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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 129
SEPTEMBER 23-29, 2014



With Support From SIKA-W, For The First Time, The Farah Farmers Were Able To Attend The Kabul Agricultural Fair And Showcase Their Agricultural Products To The Minister Of Agriculture, Irrigation And Livestock, H.E. Asif Rahimi, The Minister Of Rural Rehabilitation And Development, H.E. Wais Ahmad Barmak And Other Governmental Officials.

October 1, 2014

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- As part of his activities to combat drug use in the district, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, Mr. Ghawsuddin, held an informational and coordination meeting with the Farah Addiction Rehabilitation Clinic on September 25th. Following this meeting, the DG introduced 7 addicted youths from the district to the clinic for treatment.
- The SIKA-West Community Development Department completed the feasibility studies for 25 projects in Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, Farah Center, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Muqur Districts.
- On September 24th, the Bala Boluk Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) addressed an agricultural land dispute which had been ongoing for two months between villagers in Ganj Abad village.
- With support from the SIKA-W Governance Department, three graduates of an embroidery vocational training course in Mullah Mohammad village in Qadis district are providing embroidery services from their homes and earning an income of 5000 AFN per month. These recent graduates join the other 104 graduates who are also supporting their families by utilizing vocational education skills.
- On September 27th, the Badghis DRRD Director, the Qadis District Chief of Police, the Qadis Acting District Governor and community elders inspected the work quality of wash construction project in Qarchaghai village. The visitors were pleased with the work quality and asked the CDC to continue their high quality project. *“Without residents’ support, government cannot bring peace and development in the community,”* the DRRD Director.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 351 projects valued at \$8,450,974 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- CDCs are implementing 100 (93 ongoing, 7 on-hold) projects valued at \$3,831,208.
- To date, 218 projects valued at \$3,339,080 have been completed.
- 19 projects valued at \$954,835 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action.
- 31 CDC milestone payments totaling \$245,244 have been disbursed in Chaghcharan, Shahrak, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Guzara Districts.

• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- The MRRD District Social Worker (DSW) led Engineering Project Management Trainings (PMT) for 15 CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Guzara and Muqur Districts. Following this training, the CDCs will receive their first milestone payments to implement their projects.
- A Five-day “Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management” training kicked off for 38 GIRoA staff from Qala-i-Naw and Qadis District. As part of the training, participants will undertake a field visit to Tagai Laman village, an area which is regularly affected by heavy rainfall and floods.
- As part of the Stabilization Programming Indicators’ review and project impact assessment, discussions were conducted with 10 CDCs in Qadis and three CDCs in Pusht-e Rod District who implemented culverts, aqueduct, roads and water dividers rehabilitation projects. The CDCs were pleased with the implemented projects and mentioned that these projects create job opportunities for residents.



Hundreds Of People Visited The Farah Booth During The Kabul Agricultural Fair.

For the first time in the history of the Kabul Agricultural Fair, a number of farmers and a delegation from the Farah Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) attended the Kabul Agricultural Fair. With support from the SIKA-W, the delegation established a booth and showcased their local products such as, grapes, pomegranates, cucumbers, pistachios, watermelon and jujube. The Fair was a great opportunity for Farah farmers to showcase their products to national and international traders. A numbers of companies, both national and international expressed interest in the produce and will follow up with farmers.

“The Farah pomegranate is one of the best kinds of pomegranates in Afghanistan and the world. Farmers should use this opportunity and contact with the traders to export their products to other countries,” The Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, H.E. Asif Rahimi.

The Kabul Agricultural Fair is organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and attracts thousands of people including high ranking governmental officials, international visitors and businesses.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Muqur District Executive Manager and the Admin & Finance Manager. This training will improve the capacity of the government staff to organize and conduct project site inspections.
- On September 30th, SIKA-West submitted the updates for the MISTI project verification tracker for a total of 81 completed projects.
- 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 47 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 23rd and 24th, the Lash Wa Juwayn and the Pusht-e Rod District Governors, Mr. Samad Yar and Mr. Ghawsuddin, each celebrated the International Peace Day. More than 50 tribal elders, Ulema, youth and government officials attended the event. Speeches on importance of peace and security were delivered by the participants. *“This is the first time we celebrate the International Peace Day in our community, we should value the importance of peace,”* the Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor.
- On September 24th, The Lash Wa Juwayn Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) addressed a conflict between residents of Kosha village. Two residents of this village fought with each other over the use of a water pump three months ago which led to a larger conflict between the two individuals and their families. The District Governor and the TCRC organized a mediation session with the participation of the conflicting parties and community elders. The elders addressed the negative impact of the conflict and mediated to end to their conflict.
- On September 27th, the Farah Department of Women’s Affairs (DOWA) Director, Ms. Lailima Sediqi, led the Provincial Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting. At this meeting, it was decided that in order to have better coordination and impact an invitation would be sent to the governmental departments to introduce a representative to the Gender Working Group.
- On September 24th, the Bala Boluk District Agriculture Manager, Mr. Akhtar Mohammad initiated an Open-House event and asked farmers to come to his office and share their agricultural problems. During the day, 29 farmers met with the Agriculture Manager and talked about their problems and received responses. For example, a farmer requested for the provision of Plant Pest training and the Agriculture Manager promised to follow-up.



The Rashid Abad CDC Successfully Completed 37% Work On A 300-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Bala Boluk District On September 22nd.



On September 27th, The Badghis DRRD Director, The Qadis District Chief Of Police, The Qadis Acting District Governor And Community Elders Inspected The Work Quality Of Wash Construction Project In Qarchaghai Village.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On September 27th, the Qadis District Agriculture Manager, Mr. Mohammad Amin Saberi, organized an Open-House event and asked farmers to come to his office and share their agricultural problems. During the day, 30 farmers met with the Agriculture Manager and shared their problems and concerns.
- On September 27th, with support of the Gender Department, the Qadis Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women was established. Sixteen influential women from different villages were selected as the CRC members. The Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to the CRC members to enable them identify and address familial conflict in Qadis District.
- On September 28th, the Badghis Department of Women’s Affairs (DOWA) Director, Ms. Shirzad, led the Provincial Gender Working Group meeting with the participation of representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Discussions focused on increasing women’s involvement in governmental offices and it was agreed that DOWA would conduct an assessment and advocate for employing qualified women in the various departments.



On September 27th, A Conflict Resolution Skills Training Was Provided To The Newly Established Conflict Resolution Committee For Women In Qadis District.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On September 24th, an introductory meeting was held between the USAID COR, SIKA-West Chief of Party, MRRD Regional Coordinator, the DRRD representative, the Guzara District Governor and 15 DDA members. The District Governor was pleased with the Stability Program and highlighted it as a program that links the government with people, creates trust and brings stability in the community. An overview of the activities and

achievements were presented to the participants including the establishment of the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee which resolved numbers of conflicts in the district.

- The Shindand Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women identified and addressed a conflict between two relatives in Shindand District center. Two families were in conflict because of a fight between their children. The CRC organized three mediation sessions and successfully resolved their conflict on September 24th.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On September 25th, the Ghor Finance Manager, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Paiman, in-line with the Chaghcharan Communications plan, organized a meeting with 18 community elders and Ulema in Shaikhalmand village. The participants shared their concerns and problems and requested the District Government to support the farmers to clean their Kariz and construct a flood protection wall in front of Shaikhalmand High School. The Finance manager pledged to share these requests with the Provincial Governor. At the end of the meeting, 100 District Government Hotline Number cards were distributed to the participants.
- On September 27th, the SIKA-West Governance Department facilitated a coordination meeting between the Education Department, the Statistic Department and two schools' principals in Shahrak District. Students in Shahrak District do not have Tazkira which prevents them from registering with the Education Department. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that School Principals would prepare a list of students who need Tazkira and send it to Statistic Department for further action.
- On September 24th, the Du Layna Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for women was held. The participants discussed their major problems including lack of potable water and proposed solutions such as the repair of the district water pumps and the improvement of the water supply network in Du Layna District. These requests will be shared at the male Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for further action.
- On September 22nd, the first Shahrak Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for women was held with the participation of six influential women. An overview of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program, its components and objectives and the importance of women's participation was presented. Women discussed their major problems including lack of education facility, unemployment and insecurity in their district. The participants will analyze these major problems and propose solutions at the next Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting.

CHALLENGES

- Security in Pashtun Zarghun remains a challenge this week as it resulted in the suspension of a number of feasibility studies and communication-related activities in Pashtun Zarghun District. Management will review the impact of these delays and provide recommendations on the grants activities which are tied to these feasibility studies.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Herat: The Kohsan Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on October 1st.
- Herat: Project Management Training will be provided to governmental staff from the SIKA-West districts of operation on October 12th.



On September 23rd, The SIKA-West Engineers Conducted A Feasibility Study For The Flood Protection Wall Rehabilitation Project In Korte Sofla Village, Guzara District.



On September 24th, The SIKA-West Engineer Conducted A Feasibility Study For The Gabion Wall Rehabilitation Project In Abdul Khaliq Village, Muqur District.



On September 25th, Prior To Approving The Third Milestone Payment, The SIKA-West Engineer, Conducted A Quality Check Of A 85-Meter Canal Lining Project In Chaghcharan.

- Herat: The Pashtun Zarghun Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on October 13th.
- Herat: The Shindand Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on October 15th.
- Badghis: The Muqur District Governor will organize the monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on October 2nd.
- Badghis: Media training will be provided to the Qadis governmental staff on October 1st.
- Farah: The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor will meet with Ulema to encourage them support the government on October 2nd.
- Farah: The Bala Boluk Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on October 12th.
- Farah: The Farah Center Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on October 13th.
- Ghor: The Shahrak Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on October 13th.
- Ghor: The Du Layna Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting will be held on October 15th.