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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, Organized A Hashar, A Public Voluntary Scheme, To Clean Irrigation Canals On June 4th.

June 9, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, organized a Hashar, a public voluntary scheme, to clean their irrigation canals on June 4th. More than 120 villagers and 20 government staff cleaned three canals in Rabat Sangi Ulya village which provide water for 3200 Jeribs of lands. *“District Government and residents are committed to work together and bring peace and development in their community,”* said the District Governor.
- In line with efforts to improve District Government service delivery, the SIKA-West Governance Department supported the Feroz Koh Passport Office and prepared a factsheet/guideline on criteria and steps on getting a passport. Now that the factsheet is prepared, the residents can easily apply for passports.
- During the week, as part of the Stabilization Programming Indicators’ review and project impact assessment, discussions were conducted with 12 CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun District who implemented flood protection walls, culverts, roads, and school rehabilitation projects. The CDCs were pleased with the implemented projects and mentioned that these projects build trust between the government and residents and create job opportunities. *“Now that the flood protection wall is rehabilitated, our residents feel safe,”* Mr. Nesar Ahmad, from Keshmir Abad village.
- The SIKA-West Community Development conducted a total of 17 project feasibility studies in Guzara, Qala-e-Naw and Farah Center. The projects included roads, water dam, schools, flood protection walls and small bridges rehabilitation.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 294 projects valued at \$6,652,978 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in ten target Districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 97 projects valued at \$3,442,980.
- To date, 174 projects valued at \$2,427,821 have been completed.
- 17 projects valued at \$953,878 are pending with the USAID Vetting Unit for action. SIKA-West has requested USAID support to expedite these pending requests.

• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- To improve the capacity of the Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff to inform residents about government activities and achievements through local media, training on “Media Relations” was provided to 24 government staff on June 3rd. Topics included interview techniques and how to write a press release.
- The SIKA-West Governance Department continued mentoring the District Government staff in the SIKA-West districts of operation. Mentoring included improving inventory/record keeping, organizational charts, report writing and computer skills training.
- In-line with the effort to improve coordination between the SIKA-West Gender Unit and Herat Department of Women’s Affairs (DOWA), a consolidated report and a list of all SIKA-West gender-related activities was prepared and submitted to DOWA.
- District Government Project Management and Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management trainings (Herat/Farah/Badghis/Ghor) have been planned in coordination with the IDLG SIKA Unit. RFP’s have been issued and the Grants Department will award contracts after the election.



Local Government Marked International Children’s Day In Rural School In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, marked the first International Children’s Day at the Dooqi Qanat Wakil Girls School. *“We the children of Afghanistan, want peace,”* Sohaila, a fifth-grade student at Dooqi Qanat Wakil school Girls School. More than 300 female students attended the event, listened to a speech from the District Governor, highlighting the importance of education, received paper and writing materials from the district government and created peace messages/art which were shared amongst the classmates and government officials. *“Children are the symbols of peace and unity, all parents are responsible to create a peaceful environment for them to continue their education,”* Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Governor.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Four senior staff from SIKA-West attended the MISTI Summit in Kabul on June 4th. The Summit focused on results of the MISTI surveys; GPS coordinates collected from project sites and the verification visits that were being undertaken by MISTI. The summit agreed to:
 - *Have GPS points for all the sub-projects within a project e.g. if a project has consists of 10 water dividers then 10 GPS points have to be provided.*
 - *Send a bi-weekly USAID project tracker to MISTI to enable them verify project sites.*
- The SIKA-West M&E Department provided Monitoring & Evaluation Techniques trainings to nine government staff in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and 33 government staff and CDCs members in Shindand on June 4th and 8th.
- As part of the feedback from the Community Mobilization and Stakeholders Engagement workshop for District Social Workers, it was agreed to incorporate the DSWs SIKA-West related activities into the monthly SIKA-West DSTs’ work plans and share with the respective District Governors.

FARAH PROVINCE

- The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, conducted an interview with the Farah Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) and talked about the effectiveness of the first round Communications Plan on June 3rd. The DG gave an example of the complaints he received through the Hotline number and asked the audience to share their concerns through the hotline.
- The Bala Boluk Youth Association organized a meeting with the Provincial Counter Narcotics Directorate (CND) and the Sayara Organization on June 8th. Youth gave an overview of their activities including the anti-addiction campaigns. The CND and Sayara showed interest to award some small-scale awareness raising projects to the Association and asked them to bring an official introduction letter from the District Governor. The Youth Association will organize a meeting with the District Governor to send an official letter to CND and Sayara Organization. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department will follow up this issue and provide further updates.
- One-on-one mentoring on how to facilitate the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting was provided to the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, on June 3rd. The DG successfully led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on June 4th. Discussion was focused on resolving the issue of road rehabilitation projects in Ganj Abad, Kanesk Payeen, Kanesk Bala and Kanesk Wasat villages. These projects were pending because there was disagreement on which sections of the road to rehabilitate. Following a lengthy discussion an agreement was reached and the SIKA-West Community Development Department will start feasibility studies and conduct project management trainings to the CDCs.



The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, (left side) Conducted An Interview With The Farah Radio And Television Of Afghanistan And Talked About The Effectiveness Of The First Round Communications Plan On June 3rd.



Community Elders In Qadis District In A Group Discussion Identifying Ways To Improve Security, Create Job Opportunities And Eliminate Violence Against Women, June 5th, Public Meeting With Residents.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, organized a public meeting with 100 people including government officials, Ulema, community elders, women and youth on June 5th. The meeting aimed to give an opportunity for residents to share their concerns with government officials. Discussions focused on ways to improve security, create job opportunities and eliminate violence against women. The participants were divided into groups and following lengthy discussions and exchanging ideas, proposed the following solutions: providing literacy and vocational trainings, organizing awareness raising campaigns, rehabilitating irrigation canals, schools, providing improved seeds and agricultural trainings for farmers.
- The Badghis Provincial Environment Directorate, with support of the SIKA-West Governance Department, marked the International Environment Day on June 5th. More than 300 people including high ranking provincial authorities, civil societies' representatives, Ulema and local residents attended the event. Speeches related to the environment and the roles of the people in environment preservation were delivered.
- On June 5th, as part of the Stabilization Programming Indicators' review and project impact assessment, discussions were conducted with nine CDCs in Muqur District who implemented roads rehabilitation projects. The CDCs were pleased with the implemented projects and mentioned that these projects created short-term job opportunities for the residents and discouraged youth from joining anti-government elements. In addition, they mentioned that now they can easily go to other villages as well as the district center.



The Badghis Provincial Environment Directorate, With Support Of The SIKA-West Governance Department, Marked The International Environment Day On June 5th.

- The Qadis District Governor along with the District Managers traveled to Gulchin sub-district and met with 60 Arbabs from 12 sub-districts of Qadis on June 3rd. The DG and the managers talked about government activities and achievements in Qadis District. The Arbabs appreciated the District Government for giving them opportunities to discuss their concerns. Issues including lack of potable water, insecurity and uneven development were shared. The DG will invite these representatives at the next Komite Sobate Woleswali to share their requests.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On June 5th, the Shindand District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Besmellah Khan Azem, met with influential Ulema from Kohe Zor sub-district of Shindand to listen to their concerns and encourage them to support the government in bringing peace and development in their areas. During the month, the Shindand District Governor and the DEM organized a total of five meetings with Ulema from five sub-districts of Shindand. The DG and DEM will compile all the requests and concerns and will share them with the Provincial Authorities including the Haj and Religious Affairs Department.
- Training on Advocacy, Concept Note Development and Service Providers Catalog (SPC) usage was provided to nine members of Arbab Karim CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on June 7th. The participants practiced how to do advocacy for their needs, use the SPC to find service providers in their area and develop concept note for their projects. The CDC agreed to consult with the rest of its members to prioritize their projects. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department will provide further trainings to develop a concept note and submit it to third part organizations for financial resources.
- The technical package for Herat PST surrounding wall (Construction of 24.7ML surrounding wall) was prepared with close coordination of MRRD SIKA and Herat DRRD technical team and is currently with the Grants Department for further processing. An RFP for the project has been released with the closing date of June 09, 2014.
- Basics of Communications training was provided to 27 government staff from Kohsan District on June 4th. Topics included the importance of communication in improving service delivery, elements of communications, messaging and identifying audiences. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will provide further mentoring to these staff to improve communication between the government and residents.

GHOR PROVINCE

- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, along with the DRRD Director, Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, met with 30 members of DDA and CDCs in Feroz Koh on June 3rd. The DRRD Director talked about the activities and achievements of the government in Feroz Koh and asked the participants to share their concerns. Lack of potable water and insecurity was brought up by a villager from Kasi village. The DPG will invite the representative of this village to attend the next Komite Sobate Woleswali and share this issue. At the end of the meeting, the District Government Hotline number cards were distributed to the participants. The event was broadcast by Aina and Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA).



Date: 06/03/2014 09:45:55:55 AM Lat: 33.351907 Lon: 62.335280 Alt: 3753.3 ft

The Aziz Abad CDC In Shindand Successfully Rehabilitated A 120-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Aziz Abad Village.



Training On Advocacy and Concept Note Development Was Provided To Nine Members Of Arbab Karim CDC In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District On June 7th.



Date: 06/03/2014 10:11:53:53 AM Lat: 35.035160 Lon: 62.231180 Alt: 2862.5 ft

The Khalawak Sufila CDC Successfully Rehabilitated A 90-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Jagatai Khodrawan Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.



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Laborers Rehabilitating A 1.5 KM Road And 10-Meter Wash In Sanama Ulia Village, Feroz Koh.

CHALLENGES

- As part of the risk mitigation for the second round run-off election, from June 10-15 all DST offices will be closed. And from June 11-15, the HQ office and PST offices will be closed. A work from home policy for national HQ and PST personnel will be employed. The situation will be reassessed on June 15, 2014 and further guidance will be issued.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Shindand District Governor will meet with the Haj and Religious Affairs Department to share the Ulema's concerns on June 16th.
- Badghis: Basic Communications Training will be provided to Muqur District Government staff on June 16th.
- Farah: The Gender Working Group meeting will be held on June 9th.
- Farah: The second version of Farah Service Providers Catalog (SPC) will be finalized and sent for publications on June 9th.