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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi DSW, Mr. Abdul Hadi Jamshidi, Visited The Work Progress Of A Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Faiz Abad Village. Once Constructed, The Flood Protection Wall Will Protect 60 Jeribs Of Agricultural Farmland From Being Flooded.

November 12, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- With support of the Governance Department, the Kohsan Municipality Department developed a guideline on how to get a “Work License”. The guideline, which gives detailed information about the process of applying for a work license, were distributed to the shopkeepers and hung in the public places, allowing the shopkeepers to continue their businesses.
- With the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department and in-line with GIROA Tier 4 monitoring systems, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, inspected the work progress of a 220-meter Canal Lining in Rabat-e Sangi Sharqi Village. The DG was informed that the Rabat Mirza Qala Nawak CDC was late in paying laborers’ agreed salaries as per their Grant Agreement. The DG has organized a follow up meeting with the CDC leadership to address this concern on November 11th.
- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for nine grant funded projects, in Kohsan, Muqur, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw. These projects (Road Rehabilitation and Flood Protection Measures) were identified in the GIROA-led Komite Sobate Wolesswali’s and are designed to improve communities’ access to their district centers, and protect their farmland, homes and local businesses from seasonal flooding.
- With the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Juma Gol Rahmani, participated in a televised program at the Kohsan Local Television Station on November 10th. The DG spoke about the GIROA achievements, including free education and health facilities for residents. The DG shared the District Government Hotline Number and asked residents to share their concerns with the District Government Office for further action.

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

- To date, 423 grant funded projects valued at USD\$9,512,518 have been identified and approved by MRRD and IDLG in our target districts.
- CDCs & DDA’s are implementing 147 projects valued at USD\$4,596,798.
- 235 projects valued at USD\$4,232,316 have been completed.
- 13 projects valued at USD\$583,918 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action. The oldest submission has now been pending for almost 5 months.
- No milestone payments were disbursed during this week.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- MRRD DSWs and Kohsan District Government personnel led the Project Management Training for four CDC grantees from November 5th-9th and covered the Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes sections, while the Community Development Department provided support and covered the remaining material. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid to these CDCs.
- The Governance Department and the Ghor Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) collaboratively kicked off a three-month “Administrative & Management” training course for 60 female government staff and recent university graduates. By the end of this course, government personnel will have improved administrative skill sets, in-line with the IDLG Governance Training Plan.
- Training on “How to use the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC)” was provided to the Chaman CDC in Shindand District on November 10th. The Communications & Public Outreach Department will provide further support to this CDC to use the Herat SPC and find potential third party donors for their tailoring vocational training course.



Western DRRD Directors Discussing SIKA-West Transitional Programming Goals At The “DRRD Conference” In Kabul.

A two-day Western DRRD Directors Conference was conducted in Kabul on November 10th-11th. Participants included the Provincial DRRD Directors from Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah Provinces, representatives from MRRD SIKA and Senior Program Managers from IDLG/MRRD SIKA-West. The Conference was designed to review past MRRD-led programming under SIKA-West and consider transitional programming goals as the program comes to an end next year. Discussions focused on transition initiatives and recommendations including the continuation of Komite Sobate Wolesswali in collaboration with the District Government Offices, Provincial DRRD leadership in leading the Service Provider Fairs and the transfer of SIKA-West contracted District Social Workers to MRRD. These recommendations will be submitted to MRRD, IDLG and USAID for review.

“The Conference provided an opportunity for us to discuss the SIKA-West transition approaches and have a successful and sustainable handover,” Herat DRRD Director, Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- The M&E Department submitted the soft activities tracker to MISTI for the month of November.
- Eureka has completed surveys in Chaghcharan, Shahrak and Pashtun Zarghun Districts and is ongoing in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi.
- M&E training provided to the Lash Wa Juwayn, Qadis, Shindand and Bala Boluk MRRD DSWs and DGOs. Training focused on Photography, Report Writing and Measurement Tools to improve the capacity of government staff.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 63 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. Sarab Karizak CDC (Chaghcharan) was advised to use quality stones in the abutment of their slab culverts construction project before the next milestone payment is authorized.
- In-line with tier 4 GIROA monitoring, the Abu Hanifa CDC called the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government Hotline to inform the DGO that recent floods had washed away construction materials. This concern has been shared with SIKA-West.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On November 9th, the Farah Center Komite Sobate Woleswali members discussed a range of problems including insufficient government support to address flood concerns, unemployment, lack of investment in agricultural sector and poor educational facilities. To address these grievances, the KSW members requested the government to invest in the rehabilitation of roads, culverts, flood protection measures and provision of school equipment. The proposed projects were put in the Project Priority Agreement (PPA) and approved by the Provincial Government, DDA and CDCs. The Community Development Department will start the feasibility studies of these projects in collaboration with the Farah DRRD NABDP Department.
- On November 4th, female members of the Bala Boluk Komite Sobate Woleswali discussed educational concerns within their district and identified that the Dehzak Boys' Primary School which serves 360 students is in need of school equipment such as desks and chairs. This request for support will be shared in the upcoming Bala Boluk Male KSW Meeting later this month and the District Government will decide whether to accept this initiative.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Muqur District Government Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC), with the support of the SIKA-West Governance Department, addressed a water dispute between the Pashtun Ha and Khalifa Hai Sanjidak tribes. This dispute which has been ongoing since 2009, centered on disagreements on how to share the water. Led by the District Government, the TCRC managed to secure an agreement between the tribes to share the water equally and end the dispute.
- With the support of the Governance Department, the Muqur Education Department organized their first Parent-Teacher Conference in Mazidha High School on November 10th. These meetings will be expanded and conducted monthly. The Parent-Teacher Conference will enable both parents and teachers to share and find solutions for students' concerns and problems.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On November 10th, the Kohsan Komite Sobate Woleswali agreed that their roads rehabilitation initiatives were not feasible because these projects require heavy machinery and may damage existing pipe scheme networks under the roads. The KSW members focused on a lack of government investment in the district's agricultural sector. Following a lengthy discussion, the KSW prioritized the needs of Jaqati and Gohar Shad Gharbi Villages, who are in need of Flood Protection Measures and Road Rehabilitation support.
- On November 10th, with the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, the MRRD DSW and CDC leadership visited the work progress of an 80-meter Gabion Protection Wall. The DG was pleased with the work quality and asked the CDC to continue their work based on the project specifications. Once completed, the Gabion Protection Wall will protect 2000 houses from seasonal flooding.

GHOR PROVINCE

- With support of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Ghor DOWA led the Ghor Provincial Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting. It was agreed that four sub-committees (Health, Social, Education and Advocacy) would be established to



The Towsak Bala CDC Completed 33% Work Of A 100-Meter Water Intake In Towsak Village, Farah Center: Expected To Provide Water For 22000 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands.



Work Ongoing To Rehabilitate A 1.9KM Road In Korgh Zard Village In Farah Center. Once Completed, The Rehabilitated Road Will Improve Access For 750 Families To The Provincial Center.



The Qadis DSW, Mr. Abdul Rahman, Visited The Work Progress Of A Wash Culvert In Haji Mohammad Ali Khan Village: Expected To Improve Access For 6300 People To The District Center.



On November 10th, The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District Governor, The MRRD DSW And CDC Leadership Visited The Work Progress Of An 80-Meter Flood Gabion Protection Wall Construction Project: Expected To Save 2000 Houses From Being Flooded.

handle the Gender Working Group activities. These sub-committees are required to develop their scopes of work and action plans before the next meeting.

- In response to malnutrition problems among children in Chaghcharan, the Governance Department will provide technical support to the Chaghcharan Health Department including but not limited to development and distribution of informative posters on malnutrition prevention and treatment.

CHALLENGES

- 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 and Pusht-e Rod Districts due to current security concerns. The M&E Personnel managed to verify the GPS Points in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.
- All program activities in Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun Districts are still suspended due to security concerns.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Community Development Department will launch feasibility studies for four infrastructure projects (Water Supply Network, Flood Protection Wall and Road) in Kohsan, Qala-i-Naw, and Qadis Districts.
- The Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, Du Layna and Shahrak Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held between November 12th to 17th. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- The Community Development Department will conduct project closing ceremony for the recently completed Road Rehabilitation and Culvert Construction projects in Qadis and Muqur Districts.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department will provide Advocacy training to 35 Kohsan District Government staff to improve their capacity to advocate for the residents' concerns and problems on November 19th.
- The Badghis DRRD will organize the Service Providers Fair on November 17th. The Fair will provide an opportunity for Government Departments and Non-Governmental Organizations to display their goods and services and a platform for residents to directly communicate with members of their local government, observe and apply for services and exchange contact details.
- On November 16th, with support of the Governance Department, the Du Layna Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) will organize mediation session to address a tribal conflict between two Birak Jalal sub-tribes.



A Doctor Examining A Malnourished Child In Chaghcharan Hospital. The Governance Department Will Support The Ghor Health Department To Increase Awareness Of Malnutrition & Services To Address The Problem.



The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi DSW, Mr. Abdul Hadi Jamshidi, Visited The Work Progress Of A Bridge Construction Project In Khoja Gol Baidak Village. Once Constructed, The Bridge Will Improve Access For 133 Families To The District Center.



Laborers Constructing A 100-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Faiz Abad Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District: Expected To Save 60 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands From Being Flooded.



Work Ongoing To Construct A Slab Culvert In Seya Sang Village, Chaghcharan. Once Completed, The Culvert Will Improve Access For 7200 People To The Provincial Center.