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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Shindand Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) Members Received Conflict Resolution Skills Training on May 11th.

May 13, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- The Farah DRRD co-facilitated a four-day Project Management training for 24 members of six CDCs from Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts from May 10th-13th. Following the training, the Ajoor, Godar Gazak, Mian Joy, Chahar Deh Joy Kaj, Saj Farsi and Barakzai CDCs will receive the first milestone payments to start their projects.
- As part of the rollout to new districts, a coordination meeting was held with Mr. Mohammad Hossain Daneshyar, Du Layna District Governor, in Ghor Province on May 6th. An overview of the SIKA-West components and objectives was presented. The DG pledged to support the program in his district. The first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting is scheduled for May 27th.
- The Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC) Committee distributed 81 copies of the SPC to 18 governmental organizations in Herat Province and a total of 352 copies of the SPC to district entities in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun and Shindand Districts. These entities will use the SPC to provide information to residents about the available services listed in the SPC.
- Following mentoring on preparing organizational charts, the Pusht-e Rod Education Department prepared and updated the office organizational chart on May 5th. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue mentoring government line-departments on updating their organizational charts.

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 128 projects valued at \$4,017,536.
 - To date, 146 projects valued at \$2,016,192 have been completed.
 - Seven projects valued at \$424,500 have been pending with the USAID Vetting Unit since mid-March.
- **Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:**
 - Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 8 members of the Shindand female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) on May 11th. The CRC will prioritize existing familial disputes and mediate between the conflicting parties. *“It’s good to see women are able to address the familial conflicts in their villages. It’s the responsibilities of both men and women to bring peace and stability in their community,”* Abdul Hameed Noor, District Governor.
 - Concept Note Development training was provided to 5 Miranzai CDC members in Muqur District on May 8th. The CDC will develop a concept note for a pipe scheme project and submit it to third party organizations for financial resources.
 - In response to a request from the Education Department, Gender Mainstreaming training was provided to 23 Sultan Razia girls’ school teachers (10 men, 13 women) in Chaghcharan on May 6th. Topics included the definition of gender mainstreaming, the role of gender and gender equality.



Mr. Eddie Bloom, SIKA-West COR (Left), Presenting Certificates of Appreciation to SIKA-West Security Staff on May 12th.

Mr. Eddie Bloom, SIKA-West COR, met with the Herat staff on May 12th. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the SIKA-West staff during the base period and asked them to continue their efforts in the future. In an open discussion, the staff shared their concerns including the difficulties for female staff to travel by road. Mr. Bloom will follow up on this problem and find an alternative solution.

Mr. Bloom also presented Certificates of Appreciation from Mr. Eugene Young, Consul and U.S. Senior Civilian Representative, Herat, to SIKA-West Security staff for providing accurate and timely information during the recent Presidential Election.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- The Data Quality Assessment for the PMP Indicators was completed. This was in preparation for the revision of the PMP that will be conducted with the assistance of an STTA from the Home Office by the end of May 2014. The revised PMP will be submitted to USAID in the first week of June.
- In line with the recently approved work plan, M&E and the Database Team finalized a Work Plan Tracker that will track all departmental activities listed in the Plan. Information from the tracker will be reviewed at the end of each month to highlight progress on activities and any deviations from the plan.
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E personnel conducted 59 project site visits.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On May 6th, Mr. Abdul Raouf, Farah DRRD Director, led the second round of the Service Providers Catalog (SPC) distribution event. The CDCs were briefed on the importance and use of the SPC. 215 copies of the SPC were distributed to 44 CDCs from Hakim Abad, Nasir Abad, Qala Arbab, Kahdanak, Khurmaleq and other surrounding villages.
- In response to the request to build a market place for women in Farah Province, the Gender Working Group organized a meeting with representatives of Women's Unions on May 7th. A list of women handicrafts producers will be prepared and submitted to the Provincial Governor. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce pledged to provide marketing training to these women.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, Qadis District Governor, along with representatives of high ranking governmental officials, initiated a joint-visit to Langar-e Sharif Qadis sub-district on May 12th to inform the residents about government activities and listen to their concerns. The Education Department informed the people that a school will be constructed soon. Mr. Mohammad, a resident, requested the rehabilitation of the Shah Qiyasuddin Pilgrimage. The DG and 10 influential people from this sub-district will meet with the Provincial Governor to share this request.
- Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, Qadis District Governor, along with Mr. Abdul Rahman Khan, District Social Worker, visited the work progress of a culvert rehabilitation project in Jahan Dad Village on May 11th.
- Separate coordination meetings were held with the Badghis DRRD Director, Sayed Rasul Akbari, and the Deputy Provincial Governor, Qamaruddin Shakeb, on May 11th. The SIKA-West District Governance Training Plan was shared. The plan will also be shared with the Badghis Provincial Capacity Building Committee to obtain their support of the implementation process.
- Training on preparing an organizational chart was provided to three government staff members (the Executive Manager, the Admin & Finance Manager and the Agricultural Manager) in Qadis and Muqur Districts on May 6th and 7th. Further support and mentoring will be provided to these staff to help in updating their organizational charts.

HERAT PROVINCE

- Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, Shindand District Governor, organized a public meeting with 50 Arbabs and 10 district government officials on May 11th. The meeting aimed to provide a platform for residents to share their concerns with the local government. Mr. Mohammad Basir, an Arbab from Char Qala village, complained that children can't go to school because of insecurity in their village. The DG pledged to coordinate with both provincial and district security officials to address this concern. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will follow up on this issue and provide further updates.
- Following the Concept Note Development training on May 6th, the Lak Lak Khana CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District developed a concept note for a four-month kitchen gardening project. The CDC will submit the concept note to third party organizations for financial resources.



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Mr. Abdul Raouf, Farah DRRD Director, Highlights the Importance and Use of the SPC At the Distribution Event on May 6th.



Mr. Obaidullah, Pusht-e Rod Education Manager, Updated the Education Department Organizational Chart on May 5th.



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Laborers Rehabilitating a 4-KM Road and a Culvert in Jan Dosti Village, Muqur District.



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The Kushk Sirwan CDC Successfully Rehabilitated a 1-KM Road and Eight Culverts in Pashtun Zarghun District.

- A pre-Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting and training was held with Mr. Rashid Wahidi, Pashtun Zarghun District Executive Manager (EM), on May 11th. The EM was mentored on the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM). By the end of the training, the agenda and talking points of the Komite Sobate Wolesswali which is scheduled for May 14th were finalized.
- Training on preparing an organizational chart was provided to six governmental staff members in Shindand District on May 5th and 7th. Further support and mentoring will be provided to these staff members to assist in updating their organizational charts.
- As a result of support from the SIKA-West Governance Department, the Shindand District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Besmellah Azimi, computerized the district government's staff payroll sheets. The new automated process will drastically reduce the time required to prepare the department's payroll.

GHOR PROVINCE

- Following the second round of Concept Note Development training on May 6th, the Sufak CDC in Chaghcharan District developed a concept note for a 15-KM road rehabilitation project. The CDC will share the concept note with the Provincial Governor's Office and the DDA for review and approval. Once approved, the CDC will submit the concept note to third party organizations for financial resources.
- Following the Stabilization Practices training, Mr. Hafizullah, Shahrak Acting District Governor (ADG), successfully organized the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 10th, after an almost eight month delay due to security concerns and severe cold weather. The ADG requested that the participants propose sustainable public welfare projects. The participants reviewed a previously identified major problem, unemployment, and proposed road and culvert rehabilitation as the solutions. In addition, the participants elected a new head for the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC). The previous TCRC Head resigned after receiving a threat from the Taliban.
- Training on preparing an organizational chart was provided to the Shahrak District Government Executive Manager on May 7th. By the end of the training, the EM updated the organizational chart.
- On May 5th and 6th, a team from HQ along with the Ghor PST staff, met with the Ghor Provincial Governor, the Deputy Provincial Governor and the DRRD Director. An overview of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program's activities and achievements in Chaghcharan and Shahrak were presented. The participants highlighted the effectiveness of the program, especially the TCRC, the Komite Sobate Wolesswali and the district government communications activities.



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Feasibility Study Conducted in Sarhab Wa Ali Bahram Village for a 150-Meter Retaining Wall, Pashtun Zarghun.



Laborers Rehabilitating a 750-Meter Road and Two Culverts in Shahrak Mohajerin Village in Chaghcharan.



Gender Mainstreaming Training was Provided to 23 Sultan Razia Girls' School Teachers (10 Men, 13 Women) in Chaghcharan On May 6th.

CHALLENGES

- The Chaghcharan Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) canceled their trip to Allahyar Village. The TCRC planned to organize a mediation session, but the conflicting parties did not agree to attend the session because of a recent dispute between the two parties.
- Operations are suspended in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts due to recent violence. The ANSF have launched an operation in these two districts to clear the area of the Taliban. The situation will be reassessed on May 17th.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Pashtun Zarghun Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on May 14th.
- Herat: The Shindand Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on May 19th.
- Herat: as part of the rollout to Guzara and Kohsan Districts, a meeting will be held with the Herat Deputy Governor and the respective District Governors on May 13th.
- Ghor: Education messages will be broadcasted by Ghor radio and television stations on May 15th.
- Ghor: Gender Mainstreaming training will be provided to teachers of Kandiwal School in Chaghcharan.
- Badghis: The Qadis Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on May 18th.
- Farah: As part of the rollout, a coordination meeting will be held with the Farah Provincial Governor, the DRRD Director and the Lash Wa Jawayn District Governor on May 17th.
- Farah: The Bala Boluk District Governor will conduct a televised round table on May 18th to discuss the effectiveness of the District Government Communications Plan.