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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST QUARTERLY REPORT OCTOBER 1–DECEMBER 31, 2012

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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

QUARTERLY REPORT

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Disclaimer:

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ACRONYMS

AECOM	Architecture Engineering Construction Operation Management
CBGD	Capacity Building and Gender Department
CDC	Community Development Councils
COP	Chief of Party
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Portfolio
DE	District Entities
DOWA	Department of Women’s Affairs
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DRRD	Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DSC	District Stabilization Committee
DSM	District Stability Matrix
DST	District Support Team
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IR	Intermediate Result
MISTI	Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Intervention
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
OSC	Overseas Strategic Consulting
PST	provincial Support Team
SAM	Stability Analysis Mechanism
SIKA	Stability in Key Areas
SOI	Source of Instability
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

BACKGROUND

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) – West program on January 29, 2012¹. SIKA West is intended to increase stability and pave the way to transition in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor. This program is administered through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in cooperation with the Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG) working in partnership with USAID and AECOM.

The purpose of this quarterly report is to present progress towards indicators and intermediate results listed in the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) and outline how the contractual objectives have been achieved during the quarter. As well, this report will be submitted to MRRD and GIRoA authorities at the provincial and district level and thus inform all partners of ongoing program activities and results.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers SIKA-West departmental activities towards achieving the four Intermediate Results (IRs) during the months of October to December 2012. Following guidance from the USAID Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), SIKA-West has aligned its quarterly reports to the USAID fiscal year rather than the January 29th, 2012 program start date. This report, which will be submitted on February 28, 2013, is intended to cover the reporting period of the Fiscal Year (FY) quarter 1 covering October-December 2012 and align the shift to the FY reporting schedule. Below is a summary of program activities during the reporting quarter.

Working in support of the MRRD and other GIRoA line ministries, 12 stabilization working sessions were held for 851 District Stabilization Committee (DSC) members and community observers in the districts of Pusht-e-Rod, Bala Buluk, Shindand, Kushk, Pashtun Zarghun, and Qadis. The meetings provided an opportunity for training on the use of the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) tool to identify Sources of Instability (SOIs) and propose mitigating activities.

Fifteen communications trainings were conducted for 228 district entity staff members, youth and women from Farah and Herat Provinces. Trainings focused on building communications skills, outlining the importance of communications in the daily work of the district government, and making communications plans. Almost 20,000 brochures titled '*Creating Lives Free of Violence*' were printed and sent to counterparts in Ghor, Badghis and Farah Provinces. The brochure will be used to educate local women on what services are available to those that suffer violence at home

As part of progress towards implementing the District Project Portfolio (DPP) activities, SIKA-West staff undertook a number of pre-feasibility studies, technical site surveys, and designs and drawings for the proposed projects in Bala Buluk and Pusht-e-Rod Districts, including water dividers and community center refurbishments.

During the quarter, nine Gender Working Group meetings were organized in Farah and Herat Provinces. A three-day 'Gender Mainstreaming in the Humanitarian Context' workshop was conducted from

¹ On January 22nd, 2013 SIKA-West received USAID approval to extend the initial contract period through to February 28th, 2014.

November 17th – 19th at the Tejarat Hotel in Herat City for 25 participants (14 women and 11 men), including SIKA-West staff and staff from line departments.

As part of efforts to build the capacity of SIKA-West staff in order to support provincial and district government, to date 76 training modules covering all departments, M&E, and Gender were completed. A number of training workshops were facilitated, aimed at Training of Trainers (ToT), preparing SIKA-West staff to build the capacity of district and provincial personnel in such areas as stabilization programming, communications and outreach, community development, and monitoring & evaluation.

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

Intermediate Result I

Provincial and district entities increasingly address sources of instability and take measures to respond to the population's development and governance concerns.

Summary of Achievements

As part of activities to meet Intermediate Result 1, 12 District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meetings reaching a total of 851 people (40 females, 811 males), including DSC members, *Mullahs*, and community observers in Farah, Herat, and Badghis Provinces, were organized in cooperation with the District Governors. The meetings allowed an opportunity to provide trainings on the use of the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) tool to identify Sources of Instability (SOIs) and to propose mitigating activities. The information gathered from community members was used to update the District Stabilization Matrix (DSM), prioritizing projects that were then passed on to the Community Development Department to be reviewed and prioritized for the District Project Portfolio (DPP).¹

Table I.1 - IRI Performance Management Plan Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year I	Actual Oct-Dec 2012	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	12	14
1.2	Increase in percentage of SIKA-West target districts where DEs use the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) methodology to identify and address sources of instability (SOIs)	100%	2	42% 3/7 Districts
1.3	Number of activities planned against SOIs identified through SAM stabilization work sessions in SIKA-West districts.	105	48	55
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	851	915
1.5	Number of activities which address identified SOIs and included in a District Project Portfolio (DPP), which is approved by the DRRD.	70	22	22
1.6	Number of target districts in which the SAM tool has been used to identify activities that mitigate SOIs.	7	2	3

¹ - The DPP is attached at the end of the report as Annex I.

Specific Milestones Achieved

Farah Province:

The Bala Buluk DSC in Farah Province held its third meeting at the District Governor's office on October 1st, despite an early morning security incident in the immediate vicinity of the district center. Forty-four community members attended the meeting, including 13 DSC Members, 15 *Mullahs*, and 16 community observers, which allowed DSC members to have an open discussion with the *Mullahs* about insecurity in the district. An important point that came out of this meeting was that DSC members and *Ulema* expressed strong support for the construction of the Bakhsh Abad Dam, which was halted by the Ministry of Water and Energy due to insecurity. Through this discussion, a potential soft mitigation activity was identified to build the advocacy capacity of DSC members. Another project identified during the meeting was from the District Governor, who requested assistance to activate the existing local radio station in Bala Buluk District in order to respond to Taliban propaganda, and to broadcast programs to support stability in the community.



Bala Buluk DSC members receiving training on the use of the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism to identify sources of instability on October 1st.

At the following Bala Buluk DSC meeting on November 11th, 95 community members attended the fourth meeting, an increase of 51 people over the previous meeting's numbers. The increase in attendance was due to an invitation to influential *Mullahs* to participate in the DSC meeting, to which 61 *Mullahs* responded, along with 20 tribal elders who acted as observers. Following the DSC meeting, the *Mullahs* stated that they would support stabilization activities in the area by acting as mediators between anti-government elements and GIRoA officials.

On December 12th, the fifth Bala Buluk DSC meeting was held with the participation of the District Governor, 16 DSC members, 10 District Entities, and 5 observers. The District Governor requested that the DSC members improve coordination and support the Stability Program. The Farah PST Manager gave an update on projects that had been approved by MRRD, specifically the community center refurbishment and construction of water dividers. He requested that DSC members cooperate in the implementation and monitoring of these projects. One of the DSC members proposed holding the next DSC meeting in an alternate location to allow people better access.

In coordination with the District Governor's office, PST staff organized the inaugural Pusht-e-Rod DSC meeting on October 2nd, attended by 39 people. These included 22 DSC Members (six District Development Assembly (DDA) members and 17 people from government line departments). During the meeting, the new members received DSC program orientation, roles and responsibilities were outlined, and initial SAM training was conducted. The DSC members identified one SOI: District Insecurity; and the following root causes: illiteracy (lack of education); unemployment; presence of insurgent groups; GIRoA corruption; poppy cultivation and trafficking; and community conflicts. The mitigation activities for all root causes will be discussed during the next DSC meeting.



During the Pusht-e-Rod inaugural meeting on October 2nd, DSC members received an introduction to the mechanisms used to identify sources of instability.

On November 6th, 44 people (31 DSC members and 13 observers) attended the second Pusht-e-Rod DSC meeting at the District Governor's offices. During the

meeting the Farah PST Manager spoke on issues such as good governance, development, and mitigation of Sources of Instability (SOIs). Relevant Provincial Support Team (PST) members gave presentations covering Stabilization, Communications, Community Development, and Monitoring & Evaluation. The process of identifying sources of instability, prioritizing them, and proposing mitigating activities was scheduled to be covered on the December the 9th meeting..

Thirty-seven people (19 DSC members, 10 District Entities (DE) Representatives, and 8 observers) attended the third Pusht-e-Rod DSC meeting at the District Governor's offices on December 9th. The meeting focused on two Sources of Instability (SOI) in Pusht-e-Rod District: the presence of anti-government elements and poppy cultivation. During discussions the DSC members proposed the following mitigating activities: inviting the *Ulema* and other influential people to the next DSC meetings; and introducing alternative crops to farmers to replace poppy cultivation. The meeting also allowed an opportunity to provide training on the use of the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) tool to identify SOIs and propose mitigating activities.

Herat Province:

In an inaugural meeting at the district center on October 10th, the Shindand DSC was formally established. Out of the 73 people who attended, 35 were put forward as DSC members, and the remaining acted as community observers. SAM training was conducted, which then led to an SOI analysis session, identifying root causes and potential mitigation activities. At the end of the meeting, the DSC members identified one SOI: District Insecurity; and the following root causes: government corruption; unemployment; presence of insurgents; presence of ISAF; and lack of trust between the *Ulema* and the government. As part of the process to identify SOI mitigating activities, the District Stabilization Matrix (DSM) was updated and forwarded to the Community Development Department to guide selection in the District Project Portfolio (DPP).

The second Shindand DSC meeting was held on November 11th, with 81 community members attending, including seven women, who were invited through the District Development Assembly (DDA). This is the first time women have been involved in any organized DSC meeting and will be a valuable resource in providing a gender-related opinion in the district. During the meeting, discussions covered potential mitigating activities, including literacy, tailoring, agriculture and poultry projects for Shindand women along with other animal husbandry projects, and well digging projects.

On December 9th, a meeting was held with the Acting Shindand District Governor to discuss the third Shindand DSC meeting and brief him about the Stability Program. On December 11th, the third Shindand DSC meeting was held with the participation of 19 District Entity representatives and nine observers. During the meeting, an *Ulema* representative discussed the issues affecting peace in the district and emphasized the role of Islam in bringing stability. The representative announced his full support for the Stability Program. During the meeting, a review of the Shindand District Stabilization Matrix (DSM) and District Project Portfolio (DPP) was also completed. Two Sources of Instability (SOIs) - injustice and poverty - were identified. Following discussion, three mitigating activities were identified, including improving awareness of Government staff regarding the importance of justice, providing vocational trainings, and providing literacy trainings.



DSC members and community observers participate in the second DSC meeting in Shindand District on November 11th.

As part of preparations for rollout to Kushk and Pashtun Zarghun Districts, a number of meetings were held with relevant District Governors and the DRRD director to discuss rollout activities and provide a background on the SAM and the DSC formation process. Herat PST staff also received capacity building trainings in preparation for the Kushk and Pashtun Zarghun rollouts. Topics covered included Service Provider Catalogue (SPC) development, Community Development Practices, and M&E Practices. Practical mentorship included Trackstick use and photography techniques.

On December 2nd, the Kushk DSC inaugural meeting was held in the District Governor’s compound. A total of 117 people attended the meeting, including 30 DSC members (9 female, 21 male), 10 District Entity representatives, and 77 observers. The District Governor welcomed the participants and expressed his willingness to support the MRRD/SIKA-West program and urged the other participants to cooperate with the program. Participants were introduced to the “Stability Program” by GIRoA officials and SIKA-West staff.

The Pashtun Zarghun DSC was formally established in an inaugural meeting in the district center on December 25th. The DSC was officially formed and 31 (6 female, 25 male) out of 127 attendees were chosen to be DSC members. Participants included District Entity representatives, DDA members, influential tribal leaders, Community Development Council (CDC) members, and the District Governor. Orientation trainings on the MRRD/Stability Program and DSC formation were provided to the participants.



Out of the 127 that attended the meeting 35 were put forward as DSC members during the Pashtun Zarghun Inaugural DSC Meeting on December 25th.

Badghis Province:

As part of preparations for the Qadis and Muqur District rollouts, a team consisting of one representative from each HQ department (Capacity Building, M&E, Stabilization Programming, Community Development, Communications, and HR) traveled to Badghis from November 29th - December 6th. Along with the capacity building and support provided to PST and DST staff, on December 1st orientation trainings were also provided to Badghis DRRD staff and the Qadis and Muqur District Governors covering Stabilization Programming, Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), and DSC formation.



Qadis DSC members received Stabilization Programming, Stability Analysis Mechanism and DSC formation process trainings during the DSC inaugural meeting on Dec 4th.

On December 4th, 70 people attended the inaugural Qadis DSC meeting at the District Center. Participants included District Entities’ representatives, DDA members, influential tribal leaders, CDC members, the Badghis DRRD Director, and the District Governor. Orientation trainings were provided to the DSC covering Stabilization Programming, SAM, and DSC formation process.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Intermediate Result 2

Provincial and district entities understand what organizations and provincial line departments work within their geographic areas, what kind of services they provide, and how the population can access those services.

Intermediate Result 3

Provincial authorities (PAs) improve their ability to communicate with district entities in order to help them better understand their population’s needs and prioritize basic service delivery interventions.

Summary of Achievements

During this quarter, 15 communications trainings were conducted for 228 district entity staff members, youth, and women from Farah and Herat Provinces. Trainings focused on building communications skills, outlining the importance of communications in the daily work of the district government, and making communications plans. From December 2nd – 5th, a four-day Peace Journalism training was provided to 29 journalists from Badghis, Herat, Farah, and Ghor Provinces at the Herat Tajarat Hotel conference room. Five District Profiles were drafted and sent to the provincially-based officials of USAID for review and comment. Almost 20,000 brochures titled ‘*Creating Lives Free of Violence*’ were produced, which were used to educate local women on what services are available to those that suffer violence at home. These brochures were printed and sent to counterparts in Ghor, Badghis, and Farah Provinces.

Table 2 – IR2 Performance Management Plan Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Oct-Dec 2012	Cumulative Total
2.1	Number of DEs and PAs using the Service Provider Catalog (SPC)	21	0	0
2.2	Number of technical assistance activities provided to DEs by SIKA-West for the development of a project which has the potential for support from a provider listed in the SPC	36	0	0
2.3	Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the SPC	7	0	0
2.4	Number of people who received information provided by District Entities about services listed in the SPC via visits, radio, TV, e-mail, and letter	26,400	NTR	NTR
2.5	Number of training workshops held on Service Provider Catalogue usage for District Entities	9	0	0

Table 3 – IR3 Performance Management Plan Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Oct-Dec 2012	Cumulative Total
3.1	Percent increase in the number of regular meetings held between Provincial authorities and District Entities	30%	NTR	NTR ¹
3.2	Percent increase in the district residents reporting that District Entities listen to their grievances	15%	NTR	NTR ²

¹ A baseline for this indicator has been collected for Bala Buluk District and is ongoing in other districts.

² A baseline on this indicator will be collected as part of the SIKA-West Baseline Survey in early 2013.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Oct-Dec 2012	Cumulative Total
3.3	Number of PAs and DEs with a communications strategy or plan in place	9	0	0
3.4	Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs or PAs as outlined in the communications strategy or plan	9	0	0
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	15	18

Specific Milestones Achieved

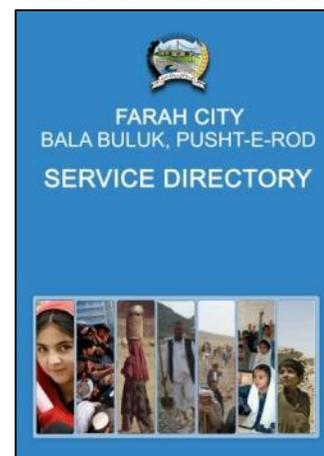
Farah Province:

As part of gender-related communications capacity building, the Farah Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA) was provided with support and guidance to produce a brochure titled *Creating Lives Free of Violence*, which is used to educate local women on services available to those who suffer violence at home. An initial order was made to produce a print run of 1000 Pashto, 1000 Dari, and 200 English-language copies of a brochure for the Farah DoWA for release on Elimination of Violence Against Women Day on November 25th. Following additional requests, almost 20,000 brochures were printed and sent to counterparts in Ghor, Badghis, and Farah. In Farah, 2,000 brochures were sent to DoWA, which distributed 200 brochures at the Farah Teacher Training Center on November 25th. The rest of the brochures were distributed to schools, local Shuras, government offices and the local DoWA offices throughout the province.



A Farah woman reads the anti-violence against women brochure. Picture by US Military Public Affairs Department

To convey information contained in the Service Providers Catalogue to illiterate community members, a graphic illustrator was selected to provide sketches for the district resource. An International Short Term Technical Assistance (STTA) consultant was contracted to push a final copy of the SPC through by December 13th. Three focus groups were conducted in late October in Farah and Herat Provinces to determine the effectiveness of draft SPC illustrations. Feedback from these focus groups was positive, and drawings were revised during November to reflect suggested changes. The SPC has been sorted into 17 initial sections covering the gamut of government and NGO activities, from Agriculture through Women’s Services. The Deputy PST Managers from Herat, Badghis, and Farah have worked together to research and refine current information; including filling gaps and ensuring contacts are accurate. On December 11th, the first draft of the Farah, Bala Buluk, and Pusht-e-Rod Service Provider Catalogue was completed and forwarded to USAID. The SPC covers all available services in the provincial center and the districts of Bala Buluk and Pusht-e-Rod in three separate sections. Each section contains locally-designed illustrations and symbols showing the available services. It is envisioned that through the SPC DRRD Farah will be able to build trust and goodwill with Farah residents by connecting communities to much needed service providers.



Following a needs assessment and discussions with the community, a number of activities were identified by the Communications Department that could improve the Bala Buluk district government’s ability to

Herat Province:

As part of activities towards achieving the communications capacity building objective in Herat Province, two full-day training sessions on building communications skills were conducted for 41 senior managers and staff at the Shindand District Government Offices. On October 21st, 20 high ranking managers attended the training, including the district mayor, members of the Shindand District Development Assembly, and the Radio Tanin manager. On October 21st, 21 lower level officials participated in the training session, which covered the main elements of communications, messaging, and why communications matter in the daily work of district government. During these training sessions the Communications Department also took the opportunity to conduct a needs assessment to determine existing communications protocols, the quantity and quality of communications efforts, and gaps in the existing communications system at the district level. This information will be used to provide future capacity building training sessions to district entities.



Senior managers from the Shindand District Governor's offices receive communications training on October 21st.

A one-day strategic communications training workshop was held for three staff at the Shindand District Governor's office on November 13th. This training was part of a series of communications trainings that will be provided to these staff members. On November 29th, two trainings on "The Main Elements of Communications" and "How to Develop a Communications Plan" were provided to three Shindand DSC communications focal points. As part of this training, Communications & Outreach staff conducted a needs assessment of the district government offices, and work progressed on a final communications strategy. The strategy focuses on raising public awareness about the activities of the district government, reducing corruption in the district government, and raising public awareness of the advantages of cooperating with district government on security issues.



Shindand District Government staff developing their six-month communications plan, Nov 13th, 2012.

Training on the "Main Elements of Communications" was provided to 19 Kushk District senior managers and staff on December 12th. The training covered the main elements of communications, messaging, and why communication matters in the daily work of district government. A needs assessment was conducted to determine existing communications protocols, the quantity and quality of communications efforts, and gaps in the existing communications system at the district level. At the end of the training, three communication focal points were selected to receive further trainings in order to be able to develop the Kushk District Communications Plan.



Senior Managers from the Kushk District Governor's offices receive communications training on December 12th.

Badghis Province:

As part of data collection activities for the Badghis Service Providers Catalogue (SPC), a meeting was held with the DRRD Deputy Director and relevant departments on December 28th. The DRRD staff provided the required information to the Badghis PST staff. The PST team collected data for the SPC from the Badghis

Education Department covering numbers of existing schools, male and female teachers, and which villages have schools. The first draft of the Qadis District Profile was completed and circulated internally for managers' inputs.

HQ Support:

As part of preparations for the *Conflict Sensitive Reporting Training* for regional journalists, a 65-page curriculum was developed with an accompanying 100-slide PowerPoint presentation and handouts. The four-day Peace Journalism (*Conflict Sensitive Reporting*) training was provided to 29 journalists from Badghis, Herat, Farah, and Ghor Provinces on December 2nd – 5th at the Herat Tajarat Hotel conference room. Topics covered included the fundamentals of good journalism, how to analyze a conflict by identifying root causes, and understanding conflict management and the stages of escalation, along with how conflict ends. Journalists also learned the 17 ways to be a conflict-sensitive reporter. The journalists produced reports integrating their newfound knowledge. An e-mail network was created for ongoing dialogue among the participants. The journalists were paired so that they can contact each other monthly for peer support and encouragement.



Peace Journalism Training held in Herat for 25 journalists from four provinces, December 2nd – 5th.

In conjunction with the Herat-based journalism training, a local NGO, *Nai*, helped produce a 'Peace Journalism' Facebook page, which was created to support and encourage journalists to stay connected and continue to implement 'conflict sensitive reporting'. Through the Facebook page, journalists from different media outlets and provinces will be able to share peace-related activities, publications, and stories. A 'Toward Peace in Afghanistan' poster was also produced in order to capture the words and promises journalists made during the workshop. The journalists wrote their feelings and promises for reflecting what they learned in the workshop for their day to day reporting. "I will try to be honest during the reporting to avoid making tension and conflict", and "I promise to reflect the realities for peace" were the two phrases written by journalists from the Western region.



"Toward Peace in Afghanistan"

Concurrent to the completion of the first draft of the Farah Service Provider Catalogue was the development of a system to enable the effective collection and collation of data from Herat and Badghis provinces. A checklist was developed that includes an internal tracking mechanism to monitor which providers have been approached, by whom, and if the provider representatives have understood the public nature of the information collected. The checklist also ensures that all service areas are addressed and that the correct information is collected from organizations. The system is backed up by an Excel spreadsheet for entering and sorting the data. Training was conducted with the Herat PST on how to use this system and the Badghis PST has had an introduction to the process. Both PSTs are currently collecting data for their respective service directories.

Five District Profiles were drafted and sent to the provincially-based officials of USAID for review and comment. The completed district profiles of Bala Buluk, Shindand, Qadis, Muqur and Kushk Districts provide key terrain, tribal, services, and political information on the districts to inform SIKA-West's stabilization analysis.

As part of internal communications capacity building activities, communications ‘Training of Trainers’ workshops were carried out at the Herat HQ office for communications staff from Farah, Badghis, and Herat Provincial Support Teams (PSTs) and the Bala Buluk District Support Team (DST).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Intermediate Result 4

Provincial authorities are able to improve basic service delivery by using GIROA, CDCs, DDAs and ASOP DCCs, which gain capacity to plan, design, implement and monitor projects, with a focus on labor-intensive projects or productive infrastructure.

Summary of Achievements

As part of progress toward completing the District Project Portfolio and eventually getting grants approved by USAID, SIKA-West staff undertook a number of pre-feasibility studies, technical site surveys, and designs and drawings for the proposed projects in Bala Buluk and Pusht-e-Rod Districts, including water dividers and community center refurbishments. Project Priority Agreements (PPA) for Shiwan, Kanisk, and Dehzak community center refurbishment projects recommended in DPP #1 in Bala Buluk District were signed. None of the indicators have yet been met; however, foundations are being laid to implement grant activities in the first quarter of 2013, and at the time of writing this report USAID had approved 19 grants in Farah Province.

Table 4 – IR4 Performance Management Plan Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Oct-Dec 2012	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against SOIs	72	0	0
4.2	Percentage of population in targeted districts reporting increased satisfaction with GIROA basic services	15%	NTR ¹	NTR
4.3	Percent increase of district residents reporting basic services in target districts are delivered in a fair and transparent manner	25%	NTR ²	NTR
4.4	Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions	9,000	0	0
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	0	0
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	\$216,000	0	0
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	0	0
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	0	0

¹ A baseline on this indicator will be collected as part of the MISTI Baseline Survey

² A baseline on this indicator will be collected as part of the SIKA-West Baseline Survey in early 2013

Specific Milestones Achieved

Farah Province:

Since the signing of the Implementation Letter last quarter, working with local communities and utilizing the Stability Analysis Mechanism, 38 potential projects in Bala Buluk and Pusht-e-Rod Districts of Farah Province were identified in the DPP. Projects listed in the DPP included ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ activities such as literacy training, vocational training, repairs to several important community buildings, and the construction of water dividers. In other target districts, information is still being collected for the DPP in DSC meetings. All projects once sent to USAID for final approval will have already been reviewed by the relevant DRRD Directors in order to gain local government buy-in and support. This is an important part of ensuring the projects are successful and relevant. A summary of the cumulative DPP is attached at the end of the report as Annex I.

Project Priority Agreements (PPA) for Shiwan, Kanisk, and Dehzak community center refurbishment projects recommended in DPP #1 in Bala Buluk District were signed. The Project Priority Agreement is a document whereby the Community Development Council (CDC) accepts implementation responsibilities that include: cooperation with the DRRD in project planning and implementation, the provision of project security, safe storage of project equipment, public use of the completed project, adherence to a Maintenance Plan upon project completion, and a 10% community contribution.

Internal staff and local government capacity building training was a focus for the Community Development Department with Farah PST, DST, and DRRD staff receiving ‘Basics of Surveying’ training, and PST and DST Community Development staff receiving Water Divider Theoretical and Practical Surveying, pre-feasibility studies of intakes, checklists, stabilization practices, and maintenance trainings.

The Farah PST Community Development team carried out an initial survey to estimate costs for water divider projects in the villages of Tap-e-Sadat, Tudanak-e Haji Malek Sher, Tudanak-e Abdul Wodud, and Tudanak-e Abdul Ghani in Bala Buluk District.

The final site survey, quantity estimate, drawings, and bill of quantities (BoQ) were completed for a community refurbishment project located in Shiwan community in Bala Buluk District. Final site surveys were completed for a water divider project in Khaja Khedr community in Bala Buluk District and Mohammad Haroon Community Center located in Kanisk community. Proposed in-kind contributions from the Kanisk community will include demolition of the old wall around the community center, digging of a well, allocation of a house for the project staff, and provision of construction materials.

A pre-feasibility study of water dividers in Amin Abad village in Bala Buluk District listed in DPP # 4 (Water Divider construction) was started in December. A hand-drawn sketch of the project and cost breakdown was prepared. A detailed cost breakdown and technical drawings for three community centers in Bala Buluk District of Farah Province were also prepared, and are currently being revised. The Community Development Team undertook the technical survey of 18 water divider projects in Shar-e-Kohna village featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e-Rod District, as well as technical surveys of four school refurbishment projects (Mula Mohammad Yaqub, Tapa Shiran, Chapak Dokin, and Khoja Abdullah Bidar schools) featured in DPP #1 in Pusht-e-Rod District.



Shahr-e-Kohna Water Divider technical survey on December 25th

CAPACITY BUILDING & GENDER

Summary of Achievements

During the quarter, nine Gender Working Group meetings were organized in Farah and Herat Provinces. The working groups are a way of collecting information on gender-related SOIs outside of the male dominated DSC meetings, and to-date have been successful in getting NGOs and government agencies to coordinate activities. A three-day ‘Gender Mainstreaming in the Humanitarian Context’ workshop was conducted from November 17th – 19th at Hotel Tejarat in Herat City for 25 participants (14 women and 11 men), including SIKA-West staff and staff from line departments. In response to the difficulties recruiting female DSC members, 13 women in Bala Buluk District were recruited to provide gender-related information, guiding the decision making process. Five literacy teachers were recruited to teach 125 illiterate women in Bala Buluk District over a six month period.

Table 5 – Gender PMP Program Objectives

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Oct-Dec 2012	Cumulative Total
#6	Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services (Assets, credit, income or employment)	10%	42%	74%
#7	Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/programming	75%	0	0 ¹
#8	Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entities activities	27	9	24

Capacity Building Component

As part of efforts to build the capacity of SIKA-West staff in order to support provincial and district government, 76 training modules covering all departments, M&E, and Gender were completed. A number of training workshops were facilitated, aimed at Training of Trainers (ToT), preparing SIKA-West staff to build the capacity of district and provincial personnel in areas such as stabilization programming, communications and outreach, community development, and monitoring & evaluation.

The Bala Buluk Gender Officer and recently recruited literacy teachers (4 females and 1 male) participated in the two-day “Literacy Program Roll-Out” workshop conducted by the HQ Capacity Building Department on November 6th-7th. During the workshop the teachers developed six-month literacy activity plans.

From November 26th – 28th, a three-day capacity building Training of Trainers (ToT) session was held for 11 SIKA-West staff in order to improve their ability to train provincial and district counterparts. The training was coordinated by an international Short Term Technical Assistance (STTA) consultant. A series of M&E related trainings, Stability Programming, community development, and communications were provided to newly recruited Badghis PST and DST Staff. Orientation trainings, including MRRD/SIKA-West Program Overview, Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), Community Development, Stabilization Program, Communications, Human Resources, Gender Awareness, and M&E were provided to 11 newly recruited Kushk and Shindand DST staff on December 31st and January 1st. On

¹ Baseline data is currently being collected by SIKA-West M&E Officers

December 30th and 31st, orientation trainings on Stabilization Programming and the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) were provided to 16 newly recruited PST and DST staff in Farah Province. The Badghis PST Gender Officer traveled to Herat and received gender-related trainings, including an Introduction to Gender Awareness and Gender Mainstreaming.

Gender Component

The Gender Working Groups are proving useful in identifying activities that will help SIKA-West meet its gender indicators, activities that would perhaps not be identified during DSC meetings, which, to date, are dominated by male members of the community.

During the month of October, the Farah Gender Working Group held four meetings, attracting membership from the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), the Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD), SIKA-West PST, the Department of Education (DoE), the Department of Public Health (DPH), and a local NGO – Wadan Afghanistan. This group met weekly during the month and discussed gender issues within the Districts of Bala Buluk, Pusht-e-Rod, and the Farah Provincial Center in order to find areas where support and capacity building could be provided to established organizations and GIROA. As part of the outcomes from the meeting, 13 women volunteered to work in their communities to identify gender-related concerns in order to provide input and guidance into the DSC decision making process. The following concerns were identified, along with potential mitigating activities:

- Lack of clinics and female doctors
- Lack of schools and education for girls
- Lack of security
- Lack of water pumps within villages
- Lack of vocational skills training for women
- Lack of midwifery services
- Domestic violence against women

Two Gender Working Group meetings were organized in Farah Province during the month of December. The Farah Gender Working Group meeting was held with the participation of 11 members on December 4th. The purpose of the meeting was to give an overview of the gender-related activities MRRD will be able to provide for women in Bala Buluk District and conduct Gender Mainstreaming Training.

On December 18th, 21 people attended the Farah Gender Working Group meeting, including representatives from the DRRD, DoWA, Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA), influential female community members, and other NGOs with an interest in gender activities. During the meeting, DoLSA agreed to organize vocational training for 15 women who recently completed a drug treatment program at the WADAN clinic. The MRRD Stability Program also agreed to move forward with tailoring training for 11 women, introduced by the WADAN clinic in Kanisk village of Bala Buluk District.

Five Pashto literacy teachers were recruited to provide training to 125 illiterate women in Bala Buluk District over a six month period. In Pusht-e-Rod, another three literacy courses were being organized for 90 women, with Requests for Proposals (RFPs) prepared to start a search for qualified organizations and individuals to provide the training.



Local women taking part in the Pashto Literacy courses in Dehzak Community, Bala Buluk District

In Bala Buluk, five Pashto literacy courses for 125 illiterate women were officially launched at the Farah DRRD on November 22nd. More than 20 people from the Farah DRRD, influential women from the Bala Buluk District, Gender Working Group members, literacy teachers, and NGO representatives attended the opening ceremony. These literacy trainings are held for 125 women in the communities of Ganjabad, Shewan, Gerani, Kanisk, and Dehzak in Bala Buluk District. The trainings consist of two-hour sessions, six times a week, and will end in April of 2013.

The inaugural Herat Gender Working Group was held on November 10th, with membership from the Director of the Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA), Director of the Herat DRRD, SIKA-West senior staff, and a number of other organizations with an interest in gender-related issues in Herat Province. The Gender Working Group will be held on a weekly basis and has proved successful in other target districts in identifying gender-related sources of instability and mitigating activities.

On December 10th, the Herat Gender Working Group meeting was held with the participation of 11 people from government line departments and NGOs interested in gender-related interventions. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the gender-related activities that these organizations are involved in and how to link their activities with the gender components of the SIKA West Stability Program. The participants proposed different interventions, including: disseminating awareness raising brochures and providing vocational training to former female drug users.



Ms. Mahboba Jamshidi, Director of the Department of Women’s Affairs, giving remarks regarding the status of women in Afghanistan government during the Herat Gender Working Group meeting on Nov 10th.

On December 16th, a coordination meeting was held with the Herat Literacy Department regarding proposed literacy courses in Shindand, Kushk, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate the literacy courses and sign official implementation letters. Following the meeting, the Literacy Department provided 130 textbooks for the courses and also planned to work with the Farah and Badghis Literacy Departments to provide textbooks for ongoing literacy courses in these two provinces.

As part of gender mainstreaming activities, a meeting was held with the Badghis Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA) Director on December 25th. Information was exchanged during the meeting regarding the literacy courses and campaigns for the elimination of violence against women. A meeting was held with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Director in Badghis Province on December 27th. The meeting was focused on IRC gender-related activities in Qadis and Muqur Districts and their plans for the year 2013.

A three-day ‘Gender Mainstreaming in the Humanitarian Context’ workshop was conducted from November 17th – 19th at Hotel Tejarat in Herat City for 25 participants (14 women and 11 men), including SIKA-West staff and staff from line departments. The training aimed to assist and enhance the capacity of the DRRD and other stakeholders in Herat province to mainstream gender into their programs. The training was coordinated by an international STTA consultant.



25 people (14 women and 11 men) participated in ‘Gender Mainstreaming in the Humanitarian Context’ workshop.

An internal Gender Working Group meeting was held on December 16th, with the participation of eight SIKA-West staff from different departments in Herat Province. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate and share gender-related activities in all target districts of the Stability Program. This included the

involvement of Qadis and Muqur Districts' female DDA members in the DSCs, gender focused vocational trainings in Kushk District, and literacy courses in Pusht-e-Rod and Bala Buluk Districts.

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

Following numerous DSC meetings in a number of different target districts, the Stability Programing Department is focusing activities on the presence of tribal disputes within the DSC and coupling this analysis with the identification of district government services that can mitigate tribal disputes. As part of this process, there will be an individual focus on influential tribal elders as part of the overall DSC engagement. Security conditions on the ground have caused reluctance on the part of provincial government actors to attend DSC meetings. To address this, results of the meetings are shared with DRRD staff, issues discussed, and DRRD staff are encouraged to be involved in activities that mitigate SOIs.

Maintaining accuracy has been the major challenge for the collection and collation of data for the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC). Collecting what, on the surface, appears to be simple data can be complicated. One example, in the Farah SPC, was the difficulty of determining the number of schools. It might seem reasonable to expect that the Department of Education would have this information but this is not always the case. Conflicting information about how many schools are functional can be difficult to reconcile and the gathering of contact details verges on the impossible. It is also important that Resource Development keep track of which representatives from what offices have been spoken to during the process and that the representatives from each office have been informed about the public nature of the information. Resource Development has developed a check list for data development to try and counter some of these issues and is also working on a system for cross checking information.

Monitoring and evaluating DSC meetings has proven challenging due to the closeness of the Provincial M&E Officers to the PST Managers. The organizational structure of the M&E department has been adjusted so that provincial M&E Officers fall directly under Herat HQ Management, and greater support will be provided to M&E departments in the field offices.

During the inaugural Kushk DSC meeting, an issue was raised by some community members, who expressed that they were not able to fully participate in the proceedings and that the presentation was too technical. Staff are reviewing their process and presentations following this feedback.

DELIVERABLES

As per the SIKA-West contractual deliverables, the following documents were submitted to USAID:

- August- October 2012 Quarterly Report
- October, November, December 2012 Monthly reports
- Weekly Reports
- District Project Portfolio for Bala Buluk
- Grants Manual – revised and resubmitted to USAID on October 24, 2012.
- Revised Performance Monitoring Plan – revised and resubmitted to USAID on October 5, 2012 and on October 23, 2012.
- Revised Work Plan – revised and resubmitted to USAID on October 11, 2012 and October 23, 2012.
- Farah City, Bala Buluk, and Pusht-e-Rod Service Providers Catalogue (SPC)
- Resubmission of the Grants Manual

ANNEX I: DISTRICT PROJECT PORTFOLIOS

Province	District	DPP#	Village	Project Title	Project Description	Status
Farah	Bala Buluk	1	Shiwan	Refurbishment of Aqa Del Community Center in Shiwan Village	Construction of a 146.5 meter surrounding wall and rehabilitation of the building	Technical package submitted to Grants Department
Farah	Bala Buluk	1	Kanisk	Refurbishment of Mohammad Haroon Community Center in Kanisk Village	Construction of a 56 meter surrounding wall and rehabilitation of the building	Technical package submitted to Grants Department
Farah	Bala Buluk	1	Dehzak	Refurbishment of Dehzak Public Community Center in Dehzak Village	Construction of a 247 meter surrounding wall and rehabilitation of the building	Technical package submitted to Grants Department
Farah	Bala Buluk	2	Dehzak	Auto Mechanic Vocational Trainings for 15 men in Dehzak village	One hour literacy training for trainees, Auto Mechanic Vocational Training for four months, 3 hours per day for 15 men and provision of tool kits for the trainees at the end of the course.	Under process
Farah	Bala Buluk	2	Shiwan	Auto-Mechanic Vocational Trainings for 15 men in Shiwan village	One hour literacy training for trainees, Auto Mechanic Vocational Training for four months, 3 hours per day for 15 men and provision of tool kits for the trainees at the end of the course.	Under process
Farah	Bala Buluk	2	Kanisk	Mobile Phone Repair Vocational Trainings for 15 men in Kanisk village	One hour literacy training for trainees, Mobile Repairing Vocational Training for four months, 3 hours per day for 15 men and provision of tool kits for the trainees at the end of the course.	Under process

Province	District	DPP#	Village	Project Title	Project Description	Status
Farah	Bala Buluk	2	Kanisk	Embroidery Vocational Trainings for 15 women in Kanisk	One hour literacy training for trainees, Embroidery Vocational Training for six months, 3 hours per day for 15 women and provision of tool kits for the trainees at the end of the course.	Under process
Farah	Bala Buluk	2	Dehzak	Tailoring Vocational Trainings for 15 women in Dehzak village	One hour literacy training for trainees, Tailoring Vocational Training for six months, 3 hours per day for 15 women and provision of tool kits for the trainees at the end of the course.	Under process
Farah	Bala Buluk	3	Tap-e-Sadat	Construction of five water dividers in Tap-e-Sadat community	Construction of five water dividers in Tap-e-Sadat community	Under cost estimation process
Farah	Bala Buluk	3	Ganjabad	Construction of five water dividers in Ganjabad community	Construction of five water dividers in Ganjabad community	Under cost estimation process
Farah	Bala Buluk	3	Gerani	Construction of 20 water dividers in Gerani community	Construction of 20 water dividers in Gerani community	Under cost estimation process
Farah	Bala Buluk	3	Khwaja Khedr	Construction of five water dividers in Khwaja Khedr community	Construction of five water dividers in Khwaja Khedr community	Under cost estimation process
Farah	Bala Buluk	3	Farah Road	Construction of 15 water dividers in Farah Road community	Construction of 15 water dividers in Farah Road community	Under cost estimation process
Farah	Bala Buluk	3	Seyah Jangal	Construction of a water Divider in Seyah Jangal community	NA	On hold
Farah	Bala Buluk	4	Piho	Construction of nine water dividers in Piho Village	Construction of nine water dividers in Piho Village	Submitted to USAID for approval
Farah	Bala Buluk	4	Amin Abad	Construction of 14 water dividers in Amin Abad village	Construction of 14 water dividers in Amin Abad village	Submitted to USAID for approval
Farah	Bala Buluk	4	Safarak	Construction of 16 water dividers in Safarak Village	Construction of 16 water dividers in Safarak Village	Submitted to USAID for approval

Province	District	DPP#	Village	Project Title	Project Description	Status
Farah	Bala Buluk	5	Now Abad	Refurbishment of Community Center (Now Abad village Abdul Ghani Community Center)	NA	On hold
Farah	Bala Buluk	5	Mian Koh	Refurbishment of Community Centers (Mian Koh village Hasamuddin Community Center)	NA	On hold
Farah	Bala Buluk	5	Kal Qala	Refurbishment of Community Center (Haji Abdul Hakim Community Center)	NA	On hold
Farah	Bala Buluk	6	District Center	Bala Buluk radio station renovation and operation project	SIKA West will work with NAI to train 10 youth from different tribes in radio journalism. The youth will then work as interns at Herat-based radio stations for 4-6 weeks. A modest radio station will be established in Bala Buluk. The journalists will run the radio station, producing reports and programming.	Under process
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	1	District Center	Refurbishment of Khajah Abdullah Bidar High school Pusht-e-Rod district center	NA	Feasibility survey was done
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	1	Massow	Refurbishment of Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Farahi High school “Massow village”	NA	Feasibility survey was done
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	1	Chapak Doken	Refurbishment of Intermediate School Chapak-Doken village	NA	Feasibility survey was done
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	1	Tapah Shiran	Refurbishment of High school “Tapah Shiran village”	NA	Feasibility survey was done

Province	District	DPP#	Village	Project Title	Project Description	Status
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Shar-e-Kohna	Construction of 18 water dividers in Shar-e-Kohna village	NA	Feasibility survey was done
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Panj Joft Gow	Construction of 200 meter protection wall for Panj Joft Gow canal	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Massow	Excavation and reshaping of Massow canal (500 meter length and 4 meter width)	Excavation and reshaping of Massow canal (500 meter length and 4 meter width)	Feasibility survey was done
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Gaskin	Construction of 12 water dividers in Gaskin village	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Gaj Gin	Construction of 14 water dividers in Gaj Gin and Tapah Shiran villages	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Balandi	Construction of 12 water dividers in Balandi village	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Tang Namadah	Construction of 24 water dividers in Tang Namadah and Qala Mula Aman villages	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Now Bahar	Construction of 16 water dividers in Now Bahar village	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I	Gala Jove	Construction of 16 water dividers in Gala Jove village	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department

Province	District	DPP#	Village	Project Title	Project Description	Status
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I		10 Km road rehabilitation connecting 13 villages to district center	NA	DPP received from Stabilization Programming Department
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I		Conducting agriculture trainings for district farmers, to include: Agriculture Extension Training, Plant Protection Training, and Animal Husbandry Training	NA	Under process
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I		Conducting Midwifery Training Course for 28 local midwives in district	NA	Under process
Farah	Pusht-e-Rod	I		Conducting literacy courses	NA	Under process

ANNEX II: MAP OF TARGET DISTRICTS

