmad
Jalal Abad Community Ulema
Representative**

In Herat Province, the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Governor, with support from USAID’s Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) - West program, organized a public works project in Jalal Abad Village to repair/replace the roof of the community center, using the traditional Hashar (volunteer) concept. This activity was a component of the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Government Communication Plan, which serves to strengthen the engagement between the district government and residents, while raising awareness about government activities and improved service delivery.

Jalal Abad Village depends heavily on its community center as a place to gather, conduct business, and settle

disputes. In August 2014, residents of the village requested support from their Governor to assist in repairing the roof of their community center, which had fallen into disrepair. Recognizing the importance of using available district resources to address resident concerns, the District Governor assisted Jalal Abad Village to organize a Hashar (public voluntary scheme) on September 4, 2014, where more than 50 community members and district government staff worked together to repair and replace the community center roof. All project materials and labor were provided freely by the community. The local government was very pleased with the turnout and effectiveness of the voluntary efforts.

“I am very happy today that people gathered to reconstruct their community center voluntarily; such initiatives lead the community toward peace and development,” said Mr. Abdullah Nasrat, the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Executive Manager.

Stability in Key Areas – West (SIKA-West) is a USAID-funded MRRD/IDLG led stabilization program designed to support sub-national entities to make the transition to long-term Afghan-owned and Afghan-led sustainable development.