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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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*Government Officials Cut The Ribbon To Inaugurate The Two-Day Badghis Service Providers Fair On November 17<sup>th</sup>. More Than 60 Government Departments And Non-Governmental Organizations Participated In The Fair, Displaying Their Goods And Services.*

November 19, 2014

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:**

- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Herat, Farah and Ghor Gender Working Groups (GWGs) to the respective Provincial Departments of Women Affairs (DOWAs). The Badghis GWG will be handed over to DOWA on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Mentoring will continue to be provided to the DOWAs as they independently lead future GWGs utilizing existing personnel capacity and resources. Since handover, the Ghor and Herat DOWAs have successfully prepared their own revised scopes of work and action plans for future GWG programming
- Led by the Qadis & Muqur District Government personnel and Badghis DRRD, Project Completion Ceremonies were held for four recently completed projects (Road Rehabilitation & Culverts Construction) within the districts that have improved the rural road network access for up to 14,000 people to the District Centers.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Government Office developed and publicized a District Government Organogram Chart within the DGO which inform district residents whom they should contact and refer their issues to. This model will be followed in other DGO's.
- The SIKA-West DCOP attended a Pan-SIKA Transition Meeting with IDLG and MRRD; hosted by SIKA South, to discuss next steps on finalizing a unified transition package for all SIKA programs.



**During The Two-Day Badghis Service Providers Fair, Thousands of Badghis Residents Acquired Information On A Variety Of Government Services.**

With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Badghis DRRD and Provincial Government organized and launched a two-day Service Providers Fair in Badghis Province (November 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>). 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.

*“During the past decade government has done many activities and provided many services, but people were not aware. People need to know about their government services, which the Fair is showcasing,”* Mr. Sharafudin Majidi, the Badghis Provincial Government Office Chief of Staff.

*“I did not know anything about the Department of Women's Affairs services, today the DOWA Director informed us about their available services and answered to all women's questions,”* Ms. Zarghuna, a woman from Qadis District.

**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 150 projects valued at USD\$4,621,369.
- 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.

**Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:**

- With support of the Governance Department, the Qala-e-Naw District Public Works Department prepared and presented their annual activity report to the Komite Sobate Wolesswali on November 12<sup>th</sup>. This report informed district residents of past, current and planned programming by the DOPW.
- With support from the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Pusht-e Rod DGO (Farah Province) developed SMS messaging targeting illegal poppy cultivation and corruption within the district. DGO contact details were shared with residents who required more information.

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- M&E training was provided to the Shahrak, Shindand and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi 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 74 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. Haji Mohammad Ali Khan CDC in Qadis was advised to correct leveling of their wash culvert construction project before the next milestone payment is authorized.
- In-line with tier 4 GIROA monitoring, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Kohsan, Lash Wa Juwayn, Qadis and Muqur District Governors called to eight implementing CDCs to provide them an update on the progress of their projects. The Chehel Dokhtar CDC reported to the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor that recent floods had washed away construction materials. This concern was shared with SIKA-West. The M&E Personnel and Engineers will monitor the project site on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- With the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department the Pusht-e Rod DGO is receiving requests on the DG Hotline from young drug addicts who are seeking treatment. The DGO has been active in referring these callers to the provincial hospital in Farah City for treatment.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Farah Department of Population and Registration developed a guideline on how to improve the process for accepting and processing Tazkira applications, Guidelines were developed, printed and posted within the department. The Governance Department will follow this up with an “Open House” day to invite district residents to utilize this service.

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- With the support of the Governance Department, the Muqur Education Department organized the first Parent-Teacher Conference in Qala-i-Naw Girls’ High School on November 15<sup>th</sup>. A key point discussed was lack of private educational courses for girls in the winter. The Education Department pledged to take the lead and coordinate with private educational institutes to organize more classes during winter; this pledge will be followed up. The Parent-Teacher Conferences enable both parents and teachers to share and find solutions for students’ concerns and problems.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department supported the Badghis Youth Film Production Agency to screen their recently produced film. The Film, which depicts the importance of peace and stability in the community, was shown to 200 people at the Badghis Provincial Government Office on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

## HERAT PROVINCE

- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Governor (Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari) visited a “Retaining Wall” project in Jagatai Village. The DG reminded the village residents that the project is being provided by the Afghan government with the support of the Herat DRRD. To date, 20% of the project has been completed.
- The Shindand District Governor, Mr. Ajab Gul Kakar Samim, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Key points discussed were the cancelation of nine projects due to security concerns. These projects included Road Rehabilitation, Super Passage, Water Intake and Gabion Flood Protection Walls construction. The DG asked the implementing CDCs to finalize their cancellations no later than November 24<sup>th</sup>. The KSW members will propose alternative projects at the next KSW meeting scheduled for mid-December.

## GHOR PROVINCE

- On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the M&E Department provided project monitoring training to the Shahrak DGO M&E focal point and Shahrak MRRD DSW. This training included proper methods of site inspection and data collection.
- On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, visited the work progress of a culvert construction project in Pouza Leach village, Chaghcharan. The DPG was pleased with the work quality and asked the CDC to continue their work based on the project specifications. Once



*A Farmer Irrigating His Lands, Using One Of The 10 Constructed Water Dividers In Kal Qaleh Village, Bala Boluk District. The Constructed Water Dividers Provide Water For 200 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands.*



*With Support Of The Governance Department, The Lash Wa Juwayn District Government Office Developed And Printed The District Government Organizational Chart.*



*The Godar Gazak CDC Constructing A 100-M Wash Culvert In Bala Boluk District. Once Completed, The Culvert Will Improve Access For 1000 People To The District Center.*



*The Haji Ghulam Haidar Qarqaito Constructing A 110-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Qala-I-Naw. Once Completed, 25 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands And 40 Houses Will Be Saved From Flooding.*

completed, the Culvert will improve the rural road network for 6600 people surrounding the Provincial Center.

## CHALLENGES

- Recent flash flooding in Pashtun Zarghun District has affected project site activities in Chor Chi, Chahar Burjak and Jez Abad villages. CDC's have reported the loss of materials and damage to project sites. These reports are being assessed by the M&E and Community Development Department.
- Programming has resumed in Pusht-e Rod, Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun Districts, but due to an ongoing security situation within Bala Boluk, the SIKA-West district staff have been recalled to the Farah Provincial Office.
- The M&E Department has been unable to confirm Project Site GPS Points in Bala Boluk District due to the recent current security concerns.
- Community Development & Grant programming remains suspended in Chaghcharan, Shahrak and Du Layna.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- The Chaghcharan, Muqur and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings will be held between November 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- The Community Development Department will organize Project Technical training to foremen and supervisors of three CDCs in Muqur and seven CDCs in Qadis District. The training will improve the capacity of the CDCs to implement their Flood Protection Measures and Roads Rehabilitation based on the projects' specifications.
- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit will hand over the Gender Working Group leadership to the Badghis Department of Women Affairs (DOWA) on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- In response to malnutrition problems among children in Chaghcharan, the Public Health Department with support of the Governance Department will organize Malnutrition Prevention Awareness Raising Campaigns in Sultan Aladdin Ghorri and Sultan Razia High Schools on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> respectively.
- 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 19<sup>th</sup>.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Sofla High School in Muqur and the Qala-i-Naw Girls High School will host a monthly parent-teacher conference on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> respectively. The conference will enable parents to speak directly with the school teachers on a regular basis.



**Work Ongoing To Construct A 80-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall In Markaz Wolesswali, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District: Expected To Save 500 Jeribs Of Lands From Being Flooded.**



**The Haji Mohammad Ali Khan CDC Constructing A Wash Culvert In Qadis District: Expected To Improve Access For 6300 People To The District Center.**



**The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi DSW Visited The Work Progress of A 200-M Flood Protection Wall Project In Darweesh Ali Khan Village: Expected to Protect 100 Jeribs Of Agricultural Farmland From Being Flooded.**



**The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, Visited The Work Progress Of A Culvert Construction Project In Pouza Leach Village, Chaghcharan. The Culvert Will Improve Access For 6600 People To The Provincial Center.**