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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 141
DEC 23-29, 2014



The Qashlaq Naw Kham Abasi CDC Completed 64% Of A 88-Meter Canal Lining, 48-Meter Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall And 48-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall In Qashlaq Naw Kham Abasi Village, Muqur District. Once Completed, The Canal Will Provide Irrigation Water For 1000 Jeribs Of Farmland.

December 31, 2014

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

- With support of the Farah Gender Working Group and DOWA, for the first time 70 women attended a driving course in Farah Province. The GWG and DOWA collaboratively lobbied with the Traffic Department to organize driving training sessions for women. Five out of 70 women took the driving test and successfully passed. The remaining women will take the test in the coming weeks.
- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Executive Manager organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on December 23rd. Each line-department shared their activities and achievements including collection of 100,000 AFN taxes from shopkeepers by the Revenue Department. In response to a lack of medicine in Lash Wa Juwayn Clinics, the Executive Manager will lobby the Provincial Health Department to provide material support.
- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for seven grant funded projects in Farah Center. These projects (Road and School Rehabilitation and Culvert Construction) were identified in the GIROA-led Komite Sobate Wolesswali's and are designed to improve communities' access to the Provincial Center and provide a better educational environment for students.
- As part of the Pashtun Zarghun District Government Compound security upgrade, 14 solar lighting poles were successfully installed in the Pashtun Zarghun District Government Compound.



The Ghor Gender Working Group Members Discussing About The Scopes Of Work And Action Plans Of Their Sub-Committees.

The Ghor Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) Director independently led the Provincial Gender Working Group meeting on December 28th. The participants discussed the current Scopes of Work and Action Plans for the GWG sub-committees (Cultural & Social, Advocacy and Education). Each Committee identified a range of activities where women's needs and concerns needed to be addressed, including increasing health facilities for women, employment of women in governmental organizations and improvement of women's access to education.

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.
- 9 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$73,871 have been processed in Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, Muqur, Guzara, Bala Boluk, Khak-e-Safayd and Farah Center; supporting a variety of IDLG & MRRD led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- In Kohsan District, the MRRD DSW and District Government personnel led the Project Management Training for four CDC Grantees covering the Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes sections, while the Community Development Department provided technical support and covered the remaining material. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Pusht-e Rod Education Department developed and distributed a guideline that provides detailed information on how a student can move from one school to another. Before developing the guideline, residents were not aware of the steps and required documents to move their school children.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Chaghcharan, Qadis and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi 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 50 project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Sultan Ha CDC in Qadis was advised to not use rusty wire for their Flood Protection Wall project before the next milestone payment is authorized.
- In-line with tier 3 GIROA monitoring, the Qala-i-Naw Government Personnel called to 2 implementing CDCs to provide them an update on the progress of their projects. The Deh Sorkhak Payeen CDC who is implementing a flood protection wall construction project reported that they were working based on the project specifications.

FARAH PROVINCE

- The Farah Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) Director independently led the Provincial Gender Working Group meeting on December 25th. Key points discussed were the lack of female staff in governmental organizations. The GWG decided to conduct an assessment to identify which organizations lack female staff; based on these findings, the GWG will develop an action plan to lobby the provincial government.
- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Lash Wa Juwayn Female Komite Sobate Woleswali (KSW) to the District Governor on December 23rd. The female KSW provides an avenue for district women to report their grievances and request local government support. The DG committed to take the lead and support the female KSW in Lash Wa Juwayn District after the SIKA-West program ends. *"The Komite Sobate Woleswali provided the opportunity for women to communicate with their government, share their concerns and advocate for their needs,"* Ms. Rahela, Lash Wa Juwayn KSW member.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan a 'Work Plan Development' Workshop was conducted in Qadis District for 12 government personnel from December 23rd-24th. Subject matter includes; Annual Work Plan, Development, Strategic Planning & Procurement Practices. This workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Muqur District Agriculture Department provided 'Tree Pruning and Pistachio Cultivation' training to 50 farmers on December 29th. These farmers did not know the proper methods of tree pruning which resulted in low yield. By the end of the training, the farmers learned standard methods of pruning for different types of trees and learned the steps and requirement of pistachio cultivation.

HERAT PROVINCE

- In order to support improvements in District Government Service Delivery, a 'General Administration' Workshop was conducted in Kohsan District for 12 government personnel from December 28th-29th. Subject matter included Administrative Guidelines, Human Resource Management and Performance Management.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Pashtun Zarghun Education Department developed a guideline to speed up the process of obtaining an official school graduation certificate. The guideline provides detailed information about the steps and required documents for obtaining certificate which will then enable students to apply for higher education institutes.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On December 28th, the Community Development Department conducted a Post Project Completion Site Visit for the Canal Lining project in Dahan Dara Kassi village in Chaghcharan. The Canal was in good condition and no deficiency was observed.
- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to five governmental staff in Chaghcharan. This training focused on Project Site Photography, Measurement



Laborers Rehabilitating The Yazdi Eshaqzai High School In Farah Center. Once Completed, The School Will Provide Better Educational Environment For 1860 Students.



Date: 12/27/2014 03:13:28:28 PM Lat: 32.383933 Lon: 62.108693 Alt: 2195.9 ft

The Kababi Payeen CDC Completed 70% Of A Four Culverts Construction Project In Pusht-E Rod District: Expected To Improve Access For 968 Families To The District Center.



Date: 12/29/2014 11:47:29:29 AM Lat: 34.987703 Lon: 63.229880 Alt: 3124.0 ft

The Muqur District Agriculture Department Provided 'Tree Pruning And Pistachio Cultivation' Training To 50 Farmers On December 29th.



Date: 12/24/2014 10:47:55:55 AM Lat: 34.830800 Lon: 63.388820 Alt: 4017.4 ft

The Haji Mohammad Ali Khan CDC Completed 83% Of A Wash Culvert Construction Project In Qadis: Expected To Improve Access For 6320 People To The District Center.

Tools and Report Writing to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.

CHALLENGES

- On December 28, 2014, three members of the Akhund Zadaha CDC and four daily laborers were kidnapped while working on their grant funded 2 KM Road Rehabilitation project. In addition, some construction machinery on the site was burned. SIKA-West has stopped 6 projects in and around Akhun Zadaha Village until this incident is resolved.
- Due to the current 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 have been suspended until winter conditions pass.
- The M&E Department has been unable to confirm 16 Project Site GPS Points in Bala Boluk District due to current security concerns.

WHAT'S NEXT

- On January 5th, 2015, with support of the Governance Department, the Kohsan District Agriculture Department will provide Plant Pest and Diseases Control training to 20 farmers: Expected that farmers learn the new methods to fight plant diseases.
- As part of the activities to improve agricultural yield, the Lash Wa Juwayn, Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Agriculture Departments will provide “Wheat Cultivation” training to 45 farmers on January 7th, 2015.
- Community Gatherings will be held to obtain feedback from communities on the impact of SIKA-West programming in Shindand and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District.
- The Community Development Department will launch feasibility studies for 12 infrastructure projects (Road and School Rehabilitation, Flood Protection Wall and Culvert Construction) in Farah Center and Lash Wa Juwayn District.
- The Qadis District Government Female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) will organize mediation sessions between conflicting parties in Qarchaqai village over a family marriage dispute on January 6th, 2015.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a two-month ‘Administration & Management’ Training course will be kicked off for 60 governmental staff in Qala-i-Naw on January 6th, 2015. The training aims to improve the government staff administrative skill sets.



Date: 12/24/2014 11:08:02:02 AM Lat: 34.817027 Lon: 63.422640 Alt: 4197.8 ft
 Laborers Working To Construct A 60-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Haji Mohammad Ali Khan Village, Qadis District. Once Completed, 80 Jeribs Of Farmland And 50 Houses Will Be Safeguarded From Being Flooded.



As Part Of The Pashtun Zarghun District Government Compound Security Upgrade, 14 Solar Lighting Poles Were Installed In The Pashtun Zarghun District Government Compound.



Date: 12/23/2014 11:55:11:11 Lat: 34.798280 Lon: 62.136840 Alt: 1188.1 m
 The Rabat Mirza Qala Nowak CDC Completed 50% Of A 220-Meter Canal In Rabat Sangi Sharqi Village In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi. Once Completed, The Canal Will Move Drain Water From The District Bazar To The River.



PZ-08-004 Chavarehi CDC Pashtun Zarghun District of Herat Province.
 Lat: [34.225967° N]; Long: [62.864362° E]; Alt: [1189.7 m]; Date: [23-December-2014 2:09:50 PM]
 The Chor Chi CDC In Pashtun Zarghun Completed 76% Of A Flood Protection Wall And One Culvert Construction: Expected To Safeguard 2000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded And Improve Access For 900 People To The District Center.