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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2013

Contract Number: AID-306-C-12-00004

July 2013

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

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

QUARTERLY REPORT

Submitted to:

USAID | Afghanistan

Prepared by:

AECOM International Development

Disclaimer:

The authors' views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

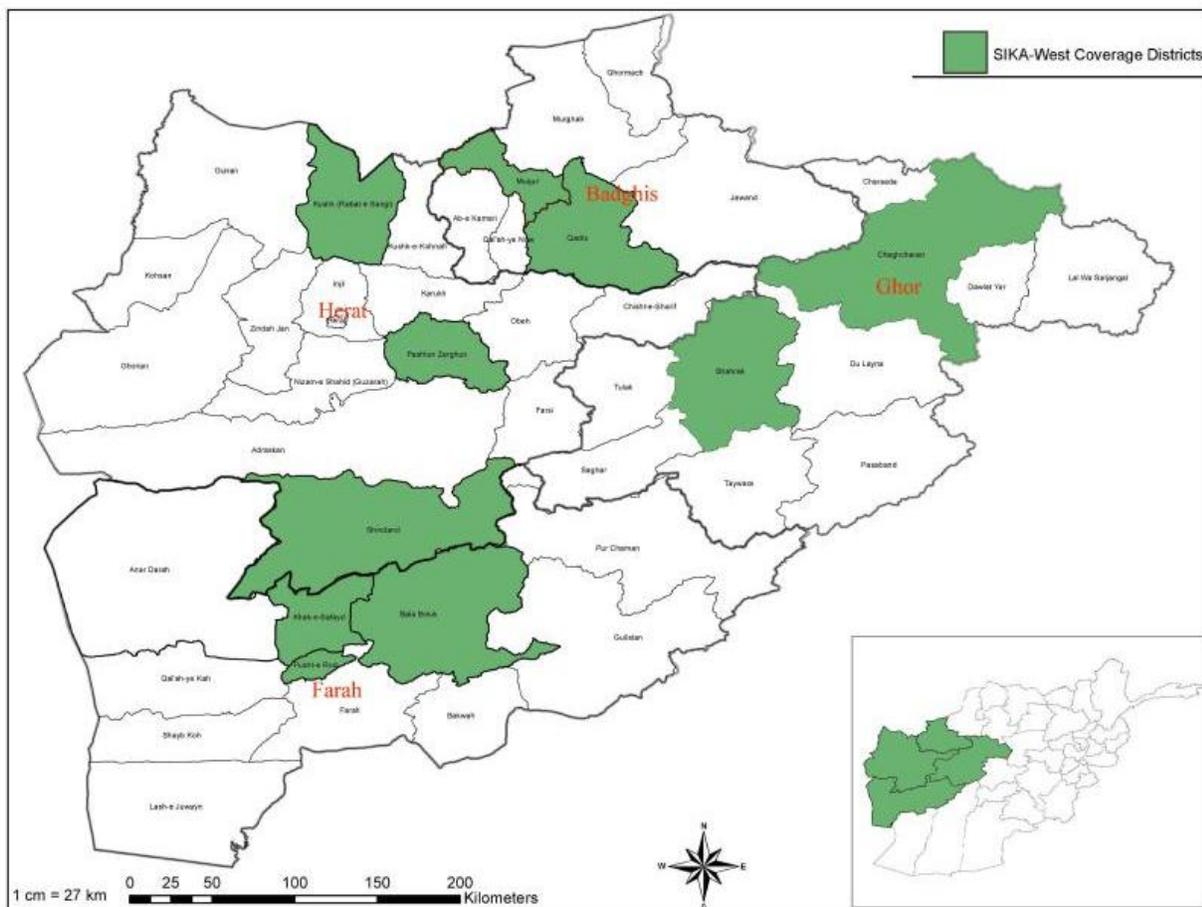
AECOM	Architecture Engineering Construction Operation Management
CBGD	Capacity Building and Gender Department
CDC	Community Development Councils
CHA	Coordination in Humanitarian Assistance
COP	Chief of Party
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Portfolio
DE	District Entities
DoLSA	Department of Labor and Social Affairs
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. Following this initial award AECOM’s implementing partner, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) signed an implementation letter in late August 2012, which allowed the program to move ahead with rollout, beyond the original pilot district of Bala Boluk. The SIKA-West program is intended to support Provincial and District Governments, and to increase stability and pave the way for transition in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor. This program is administered through the MRRD in cooperation with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) working in partnership with USAID and AECOM.

This report summarizes SIKA-West activities undertaken within the four Intermediate Results (IRs) and the overarching capacity building and gender program components during the months of April-June 2013. The report provides a programmatic overview of the IRs and then breaks activities down by geographic focus, detailing successes and challenges in the four provinces and 10 districts where SIKA-West works. The report also details SIKA-West relations with MRRD, IDLG, communities and other stakeholders. A map outlining the 10 districts where SIKA-West works is below.

Map 1: SIKA-West Implementation Districts



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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

STABILIZATION SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting quarter, in cooperation with the relevant District Governors’ Offices, 19 District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meetings were organized. The meetings reached a total of 1,246 people (82 female and 1164 male) in Farah, Herat, Badghis, and Ghor Provinces. Participants included line-department representatives, District Development Assembly (DDA) members, religious and tribal leaders, and community observers. Utilizing the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), the DSC members suggested 197 new activities to address Sources of Instability (SOI). These DSC meetings also provided an opportunity to prioritize previously proposed mitigation activities and to discuss implementation of approved projects. The Stabilization Department used information gathered from community members at the DSC meetings to update the District Stabilization Matrix (DSM). The DSM, a tool presented to the Community Development Department, prioritizes projects for review, which will then be included in the District Project Portfolio (DPP).

As shown in Chart 1, the average number of participants in all programs was slightly higher than the previous quarter, with a notable increase in the number of community observers. This increase can be attributed to better coordination between SIKA-West staff, the District Governors, and DDA members, as well as allocating a small allowance to cover the cost of community members travelling to DSC meetings.

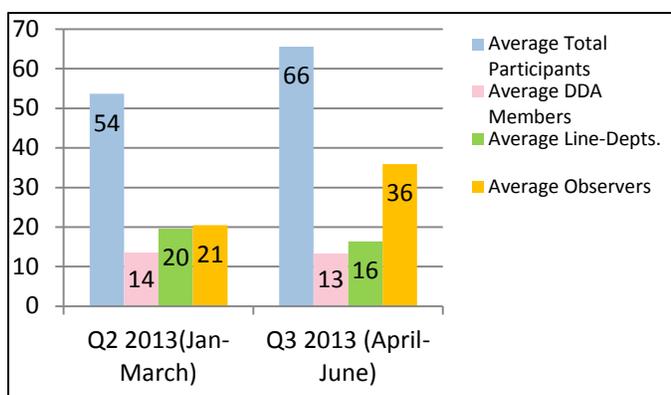


Chart 1: Quarterly Comparison of Program DSC Attendance

Table I- IRI PMP Targets

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

#	Indicator Description	Target Year I	Actual Q3 2013	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	19	51
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	90% 9/10 Districts
1.3	Number of activities planned against SOIs identified through SAM stabilization work sessions in SIKA-West districts	105	197	593
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	851	2,758
1.5	Number of activities which address identified SOIs and included in a District Project Portfolio (DPP), which is approved by the DRRD	70	20	54

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Q3 2013	Cumulative Total
1.6	Number of target districts in which the SAM tool has been used to identify activities that mitigate SOIs	7	2	9

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Communications team conducted 21 communications-related training courses for 385 farmers, government officials, women, and DSC members in SIKA-West target Districts. (See chart 2 for details). The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor and Women’s *Shura*, the Bala Boluk Farmers’ Union, the Pusht-e Rod Youth Association, District Governor, and Farmers’ Union, and the Pashtun Zarghun and Muqur District Governors received support to develop their six-month communications plans. During the quarter, district entities completed 22 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans, such as producing a series of factsheets, conducting coordination meetings, and disseminating awareness raising messages. Finally, the Farah Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) was translated into Dari and Pashtu and sent for printing. Proof copies will be ready by the end of July, with distribution and district entity training expected to start in August. The Herat SPC was also finalized and approved by USAID and is currently being translated.

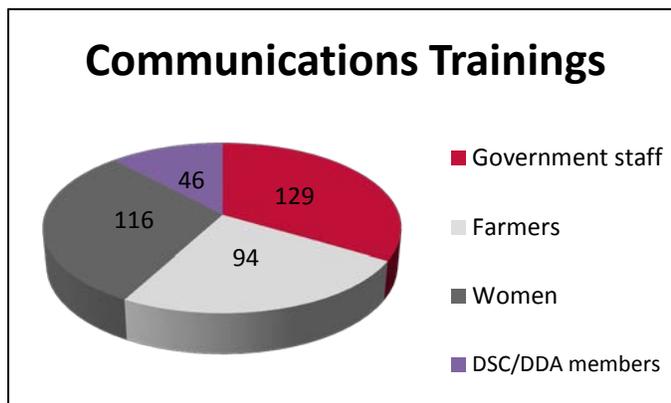


Chart 2: Number of people receiving communications trainings

Table 2 – IR2 PMP Targets

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

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Q3 2013	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 Catalog usage for District Entities	9	0	0

Table 3 – IR3 PMP Targets

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

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Q3 2013	Cumulative Total
3.1	Percent increase in the number of regular meetings held between Provincial authorities and DEs	30%	NTR	NTR ²
3.2	Percent increase in the district residents reporting that District Entities listen to their grievances	15%	NTR	NTR
3.3	Number of PAs and DEs with a communications strategy or plan in place	9	6	12
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	22	38
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	21	66

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting quarter, 26 grants were ongoing in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts of Farah Province. These projects include vocational training, refurbishment of several important community buildings, and the construction of water dividers. Local Community Development Councils (CDCs) implement these programs under Fixed Obligation Grants, with oversight provided by the MRRD/Stability Program Community Mobilizers and M&E personnel. DSC members identified all grant-related sub-projects. By the end of June, the Grants Department began preparing paperwork for nine Milestone 2 payments, with a number of CDCs ahead of the sub-project timeline. However, security has proven a challenge for some CDCs, resulting in the suspension of several project activities due to Taliban threats and attacks that caused the deaths of several CDCs’ leaders, the destruction of completed works, and theft of project tools and cash.

Table 4 – IR4 PMP Targets

Provincial authorities improve basic service delivery by using GIRoA, CDCs, DDAs and ASOP DCCs. These bodies improve capacity to plan, design, implement and monitor tasks, with a focus on labor-intensive projects or productive infrastructure.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Q3 2013	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against SOIs	72	26	26
4.2	Percentage of population in targeted districts reporting increased satisfaction with GIRoA basic services	15%	NTR ³	NTR
4.3	Percent increase of district residents reporting basic services in target districts are delivered in a fair and transparent manner	25%	NTR	NTR

² A baseline for this indicator has been collected for Bala Boluk District and is ongoing in other districts.

³ A number of SIKA-West indicators will be reported on at the end of the base period, utilizing information from a baseline survey and follow-up impact assessment.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Q3 2013	Cumulative Total
4.4	Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions	9,000	NA	NA
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	26	26
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	\$216,000	NA	\$10,693
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	0	5
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	1950	4,425

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT

A total of 12 trainings for women increased female participation in District Entity activities. ‘Marketing and Human Rights’ trainings were held in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi. ‘Main Elements of Communications’ training and a DSC meeting were held in Chaghcharan. ‘Gender Awareness’ and ‘Nutrition and Marketing’ trainings in Qadis and Muqur and vocational trainings in Bala Boluk encouraged female attendance. For the first time, 10 women attended the monthly DSC meeting in Bala Boluk, which to date has been dominated by male members of the community. Literacy and vocational trainings in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Shindand Districts were ongoing. To build upon these successes, a Gender STTA was mobilized at the end of May to focus on Gender Mainstreaming in all facets of the program.

Table 5 – Gender and Program PMP Objectives

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Actual Q3 2013	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%	72.73%	78.73%
7	Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/ programming	75%	0	0
8	Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entities activities	27	12	47
9	Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	35	105

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OVERVIEW

FARAH PROVINCE

Provincial Center

Coordination Meetings: Farah Provincial and Districts Officials held six coordination meetings during the reporting quarter. These meetings included a meeting with the Farah Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD) Director, the Khak-e-Safayd District Governor and Provincial Council, Director of the Education Department, and *Ulemas* and elders. The aim of these meetings was to present an overview of the current infrastructure and vocational training projects. The *Ulemas*’ role in DSC meetings and involvement of women in the decision making process were also discussed.

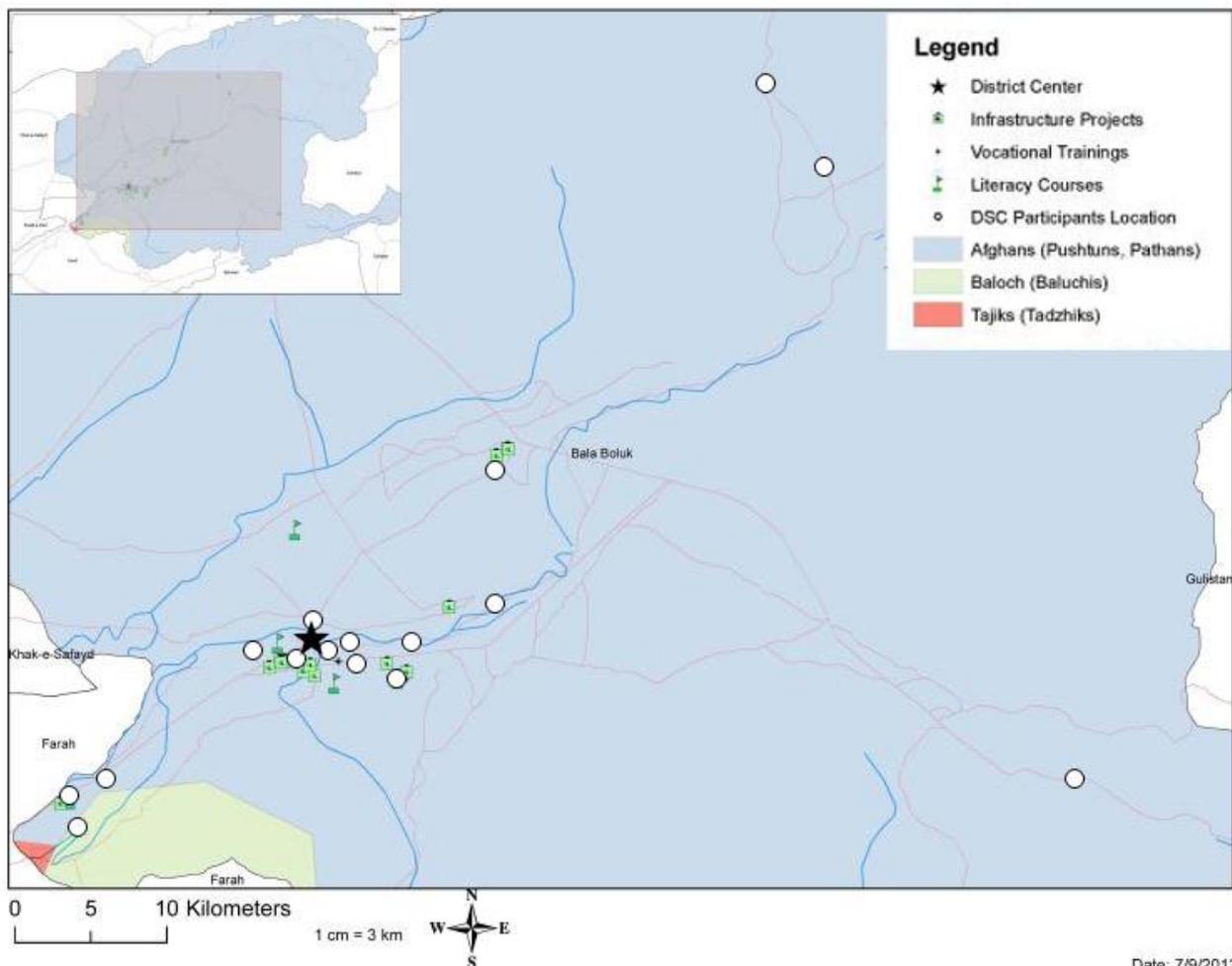
In early April, a deadly attack in Farah killed 56 people and left over 100 injured. Unfortunately, 11 close relatives of Farah PST staff were among the casualties. Due to the security incidents, the PST office was locked down from April 3rd to 8th.

Trainings: Twenty-five high-ranking Farah Province government officials identified as communications focal points received ‘Media’ training on May 15th. By the end of the training, participants learned about media relations, interview techniques, and how to write press releases. These communications focal points will convey information and government messages to the public using available outlets.

Bala Boluk District

Stabilization Programming: The District Governor chaired the 9th Bala Boluk DSC meeting on May 7th, with 39 people in attendance, including six DDA members, six line-department representatives and 27 observers. Because of recent AGE attacks, mobile communication systems were shut down. The security situation explains the below average attendance numbers. During the meeting, the District Governor emphasized the *Ulemas’* roles and their influence in bringing peace and stability in society. On June 27th, the Bala Boluk District Governor organized the 10th regular DSC meeting, with 56 people in attendance, including 10 women. The District Governor presented an overview of the ongoing projects in Bala Boluk. DSC members proposed some new mitigation activities, including vocational trainings and water dividers. See Map 2 below for reference points on the location of these ongoing sub-projects. The map also details the village locations of DSC members, as well as district ethnic data.

Map 2: Bala Boluk Activities and DSC Members Locations



Communications and Public Outreach: The Bala Boluk District Governor organized six communications-related activities in order to increase interaction with the local community. On April 7th, 33 farmers attended a meeting to discuss agriculture issues in the district. Discussion topics included the modernization of agriculture in the district as well as alternatives to poppy farming. Farmers were able to discuss challenges they face, including the lack of proper irrigation systems and poor quality seeds, as the main problems in transitioning to other crops. These activities are being considered for potential grant projects in the future. Other farming-related training included the May 22nd marketing course for 27 farmers from different villages in the district, and the June 29th ‘Saffron Producing’ session for 15 participants.



The District Governor spoke about modernization of agriculture in Bala Boluk District and alternatives to poppy farming during the public meeting on April 7th.

To improve cooperation with traditional leaders, the Bala Boluk District Governor invited 33 *Mullahs* and religious leaders to a public meeting on May 6th. The District Governor encouraged *Mullahs* to promote peace through their sermons at Friday prayers. Attendees received a peace poster and a pocket-sized government directory at the end of the meeting. The District Governor’s meeting was picked up by national media and published on the front page of the influential Taand website.

On May 22nd, the District Governor organized a ‘Youth Peace Movement’ event. Youth wrote peace messages on mud walls covered with bullet holes, hoping to quiet future gunfire.



“Youth are thirsty for peace”, a young man writes on a mud wall during the May 22nd ‘Youth Peace Movement’ event.

The Bala Boluk District Governor received support to produce factsheets highlighting local government services and provided a contact list to help citizens access these amenities. He also received support to produce 300 posters disseminating a peace-related message. The posters, displayed in mosques, quote a peace message from the Holy Quran, “All Muslims are brothers, bring peace to each other,” as well as a message from the District Governor, “You are responsible for the security in your own village.”

The Bala Boluk District Governor held a public meeting with 15 members of a local youth association on June 2nd. The young men shared their problems and concerns and asked the District Governor to involve them more in district activities and in the decision-making process. The District Governor highlighted the importance of youth in district security and development. In the majority of SIKA-West target districts, youth groups demonstrate a desire to be more involved in decision making as well as organizing public outreach activities that promote peace to the wider community.



“These projects for Bala Boluk District are the result of your hard work and dedication,” said the Farah DRRD Director at a project inauguration ceremony on April 21st.

The Bala Boluk District Governor’s office received a mobile phone as part of the proposed ‘Complaint Hotline’ on June 25th. The complaint hotline, manned by a government official, will be set up in the near future and will allow residents to share concerns with district officials.

Community Development: A total of 73 Bala Boluk CDC members received four separate five-day ‘Project Cycle Management’ trainings. A total of 54 foremen and supervisors received follow-up Project Implementation and Quality Control trainings. CDCs will now receive their first milestone payments, allowing them to break ground on labor-intensive projects in their villages. On May 2nd, five CDC site supervisors received water divider alignment/actual site layout process training. This preparation is necessary prior to project implementation.

The MRRD/Stability Program staff met with CDC representatives at the Farah DRRD offices to mark the start of the first five projects listed on the District Project Portfolio on April 21st. The SIKA-West Chief of Party, DRRD Director, Provincial Council representative, and CDC members, including the project management team and community members, participated in the ceremony.

During the quarter, 16 infrastructure grant projects were ongoing in Bala Boluk District of Farah Province. The grants include refurbishment of several important community buildings, and the construction of water dividers.



A completed water divider in Haji Khudi Dad village, Bala Boluk District. Thirteen water dividers will be constructed, following project management training.

Capacity Building and Gender: Along with ongoing capacity building and vocational activities, on April 8th, five Farah DRRD staff received Conflict Resolution Skills training from the Capacity Building Department. Conflict resolution is considered a ‘soft’ mitigation activity. On June 16th-19th, 16 government staff attended a four-day Management and Leadership training. Table 6 below details ongoing vocational and literacy trainings.

Table 6: Ongoing capacity building and gender activities in Bala Boluk District

Name of the trainings	Type of activity	Ps type	# of female Ps	# of male Ps	Start Date	End Date	Status	Brief summary of the training
Tailoring vocational training- Dehzak Akbar Abad- DoWA	Non-grant	local women	15	0	10-Feb-13	10-Aug-13	ongoing	Six-month theory and practical tailoring training is ongoing.
Tailoring vocational training- Ganjabad- DoWA	Non-grant	local women	15	0	18-Mar-13	18-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above
Auto-Mechanic vocational training- Middle Shiwan	Grant	local men	0	15	10-Apr-13	10-Sep-13	ongoing	Auto Mechanic Vocational Training for 15 men and provision of tool kits at the end of the course.

Name of the trainings	Type of activity	Ps type	# of female Ps	# of male Ps	Start Date	End Date	Status	Brief summary of the training
Mobile phone repairing vocational training-Middle Kanisk	Grant	local men	0	15	9-Apr-13	9-Aug-13	ongoing	Mobile Repairing Vocational Training for 15 men and provision of tool kits at the end of the course.
Embroidery vocational training-Lower Kanisk	Grant	local women	15	0	05-May-13	05-Oct-13	ongoing	Embroidery Vocational Training for 15 women and provision of tool kits at the end of the course.
Tailoring vocational training-Dehzak Akbar Abad	Grant	local women	15	0	10-Apr-13	10-Sep-13	ongoing	Tailoring Vocational Training for 15 women and provision of tool kits at the end of the course.
Auto-Mechanic vocational training-Dehzak Akbar Abad	Grant	Local men	0	15	16-May-13	16-Oct-13	ongoing	Auto-Mechanic Vocational Training for 15 men and provision of tool kits at the end of the course.
Literacy Course - Shiwan	Non-grant	local women	25	0	14-Nov-12	14-Aug-13	ongoing	By the end of the training, the participants will learn how to read and write basic sentences.
Literacy Course-Dehzak	Non-grant	local women	25	0	14-Nov-12	14-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above
Literacy Course-Ganjabad	Non-grant	local women	25	0	14-Nov-12	14-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above
Literacy Course-Kanisk	Non-grant	local women	25	0	14-Nov-12	14-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above
Literacy Course-Gerani	Non-grant	local women	25	0	14-Nov-12	14-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above

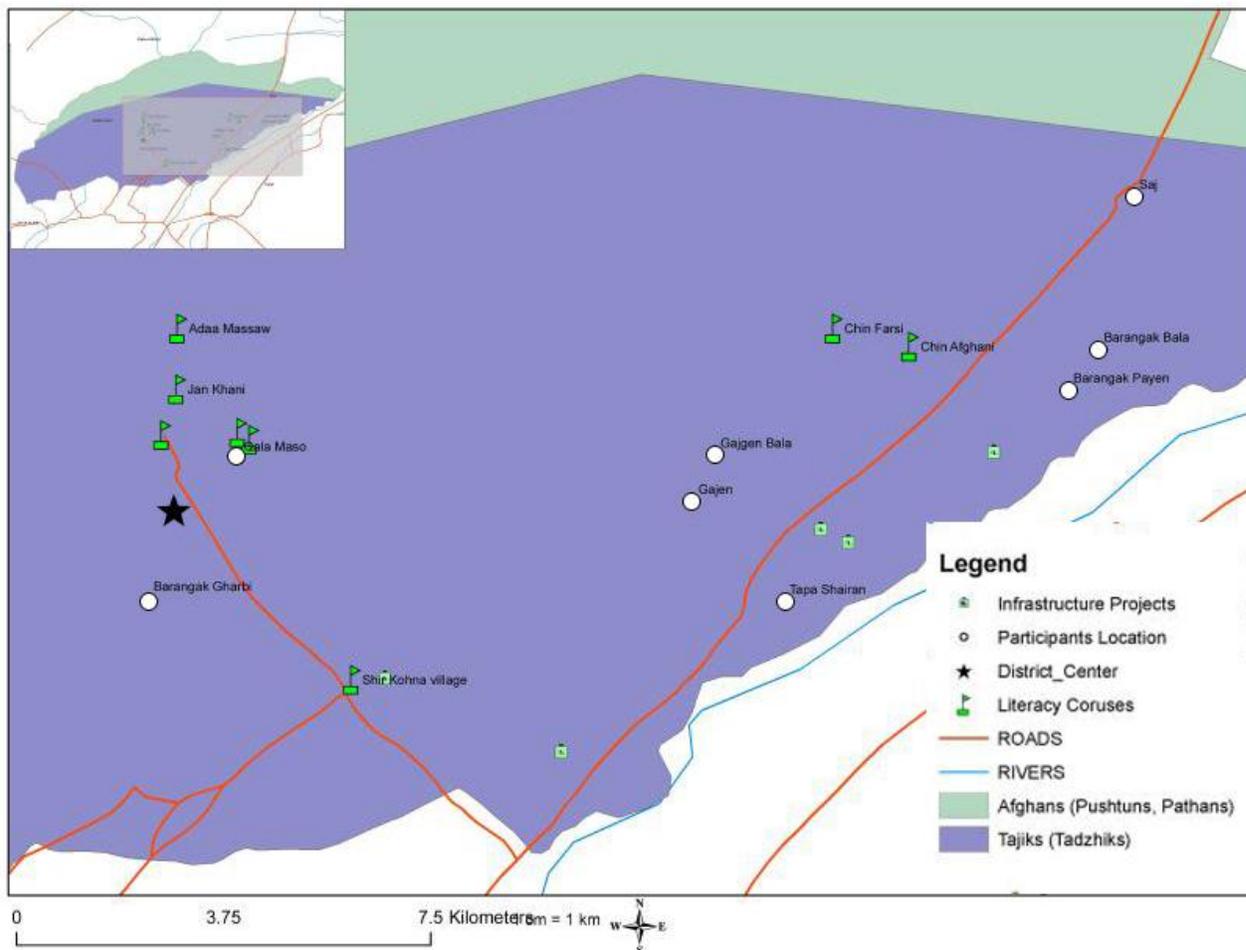
Pusht-e Rod District

Stabilization Programming: Pusht-e Rod DSC members, with support from the District Governor, organized three DSC meetings, with a total 115 people in attendance. Participants listened to an overview of the proposed mitigation activities and a status update on the District Project Portfolio (DPP). DSC members also identified new projects, replacing projects put on hold due to security concerns in Massow and Panj Goft Gow villages. On May 26th, project implementation began. During the meeting, DSC members established a district level *Ulema* council to improve peace and stability. On June 23rd, the DSC members were updated on the progress of mitigating activity implementation. The map below displays the village locations that DSC participants travel from to attend meetings. Ethnic data is also included in this map. Presently, all participants are Tajik, and all projects are located in Tajik villages along main roads. SIKA-West staff will need to work closely with the District Governor’s office, the DRRD, and other DEs to attempt to contact non-Tajik community members; however, it must also be taken into account that district borders do not always reflect which district center a community member may use, due to geographic barriers such as mountains or rivers.



The involvement of influential *Mullahs* in DSCs plays a key role in successful implementation of activities. In this photo, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor distributes gifts to the invited *Mullahs* in appreciation of their support and presence in the decision making process on June 23rd.

Map 3: Pusht-e Rod Activities and DSC Members Locations



Communications and Public Outreach: The Pusht-e Rod District Governor organized five of the activities outlined in his six-month communications plan. A public meeting with 15 farmers and members of farmers’ cooperatives convened on April 10th. The meeting highlighted government actions to improve agriculture in the district. Farmers identified issues such as poor seed quality, lack of short term loans, lack of markets, and poor irrigation as their main problems. They asked the District Governor to provide them with trainings on the cultivation of onions and cucumber and on improving marketing skills.

More than 30 school children attended a ‘Kids Drawing for Peace’ event on April 14th. Children wrote messages on a ‘Peace Wall’ and painted peace-related pictures, which they then carried throughout the district.



Hayatulla (far right) holds a ‘We Children Want Peace’ poster during the “Kids Drawing for Peace” event on April 14th.

On May 14th, the District Governor organized the monthly coordination meeting with district line managers and presented an overview of activities and the importance of these gatherings.

Sixteen Pusht-e Rod District farmers received marketing training on May 19th. Agriculture is the main economic mainstay in this District, and farmers learned more about the importance of marketing and segmentation.

Seven staff from Pusht-e Rod District Governor’s line departments held a meeting to tackle corruption on June 23rd. As part of efforts to end corruption and improve the accountability of local government, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor’s office received a mobile phone as part of a proposed ‘Complaint Hotline.’ The complaint hotline, manned by a government official, will be set up in the near future to allow residents to share concerns with district officials.



Youths with the support of the Counter Narcotics Department and Farah Addicts Rehabilitation and Recovery Clinic distributed anti-addiction posters.

The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association organized several meetings and public awareness events during the quarter. On May 1st, a coordination meeting was held with the Farah Directorate of Information and Culture. The meeting highlighted information regarding the youth association communications plan.

To improve educational opportunities, 10 representatives met with the District Governor to strengthen the relationship between administration and youth in the district on May 8th. During the meeting, the District Governor requested that the youth continue to promote messages of peace in the villages. On May 21st, as part of a plan to develop awareness raising materials, youth visited the Addicts’ Rehabilitation Clinic in the district center. The materials will be disseminated during an upcoming anti-drug campaign aimed at youth.



Youth wear cloths with the anti-addiction messages, “Stop using drug to have a better future”.

On May 27th, the Farah Counter Narcotic Directorate and the Youth Department under the Information and Culture Directorate met to discuss a football tournament. The tournament, kicked off on May 25th, was aimed at raising

public awareness of the dangers of poppies and drug addiction. Following the meeting, the Counter Narcotics Department and Farah Addicts Rehabilitation and Recovery Clinic, along with SIKA-West, provided factsheets, posters and banners, which the association distributed in a number of villages.

Community Development: On May 7th, the Director of Farah Department of Public Health (DOPH) attended a meeting about midwifery training for 75 local women. The Director sent a request letter to the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) organization, which in turn pledged to support the program.

Twenty-one CDC members participated in the 4th round of project management training on May 19th. As part of follow-up activities, on June 2nd, five CDC members received ‘Project Implementation Methodology’ training. “Environmental Management Systems,” covering environmental and water laws of Afghanistan and USAID’s Environmental Strategy, was included in this follow-up training. CDCs will receive their first milestone payments, allowing them to break ground on labor-intensive projects in their villages. Finally, feasibility surveys for four projects proposed by the DSC were completed. .

Capacity Building and Gender: Along with ongoing capacity building and literacy trainings, 12 government staff received a four-day ‘Management and Leadership’ training from June 16th to 19th. Table 7 below details ongoing literacy trainings.

Table 7: Ongoing capacity building and gender activities in Pusht-e Rod District

Name of the trainings	Participants type	# of female Ps	# of male Ps	Start Date	End Date	Status	Brief summary of the training
Literacy Course- Shar-e-Kohna	local men	0	25	19-Jan-13	19-Jul-13	suspended	By the end, the participants will learn how to read and write basic sentences.
Literacy Course- Jan Khani	local men	0	25	10-Feb-13	10-Aug-13	ongoing	As above
Literacy Course- Massaw	local women	25	0	19-Jan-13	19-Jul-13	ongoing	As above
Literacy Course- Jan Khani Massaw	local men	0	25	19-Jan-13	19-Jul-13	ongoing	As above
Literacy Course- Chin Afghani	local women	25	0	03-Mar-13	03-Sep-13	ongoing	As above
Literacy Course- Chin Farsi	local women	25	0	03-Mar-13	03-Sep-13	ongoing	As above
Literacy Course- Mian Joy Massaw	local women	25	0	28-Apr-13	28-Oct-13	ongoing	As above

Khak-e Safayd District

Coordination Meetings: Activities in Khak-e Safayd focused on preparations for the first introductory DSC meeting on July 5th. Working with the District Governor’s office, invitations to the upcoming DSC meeting were sent to all influential community members, including DDA members, CDC members, and tribal and religious leaders.

On May 21st, 13 farmers received training which introduced effective techniques to increase agricultural productivity and gain provincial markets. At the end of the training, farmers understood the importance of marketing and segmentation to meet customers' needs.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

Provincial Center

Coordination Meetings: Throughout the month, the PST, USAID representative, and the DRRD attended weekly coordination meetings. During these meetings, the PST Manager updated the DRRD on security issues affecting sub-project implementation in all districts. The DRRD suggested following the National Solidarity Program (NSP) model and obtain signed letters from CDCs pledging to support the program and ensure security.

To connect flood-stricken villages with the government, the DRRD Director held a meeting on April 21st. The DRRD Director decided to invite representatives of villages affected by recent flooding to attend the next Muqur DSC meeting, scheduled for May 14th.

The new Badghis Provincial Governor received orientation training on the MRRD/Stability Program, including information on DSC roles, responsibilities, and structures on May 13th.

The Director of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) attended a planning meeting to outline the upcoming Badghis Gender Working Group in early July. These meetings are a chance to gather all relevant government bodies and NGOs in the area to provide updates on gender-related activities and collect information on possible SIKA-West projects tackling instability and gender inequality. The Peace Training Research Organization (PTRO) attended a coordination meeting on June 29th. The PTRO pledged to provide training to 60 members of the DSC-appointed Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee in Qadis District.

On May 12th, 19 DRRD and other governmental staff received Communication Skills Building training. Topics covered included the basics of communication, messaging, identifying audiences, and reaching those targets through the best possible means.

Representatives from government line-departments, NGOs, and INGOs attended the Badghis Gender Working Group meeting on May 1st. The participants exchanged information on gender-related activities currently being implemented in Badghis Province. Requests were made to DRRD/Stability Program to provide seeds to the women who have received agricultural training in Qadis District under other program funding and to provide literacy trainings to the Badghis Carpet



MRRD/Stability Program senior staff briefed the new Badghis Provincial Governor on the objectives and structures of the program on May 13th.



Ghulam Farooq, Badghis Administrative and Finance Manager, receives communications training along with 18 other DRRD employees on May 12th



Badghis Gender Working Group members receive Gender Mainstreaming Part II training on May 1st.

Weaving Union members. These issues will be discussed and support will be provided if requests meet gender component criteria.

Qadis District

Stabilization Programming: During the quarter, two DSC meetings were held in Qadis District. On May 12th, the 5th DSC meeting was held with 80 people, including 16 DDA members, 17 line-departments’ representatives and 47 observers in attendance. Three Muqur DSC members exchanged ideas and shared lessons learned. The proposed mitigation activities were reprioritized, and DSC members pledged to escort the survey and monitoring teams to project sites if there are any security concerns. On June 16th, the 6th DSC meeting was organized with the participation of 83 people, including 9 women. The meeting updated the DSC members on the outcome of feasibility studies and activities, which were not surveyed due to security concerns. The DSC members pledged to provide an escort to the surveying team.



83 people - including 9 women - participated in the 6th Qadis DSC meeting on June 16th.

On April 8th, as part of activities to implement a Tribal Engagement Meeting, the District Governor relayed tribal leader information. On April 17th and 22nd, the Muqur District Governor organized a meeting with the DDA head to gather a list of influential elders as part of first steps to improve Tribal Engagement, a soft mitigating activity proposed by DSC members.

Communications and Public Outreach: During the quarter, the Qadis District Governor and Qadis Youth Association organized four separate communications-related activities. On May 13th, 25 Qadis and Muqur women received marketing training. The training addressed women’s complaints about the lack of a market for goods and the deficiency of information on how to improve the situation.

The Qadis District Governor held a meeting with 83 *Ulema, Arbabs* (community leaders), and government officials on May 19th. Participants exchanged information regarding peace and unity in the community. All participants pledged to disseminate the District Governor’s peace messages.



83 *Ulema, Arbabs* (community leaders) and government officials participated in the public meeting organized by the Qadis District Governor on May 19th.

The Qadis District Governor was provided with support and guidance to develop an education factsheet. The factsheet details where education facilities are located in the district and guidance on how parents can enroll their children for the upcoming school year. The Qadis DSC members identified lack of communication and coordination between district government staff as a Source of Instability in the district. In response, 13 Qadis District Government staff received Internal Communications training, a ‘soft’ mitigating activity to improve coordination among government line departments.

On June 20th, 57 farmers met with the Qadis District Governor to learn about government activities in the district. Farmers were instructed to stop growing narcotic crops and cooperate with security forces.

The Qadis Youth Association attended a meeting with the Director of the Badghis Information and Culture Department on May 4th. An overview of the last month's activities was provided to the department, specifically covering the ongoing education campaign, which included a school cleaning and volleyball tournament. The Youth Association requested support for future activities, and the Director offered a computer skills-building training course funded by the Information and Culture Directorate. News of the meeting was broadcast on a local Badghis radio station.

The Qadis Youth Association held a public meeting with more than 50 influential people, including the District Governor, *Ulema*, and community elders to present information regarding the district youth activities on May 27th. The District Governor requested that the youth continue contributing to peace promotion.

The Qadis Youth Association met with the Director of Badghis Information and Culture Department on April 10th to coordinate a volleyball tournament, which was organized to support education and school attendance, part of the association's communications plan. During the meeting, the Director pledged his support for youth activities and said he would provide the winning team with a trophy. On April 18th, the nine-day volleyball tournament started, with six teams competing. The association also produced banners encouraging school enrollment and highlighting the importance of education, a message that is part of an ongoing education campaign. On April 26th, more than 200 youth, district officials, parents, teachers, and students watched the final match of the volleyball tournament.



Almost two hundred people watched the final match of the volleyball tournament organized by the Qadis Youth Association in support of school attendance.

The Qadis Youth Association organized a wrestling tournament to raise public awareness on the dangers of drug use. The June 14th event was supported by the Information and Culture Directorate, Counter Narcotics Directorate, and the Provincial Hospital. Over 1,000 people attended the event, including *Ulema*, *Arbabs*, government officials, youth, parents, and tribal and religious elders from different parts of the district.



The Qadis Youth Association organized a Wrestling competition on June 14th.

Community Development: A total of eight representatives from two CDCs and one representative from the DRRD started a three-day Project Cycle Management training to prepare them for grant implementation on June 23rd. During the quarter, the feasibility survey of 32 proposed projects was completed and technical packages for four projects were prepared.

Capacity Building and Gender: Nine female Qadis DSC members received 'Gender Mainstreaming' (Part I) training on May 8th. The training helps women become more involved in social development activities. On May 19th, 40 female students and 9 female teachers also received the 'Intro to Gender' training.

Nutrition training was provided to nine female Qadis DSC and CDCs members on May 26th. The training increased women's knowledge of the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables.

On June 2nd and 3rd, 13 Qadis District Government staff received Basic Management training. The training increased management knowledge of District Entity members in order to improve service

delivery at the district level. On June 2nd, 42 female students and 11 teachers from Qadis Neswan High School received Gender Awareness training. Topics included the definition of gender, differences between sex and gender, and gender mainstreaming. On June 23rd, 40 students, of which 22 were male, participated in the ‘Introduction to Gender’ training at the Qadis Teacher Training Center. The training covered the differences between gender and sex, gender mainstreaming, and women’s rights.



Qadis Neswan high school students and teachers receive Gender Awareness training on June 2nd.

Muqur District

Stabilization Programming: During the quarter, two DSC meetings were held. On May 14th, the 3rd DSC meeting was held with 104 people, including 10 DDA members, 15 line-departments’ representatives, and 79 community observers in attendance. The DSC members were updated on mitigating activities, and discussed the SOIs and root causes of instability identified in the last meetings. On June 18th, the 4th DSC meeting was held with 86 people –82 male and 4 female – in attendance. Participants proposed a number of new mitigation activities, and 30 tribal elders were selected to be part of a Committee of Tribal Leaders and Scholars as part of a push to improve unity among different ethnicities and to assist the District Governor in conflict resolution.

Communications and Public Outreach: The Muqur District Governor and Badghis Provincial Governors’ Spokesman received media training on May 5th. The training covered media relations, interview techniques, and writing press releases. Following this training, the District Governor plans to broadcast the government’s activities and achievements in Muqur district on local media.



15 Muqur DSC members receive Main Elements of Communications’ training on April 9th.

On April 9th, 15 Muqur DSC members received “Main Elements of Communications” training, covering messaging, identifying audiences, and selecting means for effective communication. On April 11th, two Muqur communications focal points received a “How to Develop a Communications Plan” training. Finally, on June 26th, the Muqur District Governor’s communications plan was developed and signed.

Community Development: During the quarter, feasibility surveys of 48 proposed projects were completed and a technical package for one project was prepared.

Capacity Building and Gender: As part of support and capacity building for local government, 12 Muqur District government staff received management training on June 12.

HERAT PROVINCE

Provincial Center

Coordination Meetings: Along with the MRRD/SIKA-West Regional Coordinator, the USAID representative, Herat Economy Director, DRRD representative, and SIKA-West senior staff attended a coordination meeting on April 22nd. Participants discussed reports requested by the Herat Provincial Governor and Economy Director. The participants agreed that program staff will prepare a presentation and include all activities, expenses, and budgets used for the proposed projects in the districts. The

presentation will be shared with the Economy Director, and, once approved by him, the presentation will be provided to the Provincial Governor.

SIKA-West senior staff attended the Special Provincial Development Committee meeting organized by the Herat Economy Director on April 27th. The Herat Provincial Governor, DRRD director, USAID representative, Herat Economy Director, and provincial government line directors attended. As a result of this meeting, SIKA-West MRRD Regional Coordinator agreed to spend at least two days a week working from the HQ office with the DCOP.

The MRRD/SIKA-West Regional Coordinator and Herat PST Senior Staff attended a meeting with the Director of the Herat DRRD on May 11th. They provided an overview of SIKA-West progress, and participants agreed to meet weekly to report the achievements and challenges in the target districts. On May 25th, a weekly coordination meeting with Herat DRRD and SIKA-West Regional Coordinator was held.

The Engineering Department of Herat DRRD and MRRD/SIKA-West Regional Coordinator met to discuss the DPPs and BoQ, and the project selection and cost estimation processes on May 27th.

The Head of the US Military Civilian Affairs Team met with SIKA-West staff in Shindand on May 29th. Participants discussed how the US Military can contribute to the carpet weaving vocational trainings and how the MRRD/Stability Program can assist the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) in engaging the local community. The US Military pledged to lobby the Italian forces to fund some development projects in Shindand. SIKA-West will play a part in connecting DEs with this potential source of funding. Representatives of ANSF will be invited to the next DSC meeting. On June 9th, the weekly coordination meeting with the Herat DRRD was held.



The Head of the US Military Civilian Affairs Team attended a coordination meeting in Shindand on May 29th.

The Herat Gender Working Group met representatives of different government and non-government organizations shared updates on gender-related activities during the last month in Herat Province. The Director of Women's Affairs Department provided a list of the vocational training students in Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts. Other organizations proposed some gender-related activities including family planning training and literacy courses.

Shindand District:

Stabilization Programming: The 7th Shindand DSC meeting was held with 90 people, including 24 DDA members, 18 line-department representatives, 43 community observers and 5 representatives from Pashtun Zarghun DSC in attendance on May 6th. In response to the District Governor's invitation to the event, one of the 15 *Mullahs* present said they appreciated being included. At the meeting, the District Governor distributed gifts to the *Mullahs* to recognize their support.

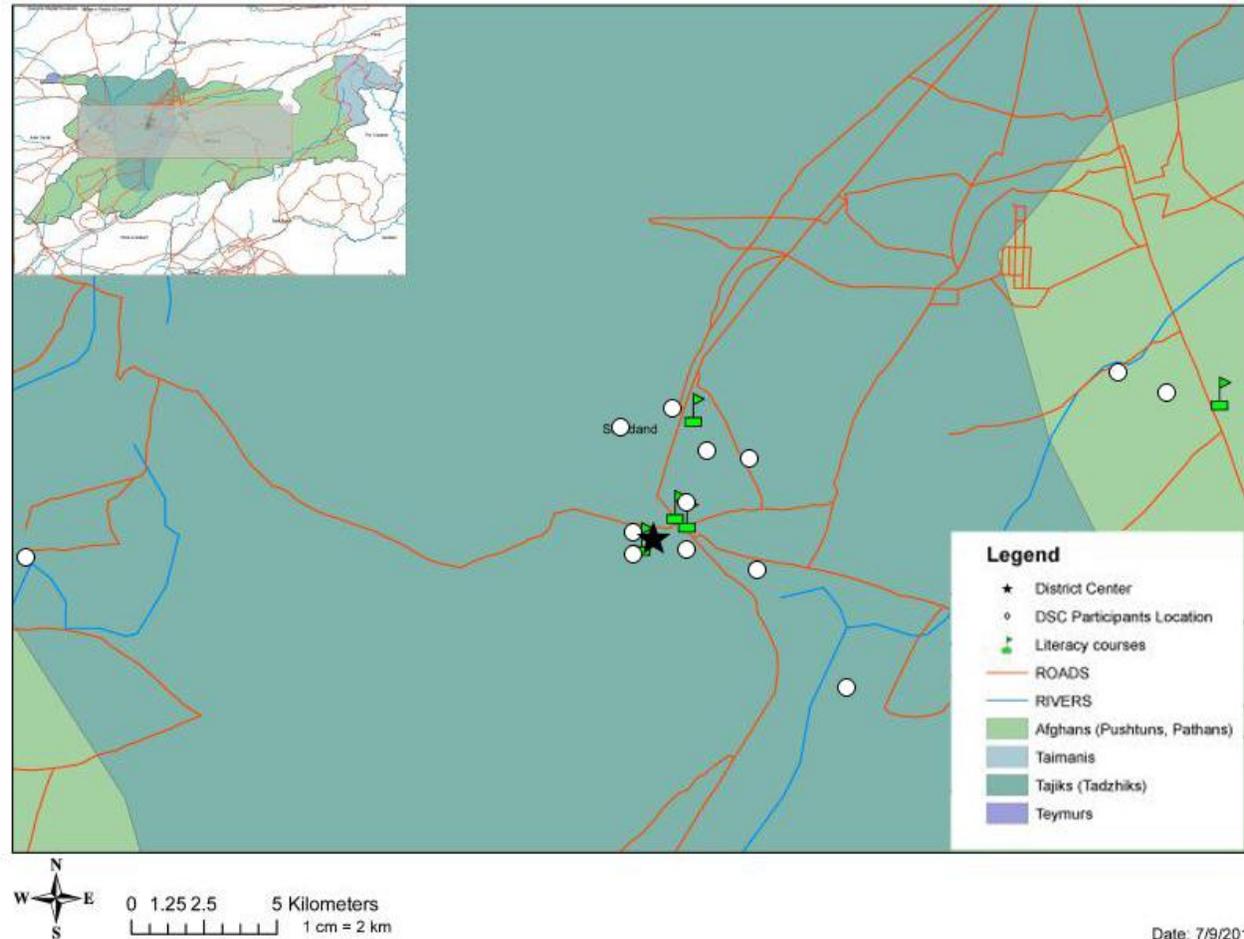


90 people attend the 7th Shindand DSC meeting on May 6th, including 15 women.

As part of efforts to address illiteracy and lack of education, an SOI identified by Shindand DSC members, the Shindand Deputy Chief of Police and the PST Stabilization Officer met on April 15th. They discussed the possibility of a coordination meeting between the DSC, ANSF, and community elders to guarantee that children get to school safely and to improve security in education facilities.

The 8th DSC meeting on June 24th was postponed to July 1st to permit the onboarding Shindand District Governor to attend. The District Governor received a briefing by PST staff on June 26th. Map 4 below shows ethnic data, village locations of DSC members, and the locations of ongoing literacy courses in the district.

Map 4: Shindand District Activities and DSC Member Locations



Communications and Public Outreach: On April 1st, as part of the Shindand District Governor’s communications plan, 45 women attended a public meeting to increase their engagement in the district decision making process. Participants included DDA members and representatives from civil society, the Department of Education, schools, and members of district associations. During the meeting, participants shared issues and challenges and requested that the District Governor support gender equality and mainstreaming in the district government offices. The District Governor highlighted the importance of women in the police and other government departments and said that vacant positions were available.



Women were encouraged to join government departments by the Shindand District Governor at a public meeting on April 1st.

A second coordination meeting was held with the participation of 20 senior government staff on April 8th. The participants reported on their activities from the last month

and plans for the coming month. The District Governor shared information regarding the poppy eradication program and schoolbook distribution in Shindand District.

Sixty *Mullahs* and DDA members met to improve engagement with traditional religious leaders on April 22nd. The Governor discussed key roles that *Mullahs* and religious leaders can play in promoting peace in the region, and supporting the ongoing poppy eradication campaigns in the district. During the meeting, a number of attendees expressed their dissatisfaction with some decisions made by the local and central government, which may be a potential ‘soft’ mitigation activity for the MRRD/Stability Program in the future.



Mullahs receive a folder with five fact sheets on Shindand District government’s activities during the public meeting on April 22nd.

The Shindand District Governor received media relations training on May 26th. The training covered interview techniques, building news, and writing press releases. After the training, the District Governor received mentoring on writing messages about peace and did a radio interview with Tanin Local Radio, which was broadcasted later that day.

The District Governor, with support of MRRD/Stability Program, sent a bulk SMS phone message to elders and *Ulema* requesting support for the government’s poppy eradication campaign. The message said that stopping poppy cultivation in the district could lead to a \$1 million reward, which could be used for provincial priorities, especially in agricultural development. The District Governor found the bulk SMS a quick and efficient way to inform key local actors about district government activities and decisions⁴.

Community Development: June 10th marked the kickoff of three-day Project Management training for 20 Shindand CDC members, who will implement carpet weaving vocational instruction. During the month of June, technical packages for two projects were prepared. During the quarter, feasibility surveys of seven proposed projects in Shindand District were completed.

Capacity Building and Gender: Table 8 below shows ongoing literacy courses held in Shindand District. By the end of the six-month course in August, 125 women will have received instruction to bring them up to basic literacy levels.

Table 8: Ongoing capacity building and gender activities in Shindand District

Name of the trainings	Ps type	# of female Ps	# of male Ps	Start Date	End Date	Status	Brief summary of the training
Literacy Course-Qala Karam Nasar Abad	local women	25	0	10-Feb-13	10-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above
Literacy Course-That Bazaar, Mir Sadaat	local women	25	0	10-Feb-13	10-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above
Literacy Course-Changan	local women	25	0	10-Feb-13	10-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above

⁴Through the “governor-led eradication program,” governors that self-initiate eradication of poppy in their provinces are reimbursed at the rate of USD 135 per hectare. The strategy also shifted from central eradication to governor-led eradication. https://www.cimicweb.org/cmo/afg/Documents/Security/CFC_Afghanistan_Opium-Poppies-and-Security_July2012.pdf

Name of the trainings	Ps type	# of female Ps	# of male Ps	Start Date	End Date	Status	Brief summary of the training
Literacy Course- Koche Barq	local women	25	0	10-Feb-13	10-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above
Literacy Course- Mahal Kushak	local women	25	0	10-Feb-13	10-Aug-13	ongoing	The same as above

Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District

Stabilization Programming: On May 8th, 45 people attended the 5th DSC meeting, including 14 DDA members, 18 line-department representatives, and 13 community observers. DSC members were updated on the Sources of Instability (SOI), Root Causes (RCs) and Mitigating Activities (MAs). Participants then discussed the SOIs relating to the presence of insurgent groups, destabilizing foreign influences, and lack of GIROA justice at the district level. By the end of the meeting, some additional mitigation activities were proposed, and DSC members agreed to invite Mullahs to the next DSC gathering.



The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi 6th DSC meeting was held on June 12th with participation of 72 people.

Seventy-two people, including six women, attended the 6th Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting on June 12th. The participants reviewed the previously identified SOIs and proposed mitigation activities. The District Governor asked the participants to remove two SOIs, including lack of GIROA justice at the district level and lack of trust between government and local community. After a long discussion, the participants agreed to develop a questionnaire to receive feedback at the next DSC meeting.



Farmers receive an instructional DVD containing methods of destroying insects during a public meeting on May 6th.

Communications and Public Outreach: The District Governor held a public meeting with 48 farmers to highlight the importance of the agricultural sector in building the district economy on May 6th. An overview of district government activities and achievements, especially in agriculture, was provided to the farmers. Prior to the meeting, the District Agriculture Manager was provided support to produce a two-minute video explaining how to manage insects. The farmers found the video a good method to teach them agriculture techniques.

The District Governor met with 32 young people on June 5th. He emphasized the role and responsibilities of youth in the promotion of peace across the district.

The District Governor organized a public meeting on June 26th with 31 district athletes to discuss the role sports play in society. The District Executive Manager emphasized the important role of sports in bringing peace and stability in the community, and asked local youth to encourage their friends to become involved in sports.

The District Governor received support from the SIKA-West Communications Department to produce Health and Education factsheets. The education factsheet encourages parents to support school attendance. “Children are our future, send them to school,” is one of the messages.



The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor received support to produce Health and Education factsheets.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District women’s *Shura* received support to develop a six-month communication plan outlining a range of activities to increase capacity to improve female participation and engagement in district events and decision-making.

The women's *Shura* held a public meeting with 46 people including the District Governor, district women, and *Ulema* regarding women’s roles in bringing peace and security to the district on May 22nd. One woman asked the District Governor to provide them the opportunity to attend school freely.

On June 2nd, 40 women received training on how to access a better market to sell their products. Topics discussed included product improvement, market segmentation, and pricing. This training helped the women to understand the importance of customers’ needs.



40 women from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi received marketing training on June 2nd.

The women’s *Shura*, with support of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), provided Human Rights training to 40 women in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi on June 25th. The training raised awareness of women’s legal and civil rights according to Islam and *Sharia* law. At the end of the training, participants received an overview of the AIHRC’s objectives and their available services.

Community Development: During the quarter, feasibility surveys of 12 proposed projects were completed and the technical packages for four projects were prepared.

Capacity Building and Gender: As part of the push to involve women in the district decision-making process, SIKA-West is focusing on inviting more women to the DSC meetings. Six women attended the 6th Kushk Rabat-e Sangi DSC meeting. Although only making up 8% of the entire attendance numbers, the hope is that in the future more women will attend segregated meetings and provide their input in the identification of SOIs, RCs, and MAs.

Pashtun Zarghun District

Stabilization Programming: On April 3rd, 60 people attended a meeting organized by the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor. District Entities’ representatives, DDAs, and community leaders came together on their own time to discuss projects proposed by DSC members. At the end of the meeting, additional projects were suggested, including construction of a bridge over the Heray Rod River. These additional projects were included in the agenda for discussion at the 4th DSC meeting, which was held on April 22nd. At this meeting, 82 people, including 18 DDA members, 25



The Pashtun Zarghun DSC members proposed eight hard mitigation activities, and five tailoring vocational trainings for women on April 22nd.

line departments’ representatives, and 39 community observers, were provided an update on the status of proposed mitigation activities and discussed a potential advocacy campaign for the proposed bridge project. By the end of the meeting, DSC members confirmed the previously proposed projects and recommended eight hard mitigation activities and five tailoring vocational trainings for women. As part of follow up activities for the bridge construction project, participants received short advocacy training, and five DSC members were chosen to conduct the advocacy campaign.

The new Pashtun Zarghun District Governor was briefed on the MRRD/Stability program on May 19th. The 5th DSC meeting scheduled for May 27th was postponed because the District Governor was engaged with a military operation in the district. The meeting was rescheduled for June 1st.

On June 1st, 88 people, including five women, attended the 5th DSC meeting. The participants analyzed Insecurity; an SOI identified in the previous meetings, and found root causes and proposed some mitigation activities. DSC members asked to attend the 10-day advocacy training to prepare for the upcoming campaign for the Pashtun Zarghun Bridge on Heray Rod, a previously proposed mitigation activity.

Communications and Public Outreach: Thirty Pashtun Zarghun DSC members received communications training on April 7th. Topics included messaging, identifying audiences, and choosing effective means for reaching different people. On April 30th, “How to Develop a Communications Plan” training was provided to 13 focal points from Pashtun Zarghun Farmers’ Associations and saffron producers. By the end of the training, focal points drafted a communications plan that included small-scale marketing activities.

The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor’s communications plan was signed on May 25th. The plan encourages local residents to collaborate with government to ensure district security.

As part of the advocacy campaign for bridge construction over Haray Rod River, five Pashtun Zarghun DSC members received advocacy training on June 8th. The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor and a group of 52 *Ulema* met to improve engagement with the local community.

As part of follow up activities for marketing training conducted on March 9th, 25 Pashtun Zarghun farmers received ‘Saffron Producing’ instruction from the Herat Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) offices. By the end of the training, the farmers learned different methods of Saffron cultivation and processing. On June 30th, a site visit to Pashtun Zarghun District provided practical training to the farmers, covering methods they had learned the previous day.



On June 30th, the *Babai Saffron* (Father of Saffron) from Pashtun Zarghun District showed the farmers how to prepare the land for cultivation.

Community Development: During the quarter, feasibility surveys for 12 proposed projects were completed and the technical packages for three projects were prepared. Community Development activities are dependent on projects identified in DSC meetings, and until community members agree on project priorities there will be little to report.

Capacity Building and Gender: As part of the push to involve women in the district decision-making process, SIKA-West is focusing on trying to invite more women to the DSC meetings. Five women attended the 5th Pashtun Zarghun DSC meeting. Although only making up 6% of the entire participants, the hope is that in the future more women will attend segregated meetings and provide their input in the identification of SOIs, RCs and MAs.

GHOR PROVINCE

Provincial Center

Coordination Meetings: The SIKA-West Chief of Party and the Senior Provincial Coordinator traveled to Chaghcharan and briefed the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor on the MRRD/Stability Program on April 2nd. The Deputy Governor expressed his readiness and support for the first DSC meeting, scheduled for May 1st. In addition, recruitment interviews were conducted for the Ghor PST Manager and Operations staff.

The Ghor Deputy Governor and the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee met to resolve an existing conflict between two tribes (*Yarfolad* and *Zay Reza*) in Chaghcharan on June 9th. A coordination meeting was held with the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor to discuss the agenda and date for the next Chaghcharan DSC meeting on June 17th.

Chaghcharan District

Stabilization Programming: The Chaghcharan DSC introductory meeting was successfully held with 80 people, including 24 DDA members, 44 line-department representatives and 12 community observers in attendance on May 1st. The meeting was broadcast on Chaghcharan National TV. On May 20th, 59 people, including five women, attended the 2nd DSC meeting. Participants learned about the MRRD/Stability program's objectives and received training on the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM). DSC members identified 11 SOIs, including tribal conflicts, presence of illegal armed groups, poverty and unemployment, lack of law enforcement, lack of transparency in government decision-making processes, uneven development, illiteracy and lack of education, foreign destabilizing influences, low levels of education among Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), and inaccurate and negative rumors among communities.



The Chaghcharan DSC meeting was broadcast on Chaghcharan National TV. The Chaghcharan introductory DSC meeting was successfully held with participation of high ranking provincial and district officials on May 1st

On June 19th, 46 people (43 males and 3 women), including 14 line department representatives, 17 DDA members, and 15 community observers, attended the 3rd DSC meeting. Discussions focused on SOI 1: Tribal Conflicts, as well as the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee's plan to tackle seven ongoing tribal conflicts in the district.



The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee organized meetings with tribal leaders in Allah Yar village to resolve current conflicts in the area.

From June 22nd to 28th, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee, in cooperation with the Ghor Provincial Peace Committee, organized several meetings and discussions with the Awlad-e-Morad, Awlad-e-Qasir, and Awlad-e-Aman tribal leaders in Allah Yar village to resolve the current conflicts in the area, which revolved around the kidnapping of a young girl. Violence escalated to gunfights, murders, looting, and the burning of houses. The tribal elders of Allah Yar had already tried to end the feud, but with little result. Working with tribal elders, committee members met with representatives from both sides of the conflict and convinced them to meet and discuss their problems. Community members were receptive to the committee's conflict resolution efforts, and after two days of

discussions came to an agreement on most of the issues. At the end of the committee’s mission, the young girl was returned to her father’s home, and the only outstanding issue was compensation for damage caused to two men’s homes.

Communications and Public Outreach: On June 12th, 23 high ranking government officials in Chaghcharan received “Communications Skill Building” training. Participants learned about the elements of communications, messaging, identification of audiences, and choosing the best means to reach audiences. The training was followed by a session on “How to Develop a Communications Plan” on June 15th for two focal points.

Capacity Building and Gender: SIKA-West is making efforts to attract more women to DSC meetings and is exploring the idea of holding gender segregated DSC meetings to discuss SOIs, MAs, and proposed projects. As mentioned above, three women attended the 3rd DSC meeting, which was a reduction of one woman from the 2nd DSC meeting.

Shahrak District

Coordination Meetings: The Shahrak Acting District Governor and the Youth Council met to discuss the MRRD/Stability Program’s communications-related components on June 4th.

Stabilization Programming: During the quarter, two DSC meetings were held. The introductory DSC meeting was held on June 5th, attracting 66 people, including 14 line-departments’ representatives, 4 DDA members, 47 community observers, and 1 DRRD staff. Participants heard about the MRRD /Stability Program’s objective and received training on the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM). Participants identified nine sources of instability in the district and proposed some mitigation activities.



On June 5th, the Shahrak DSC members vote on the proposed mitigating activities.

75 people, including 15 line departments’ representatives, 11 DDA members, 48 community observers, and 1 DRRD staff, attended the 2nd Shahrak DSC meeting on June 26th. An overview of the MRRD/Stability Program, project criteria, and prioritization process was presented. The DSC members decided to consult with their respected community members and come back with a list of mitigation activities at the next DSC meeting.

Communications and Public Outreach: The “Main Elements of Communications” training was provided to 20 Shahrak District officials on June 24th. At the end of the training, the participants understood the importance of communication, identifying audiences, and the tools available to reach those audiences. The training ended with conducting a communications needs assessment and a follow-up “How to Develop Communications Plan” training for identified focal points.

ADDITIONAL HERAT-HQ SUPPORT

A three-day Communications and Resource Development training was provided to three Provincial Resource Development Officers from Badghis, Farah, and Herat Provinces on April 14th. The topics included an introduction to communications, communications plan development, introduction to resource development, overview of data collection for Service Provider Catalogue (SPC), and maintenance of the SPC. The training will be cascaded to the DRRD staff and district line departments.

All PST and DST communications staff received a two-day communications training on April 21st and 22nd. The training focused on building the communications capacity of district government officials to engage with residents. Topics included communications skills, work planning, district government communications needs and capacities, and producing communications materials such as brochures and posters.

15 provincial and district communications officers received advocacy training on April 23rd. The training focused on how to use the new SPC to assist vulnerable groups and to advocate for their needs. The training covered the basic elements of advocacy, including choosing the issue and advocacy objective, how to do research, identifying the target of the advocacy campaign and potential allies, and drawing up an advocacy plan. District Communication officers will cascade these skills to vulnerable groups such as women, returnees, or people with disabilities to encourage them to assert their rights, raise their voices, and advocate for their needs.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the quarter, the M&E Department organized 124 monitoring visits covering different interventions of the MRRD/Stability Program, including DSC meetings and communications-related and capacity building trainings in Herat, Badghis, Farah and Ghor Provinces. From these visits, an early warning report was compiled on a weekly basis to help management modify the implementation of activities.

The baseline survey of seven-targeted districts in Herat, Farah and Badghis Provinces' was completed during the quarter. Information for the baseline survey was collected over a 24 day period, during which, 2,819 acceptable interviews were conducted from April 11 to May 4. Overall, 794 women and 2,025 men were interviewed. Male respondents were interviewed only by male interviewers; female respondents only by female interviewers. Efforts were made to ensure that female respondents were interviewed outside the presence of male members of the household. In total, M&E staff conducted 23 data quality control spot checks. The survey will provide a better initial understanding of the public's perception of government, and the data will be used in the final program impact assessment

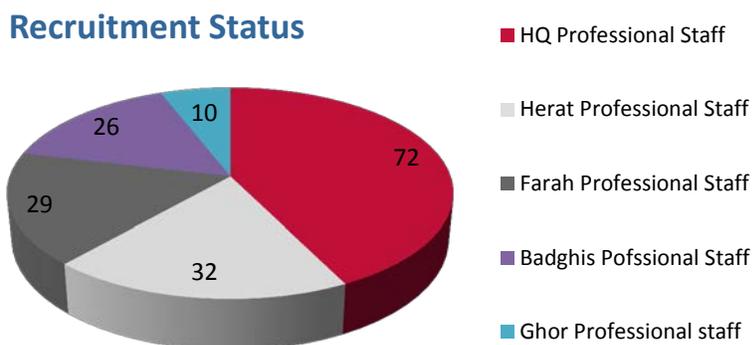


Contracted surveyor administers SIKA-West baseline survey to a local farmer in Badghis Province

As an extension to the SIKA-West baseline survey conducted in April and May 2013 in Herat, Farah, and Badghis, SIKA-West is planning to survey community members in two target districts of Ghor province (Chaghcharan and Shahrak). Two teams consisting of four pairs will conduct approximately 750 surveys in 30 villages of Chaghcharan and Shahrak Districts in August and September, 2013.

SIKA-WEST RECRUITMENT STATUS

By the end of June, 235 employees had been recruited at the HQ, PST, and DST level, including 174 professional staff (17 females, 157 males) and 61 support staff (15 females, 46 males). To date, 38 positions are still under recruitment. In addition to this number, 25 STTAs have been directly hired as literacy and vocational training instructors.



LESSONS LEARNED

An outcome of the Stakeholder Coordination meeting mentioned above was that a large gap in communications between the district and provincial government was identified as it pertains to the SIKA-West project. In the future, SIKA-West management will devise communications strategies to help break down these barriers. These strategies will involve working closely with MRRD and IDLG Regional Coordinators and relying on them to keep the communication lines open. Additionally, greater coordination regarding project implementation must occur between the Line Departments and SIKA-West staff. SIKA-West remains committed to working hand-in-hand with all of the stakeholders to implement a successful program.

Women’s attendance at DSC meetings has been relatively low to date, with averages of less than 10% when compared to men. In an attempt to attract more women to the DSC meeting, thus receiving their input into the decision making and prioritization processes, in some districts gender segregated DSC meetings will be held, chaired by a SIKA-West Gender Officer. The August monthly report will highlight any improvements to attendance numbers.

Following inspections of project sites prior to Milestone 2 payments, it was discovered that CDC Project Managers’ had strayed from the Grant Agreement by completing water dividers one at a time instead of completing phases for all water dividers(e.g. completing the foundations for all water dividers.) Working with the CDCs, SIKA-West Community Development staff modified the grant agreement to allow water dividers to be completed one at a time, and will also revise future grant agreements to reflect this change.

To address some delays to sub-project implementation, weekly meetings between the PST Manager and the implementing CDCs will begin in August. These meetings will allow SIKA-West to receive updates on progress as well provide solutions to any problems or organize additional training. It is hoped that Provincial and District security officials will also attend these meetings on a monthly basis, as many of the delays are caused by security issues.

DELIVERABLES

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

- April, May, June 2013 Monthly Reports
- Weekly Reports
- The SIKA-West Environmental Compliance Report