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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 127
SEPTEMBER 9-15, 2014



The Achakzai Ha CDC Completed 82% Of A 3-KM Road Rehabilitation Project In Dar Band Safid Village In Qadis District On September 14th.

September 17, 2014

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- The Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for the Flood Protection Wall project in Mahale Dasht Village, Guzara District, School Rehabilitation Project in Qala Mohammad and Genah Kan Villages in Farah Center; and a Bridge Construction Project in Takak Village, Qadis District.
- With support of the Governance Programming, the District Governors successfully organized their independent Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings in Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Qadis, Muqur, Chaghcharan and Shahrak.
- On September 14th, with support of the Governance Department, the Qadis Education Department developed a guideline that provides detailed information on how a student can move from one school to another. Before developing the guideline, it was difficult and time-consuming for residents to move their school children.
- As a result of Governance Department support, three female graduates of the tailoring vocational training courses in Muqur District recently opened a tailoring shop. Currently, these women have an income of 4,500 Afn per month. As of the reporting date, a total of 102 graduates (76 female, 26 male) are providing services from their homes.
- On September 13th, with the support of the SIKA-West Governance Department, the Muqur District Agriculture Manager, Mr. Abdul Halim Salim, and the Chaghcharan Deputy Education Manager, Mr. Fazlulhaq Nejat successfully prepared and submitted their annual departmental progress report to the Muqur and Chaghcharan Komite Sobate Wolesswali, keeping them informed on progress to date.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 315 projects valued at \$7,273,884 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 71 projects valued at \$3,026,975.
- To date, 214 projects valued at \$3,248,406 have been completed.
- 25 projects valued at \$1,214,353 are pending with the USAID Vetting Unit for action. SIKA-West has requested USAID's support to expedite these pending requests.
- USD\$73,777 covering 9 CDC milestone payments have been disbursed in Shahrak, Chaghcharan, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.

• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- The Community Development Department supported an MRRD District Social Worker (DSW) led Project Management Training (PMT) for six CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts. Following this training, the CDCs will receive their first milestone payments to start their projects.
- On September 13th, Mr. Akhtar Mohammad, the Bala Boluk District Agriculture Manager, provided training on Plant Pest and Diseases to 15 farmers. The Agriculture Manager practically explained to the farmers how to prepare the pesticide. By the end of the training farmers learned the new methods to fight plant diseases.
- On September 11th, the Ghor DRRD Director, MRRD/SIKA-West Regional Coordinator and members of the Ghor Provincial Council inspected the Canal Lining Project in Dahan-e Kasee Village; Road Rehabilitation Project in Shahrak Mohajirin Village. "Government is working to bring development projects in the villages, people are responsible to ensure the projects will be implemented with high quality," Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, DRRD Director.



The DRRD Director, Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi, Put The Groundbreaking Stone For The Herat DRRD Perimeter Wall Renovation Project On September 16th.

As part of the SIKA-West support for the Herat DRRD, the construction work of a 24-meter perimeter wall for Herat DRRD was started on September 16th and is expected to be completed by October 7th.

The DRRD Director, Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi, was pleased with the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program activities and achievements at the district and provincial levels and asked for more cooperation and support.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- M&E Department met with the Eureka Research Company that was awarded to implement the mid-term outcome assessment. Discussion was focused on the contractual and preliminary activities for the assessment. It was agreed that a revised timeline of the assessment be provided to SIKA-West next week.
- A total of 30 internal assessments interviews of the completed vocational trainings were conducted in Shindand and Qadis Districts. Women were satisfied with the way the trainings and activities were conducted. Several women are providing services from their homes with an income of 3,000Afn/month.
- MRRD DSWs, government officials and SIKA-West engineers and M&E personnel conducted 58 joint project site visits, prior to the approval of the next round of milestone payments for CDCs. DSW's identified deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g Tapa Shiran CDC was advised to correct the break masonry of their high school refurbishment project before next milestone payment would be authorized.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On September 10th, Mr. Mohammad Younis Rasoli, the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor, led the Farah Center Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The participants analyzed their previous identified major problems (illiteracy and lack of education) and proposed 16 projects (provision of schools equipment). The Farah Provincial Youth Association requested support to establish a local Radio Station. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department will support the youth to advocate for this request and find financial support using the Farah Service Providers Catalog (SPC).
- On September 13th, Mr. Samad Yar, the District Governor, led the Lash Wa Juwayn Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD) informed the participants that among the 21 proposed projects, five projects were approved by USAID (flood protection wall, culvert and school rehabilitation), nine projects are not feasible and seven projects are under feasibility study. The participants discussed their community major problems (unemployment and illiteracy) and proposed 20 new projects. The SIKA-West CDD will schedule feasibility studies during the coming week.
- On September 13th, the first Lash Wa Juwayn Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting for women was held with participation of 10 influential women. An overview of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program, its components and objectives and the importance of women's participation was presented. Women identified the Lash Wa Juwayn Girl's High School, as a building in need of rehabilitation

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On September 13th, the Muqur District Governor inspected the work quality of road rehabilitation project in Jahan Dosti village. The DG was pleased with the work progress and quality and asked the CDC to continue their work based on the project specification.
- On September 10th, the Muqur District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, along with the district government officials traveled to the Kharistan sub-district to meet with the residents and listen to their concerns. *"Today we are here to listen to your problems and take immediate actions,"* People requested the DG to pay more attention to their transportation network, construct flood protection walls in flood prone areas and provide potable water for the villagers. The DG organized a coordination meeting with the district line-departments on September 14th and asked the relevant departments to respond to these requests.
- On September 10th, Mr. Sayed Sharif Alawi, the Acting District Governor, led the Komite Sobate Wolesswali Qadis meeting with participation of 75 people including the DRRD and DOWA Directors. The DRRD Director, Mr. Sayed Rasol Akbari, talked about the importance of the development projects and asked the CDCs to implement their activities based on the projects' specifications and with high quality. The participants analyzed their community major problems (poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and lack of education) and proposed five new projects including roads, flood protection walls, canal linings. Female KSW members proposed to paint the Qadis Girl's High School. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will start feasibility studies during the coming week.
- On September 13th, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, the District Governor, led the Muqur Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. Analyzing the communities' major problems' participants proposed to rehabilitate the flood protection wall and



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The Tapa Shirin CDC Completed 48% Of School Rehabilitation Project In Tapa Village, Pusht-E Rod District On September 14th.



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The Zer Joie Doken CDC Successfully Completed 70% Of The Chapak Doken Primary School Refurbishment Project In Pusht-E Rod District.



On September 13th, The Muqur District Governor Inspected The Work Quality Of Road Rehabilitation Project In Jahan Dosti Village.



The Achakzai Ha CDC Rehabilitating A 3-KM Road Project In Dar Band Safid Village In Qadis District On September 14th.

irrigation canal in Kharistan and Tootak villages while the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) identified a water dispute between two residents of Jakana village for which they will organize a mediation session on September 24th.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On September 15th, the SIKA-West Deputy Stabilization Programming Manager attended the 'Democracy and Governance-Implementing Partners Coordination Meeting' organized by the USAID in Camp Arena Herat City. The Implementing Partners (WASSA, CRDSA, Checchi, etc.) who attended, presented their activities and updates on programming.
- On September 10th, Mr. Ajab Gol Kakar Samim, the District Governor, organized the Shindand Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The Jak , Emarat Wosta, Bartakht Ulia, Nasrabad and Sowro CDCs were warned by the KSW that their projects would be withdrawn unless they could provide security escorts for MRRD/SIKA-West personnel.. The DG gave the CDC's a one-month deadline to provide these security guarantees or their projects would be withdrawn.
- On September 13th, Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, the District Governor, organized the Guzara Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The KSW were informed that of 36 proposed projects, three projects (schools rehabilitation) are waiting for the USAID vetting approval, five projects (bridge, road and flood protection wall) are not feasible, and the remaining projects are under feasibility studies. The participants analyzed their previous identified community major problems and proposed 18 new projects including the rehabilitation of clinics, flood protection walls, culverts and water supply networks.
- On September 14th, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, the District Governor, led the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The DG talked about the importance of education in bringing peace and development to the community. KSW members proposed that the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi Boys High School (1000 Students) was in need of rehabilitation and a surrounding wall.
- On September 15th, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Ghoryani, the District Executive Manager, organized the Pashtun Zarghun Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The participants analyzed their community major problems (poverty, unemployment, lack of trust between government and residents and illiteracy) and proposed 12 new solutions including rehabilitation of culverts, flood protection wall, irrigation canal and clinic.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On September 13th, Media Relations training was provided to 32 Chaghcharan Provincial Youth Council members (18 female, 14 male). Training topics included the importance of media relations, how to write a press release and interviewing techniques. The youth will use the local media to inform people and government about youth activities and achievements in Chaghcharan.
- On September 15th, the Ghor DRRD Director, Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, organized a coordination meeting with governmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare for the upcoming Ghor Service Providers Fair, (October 19th and 20th)
- On September 11th, the Ghor DRRD Director, led the Chaghcharan Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. Representatives from the Education Department, DOWA and DRRD spoke about their activities and achievements. The Deputy Education Manager, Mr. Fazlulhaq Nejat, asked the participants to propose



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The Chehel Dokhtaran Sofla CDC Completed 40% Of One Side Water Intake Rehabilitation Project In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District, September 10th.



On September 11th, The Ghor DRRD Director, The MRRD/SIKA-West Regional Coordinator And Two Members Of Ghor Provincial Council Inspected The Work Quality Of Road Rehabilitation Project In Shahrak Mohajirin Village.



On September 15th, The Ghor DRRD Director, Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, Organized A Coordination Meeting With Governmental And Non-Governmental Organizations To Discuss And Get Preparation For The Ghor Service Providers Fair.

projects that would help the education department provide better facilities for their children. By the end of the meeting, the participants proposed that school equipment be provided to Soofak and Oshtor Khan High Schools.

- On September 15th, Mr. Shah Passand Pahlawi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, organized the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. The KSW members requested that CDCs speed up their implementation of current project activity (flood protection wall, pipe-scheme and roads rehabilitation) to avoid cold weather delays.

CHALLENGES

- The Pusht-e Rod and Shahrak Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings which were scheduled for September 14th and 15th were cancelled due to security concerns. The meetings were rescheduled for September 17th and 22nd.
- The Jak, Emarat Wosta, Bartakht Ulia, Nasrabad and Sowro CDCs in Shindand District did not provide security guarantees for MRRD SIKA-West personnel to visit their project sites.. A one-month extension was provided to these CDCs by the District Government to provide security guarantees or their projects will be withdrawn..

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DGs will celebrate the International Peace Day on September 21st.
- Badghis: The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Qala-i-Naw meeting will be held on September 21st.
- Badghis: The Muqur District Governor will organize a security meeting with community elders on September 17th.
- Badghis: The Muqur and Qadis DGs will celebrate the International Peace Day on September 21st.
- Farah: The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association will organize an anti-drug campaign on September 18th.
- Farah: The Bala Boluk District Governor will organize a meeting with line-departments to discuss the district government plan for fighting with poppy cultivation on September 16th.
- Farah: The Pusht-e Rod and Bala Boluk DGs will celebrate the International Peace Day on September 21st.
- Ghor: The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Du Layna meeting will be held on September 18th.
- Ghor: Conflict Resolution training will be held for the Du Layna District government staff on September 17th.