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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
JULY 2014



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The Torghundi Sharqi CDC Completed 70% Of A 180 Meter Canal Lining Rehabilitation Project In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.

August 2014

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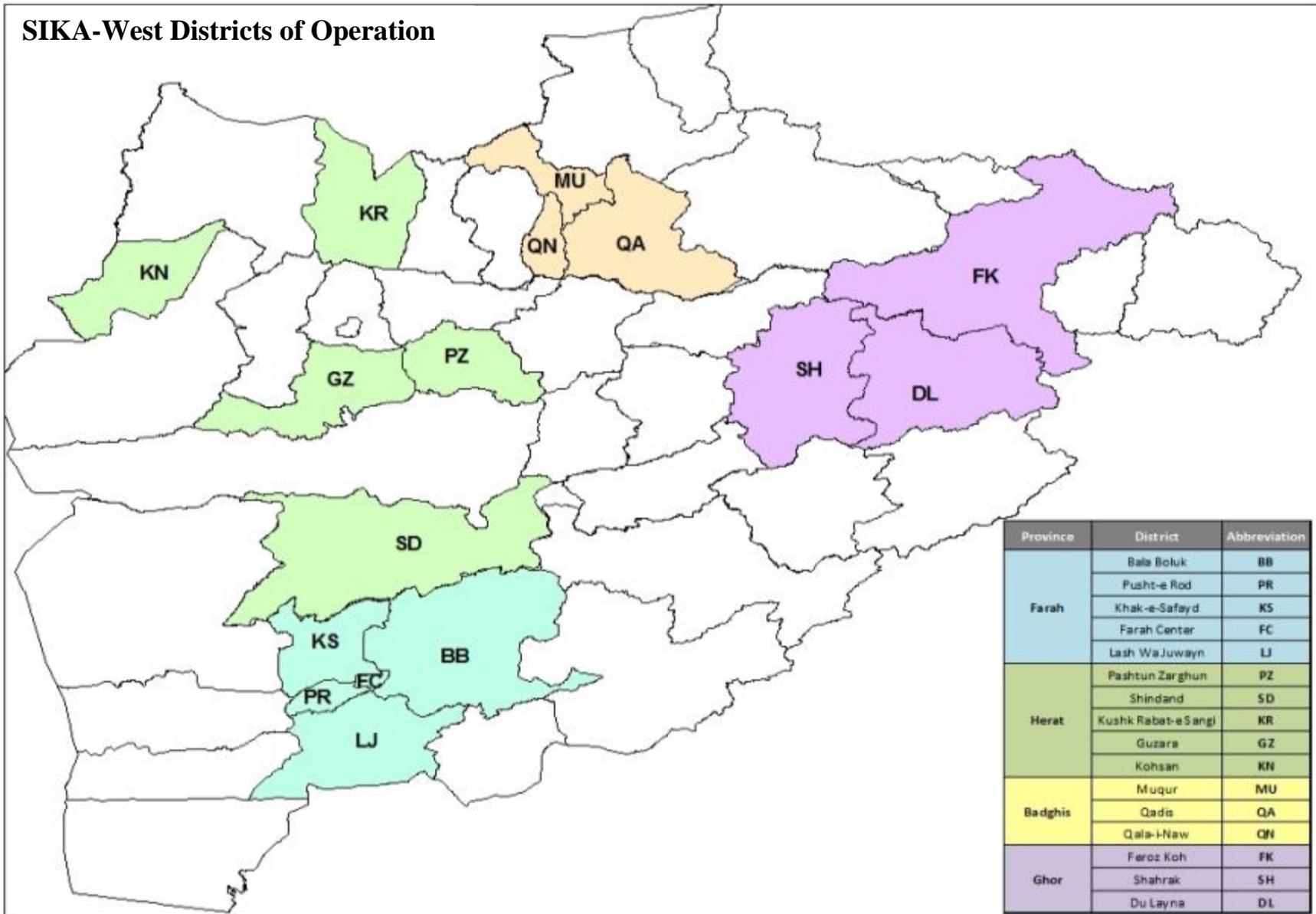
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ACRONYMS

AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CCI	Community Cohesion Initiative
CDC	Community Development Councils
COP	Chief of Party
CPOD	Communications & Public Outreach Department
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Portfolio
DE	District Entities
DG	District Governor
DoLSA	Department of Labor and Social Affairs
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DRRD	Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DSM	District Stability Matrix
DST	District Support Team
DSW	District Social Worker
GPS	Global Positioning System
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
ICMA	International City/Country Management Association
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IR	Intermediate Result
KSW	Komite Sobate Woleswali
MISTI	Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Intervention
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
OSC	Overseas Strategic Consulting
PST	Provincial Support Team
SAM	Stability Analysis Mechanism
SIKA	Stability in Key Areas
SPC	Service Providers Catalog
TCRC	Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee
CRC	Conflict Resolution Committee
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

SIKA-West Districts of Operation



INTRODUCTION

Program Profile: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) –West program on January 29, 2012 with an end of August 31st, 2015. SIKA-West is designed to promote stability in key areas by assisting provincial authorities and district-level government entities in improving government performance in the area of stabilization programming and providing priority basic services to increase citizen confidence in and support for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). During the 26 month base period of the program, SIKA-West employed a phased provincial roll out into 10 districts in the four provinces of Farah, Badghis, Herat, and Ghor. In the project’s 18 month extension period, follow up work will continue in our current 10 target districts with the addition of 6 new districts. This program is led through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), in collaboration with Overseas Strategic Consulting Ltd (OSC) and International City/Country Management Association (ICMA).

Area of Operation: SIKA-West is active in the following provinces and districts:

- Farah Province: Farah Center, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e-Safayd, and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts
- Herat Province: Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Guzara, and Kohsan Districts
- Badghis Province: Qadis, Muqur, and Qala-i-Naw Districts
- Ghor Province: Chaghcharan, Shahrak, and Du Layna Districts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program activities undertaken across all program departments during the month of July 2014. The report provides a programmatic overview and breakdown of activities by geographic region, program focus, and outcome, detailing successes, challenges, and lessons learned. The report also highlights the leading role of the MRRD and IDLG partners with respect to both district and provincial programming.

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Due to the month of Ramadan, the Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were postponed until August.

Training on how to write a “Stabilization Snapshot” was provided to the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, on July 13th. The SIKA-West Stabilization Department will mentor and assist the District Governments to record “Stabilization Snapshots” where local government support has been provided to individual communities to address their major concerns. These stories will be shared with IDLG/MRRD to highlight the District Government responsiveness in addressing communities’ “major problems.” The same trainings were provided to the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, Mr. Ghawsuddin, the Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Ahmad Shah, and the District Census Manager, Mr. Abdul Rezaq.



Conflict Resolution Skills Training Was Provided To 30 TCRC Members In Guzara District On July 2nd.

Conflict Resolution Skills trainings were provided to 30 Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members in Guzara District, seven members of Farah Center TCRC, and 13 members of Qala-i-Naw TCRC on July 2nd and 7th. Topics included definition of conflict, causes of conflict, conflict management, characteristics of a good mediator, and tools and techniques to resolve a conflict.

The Farah Center Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) facilitated a mediation session on July 16th between two brothers who were engaged in a conflict over an inherited piece of land in Deh Zok Village, Farah Center. The TCRC proposed an equitable distribution of the land between the two brothers. The brothers accepted the proposal and ended their conflict.

On July 15th, as part of the Stabilization Programming Indicators review and project impact assessment, a discussion was held with three CDCs (Foshkan, Kushk Haibat, and Rawandan) in Pashtun Zarghun District who implemented flood protection walls and school rehabilitation projects.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMING

During the month, district entities completed 21 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans, such as producing a series of factsheets, conducting coordination meetings, and disseminating awareness raising messages. Below are the highlights of the activities:

- On July 10th, the Bala Boluk District Governor sent a message through the District Government Hotline to 200 Ulema, elders and youth regarding the meeting he had with the district Ulema on June 23rd. “Ulema pledged to support the government in bringing peace in the community, Ulema denounce violence especially during the month of Ramadan,” was the message sent.
- With the assistance of the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Ganj Abad CDC in Bala Boluk District developed a concept note for a community center refurbishment project and submitted it to the Haj & Religious Affairs Department, the Transportation Department, the DRRD and local merchants on July 22nd. The Transportation Department donated 100,000 Afs, the DRRD pledged to dig a water well, the Haj & Religious Affairs Department will provide carpets and loudspeakers, and the merchants donated 5,000 Afs.
- In accordance with his communications plan, the Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, held a monthly coordination meeting with eight government line departments on July 23rd. The discussion was focused on establishing a women’s Shura in the district. It was agreed to select 12 women from the Qadis sub-districts to establish the women’s Shura.
- Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the Muqur District Executive Manager, inspected a culvert rehabilitation project in Bik Ha Village, Muqur District, on July 10th. The DEM was pleased with the quality of the work and thanked the CDC for their efforts. The DEM said, “The Government can provide more development projects if people support and cooperate with the government.”
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, organized a Hashar, a public voluntary work, and collected trash from public areas around the bazaar, mosque, schools, and clinic on July 26th. More than 250 people attended the event, including government staff and local men, women, and children.
- Abdul Qudos Sharifi, the Pashtun Zarghun District Technical Manager, along with the DRRD District Social Worker, Mr. Ataullah, organized a project site visit for the 85-meter flood protection wall in Siager village on July 1st. “Before rehabilitating the flood protection wall, our lands and houses were prone to floods and damage,” said Mr. Sayed Ahmad, a Siager resident.
- In accordance with his communications plan, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, held an anti-corruption meeting with 17 government line departments on July 23rd. The DPG discussed the negative effects of corruption and asked the participants to fight against corruption in their departments. As a result of the meeting, an



The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, Organized A Hashar To Collect Trash From Public Areas On July 26th.

anti-corruption committee was established. The committee agreed to organize monthly meetings and respond to corruption related complaints received through the District Hotline.

- Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Shahrak District Executive Manager, organized a meeting on July 3rd with 50 youths to encourage them to establish a youth association and engage actively with the district government. The DG highlighted the roles and responsibilities of youth in the district’s development. By the end of the meeting, youth established a “District Youth Association.” The DG will support the youth to officially register their association.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date, 303 grants valued at \$6,918,774 have been approved across all 16 target Districts (See charts 1 and 2). These projects include rehabilitation of irrigation canals, road networks and culverts, schools and boundary walls, flood protection walls, and gabions. They are implemented and managed by CDCs under Fixed Obligation Grant mechanisms and are designed to provide district government led solutions to community identified problems. As of the reporting date, 206 grants projects valued at \$2,973,005 were completed. Currently, CDCs are implementing 68 projects valued at \$2,903,651 in the target districts.

Chart 1: Number of grants approved per district as of July 31, 2014

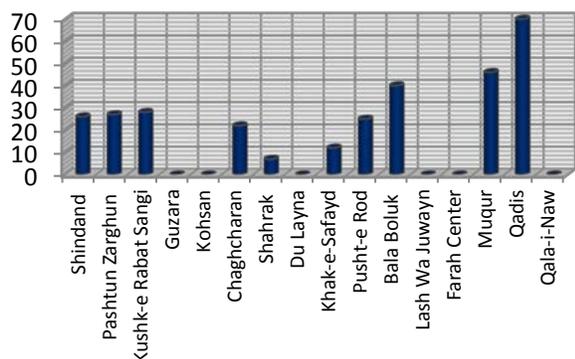
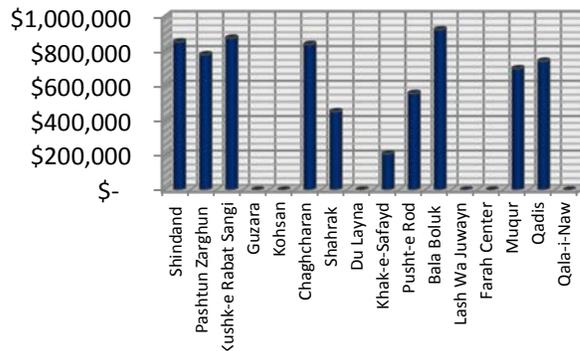


Chart 2: Value of grants approved per district as of July 31, 2014



GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

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. Below is a summary of the Governance Department achievements:

- A total of 37 District Government staff (35 males, 2 females) were mentored in improving inventory/record keeping, organizational charts, report writing, and computer skills.
- On July 24th, the SIKA-West Governance Department assisted the Farah Haj & Religious Affairs Department in producing a guideline on how to register for the pilgrimage. When finalized, the guideline will be distributed to the Haj & Religious Affairs Departments in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts.
- The SIKA-West Governance Department provided training on Plant Pest Control to 29 farmers and gardeners in Qadis District on July 12th. The farmers learned new methods of plant pest and disease control. The same training was provided to 40 farmers and gardeners in Qala-i-Naw on July 19th.



Plant Pest Control Training Was Provided To 29 Farmers And Gardeners In Qadis District On July 12th.

- The Pashtun Zarghun District Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Abdul Rahim, was mentored on preparing a guideline on how to rent government agricultural lands on July 10th. The guideline gives detailed information on the steps required to rent government agricultural lands.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING UNIT

The Gender Department is responsible for the integration of gender across all program activities, targeting gender awareness initiatives and training programs, improving women’s access to DEs, and creating space for female voices and participation. Below is a summary of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit achievements:

- Ms. Mahbooba Jamshidi, the Herat DOWA Director, chaired and facilitated the first DOWA led Provincial Gender Working Group meeting on July 8th. The participants decided to prepare an action plan for the Gender Working Group that will contain the objectives, structure, and responsibilities of the GWG meeting.
- The Badghis Gender Working Group meeting was held on July 12th. Ms. Zarghuna Shirzad, the DOWA Director, asked the participants to advocate for the needs of female prisoners, specifically literacy and vocational training. It was agreed that DOWA will take the lead to organize advocacy meetings with the relevant organizations for this request.
- The Ghor Gender Working Group meeting was held at the DOWA office on July 13th. Discussion was focused on addressing the low participation of women in social activities and providing opportunities for them to share their concerns with district government officials. The GWG agreed to facilitate meetings with the district and provincial government line departments and invite the members of Women’s Councils to attend these meetings and advocate for their needs.
- The Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women successfully mediated a family dispute in Grani Bala Village, Bala Boluk District on July 23rd. A man accused his son-in-law of involvement in his daughter’s death. The CRC organized two mediation sessions between the conflicting parties and convinced the man that his daughter had died from natural causes.
- The Chaghcharan CRC for women successfully addressed an inheritance dispute on July 6th. Two women were in conflict with their cousins because their cousins sold their lands without their permission. The CRC helped the women to open a court case, which finally returned their lands back to them.
- The Chaghcharan CRC addressed a conflict between two women in Shahrak Mohajirin on July 17th. The conflict was a result of a fight between their children which resulted in injury to one of the children. Following three mediation sessions, the conflicting parties agreed to end their conflict and live in peace.

The below table shows the SIKA-West’s progress towards achieving Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicator targets:

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	July 2014 Result	Cumulative Total
S1: Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	110	360	12	199
S2: Percent of Afghans reporting that their district government is responsive to the needs of local people	NA	TBD	60%	NA	NA
S3: Number of District Entities with USG assistance for citizens to engage their subnational government	NA	233	75	37	489
S4: Number of activities with community contribution (see indicator 4.1)	72	201	100	8	310

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	July 2014 Result	Cumulative Total
S5: Number of Afghans Trained (see indicators 2.3, 3.3, 4.4)	NA	5,272	5,000	272	8,148
S6: Number of Persons Employed by stabilization program activities	NA	479	1000	197	3,821
S7: Number of person-days of employment created	9,000	11,340	30,000	3,431	79,347
S8: Number of stabilization activities implemented through grants to district entities (see indicator 4.3)	72	201	75	10	200
S9: Number of SOIs against which stabilization activities have been executed	NA	12	7	2	21
S10: Number of stabilization Work Sessions Conducted for district entities (see indicator 1.2)	88	105	130	0	180
S11: Number of Districts in which SAM is utilized to develop programs (see indicator 1.2)	7	10	16	16	16
S12: Number of GIRoA Officials trained in aspects of government administration (See indicators 2.3 and 3.3)	NA	323	100	106	310
S13: Number of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services. (assets, credit, income or employment)	NA	1,525	100	56	2,463
S14: Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entity activities (KSWs)	27	36	100	1	146
1.1 Number of partnered District governments (and % of total) that show improved understanding of local Sources of Instability.	10	10	16	100%	100% 16/16
1.2 Number of Stabilization work sessions conducted with district entities.	88	100	130	0	180
1.3 Number of Activities included in District Project Portfolios as a result of stabilization workshops	70	240	75	23	366
2.1 Number of District Entities able to access stabilization services provided by GIRoA organizations/line departments	NA	TBD	16	0	353
2.2 Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the Service Providers Catalogue	7	10	5	0	3
2.3 Number of people trained on Service Provider Catalog usage	NA	TBD	TBD	13	257
3.1 Number of people reporting improvement in the responsiveness of GIRoA district entities with regards to SOI resolution	NA	TBD	TBD	NA	NA

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	July 2014 Result	Cumulative Total
3.2 Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs with USG assistance	9	16	24	21	234
3.3 Number of people trained in communications and outreach	300	1,291	500	86	1,844
3.4 Number of PA's and DEs with a communication strategy or plan in place.	9	8	15	2	22
4.1 Percentage of people reporting improvement in service delivery by DEs and PAs.	NA	NA	TBD	NA	NA
4.2 Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions.	9,000	46,800	30,000	3,431	79,347
4.3 Number of grant activities completed in support of stabilization goals	72	120	75	10	200
4.4 Number of person-days of training implemented through grants.	280	9,600	3,000	1,819	104,530

PROVINCIAL & DISTRICT OVERVIEW

FARAH PROVINCE

BALA BOLUK DISTRICT

Mr. Sayed Mohammad, the Bala Boluk District Governor, organized a monthly coordination meeting with the District Managers on July 7th. The DG requested the Managers to report to their works and pay attention to the residents' concerns. Mr. Akhtar Mohammad, the Agriculture Manager, shared the farmers' request with the District Governor. The farmers requested the Agriculture Manager to provide them Saffron corm. The DG will share this issue with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL).

Mr. Sayed Mohammad, the Bala Boluk District Governor, and the DRRD DSW, Mr. Hafizullah, visited a flood protection wall rehabilitation project in Rahim Abad on July 14th. The DG thanked the Rahim Abad CDC for implementing the project despite security concerns. The DSW inspected the quality of the work and encouraged the CDC to continue their work based on the project's specifications.

The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad organized a meeting with 15 local youth to listen to their concerns on July 16th. The DG talked about the importance of youth in bringing peace and security to the district and asked them to be supportive of the government. The youth stated that unemployment and lack of sports tournaments were their main concerns. The DG will share these issues with the Provincial Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) and the Olympic Department. The parties agreed that the youth will appoint two representatives to meet with the district government on a weekly basis and share their problems and concerns.



The Bala Boluk District Governor And The DRRD DSW View The Work Progress Of A Flood Protection Wall Rehabilitation Project In Rahim Abad On July 14th.

The Bala Boluk farmers' representatives met with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) on July 24th to voice their concerns over an unknown plant disease attacking their grape vineyards. The DAIL pledged to provide Plant Disease training to the farmers.

As of July, a total of 40 grants valued at \$922,192 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing six projects valued at \$198,453. To date, 28 grant projects valued at \$504,546 have been completed.

PUSHT-E ROD DISTRICT

The DRRD District Social Workers in Pusht-e Rod District, Mr. Nazar Mohammad and Mr. Ajmal, were mentored on preparing guidelines on how to register new villages in the District Government Village Affairs Department on July 15th. The guidelines give detailed information on the steps required to register new villages.

As of July, a total of 25 grants valued at \$555,548 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing eight projects valued at \$361,355. To date, 15 grant projects valued at \$181,650 have been completed.



The Jan Khani CDC Rehabilitated 392-Meter Surrounding Walls In Mullah Mohammad Yaqoub Farahi High School, Pusht-E Rod District.

KHAK-E SAFAYD DISTRICT

As of July, a total of 12 grants valued at \$208,720 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing three projects valued at \$58,227. To date, seven grant projects valued at \$45,044 have been completed.

FARAH CENTER

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to seven Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members in Farah Center on July 2nd. Topics included definition of conflict, causes of conflict, conflict management, characteristics of a good mediator, and tools and techniques to resolve a conflict. The TCRC will apply these techniques to resolve two identified conflicts: a conflict between two residents over an agricultural land in Nowdeh village and an inheritance dispute in Dehzok village.

LASH WA JUWAYN

In line with the efforts to develop a communications plan for the District Government, Main Elements of Communications training was provided to 15 Lash Wa Juwayn District government staff on July 10th. Topics included messaging, identifying audiences, and effective means to deliver messages to the audiences. On July 21st, How to Develop a Communications Plan training was provided to four Lash Wa Juwayn District government staff.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

QADIS DISTRICT

A project handover ceremony, attended by the District Governors, DRRD representatives, and CDC members, was conducted for the culverts rehabilitation project in Khalifa Hai Gulchin in Qadis District on July 5th.

As of July, a total of 70 grants valued at \$740,556 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing three projects valued at \$139,399. To date, 60 grant projects valued at \$485,345 have been completed.

MUQUR DISTRICT

Project handover ceremonies, attended by the District Governors, DRRD representatives, and CDC members, were conducted for the roads rehabilitation projects in Kharestan Haji Saduddin, Kharestan Mohammad Anwar, and Abdul Aziz villages in Muqur District on July 5th and 6th.

The Muqur District Executive Manager, Mr. Abobakr Azimi, held a monthly coordination meeting with line departments on July 20th. Discussion was focused on a complaint received from shopkeepers that the vehicles of a Turkish company drive fast and endanger people walking around the bazaar. It was agreed that the Turkish company's vehicles be restricted to night movements only.

As of July, a total of 46 grants valued at \$697,285 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing four projects valued at \$150,674. To date, 41 grant projects valued at \$500,281 have been completed.



A Project Handover Ceremony Was Conducted For The Road Rehabilitation Project In Kharestan Mohammad Anwar Village In Muqur District On July 5th.

QALA-I-NAW

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 13 Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members (4 females, 9 males) in Qala-i-Naw on July 7th. Following the training, the TCRC learned the skills to mediate between the conflicting parties in Baghak village over location of a school construction project by the Education Department.

The Qala-i-Naw Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) mediated a family dispute between a couple on July 16th. A woman, whose husband was accused of murder and is currently in prison, wanted a divorce. With the cooperation of the Chief of Prison, the TCRC conducted a mediation session at the prison. Following a lengthy discussion, the couple agreed to make a final decision and inform the TCRC of the result in a few days.

HERAT PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL CENTER

A coordination meeting was held with the MRRD National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) Regional Manager, Mr. Alami, on July 1st. The discussion was focused on the possibility of contracting with DDA for some projects. The NABDP will provide detailed information in this regard.

A gender coordination meeting was held with the Herat Provincial Government Gender Specialist, Ms. Fawzia Afzali and the SIKA-West IDLG Regional Coordinator, Mr. Maywand Fazli, on July 2nd. It was agreed that the SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit share the list of female focused projects, the Conflict Resolution Committees (CRC) members, female DDAs, and Gender Strategy Plan with the Kabul IDLG.

A coordination meeting was held with the Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI), a USAID funded program, on July 13th. Both SIKA-West and CCI discussed their program objectives and work structure. Both parties agreed that CCI would attend the Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings in Herat and Badghis Provinces and SIKA-West agreed to provide a list of projects that were not feasible based on SIKA-West criteria to the CCI for their consideration.

SHINDAND DISTRICT

As of July, a total of 26 grants valued at \$852,031 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 11 projects valued at \$369,667. To date, 11 grant projects valued at \$231,777 have been completed.

KUSHK RABAT-E SANGI DISTRICT

Advocacy and How to Develop Concept Note training was provided to five members of Arbab Karim CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on July 9th. The training enabled the CDC to develop a concept note for a tailoring vocational training course for 20 women. The SIKA-West CPOD will provide further mentoring to the CDC to finalize their concept note and submit it to third party organizations for financial resources.

Media Relations training was provided to 30 Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government staff on July 21st. Training topics included the importance of media relations, how to write a press release, and interviewing techniques. These staff members will use the local media to inform people about government activities and achievements in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District of Herat Province.

As of July, a total of 28 grants valued at \$873,784 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 10 projects valued at \$389,480. To date, 15 grant projects valued at \$348,132 have been completed.



The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District Executive Manager And The DSW Joined CDC Members To Inspect The Work Progress Of A School Rehabilitation Project In Rabat Sangi Ghari Village On July 23rd.

PASHTUN ZARGHUN DISTRICT

Advocacy and How to Develop Concept Note training was provided to eight Pashtun Zarghun DDA members on July 2nd. The training aimed to enable the DDA members to advocate for the residents' needs and develop a concept note for Kitchen Gardening project. By the end of the training, the participants drafted their concept note. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will provide further mentoring to the DDA members to finalize their concept note and submit it to third party organizations, using the Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC), for financial resources.

Mr. Aziz Ahmad Shakib, the DRRD DSW, and Mr. Ahmad Shah, the Pashtun Zarghun District Executive Officer, facilitated a four-day Project Management Training session for the Taqcha CDC from July 12th-15th. The Taqcha CDC will now receive their first milestone payment and begin a road rehabilitation project.

Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, organized a Hashar to clean an irrigation canal in Haroon Village on July 9th. More than 30 people attended the event and helped clean the irrigation canal which provides water for 98 acres of land.



More Than 30 People Attended The Hashar In Pashtun Zarghun District And Cleaned Their Irrigation Canal On July 9th.

Following the Concept Note Development mentoring, the Pashtun Zarghun DDA finalized a concept note for a kitchen gardening project in Gim Village on July 9th. The SIKA-West CPOD will provide further support to the DDA to submit the concept note to third party organizations, using the Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC), for financial resources.

Advocacy training was provided to 23 Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff on July 15th. The training aimed to improve the capacity of the district government staff to advocate for the residents' needs using the Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC). By the end of the training, the participants understood the basic elements of advocacy, its importance, and what services are available at the district and provincial level.

As of July, a total of 27 grants valued at \$778,108 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing two projects valued at \$125,101. To date, 22 grant projects valued at \$511,309 have been completed.

GUZARA

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 30 Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members in Guzara District on July 2nd. Topics included definition of conflict, causes of conflict, conflict management, characteristics of a good mediator, and tools and techniques to resolve a conflict. By the end of the training, the TCRC members identified a conflict over usage of an irrigation canal in the district. The TCRC will organize mediation sessions with the elders of the conflicting parties.

KOHSAN

Communications Plan Development training was provided to three government staff in Kohsan District on July 6th. Topics included identifying audiences, messages, communications approaches, identifying the district communications plan objectives, and budgeting and timeline. By the end of the training, the participants drafted the District Government Communications Plan. The SIKa-West CPOD will provide further training and support to finalize their Communications Plan.

Media Relations training was provided to 27 Kohsan Government staff on June 14th. Training topics included the importance of media relations, how to write a press release and interviewing techniques. These staff members will use the local media to inform people about government activities and achievements in Kohsan District of Herat Province.

GHOR PROVINCE

Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, the Ghor DRRD Director, held a meeting with 22 Ghor Government Directorates on July 14th to discuss the Service Providers Catalog (SPC) distribution plan. It was agreed that each Directorate will provide a representative to establish a Public Service Introduction Committee. The Committee will be responsible for updating and distributing the SPC.

CHAGHCHARAN DISTRICT

On July 3rd, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, along with the DRRD Director, Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal and the Provincial Governor Spokesperson, Mr. Abdul Hai Khatibi, visited the work progress of 750-meter road and culvert rehabilitation project in Shahrak Mohajerin village in Feroz Koh. "This is the first development project in this village, if the CDC implements the project with a high quality, the government will allocate more projects for the village," said the Deputy Provincial Governor. The visit was broadcast by Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan.



The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor And The DRRD Director On The Project Site In Shahrak Mohajerin Village, Feroz Koh.

Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, sent a peace message through the District Government Hotline to more than 200 Ulema, community elders, youth, and civil society members on July 7th. "Ramadan is the month of the Quran and forgiveness, let's stop our conflicts and live in a peaceful environment," was the message sent. The District Government Hotline is part of the District

Government Communications Plan, which is intended to improve communications between the government and district's residents.

Main Elements of Communications training was provided to seven Chaghcharan District Government staff on July 16th. Topics included messaging, identifying audiences, and effective means to deliver messages to the audiences. The participants will use these techniques to convey the government's activities and achievements to the residents through the local media, public meetings, and gatherings.



Main Elements Of Communications Training Was Provided To Seven Chaghcharan District Government Staff On July 16th.

Project Management Training was provided to 12 members of the Deh Sorkh Wosta, Haji Ibrahim, and Dahan Dara Kaddi CDCs in Chaghcharan from July 20th-23rd. Following the training, the CDCs are eligible to receive their first milestone payment and begin their culvert and canal lining rehabilitation projects.

Advocacy training was provided to 20 youth from Chaghcharan on July 23rd. The training expanded the youth's capacity to advocate for their needs. By the end of the training, the participants understood the basic elements of advocacy, its importance and what services are available at the district and provincial level

As of July, a total of 22 grants valued at \$837,756 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 14 projects valued at \$658,034. To date, seven grant projects valued at \$164,921 have been completed.

SHAHRAK DISTRICT

Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Shahrak District Executive Manager (DEM), conducted a public meeting with more than 30 people, including Arbabs and influential community leaders, on July 9th. The meeting provided an opportunity for the people to talk directly with their district government officials and share their concerns and problems. The DEM talked about the roles of the people in bringing peace and resolving conflicts in the district and asked them to cooperate with the government to bring peace and prosperity to the district.



Laborers Rehabilitating A 4-KM Road And 340-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Seya Khak Village, Shahrak District.

The Shahrak DEM visited the flood protection wall rehabilitation project in Tangai Azo Village on July 16th. The DEM asked the residents to take responsibility for the project's maintenance. "Maintenance of this project is the residents' responsibility, the local government will bring more development projects to this village to improve the quality of life of the residents," said the DEM.

As of July, a total of seven grants valued at \$453,261 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing seven projects valued at \$453,261. To date, no projects have been completed.

DU LAYNA DISTRICT

Nothing to report.

LESSONS LEARNED

Community leaders and influential people have an important role in solving conflicts at the district and village level. The Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women in Qala-i-Naw involved the community leaders in resolving a familial conflict and was able to successfully resolve the conflict. The SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will mentor all CRCs in SIKA-West districts of operation to apply this approach and involve the community leaders in their conflict resolution activities.

As a result of proposals put forward during Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings, some projects have been started in insecure areas after receiving assurances from some CDCs, DDAs, and DGs about accompanying staff to project sites for inspection and monitoring visits in order to ensure their safety. In many cases, after the end of Project Management Training and first milestone payments, CDCs would renege on their assurances to accompany project staff, leading to problems with project quality and completion. In light of this, SIKA-West has resolved to engage different stakeholders in Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings so that projects will not be implemented in insecure areas where there is an absence of local government structures.

As a result of different and inconsistent coordinates being read from GPS cameras being used by project staff in various districts, SIKA-West M&E has decided to use only track stick coordinates for verification of project sites and activities.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The District Government Staff, the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), the M&E personnel and Engineers organized 154 monitoring visits covering different interventions, including Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings and communications-related and capacity building trainings and projects in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces.

Based on the MISTI request, the M&E team has verified most of the GPS points of the completed hard projects. Once all the GPS points were verified, a complete Project Tracker with the GPS points was submitted to MISTI on July 15th.

Report Writing training was provided to 14 government staff in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on July 19th. Topics included the definition of a report and types, components, and procedures of report writing. The participants will use these skills to produce reports for submission to the District Governor.

Performance Management Plan Indicators, Aid Effectiveness Metrics, District Spending data, and updates on Project Sites were uploaded into the Afghan Info data for the April-June 2014 quarter.

The Service Providers Catalogs (SPCs) and the April, May, and June monthly reports were uploaded into the USAID Development Experience Clearing House website.

DELIVERABLES

As per the SIKA-West contractual deliverables, the following documents were submitted to USAID:

- June 2014 Monthly Report
- April-June Quarterly Report
- Weekly Reports

U.S. Agency for International Development/Afghanistan

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