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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

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The Hakim Abad CDC Completed 78% Of The Work On Their Community's School Rehabilitation Project In Hakim Abad Village, Farah Center: Expected To Provide A Better Educational Environment For 870 Students (470 Male, 400 Female).

June 3, 2015

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- On May 27, the Ghor Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) Director, Ms. Masooma Anwari, led the Provincial Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting, with 13 participants (7 female, 6 male) including representatives from the Education Department, Voice of Women Organization, Provincial Council, Attorney General's Office, Human Rights Commission, Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DOLSA) and Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD). The GWG Education sub-committee reported that in collaboration with the Ghor Education Department, members visited 12 schools, monitoring teaching methodologies and the quality of instruction. The GWG Advocacy sub-committee reported on their recent provision of "Human Rights" training for 74 people (52 female, 22 male). The GWG Social & Cultural sub-committee reported that they successfully lobbied the Afghan Aid Organization to implement an Embroidery Vocational Program and Literacy Course for 30 women from the provincial center. Established by the SIKA-West program in collaboration with the Ghor DOWA, the Ghor Provincial Gender Working Group is now independently managed and financed by DOWA without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West reflecting our program partner's leadership in sustaining critical provincial and district based gender programming.
- On May 26, the Muqur District Government Executive Manager, Mr. Abobakr Azimi, led the Muqur mixed KSW meeting, with 28 participants (male). The District Government reported that female participants requested transportation allowances to attend, which the KSW is unable to afford. This matter has been referred to the SIKA-West IDLG Regional Coordinator for further action. Discussion focused on recent damage inflicted across the region by extreme flooding. The Executive Manager informed the KSW members that the Badghis Provincial Government Emergency Committee in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) will provide assistance to district infrastructure that was damaged by flooding. The KSW will prepare a list of infrastructure locations and share with the DGO for further action. SIKA-West will also share updates on communities that have been affected. 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.



Students in Do Ab Village, Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District Now Benefit From Their Rehabilitated School, Provided By Their District Government and Herat DRRD. (Previous Condition of The School Can Be Seen In Bottom Left Picture)

Students in Do Ab Secondary School (Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District) are now receiving an education within an improved classroom environment. *"In the past, I was not interested to come to school because of the school buildings bad condition,"* Ehsan, Do Ab Secondary School Student.

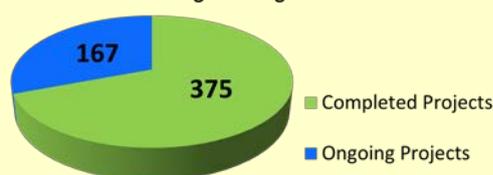
For many years, the school building was in a poor physical condition and in need of rehabilitation. On August 2014, the Do Ab Sofla Community Development Council (CDC) petitioned their District Government through the Komite Sobate Wolesswali to provide government support and rehabilitate their community's school. Recognizing the community need, the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi authorized a grant award to the Do Ab Sofla CDC valued at USD\$18, 141. With technical and logistical support from the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program and oversight from the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Government, Herat DRRD, and Education Department, the Do Ab Sofla Secondary School was successfully refurbished, providing an improved educational environment for 700 students (400 boys, 300 girls).

"This project is very important for our people, our educational facilities are now improved and we are able to provide a proper educational environment for district students," Mr. Akhtar Mohammad Akbari, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DGO Education Manager.

Grants & Subcontracts Programming

- CDCs & DDAs are currently implementing 167 projects valued at AFN 157,819,150/USD\$3,156,383 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) which will reflect improved service delivery to 520,327 residents across the target districts. 357 projects valued at AFN 414,736,590/USD\$7,125,830, benefitting 1,077,111 residents have been completed. Please refer to Annex A for further details.

Snapshot of Grant Funded Programming

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

- DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 42 joint project site visits within our target districts yielding 16 deficiencies that were in need of correction. Examples are outlined in the body of the report.
- SIKA-West M&E Personnel will attend the USAID Implementing Partners (IPs) meeting at the US Embassy in Kabul on June 4. This meeting, arranged by the Office of Democracy and Governance, will focus on introducing new IPs, provide a refresher on accruals, appraise IPs of the Monitoring Support Project, new branding and marking requirements, and discuss both the current security situation and implications for programming.

FARAH PROVINCE

- On May 31, SIKA-West personnel traveled to Qala Behbood Village (Farah Center) to inspect the work completed on the community's Qala Behbood High School rehabilitation project. No deficiencies were recorded and the Qala Behbood CDC completed 92% of the work. This project was awarded by the Farah Provincial Government and DRRD through the mixed Farah Center Komite Sobate Woleswali to provide a better educational environment for 2,200 female students.
- On May 30, SIKA-West personnel monitored the work progress on a Culvert Construction project in Parkha Bala Wa Payeen village, Lash Wa Juwayn District. The Parkha Bala Wa Payeen CDC were working in accordance with their project's specification and completed 77% of the work on their project, with oversight and technical support from the Lash Wa Juwayn DGO and Farah DRRD. Once complete, the four culverts will improve access for 600 village residents to access neighboring villages and the District Center.
- On June 1, SIKA-West personnel conducted a site visit to inspect the work completed on the community's 66-ML Canal Rehabilitation project in Now Deh Village, Farah Center. It was observed that the backfilling of the canal was not properly done. The Now Deh Bala CDC was mentored to do the backfilling in accordance with their project specifications. The CDC completed 88% of the work on their project. Once complete, the Canal will safeguard 3,000 Jeribs of farmland from being damaged by flooding.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On May 30, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E personnel traveled to Paye Ziarat Village, Qala-e-Naw to inspect the Paye Ziarat CDC's work on their 46.5 ML Flood Protection Wall. It was observed that the space between the reinforcing steels was 19-cm which was 4-cm more than the project's technical specification. The Paye Ziarat CDC was instructed to correct this deficiency. This project was awarded by the Badghis Provincial Government and the DRRD through the mixed Qala-i-Naw KSW to safeguard 150 homes and a road that connects the village to Qala-i-Naw Provincial Center from being frequently damaged by seasonal flooding.
- On May 31, the Jar Khoshk CDC successfully completed the construction of a 60-ML Canal in Jar Khoshk village, Qala-i-Naw, with oversight and technical support from the Badghis Provincial Government and DRRD. The constructed canal channels overflow water safely through the community and safeguards 280 homes from being damaged by seasonal flooding.

HERAT PROVINCE

- On May 27, the Nim Marda Safidan Sufla CDC completed the construction of two culverts in Nim Marda Safidan Sufla village, Pashtun Zarghun District. The Grant was designed to improve the community's rural road network; by awarding a grant to invest in the construction of culverts, the Pashtun Zarghun District Government and Komite Sobate Woleswali were being responsive to identified community grievances and utilizing available grant funding to improve the delivery of basic services. Now that the culverts are constructed, 3,600 people have easier access to the District Center.



Date: 05/31/2015 10:48:10 AM Lat: 32.368030 Lon: 62.102740 Alt: 2198.5 ft
The Qala Behbood CDC Completed 92% Of The Work On Their High School Rehabilitation Project In Qala Behbood Village, Farah Center: Expected To Provide A Better Educational Environment For 2,200 Students (Girls).



Date: 05/30/2015 09:25:23 AM Lat: 31.822653 Lon: 61.588420 Alt: 1731.0 ft
The Parkha Bala Wa Payeen CDC Constructing Four Culverts In Parkha Bala Wa Payeen Village, Lash Wa Juwayn District: Expected To Improve Access For 600 People To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.



Date: 06/01/2015 02:59:48 PM Lat: 32.364957 Lon: 62.060760 Alt: 2156.2 ft
The Now Deh Bala CDC Completed 88% Of The Work On Their 66-ML Canal Construction Project In Now Deh Village, Farah Center: Expected To Safeguard 3,000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Flooding.



Date: 05/30/2015 11:18:01 AM Lat: 34.966843 Lon: 63.100447 Alt: 3044.3 ft
The Paye Ziarat CDC Constructing A 46.5 ML Flood Protection Wall In Paye Ziarat Village, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard 150 Homes And A Road That Connect The Village To Qala-I-Naw Center From Seasonal Flooding.

- On May 30, SIKA-West personnel inspected the work progress on a 200-ML Canal Lining Project in Qodos Abad Village, Kohsan District. No deficiencies were observed. The Hozeh Panjum Qodos Abad CDC completed 53% of the work. This project was awarded by the Kohsan District Government and the Herat DRRD through the mixed Kohsan KSW to safeguard 1,000 Jeribs of farmland from being damaged by seasonal flooding.
- On May 26, the Rebat Sabcha CDC completed the construction of an 80-ML Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall including 80-ML Gabion Mattress in Rebat Sabcha Village, Guzara District. This project was awarded by the Guzara District Government and the Herat DRRD through the mixed Guzara KSW to safeguard 9,000 Jeribs of farmland from being damaged by seasonal flooding.

GHOR PROVINCE

- On May 26, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG), Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, led the mixed Chaghcharan KSW meeting, with 16 participants (14 male, 2 female). The DPG expressed his gratitude to both CDCs and the DDA for their implementation of MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West grant funded programming and emphasized the importance of maintenance. The Ghor DRRD Director, Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, noted the positive impact of the program Ghor Province and highlighted that more residents now trust their government to be responsive in addressing grievances. 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.

STATUS OF PROGRAM OFFICE CLOSURES

- Programming activities are complete in Shahrak, Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, Du Layna and Shindand Districts and all program staff have been withdrawn. SIKA-West will no longer report on activities from these districts.
- The DST Offices in Qadis, Kohsan, Pashtun Zarghun, and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Districts were closed on May 31 and program staff are being demobilized. Remaining ongoing projects within these districts will be completed by provincial staff.

CHALLENGES

- SIKA-West personnel could not conduct project site inspections for 7 projects in Guzara, Qadis, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts due to insecurity which resulted in the delay of USD\$26,527 in milestone payments.

WHAT'S NEXT

- DRRD DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel plan to undertake 49 project site visits across our remaining target districts, 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 and program standards.



The Jar Khoshk CDC Completed The Construction Of 60-ML Canal In Jar Khoshk Village, Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard 280 Homes From Being Damaged By Seasonal Flooding.



Lat: [34.223733° N]; Long: [62.65465° E]; Alt: [1096 m]; Date: [27-May-2015 10:56:07 AM]

The Nim Marda Safidan CDC Completed The Construction Of Two Culverts In Nim Marda Safidan Sufla Village, Pashtun Zarghun District: Expected To Improve Access For 3,600 People To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.



The Hozeh Panjum Qodos Abad CDC Completed 53% Of The Work On Their 200-ML Canal Lining And Construction Of Two Culverts In Qodos Abad Village, Kohsan District: Expected To Safeguard 1,000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Seasonal Flooding.



Lat: [34.126853° N]; Long: [62.313561° E]; Alt: [1165.7 m]; Date: [26-May-2015 10:35:15 AM]

The Rebat Sabcha CDC Completed The Construction Of 80-ML Flood Protection Wall In Rebat Sabcha Village, Guzara District: Expected To Safeguard 9,000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Damaged By Seasonal Flooding.