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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 117  
JUNE 10-30, 2014



*Laborers Working To Rehabilitate a 100-Meter Wash Culvert in Godard Gaza Village, Bala Boluk District of Farah Province.*

July 2, 2014

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:**

- The Guzara District Governor, Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, chaired the second monthly Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The DG reviewed a number of activities implemented from the previous meeting and also discussed stability trends in the district. During the meeting, the SIKA-West PST Engineer briefed participants on the feasibility surveys conducted during the month and noted that 4 projects were deemed feasible out of the 7 that were surveyed. In addition, a TCRC was established to provide oversight of all reported conflict related issues.
- A five-day Radio Package training was provided to 25 youths from Farah Center, Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts from June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Topics included fundamentals of journalism, how to prepare a news report, radio journalism, media management, elements of journalism, photo journalism and media marketing. The participants will apply these techniques to run the Farah Youth Radio effectively.
- Following concept note development training and mentoring, the Lak Lak Khana, Baghcha Abdul Hakim and Khalifa Rahmat Ulia CDCs successfully finalized their concept notes for a kitchen gardening vocational training course in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and submitted it to the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The DAIL pledged to assist these CDCs in locating third party organizations for financial resources.
- On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Pusht-e Rod Department of Population Registration received support from the SIKA-West Governance Department to produce a factsheet on the steps to be taken to apply for a National Identity Card (Tazkara). The factsheet will assist residents in easily applying for a Tazkara.

**SIKA-WEST RESULTS:****• Grants:**

- To date, 295 projects valued at \$6,673,380 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 80 projects valued at \$3,280,468.
- To date, 190 projects valued at \$2,580,560 have been completed.
- 22 projects valued at \$1,210,878 are pending with the USAID Vetting Unit for action. SIKA-West has requested USAID support to expedite these pending requests.

**• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:**

- Advocacy and Concept Note Development training was provided to Saj Farsi CDC in Pusht-e Rod District on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The SIKA-West CPOD will provide further training sessions to enable this CDC to locate financial resources for a road graveling project.
- Advanced Media Relations training was provided to communications staff from 18 Ghor Governmental Directorates on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Training topics included the importance of media relations, how to write a press release and interviewing techniques. These staff will use the local media to inform people about governmental activities and achievements in Ghor Province.
- In-line with efforts to improve communication between the government line-departments, Main Elements of Communication training was provided to 24 government staff members in Muqur District on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Plant Pests and Diseases training was provided to 40 farmers in Muqur District on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The farmers learned new methods of fighting plant pests and diseases.



**Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management Training Was Provided To Governmental And Non-Governmental Staff In Ghor.**

A five-day Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management (CBDRRM) training was provided to 17 high ranking governmental and non-governmental staff in Feroz Koh from June 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Topics included Concepts of Disaster Risk Reduction Management, Risk Assessment Methods, Hazard Analysis, Mapping, Scoring, Vulnerability Assessment, and Assessment Reporting. On the last day of the training, the participants visited Kandiwal Village, a disaster-prone area, and completed a practical exercise utilizing their newly learned disaster risk reduction management techniques to interview affected people, verify disaster indicators, map affected households and prepare volume of damages reports.

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- In line with MISTI requirements to maintain project GPS locations for each project structure (e.g. culvert), M&E worked with CDD to revise and update GPS points for 60% of the completed projects in the Master Tracker. The data was sent to MISTI to assist them with their verification. Regular updating of the project locations data for completed hard projects and on-going soft projects will be conducted before submission of the tracker to MISTI on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Monitoring & Evaluation training was provided to a total of 57 government staff and CDCs in Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Qadis and Muqur Districts.
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West engineers and M&E personnel conducted 62 project site visits.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- Mr. Sayed Mohammad, the Bala Boluk District Governor, organized a meeting with 20 district Ulema on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to encourage them to support the government in bringing peace and security to their district. Mr. Mullah Wazir, an Ulema representative, said that Ulema are ready to support the government if the government pays attention to their needs. Ulema are frequently threatened by the Taliban and warned to not support the government. The DG will share these issues with provincial authorities.
- Mr. Ghawsuddin, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, organized a coordination meeting with the district line departments on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was focused on recent flooding that destroyed farmers' crops and the importance of cooperation with the district security forces. The DG and the Agricultural Manager will share this issue with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.
- Three Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings were held in Lash Wa Juwyan, Farah Center and Pusht-e-Rod Districts on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Lash Wa Juwayn meeting was led by the District Executive Manager, Mr. Zaher Khan. One of the meeting outcomes was the establishment of a TCRC that immediately prioritized two conflicts: a murder case and a potable water use dispute. During the Farah Center Komite Sobate Wolesswali, the TCRC prioritized two conflicts: a dispute over agricultural land use and an inheritance case. The SIKA-West Stabilization Department will provide training to the TCRC to enable them to resolve the conflicts. The Pusht-e Rod meeting was led by the District Governor, Mr. Ghawsuddin. The participants prioritized several projects including culverts and protection walls. In addition, oversight of the Cheen Farsi School rehabilitation project was switched from the Cheen Farsi CDC to the Dokin Sar Kala CDC because the Cheen Farsi CDC didn't implement the project based on the project's specifications and criteria.

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the Muqur Sectorial Manager, along with the DRRD DSW, DDA and CDC members visited a culvert rehabilitation project in Qarqach Begak Village on June 24<sup>th</sup> to monitor work progress. The visitors were pleased with the work quality and asked the implementing CDC and residents to pay attention to project maintenance.
- Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, held a monthly coordination meeting with the line departments on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The DG informed the participants that he received a complaint through the District Government Hotline that the Afghan Local Police were taking food from residents by force. A team was assigned to investigate the issue and will provide further updates to the DG.
- Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, along with the DRRD DSW, DDA and CDC members visited a 3-KM road rehabilitation project in Qarchaqai Village on June 25<sup>th</sup> to monitor work progress.
- The Qadis District Governor organized a public meeting with more than 90 community elders in the Boya-Ha sub-district on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Before the meeting, the DG visited the Boya-Ha school and distributed stationery to the students. Residents shared their concerns including lack of drinking water and unemployment. The DG pledged to share these concerns with the relevant departments at the district and provincial level.



**Work Ongoing To Rehabilitate A 2.1 KM Road In Barakzai Village, Pusht-E Rod District.**



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**A Five-Day Radio Package Training Was Provided To 25 Youths From Farah Center, Bala Boluk And Pusht-E Rod Districts From June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.**



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**Mr. Abobakr Azimi, The Muqur Sectorial Manager, Along With The DRRD DSW, DDA And CDC Members Visited The Culvert Rehabilitation Project In Qarqach Begak Village On June 24<sup>th</sup>.**



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**Work Ongoing To Rehabilitate a 23-meter Aqueduct in Chaproda Ha Village, Oadis District.**

- Three Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were held in Qadis, Qala-i-Naw and Muqur on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> respectively. The meetings were facilitated by Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik (Qadis DG), Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib Deputy Provincial Governor of Badghis (facilitated the Qala-i-Naw meeting) and Mr. Hanzale Badghisi (Muqur DG). Participants were updated on feasibility plans for new projects as well as the progress of on-going projects in the districts. In Qala-i-Naw, the TCRC was established and directed by the Deputy Provincial Governor to prioritize important conflicts in Qala-i-Naw. The SIKA-West Stabilization Department will provide Conflict Resolution Skills training to the TCRC to enable them to prioritize and resolve conflicts.
- A coordination meeting was held with the Badghis DOWA Director, Mrs. Shirzad, on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Shirzad was pleased with the gender activities and asked for leadership and other capacity building training for women in Badghis. The SIKA-West Gender Unit will follow up on these requests.

## HERAT PROVINCE

- Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, organized a security meeting with 150 government officials and community elders on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting aimed to build close cooperation between the security forces and residents to avoid anti-government elements functioning in the district and create a peaceful environment for residents. At the end of the meeting, residents pledged to support the government and report security issues and concerns to the government.
- Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, the Shindand District Governor, was mentored before conducting a radio interview with Tanin Radio on June 11<sup>th</sup>. During the interview, he talked about the importance of the Market Day Event held earlier in the month on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The DG introduced the available agricultural service providers in the district and asked farmers to contact them to receive agricultural services.
- Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, held a meeting with the district government line departments on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was focused on security concerns for the presidential run-off election, notably the possibility of demonstrations from the people in support of their candidates. It was agreed that the Municipality Department be tasked with collecting and removing the candidates' posters from the bazars to avoid further tension.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Mr. Farhad Raufian, facilitated the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting reviewed major problems, reasons and solutions to instability as well as updating the participants on the progress of activities currently being implemented. A conflict regarding a road rehabilitation project awarded to the Taqcha CDC in early 2014 that could not be implemented due to internal conflict between Taqcha and neighboring villages was discussed. The DG gave the Taqcha CDC 10 days to come to an agreement with the other villages and to support the technical team to conduct site visits and bringing machinery to the site.
- Mr. Gul Ahmad, the Kohsan Village Manager, facilitated the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided and after a lengthy discussion, 3 major community problems (drought, drug addiction and sandstorms) were identified. To address these problems the participants proposed cultivation of Atriplex as a solution. At the end of the meeting, the TCRC consisting of 25 influential members of DDA, Ulema, Arbabs and Tribal Elders was established.
- A solar lighting project that includes the provision and installation of 14 solar lights in the Pashtun Zarghun District Center, which is part of security upgrades for the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor's Compound is



**Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District Governor, Organized A Security Meeting With 150 Government Officials And Community Elders On June 9<sup>th</sup>.**



**Mr. Farhad Raufian, The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Held A Meeting With The District Government Line-Departments On June 16<sup>th</sup>.**



**The Komite Sobate Woleswali in Kohsan Identified Three Major Community Problems (Drought, Drug Addiction And Sandstorms) And Proposed Cultivation Of Atriplex As A Solution.**

being planned. A purchase order will be issued to a selected vendor for \$22,425, contingent upon USAID approval and the period of performance for the project is anticipated to be 45 days.

- A surrounding wall (Herat PST) project that includes construction of a 24.7 M surrounding wall for the Herat DRRD, which is part of the Herat PST compound security upgrades, is also being planned. A purchase order will be issued to a selected vendor in the amount of \$6,016, contingent upon USAID approval and the period of performance is anticipated to be 25 days.

## GHOR PROVINCE

- Advocacy training was provided to 10 Feroz Koh DDA members and CDC Heads on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Topics included the definition of advocacy, main components of an advocacy campaign and how to conduct an effective advocacy campaign. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will provide further training to enable the DDA and CDCs to locate financial resources for their proposed projects.
- Basic Media Relations training was provided to 14 Shahrak District Government Managers on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The training aimed to boost the government staff's ability to use the local media in broadcasting the district government's activities and achievements.
- Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, marked the International Anti-Drug Day with 40 farmers on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The ADG emphasized the disadvantages of poppy cultivation and encouraged the farmers to stop poppy cultivation. Mr. Azizullah, the Agricultural Manager, pledged to provide improved seeds to the farmers. Farmers shared their concerns including lack of seeds, fertilizer and irrigation. The ADG and the Agricultural Manager will meet with the provincial authorities to address the farmers' concerns.
- Three Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were held in Feroz Koh, Du Layna and Shahrak on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> respectively. The meetings were facilitated by Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi (DPG, Feroz Koh), Mr. Ahmad Danishyar (DG, Du Layna) and Mr. Shah Pasand Pahlawi (ADG, Shahrak). During the Du Layna meeting, 12 infrastructure projects including water intake, water dam, pipe scheme network, culvert and road rehabilitation were identified to mitigate concerns associated with poverty, unemployment and the existence of anti-government groups. In Shahrak, 12 new projects including flood protection walls, culverts, pipe scheme networks, road rehabilitation and providing educational facilities were proposed to mitigate unemployment and illiteracy problems.
- Report writing training and training on how to prepare annual appraisal forms was provided to four government staff members in Ghor Province on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue mentoring the government staff in administrative matters.

## CHALLENGES

- Due to movement and security restrictions at the HQ, PST and DST offices during the reporting period, a work from home policy was implemented for project staff from 23 to 25 June. This resulted in a reduced number of field activities being implemented as most staff at PST level worked from home and expatriate staff worked remotely from Kabul.
- As a result of insecurity in some of the programming areas, all project activities were cancelled in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Shindand Districts on June 8<sup>th</sup> until further notice.



*Advocacy Training Was Provided To 10 Feroz Koh DDA Members And CDC Heads On June 18<sup>th</sup>.*



*Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, Marked The International Anti-Drug Day with 40 Farmers on June 28<sup>th</sup>*



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*Laborers Working To Rehabilitate A 2.5 KM Road And 200-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Lakhshak Village, Feroz Koh.*

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

- Herat: The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor will organize a site visit to the Siagar retaining wall project on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Herat: How to Develop Communication Plan training will be provided to the Kohsan District Government staff on July 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Herat: Conflict Resolution Skills training will be provided to the Guzara TCRC on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Badghis: The Muqur District Governor will organize a site visit to the Senjatak culvert rehabilitation project on July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis: Conflict Resolution Skills training will be provided to the Qala-i-Naw TCRC on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Farah: Communications training will be provided to the Lash Wa Juwayn District Government staff on July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: Conflict Resolution Skills training will be provided to the Lash Wa Juwayn TCRC on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Farah: Conflict Resolution Skills training will be provided to the Farah Center TCRC on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ghor: Conflict Resolution Skills training will be provided to the Du Layna TCRC on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.