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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 150
FEB 24-MAR 2, 2015



Date: 03/01/2015 03:35:05:05 PM Lat: 32.372110 Lon: 62.114987 Alt: 2184.7 ft

The Noor Abad Bagh CDC Rehabilitating The Farah Orphanage Including Construction Of 5 Sets Of Latrines, A Volleyball Ground (220-M²) And A Soccer Field (560-M²) In Farah Center: Expected To Provide A Better Living And Educational Conditions For 192 Orphans (133 Boys, 59 Girls).

March 4, 2015

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

- Led by the Badghis DRRD, a Project Completion Ceremony was held for a 90 ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall in Bal Ghor Village, Qala-i-Naw on March 2. Identified by the Qala-i-Naw KSW and awarded to the community by the Badghis Provincial Government (PG) & DRRD, the Gabion Flood Protection Wall will safeguard 20 jeribs of community farmland from being damaged by seasonal floods. Present at the ceremony was Mr. Sharafudin Majidi, Badghis PG, Chief of Staff, who congratulated the CDC on their work and highlighted GIRoA's investments to address community needs.
- In line with the IDLG approved District Governance Training Plan, the "Administration & Management" courses in Chaghcharan (Start Date: Oct 29, 2014 for 78 female government staff and recent university graduates) and Badghis (Start Date: Jan 6, 2015 for 60 (45 males, 15 females) government staff) were completed on Feb 28, 2015. These trainings were designed to improve government staff administrative skill sets. *"We do not have enough female staff in governmental line-departments. You, the female graduates, can fill this gap,"* Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor.



The Farah DRRD Director (Left) Giving An Appreciation Letter Prepared By SIKA-West To The Farah Deputy Provincial Governor (Right); In Recognition Of His Cooperation With SIKA-West.

Grants & Subcontracts Programming

- CDCs & DDAs are currently implementing 198 projects valued at AFN 266,377,200/USD\$5,327,544 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) which will serve to improve service delivery to 964,675 provincial and district residents across the target districts.
- IDLG/MRRD provincial and district partners have completed 271 projects valued at AFN 276,670,690/USD\$4,800,089. These projects have benefited 544,242 residents.
- Currently, 53 projects, valued at AFN 32,072,447 /USD\$641,449 (AFN 50- USD\$1.00) are under development. (Please refer to Annex A for further details)
- 22 CDC & DDA milestone payments totaling USD\$128,220 were processed in Qala-i-Naw, Lash Wa Juwayn, Bala Boluk, Qadis, Kohsan, Pusht-e Rod, Farah center, Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, Chaghcharan and Shindand supporting IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- In Qala-i-Naw and Pashtun Zarghun, from February 23-28, the DRRD DSWs and District Government personnel led the Project Management Training for 20 (male) members of five CDC Grantees covering Community Mobilization & Development & Procurement Processes, while the Community Development Department covered technical sections of the course material. After the PMT, the CDC's will receive their first milestone payments and begin implementation of their Water Supply Networks, Culverts, Village Hall and Flood Protection Wall projects.
- On February 28, SIKA-West Governance, Communications & Public Outreach, Stabilization & Gender programming ended in our target districts. Program materials are currently being organized and filed in preparation for handover to our MRRD & IDLG national, provincial and district partners, in accordance with the Transition Working Group guidelines.

On March 1, the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department & Stabilization Department organized a Handover Ceremony in Farah Center in coordination with our program partners. Present during the event were 80 (male) people including the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor (Mr. Mohammad Yonus Rasoli), Farah DRRD Director (Eng. Abdul Raouf), Pusht-e Rod District Governor (Mr. Ghawsuddin), Bala Boluk District Governor (Mr. Mohammad), Lash Wa Juwayn Village Manager (Mr. Abdul Hadi), Ulema, DDA and CDCs members from Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Lash Wa Juwayn and community elders. During the handover ceremony, copies of the Farah Center, Bala Boluk, Pusht Rod & Lash Wa Juwayn District Profiles, Communication Plans, Service Providers Catalog, Communications & Governance Training Materials, Komite Sobate Wolesswali Guidelines & Training Materials were handed over to our MRRD & IDLG partners. The Farah DPG and DRRD Director thanked the SIKA-West Program and highlighted the improvements made in GIRoA's communications capabilities as well as increased service delivery. The event was broadcast by Ariana and Farah Radio & Television of Afghanistan.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 39 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. The Gaym CDC who are rehabilitating the Community Saffron Processing Center in Pashtun Zarghun were advised to correct the excavation of the Surrounding Wall foundation, or the next milestone payment would not be authorized.
- The SIKA-West M&E Department are collecting GPS coordinates for 7 project sites in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Muqur, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw and Lash Wa Juwayn. These verified GPS points will be included in the SIKA-West Tracker and submitted to MISTI on March 15.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On February 24, the Farah Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) independently organized and led the Farah Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting with the participation of 38 (23 females, 15 males) representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Each sub-committee of the GWG reported their last month activities and future plans. The Economic Sub-Committee reported that they identified 100 business women (textile and dairy producers) and are working to provide them with Business Permits and link them with national and international markets. The Economic Sub-Committee will select four female textile producers to attend the Herat Province Women Handicraft Exhibition scheduled for March 10 & 11. The GWG members agreed to establish an official bank account and lobby both government and non-governmental organizations to financially support the GWG activities. Ms. Zobaida, the Deputy of the MRRD/National Solidarity Program (NSP) in Farah Province, pledged to allocate some portion of the NSP gender-related funds to the GWG and lobby with other organizations for further support. This report reflects the continued sustainability of the Farah Gender Working Group, without financial or logistical support from SIKA-West.
- On March 2, the Farah DRRD DSW (Mr. Mohammad Nasim), with SIKA-West engineers & M&E personnel visited project sites in Lash Wa Juwayn District, to inspect the current work progress of the 'Wash Culvert Project' (Masjed Ishaqzai Village) & 230 ML School Surrounding Wall (Kang-e-Sehak Village). Awarded by the Lash Wa Juwayn District Government & Farah DRRD through the Komite Sobate Wolesswali, these projects were designed to address existing community grievances. No major deficiencies were found. Once completed, the 'Wash Culvert' will improve access for 15,624 district residents to the center, while the 'School Surrounding Wall' will provide 290 students (130 male & 160 female) with a safer educational environment.



The Farah DOWA Independently Led The Provincial Gender Working Group Meeting On February 24, Attended By 38 (23 Females, 15 Males) Representatives From Governmental And Non-Governmental Organizations.



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The DSW, The SIKA-West Engineer & M&E Personnel Inspecting Work Progress Of One Wash Culvert In Masjed Ishaqzai Village, Lash Wa Juwayn District: Expected To Improve Access For 15,264 People To The District Center.

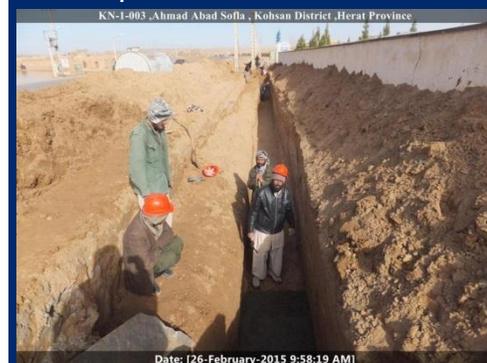
BADGHIS PROVINCE

- The Badghis DoWA Director, Ms. Zarghuna Shirzad, presented our SIKA-West Badghis Women's Programming Officer with a Letter of Appreciation. This was to recognize the work of our Gender Mainstreaming Unit in the establishment and handover of the Badghis Provincial Gender Working Group, and participation of female district residents in the Qala-i-Naw, Qadis & Muqur KSWs, which are engaged in decision-making for their district development needs.
- In collaboration with Badghis DRRD & the Muqur District Government, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for 2 projects in Muqur District. These projects (Provision of Schools Equipment to Tajik-Ha and Qarqach Baluch Secondary Schools) were identified in the mixed GIRoA-led Muqur Komite Sobate Wolesswali's and are designed to provide a better educational environment for 373 students (200 boys, 173 girls).



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The Said Abad CDC Completed 66% Of The Work On Their Culvert Construction Project In Farah Center: Expected To Improve Access For 3174 People To The Provincial Center.



Date: [26-February-2015 9:58:19 AM]

The Ahmad Abad Sofla CDC Constructing A 194-Meter Flood Protection Wall And Two Culverts In Ahmad Abad Ulia Village, Kohsan: Expected To Safeguard 400 Homes From Being Flooded.

HERAT PROVINCE

- In line with the Transition Working Guidelines and approval from IDLG, the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department handed over complete responsibility for the District Government Hotlines to our Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Pashtun Zarghun DGO partners between February 24 & 25 respectively. These Hotlines will now be independently managed and funded by IDLG. In addition, copies of the Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Kohsan District Profiles, Herat Province Service Provider Catalog &

Communications & Public Outreach Training Materials were handed over. Our IDLG partners thanked the SIKA-West Program for the past support and highlighted that our communications and public outreach programming had improved the two way communication between the local government and district residents. *“The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department was successful in improving communications between residents and local government. We will continue this good work,”* Shindand DG, Mr. Faramarz Samandar.

- On March 1, the Herat DRRD DSW in Pashtun Zarghun in collaboration with SIKA-West M&E personnel visited Rabat Gol Bibi Village, Pashtun Zarghun District to inspect the work progress to date on the community’s 45ML Flood Protection Wall. No deficiencies were observed and the CDC was congratulated for working in accordance with the technical specifications. The project was awarded by the Pashtun Zarghun District Government and Herat DRRD in response to the community need to prevent damage to farmland due to seasonal flooding. Once complete, the project is expected to safeguard 500 jeribs of community farmland.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On March 1, the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department & Stabilization Department organized a Handover Ceremony in Ghor Provincial Center in coordination with our program partners. Present during the event were 50 guests (48 male, 2 female), including the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi), Ghor DRRD Director (Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal), Provincial Line Departments representatives, Ulema, DDA & CDCs members from Chaghcharan and community elders. During the handover ceremony, copies of the Chaghcharan District Profile, Communication Plan, Ghor Service Providers Catalog, Communications & Governance Training Materials, Komite Sobate Wolesswali Guidelines & Training Materials were handed over to our MRRD & IDLG partners. The Ghor DPG thanked the SIKA-West Program and highlighted the improvements made in GIROA’s service delivery efforts with the program. *“The District Government Mobile Hotline created a platform for residents to share their concerns with the local government authorities; the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee had played a key role in identifying and addressing existing conflicts,”* Ghor DPG. The event was broadcast by Ghor Radio & Television of Afghanistan.
- On March 1, the Community Development Department conducted a Post Project Completion Site Visit in Shahrak Mohajeren Village, Chaghcharan Center in order to ensure that the community was maintaining their 750ML Road Rehabilitation & Graveling Project, which was completed in August 2014. The road and associated culverts were in good condition. This road now supports 1800 district residents with improved access to the Chaghcharan provincial center.

CHALLENGES

- SIKA-West resumed programming in Shahrak & Du Layna Districts (Ghor Province) on March 01, 2015. However due to current winter conditions, our program anticipates being able to send district staff into the field no earlier than March 07.
- Current winter conditions in Kushk-e Robat Sangi District have delayed grant funded infrastructure programming.



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The DSW And M&E Personnel Inspecting Work Progress Of A 45-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Rabat Gol Bibi Village, Pashtun Zarghun: Expected To Safeguard 500 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

PZ-6-001- Alokzai Ha & Bahador Zai ha



Lat: [34.256136° N]; Long: [62.888035° E]; Alt: [1174.7 m]; Date: [28-February-2015 12:51:11 PM]

The Alokzai Ha And Bahador Zai Ha CDC Completed 75% Work Of Mar Abad High School, Pashtun Zarghun: Expected To Provide A Better Educational Environment For 2076 (1121 Boys, 955 Girls) Students.

PZ-10-002- Nahr Nawab MS4 and Final Inspection



Lat: [34.261145° N]; Long: [62.87307° E]; Alt: [1182.7 m]; Date: [28-February-2015 12:01:49 PM]

The Nahr Nawab CDC Completed The Construction Of One Culvert In Nahr Nawab Village, Pashtun Zarghun District. The Constructed Culvert Will Improve Access For 1200 Families To The District Center.



Date: 03/01/2015 11:20:31:31 AM Lat: 34.529193 Lon: 65.254947 Alt: 7629.9 ft

The Community Development Department Conducted Post Project Completion Site Visit For A 750-Meter Road Rehabilitation & Graveling Project In Shahrak Mohajeren Village, Chaghcharan. The Road & Culverts Were In Good Condition And Have Improved Access For 1800 People To The Provincial Center.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Feasibility studies will be launched for Provision of School Equipment project for Chegab Zoo School in Qala-i-Naw which will provide a better educational environment for 282 (180 boys, 102 girls) students.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel will conduct 77 project site visits in Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Shindand, Muqur, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw.
- Project Completion Ceremonies will be conducted for the five completed projects (Flood Protection Walls) in Muqur and Qala-Naw.
- Monitoring & Evaluation trainings will be provided to 10 Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Farah Center, Qadis, Muqur and Lash Wa Juwayn DSWs and Government personnel.