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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 1, 2014



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The Lodin Bloch CDC Rehabilitating A 1.7-KM Road In Lodin Bloch Village, Muqur District, September 1st.

September 3, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- With support of the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD), the Massow Barakzai CDC successfully advocated for their water supply project. Following a series of concept note development training, the CDC finalized and submitted their concept note to the International Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for financial support on August 28th. The IRCS pledged to provide 16 handheld water pumps and train six members of the CDC on “How to repair and maintain the water pumps”.
- During the week, the SIKA-West Community Development Department completed the feasibility study of a road rehabilitation project in Chahar Borjak village in Guzara District and six projects in Lash Wa Juwayn District including culverts, flood protection walls and water intake.
- Two past graduates of a tailoring vocational training course in Zargarha Village (Muqur District) are providing tailoring services from their homes. Currently these graduates are earning on average 5000 AFN per month. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue to support vocational program graduates to start their own business.
- SIKA-West is assisting the Ghor DRRD’s renovations through provision of labor and materials including plumbing, office equipment and building materials.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 305 projects valued at \$6,951,151 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 64 projects valued at \$2,859,191.
- To date, 210 projects valued at \$3,099,971 have been completed.
- 24 projects valued at \$1,360,848 are pending with the USAID Vetting Unit for action. SIKA-West has requested USAID’s support to expedite these pending requests.

• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- On August 24th, the SIKA-West Governance Department supported the Kohsan District Law Department to develop a guideline on “How to get a marriage certificate”. Further support will be provided to finalize the guideline, print and distribute to residents.
- With support of the District Social Workers as co-facilitators, Project Management Training was provided to Rabat Mirza Qala Nowak and Darwesh Ali CDCs in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Gul Khail CDC in Shindand Districts from August 30th to September 2nd. By the end of the training, the CDCs will receive their first milestone payment to start their canal lining and flood protection walls rehabilitation projects.
- On August 26th and 27th, as part of the efforts to improve communication between the government and residents, the Muqur and Qadis District Governors sent ‘Peace Message’ to teachers, CDC heads and Ulema to encourage them to support the government in bringing peace in the community. “Cooperate with the government to have a secure and stable community,” and “Peace and reconstruction need residents’ support. We want you to support your government,” read the message.



Participants At The Regional Gender Coordination Workshop Discussed Ways Of Improving Gender Mainstreaming.

A three-day “Regional Gender Coordination Workshop” was held in Herat Province from August 31st-September 2nd. Participants included the DOWA Directors from Herat, Ghor, Farah and Badghis, the Gender Specialists and SIKA-West Gender Officers. The workshop aimed to provide an opportunity for the participants to present their organizations’ gender-related activities and improve coordination among them. As a component of the SIKA-West to support sub-national entities to take a leadership role on further development activities the participants proposed to create four sub-committees for each Gender Working Group including Statistics, Planning, Executive and Monitoring Committees. The SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will support the GWGs to establish these committees and develop scopes of work and action plans for the GWG’s sub-committees.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- On August 28th, the SIKA-West M&E Personnel met with the MISTI GIS Specialists and discussed about discrepancies of GPS coordinates of some projects. MISTI recommended use of smart phone instead of Track Sticks. The SIKA-West has started purchasing these smart phones.
- DSWs, SIKA-West personnel conducted 30 project site visits, prior to the approval of the next round of milestone payments for the CDCs. In addition the CDCs were mentored on how to correct the deficiencies noted. For example, the Chehel Dokhtar Sofal CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi was using low quality stones, the respective CDC was tasked to correct this deficiency and work based on the project specifications.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On August 27th, the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, in-line with the district government communications plan, organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments. The DG updated the staff about the security situation in the district and asked them to be more cautious while traveling to villages. The Agriculture Department Manager, Mr. Akhtar Mohammad, briefed the participants about the outcomes of his meeting with farmers including a request for plant diseases training for farmers. The SIKA-West Governance Department and DAIL will follow up this request.
- On August 31st, Mr. Mohammad Younis Rasoli, the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali Farah center meeting. The participants were informed that out of their 16 proposed projects, six projects (roads, flood protection walls, schools and water supply network) are pending with the USAID Vetting Unit for approval, five projects (roads and culvert rehabilitation) were included in the District Project Portfolio (DPP) and the remaining projects are under feasibility studies. Using the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), the participants discussed their major problems and proposed 19 new projects including roads, culverts, water dividers, canals and school rehabilitation. The SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD) will plan feasibility studies for these projects.
- On August 28th, the Farah Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting was held with participation of representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations. As a component of the SIKA-West to support sub-national entities to take a leadership role on further development activities, the Farah DOWA agreed to take leadership of the upcoming GWG meetings.
- On August 26th, the Farah Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) addressed a familial conflict between a man and his father-in-law. The TCRC held a session with the man and talked about the responsibilities of a good husband and rights of a woman. Finally the man was convinced and accepted to not bother his wife anymore and live in peace with his family.



On August 23rd, The Shewan Wasat CDC Successfully Completed 76% Rehabilitation Of 15 Water Dividers In Shewan Wasat Village, Bala Boluk District.



The Mohammad Zia Herati CDC Rehabilitating A Wash And 1.6-KM Road In Mohammad Zia Herati Village, Muqur District, September 1st.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On August 31st, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, established the Qadis District Service Providers Catalog (SPC) Committee. A total of 60 SPCs and 200 information cards were distributed to the members. The Committee is responsible for use of the SPCs, provision of information about available services to residents and assisting the DRRD update the SPC bi-annually. And on August 31st, the Muqur District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, established the Muqur District SPC Committee.
- On August 27th, the Muqur District Governor, in-line with the district government communications plan, organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments. The DG established a committee including the DRRD, DAIL and NDS representatives to collect information about farmers who were affected by the recent drought and share it with the service providers at provincial level.
- On August 28th, the Qadis District Governor organized a public informative meeting with more than 60 community elders, youth, CDC, DDA and government officials. The DG presented detailed information about the district government activities/achievements including construction/refurbishment of 15 schools, 40 literacy courses, addressing more than 285 conflicts and distribution of 1,370 Tazkira (Identity Cards).



Ms. Shirzad, The Badghis DOWA Director Talking About DOWA Activities And Achievements At The SIKA-West Regional Gender Coordination Workshop For DOWA Directors And IDLG Staff Organized In Herat Province From August 31st – September 1st.

the district government literacy courses, addressing

- On August 31st, Mr. Sharafuddin Majidi, the Badghis Provincial Government Office Manager, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali Qala-i-Naw meeting. The SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD) informed the participants that 10 out of the 18 proposed projects, flood protection walls and canal lining, were included in the District Project Portfolio (DPP) and are waiting for USAID approval, three projects are not feasible because of environmental concerns and the remaining projects will be studied for feasibility. The participants analyzed their problems and proposed 19 new projects including roads, flood protection walls and canal lining rehabilitation. The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) prioritized a land and a familial dispute and are scheduled to organize mediation sessions between the conflicting parties on Sep 4th and 11th.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On September 1st, Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, in-line with the district government communications plan, organized a coordination meeting with line-departments. In order to take security measures and preparation, the security officials asked the Land & Law Department to inform them in advance when planning field visits to villages. Another issue raised was the bad condition of sanitary services in the district government office. The Municipally Department was assigned to follow up this issue.
- On August 28th, to improve communications between the district government and residents, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, along with 10 government officials visited the work progress of Doghi Ganat Wakil school refurbishment project. *"We are sure this project provides better education facilities to the teachers and students and encourages parents to send their children to school,"* said Mr. Akhtar Mohammad Akbari, the Education Manager.
- On August 26th, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor organized a public meeting with 40 Ulema to highlight their roles in bringing peace and security in the district. *"You, the Ulema, should promote peace messages at your sermons,"* said the DG. *"Ulema are responsible to encourage people to support the government in maintaining peace,"* he added. At the end of the meeting Ulema pledged to be cooperative with the government.
- On August 27th, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with more than 100 teachers, education department's staff and representatives from Herat Department of Education. The DG talked about the government activities/achievements in improving education in the district including schools refurbishment projects, awareness raising campaigns and providing training to the district teachers. At the end of the meeting, 60 teachers received a piece of land each to construct their houses. The land distribution is part of the government efforts to address governmental officials housing needs.
- On August 27th, Mr. Juma Gul Rahmani, the Kohsan District Governor, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting. The SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD) informed the participants that seven out of 13 proposed projects were included in the District Project Portfolio (DPP) and approved by USAID and the remaining projects will be studied for feasibility. The participants analyzed the previously identified major problems, poor government service delivery, illiteracy and lack of education facilities, and proposed 13 new solutions including roads, clinic and community center rehabilitation and provision of school equipment for Kohsan District center boys' school, the Ahmad Abad elementary school and Islam Qala girls' school. The SIKA-West CDD will plan feasibility studies in the coming week.



Date: 08/28/2014 11:18:15 AM Lat: 34.977230 Lon: 62.191633 Alt: 3085.3 ft
The Dooqi Ghanat Wakil CDC Successfully Completed The Rehabilitation Of The High School In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District, August 28th.

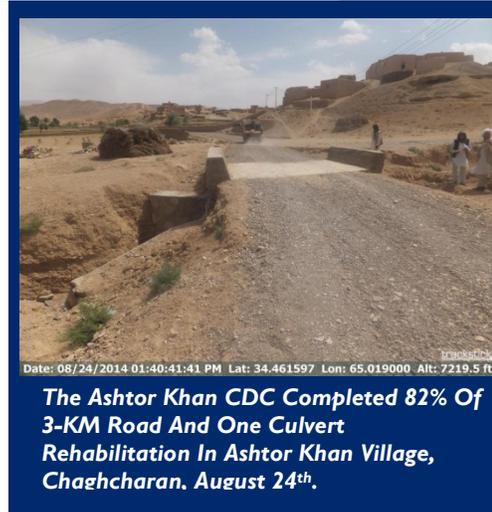


The SIKA-West Engineers Doing Feasibility Study For The Road Rehabilitation Project In Chahar Borjak Village In Guzara District on August 26th.



On August 27th, "Good Governance" Training Was Provided To 27 High Ranking Governmental Officials In Chaghcharan.

- On August 30th, Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, the Guzara District Governor, led the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD) informed the participants that three (schools rehabilitation) out of 15 proposed projects were included in the DPP and approved by USAID, five projects (roads rehabilitation) were rejected because of security concerns and the remaining seven projects will be studied for feasibility. During the meeting the participants reviewed the MRRD/District Development Plan (DDP) and prioritized four projects including water supply and bridge construction. Women's representatives raised advocated for girls' students' needs and proposed to rehabilitate and provide education equipment to the Kort-e-Sofla, Ordoabaq, Senow Gerd and Tofan high schools. The proposed projects were approved by the DG and other participants.



Date: 08/24/2014 01:40:41:41 PM Lat: 34.461597 Lon: 65.019000 Alt: 7219.5 ft
The Ashtor Khan CDC Completed 82% Of 3-KM Road And One Culvert Rehabilitation In Ashtor Khan Village, Chaghcharan. August 24th.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On August 26th, Media Relation training was provided to Mr. Abdullah, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor Secretary and Mr. Abdul Razeq, the General Manager of Petitions in Chaghcharan District. At the end of the training the participants learned how to conduct an interview, write a press release and how to use the local media effectively. The same training was provided to 10 DDA members in Shahrak District on August 28th.
- On August 26th, Mr. Nasruddin the Shorghl CDC Head in Chaghcharan called to the SPC DRRD Hotline and asked for a copy of SPC. The Ghor DRRD followed up this request and sent him a copy of the SPC.
- On August 27th, "Good Governance" training was provided to 27 high ranking governmental officials from DRRD, DoWA, DoLSA, Environment, Education, Counter Narcotics, Anti-disaster, Agriculture and Haj & Religious Affairs Departments in Chaghcharan. At the end of the training, the participants pledged to apply the good governance principles at their organizations.

CHALLENGES

- The Chaghcharan and Shahrak District Governors meeting with the Provincial Governor which was scheduled for August 30th was canceled due to security concerns. The meeting will be rescheduled after the election result announcement.
- Due to the security situation in Bala Boluk, milestone payments valued at \$8,000 were delayed for a water divider infrastructural project in Gerani Paen Village.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Pashtun Zarghun meeting will be held on September 3rd.
- Herat: The DOWA will organize the Gender Working Group meeting on September 10th.
- Badghis: The TCRC will organize mediation sessions between conflicting parties over a land and a familial dispute on Sep 4th and 11th.
- Badghis: The Muqur DG will organize a meeting with Kharistan sub-district to inform them about government achievements on September 6th.
- Farah: The Provincial Governor meeting with the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Lash Wa Juwayn District Governors will be held on September 7th.
- Farah: The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod meetings for women will be held on September 4th and 7th.
- Ghor: The Shahrak DG will organize a Hashar to collect garbage from public areas on September 7th.