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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Qashlaq Naw Kham Abasi CDC Constructing An 88-Meter Canal In Muqur District. Once Completed, The Constructed Canal Will Provide Irrigation Water For 100 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands.

November 5, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- With support of the Governance Department, the Qadis Education Department developed and distributed a guideline that provides detailed information on how a student can move from one school to another. During the past two weeks, 100 applications were processed by the Education Department timely. Before developing the guideline, it was difficult and time-consuming for residents to move their school children.
- Three graduates of a tailoring vocational training course in Muqur District are providing tailoring services from their homes and earning an income of 4,000 AFN per month per person. These recent graduates join the other 117 graduates who are also supporting their families by utilizing vocational education skills.
- On November 1st, a Projects' Closing Ceremony was conducted for the recently completed 10-KM Road Rehabilitation Project, Construction of 12 Culverts and an 85-ML Canal Lining in Chaghcharan which serve 489 families to have easy access to the Provincial Center and provide water for 600 Jeribs of agricultural lands. The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor and the DRRD Director asked the residents to maintain their projects.
- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for two grant funded projects, in Qala-i-Naw and Kohsan 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.

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

- To date, 420 grant funded projects valued at USD\$9,478,292 have been identified and approved by MRRD and IDLG in our target districts.
- CDCs & DDA's are implementing 141 projects valued at USD\$4,503,594.
- 233 projects valued at USD\$4,130,050 have been completed.
- 15 projects valued at USD\$693,518 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action. The oldest submission has now been pending for almost 5 months.
- 12 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$59,712 have been disbursed in Chaghcharan, Du Layna and Muqur Districts; supporting a variety of IDLG & MRRD led grant funded solutions to community grievances (Roads Rehabilitation, Flood Protection Measures and Culverts Construction)

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

- With support of the Community Development Department, the DRRD DSWs took part in leading the Pre-Construction Technical Training to Foremen and Supervisors of 15 CDCs who are implementing Road Rehabilitation and Flood Protection Measures in Qala-i-Naw and Kohsan Districts. Topics included milestone payments schedules, drawings, technical specifications and projects' timeframe.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan a five-day Project Cycle Management Training (PCMT) was kicked off for 35 governmental personnel from Lash Wa Juwayn, Pusht-e Rod and Farah Center on November 1st, covering Project Leadership, Types of Projects, Project Cycle, Project Design, Project Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation. The training was launched by Afghan Creative Consultancy Services.



The Farah DRRD Director Cutting The Ribbon To Inaugurate The Pomegranate Festival In Farah Province On October 29th.

With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Farah DRRD, DAIL and Information & Culture Department jointly organized a Pomegranate Festival in Farah Province on October 29th. More than 25 pomegranate producers showcased six types of Farah pomegranates. *"The Festival was a great opportunity for pomegranate producers to introduce their products to local people and traders,"* the DRRD Director, Mr. Abdul Raouf. *"Both national and international traders showed interest to start business with the pomegranate producers,"* he added.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- As part of SIKA-West's internal Mid-Term Assessment, Eureka has conducted 440 (220 Males, 220 Female) interviews in 22 villages within Shahrak and Chaghcharan.
- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Pashtun Zarghun and Muqur MRRD District Social Workers. The training focused on Project site Photography and Measurement Tools 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 56 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction prior to the payment of milestones; e.g. Haji Mohammad Ali Khan CDC (Qadis) was advised to use sand instead of gravel under their gabion wall project before the next milestone payment is authorized.

FARAH PROVINCE

- MRRD DSWs led the CDC Project Management Training for 9 CDC grantees in Farah Center from November 1st-4th. 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.
- During the week, with support of the Governance Department, a joint team from DRRD and Education Department conducted a schools' equipment preliminary survey for 10 of the 25 target schools in Farah Center and Lash Wa Juwayn District. Based on the results of the survey, school equipment including chairs, desks, cabinets and stationary will be provided to the schools.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan a 'General Administration' Workshop was conducted in Badghis for 32 government personnel from Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Muqur between October 27th-29th, covering Administration Guidelines, Human Resource Management and Performance Management. The workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- On November 1st, Projects' Closing Ceremonies were conducted for the recently completed 12 roads rehabilitation projects' in Muqur District. The District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, requested the CDCs and residents to pay attention to the projects' maintenance. These rehabilitated roads improved access for 11,587 families to the District Center and neighboring villages.
- On November 2nd, with support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, traveled to Sayed Mohammad Village and laid the foundation stone of a 10-meter aqueduct construction project. Following completion of the project, 3,000 Jeribs of agricultural land would have sufficient irrigation water.

HERAT PROVINCE

- With support of the Governance Department, the Kohsan Health Department organized an informative session with 50 residents including teachers, students and governmental officials on November 2nd. The Health Department provided detailed information on how to prevent diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria in the district.
- The Female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) addressed a familial conflict between a mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law in Majirabad Village, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District on October 29th. The CRC organized a total of three mediation sessions with the conflicting parties and convicted them to end to their conflict.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On November 2nd, with support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Ghor Provincial Governor and his Deputy, held a meeting with governmental officials from the Education Department, DRRD, DAIL and Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) to respond to the Shaikh Almand village concerns. The DPG asked these officials to construct a flood protection wall, a girls' school, rehabilitate the Shaikh Almand road and clean their Kariz.



Work Ongoing To Construct A 300-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Rashid Abad Village, Bala Boluk District. Once Completed, The Flood Protection Wall Will Save 100 Jeribs Of Agricultural Land s From Being Flooded.



The Sheikh Abad CDC Implementing A 1.9-KM Road Rehabilitation Project In Farah Center: Expected To Improve Access For 8,724 People To The District Center.



The Qadis District Governor Puts The Foundation Stone Of A 10-Meter Aqueduct Construction Project In Sayed Mohammad Village: Expected To Provide Water For 3000 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands.



The Muqur DSW And The District Governor Inspecting The Work Progress Of A 220-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project in Naw Abad Village: Expected To Save 1000 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands From Being Flooded.

- On October 28th, with support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, Mr. Khosrow, a Chaghcharan Youth Association's member, attended a live radio program on Edalat Radio Station and spoke about youths' problems and concerns in Chaghcharan including unemployment, illiteracy and insecurity.

CHALLENGES

- EUREKA still is 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. The SIKA-West and IDLG SIKA Unit will organize a meeting with the Herat Provincial Government Technical Sectorial Directorate in the coming week to resolve the issue.
- Work resumed in Bala Boluk District, however due to an ongoing security situation within Pusht-e Rod District, the SIKA-West district staff are still working from the Farah Provincial Office until the situation improves.
- 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, except one project (Water Dividers) in Amin Abad Village, Bala Boluk District.
- All program activities in Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun Districts including the DDA-reelection were suspended due to security concerns.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Community Development Department will launch feasibility studies for four infrastructure projects (Water Supply Network and Flood Protection Wall, School Surrounding Wall) in Qala-i-Naw and Qadis Districts.
- DSW's will take a role in leading the Project Management Training for four CDCs from Kohsan, ensuring that CDCs understand their grant agreements and roles/responsibilities.
- The Chaghcharan Municipality Department will organize a Hashar (Volunteer Effort) to clean the city on November 9th, reflecting efforts to address community's needs using existing resources.
- The Community Development Department will organize a Project Completion Ceremony for two recently completed projects (Road Rehabilitation and Canal Lining) in Shahrak district.
- The Ghor and Farah DOWA will lead the Provincial Gender Working Group meetings on November 5th and 8th.
- With support of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Female Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod will be held on November 4th and 5th. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Mazid Ha High School in Muqur District will host a monthly parent-teacher conference on November 6th. The conference will enable parents to speak directly with the school teachers on a regular basis.



Date: 10/27/2014 04:18:56 PM Lat: 34.227153 Lon: 62.694413 Alt: 3617.5 ft
 The Mahal Shahi CDC Constructing A Super Passage In Mahal Shahi Village, Pashtun Zarghun District: Expected To Provide Water For 100 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands.



Date: 10/26/2014 10:41:41 AM Lat: 34.246530 Lon: 62.464860 Alt: 3248.0 ft
 The Said Abad CDC Constructing A 96-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Said Abad Village, Pashtun Zarghun. Once Completed, The Protection Wall Will Save 500 Jeribs Of Lands From Being Flooded.



Date: 11/02/2014 09:06:03:03 Lat: 34.761537 Lon: 62.147847 Alt: 1253.4 m
 The Khola Murgh Sofla CDC Constructing A Water Intake In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District: Expected To Provide Water For 200 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands.



Date: 11/01/2014 12:39:25:25 PM Lat: 34.643457 Lon: 64.630780 Alt: 7493.8 ft
 A Community Development Engineer Inspecting The Work Quality Of A Culvert Construction Project In Deh Sorkh Village, Chaghcharan, Prior To The Payment Of 3rd-Milestone. Once Completed, The Culvert Will Improve Access For 1,620 People To The Provincial Center.