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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Shor Abad CDC Rehabilitating A 4.5-Km Road Outside Shor Abad Village, Farah Center. Once Completed This Rehabilitated Road Will Support 1,968 Families From Shor Abad & Neighboring Communities To Have Easier Access To Farah Provincial Center.

October 29, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- Preparations are underway to organize a Western DRRD Directors Conference in Kabul on November 10th & 11th. With the participation of MRRD SIKA, this conference is designed to review past MRRD led programming under SIKA-West and consider transitional programming goals as the SIKA-West program comes to an end next year.
- With the support of the Governance Department, the Herat DRRD NABDP successfully organized a District Development Assembly (DDA) re-election in Guzara District, Herat Province. More than 500 district CDC members gathered to elect 30 new DDA members. This new DDA will play a key role in future IDLG/MRRD governance programming within the district. The Pashtun Zarghun DDA re-election is scheduled for November 2nd, 2014.
- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for five grant funded projects, identified and approved by the District Governments and Komite Sobate Wolesswali's in Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan and Qadis Districts. These projects (Road Rehabilitation and Flood Protection Measures) are designed to improve communities' access to district centers, as well as protect their farmland, homes and businesses from seasonal flooding.
- With support of the Database Department, the Ghor Provincial Government Office will be using a computerized database to register and process received petitions. The system will be set up and operational by November 5th, with technical support and mentoring provided by database technicians.



Carpet Weaving And Embroidery Vocational Training Graduates Showcased Their Textile Products At The Herat Women For Women Sunday Market.

With support from the Governance Department, 10 female graduates of a past IDLG/MRRD grant funded Carpet Weaving & Embroidery Vocational Training Course in Shindand District traveled to Herat City to showcase their products at the Women for Women Center's Sunday Market on October 26th. The graduates made contacts with other textile producers, exchanged ideas on improving their products and spoke directly with carpet sellers, to identify new carpet designs and changes in customers tastes.

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

- To date, 375 grant funded projects valued at USD\$9,069,916 have been identified and approved by MRRD and IDLG in our target districts.
- CDCs & DDA's are implementing 119 projects valued at USD\$3,969,591.
- 233 projects valued at USD\$4,130,050 have been completed.
- 16 projects valued at USD\$788,518 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action. The oldest submission has now been pending for almost 5 months.
- 26 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$192,409 have been disbursed in Du Layna, Farah Center, Shindand, Pusht-e Rod, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Qadis, Chaghcharan and Kohsan Districts; supporting a variety of IDLG & MRRD led grant funded solutions to community grievances (Road Rehabilitation, Flood Protection Measures, Irrigation Canals, School & Clinic Rehabilitation)

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

- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan a 'General Administration' Workshop was conducted in Chaghcharan for 42 government personnel (37 males, 5 females) from October 26th-29th, 2014. Covering Administration Guidelines, Human Resource Management and Performance Management, this workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Agricultural Department (AD), organized an "Open House" for district farmers and used this opportunity to respond to farmers concerns. In response to an outbreak of livestock diseases, the AD distributed vaccinations from government stocks.
- With the Governance Department support, the Shahrak District Population Registration Department (PRD) provided National Identity Cards (Tazkiras) to 30 eligible children which means that these children can now register with the Education Department attend school and receive certificates upon graduation. The PRD is following up to issue Tazkira for another 310 applicants.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- As part of SIKA-West's internal Mid-Term Assessment, Eureka has conducted 726 (363 Males, 363 Female) interviews in 33 villages within Pashtun Zarghun, Shahrak and Chaghcharan.
- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Muqur MRRD District Social Workers and District Government Personnel. This training focused on Project site Photography, Track Stick Use, Measurement Tools and Report Writing to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.
- MRRD DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 85 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction prior to the payment of milestones; e.g. Faiz Abad CDC (Kushk Rabat-e Sangi) was advised to use quality stones for their flood protection wall construction project before the next milestone payment is authorized.

FARAH PROVINCE

- With support from the Governance Department and in response to the needs of district families, the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, verified and finalized documentation for 35 district families who have lost members to conflict; and submitted their applications to the Provincial Department for Martyrs & Disabled, so that these families may receive pensions.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Badghis DRRD established the Service Provider Committee, which will be responsible for coordinating the upcoming Badghis Service Provider Fair, as well as promoting the use of the Service Provider Catalog. The Fair has been scheduled to take place in Qala-i-Naw on November 16, 2014.
- With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, a delegation from the Muqur District Government traveled to Qashlaq-e Naw village to inform residents about available government services, including free education for village residents, seeds and fertilizers for farmers and the availability of the District Government Hotline to get in touch with District Government Departments.
- On October 22nd, the Qadis District Komite Sobate Wolesswali discussed the continuing threat of flooding faced by district communities as well as the need for more government investment in educational facilities. The District Government responded by authorizing grants to construct Flood Protection Walls in Arbab Shahniaz and Mir Ghiyas Villages, as well as provide equipment to 6 district schools, which serve 4,239 students (2,503 boys/1,736 girls).
- With the support of the Governance Department, follow up discussions were held with 10 CDCs from Muqur District, who have participated within the Komite Sobate Wolesswali to determine their views on the effectiveness of the KSW and impact of local government's role. Early feedback suggests a positive appreciation on the part of CDC's with their increased connections to local government departments; and responsiveness of the district government to rehabilitate their rural roads.

HERAT PROVINCE

- The Pashtun Zarghun District Government will have their compound surveyed in the coming week, prior to the installation of 14 Solar Lights, as part of a SIKAWest sponsored security upgrade. The Solar Lights are expected to be delivered to the Pashtun Zarghun District Government on November 3, 2014.
- With the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Pashtun Zarghun District Government received a call on their Hotline from Safidan CDC members who urged the DG and KSW to move quickly to address their community need for Flood Protection Measures within their community. The DG responded that this request will be addressed at the upcoming KSW meeting on November 12th.

GHOR PROVINCE

- With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, Mr. Shah Passand Pahlawi and Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor prepared and submitted their quarterly reports to the Ghor



Work Ongoing To Construct A 100-Meter Water Intake In Toswak Village, Farah Center. Once completed the Water Intake Will Provide Water for 22000 Jeribs of Agricultural Land.



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The Lash Wa Juwayn MRRD DSW, Mr. Nasim, Inspecting The Work Progress Of A 4 Culverts Construction Project In Qouch Village: Expected To Improve Access For 1,500 People To The District Center.



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The Qadis DSW, Mr. Abdul Rahman And The Village Manager, Mr. Shojaddin, Inspecting The Work Progress Of A 5 Culverts Construction Project In Haji Ata Mohammad Village: Expected To Improve Access For 3,730 People To The District Center.



40% Of Work Completed To Construct A Wash-Culvert In Haji Mohammad Ali Khan Village, Qadis District. Once Completed. The Wash-Culvert Will Support 36,000 Families To Have Easier Access To The Qadis And Jawand District Centers.

Provincial Governor, with IDLG/MRRD SIKA-West program activities playing a substantial role in these reports.

- With support from the Governance Department, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, the Chaghcharan Mayor, Mr. Aref Qazi Zada and Community Elders will organize a Volunteer (Hashar) Cleaning for parts of Chaghcharan City, which employs volunteers to clean garbage from public areas. These Hashars' reflect leadership by GIRoA to address community needs using available resources. The Hashar is scheduled for November 03, 2014.

CHALLENGES

- EUREKA was unable to start field work in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District, as our program was waiting for the approval of the Herat Provincial Governor, prior to starting the Mid-Term Assessment within the district. SIKA-West has reached out to the IDLG SIKA Unit for support and now expects to receive the Provincial Government approval to begin activities on October 29th.
- Due to an ongoing security situation within Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts, the SIKA-West district staff has been recalled to our Farah Provincial Office until the situation improves. This recall has delayed our Governance, Communications, Gender, Community Development and M&E programming in both districts.
- The M&E Department was unable to verify a number of project sites GPS Points in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts due to current security concerns.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Community Development Department will launch feasibility studies for eight infrastructure projects (Water Supply Network, Culvert, Flood Protection Wall, School Surrounding Wall and Water Intake) in Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara and Kohsan Districts.
- MRRD DSW's will take a leading role in providing Project Management Training for 11 CDCs within Pashtun Zarghun and Guzara Districts, ensuring that CDCs understand their Grant Award Agreements and roles/responsibilities. Following this training, the first round of milestone payments will be disbursed.
- Herat: In collaboration with the Herat DRRD/NABDP the Pashtun Zarghun DDA re-election will be conducted on November 2nd.
- Ghor: The Conflict Management and Legal Awareness training will be provided to the Du Layna Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) on November 1st, enabling them to improve their ability to address conflicts within their communities.
- Ghor: In line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, the Governance Department will support the launch of, two (2-month) Management courses for 60 governmental staff in Ghor Province on November 1st.
- Herat: The Kohsan District Public Health Manager will organize an open-day to address the district residents' health-related concerns on November 2nd.
- Farah: The Communications & Public Outreach Department will support the Farah DRRD, DAIL and Information & Culture Department to organize a Pomegranate Festival on October 29th.



Work Ongoing To Construct A 60-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Khalifa Rahmat Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi. Once Completed The Flood Protection Wall Will Save 500 Jeribs Of Agricultural Land And 100 Houses From Being Flooded.



Students In Jamiyat Boys' High School Received Tazkira, Enabling Them To Register With The Education Department.



85% Work Of A 1.5-KM Road Rehabilitation Project In Sanama Ulia Village Was Completed. The Rehabilitated Road Will Support 1,100 Families To Travel To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.



The Haji Ibrahim CDC Completed 70% Work Of A Culvert Construction Project In Pay Kamar Village, Chaghcharan. Once Completed 340 Families Will Have Easier Access To Travel To The District Center.