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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Qala Karam CDC successfully refurbished the Qala Karam High school in Shindand District.

August 21, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- A Service Providers Committee hotline was established for the DRRD Departments in Farah, Badghis, Herat and Ghor Provinces. The Hotline aims to provide a platform for residents; governmental and non-governmental organizations to receive information about available services listed in the SPCs and provide comments and suggestions for the revised version of SPCs.
- Two past graduates of a tailoring vocational training course in Kamenji Sofla Village (Qadis District) are providing tailoring services from their homes. Currently these graduates are earning on average 3000 AFN per month. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue to support vocational program graduates to start their own business and/or secure employment.
- On August 14th and 17th, in cooperation with DSWs, an Engineering Technical training was provided to the Pahlow, Ashtor and Choqour CDCs in Chaghcharan, Sar Cheshma, Jawra Sang Ghala and Qargha Now Hulya CDCs in Shahrak and Chel Dokhtar Sufla, Khowja Talkhtan and Khola Morgh CDCs in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts.
- A coordination meeting was held with the NABDP Institutional Development Officer, Mr. Nikomanesh on August 16th. Discussion focused on DDA re-election process in the SIKA-West districts of operation. The NABDP agreed to facilitate the re-election process with some financial support from SIKA-West.
- As part of the coordination with the IDLG SIKA-Unit, a copy of the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management (CBDRRM) and Project Management Training materials were shared with the IDLG for their review and approval on August 19th. When approved by IDLG, the materials will be printed and distributed to the trainees.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 303 projects valued at \$6,918,774 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 65 projects valued at \$2,769,814.
- To date, 207 projects valued at \$3,015,235 have been completed.
- 29 projects valued at \$1,585,359 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:

- Advocacy and concept note development training was provided to Massow Barakzai CDC in Pusht-e Rod District on August 18th. The CDC drafted a concept note for their water supply project. Further training will be provided to the CDC to finalize the concept note and find financial resources using the Farah Service Providers Catalog (SPC).
- The SIKA-West Governance Department provided basic computer skills training to Mr. Ghulam Nabi, the Muqur Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Mohammad Ismael, the Literacy Manager, and Mr. Abu Bakr, the Executive Manager. By the end of the training, the participants learned how to design charts in Ms. Word and data entry in spreadsheets.
- Based on a DOWA request, a two-month Proposal Writing training will be started for seven DOWA staff in Herat on August 21st.



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The Komite Sobate Woleswali Lash Wa Juwayn Proposed 10 New Projects To Mitigate Unemployment In The District.

The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor, Mr. Samad Yar, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali Lash Wa Juwayn meeting on August 17th. During the meeting the participants prioritized 10 new projects, water dividers, culverts and flood protection walls, as solutions to promote government services in the agricultural sector. A short Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to the participants. The TCRC applied the conflict resolution skills and identified two conflicts in the district. A familial conflict between a man and his father-in-law and a conflict between two traders. The TCRC will organize mediation sessions between the conflicting parties on August 25th.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- As part of project impact assessments, M&E conducted interviews with residents in Muqur District on August 16th who benefited from three road rehabilitation projects. Preliminary results from the assessment indicate that the projects provided short-term job opportunities, linked villages to district centers to access government and other services.
- As part of the MISTI verification exercises, M&E provided an updated tracker to MISTI of the completed hard and on-going soft projects on August 15th.
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West engineers and M&E personnel conducted 31 project site visits. As an example, it was observed that the windows were not properly fitted at Ganat Wakil school rehabilitation project. The respective CDC was mentored to correct the deficiency.

FARAH PROVINCE

- The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor, Mr. Samad Yar, organized a coordination meeting with line-departments on August 16th. The participants presented a brief report about their activities and shared their concerns. Mr. Asadullah Khan, the District Health Manager, complained about lack of medicine and requested the DG to address the issue. Mr. Abdul Hadi, the District Extension Manager, raised the issue of roads that were blocked due to a recent storm. The District Governor will share the lack of medicine with the Provincial Health Directorate. The roads issue will be discussed at the next Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting.
- The Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting in Farah Center was held with participation of 39 people including the DRRD Director, Mr. Abdul Raouf, the districts entities, the DDA members and observers on August 12th. The participants were updated on the status of the implementation of the projects including road rehabilitation projects in Rodak, Rokan and Qala Mohamamd Villages. The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) identified two conflicts: a familial conflict in Chahar Baq and a land dispute in Now Deh villages. The TCRC will organize separate mediation sessions with the conflicting parties in the coming week.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Qala-i-Naw Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) organized the final mediation session between a man and his wife in Bala Morqab on August 14th. The woman whose husband was accused of murder and was in prison wanted a divorce. Now that the man is released the CRC organized mediation sessions with the couple to convince them end their conflict. Finally the couple agreed to rent a house and live peacefully.
- A coordination meeting was held with the Badghis Provincial Governor, H.E. Mr. Ahmadulla Alizai on August 13th. An overview of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program activities and achievements was presented. The PG pledged to organize a meeting with the line-departments and asked them to attend the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On August 18th, Mr. Abdul Rahim Jami, the Shindand District Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, met with the new District Governor, Mr. Ajab Gul Kakar Samim to share the Ulema's requests including providing furniture to mosques, constructing new mosques and allocating salary for Ulema. The DG emphasized the importance of Ulema in bringing peace and security in the district and pledged to share and follow up the Ulema's concerns and requests with the Provincial Peace Council and the Haj and Religious Affairs Directorate in Herat Province.
- A coordination meeting was held with the Herat DRRD Deputy Director Mr. Mahmood Shah on August 16th. The DRRD was informed of the resumption of SIKA-West activities in Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun Districts. The issue of lack of DDA members in Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings was discussed. The DRRD recommended increasing transportation allowance for DDA to encourage them to attend meetings.
- As part of the efforts to build linkages with other MRRD projects, a meeting was held with the MRRD/AREDP on August 19th. The SIKA-West and AREDP shared their activities, components and objectives. It was agreed to organize more coordination meetings and explore capacity building efforts including sharing training materials.



The Saj Farsi CDC In Pusht-E Rod District Completed 67% Of 260-Meter Road Rehabilitation And One Culvert.



Work Ongoing To Rehabilitate A 80-Meter Canal Protection Wall In Rahim Abad Village, Bala Boluk District.



Media Relation Training Was Provided To 40 Members Of Women's Shura In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District On August 18th.

- Media Relation training was provided to 40 members of Women's Shura in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on August 18th. 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.

GHOR PROVINCE

- Mr. Ahmad Hossain Daneshyar, the Du Layna District Governor, led the Komite Sobate Wolesswali Du Layna meeting on August 16th. The SIKA-West technicians updated the participants on the status of the feasibility studies of the proposed projects and asked the CDCs to escort the SIKA-West staff for those projects that are located in far distances. By the end of the meeting, the participants selected 11 projects, canal culverts and flood protection wall, from the District Development Plan as solutions to their major problems. The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Du Layna meeting for women was held on August 14th. The women discussed their major problems including lack of healthy water and proper road network. The SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit shared these requests at the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting for men. The male KSW accepted their request and proposed water supply rehabilitation project in Pahla village.
- Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 16 members of the Du Layna Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) on August 14th. Topics included definition of conflict, reasons for conflict, conflict management, characteristics of a good mediator and tools and techniques to resolve a conflict. The SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department will provide further support to enable the TCRC to identify and address existing conflicts in the district.
- Mr. Shah Passand Pahlawi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, facilitated the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on August 18th. The CDCs that proposed road rehabilitation projects in the last meeting were informed to change their projects and propose projects that are sustainable. The CDCs proposed alternative projects including culvert and flood protection walls.



The SIKA-West Engineers Visiting The 200-Meter Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall In Tangi Azo Village, Shahrak District.

CHALLENGES

- The Project Management Training for Gul Khail CDC in Shindand District which was scheduled for August 16th was postponed due to security concerns.
- The SIKA-West M&E Department could not re-check and verify the GPS coordinates of the culvert in Qadis due to security concern in the District. M&E is liaising with the Security Department to schedule another visit and obtain new GPS coordinates that will be provided to MISTI.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: Media Relation training will be provided to the Shindand District government staff on August 19th.
- Herat: The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Shindand meetings will be held on August 20th and 25th.
- Badghis: The Qadis District Governor will organize public meeting with youth on August 20th.
- Badghis: The Muqur District Governor will organize a Hashar to clean the Kharistan irrigation canal on August 21st.
- Badghis: The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Muqur and Qadis meetings will be held on August 23rd and 25th.
- Farah: The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor will meet with youth to listen to their concerns on August 24th.
- Ghor: Communications Skills Building training will be provided to Shahrak DDA members on August 23rd.
- Ghor: The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor will organize Peace meeting with Ulema on August 24th.
- Coordination meetings will be held with DOLSA, Chamber of Commerce, DRRD and DOWA to find job opportunities for the vocational trainings graduates across all provinces.