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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Aziz Abad Hulya CDC Successfully Rehabilitated A 120-Meter Wash Flood Protection Wall And A Culvert In Zawool Blog Village, Shindand District.

July 16, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- Mr. Aziz Ahmad Shakib, the DRRD DSW, and Mr. Ahmad Shah, the Pashtun Zarghun District Executive Officer, facilitated a four-day Project Management Training session for the Taqcha CDC from July 12th-15th. The Taqcha CDC will now receive their first milestone payment and begin a road rehabilitation project.
- Training on how to write a “Stabilization Snapshot” was provided to the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, on July 13th. The SIKA-West Stabilization Department will mentor and assist the District Governments to record “Stabilization Snapshots” where local government support has been provided to individual communities to address their major concerns. These stories will be shared with IDLG/MRRD to highlight the District Government responsiveness in addressing communities’ “major problems”.
- Mrs. Mahbooba Jamshidi, the Herat DOWA Director, chaired and facilitated the first DOWA led Provincial Gender Working Group meeting on July 8th. The participants decided to prepare an action plan for the Gender Working Group that will contain the objectives, structure and responsibilities of the GWG meeting.
- Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, the Ghor DRRD Director, held a meeting with 22 Ghor Government Directorates on July 14th to discuss the Service Providers Catalog (SPC) distribution plan. It was agreed that each Directorate will provide a representative to establish a Public Service Introduction Committee. The Committee will be responsible for updating and distributing the SPC.

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 74 projects valued at \$3,194,355.
- To date, 200 projects valued at \$2,741,581 have been completed.
- 26 projects valued at \$1,459,574 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:

- Media Relations training was provided to 27 Kohsan Government staff on June 14th. 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 Kohsan District of Herat Province.
- The SIKA-West Governance Department provided training on Plant Pest Control to 29 farmers and gardeners in Qadis District on July 12th. The farmers learned new methods of plant pest and disease control.
- Advocacy and How to Develop Concept Note training was provided to five members of Arbab Karim CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on July 9th. The training enabled the CDC to develop a concept note for a tailoring vocational training course for 20 women. The SIKA-West CPOD will provide further mentoring to the CDC to finalize their concept note and submit it to third party organizations for financial resources.



Mr. Ghulam Ali, A Tinsmith In Chaghcharan, Reads The Peace Message On July 7th.

Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, sent a peace message through the District Government Hotline to more than 200 Ulema, community elders, youth and civil society members on July 7th. “*Ramadan is the month of the Quran and forgiveness, let’s stop our conflicts and live in a peaceful environment,*” was the message sent. The District Government Hotline is part of the District Government Communications Plan which is intended to improve communications between the government and district’s residents.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- The M&E team has started updating the USAID Afghan Info database for the third quarter of 2014. The update will be completed by July 22nd.
- The USAID TraiNet database will be updated on July 24th.
- The Service Providers Catalogs (SPCs) and the April, May and June monthly reports will be uploaded into the USAID Development Experience Clearing House website on July 20th.
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West engineers and M&E personnel conducted 48 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

- Mr. Sayed Mohammad, the Bala Boluk District Governor, and the DRRD DSW, Mr. Hafizullah, visited a flood protection wall rehabilitation project in Rahim Abad on July 14th. The DG thanked the Rahim Abad CDC for implementing the project despite security concerns. The DSW inspected the quality of the work and encouraged the CDC to continue their work based on the project's specifications.
- On July 10th, the Bala Boluk District Governor sent a message through the District Government Hotline to 200 Ulema, elders and youth regarding the meeting he had with the district Ulema on June 23rd. "*Ulema pledged to support the government in bringing peace in the community, Ulema denounce violence especially during the month of Ramadan*" was the message sent.
- Main Elements of Communications training was provided to 15 Lash Wa Juwayn District government staff on July 10th. Topics included messaging, identifying audiences and effective means to deliver messages to the audiences. 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

- Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the Muqur District Executive Manager, inspected a culvert rehabilitation project in Bik Ha Village, Muqur District on July 10th. The DEM was pleased with the quality of the work and thanked the CDC for their efforts. The DEM said, "*The Government can provide more development projects if people support and cooperate with the government*".
- The Badghis Gender Working Group meeting was held on July 12th. The meeting was attended by representatives from organizations interested in gender related activities. Mrs. Zarghuna Shirzad, the DOWA Director, asked the participants to advocate for the needs of women prisoners, specifically literacy and vocational training. It was agreed that DOWA will take the lead to organize advocacy meetings with the relevant organizations for this request.

HERAT PROVINCE

- Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, organized a Hashar to clean an irrigation canal in Haroon Village on July 9th. More than 30 people attended the event and helped clean the irrigation canal which provides water for 98 acres of land.
- Following the Concept Note Development mentoring, the Pashtun Zarghun DDA finalized a concept note for a kitchen gardening project in Gim Village on July 9th. The SIKA-West CPOD will provide further support to the DDA to submit the concept note to third party organizations, using the Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC), for financial resources.
- A coordination meeting was held with the Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI), a USAID funded program, on July 13th. Both SIKA-West and CCI discussed their program objectives and work structure. Both parties agreed that CCI would attend the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings in Herat and Badghis Provinces and SIKA-West agreed to provide a list of projects that were not feasible based on SIKA-West criteria to the CCI for their consideration.



The Bala Boluk District Governor And The DRRD DSW View The Work Progress Of A Flood Protection Wall Rehabilitation Project In Rahim Abad On July 14th.



The Muqur District Executive Manager Inspected The Work Progress Of A Culvert Rehabilitation Project In Bik Ha Village, Muqur District On July 10th.



Plant Pest Control Training Was Provided To 29 Farmers And Gardeners In Qadis District On July 12th.



More Than 30 People Attended The Hashar In Pashtun Zarghun District And Cleaned Their Irrigation Canal On July 9th.

GHOR PROVINCE

- The Ghor Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting was held at the DOWA office on July 13th. Discussion was focused on addressing the low participation of women in social activities and providing opportunities for them to share their concerns with district government officials. The GWG agreed to facilitate meetings with the district and provincial government line departments and invite the members of Women's Councils to attend these meetings and advocate for their needs.
- Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Shahrak District Executive Manager, conducted a public meeting with more than 30 people including Arbabs and influential community leaders on July 9th. The meeting provided an opportunity for the people to talk directly with their district government officials and share their concerns and problems. The DEM talked about the roles of the people in bringing peace and resolving conflicts in the district and asked them to cooperate with the government to bring peace and prosperity to the district.



Mr. Taj Mohammad Zula, The Ghor DRRD Director, Held A Meeting With 22 Ghor Government Directorates To Discuss The Service Providers Catalog (SPC) Distribution Plan On July 14th.

CHALLENGES

- The road rehabilitation project in Dara Asiab Village, Shahrak District was suspended because of a tribal conflict in the area. The issue will be discussed at the next Komite Sobate Woleswali and possibly assigned to the TCRC.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: Advocacy training will be provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff on July 15th.
- Herat: Media Relations training will be provided to the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government staff on July 16th.
- Herat: The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor will lead a site visit to the Farooqi School rehabilitation project on July 20th.
- Badghis: The Muqur TCRC will work to address a marriage dispute in Tootak Village on July 16th.
- Badghis: The Muqur District Governor will hold a monthly coordination meeting with the line departments on July 21st.
- Farah: The TCRC will mediate an inheritance dispute in Dehzok Village, Farah Center
- Ghor: The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor will hold an anti-corruption meeting with the line departments on July 21st.