



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 114  
MAY 20-26, 2014



Date: [25-May-2014 11:25:18 AM]

*The Rawandan CDC Successfully Rehabilitated The Ghahistan High School In Pashtun Zarghun District.*

May 28, 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:**

- In response to a request from the Martyrs and Disabled Department within the Department of Labor & Social Affairs (DOLSA), factsheets were prepared to inform victims of conflict on what steps they needed to take to receive their pensions. With the support of the SIKA-West Governance Department and in collaboration with the Farah DOLSA, these factsheets were prepared and distributed to Bala Boluk residents.
- Engineering & technical training was provided by Badghis DRRD personnel to CDC supervisors/ project foremen from four CDCs in Feroz Koh on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Topics included project planning, site mobilization and construction material quality, subjects which will assist these CDCs to properly implement their recently awarded grant funded projects.
- The Introductory Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings for Kohsan and Guzara Districts were held with participation of the Guzara District Governor, Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, the Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Mohammad Zarif Shah, District Government personnel, DDA members and influential district residents on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to enable the participants to identify community major problems and propose solutions. The first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for Guzara and Kohsan were scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Shindand District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Besmellah Khan, met with the Ulema to listen to their concerns on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Ulema complained that they are marginalized by the district government and asked for more assistance, requesting refurbishment of mosques, provision of furniture and allocation of a monthly salary. Mr. Khan will share these concerns with the Haj & Religious Affairs Department and Provincial Council of Ulema.



**Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, The Qadis District Governor, In-Line With His Communications Plan Of Improving Engagement With The Community, Met With Youth And Sportsmen On May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, in-line with his communications plan of improving engagement with the community, met with youth and sportsmen on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The DG delivered speeches on the importance of sport to youths and asked them to encourage other youths to participate in sporting activities. Youths shared illiteracy, lack of job opportunity and lack of awareness on the harms of drug addiction as their main concerns. The DG along with the youth's representative will meet with the Provincial Sport Department to share these concerns.

**SIKA-WEST RESULTS:****• Grants:**

- To date, 292 projects valued at \$6,564,507 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in ten target Districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 115 projects valued at \$3,843,043.
- To date, 158 projects valued at \$2,151,256 have been completed.
- Eight projects valued at \$463,878 have been pending with the USAID Vetting Unit since mid-March. SIKA-West has been waiting two months for some vetting requests to be acted on.

**• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:**

- Main Elements of Communication training was provided to 13 Qadis District government staff on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Topics included the definition of communication, messaging, selecting audiences, bridging and spinning. These staff will receive further trainings to improve their capacity to support the District Governor to implement his communications plan's activities.
- Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 12 members of Muqur female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Training topics included mediation method, negotiations skills and conflict resolution techniques. The CRC members will prioritize existing familial disputes and mediate between the conflicting parties.
- The SIKA-West Governance Department mentored the Education and Agriculture Department staff on Annual Performance Appraisal (APA). The SIKA-West Governance Department will provide further training to these staff to fill their APA and submit to the District Governor for his review.
- On-the-job training on basic computer skills was provided to the Muqur District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Ghulam Nabi, to improve his computer skills to computerize the district government official forms.

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- As part of joint capacity building activities with MRRD/IDLG, SIKA-West will be conducting a 5-day Community Mobilization and Stakeholders Engagement workshop from June 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The participants will be the Community Lead Development Department (CLDD) staff including the District Social Workers and the Social Development Managers. The workshop will cover: coordination between district entities and Provincial Authorities, delivering stability message and definition of involve parties.
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E personnel conducted 44 project site visits.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, organized the monthly coordination meeting with government line-departments on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The DG informed the line-departments that the security situation is now normal in the district and asked them to resume their duties. The participants highlighted roles of Ulema in bringing security in the district. The DG will conduct a public meeting with Ulema and encourage them to support the government in bringing peace and stability in the community.
- The Introductory Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for Farah Center was held with participation of the Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Younis Rasoli, line-departments, DDA and influential community elders on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Following the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training, the participants identified poverty, unemployment, lack of government basic services, illiteracy, corruption and drug-addiction as their major problems and proposed 13 solutions that included roads, flood protection walls and school rehabilitation as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will conduct feasibility studies for the proposed projects.



*The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, Organized The Monthly Coordination Meeting With Government Line-Departments On May 26<sup>th</sup>.*

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Muqur District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abobakr Azimi, and the DRRD DSWs, Mr. Besmellah and Mr. Mohammad Shah, along with the DDA members visited the recently completed road rehabilitation project in Abobakr Muhajer village. The DEM was pleased with the quality of the project and asked the residents to pay attention to its maintenance. In addition, the residents asked the government to provide them with potable water. The DEM will invite representatives from this village to share their concerns at the next Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting.
- The Muqur DEM organized the monthly coordination meeting with the line-departments on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The DEM asked each department to attend the Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings and listen to residents' concerns. The DEM informed the participants about the residents' complain about a Turkish company implementing the Ring Road Project, claiming their drivers drive fast and recklessly in the Bazar. The Head of the Company will be invited for a meeting with the District Governor to address the issue.
- The pre-Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting was held with the Muqur DEM, DSWs and DDA members to review the agenda and talking points on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, organized the actual meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> with participation of 48 people. In response to the recent floods in Muqur, the participants proposed five new solutions including flood protection walls, roads and culverts rehabilitation.
- Two of the graduates of the carpentry vocational training course in Jawaliq Sofla village in Qadis District established a private carpentry shop. Currently these graduates have an average of 2500 Afs monthly income. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue support to vocational program graduates to start their own business and/or secure employment.
- On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to 23 DDA members (10 women, 13 men) in Qala-i-Naw to enable them identify community major problems and propose solutions. The DDA members will share the community major problems and solutions at the first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>.



*On May 20<sup>th</sup>, The Muqur District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abobakr Azimi, And The DRRD DSWs, Mr. Besmellah And Mr. Mohammad Shah, Along With The DDA Members Visited The Recently Completed Road Rehabilitation Project In Abobakr Muhajer Village.*



Date: 03/16/2014 11:07:18:18 AM Lat: 34.969200 Lon: 63.190240 Alt: 924.0 m

*Laborers Working To Rehabilitate A 300-Meter Road In Kandi Hai Kharestan Village In Muqur District.*

## HERAT PROVINCE

- On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the SIKA-West Chief of Party (COP) met with the Shindand District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor. The DG on behalf of the district residents appreciated the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program and requested for more support, specially focusing on women empowerment. To recognize the efforts of the District Governor in coordinating activities and cooperation with the SIKA-West, an appreciation letter was given to him.
- In response to the increase in poppy cultivation in Shindand District, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, the District Governor, organized separate meetings with the Counter Narcotics Department (CND) and Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (DAIL) on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The DG requested the CND and DAIL to provide loans to the farmers to stop poppy cultivation; conduct awareness raising campaigns and introduce alternative crops. The CND and DAIL introduced the Sayara organization which conducts awareness raising campaigns and the USAID Agriculture Credit Enhancement/Agriculture Development Fund program that provides loans to farmers. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will facilitate organizing meetings with these organizations.
- Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, organized a School Cleaning Campaign on May 26<sup>th</sup>. More than 100 students cleaned their school at the district center. Using the opportunity, students shared their concerns including lack of educational equipment like books, stationary, desks and chairs. The DG will share these concerns with the Education Department at the District and Provincial level.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. An update of the status of the implementation of the projects was given to the participants. The DG informed the participants that they cannot propose new projects because feasibility studies are ongoing for the previous proposed projects. The CDCs were advised to be more cautious and inform the Security Department if they see any movement from Anti-Government Elements. A women's representative delivered speeches about the roles of the women in the community and requested provision of planning, budgeting and marketing trainings for women handicrafts producers. The SIKA-West Governance Department will follow up on these requests.
- The Herat Provincial Gender Working Group meeting was held at DOWA office on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The GWG members were informed that DOWA will facilitate and lead the next GWG meetings. In response to the DOWA Director request for Gender Mainstreaming and Anti-Harassment trainings, SIKA-West will provide the mentioned trainings to both DOWA staff and GWG members.

## GHOR PROVINCE

- Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, organized a monthly coordination meeting with high ranking government authorities including the Provincial Governor, H.E Sayed Anwar Rahmati, the DRRD, DOWA, and DAIL Directors on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The participants highlighted the effectiveness of the first round of communications plan in reducing gaps between the government and residents. The Provincial Governor appreciated the initiative of the DPG in collecting aid for the recent landslide victims in Badakshan Province.
- The Shahrak Acting District Governor, Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, organized the monthly coordination with the line-departments on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussions focused on ways to improve security in the district. An Agreement



*The SIKA-West COP Recognize The Efforts Of The Shindand District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, In Coordinating Activities And Cooperation With The SIKA-West, Gave An Appreciation Letter To Him.*



*Mr. Abdul Baqi, A Victim Of War, Applying For A Pension At The Bala Boluk Martyrs And Disabled Sub-Department Of Dolsa.*



Date: 05/26/2014 01:54:47:47 PM Lat: 34.932430 Lon: 62.081953 Alt: 3251.3 ft

*Laborers Working To Rehabilitate 1.5-KM Road In Khaja Sabz Posh Village In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.*

was made to meet with the community elders to encourage them to support the security forces. A follow-up meeting was held with 30 community elders on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The community elders pledged to support the government in ensuring security in the community. In addition, the DG will meet with the Provincial Governor to send more security forces to the district.

- On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, along with the DDA members reviewed and finalized the agenda and talking points for the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting. The DPG organized the actual Komite Sobate Woleswali Feroz Koh meeting with participation of 51 people on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The participants discussed on the previous identified major problems, poverty and unemployment, and proposed flood protection walls and pipe scheme rehabilitation projects as solutions.
- The Ghor Gender Working Group meeting was held at Department of Labors and Social Affairs (DoLSA) on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The GWG members were happy with the female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) activities and achievements and agreed to establish a female CRC or a Women Council in Shahrak District. The SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will follow up on this issue.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Due to movement restrictions, project site visits were suspended in Bala Boluk and Khak-e-Safayd Districts.

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

- Herat: Shindand District will host a Market Day on the May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Herat: An introductory KSW meeting will be held in Guzara on May 27<sup>st</sup>.
- Ghor: The Feroz Koh DG will participate in Friday prayers to raise public awareness about government activities on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor: As part of Governance activities, a football tournament and anti-corruption awareness activities will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis: The Qadis DG will meet with Arbabs from insecure areas on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Badghis: An Introductory KSW meeting will held in Qala-i-Nawa on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: A Concept Note Training to Khak-e-Safayd CDCs will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>.