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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 144
JAN 13-19, 2015



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The Gaja CDC Constructed A Water Reservoir With A Capacity Of 2000-M³ Irrigation Water In Gaja Village, Pashtun Zarghun District. This Reservoir Will Provide Enough Water For 10,000 Jeribs Of Farmland.

January 21, 2015

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

- With support of the Governance Department, the Shindand Municipality Department developed a guideline on how to get a “Business Permit”. The guideline outlines the steps to be taken when one wants to set up/register a business. The guidelines were distributed to shopkeepers and hung in public places
- The Qadis District Female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) with support of the District Government addressed a family marriage dispute between two families in Qarchaqai village. The conflict started when the boy’s family refused to pay the bride’s dowry. The CRC organized two mediation sessions with the conflicting parties and at the end the boy’s family agreed to pay the bride’s dowry and resolved the conflict.
- In Guzara, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Shindand, Muqur and Qala-i-Naw, the MRRD DSWs and District Government personnel led Project Management Trainings for 188 members (140 males, 48 females) of 37 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 these PMTs, the first round of milestones will be paid.
- During the week, the Chaghcharan, Farah Center, Kohsan, Qadis, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Lash Wa Juwayn DGs organized and led their respective Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings. The KSWs’ members discussed and reviewed their communities’ concerns and potential for district government led solutions.



The Farah Center Komite Sobate Wolesswali Discussing Their Community Major Problems And Potential For District Government Led Solutions.

On January 13th, Mr. Mohammad Younis Rasouli, the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor led the Farah Center Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting. As part of the transition, to ensure sustainability of the KSW after the SIKA-West program ends, lunch will no longer be provided at KSW meetings. The participants discussed their community major problems, poor water management system, lack of job opportunities and illiteracy, and prioritized 25 new solutions including Road and School Rehabilitation, Canal Lining and Flood Protection Measures.

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

- CDCs & DDA’s currently are implementing 148 projects valued at USD\$3,774,507, which will approximately improve the lives of 624,447 people.
- CDCs & DDA’s completed 241 projects valued at USD\$4,513,396. The completed projects improved the lives of approximately 454,953 people.
- Currently 168 projects valued at USD\$ 2,599,108 are under development.
- 31 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$204,025 were processed in Pashtun Zarghun, Muqur, Bala Boluk, Kohsan, Farah Center, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Chaghcharan, Lash Wa Juwayn, and Qala-i-Naw; supporting IDLG & MRRD led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- The Governance Department conducted a ‘Procurement & Financial Management’ workshop for 40 governmental staff in Farah Province on January 14 and 15. Participants learned about procurement procedures, financial planning and budgeting, and balance analysis.
- Report Writing training was provided to four Government Personnel in Lash Wa Juwayn and Pusht-e Rod Districts. The Governance Department will provide further mentoring to improve the capacity of governmental personnel to prepare their departments’ activity reports and submit to the respective District Governors.
- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to nine Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Lash Wa Juwayn District Social Workers and Government Personnel. Training focused on Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- SIKA-West started working on uploading information of all SIKA-West projects, financial information for the quarter and effective indicators data for the October-December 2014 Quarter into the USAID Afghan Info Database. The data uploading process will be completed on January 27th.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 49 project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Kishmir Abad CDC in Pashtun Zarghun was advised to use high quality materials for their culvert construction project or the next milestone payment will not be authorized.
- The Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Executive Manager used the District Government Hotline Number and called four CDCs who are implementing Flood Protection Walls Construction and School Rehabilitation Projects to get an update on the progress of their projects. The CDCs reported that they are waiting to receive their projects’ milestone payments. This issue was shared with SIKA-West for further action.

FARAH PROVINCE

- The DRRD District Social Worker, the SIKA-West Engineer and M&E Personnel conducted a joint project site visit to inspect progress on a 50-meter Flood Protection Wall construction project in Panj Deh village, Lash Wa Juwayn District on January 15. They observed that the CDC did not prepare the gabions based on project specifications. The SIKA-West Engineer provided on-the-job training to the CDC to correct this deficiency.
- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for two grant funded projects in Farah Center. These projects, Road Rehabilitation and Culvert Construction, were identified by the GIRA-led Komite Sobate Wolesswali and will improve community access to the Provincial Center.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Communications & Public Outreach Department conducted a training session on the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) usage to 20 school teachers in Qadis District on January 15 to improve their capacity to advocate for residents' concerns and problems. At the end of the training, 20 copies of the SPC were distributed to teachers to find potential third party donors to address their community major problems.
- The Community Development Department conducted a Post Project Completion Site Visit for a Road Rehabilitation Project in Muqur District. The project was in good condition and no deficiency was observed. Now that the road is rehabilitated, 600 families can travel to the District Center and use available government services.

HERAT PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Kohsan District Executive Manager, Mr. Nezamudin Rahmani, organized a meeting with 50 members of Youth Association to listen to their concerns and respond accordingly. Youth shared their concerns including lack of job opportunities, lack of literacy courses and lack of a drug rehabilitation center to help the district drug addicts. The Executive Manager pledged to lobby the Provincial Authorizes and third party donors to address these concerns.
- The DRRD District Social Worker (DSW) and SIKA-West Engineer visited the work progress of a 140-meter Flood Protection Wall construction project in Torghundi Sharqi village, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District on January 18. It was observed that large stones were used for the gabions; the CDC was advised to correct the deficiency. Once completed, the Flood Protection Wall will safeguard an existing water intake and 300 Jeribs of farmland from being flooded.

GHOR PROVINCE

- Community Gatherings were held with five female residents to obtain feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming in Chaghcharan. Women in Akhta Khana Sofla village noted that before the construction of the culvert in their village they did not have access to Chaghcharan markets and hospitals especially in winter. Women were grateful for the government's support and highlighted that the constructed culvert has improved access to the Provincial Center.
- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Chaghcharan District Social Worker and three Government Personnel. The training focused on Project



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The DRRD DSW, SIKA-West Engineer And M&E Personnel Visiting The Work Progress Of A 50-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Panj Deh Village, Lash Wa Juwayn: Expected To Safeguard 3000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



Date: 01/18/2015 10:55:01:01 PM Lat: 31.584230 Lon: 61.491347 Alt: 1605.3 ft

The Kosha CDC Completed 83% Work Of A 200-Meter Surrounding Wall For Kosha Primary School, Lash Wa Juwayn District. Once Completed, 425 Students Would Have A Safe Educational Environment.



Date: 01/19/2015 10:33:47:47 AM Lat: 32.377543 Lon: 62.104687 Alt: 2183.4 ft

The Bagh Kafi CDC Rehabilitating A 1.5-KM Road In Bagh Kafi Village, Farah Center: Expected To Improve Access For 520 Families To The Provincial Center.



Date: 01/13/2015 11:42:56:56 AM Lat: 35.023030 Lon: 63.283453 Alt: 3136.8 ft

The Naw Abad CDC Completed 90% Work Of A 220-Meter Flood Protection Wall Project In Muqur District. Once Completed, 480 Houses And 48 Jeribs Of Farmland Will Be Safeguarded From Being Flooded.

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

CHALLENGES

- There is a conflict between the Taraki Khoshnow CDC members who are implementing a Flood Protection Wall construction project. The CDC is going to conduct a re-election for CDC key members. The project is suspended until this issue is resolved.
- The M&E Department has been unable to confirm 13 Project Site GPS Points in Bala Boluk District due to current security concerns. M&E trained some CDC members to assist with monitoring and GPS points' collection. During the week, 2 out of 15 project site GPS points were collected by CDC members in Bala Boluk.
- 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, Chaghcharan and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, two projects in Guzara and twelve projects in Pashtun Zarghun are 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 hostage. 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 seven CDCs in Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn and Guzara. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid.
- The Bala Boluk, Guzara and Muqur Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held on January 20th-21st. Key Points will include a review of pending district concerns and potential for district government led solutions.
- Community Gatherings will be held with residents to obtain feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming in Chaghcharan, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Farah Center.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Pashtun Zarghun and Qadis Agriculture Departments will provide 'Orchard Extension' training to 40 farmers on January 24th.
- The Governance Department will organize a two-day 'Procurement & Financial Management' training to 50 Chaghcharan and Pashtun Zarghun Government staff.
- The Kohsan District Government will organize a Hashar (Volunteer Effort) to clean the Darwish Ali irrigation canal on January 22nd; reflecting efforts to address community's needs using existing resources.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Kohsan Agriculture Department will provide 'Tree Grafting' training to 20 farmers on January 21st. By the end of the training, the farmers will learn standard methods of tree grafting.



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The Zad Saleh CDC Constructing A 75-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Zad Saleh Village, Qadis District. Once Completed, The Flood Protection Wall Will Safeguard 50 Jeribs Of Farmland And An Existing Road From Being Flooded.



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The Qala-I-Naw DSW Visiting The Work Progress Of A 90-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Bal Ghor Village: Expected To Safeguard 20 Jeribs Of Farmland And The Herat-Qala-I-Naw Road From Being Flooded.



Date: 01/18/2015 11:41:21 AM Lat: 34.213090 Lon: 62.530773 Alt: 3568.6 ft

The Kishmir Abad CDC Constructing A Culvert In Mahal Chappata Village, Pashtun Zarghun District: Expected To Improve Access For 750 Families To The District Center.



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The DSW Visiting The Work Progress Of 140-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Torghundi Sharqi Village, Kushk-E Rabat Sangi: Expected To Safeguard 300 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.