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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Torghundi Sharqi CDC Completed 70% Of A 180 Meter Canal Lining Rehabilitation Project In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.

July 23, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) facilitated a mediation session on July 16th between two brothers who were engaged in a conflict over an inherited piece of land in Deh Zok Village, Farah Center. The TCRC proposed an equitable distribution of the land between the two brothers. The brothers accepted the proposal and ended their conflict.
- Media Relations training was provided to 30 Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government staff on July 21st. Training topics included the importance of media relations, how to write a press release and interviewing techniques. These staff members will use the local media to inform people about government activities and achievements in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District of Herat Province.
- The Shahrak District Executive Manager, Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, visited the flood protection wall rehabilitation project in Tangai Azo Village on July 16th. The DEM asked the residents to take responsibility for the project's maintenance. "Maintenance of this project is the residents' responsibility, the local government will bring more development projects to this village to improve the quality of life of the residents", said the DEM.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 301 projects valued at \$6,789,352 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 71 projects valued at \$3,013,651.
- To date, 203 projects valued at \$2,863,005 have been completed.
- 26 projects valued at \$1,473,574 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:

- The DRRD District Social Workers in Pusht-e Rod District, Mr. Nazar Mohammad and Mr. Ajmal, were mentored on preparing guidelines on how to register new villages in the District Government Village Affairs Department on July 15th. The guidelines give detailed information on the steps required to register new villages.
- Advocacy training was provided to 23 Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff on July 15th. The training aimed to improve the capacity of the district government staff to advocate for the residents' needs using the Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC). By the end of the training, the participants understood the basic elements of advocacy, its importance and what services are available at the district and provincial level.
- On July 15th, training on how to write a "Stabilization Snapshot" was provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Mr. Farhad Raufian, to record "Stabilization Snapshots" where local government support has been provided to individual communities. The same training was provided to the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, Mr. Ghawsuddin, the Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Ahmad Shah, and the District Census Manager, Mr. Abdul Rezaq.
- In response to the Qala-i-Naw Agriculture Department's request, the SIKA-West Governance Department provided training on Plant Pest Control to 40 farmers and gardeners in Qala-i-Naw on July 19th. The farmers learned new methods of plant pest and disease control.



The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, Met With Local Youth To Listen To Their Concerns On July 16th.

The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, in line with his communications plan, organized a meeting with 15 local youth to listen to their concerns on July 16th. The DG talked about the importance of youth in bringing peace and security to the district and asked them to be supportive of the government. The youth stated that unemployment and lack of sports tournaments were their main concerns. The DG will share these issues with the Provincial Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) and the Olympic Department. The parties agreed that the youth will appoint two representatives to meet with the district government on a weekly basis and share their problems and concerns.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Report Writing training was provided to 14 government staff in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on July 19th. Topics included the definition of a report and types, components and procedures of report writing. The participants will use these skills to produce reports for submission to the District Governor.
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West engineers and M&E personnel conducted 50 project site visits. The CDCs implementing the projects were mentored on how to correct the deficiencies noted and were guided on how to implement the projects according to the required specifications.

FARAH PROVINCE

- A coordination meeting was held with the Farah Haj and Religious Affairs Director, Mr. Masoud, and local merchants on July 19th. The Ganj Abad CDC in Bala Boluk developed a concept note to search for financial resources for their community center refurbishment. In response to this request, the Haj and Religious Affairs will invite potential donors, merchants and influential residents to an advocacy meeting scheduled for July 22nd.
- How to Develop a Communications Plan training was provided to four Lash Wa Juwayn District government staff on July 21st. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will provide further training to assist the staff in developing a communications plan for the Lash Wa Juwayn District Government.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Muqur District Executive Manager, Mr. Abobakr Azimi, held a monthly coordination meeting with line departments on July 20th. Discussion was focused on a complaint received from shopkeepers that the vehicles of a Turkish company drive fast and endanger people walking around the Bazar. It was agreed that the Turkish company's vehicles be restricted to night movements only.
- The Qala-i-Naw Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) mediated a family dispute between a couple on July 16th. A woman whose husband was accused of murder and is currently in prison wanted a divorce. With the cooperation of the Chief of Prison, the TCRC conducted a mediation session at the prison. Following a lengthy discussion, the couple agreed to make a final decision and inform the TCRC of the result in a few days.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On July 15th, as part of the Stabilization Programming Indicators' review and project impact assessment, a discussion was held with three CDCs (Foshkan, Kushk Haibat and Rawandan) in Pashtun Zarghun District who implemented flood protection walls and school rehabilitation projects.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Abdul Rahim, was mentored on preparing a guideline on how to rent government agricultural lands on July 10th. The guideline gives detailed information on the steps required to rent government agricultural lands.

GHOR PROVINCE

- Main Elements of Communications training was provided to seven Chaghcharan District Government staff on July 16th. Topics included messaging, identifying audiences and effective means to deliver messages to the audiences. The participants will use these techniques to convey the government's activities and achievements to the residents through the local media, public meetings and gatherings.
- The Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) in Chaghcharan successfully addressed a conflict between two women in Shahrak Mohajirin on July 17th. The conflict was a result of a fight between their children which resulted in injury to one of the children. Following three mediation sessions the conflicting parties agreed to end their conflict and live in peace.



One Of The 15 Rehabilitated Water Dividers In Shewan Wasat Village In Bala Boluk District.



The Muqur District Executive Manager, Mr. Abobakr Azimi, Held A Monthly Coordination Meeting With Line Departments On July 20th.



Advocacy Training Was Provided To 23 Pashtun Zarghun District Government Staff On July 15th.



Main Elements Of Communications Training Was Provided To Seven Chaghcharan District Government Staff On July 16th.

CHALLENGES

- The third milestone payment for the culvert rehabilitation project in Boor Abad Village in Bala Boluk District was suspended because of deficiencies noted by the SIKA-West Engineers. The payment will be released once all of the deficiencies are corrected.
- Three SIKA-West staff and one driver were kidnaped coming from Pashtun Zarghun after a Project Management and Advocacy training on July 15th. Currently two staff members have been released. Negotiations are still on-going for the release of the remaining two. As a result of the incident, all program activities have been suspended in Pashtun Zarghun and Guzara Districts until further notice.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor will organize a Hashar to clean a Kariz on July 26th.
- Badghis: Project Management Training to two CDCs in Muqur District will be completed on July 23rd
- Farah: The Pusht-e Rod District Governor will hold the monthly coordination meeting with line departments on July 22nd.
- Ghor: Advocacy training will be provided to youths in Shahrak District on July 24th.
- Ghor: The Deputy Provincial Governor will broadcast Eid related messages through the National Radio Television of Afghanistan on July 24th.
- Ghor: Project Management Training to three CDCs in Chaghcharan will be completed on July 23rd.