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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Mahal Shahi CDC Constructing A 6 Meter-Length Super Passage In Mahal Shahi Village, Pashtun Zarghun District On October 14th.

October 23, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- With support from the Governance Department, 40 farmers/ranchers from Lash Wa Juwayn District lobbied the District DAIL for material support to address diseases in their animal herds. As a first response, DAIL distributed 40 animal vaccination kits and pledged to follow up with provincial authorities to obtain more support.
- With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Farah DOWA will now take the lead and support District Government sponsored female Conflict Resolution Committees (CRC's) in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts. These female CRCs provide an avenue for district women to report their grievances and request local government support. The Farah DOWA has committed to supporting these district CRC groups in collaboration with district governments after the SIKA-West program has ended.
- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for three projects in Qala-i-Naw and Kohsan Districts. These projects ranging in scope from Girls' High School Rehabilitation to Flood Protection Walls Construction; were selected by the respective district governments to invest in both the district education sector as well as respond to communities needs for flood protection measures (protecting homes, businesses & agricultural farmland)

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**Grants & Subcontracts Programming**

- To date, 378 grant funded projects valued at USD\$8,888,218 have been identified and approved by MRRD and IDLG in our target districts.
- CDCs & DDA's are implementing 107 projects valued at USD\$3,711,779.
- 230 projects valued at USD\$3,981,739 have been completed.
- 17 projects valued at USD\$818,518 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action. The oldest submission has now been pending for almost 5 months.
- 11 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$92,976 have been disbursed in Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Chaghcharan, Shahrak and Bala Boluk Districts; supporting a variety of grant funded projects (Road Rehabilitation, Culverts, Flood Protection Walls, Irrigation Canals)

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building**(Governance, Communications, Community Development, Gender)**

- MRRD DSW's and District Government representatives led the CDC Project Management Training for 7 CDC grantees in Farah Center, Pusht-e-Rod, Muqur and Qadis. With support from the Community Development Department, MRRD & IDLG covered the Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes Sections, while Community Development personnel covered the remaining material. After this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid to these CDCs.
- With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Farah DOWA conducted a workshop to encourage district women to join government departments and non-governmental organizations. The Farah Provincial Governor, H.E. Mohammad Omar Shirzad encouraged women to look at these available employment opportunities.
- With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, travelled to Jalal Abad Village to inspect the progress of a 220-Meter Irrigation Canal valued at \$69,121, which was awarded by the District Government & Herat DRRD.



During The Two-Day Ghor Service Providers Fair, Hundreds of Ghor Residents (Including Men, Women & Children) Acquired Information On A Variety Of Government Services.

With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Ghor DRRD and Provincial Government organized and launched a two-day Service Providers Fair in Ghor Province (October 19th /20th). More than 60 Government Departments and Non-Governmental Organizations participated in the Fair, displaying their goods and services. The Fair provided a platform for provincial and district residents to directly communicate with members of their local government, observe and apply for services and exchange contact details. H.E. Mr. Sayed Anwar Rahmati (The Ghor Provincial Governor) spoke about the importance of this event, *"Today both government and non-governmental organizations showcased their goods and services; the Fair is a good opportunity for residents to know what services are available."*

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Shindand, Lash Wa Juwayn and Chaghcharan District Social Workers. This training focused on photography, Track Stick use, measurement tools and report writing and will improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.
- Eureka has started the SIKA-West Mid-Term Assessment in Pashtun Zarghun District. During the week 110 (55 males, 55 females) interviews were conducted in 5 villages. The survey for the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shahrak and Chaghcharan will be started October 25th.
- MRRD DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 70 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction prior to the payment of additional milestones; e.g. Mohammad Ali Khan CDC was advised to correct the concrete mix for stone masonry of their wash construction project before the next milestone payment is authorized.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On October 18th, the female members of the Lash Wa Juwayn Komite Sobate Wolesswali discussed community problems where local government support was needed. One concern was the current condition of the Lash Wa Juwayn Girls High School, that serves 800 female students and lacks basic sanitary facilities as well as sufficient desks and chairs. With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, this grievance was shared with the District Government led KSW on October 20th and the district government quickly agreed to address these conditions by authorizing the school to be rehabilitated. This project is currently scheduled for a feasibility study.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On October 15th, with the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Muqur District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abobakr Azimi, recognized the work of teachers during the celebrations of the Teachers' Day. More than 100 people including government officials, teachers and students attended the event. *"Education is the only way to have a peaceful and development country. You teachers should pay more attention to the quality of education,"*
- On October 16th, with the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Muqur District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the DRRD DSW, Mr. Besmellah Waher and community elders conducted a post-completion site visit for the Culvert Construction project in Jandosti Village. The DEM was pleased with the work quality and reminded the implementing CDC and residents to maintain the culvert, which now improves the community's access to neighboring villages and the District Center.
- With the support of the Governance Department, the Qadis Department of Education organized their first parent –teacher conference in Jamiat Boys High School on October 18th. Key points discussed included student absenteeism and other concerns. One result was the provision of parents' phone numbers to teachers, so that they can be called when their children are absent. These meetings will be expanded and will be conducted monthly.
- On October 20th, with the support of the Governance Department, the Qala-i-Naw Komite Sobate Wolesswali (KSW) members discussed the dangers of spring floods to the communities of Sar Cheshmai, Qar Qaito, Baghak, Sang Aab and Nidami Laman. To address these concerns, the Badghis Provincial Government identified and will move forward with several Gabion projects which should address these communities concerns and mitigate the risks of flooding for over 3300 families.

HERAT PROVINCE

- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Mr. Farhad Raufian, celebrated the Teachers' Day on October 15th. More than 85 governmental officials, teachers, parents and students attended the event. Speeches on the roles of teachers in bringing peace and development in to the community were delivered by the participants. To recognize the hard work of teachers, the District Governor presented appreciation letters to 28 district teachers.
- On October 15th, with the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, visited the 220-meter Canal Rehabilitation Project in Rabat-e Sangi Sharqi Village. The Rabat-e Mirza Qala Nowak CDC has successfully completed 26%



The Ghazi Abad CDC Implementing A 220-Meter Canal Lining In Ghazi Village, Bala Boluk District



The Haji Mohammad Ali Khan CDC Constructing A Wash Culvert In Haji Mohammad Ali Khan Village, Qadis District.



The Rais Sayed Mohammad Lay-Outing A 10-Meter Reinforced Cement Concrete Aqueduct In Qadis District.



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The Said Abad CDC Completed 30% Work Of A 96-Meter Flood Protection Construction Project In Pashtun Zarghun District On October 19th.

of the work. *“Every year our roads and houses were damaged by flood, and the smell of garbage created problems for residents .We hope upon the completion of this project, this problem will be solved,”* Mr. Ghulam Ghows, Village Resident.

- With the support of the Communication & Public Outreach Department and in response to an increase of insecurity within Kohsan District, the District Governor improved communications with 60 district Arbabs and other leaders by inviting them to come and speak with the Chief of Police, Mr. Paida Gul. Contact details were shared and agreements were struck to improve the flow of information.
- On October 15th, Ms. Mahbooba Jamshidi, Herat DOWA Director, led the Herat Provincial Gender Working Group. Participants included representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), Department of Public Health, Department of Education Herat University, Police Department, National Security Directorate, and non-governmental organizations (WDOA, HEWAD, CRS etc.). It was agreed that five sub-committees (Economic, Health, Social, Cultural and Advocacy) would be established to handle the Gender Working Group activities. These sub-committees are required to develop their scopes of work and action plans before the next GWG meeting.
- On October 15th, with the support of the Governance Department, the Shindand Komite Sobate Wolesswali members focused on addressing delays in CDC implementation of existing projects awarded by the District Government and Herat DRRD. The Nawabad Pusht Koh, Nasrabad, Dolorg, Dokasha, Emarat Wosta, Jak and Bartakht Ulia CDCs were informed by the District Government that they would need to resume implementation of their projects within a week or risk having these projects withdrawn.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On October 16th, Mr. Shah Passand Pahlawi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor (ADG), led the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. A key point discussed was an old tribal conflict between two sub-tribes in Shahrak District. The conflict lasted more than 10 years and many people were killed and injured. The ADG assigned the Afghan National Army to support the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) to address the conflict. The first mediation session was scheduled for October 17th.

CHALLENGES

- In Shindand District, the Nawabad Pusht Koh, Nasrabad, Dolorg, Dokasha, Emarat Wosta, Jak and Bartakht Ulia CDCs have been unwilling to continue with their project activities, remarking that security conditions do not allow them to do so. The District Government has responded by stating that these CDCs cannot continue to receive funding for these projects, unless they begin implementation, and they risk having their projects withdrawn.
- EUREKA, who are conducting the SIKA-West Mid-Term Assessment could not conduct household interviews in Ablan, Ghoparda Hulya, Kalimir, Peyaz Darak, Seja and Kham Paitow Villages, Pashtun Zarghun District, due to current security concerns. In response, the M&E Department and the Security Department will continue to assess these areas to determine if conditions improve and/or introduce alternative villages for the assessment.



Mr. Sadeq Mirzai, The Shindand DSW Visited The Work Progress Of A 320-Meter Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall In Aab Garmak Village, Shindand District On October 19th.



The Ghor Chi CDC Completed 39% Construction Work Of A 106-Meter Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall, Pashtun Zarghun District On October 15th.



The Barkhol Ulia CDC Completed 63% Construction Work Of A Slab Culvert, Du Layna District On October 14th.



The Madan CDC Constructing Two Slab Culverts In Madan Village, Du Layna District On October 21st.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Community Development Department will launch feasibility studies for five infrastructure projects (Water Supply Network, Culvert, Flood Protection Wall and Canal) in Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.
- The Qadis, Muqur and Chaghcharan Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held between October 22nd to 26th. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- Farah: The Lash Wa Juwayn District Agriculture Department will organize an open-day to address the district farmers' agricultural-related concerns on October 21st.
- Ghor: In line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, the Governance Department will support the launch of, two (3-month) Governance & Program Management courses for 60 governmental staff in Ghor Province on October 28th.
- Ghor: The Shahrak District Governor rescheduled the Hashar (Volunteer Effort) to clean the District Bazaar to October 28th, reflecting efforts to address community's needs using existing resources.