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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 145  
JAN 20-26, 2015



*In-Line With The IDLG District Government Communications Plan, The Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District Government Organized A Hashar (Public Work) And Removed Snow From A 3-KM Road In Doab Sufla Village On January 21.*

January 28, 2015

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 Farah Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) Director, Ms. Lailima Sediqi, organized a meeting with the Farah Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) to seek ways of increasing women employed in governmental organizations. It was agreed that all vacant positions be shared with the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) and that DoWA introduces qualified candidates and a representative of DoWA be part of the interview panel.
- In Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Lash Wa Juwayn, Farah Center and Qala-i-Naw, the MRRD DSWs and District Government personnel led Project Management Trainings for 148 members (134 males, 14 females) of 46 CDC Grantees covering Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes sections, while the Community Development Department provided technical support and covered the other sections of the course materials. After successfully completing the PMTs, the first round of milestones will be paid enabling them to start their projects.
- A five-day Conflict Management and Legal Awareness training was kicked off for 38 (28 males & 10 females) members of the Farah Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee on January 25. Topics included analyzing conflicts and methods of conflict resolution/mediation which will be employed in government led efforts to address conflicts within the region.

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

- CDCs & DDA's currently are implementing 221 projects valued at USD\$5,439,639, which will improve the lives of approximately 1,040,771 people.
- CDCs & DDA's completed 247 projects valued at USD\$4,132,751. The completed projects improved the lives of approximately 467,715 people.
- Currently 67 projects valued at USD\$ 753,441 are under development.
- 28 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$157,015 were processed in Muqur, Kohsan, Farah Center, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Chaghcharan, Lash Wa Juwayn, Qadis and Guzara; supporting IDLG & MRRD led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

**Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:**

- The Governance Department conducted a 'Procurement & Financial Management' workshop for 13 governmental staff in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 25 and 26. Participants learned about procurement procedures, financial planning and budgeting, and balance analysis. The same training was provided to 30 governmental staff in Chaghcharan on January 20 and 21.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Kohsan District Agriculture Department provided 'Tree Grafting' training to 48 farmers on January 22. The farmers learned different methods of tree grafting including budding and clef grafting.
- The SIKA-West Governance Officer provided a one-on-one on-the-job training on 'Filing System Standardization' to Ms. Sima Yusufi, the Kohsan Municipality Inventory Officer on January 21. Topics included file labeling and coding and, index preparation.



**Students In An Administrative & Management Training Course Learning The Procurement Terminologies And How To Use Standard Procurement Templates.**

The three-month "Administrative & Management" training courses for 73 female government staff and recent university graduates in Chaghcharan are ongoing. During the week, participants learned procurement terminologies and practised how to use the standard procurement templates. By the end of this course, Government personnel and University graduates will have improved administrative skill sets, in line with the IDLG Governance Training Plan.

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to seven Chaghcharan 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 62 project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Mir Hai Lamani CDC in Qala-i-Naw was advised to increase the width of the gabion layer from 170cm to 200cm, or the next milestone payment will not be authorized.
- SIKA-West completed data uploading of projects' financial information and effective indicators for the October-December 2014 Quarter into the USAID Afghan Info Database. The uploaded data will be submitted on January 28 after a review by the USAID ACOR.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- Community Gatherings were held with twelve female residents to obtain feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming in Shewan, Dehzak Bala, Gerani Payeen, Gerani Ziyarat, Mian Koh, Rahim Abad and Kanesk villages in Bala Boluk District. CDCs have implemented Community Centers Rehabilitation and Water Dividers, Flood Protection Measures and Aqueduct Construction projects in these villages. Women in Gerani Payeen village reported that before construction of water dividers in their village, there was always conflict between farmers over use of irrigation canals. Women from Kanesk Bala village highlighted that their farmland was flooded due to poor water management system before the construction of the flood protection wall. They hope that this year their farmlands will be safeguarded and more yields be realized. Women requested to pay more attention to their education and organize literacy courses in their villages. This issue will be shared with the Female Komite Sobate Wolesswali to lobby the District Government and third party organizations for further action.

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Qala-i-Naw Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib, organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments including the Municipality, Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD), Education Department, Department of Labors and Social Affairs (DoLSA), Justice Department, Provincial Council, Economic Department, Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) and Water Supply Department. A key point discussed included the Jar-e-Kushk irrigation canal which was prone to floods. The Municipality and the DRRD agreed to conduct a survey to seek solutions to this concern. The Water Supply Department reported that some governmental departments did not pay their water bills. It was agreed that a list of those departments be prepared and shared with the Deputy Provincial Governor for further action.

## HERAT PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Government organized a Hashar (Public Work) and removed snow from a 3-KM road in Doab Sufla village on January 21. More than 50 men including the District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Baser Ahmad Waseq, attended the event. "Today's Hashar showed that residents are supportive of the District Government; together, we can have a peaceful and developed district." the Admin & Finance Manager.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Pashtun Zarghun District Agriculture Department provided 'Orchard Extension' training focusing on Tree Pruning to 16 farmers on January 21. Farmers learned proper pruning techniques of apricot, apple and peach trees.

## GHOR PROVINCE

- Led by the Ghor DRRD, Project Completion Ceremonies were held for two completed projects (Rehabilitation of 3-KM road and construction of seven culverts in Ashtor Khan and rehabilitation of 2-KM road and construction of three culverts and 200-meter flood protection wall in Jar Choqour village) in



*Female Residents Discussing The Impact Of SIKA-West Programing In Shewan, Dehzak Bala, Gerani Payeen, Gerani Ziyarat, Mian Koh, Rahim Abad And Kanesk Villages In Bala Boluk District.*



*The Dar Abad Payeen CDC Completed 71% Work Of Two Culverts Construction In Dar Abad Sufla Village, Farah Center: Expected To Improve Access For 685 Families To The Provincial Center.*



*A Five-Day Conflict Management And Legal Awareness Training Was Kicked Off For 38 (28 Males & 10 Females) Members Of The Farah Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee On January 25.*



*The Dahi Shakar CDC Constructing A 75-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall In Pashtun Zarghun District: Expected To Safeguard 750 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.*

Chaghcharan. These projects improved the rural road network access for up to 1782 people to the Provincial Center.

- Community Gatherings were held with four male residents to obtain feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming in Barre Khana village in Chaghcharan. The participants were grateful for government support and highlighted that the rehabilitated 5-KM road improved access for 1548 families to the Provincial Center. Residents reported that before the road was rehabilitated, they had difficulties in moving their produce to the Provincial Markets and to transport patients to hospitals. They noted a decrease in the transport fares for a trip to the Provincial Center from 600AFN to 300AFN.

## CHALLENGES

- Three members of the Akhund Zadaha CDC and four daily laborers who were kidnapped on December 28, 2014 in Guzara District were released on January 23. The CDC members were not physically harmed during their captivity. The Akhund Zadaha CDC grant funded 2-KM Road Rehabilitation project and the other 5 projects in and around Akhund Zadaha Village are still suspended until SIKA-West and the CDC meet to agree on a resumption date.
- 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. No project site GPS point was collected by CDC members in Bala Boluk.
- Due to the current cold weather, all projects in Du Layna, Shahrak, Chaghcharan and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, two projects in Guzara and 12 projects in Pashtun Zarghun are still suspended until winter conditions pass. Projects are expected to resume on March 1.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit will organize 'Lessons Learned and Coordination Workshops' with participation of the DoWA, IDLG and the respective District Governors in Farah, Badghis and Ghor Provinces on January 27, 28 and 31 to evaluate the SIKA-West Gender activities and discuss transition of the program.
- The Community Development Department will provide Project Management Training to three CDCs in Guzara and Qala-i-Naw. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid.
- The Governance Department will organize a two-day 'Procurement & Financial Management' training to 12 Qadis District Government staff.
- Monitoring & Evaluation trainings will be provided to eight Kohsan, Shindand, Lash Wa Juwayn and Pusht-e Rod DSWs and Government personnel.
- The Farah Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) will lead the Farah Provincial Gender Working Group meeting on January 27. This meeting will focus on developing a proposal to create job opportunities for women.



Lat: [34.236897° N]; Long: [62.731112° E]; Alt: [1090 m]; Date: [25-January-2015 2:59:58 PM]  
**The Band Abad CDC Completed 88% Of A 45-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Band Abad Village, Pashtun Zarghun District. Now That The Flood Protection Wall Is Constructed, 600 Jeribs Of Farmland Will Be Safeguarded From Being Flooded.**



Date: 01/26/2015 03:48:16 PM Lat: 35.016980 Lon: 63.136020 Alt: 839.7 m  
**The Qala-I-Naw DSW Inspecting Progress On A 50-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Raees Sharaf Bala Village. Once Completed, 268 Houses And 30 Jeribs Of Farmland Will Be Safeguarded From Being Flooded.**



**The SIKA-West Governance Officer Providing One-On-One On-The-Job Training On 'Filing System Standardization' To Ms. Sima Yusufi, The Kohsan Municipality Inventory Officer .**



Date: 01/25/2015 11:19:04 AM Lat: 34.459310 Lon: 65.031333 Alt: 7381.9 ft  
**Project Completion Ceremonies Were Held For Two Completed Projects (Rehabilitation Of 3-KM Road And Seven Culverts In Ashtor Khan And 2-KM Road, Three Culverts And 200-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Jar Choqour Village) In Chaghcharan.**