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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 168
JULY 7-13, 2015



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School Equipment Including 50 Student Desks, 2 Office Desks, 13 Office Chairs, 2 File Cabinets, 2 Carpets And 1 Furniture Set Was Provided To Jawaliq Ulia Boys High School In Charkinak Village, Qadis District: Expected To Provide Better Educational Facilities For 550 Students (Boys).

July 15, 2015

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

HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK:

On July 12, The USAID ACOR, Mr. Sediq Ibrahim, met with the Herat DRRD Director, Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi, to obtain DRRD’s views about the SIKA-West program. The DRRD Director highlighted that SIKA-West is a good initiative that has helped the MRRD to respond the communities’ needs and improved government service delivery. The DRRD Director noted the importance of good coordination between SIKA-West, DRRD and other stakeholders. A recommendation from the meeting was that future programs should be on-budget programs that cater for security, administrative and other costs.

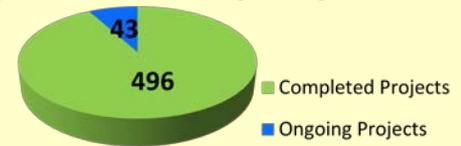
Status of Program Office Closures

- **Ghor Province:** Programming activities are complete in Chaghcharan, Du Layna, and Shahrak Districts. The District Support Team (DST) and Provincial Support Team (PST) Offices were closed.
- **Herat Province:** Programming activities are complete in Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Kohsan, and Guzara Districts. The District Support Team (DST) and Provincial Support Team (PST) Offices were closed.
- **Farah Province:** Programming activities are complete in Khak-e-Safayd, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn and Farah Center. The District Support Team (DST) and Provincial Support Team (PST) Offices were closed.
- **Badghis Province:** Programming activities are complete in Qadis District and the District Support Team (DST) Office has been closed. 12 projects are ongoing in Muqur District and 10 projects remain ongoing in Qala-i-Naw. Programing activities are scheduled to be completed by July 30, 2015.

Grants & Subcontracts Programming

- CDCs & DDAs are currently implementing 43 projects valued at AFN 46,102,500/USD\$922,050 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) which will reflect improved service delivery to 62,451 residents across the target districts. (21 out of 43 projects are physically complete and milestone payments are under process, therefore; only 22 projects are actually ongoing).
- IDLG/MRRD provincial and district partners have completed 496 projects valued at AFN 521,473,840/USD\$8,904,750. These projects have benefited 1,522,178 residents. Please refer to Annex A for further details.

Snapshot of Grant Funded Programming



- 22 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$117,742 were processed supporting both IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

Badghis Province

- SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 11 joint project site visits in Qadis, Muqur, and Qala-i-Naw which yielded 3 minor deficiencies that were in need of correction. Samples of these visits are outlined below:
- On July 8, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E personnel inspected the work progress of a 49-ML Flood Protection Wall in Abdul Khaleq village, Muqur District. The Abdul Khaleq and Sadudin CDCs were instructed to cure the concrete properly. The CDCs completed 70% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Muqur District Government and Badghis DRRD through the mixed Muqur KSW. The project was designed to safeguard the Qala-i-Naw main road and two schools that serve 750 students (500 boys, 250 girls) from being damaged by seasonal flooding.
- On July 7, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel traveled to Yarkasi Kondalan village, Qala-i-Naw to monitor the work progress on the community’s 72.5-ML Flood Protection Wall including 72.5-ML Gabion Mattress. No deficiencies were observed. The Yarkasi Kondalan CDC completed 90% of the work on their project. This project was awarded by the Badghis Provincial Government and DRRD through the mixed Qala-i-Naw KSW. The project was designed to safeguard 50 Jeribs of farmland, and 176 homes from being damaged by seasonal flooding.

Program Documentation and Archiving:

- SIKA-West completed the program document archiving for the Communications & Public Outreach and Stabilization Departments. The first shipment of the documents to Home Office is scheduled for August 2, 2015. The remaining program documents will be archived by the first week of August.



The Abdul Khaleq And Sadudin CDCs Completed 70% Of The Work On Their Project: Expected To Safeguard The Qala-I-Naw Main Road And Two Schools That Serve 750 Students (500 Boys, 250 Girls) From Being Damaged By Seasonal Flooding.



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.

MONITORING & EVALUATION:

- During the week, SIKA-West received 3 verification reports noting projects “executed as reported”. Since the beginning of the MISTI verifications, SIKA-West has received a total of 132 verification reports noting that these projects have been properly executed.
- SIKA-West has begun collecting the data for the USAID Afghan Info Database for the FY2015, QIII. Information includes financial data, PMP indicators and status of grant projects. These updates will be completed and uploaded to Afghan Info by July 28.

CHALLENGE:

- The Da Afghanistan Bank, Badghis branch experienced a cash shortage which has prevented CDCs from withdrawing their milestone payments. Our program has received assurances that the current cash shortage is a temporary problem.
- SIKA-West is still waiting for MISTI re-verification reports for 5 projects; Bala Buluk (2), Farah Centre (1), Pashtun Zarghun (1) and Qadis (1).

WHAT’S NEXT:

- SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel plan to undertake 15 project site visits in Muqur and Qala-i-Naw. These visits are designed to assess project quality, collect data, and provide guidance to grantees, so that grant funded projects are completed in line with engineering specifications.
- SIKA-West personnel, led by the DCOP will travel to Kabul on July 14 to meet with USAID. This meeting will focus on areas where current and future USAID programming can engage with Komite Sobate Woleswali’s as a platform to discuss district community needs.
- SIKA-West will hand over the final SIKA-West Program Transition Package to both IDLG and MRRD SIKA-Units on July 15. This package includes copies of the Community Development Programing Materials, Stabilization Programming Materials, Governance IDLG Approved Training Materials, Gender Mainstreaming Materials, and M&E DSW Training Materials, Stabilization Community Impact Assessments and the Governance Department Pre & Post Training Assessments.