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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 160  
MAY 12-18, 2015



*The Qala-E-Bakhtiari Ha CDC Completed 79% Of The Work On Their School Rehabilitation Project In Guzara District. Once Complete, The Qala-E-Bakhtiari Secondary School Will Provide A Better Educational Environment For 250 Students 140 Boys, 110 Girls).*

May 15, 2015

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

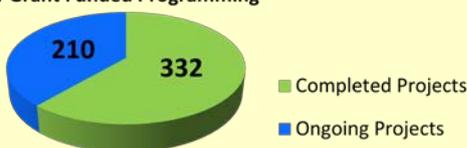
## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- On May 13, the Kohsan District Governor (DG), Mr. Nezamudin Rahmani, led the mixed Komite Sobate Woleswali (KSW) meeting; with 24 participants (male) with discussion focused on the status of current CDC & DDA SIKA-West grant funded programming. The DG reminded KSW members that they are required to complete their activities within the project timeframes as the SIKA-West program is entering its closedown phase. 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 12, the MRRD & IDLG SIKA-West Regional Coordinators met with USAID in Herat to discuss current monitoring and evaluation approaches. USAID stressed their focus on Third Party, Implementing Partner (IP) and GIRoA monitoring and how these three approaches can be collaborative. The Regional Coordinators discussed how SIKA-West projects are monitored, utilizing SIKA-West M&E, IDLG and MRRD personnel and MISTI (third party) efforts, explaining that this has been an effective mechanism; and reflects close coordination and communication between SIKA-West and GIRoA.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, Mr. Farhad Raufian, reported that the DGO is planning to visit 6 district schools and assess the quality of school equipment provided by the Pashtun Zarghun District Government and Herat DRRD with the support of SIKA-West. The IDLG Regional Coordinator will coordinate with media outlets to publicize this event. This activity is being undertaken without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West.

## 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



- 24 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$113,430 were processed in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Muqur, Farah Center, Qadis, Du Layna, and Guzara Districts supporting both IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.



Students In Kofan High School (Guzara District) Now Have Desks Provided By The Guzara District Government & Herat DRRD, Improving The Learning Environment Within The School

Students in Kofan High School (Guzara District) are now studying in classrooms which have been equipped with student desks & benches. Provided by the Guzara District Government, Herat Department of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (DRRD), and Herat Department of Education, 1,129 students (619 boys, 610 girls) have a better educational environment and no longer have to sit on the classroom floor.

*"Our school did not have chairs, desks, or a proper carpet to sit on. Without a desk, it was difficult to write in our notebooks,"* Nesar Ahmad, a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Student.

The Kofan Community Development Council (CDC) petitioned their District Government through the Komite Sobate Woleswali to provide school equipment to the Kofan High School which was in need of student desks, benches, carpets, file cabinets etc. The Guzara DGO recognized the community need and authorized a grant to the Kofan CDC, so that this need could be met. On May 18, 2015, with the support of the SIKA-West program, 59 desks, 38 chairs, 4 carpets and 3 file cabinets were delivered to the Kofan High School. Another 150 desks will be delivered by May 31, 2015. *"Now that the school is equipped, students will be encouraged to continue their education, and parents will send their children to school. We will have an educated society,"* Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, Guzara District Governor.

## MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 42 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 10 laborers on 6 project sites in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qala-i-Naw, and Chaghcharan to verify whether they were receiving their wages in accordance with the CDC Grant Agreements. The reported amount was crosschecked with the projects' Bill of Quantities (BOQs) and confirmed that laborers received their wages in accordance with the CDC & DDA Grant Agreements.
- SIKA-West submitted our Hard Projects' Verification Tracker to MISTI on May 18. This tracker includes GPS points for recently completed projects and highlights those project sites that are re-scheduled for verification by MISTI in Bala Boluk, Pashtun Zarghun, and Muqur Districts.

## FARAH PROVINCE

- On May 13, a team from Herat HQ Office including the Deputy Chief of Party, MRRD and IDLG Regional Coordinators, Engineers and M&E personnel traveled to Farah Province and conducted an internal review of 55 ongoing grant funded CDC & DDA community development projects in Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn District and Pusht Rod District to ensure that project activities are in-line with approved designs and specifications. During the week, the team inspected 30 projects in Farah Center and Lash Wa Juwayn District; the remaining projects will be visited by May 27. Technical instructions and mentoring was provided to grantees, where deficiencies were identified. For example, the Hakim Abad CDC was instructed to repaint the windows of the Hakim Abad School, before the next milestone payment would be authorized.

## BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On May 13, SIKA-West Engineer and M&E Personnel traveled to Golchin Village (Qadis District) to inspect the work completed on the community's 242-ML Flood Protection Wall project. The inspectors noticed that the backfilling behind the wall was not complete and mentored the Tajik Ha, Khalifa Ha, and Nader Khan CDCs to correct this oversight and stressed the importance of complete backfilling. The CDCs have completed 93% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Qadis DGO and Badghis DRRD through the mixed Qadis Komite Sobate Woleswali to protect community farmland, homes and businesses from being damaged by seasonal flooding.
- On May 17, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel inspected the progress on the community's 60-ML Canal Lining Project in Jar Khoshk Village, Qala-i-Naw. The Engineers observed that sections of the Plain Cement Concrete (PCC) on the canal bed had been damaged by recent rains. The Jar Khoshk CDC was instructed to re-do the work. The Jar Khoshk CDC completed 86% of the work on their project, which will serve to reduce flooding, and channel overflow water safely through the community.

## HERAT PROVINCE

- On May 13, the DRRD DSW in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi (Mr. Bashir Ahmad) led a team to inspect the work completed on the 200-ML Flood Protection Wall project in Darwish Ali Khan Village. The DSW and the SIKA-West Engineers were pleased with the work progress and quality. The Darwish Ali CDC completed 76% of the work on their 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 from being damaged by seasonal flooding.
- On May 14, the DRRD DSW in Kohsan District (Mr. Juma Khan Azizi), SIKA-West Engineer and M&E personnel conducted a joint site visit to inspect the work progress on the 200-ML Canal Lining Project & Construction of Two Culverts in Qodos Abad village. No deficiencies were observed. The Hozeh Panjum Qodos Abad CDC completed 43% of the work. This Grant is designed to address the lack of Flood Protection Infrastructure within the community, with the result that annual seasonal flooding causes damage to the community canal, inflicting financial losses. By addressing these conditions, the Kohsan DGO is being responsive to identified community grievances and utilizing available grant funding to improve the delivery of basic services.



Date: 05/16/2015 11:30:17:17 AM Lat: 32.377847 Lon: 62.098947 Alt: 2171.6 ft

**The Herat HQ Office Delegation Inspecting The Work Progress And Quality Of The Chahar Bagh School Rehabilitation Project In Farah Center. No Deficiencies Were Observed.**



Date: 05/13/2015 01:39:01:01 PM Lat: 34.867857 Lon: 63.642233 Alt: 4612.9 ft

**SIKA-West Engineers Noticed That The Backfilling Of The Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Golchin Village (Qadis District) Was Not Properly Done. Mentoring Was Provided To The CDCs On Correct Method Of Backfilling.**



Date: 05/17/2015 02:34:30:30 PM Lat: 34.980340 Lon: 63.127280 Alt: 2999.7 ft

**The Jar Khoshk CDC Completed 86% Of The Work On Their 60-ML Canal Lining Project In Jar Khoshk Village, Qala-I-Naw; Expected To Safeguard 280 Houses And 20 Jeribs Of Farmland From Flooding.**



Date: 05/13/2015 10:24:24:24 Lat: 34.800950 Lon: 62.225720 Alt: 1190.9 m

**The DRRD DSW In Kushk-E Rabat Sangi Inspecting The Work Progress Of The 200-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Darwish Ali Khan Village; Expected To Safeguard 300 Jeribs Of Farmland From Seasonal Flooding.**

## GHOR PROVINCE

- On May 17, the DRRD DSWs (Mr. Ramazan and Abdul Ghazi), SIKA-West Engineer and M&E Personnel visited Akhtan Village to inspect the work progress of the community's Culvert Construction Project in Du Layna District. It was observed that the site cleaning was not complete and the Akhtam CDC was instructed to correct this before the next milestone payment would be authorized. The CDC completed 83% of the work. This project was awarded by the Du Layna District Government and the Ghor DRRD through the male KSW to improve access for 300 families to the District Center and neighboring villages.
- On May 16, a project site visit was conducted in Dah Sorkh Village (Chaghcharan) to inspect the work progress and quality of the Culvert Construction Project. No deficiencies were observed. The Dah Sorkh Wostaa CDC completed 82% of the work on their project. Awarded by the Ghor Provincial Government and the Ghor DRRD through the mixed Chaghcharan KSW to respond to the community's request to improve the condition of their village road. Once complete, the culvert will improve access for 225 families to both neighboring villages and the Provincial Center.

## STATUS OF PROGRAM OFFICE CLOSURES

- Programming activities are complete in Shahrak (April 19, 2015), and Bala Boluk Districts (April 30, 2015) and all program staff withdrew. SIKA-West will no longer report on activities from these districts.

## CHALLENGES

- SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel could not conduct project site inspections for 4 projects in Guzara and Qadis Districts due to insecurity which resulted in the delay of USD\$22,596 in milestone payments.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- As part of the MISTI Final Evaluation, MISTI will conduct interviews with SIKA-West personnel and GIRoA officials from target districts, in Herat from May 19-21.
- The Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Nezamudin Rahmani, reported that some residents of Islam Qala Masjid Jama Village called the District Government Hotlines and stated that the Islam Qala Masjid Jama CDC is not properly gravelling the road as outlined in the project specifications. In response the DGO will send a representative to the project on May 21 together with SIKA-West and DRRD personnel.
- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel plan to undertake 58 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 Pusht-e Rod, Guzara, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, and Du Layna KSW meetings will be independently organized and led by our IDLG and MRRD program partners between May 20 and 25; without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West.



Date: 05/14/2015 09:50:59 AM Lat: 34.663173 Lon: 61.101820 Alt: 2407.2 ft  
The DRRD DSW In Kohsan District Inspecting The Work Progress Of A 200-ML Canal Lining And Two Culverts Construction Project In Qodos Abad Village: Expected To Safeguard 1,000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Damaged By Floods.



The Meyan Do Jow CDC Completed The Construction Of A Bridge In Meyan Do Jow Village, Pashtun Zarghun District. The Constructed Bridge Has Improved Access For 1,500 Families To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.



Date: 05-17-2015 11:32:16 AM Lat: 34.181700 Lon: 64.953913 Alt: 2747.9 m  
The DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting The Work Progress Of Two Culverts Construction Project In Akhtam Village, Du Layna: Expected To Improve Access For 300 Families To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.



Date: 05/16/2015 06:16:13 PM Lat: 34.643403 Lon: 64.630893 Alt: 7572.5 ft  
The Dah Sorkh Wostaa CDC Completed 82% Of The Work On Their Culvert Construction Project In Dah Sorkh Village, Chaghcharan. Once Complete, The Culvert Will Improve Access For 225 Families To The Neighboring Villages And Provincial Center.