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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Shor Abad CDC Rehabilitating A 2.5-KM Road In Shor Abad Village, Farah Center. Once Complete, The Road Will Improve Access For 11,808 People To The Provincial Center And Neighboring Villages.

April 15, 2015

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

- The Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Nezamudin Rahmani, led the Kohsan mixed Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on April 13, with 25 participants (male). District residents and government officials gathered to discuss community problems as well as receive updates from CDCs who are implementing grant funded awards. For example, the Zabit CDC reported that they completed the activities of the third milestone payment for the Kohsan Health Clinic rehabilitation project on March 23 but have not receive their funds yet. The District Governor has shared this issue with the SIKA-West Community Development Department for further action. This KSW meeting was undertaken by IDLG & MRRD without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West reflecting our program partners' leadership in sustaining critical district based programming.
- On April 13, a meeting was held with the USAID COR at Camp Arena, Herat. Participants included the USAID COR, ACOR, SIKA-West Acting Chief of Party, Security & Operations Director, M&E Director and Communications & Public Outreach Manager. An update of the program including the Governance and Communications activities handover to the IDLG and MRRD was provided. A key point discussed was the SIKA-West Property Disposition Plan. It was agreed that SIKA-West will send the first draft of the disposition plan to USAID by May 1, 2015.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department has developed the Shahrak District Profile which was reviewed and approved by the DGO. The District Profile is currently under review by the IDLG. Once approved, the District Profile will be sent to USAID for approval, tentatively on April 20.



Qadis District Government Personnel And CDC Members Cut The Ribbon At The Project Completion Ceremony On April 8.

Led by the Badghis DRRD and Qadis District Government, Project Completion Ceremonies were held for two completed projects in Qadis and Qala-i-Naw on April 8 and 9 respectively. These projects included a 150-ML Flood Protection Wall in Zad Saleh Village, Qadis District and an 80-ML Flood Protection Wall in Deh Sorkhak Bala village, Qala-i-Naw. Present during the ceremonies were the Badghis DRRD Director, Mr. Sayed Rasol Akbari, the Qadis District Government Executive Manager, Mr. Hafizullah, the Qadis Agricultural Manager, Mr. Aminullah, CDCs' members and communities' elders. Now that the Flood Protection Walls have been constructed, 180 Jeribs of farmland, an existing road and 350 houses will be safeguarded from being flooded. The Badghis DRRD Director appreciated the implementing CDCs for their good work and asked them to maintain their Flood Protection Walls.

Grants & Subcontracts Programming

- CDCs & DDAs are currently implementing 237 projects valued at AFN 256,094,300/USD\$5,121,886 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) which will serve to improve service delivery to 905,528 residents across the target districts.
- IDLG/MRRD provincial and district partners have completed 303 projects valued at AFN 314,612,740/USD\$5,482,811. These projects have benefited 687,097 residents.
- Currently, 2 projects, valued at AFN 1,189,200 /USD\$23,784 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) are under development. Please refer to Annex A for further details.

Snapshot of Grant Funded Programming



- 47 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$210,808 were processed in Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Pusht-e Rod, Qala-i-Naw, Bala Boluk, Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, and Kohsan Districts supporting IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 92 joint project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Meyan Do Jow CDC who are implementing a Bridge construction project in Pashtun Zarghun District were asked to correct the space between the stirrups of reinforcement, or the next milestone payment would not be authorized. Follow up site inspections will be conducted in the coming week.
- In-line with overall monitoring efforts, the M&E Department randomly called 10 laborers on 7 project sites in Lash Wa Juwayn, Qala-i-Naw, Muqur, Kushke Rabat Sangi, and Guzara Districts to verify whether they were receiving their wages in accordance with the CDC Grant Agreements. M&E crosschecked the reported amount with the projects' Bill of Quantities (BOQs). It was noticed that three laborers did not receive their wages in accordance with the CDC Grant Agreement. SIKA-West M&E and Community Development Department will follow up with the CDCs to make sure the laborers are reimbursed their outstanding wages. Warning letters are being prepared and will be sent to the CDCs.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On April 13, the DRRD DSW, Mr. Mohammad Nasim, led the field inspection of a 75-ML Flood Protection Wall construction project in Chahrak Haji Abdul Sattar village, Lash Wa Juwayn District. No deficiencies were observed. The DSW asked the implementing CDC to continue working in accordance with the project's specifications. As of the inspection date, the CDC had completed 20% of the work on their project. Once complete, the Flood Protection Wall will safeguard 3,000 Jeribs of farmland from seasonal flooding.
- On April 13, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel visited Chah Korteh village to inspect the work progress of the community's Girls' High School rehabilitation project in Farah Center. It was observed that there were some small cracks in the plain cement concrete. SIKA-West Engineers mentored the implementing CDC to correct this deficiency. This project was awarded by the Farah Provincial Government and the DRRD through the mixed KSW to provide a safe and better educational environment for 1,761 students (girls).

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On April 8, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel inspected the progress to date on the community's 38-ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall construction project in Paye Zeyarat village, Qala-i-Naw. It was observed that the size of the mesh for the gabion baskets were large. The implementing CDC was asked to weave the gabion baskets in accordance with their project's specifications. As of the reporting date, the Paye Zeyarat CDC had completed 40% of the work on their project. The Flood Protection Wall will safeguard 150 houses and an existing road from seasonal flooding.
- On April 7, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel visited Golchin village to inspect the work progress of the community's 90-ML Flood Protection Wall construction project in Qadis District. It was observed that low quality wires were used for some gabion boxes. The CDC was asked to remove these wires and use high quality wires in accordance with their project's specifications. As of the inspection date, the Tajik Ha CDC had completed 84% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Qadis District Government and the Badghis DRRD through the mixed KSW to safeguard 20 houses and 10 Jeribs of farmland from seasonal flooding.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On April 8, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel visited Ziarat Gah village to inspect the work progress of the community 140-ML Flood Protection Wall construction project in Guzara District. No deficiencies were observed and the implementing CDC was asked to continue in accordance with their project's specifications. As of April 8, the Mahal Madrasa CDC had completed 75% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Guzara District Government and the Herat DRRD through the mixed KSW to safeguard 600 Jeribs of farmland from seasonal flooding.
- On April 11, the DRRD DSW, Mr. Abdul Hadi Jamshidi, led the field inspection of a 100-ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall construction project in Markaz Woleswali village, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District. He observed that in some gabion boxes river stones were used instead of mountain stones and asked the implementing CDC to use proper stones which are in accordance with their project's specifications. As of the



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The Lash Wa Juwayn DSW Inspecting The Work Progress Of A 75-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Chahrak Haji Abdul Sattar Village: Expected To Safeguard 3,000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Seasonal Flooding.



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The Chah Korteh CDC Completed 34% Of The Work On Their School Rehabilitation Project In Chah Korteh Village, Farah Center: Expected To Provide A Safe And Better Educational Environment For 1,761 Girls Students.



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SIKA-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting The Work Progress Of A 38-ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Paye Zeyarat Village, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard 125 Houses And An Existing Road From Seasonal Flooding.



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The Tajik Ha CDC Completed 84% Of The Work On Their 90-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Golchin Village, Qadis District: Expected To Safeguard 20 Houses And 10 Jeribs Of Farmland From Seasonal Flooding.

inspection date, the CDC had completed 91% of the work on their project. Once complete, the Flood Protection Wall will safeguard 80 houses from seasonal flooding.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On April 8, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel visited Shah Jooy village to inspect the work progress of the community's two Culverts construction project in Du Layna District. No deficiencies were observed and the implementing CDC was asked to continue in accordance with their project's specifications. As of the visit date, the Korgi Shah Jooy CDC had completed 82% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Du Layna District Government and the Ghor DRRD through the male KSW to improve access for 615 families to the District Center and neighboring villages.
- On April 12, SIKA-West Engineers inspected the progress to date on the community's two Culverts construction project in Seya Sang Village, Chaghcharan. It was observed that some parts of the wires were rusty. The Engineers mentored the CDC to remove rust from the wires. This project was awarded by the Chaghcharan District Government and Ghor DRRD through the mixed KSW to improve access for 100 families to the Provincial Center and neighboring villages. As of the reporting date, the CDC had completed 79% of the project's work.

CHALLENGES

- Due to severe insecurity condition, M&E Department was unable to collect GPS coordinates for 4 projects in Bala Boluk District. The SIKA-West Security Department has recommended waiting until the situation is permissive.
- SIKA-West Engineers could not conduct project site inspections for 5 projects in Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun due to insecurity which resulted in delay of 37,268USD\$ milestone payments.

WHAT'S NEXT

- DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel will undertake 124 project site visits in SIKA-West Districts of operation (weather and security conditions permitting).
- The Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qadis, Muqur and Du Layna KSW meetings will be independently organized and led by our IDLG and MRRD program partners between April 15 and 19; without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West and will focus on both identifying current district concerns and proposing GIRoA led solutions.
- M&E Department will collect GPS coordinates for 10 project sites in Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Muqur and Shindand Districts. Once verified, these GPS points will be included in the MISTI tracker.
- Program field activities will be completed in Shahrak District and DST Staff will be withdrawn from the Shahrak District Office on April 19.



SIKA-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting The Work Progress Of A 140-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Ziarat Village, Guzara: Expected To Safeguard 600 Jeribs of farmland From Seasonal Flooding.



The DRRD DSW Led The Field Inspection Of A 100-ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Markaz Woleswali Village, Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District: Expected To Safeguard 80 Houses From Seasonal Flooding.



SIKA-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting The Work Progress Of A Two-Culvert Construction Project In Shah Jooy Village, Du Layna District: Expected To Improve Access For 615 Families To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.



SIKA-West Engineers Inspecting The Work Progress Of A Two-Culvert Construction Project In Seya Sang Village, Chaghcharan: Expected To Improve Access For 100 Families To The Provincial Center And Neighboring Villages.