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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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A Five-Day MRRD CLDD led Community Mobilization And Stakeholders Engagement Workshop For District Social Workers Kicked Off On June 1st.

June 4, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- In line with efforts to improve District Government service delivery, the SIKA-West Governance Department mentored the Pashtun Zarghun District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) to prepare a comprehensive report on the impact of the recent floods in Pashtun Zarghun District. The DDMC successfully prepared and submitted the report to the Provincial DMC who responded by distributing food and emergency material items to the affected families.
- On May 31st, more than 85 people from Jahandosti, Zargar, Mazid, Jalakan and Niazi villages in Muqur District organized a Hashar, a public voluntary scheme, and cleaned their irrigation canal which provides water for 415 Jeribs of land. *“This shows people of Muqur District are united and care for the development of their community,”* Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the District Executive Manager.
- The Guzara District Governor, Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department, successfully organized the first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 27th. Using the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), participants identified poverty, unemployment, insecurity, drug-addiction and illiteracy as their major community problems and proposed flood protection walls, roads and schools’ rehabilitation projects as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will conduct feasibility studies next week.
- Engineering & technical training was provided by Herat DRRD personnel to CDC supervisors/project foremen from four CDCs in Shindand on May 27th. Topics included project planning, site mobilization and construction material quality; subjects which will assist the CDCs to properly implement their recently awarded grant projects.

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 101 projects valued at \$3,579,068.
- To date, 172 projects valued at \$2,413,412 have been completed.
- 15 projects valued at \$858,878 are pending with the USAID Vetting Unit for action. 7 projects valued at \$424,450 have been pending with the Vetting Unit for over 2 months. SIKA-West has requested USAID support to expedite these pending requests.

• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- The Shindand District Government Census Officer, Mr. Gul Aqa, the District Government Education Deputy Manager, Mr. Nazar Mohammad Sultani and the Pusht-e Rod District Government Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Ahmad Shah were mentored on how to prepare Organizational Charts on May 27th. The SIKA-West Governance Department will provide further mentoring to improve organizational planning within these departments.
- On May 28th, Concept Note Development training was provided to 24 members of eight CDCs from Khak-e-Safayd District. These CDCs identified illiteracy as a major problem in their communities and proposed literacy courses as solutions. Following the training, the CDCs developed a concept note and submitted it to the Education Department. The same training was provided to the Ganj Abad CDC in Bala Boluk to develop a concept note for a community center refurbishment project.
- Two past graduates of a tailoring vocational training course in Cheshma Dozak Ulya Village (Muqur District) are providing tailoring services from their homes. Currently these graduates are earning on average 6000 AFN per month. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue support to vocational program graduates to start their own business and/or secure employment.



Farmers Exchange Contacts With One Of The Agricultural Service Providers (Saffron Producing Company) At The Market Day Event In Shindand On June 1st.

For the first time the Shindand District Agriculture Manager (DAM), Mr. Abdul Ghafoor, initiated and launched a “Market Day” event to link district farmers with agricultural service providers. On June 1st more than 100 farmers attended a “Market Day” event and established contacts with eight national and international organizations/companies. These organizations/companies included, Tarhe Naw Food Processing Company, Babyee Zaferan (Saffron) Company, Improved Agricultural Seed Company, among others. The Holland Veterinarian Committee pledged to provide veterinary trainings and toolkits to district farmers and the Babyee Zaferan Company expressed interest in providing saffron cultivation trainings to farmers and buying their harvests.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- A revised Performance Management Plan, which includes a Theory of Change section and new outcome indicators, was submitted to USAID on May 31st, for review and approval.
- The five-day MRRD CLDD led Community Mobilization and Stakeholders Engagement workshop kicked off on June 1st. At the end of the training the Community Led Development Department (CLDD) staff including District Social Workers and Social Development Managers will learn effective mobilization, monitoring and evaluation techniques and how to strengthen partnerships between CLDD and SIKA-West.
- SIKA-West Engineers and M&E personnel conducted 47 project site visits.

FARAH PROVINCE

- The Farah DRRD Director, Mr. Abdul Raouf, established the Farah Public Service Introduction Committee on May 29th. The main responsibilities of the committee are to update and revise the Farah Service Providers Catalog (SPC) and to organize the Farah Service Providers Fair scheduled for the last week of June. The committee members reviewed the second edition of the SPC and provided feedback. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will incorporate these comments into the revised SPC.
- The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor, Mr. Samad Yaar, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department, led the first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 28th. Applying the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), participants identified their major problems, unemployment, illiteracy and poverty, and proposed solutions, culvert, flood protection walls, water dam and schools rehabilitation projects. *“The Stability Program is a great opportunity for Lash Wa Juwayn residents to address their major problems and bring peace and stability,”* Mr. Samad Yar
- Coordination meetings were held with the Farah DRRD Director, Mr. Abdul Raouf, and Farah DOWA Director, Mrs. Sediqi on May 29th and 31st. An overview of SIKA-West & DOWA gender-related activities, achievements and the plans for the new districts were shared and discussed. The DRRD Director commended the female district Conflict Resolution Committees (CRCs) and asked for the establishment of CRCs in the new districts as well.
- On May 27th, Mr. Noorullah, the Bala Baluk District Education Department, Administrative Officer, was mentored on how to improve the departments filing and record keeping system. *“Now I am able to easily and fast track the documents, while before it took hours, thanks the Stability Program for the training and support,”* Mr. Noorullah.
- The Farah DRRD led a four-day Project Management Training for the Saj Farsi CDC in Pusht-e Rod District on May 31st. The training covered a review of the grant agreements, roles and responsibilities of CDC leadership, project milestone requirements, technical approaches and procurement processes. Following the training, the CDC received the first milestone payment to start their road and culvert rehabilitation project.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, along with the high ranking government officials met with 80 community elders in Qarchaqai sub-district of Qadis on May 28th. *“We can’t secure peace and development in the community, unless there is coordination and cooperation between the people and government,”* said Mr. Naqibullah, an Ulema representative. Using the opportunity, participants shared their concerns including lack of potable water and flood protection walls in their community. The SIKA-West CPOD will invite the representatives of this sub-district to attend the next Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting and advocate for their needs.
- The Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib, with support of the Stabilization Programming Department (SPD), led the first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 27th. Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to enable the participants to identify their major problems and propose solutions. The Komite Sobate Wolesswali members identified seasonal floods, poverty, unemployment, lack of government basic services, illiteracy and insecurity as their major problems and



Mr. Qari Mohammad Anwar, An Ulema Representative, Talked About The Importance Of Stability And Peace According To Islam At The First Komite Sobate Wolesswali Lash Wa Juwayn Meeting On May 28th.



On May 27th, Mr. Noorullah, The Admin Officer Of Education Department In Bala Boluk District Governor, Was Mentored On Improved Filing System.



Laborers Rehabilitating A 3-KM Road, One Culvert And Two Washes In Achakzay Ha Village, Qadis.



Farmers From Jahandosti, Zargar, Mazid, Jalakan And Niazi Villages In Muqur District Organized A Hashar To Clean Their Irrigation Canal.

proposed flood protection walls, culverts, roads and irrigation canals rehabilitation projects as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will start feasibility studies next week.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On May 28th, the Shindand District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Besmellah Khan Azem, met with influential Ulema from Zerkoh sub-district of Shindand to listen to their concerns and encourage them to support the government in bringing peace and development in their areas. *"This is the first time we are invited to meet with the government and share our concerns,"* Mullah Mohammad Gull, Ulema Member. The participants asked the DEM to rehabilitate and provide furniture for their mosques. The DEM will share these issues with the District Governor and the Haj and Religious Affairs Department.
- The Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Mohammad Zarif Shah, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department, successfully led the first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 28th. The participants used the SAM and identified poor government service delivery, inadequate irrigation system and illiteracy as their major problems. Following a lengthy discussion, they proposed roads, culverts, flood protection walls, pipe scheme and schools rehabilitation projects as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will conduct feasibility studies next week.

GHOR PROVINCE

- Following the Concept Note Development training and mentoring, the Sufak CDC in Feroz Koh finalized and submitted a concept note for a 150-KM road rehabilitation project to the Afghanistan, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) and Action Against Hunger (AAH) for financial resources. Afghanistan showed interest and will start feasibility studies soon. The other organizations will share the concept note with their main offices. These activities by the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department reflect efforts to collaborate with national and international organizations to expand the availability of resources to district residents.
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, organized a two-week anti-corruption football tournament in Feroz Koh on May 29th. Anti-corruption messages were printed on the players' uniforms and posters and brochures were distributed to the spectators. During the upcoming two weeks, 14 teams will compete for the trophy provided by the Ghor Provincial Government.
- Mr. Shah Pasand Pahlawi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, organized a football competition between two teams on May 30th. The competition aimed to encourage youth to play sport and build a sense of unity among them. Peace and unity messages were printed on the players' uniforms and flyers were distributed. At the end of the competition, sports materials were distributed to the players to appreciate them for attending the competition and encourage them to continue playing sport.
- The Du Layna District Governor, Mr. Ahmad Hossain Daneshyar, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department organized the first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 29th. Applying the SAM, the participants identified their major problems (existence of Anti-Government Elements, unemployment, tribal conflicts, illiteracy and lack of education) and



Following The Mentoring, The Shindand District Census Officer, Mr. Gul Aqa Prepared The Office Organizational Chart On May 27th.



Laborers Rehabilitating A 180-Meter Canal Lining In Torghundi Sharqi Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.



Works Ongoing To Rehabilitate A 30-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Kushk Haibat Village, Pashtun Zarghun District.



The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, Organized A Two-Week Anti-Corruption Football Tournament On May 29th.

proposed solutions (flood protection walls, pipe scheme, culverts, roads and irrigation canal rehabilitation projects).

- The first Komite Sobate Wolesswali Du Layna meeting for women was held on May 29th. The women analyzed their major problems including unemployment and poverty, illiteracy, lack of communication between government and residents and poor transportation network. Following discussion on the major problems they proposed culvert rehabilitation, wells' digging and public meetings with government as solutions. The SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department will share these issues at the next Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting for men.
- On May 27th, Internal Communications training was provided to 16 governmental staff in Shahrak District. The training aimed to build the capacity of staff to better communicate with each other and improve service delivery to the residents. Topics included the importance of internal communications, barrier to internal communications, components and tips to improve communication.
- During the week, on-the-job training on basic computer skills and internet use was provided to Mr. Mohammad Sarwar, the Shahrak District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Tajmir Khan, the Literacy Manager and Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Executive Manager. The SIKA-West Governance Department will provide further training to enable the staff to communicate with the District and Provincial Authorities through online resources.

CHALLENGES

- The road rehabilitation project in Dara Asiab village in Feroz Koh was suspended due to a tribal conflict in the area. The GIRoA led Feroz Koh Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) planned a mediation session for June 5th to resolve this issue

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: Advanced communication training will be provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District staff on June 3rd.
- Herat: Media Relation training will be provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District staff on June 3rd.
- Herat: Main Elements of Communications training will be provided to the Kohsan District Government staff on June 4th.
- Herat: The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor will organize a Hashar to clean a Kariz in Robot Sangi Ulya village on June 4th.
- Ghor: the TCRC will organize a mediation session between the tribal conflicts in Dara Asiab village in Feroz Koh on June 5th.
- Ghor: Football tournament will be continued in Feroz Koh.
- Badghis: Qadis District Governor will organize a public meeting with Arbabs on June 3rd.
- Badghis: Concept Note Development training will be provided to Miranzai CDC in Muqur District on June 9th.
- Farah: the Bala Boluk District Governor will interview of with Radio and Television of Afghanistan and talk about the effects of the first round of the communications plan on June 3rd.
- Farah: Five-day Radio training will be provided to the Journalists from Khak-e-Safayd, Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts on June 4th.



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Laborers Rehabilitating A 4.5 KM Road, One Culvert And 50-Meter Gabion Wall In Pala Wa Borjak Village, Feroz Koh.



Mr. Shah Pasand Pahlawi, The Shahrak Acting District Governor, Organized A Football Competition Between Two Teams On May 30th To Encourage The Youth To Play Sport And Build A Sense Of Unity Among Them.