



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

QUARTERLY REPORT
JANUARY-MARCH 2014



Said Aqa Mohammad Sediqi, The Herat DRRD Director (On The Left) Showing Appreciation To Haji Nezamudin, The Head Of The Siagar CDC In Pashtun Zarghun District, For Implementing An 85-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Siagar Village On March 5th.

APRIL 2014

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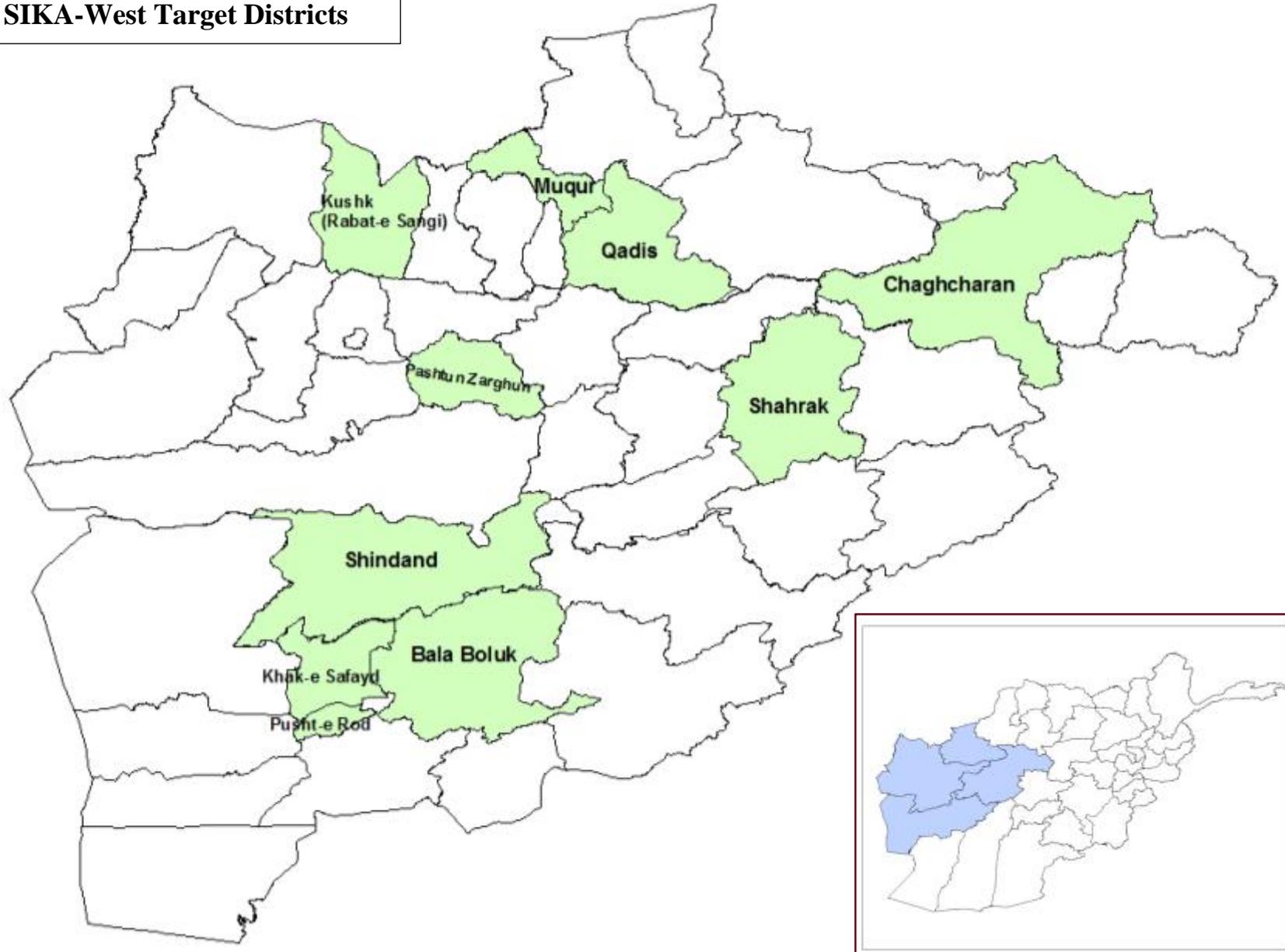
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ACRONYMS

AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CBGD	Capacity Building and Gender Department
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industries
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

SIKA-West Target Districts



INTRODUCTION

Program Profile: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) –West program on January 29, 2012. The SIKA-West program is designed to support both district and provincial GIRoA authorities to increase stability within targeted regions, paving the way for future government led development. This program is led through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), in partnership with USAID.

Area of Operation: SIKA-West is active in the following provinces and districts

- Farah Province: Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Khak-e-Safayd Districts
- Herat Province: Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts
- Badghis Province: Qadis and Muqur Districts
- Ghor Province: Chaghcharan and Shahrak Districts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program activities undertaken across all program departments during the months of January-March, 2014. The report provides a programmatic overview and breakdown of activities by geographic region, program focus, and outcome, detailing successes, challenges, and lessons learned. The report also highlights the leading role of the MRRD and IDLG partners with respect to both district and provincial programming.

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, 21 GIRoA led Komite Sobate Woleswali (District Stabilization Committee)¹ meetings were held in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis, Muqur, Pusht-e Rod, and Chaghcharan Districts. In addition, to provide a platform for women in culturally sensitive districts to share their concerns and advocate for their needs, three Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings for women were conducted in Pusht-e Rod and Khak-e-Safayd Districts.

Participants in the Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings included District Government Line Departments, District Development Assembly (DDA) members, Community Development Council (CDC) members, DRRD District Social Workers (DSW) tribal leaders, religious scholars, and district residents. The meetings provided an opportunity to identify a range of district community “major problems,” including poverty, unemployment, presence of insurgent groups, illiteracy, and lack of education, followed by prioritization of “solutions” which may be addressed by available government resources, including road rehabilitation in Chaghcharan and Pusht-e Rod and clinic construction in Shahrak, in addition to grant funded activities, such as irrigation canals, flood protection walls, school, and road rehabilitation.

District Government led Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) and District Women led Conflict Resolution Committees (CRCs) addressed the following conflicts utilizing existing government resources:

- From January 12th-14th, the Shahrak TCRC traveled to Masjed Negar and Kharnak villages to mediate between the conflicting parties in these two villages. The villages have been in conflict over a murder since last year. The TCRC organized two meetings with the conflicting parties and partially resolved the conflict. The conflicting parties agreed to allow the residents to travel between the villages. The TCRC and the Shahrak Ulema Council decided to have another meeting to resolve the conflict

¹ From now on, the District Stabilization Committee will be referred to as the Komite Sobate Woleswali, the Dari equivalent.

completely but, due to cold weather and the Presidential Election, the meeting was postponed to the first week of May.

- March 6th: The Qadis TCRC addressed a conflict between the Jawaleq Ulya CDC and Haji Said Mohammed, the contracting party, over delays in completing their contract responsibilities to rehabilitate a 4 km road and install a hydroelectric turbine under the CDC's MRRD NABDP project. Following mediation, both the CDC and Haji Said Mohammed agreed to increase the pace of work on the project while also ensuring that MRRD NABDP is made aware of this development.
- The Muqur TCRC successfully resolved a conflict between the Hichka and Kalan Khana villages. The two villages had been in conflict since 2003 over the use of an irrigation canal and many people have been injured or lost their property during the last 10 years. The TCRC traveled to Hichka village on February 15th and organized a meeting with the conflicting parties. By the end of the session, an agreement letter was signed and the conflict was resolved peacefully.
- The Muqur TCRC traveled to the Surkhabi and Jakana villages to mediate between the conflicting parties over a marriage dispute. From January 15th-16th, the Muqur TCRC traveled to Surkhabi and Jakana villages to mediate between the conflicting parties. This dispute led to a tribal conflict in these villages. Although the TCRC had negotiated between the conflicting parties to resolve the conflict amicably, the conflicting parties decided to divorce.
- The Pusht-e Rod TCRC addressed a water dispute between the Payen Ab Nahr-e Massow and Sar Ab Chin villages. The TCRC prioritized this conflict on December 3rd. Despite meetings with the Provincial Council's Head and the District Governor, the conflict was not resolved. Finally the TCRC and the District Governor traveled to Payen Ab Nahr-e Massow and invited the representatives of the conflicting parties to negotiate in person. After a day of discussion, the Payen Ab Nahr-e Massow accepted that the Sar Ab Chin villagers can use the allocated water and the conflict was resolved peacefully on January 1st.
- The Pusht-e Rod TCRC identified and prioritized a recent land dispute in Gajgin village in Push-e Rod District. With support of the District Governor, the conflicting parties were invited to the district center and, through a mediation session, the conflict was resolved on February 5th.
- On February 11th, the Pashtun Zarghun TCRC organized a mediation session between two families who were in conflict over a gunshot injury in Manzel village. The TCRC successfully mediated between the conflicting parties and resolved the conflict. The accused person agreed to pay the medical expenses.
- The Pusht-e Rod CRC successfully addressed a family conflict in Mian Joy Massow. A man in this village beat his wife and forced her to leave the house. The CRC, with support of influential *Ulema*, mediated and talked to the couple. Finally on March 11th, after three mediation sessions the conflict was resolved and the woman returned to her house.
- The Pusht-e Rod CRC prioritized a marriage dispute between two families in Massow village on February 24th. Years ago, it was agreed that a brother and sister from one family (Family 1) marry a sister and brother, respectively, from another family (Family 2). The son from Family 1 married the daughter from Family 2 and they had a happy life. The daughter from Family 1 was too young at the time so they agreed to wait until she was old enough for marriage. Now that the girl is old enough her family has had a change of mind, though the girl and boy are glad to go ahead with the marriage. In addition, Family 1 does not allow their daughter-in-law to visit her family and this has created tension between these two families. The CRC mediated between these families and, following three mediation sessions, they agreed that the disputed marriage should go ahead and the conflict was finally resolved.
- March 12th: The Chaghcharan CRC addressed a family dispute between a bride and her sister in law which resulted in the bride leaving the house in Sadsia village in Chaghcharan. Following mediation

between the conflicting parties, the bride agreed to return to her house once her husband comes back from Iran.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMING

In line with the current 15 District Government Communication Plans, 45 public outreach activities were completed during this reporting period, highlights included:

- On March 25th, the representatives of Pusht-e Rod Youth Association met with the Farah Education Department Director to discuss a lack of resources within the district schools. These include a lack of drinking water and sports fields. The Director explained that these concerns will be addressed with upcoming projects and tasked the Education Manager to follow up with the Youth Association. The Communications & Outreach Department will track these issues and will have these concerns addressed at the upcoming Pusht-e Rod Komite Sobite Wolesswali meeting.
- Thirteen farmers held a meeting with the Bala Boluk District Agriculture Manager on February 13th. Farmers shared their agricultural concerns, including plant diseases, irrigation, and lack of improved seeds. The Agriculture Manager organized a meeting with the DAIL and shared the farmers' concerns. To address the farmers' problems and help them improve their agricultural production, DAIL provided 2,500 fertile and infertile saplings to the farmers.
- On February 22nd, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor organized an Inter-Districts Meeting with the participation of 66 people, including the Ab-Kamari District Governor, the Muqur Executive Manager, the DRRD Director, the Provincial Governor's representative and influential people from Qadis, Muqur and Ab-Kamari Districts. Different topics were discussed, including security, development, and conflict resolution. The Ab-Kamari DG highlighted the role of the people in bringing peace and stability in the community. "This meeting shows that the government and people are working together to bring peace and development in these three districts," he added.
- To raise the Muqur district government staff's awareness on the dangers and disadvantages of corruption, the District Governor organized an anti-corruption meeting with 33 district staff on February 4th. The DG highlighted the responsibilities of the district government in providing good services to the residents. "Corruption paints a bad picture of our government," said Mr. Abdul Azeem Habibi, the Afghan National Police (ANP) Commander. "We all should put our hands together and combat corruption," said Mr. Mohammad Afzal, the Muqur DDA Head.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, with support of the Herat Theater Office, organized an anti-corruption drama on February 9th. The drama aimed to raise awareness of district government staff on the dangers of corruption and highlight their responsibilities in combating corruption. At the end of the drama, posters with anti-corruption messages were distributed to the audience. "We, together, will eradicate corruption," read one of the messages.
- On March 31st, Eng. Shir Aqa Sarwary, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, organized a public meeting with more than 100 Arbabs, security forces, and district officials to improve security during the Presidential Election. The Chief of Police gave an overview of the security situation in the district and highlighted the importance of residents' cooperation with government in improving the security.
- On January 15th, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor organized a meeting with 56 *Ulema*, Arbabs, and youth to highlight the roles of youth in the district government activities and decision making process. *Ulema* pledged to support the youth to actively participate in the government activities. The District Governor encouraged the youth to continue their education and join the government.
- The Shindand District Governor (DG) organized a meeting with 50 female teachers on January 20th. The teachers shared their concerns including insecurity and lack of drinking water. The DG will coordinate with security forces to find a solution and provide security. Coordination and lobbying will be done with relevant organizations to provide drinking water for the schools.

- Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG), received support and produced a short video clip on February 1st. The clip delivers anti-corruption messages and encourages people to support the government in combating corruption. The DPG asked the residents to share their concerns through the Chaghcharan Hotline Phone and Complaint Box. The video clip was broadcast at the Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) from February 1st to 20th.
- Mr. Shahpasan Pahlavi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, organized a public meeting with 34 teachers, youth, and *Ulema* on February 10th. The meeting aimed to highlight the importance of peace and unity in the community. A religious leader talked about the roles of youth in bringing peace and requested the teachers to encourage their students in bringing peace and unity. At the end of the meeting, the participants wrote an agreement stating that youth, *Ulema*, and teachers will work to bring unity and resolve tribal conflicts, combat discrimination, and support the government to deliver quality services.
- The Chaghcharan Youth Association, in-line with its communications plan, organized a radio round table on March 8th and discussed the roles of youth in fostering peace, security, and development in the community, encouraged the youth to support the government, and gave information about the harms of drug addiction. The Youth Association will organize an anti-drug addiction running competition for youth in Chaghcharan.

The Badghis, Herat, and Ghor SPCs were approved by DRRD and IDLG and sent for publication. A dissemination plan was drafted by the SIKA-West Communications and Outreach Department. An agreement was made with the Herat DRRD to send an official letter to the governmental organizations to introduce one SPC focal point from each organization. In-line with assuming responsibility and ownership of the Service Provider Catalog, each provincial DRRD office will establish an SPC Committee which will be responsible for revising and distributing future versions of these documents.

On March 9th and 11th, a Service Provider Fair workshop was held in Herat City with representation from 60 governmental organizations. The workshop’s purpose was to plan the upcoming Service Providers Fair. In agreement with both IDLG and DRRD, the fair was scheduled for the first week of May.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date, 280 grants valued at \$6,021,016 have been approved in all ten target Districts (*See charts 1 and 2*). These projects include rehabilitation of irrigation canals, road networks and culverts, schools and boundary walls, flood protection walls, and gabions. They are implemented and managed by CDCs under Fixed Obligation Grant mechanisms and are designed to provide district government led solutions to community identified problems. As of the reporting date, 98 grants projects valued at \$1,284,638 were completed. Currently CDCs are implementing 163 projects valued at \$3,936,041 in the target districts.

Chart 1: Number of grants approved per district as of March 31, 2014

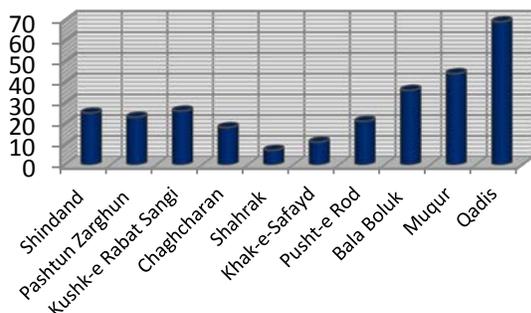
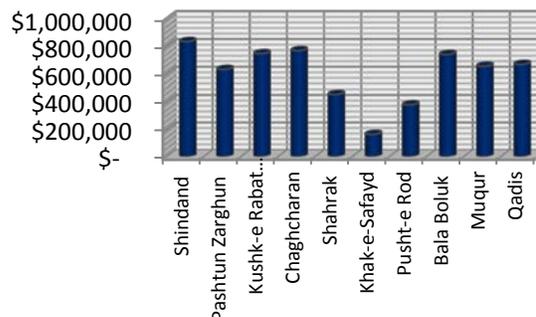


Chart 2: Value of grants approved per district as of March 31, 2014



GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

As part of the District Government Capacity Index (DGCI) survey, a third party organization, Tadbeer, has been contracted to implement the initial assessment. A four-day assessment training was provided to the assessment team from January 5th-8th. Topics included interview techniques, good governance and the purpose of the District Government Capacity Index. The DGCI assessment has been completed for all ten target districts. The assessment has been analyzed and District Governors will receive Strategic Planning, Management, Public Outreach, and Service Delivery trainings based on the assessment findings.

A meeting was held with the IDLG regional Coordinator on March 24th. Current and future capacity building activities were discussed. New mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of capacity building activities at the district level were sought. It was agreed upon to conduct a follow up meeting with the IDLG SIKA Unit Team in Kabul and review the SIKA-West capacity building action plan for the extension period. In addition, a meeting was held with the SIKA-South Capacity Building Department in Kabul on March 31st to standardize training materials and coordinate on common training approaches.

On March 26th, the SIKA-West Governance Department supported the Shindand District Municipality to complete their annual departmental work plan, which is focused on maintaining the cleanliness of the District Center and ensuring that public green areas are maintained. Further support will be provided to implement work plan activities.

Mr. Habibullah Karimi, the Manager of the Pashtun Zarghun District Legal Department, received one-on-one mentoring from the SIKA-West Governance personnel, to develop a departmental annual work plan which outlines the legal services provided to district residents on March 25th. The Governance Department will track these activities and provide support in the provision of these services.

CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

During the quarter, 83 training workshop and mentoring sessions were conducted at the district and provincial level. A total of 1,024 provincial and district residents (878 male, 150 female) were mentored in Conflict Resolution, CDC Project Management, Engineering, Stability Analysis Mechanism, District Stabilization Committee Facilitation & Organization, Work Plan Development, Communication Plan Activities, Women's Rights, and Gender Mainstreaming.

The Shindand District Governor received support and drafted his one-year communications plan. The communications plan is developed based on the IDLG Communications Strategy to create more effective communications in Shindand District. The plan will be shared with the IDLG for review and approval.

A five-day Advanced Communications training was provided for the IDLG spokespersons and DRRD communications focal points from the four target provinces on February 3rd. Topics included crisis communications management, interview techniques, communications plans, messaging, and press releases. The training provided a platform for the IDLG and DRRD to strengthen their communications.

Two SIKA-West staff conducted a look and learn visit to SIKA-North to share lessons learned and experiences from January 13th to 18th. SIKA-North presented an overview of their activities and strategies. The SIKA-West staff participated in a Stability Working Group meeting in Baghlan-e-Jadid District and later organized a meeting with the Baghlan District Governor. Following the SIKA-West information exchange visit to SIKA-North, a team from SIKA-North traveled to Herat on January 27th. An overview of SIKA-West activities and components was presented. The Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) was explained to SIKA-North. The mission ended on January 30th.

PROGRESS TOWARDS INTERMEDIATE RESULTS (IRS)

Intermediate Result-level indicators are established to measure performance of the main program interventions. All data was reviewed, centralized, and entered into the M&E Database.

IR1: Provincial and district entities increasingly address major problems and take measures to respond to the population's development and governance concerns.

During the quarter, in pursuit of Intermediate Result 1 (IR1), the District Government led 24 Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings with participation of 1,495 people (1,270 males, 225 females) in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e-Safayd, Qadis, Muqur, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, and Chaghcharan. Applying the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), the Komite Sobate Woleswali members planned 240 solutions against identified major problems in their communities.

Chart 4: Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting participants disaggregated by gender

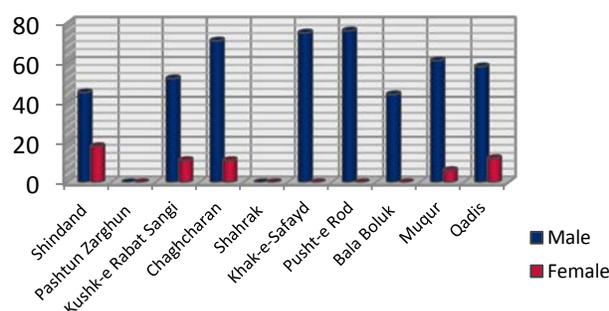


Table 1 – Stabilization Programming (IRI PMP Targets)

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	100	24	130
1.2	Increase in percentage of SIKA-West target districts where DEs use the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) methodology to identify and address major problems	100%	100%	0%	100% 10/10 Districts
1.3	Number of activities planned against major problems identified through SAM stabilization work sessions in SIKA-West districts	105	150	240	646
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	3,000	495	4,671
1.5	Number of activities which address identified major problems and included in a District Project Portfolio (DPP), which is approved by the DRRD	70	240	12	298
1.6	Number of target districts in which the SAM tool has been used to identify activities that mitigate major problems	7	10	9	10

IR2 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.

As of the reporting date, to enable the Provincial Authorities (PAs) and District Entities (DEs) to use the Service Provider Catalog (SPC) to identify possible sources of funding or support for program activities, 20 training workshops on SPC usage were held in the target districts. As a result of these trainings, 53 PAs and DEs are using the SPC.

The Badghis, Herat, and Ghor SPCs were approved by DRRD and IDLG and sent for publication. A dissemination plan was drafted by the SIKA-West Communications and Outreach Department. An

agreement was reached with the Herat DRRD to send an official letter to the governmental organizations to introduce one SPC focal point from each organization. An SPC Committee will be established which will be responsible for the SPC dissemination and revision.

Table 2 - IR2 PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
2.1	Number of DEs and PAs using the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC)	21	30	2	53
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	50	16	61
2.3	Number of major problems solutions that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the SPC	7	10	2	2
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	32,534	65100	119,450
2.5	Number of training workshops held on Service Provider Catalogue usage for District Entities	9	50	9	20

IR3: 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.

As of the reporting date, 15 communications plans have been developed and implemented by the District Entities (DEs) in the SIKA-West districts of operation. To build the capacity of the DEs to interact with citizens and/or government agencies, a total of 82 communications-related trainings were provided. As a result of these capacity building efforts, the DEs conducted 151 public outreach activities outlined in their communications plans.

Activities conducted as part of the first-round communications plans were successful in terms of sending out the information to district residents. The District Factsheets, complaint hotline, and SMS campaigns are examples of this effort. During the implementation of the first-round communications plans, the District Entities (DEs) were successful in encouraging residents to come to the District Government Office to share their concerns. A number of public meetings conducted under these plans are evidence to this claim.

Activities also increased residents' involvement in decision-making processes. Elders and influential people regularly participated in the meetings to advocate for the residents' needs and grievances.

Table 3 - IR3 PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
3.1	Percent increase in the number of regular meetings held between Provincial authorities and DEs	30%	30%	NTR	NTR
3.2	Percent increase in the district residents reporting that District Entities listen to their grievances	15%	15%	NTR	NTR
3.3	Number of PAs and DEs with a communications strategy or plan in place	9	8	15	15

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
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	16	46	151
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	80	7	82

IR4: 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.

To date, 280 grants valued at \$6,021,016 have been approved in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e Safayd, Qadis, Muqur, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, and Shindand Districts. Currently, CDCs are implementing 163 projects valued at \$3,936,041 in the target districts.

As of March, CDCs completed 98 grant projects valued at \$ 1,284,638 , including 22 projects in Bala Boluk, 13 projects in Pusht-e Rod, 5 projects in Chaghcharan, 14 projects in Muqur, 19 projects in Qadis, 5 projects in Shindand, 3 projects in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, and 13 projects in Pashtun Zarghun District (See chart 5). These grants activities created 33,586 person days of employment.

Chart 5: Number of grants projects completed per district as of March 31, 2014

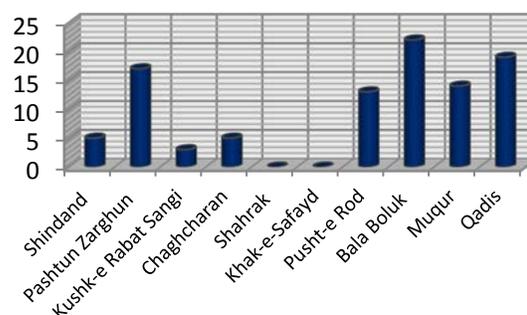


Table 4- IR4 PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against major problems	72	120	77	98 ²
4.2	Percentage of population in targeted districts reporting increased satisfaction with GIRoA basic services	15%	15%	NTR	NTR
4.3	Percent increase of district residents reporting basic services in target districts are delivered in a fair and transparent manner	25%	25%	NTR	NTR
4.4	Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions	9,000	46,800	21,537	33,586 ³
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	120	11	280 ⁴
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	216,000	700,000	56,728	602,101 ⁵

² This figure shows the number of grants activities that have been completed.

³ This figure is measured once the grant is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

⁴ This figure shows the number of grants activities with community contribution approved by USAID.

⁵ This figure shows the dollar value of grants activities with community contribution approved by USAID.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	Cumulative Total
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	120	12	72
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	9,600	51,588	63,256 ⁶

Gender Mainstreaming Unit

The Gender Department is responsible for the integration of gender across all program activities, targeting gender awareness initiatives and training programs, improving women's access to DEs, and creating space for female voices and participation.

To support the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) to celebrate International Women's Day, 32 banners and 2,000 brochures with gender and gender equality messages were distributed at the ceremonies organized by DoWA in Herat, Badghis, and Ghor Provinces.

The Herat, Ghor, and Badghis Gender Working Groups (GWGs) organized their monthly meetings to advocate for women's concerns. The Badghis GWG developed a proposal for a marketplace for women and submitted it to the Provincial Governor (PG). The PG pledged to follow up on this issue after the Presidential Election. The Herat GWG had discussions on finding job opportunities for vocational trainings graduates and providing support to women's councils at the district level. The participants recommended raising the religious leaders and parents' awareness on gender and gender mainstreaming, doing marketing assessment before conducting vocational trainings, and providing toolkits at the end of the trainings for the students. The Ghor GWG also reported residents' concerns to the Education Department about particular male teachers who were unqualified for their positions. The Education Department agreed to address these concerns as well as consider a previous request to include sports education in girls' schools. The Farah GWG discussed possible ways to find market and job opportunities for the vocational training graduates. The Farah DoWA took the lead to lobby and find a third party organization for financial resources and implementation. Another key component of the meeting was focused on the marketplace for women. The Provincial Governor asked the GWG to establish a registered Union and submit a formal request. The SIKA-West Gender Department will track these issues and provide further updates in the April monthly report.

Table 5- Gender PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Actual Q	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%	25%	7%	9.5%
7	Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/ programming	75%	75%	NTR	NTR
8	Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entities activities	27	36	19	136

⁶ This figure is measured once the training is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

PROVINCIAL & DISTRICT OVERVIEW

FARAH PROVINCE

On February 23rd, 10 projects, which included refurbishment of 77 water dividers in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts, were officially handed over to the Farah DRRD. More than 72 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs and media attended the event. “These water dividers will improve the irrigation systems,” said Mohammad Karim Kahn, a district resident.

To recognize the efforts of the Farah DRRD Director in coordinating activities with SIKA-West, an appreciation letter was given to Eng. Abdul Rauf on March 5th. The DRRD Director expressed his happiness and pledged to continue to support the program.

To support current efforts to utilize existing provincial and district government/non-government resources, mentoring was provided to the Farah DRRD SPC focal point on March 13th, which led to further updates of the provincial Service Provider Catalog (SPC).

BALA BOLUK DISTRICT

As part of the follow up activity to help the Bala Boluk District Kochi nomads to obtain National Identity Cards (Tazkara), the Kochi nomads’ representatives met with the Bala Boluk Tazkara Distribution Manager on January 9th. They also submitted a petition to the Provincial Governor to get his approval to transfer the Tazkara registration book to the district center. Advocacy training was provided to three Kochis nomads on January 27th to enable them to advocate for their rights. Following several meetings with district and provincial authorities to transfer the Tazkara registration book to the district center, the Provincial Governor approved and the Kochi nomads are now able to register at the district level. “We are happy that we are receiving Tazkara, now we can vote in the upcoming election,” stated one of the Kochis.

The Komite Sobate Wolesswali Bala Boluk meeting was held on February 25th. Mr. Ghulam Mohaideen, a DDA member, talked about the importance and impact of the Stability Program in bringing peace and stability. Following discussions on poverty and unemployment, the participants prioritized nine new solutions, including road and protection wall rehabilitation.

As of March, a total of 36 grants valued at \$738,094 have been approved in Bala Boluk District. Currently, CDCs are implementing 10 projects valued at \$214,544. To date, 22 grant projects valued



The Farah DRRD Director, the Bala Boluk and Pusht-E Rod Districts Officials Cut the Ribbon at the Project Completion Handover Ceremony on February 23rd.



A Recently Rehabilitated Water Divider in Haji Abad Village in Bala Boluk District.



Mr. Gul Mohammad, A Kochis in Bala Boluk District Displays his National Identity Card (Tazkara).

at \$372,573 have been completed. These projects included water divider, community center, and flood protection wall rehabilitation, and vocational trainings.

PUSHT-E ROD DISTRICT

During the quarter, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor led three Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings on January 23rd, February 23rd, and March 24th. The DG informed the participants that the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program has been extended, and asked the participants to propose solutions that will bring stability in the area and create job opportunities for the people. The Komite Sobate Woleswali members analyzed the previously identified major community problems, poverty and unemployment, and proposed road and flood protection wall rehabilitation projects as solutions.

The Komite Sobate Woleswali Pusht-e Rod meetings for women were held on January 30th and March 24th. The participants talked about the community's major problems, including lack of people's awareness about

Islamic rules and unemployment, and proposed to ask the *Ulema* and elders to talk about this issue during their sermons as a solution for the first problem, and to address unemployment they propose school rehabilitation, a bridge in front of the school, and road graveling projects. The Stabilization Department will share these issues at the next men's Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting.

On March 2nd, Mr. Ghawsuddin, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, organized two separate Anti-Corruption Dramas with support of the Herat Theater Office to raise awareness on the dangers of corruption and show citizens' responsibilities in combating it.

The Pusht-e Rod District Governor visited the work in-progress of the surrounding wall rehabilitation project in Massow village on February 2nd. "The district government office is always open for residents to hear their concerns," said the DG.

With support and coordination of the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, training on "Plant Pests" was provided to 15 farmers on February 11th. An expert from Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) presented the different ways to destroy the plant pests.

The Pusht-e Rod Youth Association's representatives organized a coordination meeting with the Farah Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) on January 2nd. The youth shared their concerns, including lack of job opportunities and lack of expert teachers. They also requested the



Anti-Corruption Drama Was Performed In Pusht-E Rod District To Raise Awareness Of People On The Dangers Of Corruption And Show Their Responsibilities In Combating Corruption On March 2nd.



Work Is Ongoing To Rehabilitate A 391-Meter Surrounding Wall For Mulla Mohammad Yaqub High School In Pusht-E Rod District.



Mr. Ghawsuddin, The Pusht-E Rod District Governor, Visited The Work In-Progress Of The Surrounding Wall Rehabilitation Project In Massow Village On February 2nd.

DPG to provide them office space to allow them to expand activities. The DPG appreciated the youth and pledged to follow up these issues. On January 26th, they met with the District Governor and shared their education concerns including lack of literacy programs, school buildings, and lack of professional teachers. The DG will facilitate a meeting with the Department of Education to share these concerns. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will track these issues and provide further updates.

As of March, a total of 21 grant projects valued at \$377,899 have been approved in Pusht-e Rod District. Currently, CDCs are implementing four projects valued at \$75,976. To date, 13 grants projects valued at \$117,751 have been completed. These projects included water divider rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

KHAK-E-SAFAYD DISTRICT

The Komite Sobate Woleswali Khak-e-Safayd meeting was held with participation of 75 people on February 19th. The District Governor requested the participants to propose solutions that bring stability in the community and provide job opportunities for the residents. Following the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training, the Komite Sobate Woleswali members proposed seven new solutions, including protection wall and road rehabilitation.

Public Speaking and Gender Mainstreaming training was provided to nine female Komite Sobate Woleswali members from Khak-e-Safayd District on January 12th. At the end of the training, the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) for women was established. The TCRC will receive further trainings to enable them to resolve the conflicts at the district levels.

On March 29th, as part of the District Government Hotline support, one-on-one mentoring was provided to Mr. Allah Dad, the Khak-e-Safayd Executive Manager, to assist in recording and responding to district citizens' calls.

As of March, a total of 11 grants valued at \$163,172 have been approved in Khak-e-Safayd District. Currently, CDCs are implementing 10 projects valued at \$156,431. These projects include road rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

To support the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) in celebrating International Women's Day, banners and brochures with gender and gender equality messages were distributed at the ceremony organized by DoWA in Badghis Province.

On March 30th, one-on-one mentoring was provided to the Badghis Provincial Spokesperson regarding the Qadis and Muqur district government Facebook pages. The Provincial Government Spokesperson requested that a Facebook page be created for the Badghis provincial government.

QADIS DISTRICT

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor held three Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings on January 27th, February 19th and March 25th. The participants reviewed the previously identified major problem, unemployment, and proposed road, culvert, water intake, and flood protection wall rehabilitation projects as solutions. In the last meeting, a request was made by Taht-e- Markaz CDC for a community hall in the district center. After filtering this request through the SAM criteria, the DG, in agreement with the other participants, decided that this request did not address significant community grievances and would not be included in their mitigation activity list.

On March 26th, the District Governor rang the Neswan High School's bell to start the new education year. More than 100 people attended, including government officials, *Ulema*, and women. The Education Manager delivered a speech about the achievements of government in this district's education sector. "If women were literate they could educate their children and we wouldn't have such miseries in our community," Mrs. Safia, School Principal, declared.

Three culvert rehabilitation projects in Sultan-ha, Omar Baik Ha, and Khalifa Ayaz in Qadis were officially handed over to the Badghis DRRD on March 9th.

The Qadis District Governor organized monthly coordination meetings with government staff on January 5th and February 26th. A number of issues were discussed, including the relocation of a public transportation station and ways to improve service delivery to the community. The second meeting focused on preparedness for the upcoming Presidential Election. The DG highlighted that no government authority is allowed to use government properties during the election period. The DG asked the security forces to be prepared for the Presidential Election.

A "Sapling Planting Day" was organized by the Qadis District Governor on March 22nd. As a result of the DG's leadership, Service Provider Catalog resources were obtained, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) provided 300 trees, World Vision provided 30 shovels and the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) provided three knapsack sprayers, all of which was distributed to 47 district farmers.

As of March, a total of 69 grants with a value of \$666,585 have been approved in Qadis. CDCs are implementing 48 projects valued at \$520,124. To date, 19 grants projects with a value of \$134,648 have been completed. These projects included culvert, road, and aqueduct rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

MUQR DISTRICT

An introductory meeting was held with Mr. Haji Abdul Hadi, the Muqr new District Governor on February 5th. The District Governor was briefed on the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program's components and achievements. The DG expressed his full support and asked SIKA-West to provide capacity building trainings for the district government staff.

The Muqr District Governor facilitated three Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings on January 28th, February 25th and March 26th. "These are the people who decide to live under fear or in a peaceful environment," said the DG. The participants reviewed the previously identified major problems, including poverty and unemployment. Following a lengthy



Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, The Qadis District Governor, Rang The Neswan High School's Bell To Start The New Education Year On March 26th.



Three Culvert Rehabilitation Projects In Sultan-Ha, Omar Baik Ha And Khalifa Ayaz In Qadis Were Officially Handed Over To The Badghis DRRD On March 9th.



With Support Of The Qadis District Governor (Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik) and Department Of Agriculture, Irrigation And Livestock (DAIL), More Than 300 Saplings Were Planted In Qadis District Center On March 22nd.

discussion, they proposed 13 new solutions. During the last meeting, a concern was raised by the Dahan Rigi CDC, whose grant funded project has been pending under vetting status for the past 6 months. The ADG acknowledged that this is a serious concern. SIKA-West is working on this issue with USAID.

Following the Advocacy and Concept Note trainings, the Qarghach and Zad Naser CDCs successfully developed a concept note for their pipe scheme project on February 10th. These CDCs submitted the concept note to the National Area Based Development Program (NABDP). The NABDP will send the concept note to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) for further consideration.

The Muqur District Governor organized a meeting with 22 representatives of the Afghan Civilian and Esalat Youth Associations on February 23rd. Youth shared their concerns including unemployment, illiteracy and illegal travel of some youth to neighboring countries. The DG pledged to improve the education services and asked the youth to cooperate with the district government.

For the first time, the Muqur District residents had the chance to meet with high ranking provincial authorities. On January 15th, the Muqur District Governor organized a meeting with participation of 111 people including the high-ranking provincial authorities, *Ulema*, and community elders. The Provincial Director of Education delivered speeches about the importance of education and peace in the community and asked the participants to support the Education Department to re-open the schools which were closed due to insecurity. *Ulema*'s representatives pledged to provide necessary support for the Education Department. The Director of Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) talked about the need to protect forest and natural resources and pledged to provide improved seeds for the farmers.

Monthly coordination meetings were led by the District Governor on January 12th and February 11th. Different issues were raised, including the use of expired food and medicines in the Bazaar and speeding of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA)'s vehicles in residential areas. As part of the follow up activities to address these issues, a traffic policeman has been hired to control the speed of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP)'s vehicles in residential areas. In addition, the DG with support of the police collected expired food and medicines from the Bazaars and destroyed them on January 26th. The second meeting focused on the absence of some staff at their duty stations. All participants agreed to be always present at their duty stations and to sign their attendance sheets at the start and end of each working day.

The Muqur District Governor representative along with the DRRD focal point visited the work progress of the road rehabilitation project in Kandi Ha village on March 16th. Mr. Bikzad, the DRRD focal point, asked the CDC to ensure that the project will be implemented according to the agreed technical specifications.

Five projects—10 culverts and one protection wall in Jakana, Jan Dosti, Zad Nasir, Neyazai Ha, and Qashlaq Naw villages in Muqur—were officially handed over to the Badghis DRRD on March 9th.



The Muqur District Governor Representative Along With The DRRD Focal Point Visited The Work Progress Of The Road Rehabilitation Project In Kandi Ha Village On March 16th.



Five Projects, 10 Culverts, And One Protection Wall In Muqur Were Officially Handed Over To The Badghis DRRD On March 9th.

Mr. Haji Abdul Hadi, the Muqur District Governor, held a meeting with 120 people, including the *Ulema*, the Provincial Director of Education Department, and the district government staff on March 2nd. The *Ulema* pledged to support the government to re-open the Chai Kapli, Kocho Hai Qal Zardak, Mohammadzai Mohammad Rasol, and Miranzai schools that were closed due to security concerns.

As of March, a total of 44 grants with a value of \$653,285 have been approved in Muqur District. Currently CDCs are implementing 29 projects valued at \$492,857. To date, 14 grants projects with a value of \$114,098 have been completed. These projects included culvert and road rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

HERAT PROVINCE

A coordination meeting was held with the DRRD partners on February 23rd. The meeting aimed to share lessons learned and experiences. An overview of the SIKA-West activities and achievements was presented. The DRRD Director pledged to support all the partners to implement their projects successfully.

The SIKA-West Chief of Party (COP) met with Aqa Mohammad Sediqi, the Herat DRRD Director, and Mr. Ghulam Sakhi Alami, the NABDP Regional Manager, on March 27th. A number of material resource requests were received from the Herat DRRD, which was referred to the MRRD SIKA Unit & USAID. An agreement was made to have the Herat NABDP Department begin reviewing SIKA-West DSC mitigation activities.

On March 31st, the Herat DRRD NABDP Department received the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis, and Muqur Komite Sobate Wolesswali feedback on district development needs. NABDP will review and provide feedback.

SHINDAND DISTRICT

Mr. Abdul Hamid Noor, the Shindand District Governor, conducted three Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings on January 20th, February 18th and March 16th. The CDCs asked SIKA-West to speed up the milestone payment process to complete their projects on time. The participants analyzed two major problems, poverty and unemployment and lack of education facilities. Following a lengthy discussion, they proposed 19 solutions, including school, flood protection wall, water divider, and road rehabilitation. Women participants actively contributed to the meeting and proposed school rehabilitation projects to create a better environment for female students.

An exhibition was organized by DoWA to celebrate International Women's Day in Herat Province on March 8th. With support of SIKA-West, a booth was allocated for the carpet weaving students from Shindand District to show their carpets to the visitors and find markets.

The Shindand District Governor visited the work in-progress of the road graveling project in Naw Abad village on January 22nd. When the DG's convoy was returning from the project site, Anti-Government Elements opened fire on the vehicles. During the Taliban ambush, the Shindand District Governor stood his ground, directing his staff to take wounded policemen to the closest medical center. In the first few minutes of the attack one ANP member was killed and two wounded. The DG instructed his staff to evacuate the ANP



With Support Of The SIKA-West, A Booth Was Allocated For The Carpet Weaving Students From Shindand District To Show Their Carpets To Visitors And Find Markets.



A Recently Rehabilitated 150-Meter Flood Protection Wall in Kariz Zanjer Village, Shindand District.

personnel and the SIKA-West staff, but stayed behind himself until all AGE forces were either killed or had left the area. The DG has always been a strong supporter of USAID projects which fund GIROA activities in rural communities, and his actions during the attack have proved his conviction to bringing stability to Shindand through improved government service delivery and engagement with the community.

As of March, a total of 25 grants valued at \$831,629 have been approved in Shindand District. Currently, CDCs are implementing 16 projects valued at \$532,500. To date, five grant projects valued at \$38,100 have been completed.

KUSHK RABAT-E SANGI DISTRICT

As part of the on-going anti-corruption campaign, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 60 district entities, *Ulema* and women on February 17th. The DG highlighted the role and responsibility of people in combating corruption. At the end of the meeting, an Anti-corruption Drama was performed. The drama aimed to raise awareness of district government staff on the dangers of corruption and highlight their responsibilities in combating corruption.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor organized three Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings on January 26th, February 24th and March 26th. A woman representative talked about the roles of women in community development and asked the Komite Sobate Woleswali members to give equal opportunities for them. The participants analyzed the previously identified major problems, poverty and unemployment, presence of insurgent groups, lack of education and poppy cultivation and proposed road, flood protection walls, school surrounding wall and school rehabilitation as solutions. The ADG asked the TCRC to be more active and assigned them to follow up on an old conflict between Tahiri and Jamshidi tribes over a pasture.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor held a meeting with 120 people, including government officials, *Ulema*, and community elders on January 15th. Speeches about the dangers of poppy cultivation and use were delivered by the Police Commander and *Ulema*. The community elders and *Arbabs* pledged to support the government in combating poppy cultivation.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor along with the Herat DRRD representatives and CDC members visited the work in progress of the protection wall refurbishment project in Rabat-e Sangi Sharqi village on January 19th. On January 22nd and 25th, the District Governor, the Executive Manager and the DRRD Social Workers visited the work in-progress of the road graveling projects in Birjanak Hulya, Shaltury, Nazam Khan villages and a flood protection wall in Rabat-e Sangi Sharqi village.

As of March, a total of 26 grants valued at \$744,362 have been approved in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District. Currently CDCs are implementing 21 projects valued at \$529,137. To date, three grant projects valued at \$143,191 have been completed. These projects included culvert, flood protection wall, and road rehabilitation.



The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor with support of the Herat Theater office organized an anti-corruption drama on February 9th.



Work Is Ongoing To Rehabilitate A 90-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Khalvak Village In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.

PASHTUN ZARGHUN DISTRICT

A project handover ceremony was held in Pashtun Zarghun District on March 5th. More than 100 people including high ranking provincial and district officials, CDCs, DDAs, influential people, and media attended. “Implementation of such projects in Pashtun Zarghun District is a great achievement for DRRD, District Government, and other stakeholders,” said Aqa Mohammad Sediqi, the Herat DRRD Director. Seven projects, which included rehabilitation of six protection walls and one culvert, were officially handed over to the Herat DRRD.



Seven Projects, Which Included Rehabilitation Of Six Protection Walls And One Culvert In Pashtun Zarghun District, Were Officially Handed Over To The Herat DRRD On March 5th.

The Pashtun Zarghun Deputy District Governor visited the work in-progress of the road rehabilitation project in Kushk Sirwan village on February 1st. This project was recently stopped due to conflict between an elder and CDC members. Following mediation between the conflicting parties, the CDC resumed the implementation of the project.

Mr. Rashid Wahidi, the Pashtun Zarghun Executive Manager, visited the work progress of the protection wall refurbishment project in Khoja-Ha village on February 9th. And on February 9th, Mr. Abdullah Nasrat, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Executive Manager, visited the work progress of the retaining wall refurbishment project in Khalawak Sofla village.



Mr. Rashid Wahidi, The Pashtun Zarghun Executive Manager, Visited The Work Progress Of The Protection Wall Refurbishment Project In Khoja-Ha Village

The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor visited the work in-progress of the retaining wall and culvert rehabilitation project in Salimi village on February 17th. The Salimi CDC completed the 100-m retaining wall and one culvert project in four months.

The Pashtun Zarghun District Chief of Police organized a meeting with 78 police, elders and *Arbabs* on January 27th. The Chief of Police expressed appreciation to the security forces for their hard work that led to the release of 63 Hello Trust Organization staff who were abducted recently. He also encouraged the elders to cooperate with the government to respond to such incidents quickly.

Mr. Rashid Wahidi, the Pashtun Zarghun Deputy District Governor and Mr. Farhad Raufian, the District Governor, facilitated two Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings on January 28th and March 2nd. The CDCs’ representatives complained about the delay of their milestone payment which resulted in slow implementation of the projects. Following discussion on the previously identified major problems, the participants proposed 14 new solutions including roads and flood protection walls rehabilitation.

On March 25th, with the support and coordination of the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, a Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women was established to address district familial conflicts. Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to both female DDA and CRC members to assist them in identifying and addressing these issues. Training topics included mediation method, negotiations skills, and conflict resolution techniques. Applying these techniques, the female CRC members will prioritize existing familial disputes and mediate between the conflicting parties on behalf of the District Government.

As of March, a total of 23 grants valued at \$626,945 have been approved in Pashtun Zarghun District. Currently, CDCs are implementing five projects valued at \$251,717. To date, 17 grant projects valued at \$295,788 have been completed. These projects included flood protection wall, culvert and school rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

GHOR PROVINCE

A meeting was held with the Ghor DRRD Director and the Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) on January 11th to discuss potential target districts in Ghor Province. The DRRD and DPG proposed the Dawlat Yar, Charsada and Du-Layna districts.

On January 22nd, a meeting was held with the Agency for Humanitarian and Development Assistance for Afghanistan (AHDAA), an organization which works in the risk reduction management field. The meeting aimed to discuss coordination with the organization to provide Risk Management training for Ghor government staff. A list of trainees will be submitted to AHDAA to develop training materials.

CHAGHCHARAN DISTRICT

A two-day training on “Women’s Rights” was provided to 31 women on March 12th and 13th. Topics included the definition of human rights, civil rights, harmful traditional practices, and basic human rights such as life, liberty, personal security, human dignity, freedom from torture, and accommodation. “I will share the information I learned with my family and friends,” said Ms. Biparwa, one of the participants.

On February 2nd, the Ghor Provincial Youth Association organized a meeting with 45 youths and students to emphasize the importance of peace in the community. Speeches about the importance of peace were delivered. “There won’t be peace and stability in the district without youth contribution,” said Malalai Ghori, a youth representatives.

On February 4th, 6th and 9th, the Youth Association successfully organized three separate Peace Dialogues with total participation of 90 youths (30 participants in each session) and the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members. Different peace-related topics were discussed and shared with the participants. Youth talked about the barriers in bringing peace and stability including lack of trust between the government and the tribal elders and administration corruption. The TCRC presented an update of their achievements to the youth. At the end of the dialogue, the participants pledged to support the TCRC and the government at the provincial and district level.

Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, sent an SMS to 140 people in Chaghcharan District on February 9th and 10th. The DPG informed the people that government was distributing wheat for drought affected families. SMS is proving to be a good approach in Chaghcharan to inform the residents about government activities.



“Women’s Rights” Training Was Provided To 31 Women In Ghor Province On March 12th And 13th.



Agricultural, Peace, Education And Anti-Corruption Factsheets Were Distributed To Residents Of Pouza Leach Hulya Village, Chaghcharan On March 30th.

Mr. Tookhi organized a meeting with 28 government staff to discuss good governance on February 12th. The DPG talked about low capacity of some government staff who were not hired based on their capacity and talent, but instead through connections. The Head of the Youth Association complained about corruption and said that qualified youth cannot join the government offices due to corruption. The DPG encouraged the media to raise people's awareness on the dangers of corruption.

The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG) conducted a TV interview with the Ghor Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) and a radio interview with the Adalaat Radio on February 26th. The DPG gave an overview of the government achievements in 2013 and future plans for development at the district and village level. "Approximately 1,260 projects including development, education, agriculture, security and good governance were implemented last year," said Mr. Tookhi, the DPG.

Mr., Mohammad Tookhi organized three Komite Sobate Woleswali on January 22nd, February 19th and March 20th. The participants emphasized the need for solutions that address unemployment and poverty in the community. Following a lengthy discussion, they proposed five solutions, including culverts and flood protection walls refurbishment. The women proposed to build a marketplace and install drinking water pipes. At the end of the meeting, the Education Department gave an appreciation letter to SIKA-West for the provision of education supplies to three high schools in Ghor Province.

The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized a live radio program to raise people's awareness about the Association's objectives, activities, and achievements on February 27th. During the 30-minute program, the Head of the Association gave a detailed presentation of the association and answered people's calls.

On February 18th, three projects, which included provision of education supplies for three high schools in Ghor Province, were handed over to the Ghor DRRD. More than 63 people including government representatives, CDCs, DDAs and media attended the event. The supplies included 600 student desks, 17 book shelves, 33 office desks, 96 chairs, four sets of furniture, eight desks for laboratory, 30 white boards, 50 meters Moquette, and two carpets.

Mr. Tookhi organized a meeting with 55 teachers and students to listen to their education concerns on January 28th. "Lack of professional teachers and low salary of



Mr. Amir Khan, A Resident In Chaghcharan Reads The SMS Received From The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor. The DPG Sent SMS To Inform Residents That The Government Was Distributing Wheat To Drought Affected Families.



Mr. Tookhi, The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (DPG), Received Support And Produced A Short Video Clip Delivering Anti-Corruption Messages And Encourages People To Support The Government In Combating Corruption On February 26th.



Education Supplies Were Provided To Three High Schools In Ghor Province On February 18th.

teachers are the main concerns,” said one of the teachers. A female teacher asked the DPG to facilitate extra-curriculum trainings for female students. The DPG informed the participants that Management, English, and Computer trainings will be provided to 60 women and asked them to participate in these trainings.

The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized an anti-poppy cultivation meeting with 40 farmers, youth and religious leaders on January 19th. “Poppy cultivation is forbidden in Islam, we are responsible for stopping poppy cultivation,” said a religious leader. *Ulema* pledged to raise the people’s awareness on the dangers of poppy and support the government to eradicate poppy cultivation.

The Youth Association organized a meeting with 37 farmers to raise their awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation on January 23rd. The youth representative informed the farmers that the government will destroy their fields if they grow poppy. A farmer requested the government to provide alternative crops especially apple and apricot.

The Youth Association organized a televised roundtable on the dangers of poppy cultivation and drug addiction with participation of a religious elder, Education Department and Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) on January 30th. The participants discussed topics on religious, social, and economic aspects. The roundtable was broadcast on the RTA.

In order to encourage local people to send their children to school, the Chaghcharan government staff organized a public meeting with 40 people, including *Ulema*, youth, and parents on March 18th. Speeches about the importance of education were delivered. *Ulema* pledged to encourage the people at their sermons to send their children to school.

As of March, a total of 18 grants valued at \$765,784 have been approved in Chaghcharan District. Currently CDCs are implementing 13 projects valued at \$709,494. To date, five grant projects valued at \$68,489 have been completed. These projects included culvert, road, and protection wall rehabilitation and school supplies.

SHAHRAK DISTRICT

To address the issue of the vacant position of a judge in Shahrak District, the Acting District Governor and two *Ulema* organized a meeting with Mr. Tookhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, on February 13th and submitted the agreement letter signed by the *Ulema* that they will support the government in providing security to the judge. Mr. Tookhi will organize a meeting with the high ranking provincial government staff and inform them that the people will provide security for the judge.

On February 16th, the district entities from Shahrak District, including the Executive Manager, the Chief of Police and a representative from the Health Office, gave an overview of available services that can be accessed to the 34 farmers invited. “This is our responsibility to inform the residents about the government services and help them access these services,” said the Executive Manager.



Teachers And Students Share Their Education Concerns At The Public Meeting On January 28th.



Government Staff In Shahrak District Informed Farmers About The Available Government Services On February 16th.

A Peace meeting was held in Shahrak District with participation of 40 influential people, including government officials, *Ulema*, and elders on January 7th. *Ulema*, government staff, and youth delivered speeches about the importance of peace and unity in the community. “We want the *Ulema* to actively take part in the tribal conflict resolution activities,” said an influential elder.

On January 19th, Mr. Shahpasan Pahlavi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor (ADG) held a public meeting with 41 *Ulema*, teachers, and community elders to highlight the importance of education and encourage the people to send their children to school. An opportunity was given to the teachers to share their education concerns. The *Ulema* pledged to support the government to re-open the schools that are closed due to insecurity.

The ADG organized a meeting with 30 youths to talk about the importance of peace, unity, and stability in the community on January 15th. The youth requested the ADG to support them to establish a youth association in Shahrak District. The ADG will support the youth to establish the association. The youth wrote an agreement stating they will reinforce peace and stability, raise people’s awareness on the dangers of tribal conflicts, and encourage other youth to continue their education.

The ADG held an informative meeting with 36 *Ulema*, influential people, and farmers on January 22nd. The meeting aimed to raise the people’s awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation. “There are many addicts in the district, the only solution to combat this crisis is to cooperate with the government and raise people’s awareness on the dangers of poppy cultivation and use,” one of the elders. A farmer requested the government to provide alternative crops and improved seeds for the farmers.

ADG held a meeting with 32 *Ulema* and community elders to address the issue of the vacant position of a judge in the district on January 29th. The Shahrak district has not had a judge for almost five years due to security concerns. The ADG requested the *Ulema* to support the government to send a judge to this district. The *Ulema* and elders wrote an agreement and petition to the Provincial governor and pledged to support the government. A meeting will be held with the Provincial Governor and this issue will be shared with him.

The ADG organized monthly coordination meetings with district line departments on March 26th. A key update was provided to the line departments by the Chief of Police (Abdullah Lalzad), which included information on the ANSF’s arrival to the district and a request from the District Office to provide accommodation. The Acting DG also expressed his concern with the absence of line department heads during monthly coordination meetings and wanted to see attendance improve.

As of March, a total of seven grants valued at \$453,261 have been approved in Shahrak District. Currently, CDCs are implementing seven projects valued at \$453,261. These projects included road, culvert, and flood protection wall rehabilitation.

CHALLENGES

Due to security concerns and the recent Taliban attack in Bala Boluk, the District Governor and SIKA-West postponed the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting which was scheduled for March 26th. The DG recommended holding the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting after the Presidential Election.

There are still concerns about spring flooding in Shindand District, which is delaying the launch of a number of rehabilitation activities. Expectations are that flood waters will have receded by April 15, 2014.

Due to the Presidential Election, district and provincial travel was reduced and the SIKA-West HQ and PST offices were closed from April 3rd to 6th. The DST offices were closed from April 1st to 6th.

LESSONS LEARNED

For Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings to be more effective, a new approach has been set up for types and number of participants at the meetings. At the previous Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings the number of observers was increased which made it difficult for the facilitators to control the meeting and run it based on the agenda. Most of the observers were not familiar with the Stability Program and the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) process; therefore, they brought up irrelevant issues at these meetings. To address this issue, the District Governors now invite specific participants who always attend the meetings.

Inter-Districts coordination and cooperation proved the key for successful implementation of the projects, meetings and conflict resolution. The Bala Boluk District Governor participated at the Komite Sobate Woleswali Pusht-e Rod meeting and shared his experiences on how they identify major problems and how they implement their projects successfully. The Bala Boluk DG observed how participants run the meeting and implement their projects. He will deliver these experiences to the Komite Sobate Woleswali Bala Boluk members.

Building linkage between the district residents and the provincial authorities proved a key to address the district residents' challenges and concerns. The Bala Boluk Kochi nomads were having problems of lack of National Identity Card (Tazkara). The Kochi nomads met with the provincial authorities to transfer the Tazkara registration book to the district center, the Provincial Governor approved and the Kochi nomads are now able to register at the district level.

In order to address high rates of illiteracy amongst CDC laborers, the Community Development Department is re-emphasizing practical examples and on-the-job mentoring as part of the DRRD/District Government led technical training.

To improve the effectiveness of the District Government led Komite Sobate Woleswali, the Stabilization Department is working with District Government partners to adopt MISTI recommended terminology, Sources of Instability are now referred to as "Major Problems", Root Causes as "Reasons," and Mitigation Activity as "Solution."

The Community Development Technicians observed that the CDCs in Shindand District don't have the required technical capacity to implement the 'Super Passage Construction' project in this district. This project needs technical expertise and machineries. Therefore, a third party company will be contracted for such projects. The CDCs will be involved in the bidding process, as well as monitoring.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The District Government Staff and the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) conducted 40 monitoring visits. The M&E Department organized 339 monitoring visits covering different interventions including Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings, communications-related and capacity building trainings and projects in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces.

The Community Development Technicians conducted a total of 92 project site inspections in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Qadis, and Muqur Districts. As a result of the deficiencies observed by the Technicians, Project Technical trainings were designed and provided to the foremen and supervisors of the CDCs.

DELIVERABLES

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

- January, February and March 2014 Monthly
- Weekly Reports

ANNEX A: SIKA-WEST GRANT SUMMARY

#	Province	District	Under Development		Vetting To USAID		Grant Approved		Grant On-going				Grant Complete	
			#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	Hard	Soft	\$	#	\$
1	Farah	Bala Boluk	5	\$233,495	2	\$110,000	36	\$738,094	10	9	1	\$214,544	22	\$372,573
2		Pusht-E Rod	7	\$379,505	3	\$183,000	21	\$377,899	4	4	0	\$75,976	13	\$117,751
3		Khak-E Safed	5	\$367,000	1	\$98,000	11	\$163,172	10	1	9	\$156,431	0	\$0
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	5	\$239,440	1	\$34,000	23	\$626,945	5	5	0	\$251,717	17	\$295,788
5		Shindand	4	\$260,879	0	\$0	25	\$831,629	16	16	0	\$532,500	5	\$38,100
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi	1	\$65,284	1	\$65,285	26	\$744,362	21	14	7	\$529,137	3	\$143,191
7	Ghor	Chaghcharan	0	\$0	0	\$0	18	\$765,784	13	13	0	\$709,494	5	\$68,489
8		Shahrak	0	\$0	0	\$0	7	\$453,261	7	7	0	\$453,261	0	\$0
9	Badghis	Qadis	1	\$74,000	1	\$74,000	69	\$666,585	48	34	14	\$520,124	19	\$134,648
10		Muqur	1	\$45,463	1	\$45,463	44	\$653,285	29	29	0	\$492,857	14	\$114,098
			29	\$1,665,066	10	\$609,748	280	\$6,021,016	163	132	31	\$3,936,041	98	\$1,284,638

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