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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 140
DEC 16-22, 2014



KN-1-001-Construction of 68ML Stone Masonry Protection Wall (2M Height) In Kalati Mir Hakim Uliya

Lat 34.678302° N, Long 61.092515° E, Alt 734.5 m, Date 17-December-2014 11:38:03 AM

Laborers Constructing A 68-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Kalati Mir Hakim Uliya Village, Kohsan District. Once Completed, The Flood Protection Wall Will Safeguard 8600 Jeribs Of Farmlands From Being Flooded.

December 24, 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK (FARAH/GHOR/BADGHIS/HERAT):

- The MRRD DSW and the Government personnel led the Project Management Training for nine CDC grantees in Farah Center 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.
- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, lobbied with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Farah Province to provide humanitarian assistance to casualties of the recent fight between Afghan Security Forces and anti-government elements in Ganj Abad village in Bala Boluk District. The ICRC pledged to investigate this case and provide assistance to eligible people.
- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for two grant funded projects in Kohsan and one project in Farah Center. These projects (Road Rehabilitation and Water Divider Construction) were identified in the GIROA-led Komite Sobate Wolesswali's and are designed to improve communities' access to the Provincial Center and provide water for farmlands.
- Community Gatherings were held to obtain feedback from communities on the impact of SIKA-West programming in Pashtun Zarghun District. Women in Abgarmi village noted improvement in their transportation network. *"Now that the road is rehabilitated, we can travel to the District Center and use the available government services including health facilities,"* a woman from Abgarmi village.



The Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District Executive Manager Listening To Residents' Concerns On December 20th.

On December 20th, in-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abdullah Nasrat, visited the Kushk Rabat Sangi Bazar and directly communicated with shopkeepers to listen to their concerns. Residents requested the DEM to rehabilitate the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi main road which is in a bad condition. The DEM pledged to share this request with the District Governor for further action.

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

- To date, 437 grant funded projects valued at USD\$9,839,763 have been identified and approved by MRRD and IDLG in our target districts.
- CDCs & DDA's are implementing 149 projects valued at USD\$4,520,557.
- 236 projects valued at USD\$4,330,196 have been completed.
- Four projects valued at USD\$194,081 are pending with the Vetting Unit for approval.
- 6 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$77,508 have been disbursed in Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis, Pusht-e Rod and Farah Center; supporting a variety of IDLG & MRRD led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- On December 22nd, with support of the Governance Department, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Agriculture Department provided Plant Pest and Diseases Control training to 15 farmers. The Agriculture Manager practically explained to the farmers how to prepare the pesticide. By the end of the training farmers learned the new methods to fight plant diseases.
- As part of the efforts to improve communication between the government and residents, the Communications & Public Outreach Department provided 'Media Relations' training to eight Government staff in Lash Wa Juwayn District on December 17th. By the end of the training, the participants learned how to conduct an interview and write press releases.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw and Pusht-e Rod MRRD District Social Workers and District Government Personnel. This training focused on Project Site Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 45 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Kalati Mir Hakim Sofla in Kohsan District was advised to correct the gabion cage weaving of their Flood Protection Wall project before the next milestone payment is authorized.
- In-line with tier 3 GIROA monitoring, the Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governors called to 7 implementing CDCs to provide them an update on the progress of their projects. For example, the Kababi Paen CDC in Pusht-e Rod who is implementing a Culverts Construction Project complained about the delay of their second milestone payment. SIKA-West will follow up this issue.

FARAH PROVINCE

- The female members of the Lash Wa Juwayn Komite Sobate Woleswali discussed about their community problems where local government support was needed, including poor educational facilities in Ibn-e Yamin Juwayni High School, lack of potable water in Naw Abad Village and bad road condition in Tapa Gol village. With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, these grievances were shared with the District Government-led KSW and the district government agreed to address these conditions by provision of school equipment, rehabilitation of road and water supply network.
- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Lash Wa Juwayn female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) to the Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor on December 18th. The female CRC provides an avenue for district women to identify and address familial conflicts at the district level. The DG has committed to support the district CRC after the SIKA-West program ends.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Communications & Public Outreach Department conducted a training session on the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) usage to 24 Boyaha CDC members in Qadis District to improve their capacity to advocate for residents' concerns and problems. The participants will use the Badghis SPC to find potential third party donors to address their community major problems. At the end of the training, 12 copies of the SPC were distributed to participants.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department provided 'Effective Communications' training to 14 Qala-i-Now Government staff on December 16th. The training aimed to improve the government staff's communication capacity to use Medias and inform residents about available government services.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On December 22nd, the Kohsan District Executive Manager, Mr. Nezamudin Rahmani, visited the work progress of a 2-KM road rehabilitation project in Islam Qala Shamali village. The DEM was pleased with the work quality and asked the implementing CDC and community residents to pay attention to the project maintenance. Once completed, the rehabilitated road improves access for 450 families to the District Center.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Population Registration Department developed a guideline to speed up the process of obtaining National Identity Card (Tazkira). The guideline provides detailed information about the steps and required documents for obtaining Tazkira. Before developing the guideline, residents did not know what documents are required to receive a Tazkira which resulted in delaying of the process.

GHOR PROVINCE

- The "Administrative & Management" training course for female government staff and recent university graduates in Chaghcharan is ongoing. During the week, the participants learned the time management skills and learned to produce documents using the Microsoft Word. By the end of this course, government personnel will have improved administrative skill sets, in line with the IDLG Governance Training Plan.



The Dar Abad Bala CDC Completed 90% Work Of A 1.9-KM Road Rehabilitation Project In Farah Center: Expected To Improve Access For 613 Families To The Provincial Center.



The Damboly Hulya CDC Completed 90% Work Of A 50-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Lash Wa Juwayn: Expected To Safeguard 3000 Jeribs Of Farmlands From Being Flooded.



Laborers Working To Construct A 60-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Haji Mohammad Ali Khan Village, Qadis District. Once Completed, 80 Jeribs Of Farmlands And 50 Houses Will Be Safeguarded From Being Flooded.



The Deh Sorkhak Paeen CDC Completed 50% Work Of A 47-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction In Qala-I-Now: Expected To Safeguard 50 Jeribs Of Farmlands And 345 Houses From Being Flooded.

- On December 22nd, the M&E Department provided project monitoring training to the Chaghcharan PGO. This training included proper methods of site inspection, data collection, photography and report writing. The training designed to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.

CHALLENGES

- Following the Afghan National Police operation in Shindand District, the security situation has been improved in this district. All program activities have been resumed effective December 24th.
- Due to cold weather, all projects in Du Layna, Shahrak and Chaghcharan; eight projects in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi , one project in Kohsan, two projects in Guzara and 12 projects in Pashtun Zarghun are being suspended till March 1st, 2015.
- 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 computers for the “‘Administrative & Management’ training course in Chaghcharan are not functioning properly. The SIKA-West will coordinate with the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission to follow up this issue.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held on December 23rd and 28th respectively. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- The Community Development Department will launch feasibility studies for nine infrastructure projects (Road Rehabilitation, Canal Improvement & Culvert Construction)) in Farah Center.
- With support of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Farah and Ghor Department of Women’s Affairs (DOWA) will lead the Provincial Gender Working Group meetings on December 25th and 28th respectively.
- The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) will organize mediation sessions between conflicting parties in Karizak and Nowda villagers. These villagers are in conflict over the use of a public pasture since last five months.
- The Farah Department of Public Health will organize a Hashar (Volunteer Effort) to clean the city on December 29th, reflecting efforts to address community’s needs using existing resources.
- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Qala-i-Naw and Pusht-e Rod District Governors each will organize an Agricultural Market Day on December 29th. The Market Day provides an opportunity for farmers to communicate with Agricultural Service Provides and exchange contacts for business.



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The Deh Sorkhak Bala CDC Completed 70% Work Of A 40-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard 130 Jeribs Of Farmlands And 350 Houses From Being Flooded.



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The Chap Qoul CDC Completed 70% Work Of Chap Qoul Primary School Rehabilitation In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi. Once Completed, The School Provide Better Educational Environment For 927 Students.



The Kohsan District Executive Manager Visited The Work Progress Of A 2-KM Road Rehabilitation Project In Islam Qala Shamali Village: Expected To Improve Access For 450 Families To The District Center.



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Laborers Constructing A 63-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Lak Lak Khana Village, Kushk Rabat-E Sangi: Expected To Safeguard 400 Jeribs Of Farmlands From Being Flooded.