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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Ghazai Abad CDC Constructing A 220-Meter Canal In Ghazi Abad Village, Bala Boluk District. Once Completed, The Canal Will Provide Water For 300 Jeribs Of Farmlands.

November 26, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- Recognizing the importance of tackling poppy cultivation and drug addiction, the Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Juma Gul Rahmani, with the support of Herat Theater Office organized an Anti-Poppy Cultivation and Drug Addiction Drama at the District School on November 18th. The drama aimed to raise awareness amongst district residents on the dangers of poppy cultivation and drug addiction.
- On November 22nd, with support of the Governance Department, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Health Department developed a guideline on how drug addicts can register with the Public Health Department and access treatment facilities. 200 copies were printed and posted in public areas including the district clinics.
- The Stabilization Programming Deputy Manager attended the USAID Implementing Partners Coordination meeting in Camp Arena on November 25th. An update of the recent SIKA-West activities, achievements and challenges were shared. The Herat DRRD Director, Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi, spoke about the good coordination between SIKA-West and DRRD and highlighted it as one of the successful MRRD programs.
- As part of the Stabilization Programming Indicators' review and project impact assessment, discussions were conducted with the Female DDA members and influential women in Kushk Rabat Sangi District on November 25th. The women discussed the impacts of Road Rehabilitating, Canal Lining, School Rehabilitation and Water Intake Construction projects implemented by CDCs in their villages. The women were pleased with the implemented projects and mentioned that these projects improved communities' access to the District Center, provide sufficient water for farmlands and improved the educational environment for students.



Mr. Khodadad Tayed, The Qadis Admin Manager, Speaking About Roles Of Women In Society. He Emphasized On The Hiring Of Women In Government Line-Departments.

With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department and the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, commemorated the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. More than 75 people including the Provincial and District Government authorities, community elders and women attended the event. Speeches on the importance of women's rights were delivered. The DOWA Director, Ms. Zarghuna Shirzad pledged to advocate for women's needs and organize awareness raising campaigns for the district women.

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.
- Four projects valued at USD\$194,081 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- As part of improving government service delivery, computerized Petitions Registration Databases were developed for the Shindand District Justice Department and the Kohsan District Government Office. Before developing the database, most of the petitions were lost which resulted in failure to respond to residents' concerns and problems timely.
- In-line with the District Governance Training Plan, office equipment and stationary were provided to the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Kohsan, Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Muqur District Government Offices.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- M&E training was provided to the Shindand and Lash Wa Juwayn 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 139 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Korgh Zad CDC in Farah Center was advised to correct the drainage system of their road rehabilitation project before the next milestone payment is authorized.
- In-line with tier 3 GIROA monitoring, the Chaghcharan, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Kohsan, Qadis and Muqur District Governors called to 11 implementing CDCs to provide them an update on the progress of their projects. The Khoja Gul Bid CDC in Kushk Rabat Sangi that is implementing a Bridge Construction project reported that they completed the work of their first milestone and is waiting for the second milestone. The SIKA-West Engineers will visit the project on December 1st to check if the CDC has worked based on the project specification.

FARAH PROVINCE

- In-line with the District Government Communications Plan, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor organized a monthly coordination meeting with 13 line-departments on November 24th. Each department presented their achievements and challenges: The Agriculture Department reported they will soon distribute improved seeds to farmers; the Telecommunication Department is lobbying with the Provincial Authorities to provide telecommunication services in the district. In response to lack of medicines, female doctors and potable water, the District Governor pledged to share these issues with the relevant departments at the provincial level for further action.
- On November 19th, the MRRD District Social Worker (DSW), Mr. Mohammad Nabi, visited the work progress of a four Slab Culverts Construction Project in Kuh Gah village, Lash Wa Juwayn District. The DSW was pleased with the work quality and asked the implementing CDC to continue their work based on the project specifications. At the project site, the M&E staff provided project monitoring training to the DSW. This training included proper methods of site inspection and data collection.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- In-line with the District Government Communications Plan, the Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on November 23rd. Key points discussed were the security concerns in the district and lack of DDA involvement in district government activities. The DG assigned the Village Manager to meet with DDA members and encourage them to participate in district government activities including monitoring of development projects. The Chief of Police will hold a security meeting with community elders and exchange contact details to inform each other about insurgents' activities in the district.
- With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Muqur District Governor and the Women Council will now take the lead and support District Government sponsored female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) in Muqur District. The female CRC provides an avenue for district women to report their grievances and request local government support. The Muqur DG has committed to supporting the district CRC after the SIKA-West program ends.

HERAT PROVINCE

- With the support of the Governance Department, the Kohsan, Kushk Rabat Sangi and Shindand Education Departments organized their first Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 18th, 19th and 24th respectively. A key point discussed was the concern of 12th-grade students who do not have National Identity Card (Tazkira) which prevent them from applying for higher education institutes. It was agreed that a list of students who lack Tazkiras be sent to the Population and Registration Department for further action. Another issue raised was absenteeism of some students, it was decided that parents regularly meet with the school authorities to address this issue.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department provided Advocacy and Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) usage training to 38 Kohsan District Government staff to improve their capacity to advocate for the residents' concerns and problems on November 19th. The participants prioritized their communities' needs and will use the Herat SPC to find potential third party donors for their Water Supply Network project.



The Lash Wa Juwayn DSW Visited The Work Progress Of A Four Slab Culverts Construction Project In Kuh Gah Village. Once Completed, The Culverts Will Improve Access For 1800 People To The District Center.



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The Towsak Bala CDC Completed 61% Work Of A 100-Meter Water Intake Construction Project In Toswak Village, Farah Center. Once Completed The Water Intake Will Provide Water For 22000 Jeribs Of Farmlands.



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The Qala-i-Naw DSW Visited The Work Progress Of An 88-Meter Canal Lining In Qashlaq Naw Kham Abasi Village. Once Completed, The Canal Will Provide Irrigation Water For 100 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands.



Work Ongoing To Construct A 47-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Deh Sorkhak Paeen, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Save 150 Jeribs Of Farmlands And 400 Houses From Being Flooded.

GHOR PROVINCE

- With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Ghor Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) will now take the lead and support District Government sponsored female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) in Chaghcharan. The female CRC provides an avenue for district women to report their grievances and request local government support. The DOWA has committed to supporting the district CRC after the SIKA-West program ends.
- The Communications training was provided to 13 members of Falizad CDC in Shahrak District on November 23rd. Topics included main elements of communications, types of audience and communication methods. The Communications & Public Outreach Department will continue mentoring this CDC to build their capacity to communicate with the District and Provincial Authorities and advocate for residents' needs.

CHALLENGES

- Due to 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.
- The Said Abad CDC who will implement 2 Culverts Construction project in Said Abad village in Farah Center has not conducted their CDC leadership re-election. The Deputy Provincial Governor planned to organize a meeting with the CDC on November 26th to follow up this issue.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Community Development & Grant Programming resumed in Chaghcharan, Shahrak and Du Layna.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department and the Gender Mainstreaming Unit will support the Departments of Women's Affairs (DOWA) and District Governors to commemorate the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women in Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Kushk Rabat Sangi, Guzara, Kohsan, Pashtun Zarghun and Shindand Districts.
- The Community Development Department will launch feasibility studies for two infrastructure projects (School Rehabilitation and Flood Protection Wall) in Qala-i-Naw and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts.
- 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 Pashtun Zarghun and Chaghcharan Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held on November 26th and 27th. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.



Work Ongoing To Construct A 40-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Deh Sorkh Bala Village, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Save 130 Jeribs Of Agricultural Lands and 150 house From Being Flooded.



The SIKA-West Engineer Inspecting The Work Quality Of A 100-Meter Flood Protection Wall Project In Khowja Jer Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District. Once Completed, The Wall Will Protect 1500 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



The Seya Sang CDC Completed 43% Work Of A Slab Culvert Construction Project In Seya Sang Village, Chaghcharan: Expected To Improve Access For 7194 People To The Provincial Center.



The Barkhol Ulia CDC Completed 75% Work Of Their 7 Slab Culverts Construction Project In Du Layna District: Expected To Improve Access For 6480 People To The District Center.