

Bamyan Resident Launches Mobile Library

KABUL - Joining in on what's fast becoming a national book reading drive, Saber Hussaini from Bamyan province recently started distributing books to children through his mobile bicycle library.

According to Hussaini, he started out with 200 books six months ago but has since grown his collection to 3,000.



He said he has been through many ups and downs in that time but nothing has stopped him from trying to reach children across the province.

His library is a box, attached to his bicycle that is branded with the words Mobile Library.

In an interview with Tariq Majidi, a TOLONews reporter, Hussaini said

that a number of people and cultural figures in the province have stepped forward to help him.

He said at first he was only providing story books to children, but now residents in various districts have collected other books in order for him to promote the culture of reading books. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Women Farmers' Contribution to Food Security Praised

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Thirty women farmers from northern Balkh province have been honoured for their important contributions in the agricultural sector as part of International Women's Day celebrations.

Representatives from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and provincial government officials attended the event in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital.

USAID's Regional Agricultural Development Program, North (RADPN) and the Women's Empowerment Working

Group (WEWG) seized the opportunity to recognise challenges still faced by women in the agriculture sector.

A statement from USAID said the participants called for progressive policies and programs geared toward gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture development.

A hundred participants, including representatives from the Provincial Council, governor's office, Directorate of Economy, Directorate of Women's Affairs, as well as from academic institutions, agriculture associations, pri

...*(More on P4)...(23)*

14 Alleged Afghan Taliban Members Arrested in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani police arrested 14 alleged members of the Afghan Taliban in Quetta city, seizing a large arsenal, security sources revealed Friday. Based on intelligence reports, the officers raided Pushtunabad neighbor-

hood located in the capital of Baluchistan province, where they arrested the group. The source said the alleged insurgents were transferred to an unknown place to start investigations. Pashtoonabad is an area ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

10 Attackers, 5 Security Personnel Kill as Grishk Clash Ends

LASHKARGAH - Five security personnel and 10 insurgents have been killed and 16 others security personnel wounded during two-day long fierce clash in Grishk district of southern Helmand province, officials said

on Friday. A group of militants on Wednesday morning entered into a four-storey building and education department near the Grishk district headquarters and opened fire on police headquarters, ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

'Abducted' Girl Rescued in Kunduz, 8 Suspects Held

KUNDUZ CITY - A high school girl, who was abducted, sold and forced into marriage, has been rescued and eight people have been detained in connection with the case in northern Kunduz province, the governor said on Thursday.

Asadullah Amarkhel told a press conference there that the 12-grade student at Fatima Al-Zahra High School in Kunduz City had been abducted 40 days ago from the school to Taloqan, the capital of northeastern Takhar province. Her ...*(More on P4)...(22)*



SAARC
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Re-invite

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

Consultancy Services: Afghan Context Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene Behavior Change

COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
Project: Rural Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Pprogram (Ru-WATSIP)
Consultancy Services: Afghan Context Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene Behavior Change
Method: Consultants' Qualifications Selection (CQS)
Reference No.: MRRD/Ru-WATSIP/CN/01
Grant #: SAARC Development Fund (SDF)
Issue Date: 12th March, 2016
Closing Date: 26rd March, 2016

Project: Strengthening of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Funded by SDF

SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat was inaugurated by the Heads of State/Governments of SAARC Member States on the first day of the 16th SAARC Summit held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 28-29 April 2010. The SDF Charter was ratified by Parliaments of the eight SAARC Member States and the Instrument of Ratification was issued on April 15, 2010.

SDF approved the project "Strengthening of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in selected areas of SAARC Countries" for six SAARC Countries with a total budget of USD 6,298,408.00 on 27th August, 2013 for a period of 3 years. Approved fund for Afghanistan component of the project is USD 955,509. Hygiene & Sanitation, as elaborated below is a component of the Strengthening of WASH project.

Project Overview (background information)

Despite this high level of investment, low percentages of rural inhabitants use improved water supplies or sanitation facilities. Not very far a review of the sector commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) concluded that, across multiple provinces, over 40 percent of the rural water supplies constructed in the past 10 years are non-functional, sanitation has not improved at all (only 8.3% of the population have access to improved latrine), and the health status of rural Afghans is not improving. Without ongoing health impacts—especially among women and young children under the age of five years, WASH projects do not achieve their desired goals. Key challenges identified in the review were ineffective community mobilization for water system management, low adoption of household latrines following externally funded "demonstrations," continued open defecation and use of fresh human excreta, and low commitment to follow up.

Goal and Objectives of the Provincial Community-Led Total Sanitation Program (background information)

Goal

The goal of the Afghan Context CLTS Program is to contribute in achieving the WASH goal that is the improvement of the quality of life of rural communities and reduction in the morbidity and mortality from diarrhea diseases, especially among young children and enhance productivity and well being of the people.

Specific Objectives

Community-Led Total Sanitation

The entry point activity to communities will be Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). Today, CLTS is being implemented in more than 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. RuWatSIP hygiene team has been implementing the CLTS in different provinces and has converted tens of villages into ODF status. At the heart of CLTS lies the recognition that providing toilets does not guarantee their use, nor result in improved sanitation and hygiene. CLTS focuses on the behavioral change needed to ensure real and sustainable improvements: investing in community mobilization instead of hardware, and shifting the focus from latrine construction for public locations or individual households to the creation of Open Defecation-free (ODF) villages. By raising awareness that, as long as even a minority continues to defecate in the open, everyone is at risk of disease—CLTS triggers the community's desire for change; propels them into action; and encourages innovation, mutual support, and appropriate local solutions, thus leading to greater ownership and sustainability.

Community Health Workers and Family Health Action Groups

CLTS is the mechanism by which a community reaches ODF status and ensures that all households have safe, hygienic latrines and use them. The complementary behaviors necessary to prevent diarrheal diseases include:

Hygiene Trainings for men

After successful triggering, the team of IP facilitators who in advance will be trained by MRRD in hygiene education, will meet with the community and chose 5 to 10 persons per triggered community and train them in a two to three days hygiene training. The trainees will consist of CLTS committee, CHWs, religions leaders, CDC influential members, teachers and other influential and active villagers. Training these groups of men will contribute to achieving the ODF status, construction/improving the latrines, adapting hygienic behaviors and sustainability. The guidelines will be provided by MRRD.

Provincial CLTS approach

1. In the provinces selected for the CLTS program, a contract for implementation of the CLTS and Hygiene Behavioral Change program will be awarded to an organization having experience in the implementation of software programs of community mobilization, hygiene education and sanitation.
2. Depending on the size of the province, two to four secure districts will be selected for implementation of the program. There will be one team of facilitators assigned to each of the districts.

Expected Rate of Outputs (IP requirements)

The rate of implementation of the CLTS program will increase with the skills and experience of the facilitators and the success of the program in the early communities. For this contract a minimum of 10 communities will be expected to reach ODF status in the first six months, and an additional 10 in the second six months. Experience shows that triggering is not successful the first time in about 40% of communities. It is then necessary to return to the community after a few months. Other technical information will be provided during the training.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (Performed by MRRD)

Success of the CLTS and Hygiene Behavior Change program will be measured through the generation of two sets of deliverables: (1) widespread use of hygienic latrines and (2) adoption of key hygiene behaviors.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 16:00 hours on working days (from Saturday to Wednesday), or from the below website:

www.mrrd.gov.af – www.nspafghanistan.org – www.npa.gov.af

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by latest by **14:00hours local time on 26th March, 2016**, Kabul Afghanistan Time.

Ru-WATSIP looks forward to receiving your Expressions of Interest on or before the stated deadline for submission.

Address:

To:
 Attn: Ahmad Farhad Seddiqi
 Email: ahmadfarhad@nrap.gov.af
 Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
 Procurement Directorate
 MRRD Compound, Tashkilat Street, DarulAman Road, Kabul-Afghanistan.

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