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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 149  
FEB 17-23, 2015



Date: 02/18/2015 04:05:21:21 PM Lat: 34.753443 Lon: 63.103427 Alt: 4618.4 ft

SIKA-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting The Work Progress Of The 37-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Mir Ha Village, Qala-I-Naw On February 18. Once Complete, The Flood Protection Wall Will Safeguard 50 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

February 25, 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):**

- With support of the Governance Department, a community gathering was held in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi to obtain CDCs' feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming. The Torghundi Sharqi CDC noted that the government support provided to rehabilitate their irrigation canal prevents water loss and ensures that irrigation water reaches all 1000 Jeribs of farmland. The Khowja Talkhatan CDC highlighted that the local government investment in their village school provides a much better educational environment for students. School authorities have reported an increase of 200 students (80 boys & 120 girls) since the rehabilitation was completed; and now enrolls 500 students (300 girls, 200 boys).
- The responsibility of the District Government Mobile Hotline was handed over to the Shindand District Governor on February 23. IDLG has now taken responsibility to continue this district service. In addition, copies of the Shindand District Profile, Herat Service Providers Catalogue, and communications training handouts were handed over. The DG thanked SIKA-West program and highlighted the improvement in two-way communication between residents and the District Government.
- MRRD agreed to integrate the KSWs into the MRRD/NABDP DDA monthly meetings. In collaboration with SIKA-West, the MRRD and IDLG Regional Coordinators are formalizing this new arrangement between District Governments and MRRD/NABDP. Further updates will be provided

**Grants & Subcontracts Programming**

- CDCs & DDAs are currently implementing 201 projects valued at AFN 272,751,550/USD\$5,455,031 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) which will serve to improve service delivery to 977,116 residents across the target districts.
- IDLG/MRRD provincial and district partners have completed 267 projects valued at AFN 269,048,140. The actual amount paid for the completed projects is USD\$4,658,550. These projects have benefited 531,355 residents.
- Currently, 62 projects, valued at AFN38, 175,784 /USD\$763,516 (AFN 50- USD\$1.00) are under development. (Please refer to Annex A)
- 29 CDC & DDA milestone payments totaling USD\$129,250 were processed in Lash Wa Juwayn, Farah Center, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis, Pusht-e Rod, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qala-i-Naw and Muqur supporting IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

**Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:**

- In-line with the IDLG District Government Training Plan, 'Procurement & Financial Management' Workshops were conducted for 31 (male) Government personnel in Muqur, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Kohsan on February 16 & 17; covering Procurement Procedures, Financial Planning & Budgeting. These activities were designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- In Guzara, the DSW and the District Technical Services Manager led Project Management Training for four members (2 males, 2 females) of the Rabat Suliman CDC covering Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes sections, while the Community Development Department provided technical support and covered other sections of the course materials. After the PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid, enabling the CDC to start their water supply network project.



**The Massow Barakzai CDC Advocated For Their Community Need And Received 16 Hand Water Pumps From The International Committee Of Red Cross.**

As a direct result of advocacy training provided by the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Massow Barakzai CDC (Pusht-e Rod District) successfully lobbied the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide the community with water pumps in order to address shortfalls with their potable water supplies. The community successfully prepared their own Concept Note, outlining their need for water pumps and submitted this to ICRC on August 28, 2014. ICRC responded by providing technical training to the community and how to install and maintain water pumps. On February 16, 2015, the Massow Barakzai CDC received 16 hand water pumps which were put to immediate use. *"We are happy that we could provide potable water for residents, now we are able to address our community's needs,"* Mr. Sharafuddin, CDC Chairman.

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- M&E training was provided to nine (male) Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, Muqur and Qala-Naw DSWs and Government Personnel; focusing on Project Site Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 80 project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. The Mir Ha CDC in Qala-i-Naw who are constructing a Gabion Flood Protection Wall were advised to use high quality wires for gabion boxes, or the next milestone payment will not be authorized.
- The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor and the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Executive Manager used the District Government Hotline Number and called to four CDCs to obtain updates on the progress of their projects. For details please refer to Annex D.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- With the support of the Governance Department, community gatherings were held in Lash Wa Juwayn District and Farah Center to obtain CDCs' feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming. Representatives from Kuh Gah, Kosha, Qouch and Damboly Ha CDCs in Lash Wa Juwayn District, and Dar Abad, Korgh Zard, Sheikh Abad, Shor Abad and Towsak Bala in Farah Center highlighted the positive role played by the local government in addressing agriculture infrastructure needs, improving access to the Provincial/District Center and providing better educational environment for students (235 boys, 198 girls). The Towsak Bala CDC in Farah Center noted that government support provided to construct a 100-meter water intake in their village would provide sufficient water for 22,000 Jeribs of farmland.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department provided the Pusht-e Rod District Government focal point Mr. Ahmad Shah, refresher training on how to operate the District Government Hotline and record feedback. The Hotline will be handed over to the Pusht-e Rod District Government on March 01.

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Governance Department handed over the mixed Muqur and Qadis Komite Sobate Wolesswalis to the respective District Governors on February 18 and 21. The DGs and other KSW members expressed their appreciation to the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program for the past support. The DGs stated that moving forward the Komite Sobate Wolesswali would be conducted without logistical or financial support from the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program. Ms. Fatima, a representative of women in the Muqur KSW, highlighted that the KSW provided a platform for women to share their concerns and advocate for their needs.

## HERAT PROVINCE

- The Governance Department handed over the mixed Kohsan and Guzara Komite Sobate Wolesswalis to the respective District Governors on February 17 and 22. The DGs and other KSW members expressed their appreciation to the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program for the past support. The DGs stated that moving forward the Komite Sobate Wolesswali would be conducted without logistical or financial support from the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program.
- The MRRD DSW, the SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel inspected the work progress of the 110-meter Flood Protection Wall including 110-meter Gabion Mattress Project in Khalifa Rahmat Ulia village, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District on February 21. It was observed that some gabion boxes were weaved poorly and river stones were used instead of crushed stones. The CDC was advised to correct these deficiencies. Once completed, the Flood Protection Wall will safeguard 200 jeribs of farmland and a nearby school from seasonal flood damage.



Date: 02/22/2015 09:16:44 AM Lat: 32.420840 Lon: 62.148573 Alt: 2193.6 ft  
 The Said Abad CDC Constructing 2 Culverts In Said Abad Village, Farah Center. Once Completed, The Culverts Will Improve Access For 3174 People To The Provincial Center.



Date: 02/19/2015 10:41:34 AM Lat: 32.381007 Lon: 62.142940 Alt: 2191.9 ft  
 The Qala Ghulam Sadiq CDC Constructing A 100-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Qala-Ghulam Seddiq Village, Farah Center. Expected To Safeguard 2000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



Date: 02/17/2015 03:17:55 PM Lat: 35.017140 Lon: 63.135540 Alt: 2746.1 ft  
 The Raees Sharaf Payeen Constructing A 50-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall In Qala-I-Naw. Expected To Safeguard 268 Houses And 30 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



Date: 02/17/2015 02:07:44 PM Lat: 35.080733 Lon: 63.259427 Alt: 2981.3 ft  
 The Mazid, Neyazai And Zad Nasir CDCs Completed 70% Work Of 190-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Mazid Village, Muqur District. Expected To Safeguard 125 Houses And 41 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

## GHOR PROVINCE

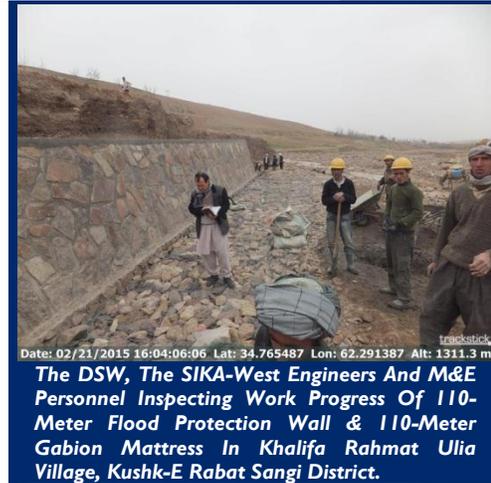
- On February 21, the Community Development Department conducted a Post Project Completion Site Visit for an 85-meter Canal Lining including 25-meter Flood Protection Wall Project in Dahan Dara Kassi Village, Chaghcharan, which was completed on February 2, 2015. The canal was in good condition and no deficiencies were observed. The new canal is now providing sufficient irrigation water for 60 Jeribs of farmland and the community is no longer suffering shortages of water.
- Monitoring & Evaluation training was provided to 30 (female) government staff and recent university graduates during the three-month “Administration & Management” training courses in Chaghcharan. Participants learned the definition, techniques and tools of M&E and data collection methods.

## CHALLENGES

- Delays in receiving approvals from the Herat DRRD on Pashtun Zarghun and Guzara Project Priority Agreements (PPAs) and Kohsan and Pashtun Zarghun DPPs have led to a hold-up in further processing of the projects in these Districts.
- Due to heavy snow, the Community Development Department could not conduct project site visits for High School Rehabilitation and Culvert Construction Projects in Pashtun Zarghun, Flood Protection Walls in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Gabion Flood Protection Walls in Qala-i-Naw Districts, which resulted in delays in processing scheduled project milestone payments.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Project Management Training will be provided to four CDC Grantees in Pashtun Zarghun District. After successfully completing the training, the first round of milestones will be paid enabling them to start their Village Hall Rehabilitation, Water Supply Network and Culvert Construction projects
- Feasibility studies will be launched for five projects (School Rehabilitation and Provision of Schools Equipment) in Farah Center, Muqur, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw.
- Community gatherings will be held in Muqur and Farah Center to obtain feedback on the impact of GIRoA led SIKA-West programming.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel will conduct 80 project site visits in Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pusht-e Rod, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Muqur, Qadis and Qala-Naw.



Date: 02/21/2015 16:04:06:06 Lat: 34.765487 Lon: 62.291387 Alt: 1311.3 m  
 The DSU, The Sika-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting Work Progress Of 110-Meter Flood Protection Wall & 110-Meter Gabion Mattress In Khalifa Rahmat Ulia Village, Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District.



Date: 02/18/2015 02:58:20:20 PM Lat: 34.657513 Lon: 61.199853 Alt: 2413.4 ft  
 The Gowhar Shad Gharbi CDC Rehabilitating The Kohsan Girls' High School In The Kohsan District Center. Once Completed, 1189 Girl Students Will Have A Better Educational Environment.



Date: [17-February-2015 3:48:12 PM]  
 The Qala Yusuf Khan CDC Constructing A 30-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Gaym Village, Pashtun Zarghun: Expected To Safeguard A Community Saffron Processing Center And 30 Houses From From Being Flooded.



Date: 02/21/2015 03:11:38:38 PM Lat: 34.519560 Lon: 65.257633 Alt: 7462.3 ft  
 The Community Development Department Conducted A Post Project Completion Site Visit For An 85-Meter Canal Lining Including 25-Meter Flood Protection Wall Project In Dahan Dara Kassi Village, Chaghcharan. The Canal Was In Good Condition And No Deficiencies Were Observed.