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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 159
MAY 5-11, 2015



Date: 05/05/2015 10:57:02:02 Lat: 34.828860 Lon: 62.166060 Alt: 1117.1 m

The Do Ab Sofla CDC Has Completed 70% Of The Work On Their Community's Secondary School In Do Ab Payen Village, Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District. Awarded By The Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District Government And The Herat DRRD Through The Mixed Komite Sobate Wolesswali, The School Will Provide A Better Educational Environment For 700 Students (400 Boys, 300 Girls).

May 13, 2015

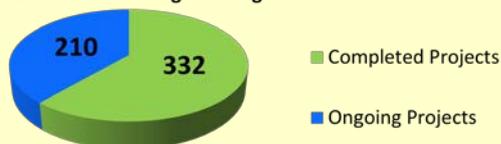
This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Mr. Farhad Raufian, led the mixed Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 6, with 46 participants (male). The DG reported that women were not invited to this meeting due to security concerns but plans are in place to invite female members next month. District residents and government officials gathered to discuss community problems. The KSW members requested the District Government to provide fertilizer and improved seeds for farmers. The DGO pledged to share this request with the Provincial Authorities at the upcoming Herat Provincial Development Committee (PDC) meeting on May 18. 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 May 5, a team from Herat HQ Office, including the Deputy Chief of Party, Engineers, the MRRD and IDLG Regional Coordinators traveled to Kohsan District and met with eight CDC grantees to discuss the status of their projects, remaining timelines, and challenges. The CDC's renewed their commitments to complete their project activities by May 31, 2015 and requested that SIKA-West continue to process pending milestones.
- During this reporting period, CDC grantees completed 4 projects in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, and Guzara Districts; including three Flood Protection Wall and one School Rehabilitation project awarded by our District Government and DRRD partners to address existing community grievances and improve service delivery to upwards of 20,766 district residents.

Grants & Subcontracts Programming

- CDCs & DDAs are currently implementing 210 projects valued at AFN 219,095,000/USD\$4,381,900 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) which will reflect improved service delivery to 769,410 residents across the target districts.
- IDLG/MRRD provincial and district partners have completed 332 projects valued at AFN 353,460,740/USD\$6,120,176. These projects have benefited 828,028 residents. Please refer to Annex A for further details.

Snapshot of Grant Funded Programming

- 17 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$105,662 were processed in Qala-i-Naw, Muqur, Qadis, Chaghcharan, Kohsan, and Guzara Districts supporting both IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.



Mr. Ata Mohammad, (Farmer In Rabat Gol Bibi Village), Cultivating Wheat On His Land Without Fear Of Seasonal Flooding.

Mr. Ata Mohammad is a farmer in Rabat Gol Bibi Village and supports a household of 7 family members. As a result of efforts by the Pashtun Zarghun District Government and Herat DRRD, Mr. Mohammad can now freely cultivate his farmland, without fear of losing crops or land to seasonal flooding *"I had four Jeribs of farmland; one Jerib was washed away by floods last year (valued at 4,000USD\$) and I was afraid of losing the rest of my farmland,"* Ata Mohammad.

In May 2014, local residents and the Rabat Gol Bibi Community Development Council (CDC) attended the mixed Pashtun Zarghun Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting and shared their community's concerns with the District Government, reporting that they suffered crop damage and financial losses each year from uncontrolled seasonal flooding, because they lacked the infrastructure to protect their community. The Pashtun Zarghun DGO and Herat DRRD recognized the community need and authorized the construction of a 45ML Flood Protection Wall to protect their homes and farmland. Valued at USD\$20,457, the project employed 70 laborers and was completed on April 07, 2015, protecting 500 Jeribs of farmland and 1,050 residents. *"This is an important project for the community, now people trust the government and believe their government is responsive,"* Mr. Qasem Naderi, DGO Village Manager.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 57 joint project site visits in our target districts which yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction. Samples of these deficiencies are outlined in the body of the report.
- M&E Department randomly called 20 laborers on 9 project sites in Kohsan, Guzara, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qala-i-Naw, Chaghcharan, and Du Layna Districts to verify whether they were receiving their wages in accordance with the CDC Grant Agreements. The reported amount crosschecked with the projects' Bill of Qualities (BOQs) and confirmed that laborers received their wages in accordance with the CDCs Grant Agreement.
- As part of the MISTI final evaluation, MISTI completed interviews with beneficiaries in Ghor Province. Interviews in Farah are in progress and the evaluation for Herat and Badghis will start in the third week of May.

FARAH PROVINCE

- Prior to the program closedown, SIKA-West is conducting an internal review of all ongoing grant funded community development programming in Farah Province (Farah Center, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod) to ensure that field activities are in line with project designs and specifications.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On May 6, SIKA-West Engineers visited the Yarkasi Kondalan Village (Qala-e-Naw) to inspect the work quality and progress of the 72.5-ML Flood Protection Wall. No deficiencies were found. The Yarkasi Kondalan CDC has completed 36% of the project, which was awarded by the Badghis Provincial Government and DRRD through the mixed Qala-e-Naw KSW to protect 50 Jeribs of community farmland, and 176 homes from being damaged by seasonal flooding.
- On May 7, SIKA-West Engineers traveled to Taraki Khoshnow Village (Muqur District) to assess the current progress of a 50-ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall. It was observed that some of the Gabion wire had rust and the CDC was instructed to remove the rusted wire and replace it, or the next milestone payment would not be authorized. The Lemari CDC has completed 40% of the work on their project, with oversight and technical support from the Muqur DGO and Badghis DRRD. Once complete, 80 Jeribs of community farmland, and 300 homes will be protected from seasonal flooding.
- On May 5, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel visited the Qadis Agriculture Vocational School in Zad Saleh Village (Qadis District) to inspect the quality of equipment provided by the Khod Amada Ha CDC to address the shortage of materials within the school, which has 94 male students. The team observed the following equipment: two file cabinets, two office desks, ten chairs and one carpet, which were in good condition. This project was awarded by the Qadis DGO, Badghis DRRD and Badghis Department of Education through the mixed Qadis KSW to respond to the community's request to provide a better educational environment for their students.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On May 6, the DRRD DSW in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi (Mr. Bashir Ahmad) led a team to inspect the work completed to date on the 60-ML Flood Protection Wall in Jafar Baik Khorasani Village. It was observed that the backfilling behind the protection wall needed to be completed and the Jafar Baik Khorasani and Zori CDCs were mentored on what needed to be done. To date, the CDC's had completed 58% of the project. Awarded by the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DGO and the Herat DRRD through the mixed Kush-e-Rabat Sangi KSW, the project is designed to protect 300 Jeribs of community farmland and 200 homes from seasonal flooding.
- On May 10, the DRRD DSW in Pashtun Zarghun (Mr. Aref Rahmani) led a team to inspect the work completed on two culverts in Nim Marda Safidan Sufla Village. The CDC was mentored on proper concrete curing techniques. The CDC has completed 88% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Pashtun Zarghun DGO and the Herat DRRD through the mixed KSW to address the community's poor transportation system and improve access for 3,600 people to the District Center and neighboring villages.
- On May 5, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel traveled to Ziarat Gah Village (Guzara District) to inspect the work progress on the community's 140-ML Flood Protection Wall. The inspectors were pleased



Date: 05/06/2015 12:35:03 PM Lat: 34.876437 Lon: 63.172960 Alt: 3917.7 ft
The Yarkasi Kondalan CDC Constructing A 72.5-ML Flood Protection Wall In Yarkasi Kondalan Village, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard 50 Jeribs Of Farmland, And 176 Homes From Seasonal Flooding.



Date: 05/07/2015 10:36:45 AM Lat: 35.079970 Lon: 63.270353 Alt: 2948.8 ft
The Lemari CDC Has Completed 40% Of The Work On Their 50-ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall Construction Project: Expected To Safeguard 80 Jeribs Of Farmland And 300 Houses From Flooding.



Date: 05/05/2015 04:46:15 PM Lat: 34.801927 Lon: 63.441467 Alt: 4287.1 ft
School Equipment Including Office Desks, Chairs, Cabinets, Were Provided To The Qadis Agriculture Vocational School To Provide A Better Educational Environment For 94 Students (Boys).



Date: 05/06/2015 11:38:03 AM Lat: 34.783633 Lon: 62.333267 Alt: 1315.2 m
The Kushk-E Rabat Sangi DSW, SIKA-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting The Work Progress On The Community's 60-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project: Expected To Safeguard 300 Jeribs Of Farmland And 200 Hoes From Seasonal Flooding.

with the work quality. The CDC has completed 84% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Guzara DGO and the Herat DRRD, through the mixed Guzara KSW, to safeguard 600 Jeribs of community farmland from being damaged by seasonal flooding.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On May 9, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel visited the Abdul Ghafour Shahid High School in Sofak village in order to monitor the quality of equipment provided by the Sor Tapa Ovlad Haji CDC to address the shortage of materials within the school, which has 671 students (395 boys, 276 girls). Materials present during the inspection included 55 student desks, 25 office chairs, 6 office desks, 5 file cabinets, and stationary. Awarded by the Ghor Provincial Government, in collaboration with the Ghor Department of Education through the mixed Chaghcharan KSW, the project will address the shortage of materials within the Abdul Ghafour Shahid High School and respond to the community's request to provide a better educational environment for their local students.
- On May 9, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted a project site visit in Shahidan Village (Du Layna District) to monitor the work progress of a Water Reservoir Construction project. It was observed that the plastering of the inlet /outlet canals was not properly done. The CDC was mentored and instructed to correct the plastering. The CDC has completed 70% of the work on their project, with oversight and technical support from the Du Layna DGO and Ghor DRRD. Once complete, the Water Reservoir, with a capacity of 450-m³, will provide sufficient irrigation water for 150 Jeribs of community farmland.

STATUS OF PROGRAM OFFICE CLOSURES

- Programming activities have been completed in Shahrak (April 19, 2015), and Bala Boluk Districts (April 30, 2015) and all program staff have been withdrawn. SIKA-West will no longer be reporting on activities from these districts.

CHALLENGES

- Due to current insecurity within Bala Boluk District the M&E Department was unable to collect GPS coordinates for 5 projects within the district. The SIKA-West Security Department has recommended postponing future travel within the region until the security environment is more permissive.

WHAT'S NEXT

- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel plan to undertake 72 project site visits to assess project quality, collect data and provide guidance to grantees; so that our program can confirm that projects have been completed in line with engineering specifications.
- The Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Muqur, and Shahrak KSW meetings will be independently organized and led by our IDLG and MRRD program partners between May 13 and 18; without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West.
- The Ghor Provincial Gender Working Group meeting will be led independently by the Ghor DOWA, tentatively on May 18.



Date: 05/10/2015 10:03:52 AM Lat: 34.223667 Lon: 62.654713 Alt: 3612.9 ft

The Nim Marda Safidan Sufia CDC Has Completed 88% Of The Work On Their Two Culverts Construction Project: Expected To Improve Access For 3,600 People To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.



Lat: [34.193525° N]; Long: [62.149741° E]; Alt: [954.9 m]; Date: [05-May-2015 11:10:20 AM]

The Bazarcha CDC Has Completed 84% Of The Work On Their 140-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project: Expected To Safeguard 600 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Damaged By Flooding.



School Equipment Including Office Desks, Chairs, Cabinets, Were Provided To The Abdul Ghafour Shahid High School To Provide A Better Educational Environment For 671 Students (395 Boys, 276 Girls).



Date: 05-09-2015 12:12:52 PM Lat: 34.065130 Lon: 64.719993 Alt: 2672.6 m

The Shahidan Uliya CDC Has Completed 70% Of The Work On Their Water Reservoir Construction Project: Expected To Provide Sufficient Water For 150 Jeribs Of Farmland.