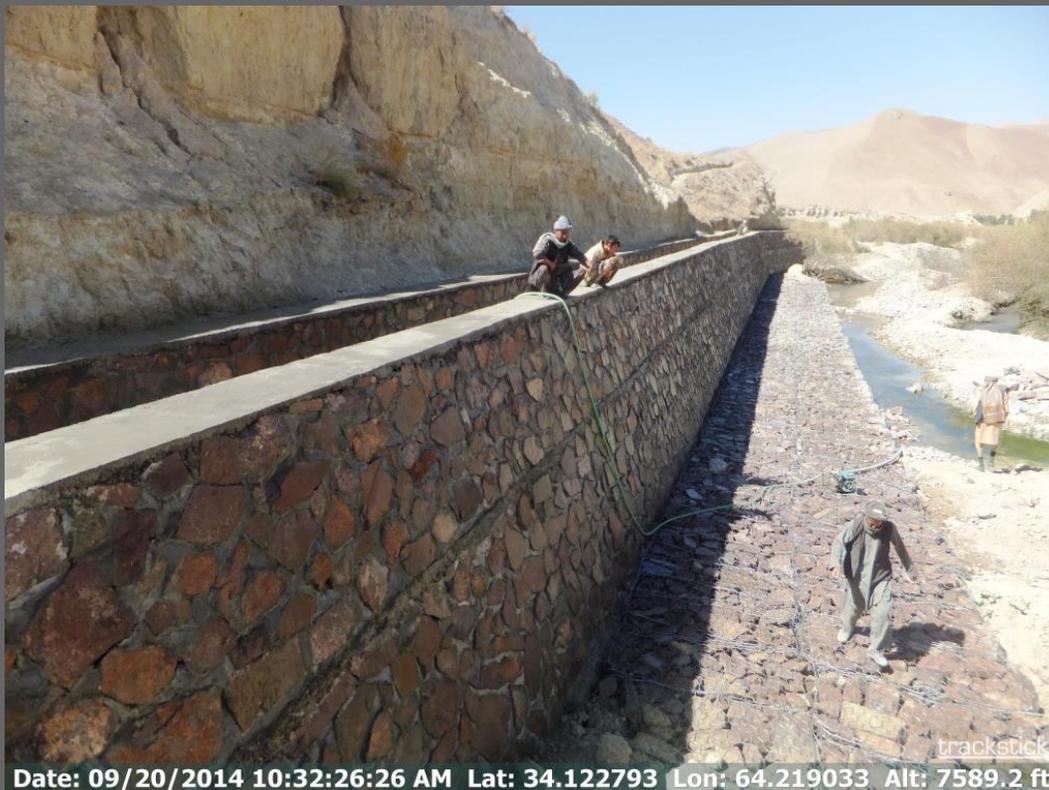




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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 128  
SEPTEMBER 16-22, 2014



Date: 09/20/2014 10:32:26:26 AM Lat: 34.122793 Lon: 64.219033 Alt: 7589.2 ft

*The Tang Azo CDC Successfully Completed 82% Of 230-Meter Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall And Canal Lining Project In Shahrak District, September 20<sup>th</sup>.*

September 24, 2014

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:**

- The SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD) organized the Project Completion Ceremonies of 9 projects in Muqur, Qadis and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts. These 9 completed projects were turned over to the respective District Governors and consisted of road rehabilitation projects, flood protection walls and culverts.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department supported the Qala-i-Naw and Lash Wa Juwayn District Governors, in the development of their six-month Communications Plans. These plans which were accepted and endorsed by the Provincial Governors improve communication between the government and residents and encourage people to work with their government in bringing peace and development to their communities.
- On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Bala Boluk Education Department, with support from the Governance unit, published instructions on how students can obtain graduation certificates. The publication of these instructions will help school graduates in obtaining their certificate and continuing further education.
- In partnership with MRRD/NABDP, the SIKA-West Governance Unit will assist in the preparations of the DDA re-elections in Herat (Pashtun Zarghun and Guzara) and Ghor (Chaghcharan, Du Layna and Shahrak Districts). These elections are scheduled for mid-October.
- The SIKA-West CDD completed the feasibility studies of 18 projects in Qala-i-Naw, Muqur, Pashtun Zarghun and Guzara Districts. These projects included the rehabilitation of a community center, flood protection walls, pipe scheme networks and culverts.



**At “The Peace Drawing Contest” In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi, 140 Students Drew Peace Symbols And Wrote Peace Messages**

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, organized a ‘Peace Drawing Contest’ to celebrate the International Peace Day in girls and boys primary schools on September 21<sup>st</sup>. More than 140 students attended the contest and drew peace symbols and wrote peace messages. The DG gave trophies to the winners and displayed the winning pictures and messages in public areas. *“Bringing peace is everyone’s responsibility, all community members should cooperate with the government to have a peaceful society,”* the District Governor.

**SIKA-WEST RESULTS:****• Grants:**

- To date, 331 projects valued at \$7,722,194 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- Currently CDCs are implementing 81 projects valued at \$3,287,727.
- To date, 216 projects valued at \$3,292,406 have been completed.
- 25 projects valued at \$1,214,353 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action. SIKA-West has requested USAID’s support to expedite these pending requests.
- 16 CDC milestone payments totaling \$101,319 have been disbursed in Shahrak, Du Layna, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Muqur, Pusht-e Rod and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts.

**• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:**

- The MRRD District Social Worker (DSW) led Engineering Project Management Trainings (PMT) for 20 CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, Muqur, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw and Du Layna Districts. Following this training which was supported by SIKA-W, the CDCs will receive their first milestone payments.
- On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Haji Juma Gol, with support from SIKA-W, set up the District Government Hotline. Through this number residents can call and share their complaints with the District Government’s Office.
- On September 15<sup>th</sup>, with support from the SIKA-West Governance Department, the Shahrak District Agriculture Manager, Mr. Azizullah Wakilzada, successfully prepared and submitted his monthly departmental progress report to the Shahrak Komite Sobate Woleswali (KSW).

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- As part of SKA-West objective of increasing Afghan citizens’ confidence in their district government, SIKA-West through subcontractor, Asia Pioneers conducted focus group activities with residents in the SIKA target Districts with the first pilot being conducted in Pashtun Zarghun District. The focus groups will elicit information using a set of communications-specific indicators to measure impact/outcome of the Communications and Outreach Department activities. The focus group will be used to measure the impact work of the COD activities to date.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup>, SIKA-West submitted the updates for the MISTI project verification tracker for a total of 67 completed projects. Additional updates will be sent on September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- SIKA-West finalized the subcontract for the Mid-Term Assessment, it is anticipated that Eureka will commence work on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Prior to the approval of the next round of milestone payments to CDC’s, MRRD DSWs, government officials, SIKA-West engineers and M&E personnel conducted 39 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction prior to the payment of additional milestones.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, met with the Farah Counter Narcotic Department (CND). Discussion focused on supporting farmers to cultivate alternative crops to poppy and raise people's awareness of the disadvantages of drug addiction. The CND Director, Mr. Juma Khan Bashiri, with cooperation of the Bala Boluk Youth Association, will organize anti-drug awareness campaigns. The CND also pledged to support farmers and asked the DG to help farmers in developing proposals on improving agricultural products. The DG also met with the Farah Department of Labors and Social Affairs (DOLSA) Director, Mr. Nasrullah Amini to advocate for the district orphans' needs. The DOLSA Director pledged to support orphans and asked the DG to introduce 20 youths to attend the vocational training courses.
- On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor, Mr. Samad Yar, organized a monthly coordination meeting with the line-departments. The Income Manager informed the DG that their department faces problems when collecting taxes from shopkeepers and local traders. The DG assigned the security officials to support the Income Department in the collection of these taxes.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, Mr. Ghawsuddin, in cooperation with the Youth Association, sent an informative anti-drug message to 1,000 people in the district. The message which provided instructions on assistance to drug addicts read, *"To help addicted people, please introduce them to the District Government Office. The DGO will guide them to treatment facilities."*
- The Pusht-e Rod Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for women was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussions focused on objectives and responsibilities of the KSW members in addressing their communities' needs. The participants proposed projects that include: repair of the district water pumps, provision of education equipment and rehabilitation of Qala Massow Girls' School. The list of projects will be shared at the male Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for further action.

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Muqur District Tazkara Distribution Manager, Mr. Najibullah Arman, and the CDC members organized a project post-completion site visit to the canal lining project in Khame-e Abasi sub-district. The visitors were pleased with the work quality and asked the CDC to pay attention to its maintenance.
- On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Qadis Acting District Governor, Mr. Hafizullah, met with more than 140 people including CDCs, sportsmen, civil society organizations and women in order to listen to their concerns. Women proposed to establish girls' schools, organize literacy courses and awareness campaigns for women's rights. Farmers requested assistance on new methods of agriculture and awareness campaigns on the disadvantages of drug addiction and cultivation.
- On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib, organized a public meeting with 100 influential people including DDA members, community elders, Ulema, youth and women. The meeting aimed to improve communication between the government and residents. Speeches emphasizing the importance of cooperation between government and people were delivered by government officials and Ulema representatives.



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**The Saj Farsi CDC successfully 80% of Aa5.5-KM road rehabilitation project In Pusht-E Rod District on September 15<sup>th</sup>.**



**On September 16<sup>th</sup>, The Muqur district Tazkara Distribution Manager, and the CDC Members Inspected the work quality of a Canal Lining Project In Khame-E Abasi Sub-District.**



Date: 09/20/2014 11:32:10:10 AM Lat: 35.060327 Lon: 63.232933 Alt: 3054.5 ft  
**The Jan Dosti CDC completed the rehabilitation Of 4-KM Road, 2 washes And 1 culvert In Muqur District On September 20<sup>th</sup>.**



**Government Officials Cut The Ribbon To Inaugurate The Recently Rehabilitated 5-KM Road In Kharestan Village, Muqur District On September 22<sup>st</sup>.**

- On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Muqur District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, held a meeting with 100 people to encourage them to support the government in bringing peace and security to the district. The DG spoke about the importance of education and the critical role of people in maintaining peace and stability in the communities. At the end of the meeting, participants pledged to support the government and allow their children to continue their education.

## HERAT PROVINCE

- Project Technical training was provided to the Chap Qoul, Rabat-e Mirza Qala Nawak, Khoja Gol Bid and Darwish Ali CDCs in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District. These trained CDCs are implementing a wide variety of projects including the rehabilitation of a school, canal lining, and bridge and flood protection wall projects.
- On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, celebrated the International Peace Day. More than 170 governmental officials, community elders and women attended the event. On the same day, The Shindand District Executive Manager, Mr. Besmellah Khan Azim, organized a public meeting with 120 people in recognition of International Peace Day. Speeches on the importance of peace were delivered by the DG and Ulema.

## GHOR PROVINCE

- A five-day Project Management training was kicked off for 39 GIRoA staff in Ghor Province on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Topics included project leadership, project cycle, project design, project planning and monitoring and evaluation. The training was launched by the Afghan Creative Consultancy Service.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Ghor Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting was held with participation of 19 governmental and non-governmental organizations' representatives. The participants discussed the importance of education for women and agreed to send a petition to the Provincial Governor to facilitate evening university classes for women. Ms. Qayour, the Provincial Council member, suggested rehabilitating the sidewalks of three girls' high schools, this issue will be shared at the next Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that DOWA would take the lead and organize the future GWG meetings.
- The Chaghcharan Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women addressed a familial conflict on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The conflict was between two families who had arranged exchange marriages. One of the girls in the marriage was not happy with the arrangement and decided to divorce her husband once she fell in love with another man. Her request for the divorce, led to a case of domestic abuse and conflict between the two families. After the mediation sessions by the CRC, both families agreed that the couple should divorce and the conflict ended.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Abdullah, the Du Layna Acting District Governor, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting with participation of 57 influential people. The ADG informed the Shaidan Paen CDC that their project, for the water reservoir will be withdrawn if they don't solve their conflict within the CDC. He assigned the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee to mediate between the CDC members. The mediation proved successful and the CDC resolved their conflict.



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**The Chap Qoul CDC completed 36% of the Chap Qoul Primary School rehabilitation project In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi district On September 18<sup>th</sup>.**



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**The Yaka Toot CDC successfully completed 43% of Aa200-meter gabion Groyne rehabilitation project in Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.**



**The Dahan Dara Kassi CDC Successfully 26% Of 85-Meter Canal Lining Project In Chaghcharan On September 20<sup>th</sup>.**



**The Shahrak M&E personnel and DRRD Engineer Inspect the work of 5-KM Road And 1 Culvert Rehabilitation Project In Jawra Sang Qala Village On September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## CHALLENGES

- Security concerns led to the delay of the internal assessment interviews of the completed vocational trainings in Muqur and Qadis Districts.
- Security concerns resulted in the suspension of the SIKA-West inspection of the 150-meter canal protection wall project in Ajoor village, Bala Boluk District. A site visit is planned once the security situation is permissive.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Kohsan Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Herat: The Shindand District Governor will organize monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis: The Muqur District Governor will organize monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Badghis: The Qadis District Governor will organize monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Badghis: Media training will be provided to Qadis government officials on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis: The Badghis Gender Working Group meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Badghis: The Qadis Conflict Resolution Committee for women will be established on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: The Pusht-e Rod District Governor will organize an anti-cultivation meeting with farmers on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor will organize a meeting with Ulema to encourage them be supportive with government on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Farah: The Provincial Gender Working Group meeting will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor: Communication Skills Building training will be provided to the women's representatives on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ghor: The Provincial Government Office will organize a Peace Volleyball Tournament in Chaghcharan on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Ghor: The Du Layna Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting for women will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup>.