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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Band Abad CDC Completed 47% Work Of A 45-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Band Abad Village, Pashun Zarghun District. Once Completed, The Flood Protection Wall Will Safeguard 600 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

January 14, 2015

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

- The Shindand Acting District Governor, Mr. Samandar, organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on January 7th. Each line-department shared its concerns; the Education Manager reported that the Education Department's building needs rehabilitation. The ADG temporarily provided a building for the Education Department until the District Government could rehabilitate it. In response to lack of staff in the District Court, the ADG will lobby the Provincial Court for further action.
- During the week, the Community Development Department conducted Post Project Completion Site Visits for School Rehabilitation in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Roads Rehabilitation in Muqur & Chaghcharan and Culvert Construction in Qadis District. The projects were in good condition and no deficiencies were observed. Now that the school is rehabilitated, 540 students have a better educational environment. The rehabilitated roads and culvert in Muqur, Qadis and Chaghcharan have improved access for 872 families to the Provincial/District Centers.
- Community Gatherings were held with female residents to obtain feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming in Qadis District. Women in Chap Rodha village noted that their farmland could not receive sufficient water due to a poor irrigation system which resulted in low yields. *"Now that the aqueduct is constructed, our farmland has enough water and we will have improved yields,"* Ms. Aziza, a woman from Chap Rodha Village.

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

- To date, 413 grant funded projects valued at USD\$9,511,311 have been identified and approved by MRRD and IDLG in our target districts.
- CDCs & DDA's are implementing 149 projects valued at USD\$4,455,358.
- 239 projects valued at USD\$4,472,554 have been completed.
- One project valued at USD\$37,081 is pending with the Vetting Unit for approval.
- 24 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$126,642 have been processed in Pashtun Zarghun, Muqur, Bala Boluk, Kohsan, Farah center, Pusht-e Rod, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shindand, Du Layna and Chaghcharan; supporting a variety of IDLG & MRRD led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a two-month 'Administration & Management' Training course was 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.
- In Pashtun Zarghun and Muqur Districts, the MRRD DSWs and District Government personnel led the Project Management Training for 17 CDC Grantees covering the Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes sections, while the Community Development Department provided technical support and covered the remaining course material. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department conducted a training session on the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) usage to 15 farmers in Pusht-e Rod District on January 6th to improve their capacity to advocate for residents' concerns and problems. At the end of the training, 25 copies of the SPC were distributed to farmers to find potential third party donors to address their community major problems.



Farah Provincial Health Department Staff Cleaning The Farah Hospital Buildings During The Cleaning Hashar On January 8th.

With support of the Governance Department, the Farah Provincial Health Department organized a Cleaning Hashar (Public Work) on January 8th. More than 100 Health Department Staff attended the event and cleaned the Provincial Hospital Buildings, the Drug Rehabilitation Center and the Health Department Compound. *"We will continue such efforts in future and invite other line-departments to join us,"* Dr. Abdul Jabar Shayeque, the Farah Health Department Director.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis and Lash Wa Juwayn District Social Workers. Training focused on Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 93 project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Alakozay Ha CDC in Pashtun Zarghun was advised not to use low quality stones for the surrounding wall of their school rehabilitation project or the next milestone payment will not be authorized.
- The Bala Boluk, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Qadis Government Personnel used the District Government Hotline Number and called to seven implementing CDCs to provide them an update on the progress of their projects. The Haji Abdul Hakim CDC reported that they completed their flood protection wall construction project two months ago but still has not received its last milestone. The DG shared this issue with SIKA-West for further action.

FARAH PROVINCE

- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for nine projects in Farah Center and Lash Wa Juwayn. These projects (Road & School Rehabilitation, Culvert Construction and Flood Protection Walls) were identified in the GIROA-led Komite Sobate Woleswali's and are designed to improve communities' access to the Provincial Center, provide a better educational environment for students and safeguard farmland from being flooded.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Agriculture Department provided 'Wheat Cultivation' training to 15 farmers on January 7th. These farmers did not know some of the proper methods of wheat cultivation which resulted in low yields. By the end of the training, the farmers learned: what types of improved seeds are applicable for their farmland, what kind of fertilizers they should use and proper irrigation methods.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Badghis Provincial Economic and Cultural Expert visited the work progress of a 47-meter flood protection wall construction project in Deh Sorkhak Paen village in Qala-i-Naw on January 11th. The Economic and Cultural Expert was pleased with the work quality and asked the residents to pay attention to the project's maintenance. The implementing CDC completed 52% of the work: Expected to safeguard an existing bridge, 345 houses and 50 Jeribs of farmland from being flooded.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Muqur District Education Department conducted a training session to students in Mazid Ha High School on how they can obtain an official school graduation certificate. By the end of the training, students learned about the steps and required documents to obtain the certificate which will then enable them to apply to higher education institutes.

HERAT PROVINCE

- The Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Sectorial Manager, the District Social Worker and DDA members visited the work progress of a 100-meter flood protection wall construction project in Faiz Abad village on January 8th. The implementing CDC completed 70% of the work based on the project specifications: Expected to safeguard 300 Jeribs of farmland from being flooded.
- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Pashtun Zarghun District Government organized a 'Peace Football Tournament' watched by over 2000 people. During one week, 13 teams competed for the championship trophy provided by the District Government and carried peace messages printed on their uniforms.

GHOR PROVINCE

- Following completion of the second month of the "Administrative & Management" training course for female government staff and recent University graduates in Chaghcharan, a post-test was conducted to evaluate the administrative skill sets of the students. The result of the post-test showed that students' administrative skills have been improved by 58.5%.
- The Ghor Provincial Gender Working Group lobbied the Independent Human Rights Commission to organize an awareness raising session on importance of



Date: 01/07/2015 11:53:45 AM Lat: 32.348540 Lon: 61.908800 Alt: 2068.6 ft
 The Karizak Kazbalaghi CDC Completed 83% Work Of A 1.9-KM Road Rehabilitation In Korgh Zard Village, Farah Center: Expected To Improve Access For 757 Families To The Provincial Center.



Date: 01/06/2015 11:01:30:30 AM Lat: 31.543033 Lon: 61.478993 Alt: 1582.5 ft
 One Of The Four Culverts Constructed By The Qouch CDC In Lash Wa Juwayn District. The Constructed Culverts Improved Access For 1915 Families To The District Center.



Date: 01/06/2015 03:03:38:38 PM Lat: 35.080923 Lon: 63.258733 Alt: 2901.6 ft
 The Neyazai CDC Constructing A 60-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Mazid Village, Muqur. Once Completed, The Flood Protection Wall Will Safeguard 125 Houses And 41 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



The Badghis Provincial Economic And Cultural Expert Visited The Work Progress Of 47-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Deh Sorkhak Paen Village, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard An Existing Bridge, 345 Houses And 50 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

education for 30 women in Pozalich village in Chaghcharan on January 8th. By the end of the session, women learned the importance of education in their daily lives and their community and pledged to attend the literacy courses in their village.

CHALLENGES

- The M&E Department has been unable to confirm 15 Project Site GPS Points in Bala Boluk District due to current security concerns. M&E is working to train some CDC members and also to hire local daily laborers to assist with monitoring and GPS points' collection.
- Due to security concern within Bala Boluk District, the SIKA-West district staff are working from the Farah Provincial Office until the situation improves.
- 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.
- Three members of the Akhund Zadaha CDC and four daily laborers who were kidnapped on December 28, 2014 are still held. The Akhund Zadaha CDC grant funded 2 KM Road Rehabilitation project and the other 5 SIKA-West projects in and around Akhund Zadaha Village are still suspended until this incident is resolved.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Community Development Department will provide Project Management Training for 17 CDCs in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Qala-i-Naw. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid.
- The Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qadis, Kohsan and Chaghcharan Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held between January 13th-18th. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- Project Completion Ceremony will be held for the two recently completed roads rehabilitation projects in Chaghcharan.
- Monitoring and Evaluation training will be provided to the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Muqur, Pusht-e Rod and Bala Boluk District Social Workers and Government Personnel, focusing on Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing.
- The Governance Department will organize a two-day 'Procurement & Financial Management' training to 40 Farah Provincial Government staff on January 14th and 15th.



The Mir Hai Lamani CDC Constructing A 37-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall In Mir Ha Village, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard An Irrigation Canal And 50 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



The Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District Sectorial Manager And The DSW Visiting Work Progress Of A 100-Meter Flood Protection Wall Project In Faiz Abad Village: Expected To Safeguard 300 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



The Pashtun Zarghun District Government Organized A 'Peace Football Tournament' Watched By Over 2000 People; 13 Teams Competed For A Championship Trophy Provided By The District Government And Carried Peace Messages Printed On Their Clothes.



The Tai Kham CDC Rehabilitating 1.8-KM Road And Constructing Three Culverts In Kohsan District: Expected To Improve Access For 715 Families To The District Center.