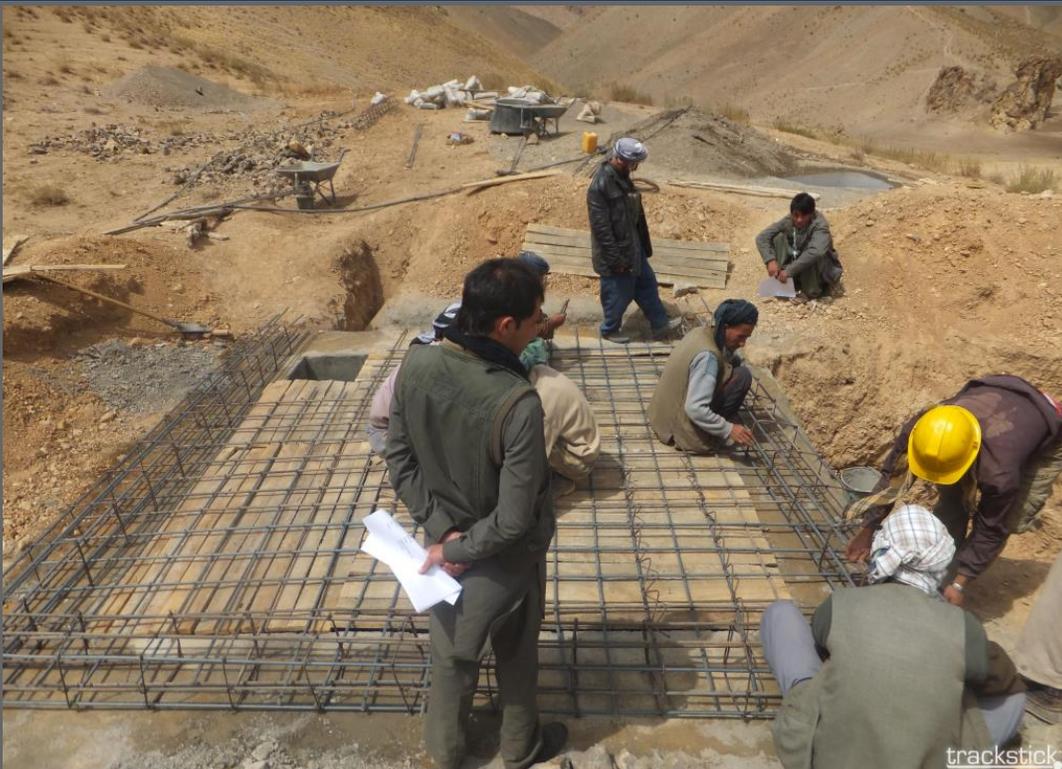




USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 124
AUGUST 19-25, 2014



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Work Ongoing To Construct A 3,410 Meter Pipe Scheme Network In Qargha Now Hulya Village, Shahrak District.

August 27, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- 2nd round District Government Communication Plans in Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Qadis, Muqur, Shahrak, Chaghcharan and Bala Boluk have been developed by the Communications & Public Outreach Department in collaboration with District Governors and approved by the IDLG SIKA Unit. These plans will support government communication activities until February 2015, after which future programming will be led and implemented independently by District Government Offices (DGO's).
- The Governance Department has come to an agreement with the Farah Provincial Public Health Department to develop printed materials which inform district residents in Bala Baluk, Pusht Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn and Farah Center on how to enroll drug addicted family members to government run district hospitals for treatment.
- As part of the Governance Department's role to find employment for past vocational training program graduates, district government sponsored "Future Employment" discussion were held in Badghis and Farah. These events brought vocational training graduates together with District/Provincial Governments, GIROA Line Departments (DRRD, DOLSA, DOWA, ACCI) where graduates were provided with application forms for available governmental positions as well placed on waiting lists for available migrant labor vacancies through ACCI.
- On August 20th, the Stabilization Department met with eight CDC's in Bala Boluk District to discuss the impact that recent District Government development efforts has had on their communities. The response was favorable, with feedback that development efforts have improved access to water for agricultural crops.
- Female members of the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi KSW, successfully advocated the district government for the rehabilitation of the Girls School in Ab Sofla Village. This development request was agreed to and has been prioritized for funding.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 305 projects valued at \$6,951,151 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in 16 target districts.
- Currently Community Development Councils (CDC's) are implementing 62 grant funded projects valued at \$2,636,459
- To date, 208 projects valued at \$3,048,748 and managed by CDCs have been completed.
- 24 projects valued at \$ 1,294,848 are pending with the USAID Vetting Unit for approval. Some requests have been pending for almost 2 months. SIKA-West has requested USAID's support to expedite these pending requests.

• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- The Governance Department in collaboration with IDLG are engaged with Herat Provincial Government Capacity Building Committee to invite provincial government personnel to attend capacity building trainings /workshops which are part of the approved IDLG/SIKA-West Governance Training Plan.
- The Gender Unit briefed female members of the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi KSW, on how to better prioritize district problems, identify reasons for these problems and put forward solutions at the upcoming KSW meeting.
- On August 21, the Governance Department in collaboration with the Gender Unit has launched a 2 month Proposal Writing course for seven members of the Herat DOWA.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department have assisted the Sufak CDC (Chaghcharan) to develop a concept note outlining the need to rehabilitate their village road. This concept note was submitted to third party non-governmental organizations in the province using the Service Provider Catalog. Afghan Aid has agreed to undertake the project and begin work after the presidential election is complete



A Farmer Reading The Saffron Factsheet At The Meeting Organized By The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor On August 24th.

Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, facilitated a meeting between 27 farmers and the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) on August 24th. DAIL encouraged the farmers to cultivate alternative crops other than poppy. In response, farmers shared their problems which prevent them from focusing on alternative crops, including lack of greenhouses, sufficient markets for their produce and lack of irrigation. DAIL pledged to advocate for the farmers' needs and share these issues with senior government officials in the MAIL. At the end of the meeting, 10 Provincial Service Provider Catalogs (SPC's), 200 SPC Information Cards, and 100 Saffron Factsheets were distributed to the farmers.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring & Evaluation training was provided to forty eight members of four CDCs and one DRRD District Social Worker (DSW) in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District, Herat Province on August 17th. The same training was provided to the DRRD DSW in Khak-e-Safayd District, Farah Province on August 20th.
- Representatives from the SIKA-West M&E Department and Programming are attending the MISTI Summit in Kabul on August 27th. The theme of the meeting is "Transition to Sustainable Development".
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E personnel conducted 30 project site visits this week.
- The M&E Department are working to resolve discrepancies in GPS points between our program and MISTI. M&E personnel have been sent out to project sites to re-verify GPS coordinates.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On August 21st, the Pusht-e Rod District Youth Association met with the Provincial Counter Narcotic Department (CND) and Sayara Organization, a local non-governmental organization. The Youth Association provided an overview of the past support provided to them by the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department, including a 6 month Communications Plan (including anti-drug addiction campaigns, sports tournaments, public gatherings etc.) In order to continue to sustain the Youth Association the Sayara organization pledged to provide the group small grants. This meeting was broadcast on Farah local television stations.
- The Massow Barakzai CDC, Pusht-e Rod District, Farah Province finalized their concept paper requesting support to improve their potable water supply and submitted this paper to the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS). Using the Farah DRRD Service Providers Catalog, the CDC made contact with ARCS and arrangements have been made to discuss potential funding of this project on August 28, 2014.
- On August 17th, the SIKA-West Governance Department facilitated a meeting between the Bala Boluk District Education Officer, Mr. Gol Ahmad, and three local residents whose children left school some years ago. In the meeting, the Education Officer outlined to the residents the procedures required to re-enroll their children to school. These guidelines will be printed and made available to district residents. The Governance Department is taking an active role to promote the availability of available and sustainable District Line Department Services.
- The Pusht-e Rod Female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC), with the assistance of local police, addressed a familial issue between a couple in Mianjoy-e Massow village. A married man was having problems with his first wife and they decided to divorce. After the divorce, the man took custody of their children without consulting his former wife and other family members. After some mediation sessions, the man decided to re-marry his first wife, agreed to provide her and the children with a new house and a small wedding reception was then conducted on August 20th.
- On August 25th, Mr. Samad Yar, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor, organized his first meeting with district youth to listen to their concerns. The DG encouraged the youth to support the government in bringing peace and stability to the district. Youth requested the DG to pay more attention to their educational needs and provide sport facilities for them. The DG pledged to follow up these issues with the relevant line-departments.



Laborers On Site To Rehabilitate A 100-Meter Wash Culvert, Godar Gazak Village, Bala Boluk District, Farah Province



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The Zer Joie Doken CDC Successfully Completed 50% Of The Chapak Doken Primary High School Refurbishment Project In Pusht-E Rod District.



Mr. Abdul Sami, the Muqur Court Department Director, On Behalf Of The District Government, Presenting An Appreciation Letter To The Afghan Police On August 20th.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, organized a coordination meeting with 17 district line-departments on August 18th. The participants discussed ways of eliminating violence against women and agreed to establish a women's council within the district. The Education Department requested that the DG provide their personnel with a security escort so that they can monitor schools in insecure areas to check whether teachers and/or students are present. The District Chief of Police pledged to provide security
- On August 20, 2014, as a component of the District Government Communication Plan, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, the Muqur District Governor, organized a "District Government Appreciation Ceremony" and presented Letters of Appreciation to District Government personnel and Security Forces for their hard work in maintaining peace and security within the district. "*Muqur District is our homeland, we are responsible to protect it from insurgents,*" Mr. Fazl Ahmad, an Afghan National Army officer.

- On August 20, 2014, as a component of the District Government Communication Plan, the Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, organized a meeting with 70 youths, elders and community leaders to listen to their concerns. District youth shared their problems including lack of job opportunities and education facilities. A female resident complained about the weak participation of women within the district government and requested the DG to organize awareness raising campaigns about women's rights and provide job opportunities for women.
- On August 25th, the Qadis District Governor organized the Komite Sobate Wolesswali. Applying the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) the participants proposed 13 solutions including roads and flood protection walls rehabilitation projects to improve government service delivery in the district. At the end of the meeting, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) identified a marriage dispute between two families and scheduled a mediation session between the conflicting parties on September 2nd.
- On August 23rd, the Muqur District Executive Manager, Mr. Abobakr Azimi, organized the Komite Sobate Wolesswali. The participants analyzed their community major problems and proposed 10 solutions including roads, culverts and flood protection walls rehabilitation projects, which would serve to improve government services within their district. The SIKA-West Community Development Department started their feasibility surveys on these proposed projects and will be completed by September 10th.
- On August 23rd, the Muqur District Education Department prepared and presented their annual activity report to the Muqur KSW members, outlining the role taken by the education department to improve access to education throughout the district. Prepared with the support of the SIKA-West Governance Department, the submission of this report to the KSW reflects the District Governments desire to narrow the gaps between local government and district residents and improve transparency and accountability.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On August 24th, Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, celebrated Afghanistan Independence Day. More than 70 Ulema, DDA, CDCs and influential people attended the event. The DG talked about the importance of this day and requested the participants to be united to achieve more success.
- On August 20th, in line with the District Government Communication Plan, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, met with the Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Abdul Rahim Ahmadi. The DG requested the Haj and Religious Affairs Manager to inform the Ulema to talk about the Afghanistan Independence Day and women's rights at their sermons and encourage residents to support government in bringing peace, security and development in the district.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, organized the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting with participation of 105 people including 12 women on August 20th. The participants discussed their community major problems, unemployment; presence of anti-government elements and lack of education and proposed eight solutions including road, culvert, flood protection wall and school rehabilitations.
- Mr. Ajab Gol, the Shindand District Governor, organized the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on August 25th. The discussion focused on finding solutions to the water intakes and flood protection wall rehabilitation projects in Nasr Abad, Bar Takht and Jaak villages which have been significantly delayed due to security concerns. The SIKA-West Community Development requested that the District Government take action to resolve these delays or cancel the projects. The District Governor provided a one week deadline to CDCs to either begin implementation of these projects or face cancellation.



The Jan Dosti CDC Completed 68% Of The 4-KM Road Rehabilitation Project In Jan Dosti Village, Muqur District.



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Laborers Refurbishing The Khowja Talkhan Primary High School And Constructing 5 Latrines In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.



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The Tangi Azo CDC Completed 73% Of The 23-Meter Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall And Canal Lining In Tangi Azo Village, Shahrak District.

GHOR PROVINCE

- Mr. Shah Passand Pahlawi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, established the Shahrak District Service Providers Catalog (SPC) Committee on August 25th. A total of 50 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.
- Media Relation training was provided to 15 youths in Shahrak District on August 20th. 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.
- With support of the SIKA-West Communications and Public Outreach Department, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, Mr. Shah Passand Pahlawi, and the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, produced quarterly progress reports for their activities and achievements. These reports will be shared with the Provincial Governor during a meeting scheduled for August 30th.
- Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Shahrak District Executive Manager, visited the work progress of road and culvert construction projects in Sarcheshma village on August 21st. The DEM talked about the importance of these projects and asked the CDC to implement the projects based on the projects requirements. The DEM emphasized that if the CDC implement the projects successfully, the government will grant a bridge construction project in Dahan village.
- On August 23rd, to recognize the importance of the Ghor DRRD cooperation with the SIKA-West, an appreciation letter was presented to the Ghor DRRD Director, Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal. The DRRD Director plays a key role in implementing SIKA-West activities in Ghor Province.



Laborers And Sarcheshma Community Elder Welcoming Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, The Shahrak District Executive Manager At The Road And Culvert Rehabilitation Project Site On August 21st.



The Ghor DRRD Director, Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, Holding The Appreciation Letter Received From SIKA-West On August 23rd.

CHALLENGES

- The regional coordination meeting between the SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the DOWA Directors and Provincial Gender Specialists from Herat, Badghis, Farah and Ghor Provinces scheduled for August 25th was postponed because the DOWA Directors were invited to attend a meeting in Kabul with H.E. Hamed Karzai, the Afghanistan President. The meeting was rescheduled for August 31st.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Komite Sobate Woleswali Guzara meeting will be held on August 30th. And the Komite Sobate Woleswali Pashtun Zarghun meeting will be held on August 31st.
- Badghis: The Muqur District Governor will establish the District Service Providers Catalog (SPC) Committee on August 26th and the monthly coordination meeting with line-departments will be held on August 26th.
- Badghis: Media Relations training will be provided to Qadis District government staff on August 26th.
- Farah: The Bala Boluk District Governor will organize the monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on August 27th.
- Farah: The Provincial Governor meeting with the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Lash Wa Juwayn District Governors will be held on August 27th.
- Ghor: The Shahrak District Governor will organize a Hashar to clean the public areas on August 27th.
- Ghor: The Provincial Governor meeting with the Chaghcharan and Shahrak District Governors will be held on August 30th.
- Ghor: The Komite Sobate Woleswali Chaghcharan meeting will be held on August 31st.