



# USAID | AFGHANISTAN

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## STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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AUGUST 5-11, 2014



*High Ranking Governmental Officials Including Mr. Shaheedzadah (The Parliament Member), Mr. Aqa Mohammad Seddiqi (The Herat DRRD Director) And Mr. Abdul Naser Aswadi (The Economy Department Director) Cut The Ribbon To Inaugurate The Herat Service Providers Fair On August 10<sup>th</sup>.*

August 13, 2014

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:**

- A five-day Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management training kicked off for 40 GIRoA and SIKA-West staff from Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn and Farah Center on August 9<sup>th</sup>. As part of the training, participants undertook a field visit to *Gharie Karizak*, a mountainous area 10 km from Farah center, which is regularly affected by heavy rainfall and floods.
- The Badghis DRRD established the Public Service Introduction Committee with participation of 18 governmental organizations on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is responsible to update the Badghis Service Providers Catalog (SPC) every six month, distribute the SPC and organize the upcoming Service Providers Fair.
- The Gender-sponsored Bala Boluk Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women addressed a familial conflict between a man and his brother-in-law. The man, originally from Iran married a girl from Bala Boluk and went to Iran two years ago. When the woman came back to Bala Boluk to visit her family, her brother didn't allow her to go back to Iran and asked her to divorce. The CRC organized a total of three mediation sessions with her brother and finally convinced him to let his sister go back to live with her husband on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Four project feasibility studies were completed in Du Layna District of Ghor Province. The studies were for the construction of a water intake, small culverts and pipe culverts in four villages.

**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 67 projects valued at \$2,861,421.
- 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:**

- A five-day Project Management training was started for 40 GIRoA staff in Badghis Province on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Topics included project leadership, types of projects, project cycle, project design, project planning and monitoring and evaluation. The training was launched by Afghan Creative Consultancy Services.
- During the week, the SIKA-West Governance Department supported the Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod District Governors, Mr. Sayed Mohammad and Mr. Ghawsuddin, to prepare comprehensive reports from the government activities and achievements and present it at the Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings.

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West engineers and M&E personnel jointly conducted 36 project site visits. The CDCs implementing the projects were mentored on how to correct deficiencies noted; such as excavated drainages that were not according to engineering design.



**People Communicating With One Of The Service Providers (National Solidarity Program) At The Herat Service Provides Fair On August 10<sup>th</sup>.**

With support of the USAID Stability In Key Areas (SIKA)-West program, the Herat DRRD launched a two-day Service Providers Fair in Herat Province on August 10<sup>th</sup>. More than 80 governmental and non-governmental organizations displayed their services to the people. The Fair aimed to provide a platform for both governmental and non-governmental organizations to directly communicate with the people, display their available services and exchange contacts.

The DRRD Director, Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi delivered speeches about the importance of this fair and pledged to organize such events at the district level as well. *“People in the city have more information about their government services, we should organize such events at the district level as well,”* said the DRRD Director.

*“This Fair bridged the government with local people and raised people’s awareness about governmental and non-governmental organizations’ services. The fair is a good opportunity for people to know their government better,”* said Haji Khalil Ahmad Shahid Zada, the parliament member.

The Fair also provided an opportunity for fresh university graduates to communicate directly with the service providers and exchange contacts for future career opportunities. *“I am very happy that I am part of this Fair, I saw some of my old friends and classmates here and explained what our organization does,”* said Mr. Omid Qazi Zada, the AHDA organization head.

During the two-day Fair thousands of people, including local people, women and school children visited the Fair and acquired information about the available services. *“Today Herat for the first time witnessed the Service Providers Fair. Both governmental organizations and civil societies could display their services,”* said Mr. Khalil Parsa, the Herat Civil Society Institution Network Coordinator.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- Stabilization Practices training was provided to the Bala Boluk District Administrative Manager, Mr. Taimor Shah, on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The agenda and talking point of the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting was shared. The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad and the Administrative Manager successfully conducted the actual Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Following a lengthy discussion, participants proposed some projects; for example, the Asakabad CDC proposed the rehabilitation of a 300m flood protection wall.
- Following the Stabilization Practices training provided to the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, Mr. Ghawsuddin on August 9<sup>th</sup> the DG led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The District Governor was worried about the slow progress of the implementation of the projects and asked the CDCs to speed up their work. At the end of the meeting, several projects were proposed including the rehabilitation of the Massaw Girls School in Massaw village.
- As part of the efforts to enable the Grani Payeen CDC in Bala Boluk to write a concept note for their community center refurbishment project, Advocacy and Concept Note Development training was provided to four members of this CDC on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will provide further training and help the CDC to finalize the concept note and submit to the potential third party organizations for financial resources.
- The Pusht-e Rod District Governor, Mr. Ghawsuddin, organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on August 10<sup>th</sup>. To address the security constrains in the district, it was agreed to set up more security check points at the district. The DG will share this issue with the relevant security departments.
- The Bala Boluk Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) resolved an inheritance dispute between two brothers. The conflict started when the older brother claimed a larger share of the land. The CRC proposed an equitable distribution of the land between the two brothers. The brothers accepted the proposal and ended their conflict on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- Mr. Sharafuddin Majidi, the Badghis Provincial Government Office Manager, organized an inter-district Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting in Qala-i-Naw on August 6<sup>th</sup>. In the meeting, 28 people from Komite Sobate Woleswali Qadis and Muqur attended and exchanged ideas with the Komite Sobate Woleswali Qala-i-Naw. As part of the coordination and collaboration with other USAID funded program, a representative of the Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI) took part in the meeting. A list of the proposed projects not feasible for the SIKA-West to implement was shared with the CCI. The CCI will study these projects to see if they can implement these projects. The SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department will follow up this issue and provide further updates.
- On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Muqur District Executive Manager, Mr. Abobakr Azimi, met with the line-departments and community elders to inform them that the District Governor plans to visit the Kharistan sub-district to listen to the residents' concerns on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The line-departments will send a representative to accompany the District Governor.



Date: 08/11/2014 11:28:54:54 AM Lat: 32.375480 Lon: 62.125753 Alt: 2186.4 ft  
**A Five-Day Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management Training Kicked Off For 40 GIRoA And SIKA-West Staff From Bala Boluk, Pusht-E Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn And Farah Center On August 9<sup>th</sup>.**



Date: 08/06/2014 08:57:37:37 AM Lat: 32.597070 Lon: 62.402940 Alt: 2341.9 ft  
**The Government Officials In Bala Boluk Cut The Ribbon To Inaugurate The Completed Water Divider In Kanesk Wasat Village On August 6<sup>th</sup>.**



Date: 08/06/2014 11:00:28:28 AM Lat: 34.987427 Lon: 63.132060 Alt: 900.2 m  
**During The Komite Sobate Woleswali Qala-I-Naw Meeting , Mrs. Halima Rahaipaima, The Badghis DOWA Law Manager, Delivered Speeches To Find Solutions For The Women's Problems In Badghis Province On August 6<sup>th</sup>.**

## HERAT PROVINCE

- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Abdul Ghani Jamshidi, was supported on preparing a guideline on how to rent government agricultural lands on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The guideline gives detailed information on the steps required to rent government agricultural lands.
- SIKA-West has reached out to INTERSOS, a non-profit humanitarian aid organization, working in Guzara District of Herat Province to explore ways of collaborating in projects implementation in common districts. The SIKA-West Stabilization Department will organize a meeting with INTEROS in the coming week.
- As part of the efforts to collaborate with the MRRD/NABDP, two projects which were prioritized by the NABDP in the District Development Plan in Guzara District where identified by the SIKA-West as potential projects that could be funded by third party sources. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department will conduct Concept Note trainings with respective CDCs to enable them to look for funding. The projects include flood protection wall and canal rehabilitation.



**The Rabat Sangi Gharbi CDC Completed 45% Of Faruqiah High School Rehabilitation Project In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.**



**Service Providers Catalog (SPC) And SPC Information Cards Were Distributed To The Line-Departments In Ghor Province On August 6<sup>th</sup>.**

## GHOR PROVINCE

- Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, the Ghor DRRD Director, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali Chaghcharan meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The main discussion was focused on two major problems, Poverty and Unemployment, in the district. Applying the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), the participants proposed flood protection walls, pipe scheme and water reservoir rehabilitation projects as solutions.
- Mr. Mohammad Khan, the Ghor DRRD Deputy Director, organized a Service Providers Catalog (SPC) distribution event with participation of governmental line-departments on August 6<sup>th</sup>. More than 220 SPCs and 4,440 SPC information cards were distributed to the line-departments. These line-departments will use the SPC to provide information about the available governmental and non-governmental organizations' services to the people.
- Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, the DRRD Director, organized a meeting with 40 farmers to encourage them stop poppy cultivation and be cooperative with the government on August 10<sup>th</sup>. "Poppy cultivation is a source of income for anti-government elements, you the farmers should stop poppy cultivation," said the DRRD Director.
- Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Shahrak District Executive Manager, organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The DEM asked the security officials to cooperate with the district government staff in visiting the projects sites. Mr. Ghulam Jailani, the Police Commander, pledged to provide security for both government staff and the SIKA-West personnel during the site visit.
- A meeting was held with Mr. Aref Yaqubi, the USAID Project Management Specialist, in Ghor PST office on August 10<sup>th</sup>. An overview of the SIKA-West activities, achievements and future plans was presented.

## CHALLENGES

- Project activities are still suspended in Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun Districts of Herat Province due to the insecurity situation in the two districts. The Security department is monitoring the situation and further updates will be provided in due course.
- The ANA are temporarily occupying the Du Layna Office that was provided by the Governor until the security situation in the area improves. This has led to the cancellation of the Women KSW meeting that was planned for early August. SIKA-West is currently making alternative plans and will tentatively hold the KSW meeting at DoWA on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

- Herat: The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor will organize a meeting with Arbabs to talk about security in the district on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis: The Komite Sobate Woleswali Muqur meeting will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: The Bala Boluk District Governor will conduct a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: The Bala Boluk DG will conduct a peace meeting with Ulema on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: The Farah Center and the Lash Wa Juwayn Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor: The farmers from Shahrak will meet with the DAIL to share their concern on August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor: The Komite Sobate Woleswali Du Layna and Shahrak meetings will be held on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.