



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 130
SEP 30- OCT13, 2014



Date: 10/12/2014 02:07:57:57 PM Lat: 34.799773 Lon: 62.224833 Alt: 3935.7 ft
The Darweesh Ali CDC Completed 30% Work Of A 200-Meter Flood Protection Wall Rehabilitation Project In Darweesh Ali Khan Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District On October 12th.

October 15, 2014

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- With support of the Communications and Public Outreach Department, farmers from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District advocated for their agricultural needs. On September 30th, farmers met with the Herat Provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) and requested Saffron bulbs and fertilizer for farmers. It was agreed that an official request be prepared and submitted to the DAIL for further action.
- In response to recent increase in violence against women in Qadis District, the SIKA-West Governance Department supported the Qadis District Justice Department to produce posters outlining government support networks for affected women. When finalized, the posters will be hung in public areas
- The SIKA-West Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for six projects in Qala-i-Naw, Muqur and Kohsan Districts. These projects range in scope from Road Rehabilitation to Flood Protection Walls Construction; designed to prevent flooding of communities and agriculture lands and improve access for residents to reach neighboring villages and the District Center.



Farmers In Shahrak District Showcase Their Agricultural Products In The "Shahrak Agricultural Fair" On September 30th.

With support of the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Shahrak District Executive Manager, Mr. Shah Passand Pahlawi, organized an "Agricultural Fair" in Shahrak District on September 30th. Agriculture is the main source of income in Shahrak District. More than 50 farmers attended the event and showcased their agricultural products including apples and grapes. During the one-day fair, more than 100 people including government officials were in attendance and purchased locally grown apples and grapes. These government initiatives serve to increase awareness of local produce.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**• Grants:**

- To date, 356 grant funded projects valued at \$8,558,741 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- CDCs & DDA's are implementing 105 projects valued at \$3,860,500.
- 223 projects valued at \$3,648,042 have been completed.
- 17 projects valued at \$818,518 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action.
- 31 CDC milestone payments totaling \$ 235,269 have been disbursed in Chaghcharan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Guzara, Farah Center, Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk and Qadis Districts. These MS payments have supported grant funded projects ranging from Road & School Rehabilitation, Culverts & Flood Protection Wall Construction and Irrigation Canal Lining.

• Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- On October 1st, with support from the SIKA-West Governance Department, the Kohsan District Revenue Manager, Mr. Sadruddin, successfully prepared and submitted his monthly departmental progress report to the Kohsan Komite Sobate Woleswali. The Revenue Manger requested the KSW members to inform the shopkeepers to pay their taxes.
- Conflict Management and Legal Awareness training was launched for 40 members of the Ghor Provincial Government Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee on October 12th. Material included analyzing conflicts and methods of conflict resolution/mediation which will be employed to address government led efforts to address conflicts within the region.
- Project Management Trainings (PMT) was held for 15 CDCs in Kohsan, Pusht-e Rod, Farah Center, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Muqur Districts. Following this training, CDCs will receive their first milestone payments which will fund the next steps of current infrastructure projects.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Eureka has finalized the questionnaire for the SIKA-West Mid-Term Assessment and will conduct training for surveyors on interview techniques, and survey methodology on October 15th. The Mid Term Assessment will commence on October 18th.
- SIKA-West received a request from MRRD to provide MIS training (Information Systems, Reporting & Analysis), to District Social Workers (DSW's) which will serve to create a Management Information System (MIS), enabling effective collection, dissemination and exchange of information between CDCs and MRRD. SIKA-West is planning to work with the MRRD/Community Led Development Department (CLDD) to organize the training in the coming weeks.
- 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; e.g. Shewan Wasat CDC was advised to correct the back filling of their water dividers rehabilitation project before the next milestone payment is authorized.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On October 2nd, the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, the DRRD DSW, Mr. Naser and the community elders visited the work progress of a Flood Protection Wall project in Rahim Abad village. *“We hope upon completion of the project, our lands will be safe against flood,”* Mr. Abdul Hakim, the CDC Head. Once complete, this Flood Protection Wall will enable Rahim Abad Village to save 100 Jeribs of land from being flooded and return it to agricultural use, resolving a major grievance of the community.
- On October 13th, Mr. Mohammad Younis Rasouli, the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor, led the Farah Center Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting. Discussed, was the status of 48 proposed projects designed to address community grievances ranging from flooding, limited access on the rural roads and poor conditions of district schools. Of these 48 proposed solutions, 32 are under feasibility study.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- With the SIKA-West Governance Department support, the Qala-i-Naw Provincial Education Department is launching monthly parent-teacher meetings in provincial center schools, beginning with Hanzala Girls’ High School on October 16th. These meetings will enable parents for the first time to speak directly with the school teachers on a regular basis.

HERAT PROVINCE

- With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Shindand District Governor, Mr. Ajab Gol Kakar Samim, responded to concerns of the District Revenue Department and will provide their officials with security escorts as they undertake their tax collection duties.
- On October 1st, Mr. Juma Gul Rahmani, the Kohsan District Governor, held the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting with participation of 82 governmental officials and community elders. A key point discussed concerned Qudos Abad CDC and their request for a rehabilitation of their road. The KSW outlined that the road identified was only 2 meters in width and not an effective use of district grant funds.
- On October 13th, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Mr. Farhad Raufian, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting. The participants discussed about the impact of the projects that were implemented in their district especially the flood protection walls. The KSW members were pleased with the impact of the implemented projects. For example one of the flood protection walls in Qazaq Sofla village protected 1000 Jeribs of land from being flooded.
- As a result of the SIKA-West Governance Department effort, the ‘Women for Women Market’ Director, Ms. Romina Osmani, agreed to allocate two booths for 10 vocational training graduates from Shindand District to showcase and sell their textile products in the ‘Women for Women’ Market in Herat Province on October 19th.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On October 12th, Media Relations training was provided to representatives of Youth, Women and Farmers’ Associations in Chaghcharan. Training topics included the importance of media relations, how to write a press release and interviewing techniques. The participants will use the techniques they learned to



The Bala Boluk District Governor And The DRRD DSW Visited The Work Progress Of A Flood Protection Wall Project In Rahim Abad Village, October 2nd.



The Sar Kamar Sufla CDC Completed The 2-KM Road, One Culvert And One Wash Rehabilitation Project In Qadis District On October 1st.



Laborers Working To Rehabilitate A 220-Meter Canal In Rabat-E Sangi Shargi Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District On October 8th.



The SIKA-West Engineers Conducting Feasibility Study For A Flood Protection Wall Project In Allaf Haji Niaz Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi On October 11th.

produce press releases about their associations' activities and achievements in the district.

CHALLENGES

- Due to Eid holiday the Dar Abad Sufla CDC in Farah Center couldn't complete their CDC's file which led to delay in submitting the Grant Applications for the Grant Department for further processing. The SIKA-West Community Development asked the CDC to complete their documents by October 16th.
- Harvesting season prevented a number of Bala Boluk DDA members to attend the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on October 12th. This absence prevented a number of communities from being represented to discuss district wide concerns.
- The Nim Marda Safidan CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District lacked the required MRRD registration paperwork, preventing the award of a grant to construct a Flood Protection Wall. Steps are being taken to assist Nima Marda to update their records with the Herat DRRD NSP Office.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The SIKA-West CDD will launch engineering feasibility studies for five infrastructure projects (Roads/ Irrigation Canal/ Protection Walls/Water Pipe Network) in Guzara and Qadis Districts.
- MRRD DSW's will take a role in leading the Project Management Training for 15 CDCs from Kohsan, Pusht-e Rod, Farah Center, Muqur, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw, ensuring that CDCs understand their grant agreements and roles/responsibilities. Following this training, the first round of milestone payments will be disbursed.
- The Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Qala-i-Naw, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shahrak and Du Layna Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings will be held between October 15th to 20th. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- Herat: The Conflict Resolution Skills training will be provided to the Guzara District Government Conflict Resolution Committee for women on October 14th enabling them to assist the local government in addressing local familial conflicts.
- Ghor: The Service Providers Fair will be organized on October 19th. During the two-day event, more than 70 governmental and non-governmental organizations will present their available services.
- Ghor: The Shahrak District Governor will organize a Hashar to clean the District Bazaar on October 16th, reflecting efforts to address community's needs using existing resources.



Residents In Qargha Naw Village In Shahrak Use The Recently Rehabilitated Water Supply Network On October 8th. The Qargha Naw Hulya Successfully Completed Rehabilitation Of 34 10-Meter Water Supply Network In Shahrak.



The Pala Wa Borjak CDC Successfully Completed The 4.5-KM Road, One Culvert And Gabion Wall Rehabilitation Project In Chaghcharan On October 11th.