



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
APRIL 2014



Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, The Muqur District Governor, Organized A Hashar, A Public Voluntary Scheme, To Clean An Irrigation Canal In Zad Naser Village On April 22nd.

MAY 12, 2014

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

MONTHLY REPORT
APRIL 2014

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

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.

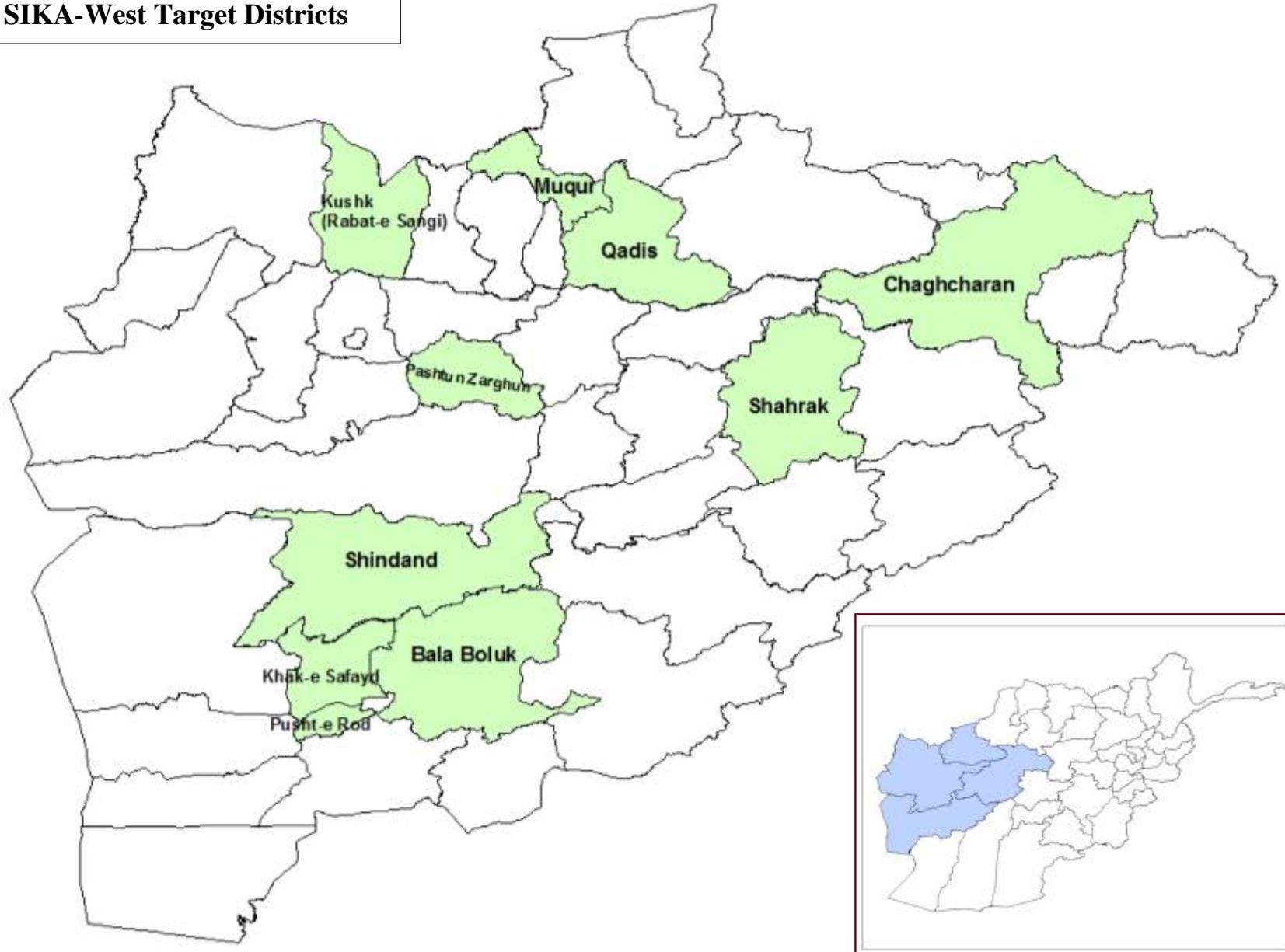
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms	ii
Introduction	1
Executive Summary	1
Stabilization Programming	1
Communications Programming	2
Community Development Programming	3
Governance Programming	3
Cross-Cutting Capacity Building Highlights	4
Progress towards intermediate results (IRs)	6
Gender Mainstreaming Unit	9
Provincial & District Overview	10
Farah province	11
Badghis province	12
Herat province.....	13
Ghor province	14
Challenges	14
Lessons Learned	14
Monitoring and Evaluation	15
Deliverables	15
Annex A: SIKA-West Grant Summary	16

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 Initiatives
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
OSC	Overseas Strategic Consulting
PST	Provincial Support Team
SAM	Stability Analysis Mechanism
SIKA	Stability in Key Areas
TOT	Training of Trainers
CPOD	Communications and Public Outreach Department
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 month of April, 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, eight GIRoA led Komite Sobate Wolesswali¹ (District Stabilization Committee) meetings were held in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis, Muqur, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Chaghcharan Districts. Participants 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 Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings provided an opportunity to identify and discuss a range of district community “major problems,” including seasonal floods, unemployment, water disputes, and illiteracy, followed by prioritizing “solutions” which may be addressed by available government resources including road, flood protection walls, and community center rehabilitation and water pump installation in Pusht-e Rod and Bala Boluk Districts, in addition to grant funded activities, such as irrigation canals, flood protection walls, and school and road rehabilitation.

In addition, to provide a platform for women in culturally sensitive districts to share their concerns and advocate for their needs, the Khak-e-Safayd, Bala Boluk, and Pusht-e Rod Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings for women were held separately on April 15th, 16th, and 19th. The women identified unemployment, lack of education, and insecurity as community major problems and proposed to renovate a girl’s school in Massow village.

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

- The Pashtun Zarghun TCRC addressed a conflict in Manzel and Golmir villages on April 9th. This conflict started five months ago when Mr. Jalaledin’s daughter from Golmir village died. Mr.

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

Jalaledin accused her daughter's husband of having a hand in his daughter's death. The TCRC mediated between the conflicting parties and eventually Mr. Jalaledin accepted that there was a misunderstanding and that his daughter's husband was innocent.

- The Khak-e-Safayd TCRC addressed a conflict between two farmers, Abdul Basir and Abdul Mutaleb from Korqand village on April 10th. The two farmers were unable to agree on a shared schedule to draw irrigation water from the village canal. Each one accused the other of using more than their allotted amount. The TCRC stepped in to mediate and over a day long discussion were able to obtain an acknowledgement from the farmers that the water was not being equally shared and that both would hold to an agreement which ensured they would both receive equal amounts.
- The Qadis TCRC addressed a conflict between Mr. Raees Shah Mohammad and Mr. Hamidullah, two tribal leaders from the Boyaha Cluster over a public pasture in Qadis District. A member of Raees Shah Mohammad's family prevented Hamidullah from using the public pasture and threatened him. The Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, with the cooperation of the TCRC, invited the conflicting parties for a mediation session on April 27th. After a three-hour discussion, Raees Shah Mohammad agreed to allow Hamidullah and other farmers to use the pasture. In addition the TCRC were also able to convince Raees Shah Mohammad's nephew, who is currently linked to the AGE, to join the peace process. The conflict identification and mediation were led by both the Qadis District Governor and the District TCRC.
- The Chaghcharan CRC resolved an old family dispute between a brother and sister in Qutur village on April 12th. The CRC organized separate meetings with both conflicting parties and listened to their complaints. The CRC invited the conflicting parties and their family members to a joint meeting for mediation. After three hours, the conflict was resolved peacefully.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMING

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

- Mr. Mohammad Ali Kaihan, the Qadis District Admin & Finance Officer, along with the DDA and CDC members, visited the work progress of the culvert rehabilitation project in Khordak village on April 16th. Mr. Kaihan was pleased with the work quality and progress and asked the CDC to continue their work based on the project specifications.
- Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the Muqur District Executive Manager (DEM), organized the monthly coordination meeting with the high ranking district government officials on April 15th. A recent complaint by the residents from the Comprehensive Health Clinic (CHC), claiming that the CHC didn't distribute food items equally, was shared with the participants. On April 22nd, in response to this concern, an agreement was made between the CHC and the District Government Office that a governmental staff should be present when CHC distributes food items.
- Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, the Muqur District Governor, organized a *Hashar*, a public voluntary scheme, to clean an irrigation canal in Zad Naser village on April 22nd. A total of 64 farmers cleaned the irrigation canal. "Hashar is a symbol of unity, we ourselves should work for the development of our community," stated Mr. Obaidullah, the District Chief of Police.
- Mr. Sayed Mohammad, the Bala Boluk District Governor, in-line with his communications plan, organized a monthly coordination meeting with the district line-departments managers on April 13th. A key concern from this meeting was raised by Mr. Abdullah (Income Manager) who requested District Government support when collecting taxes from district businesses. In response to this request, the District Governor will arrange that support be provided by the security and judicial departments.

- Mr. Ghawsuddin, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor, conducted his monthly coordination meeting with the district line-departments on April 23rd. Mr. Habibullah, the Education Manager, expressed appreciation for the district Youth Association’s efforts to share their education concerns and informed line departments that six new teachers have been hired in response to their request. Another concern, lack of pesticides for farmers, was raised by Mr. Sayed Ahmad, the Agriculture Manager. The DG will follow up on this request with the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL).

Interviewing Techniques training was provided to Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, the Shindand District Governor, and Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, to support them to speak on the Herat Radio & Television of Afghanistan (RTA) and discuss the effects of the District Government Communications Plan. Following this training, the District Governors, attended a 30-minute television round table at the RTA on April 15th. “The Communications Plan improved communication between the government and residents. Now people are referring to the government more and this shows that they trust the government,” said Mr. Noor.

The Herat DRRD Service Providers Catalog (SPC) Focal Point, Mr. Ghulam Saeed Khaze, officially established the SPC Committee on April 22nd. The committee consists of representatives of 36 governmental organizations including the DRRD, the Education Department, Economy Department, and Herat University. A total of 270 SPCs were distributed to the committee. The Committee will use the SPC to provide information to the people about available services.

On April 21st, Mr. Abdul Raouf, the Farah DRRD Director, led the SPC distribution. The CDCs were briefed on the importance and usages of the SPC and 215 copies were distributed to 43 CDCs from Dar Abad Bala and Paen, Korgh Zard, Naw Deh, Barantot, and other surrounding villages.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date, 285 grants valued at \$6,367,306 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, 138 grants projects valued at \$1,825,277 were completed. Currently CDCs are implementing 125 projects valued at \$3,637,163 in the target districts.

Chart 1: Number of grants approved per district as of April 30, 2014

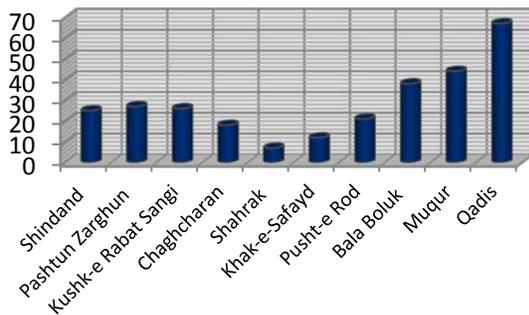
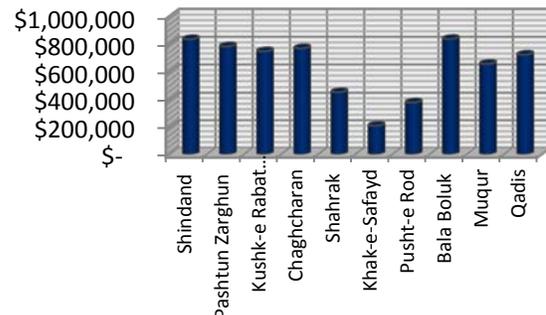


Chart 2: Value of grants approved per district as of April 30, 2014



GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

The MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West Governance Manager participated in a two-day workshop with the IDLG SIKA Unit in Kabul from April 8th-10th. The SIKA West District Governance Capacity Index and IDLG Capacity Building Thematic Guidelines were reviewed and used to create an 18 month District

Government Capacity Building Work Plan. This plan was focused on enhancing the capacities of district governments to improve current service delivery and was finalized and approved by IDLG.

During the month, the SIKA-West Governance Department mentored government personnel on improved filing techniques. The SIKA-West Governance Department will monitor these new systems and provide further support where required.

As requested by the District Governor, Report Writing Skills training was provided to Mr. Rashed Waheedi, the Pashtun Zarghun District Executive Manager, on April 20th. The DEM is responsible for the district government weekly report.

The Muqur District Social Worker (DSW), Mr. Besmellah Waher, was mentored by the SIKA-West Governance Officer on how to improve his monthly reporting. Besmellah developed and finalized his monthly report and submitted it to the Badghis DRRD office on April 22nd.

The Governance Department worked with Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mohammadi, Shindand District Administrative Manager, and Mr. Abdul Basir Mansoori, Land & Property Deputy Manager of Municipality Department, on April 27th to improve their abilities to write official government letters.

CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

During April, 47 training workshop and mentoring sessions were conducted at the district and provincial levels. A total of 456 provincial and district residents (409 male, 47 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.

SIKA-West Stabilization personnel participated in the "South IR1 Governance & Stability TOT" workshop hosted by SIKA-South in Kabul on April 26th. Topics included the Capacity Score Index, and District Entity Engagement Profile Scores as indicators for reviewing capacities and level of engagement of district government and entities. This material will be applied to SIKA-West programming activities.



Mr. Mohammad Ali Kaihan, The Qadis District Admin & Finance Officer, Along With The DDA And CDC Members Visited The Work Progress Of The Culvert Rehabilitation Project In Khordak Village On April 16th.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS INTERMEDIATE
RESULTS (IRs)**

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 April, in pursuit of Intermediate Result 1(IR1), the District Government led 11 (8 for men and 3 for women) Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings with participation of 526 people (433 males, 93 females) in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Muqur, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, and Chaghcharan. Applying the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), the Komite Sobate Woleswali members planned 20 solutions against identified major problems in their communities.

Chart 4: DSC meeting participants disaggregated by gender

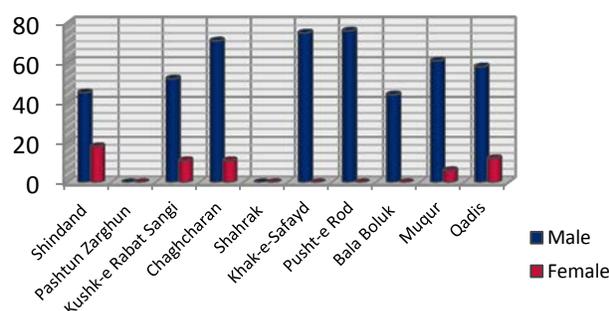


Table 1 – Stabilization Programming (IRI PMP Targets)

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	April 2014	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	100	11	138
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	20	666
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	3,000	176	4,831
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	5	303
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 to identify possible sources of funding or support for program activities, 28 training workshops on SPC usage were held in the target districts. As a result of these trainings, 174 PAs and DEs are using the SPC.

Following the Concept Note and Advocacy training provided to Aqa Jani CDC in Shahrak District, the CDC developed a concept note for the protection wall construction project and submitted it to the Afghan Aid Organization (AAO) for financial support on April 16th. The AAO will share the concept note with their main office in Kabul. The CPOD will also provide support to this CDC to submit their concept note to the organizations at the provincial level.

Table 2 - IR2 PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	April 2014	Cumulative Total
2.1	Number of DEs and PAs using the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC)	21	30	121	174
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	17	78
2.3	Number of major problems solutions that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the SPC	7	10	0	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	396,370	515,820
2.5	Number of training workshops held on Service Provider Catalogue usage for District Entities	9	50	8	28

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 were 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 85 communication-related trainings were provided. As a result of these capacity building efforts, the DEs conducted 165 public outreach activities outlined in their communications plans.

The Qadis, Bala Boluk, and Pashtun Zarghun District Governors developed their second-round communications plans on April 13th, 20th, and 27th. The activities included public meetings, awareness raising campaigns, celebrating International Peace Day, etc. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will share the plan with IDLG for the review and approval.

Table 3 - IR3 PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	April 2014	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	3	18
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	14	165
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	80	3	85

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, 285 grants valued at \$6,367,306 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 125 projects valued at \$3,637,163 in the target districts.

As of April, CDCs completed 138 grant projects valued at \$ 1,825,277 , including 24 projects in Bala Boluk, 14 projects in Pusht-e Rod, five projects in Chaghcharan, 20 projects in Muqur, 31 projects in Qadis, five projects in Shindand, 13 projects in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, and 19 projects in Pashtun Zarghun and seven projects in Khak-e-Safayd District (See chart 5). These grants activities created 51,035 person days of employment.

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

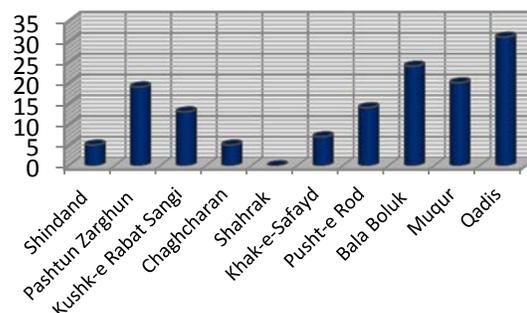


Table 4- IR4 PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	April 2014	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against major problems	72	120	41	138 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	17,449	51,035 ³
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	120	12	285 ⁴
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	216,000	700,000	10,617	636,730 ⁵
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	120	18	72
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	9,600	24,506	87,762 ⁶

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.

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.

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.

The Farah Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) hosted the Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting on April 14th. In response to the vocational and literacy trainings requested at the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting, the 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 Mainstreaming Unit will track this issue.

The Ghor GWG successfully advocated including sports education in girl's schools. Girl's schools in Chaghcharan previously lacked sports education in their curriculum, as well as lacking sports facilities. The GWG organized a meeting with Mr. Sebqatulla Akbari, the Education Director, on March 25th. The Education Director showed interest and appreciated the GWG efforts in assisting female students and agreed to include sports education in girl's schools and employ qualified female teachers. Follow up meetings were held on April 16th and 20th. Finally, the Education Department included sports education in the girl's schools and provided land for sports facilities in Khadija Tul Kobra, Lisa Neswan Dara Haji, and Sultan Razia schools.

The Herat GWG meeting was held on April 16th. The National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) and Welfare and Development Organization for Afghanistan (WDOA) showed interest and pledged to provide vocational and literacy trainings for women in Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts. In addition, the SIKA-West Governance Department will provide Work Plan Development and Report Writing trainings for women's councils in both district and provincial centers in Herat.

Table 5- Gender PMP Targets

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	April 2014	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%	11%	9%
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	1	137



On April 15th, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, The Shindand District Governor, And Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, The Qadis District Governor, Attended A 30-Minute Television Round Table At The RTA And Spoke About The Effects Of The District Government Communications Plan.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GOVERNANCE & DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

PROVINCIAL & DISTRICT OVERVIEW

FARAH PROVINCE

In response to the Farah Provincial Youth Association's recent establishment of an independent "Youth Radio Station" in Farah Provincial Center, the Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will facilitate a two-week Advanced Media Training workshop for 25 youths from Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, and Khak-e-Safayd. The workshop, which begins on May 18th, will support these youth to improve their programming content.

BALA BOLUK DISTRICT

Mr. Sayed Mohammad, the District Governor, facilitated the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on April 22nd. Leading female members requested that they be provided with advocacy training to find financial resources from third party organizations for district development needs. The SIKA-West CPOD will follow up on this request.

As of April, a total of 38 grants valued at \$833,254 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing nine projects valued at \$198,355. To date, 24 grant projects valued at \$419,257 have been completed. These projects included water divider, community center, and flood protection wall rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

PUSHT-E ROD DISTRICT

Stabilization Practices training was provided to 12 members of Bagh-e Barjan, Zir Jooy, Sarkala Doken, and Kababi Payeen CDCs in Pusht-e Rod District on April 17th. The CDCs analyzed each of the major problems (poverty & unemployment and water dispute), and solutions (roads and flood protection walls rehabilitation) identified in the last Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings.

Mr. Ghawsuddin, the District Governor, held the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on April 23rd. Recently, a request was made by the Provincial Governor to use the Pusht-e Rod allocated budget and construct a dam in Khogyani village in the Farah Center. The Komite Sobate Woleswali members did not accept this request and mentioned that their needs are more important and they will use their budget to address the district community problems first.

As of April, a total of 21 grant projects valued at \$377,899 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing four projects valued at \$156,050. To date, 14 grants projects valued at \$126,564 have been completed. These projects included water divider rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

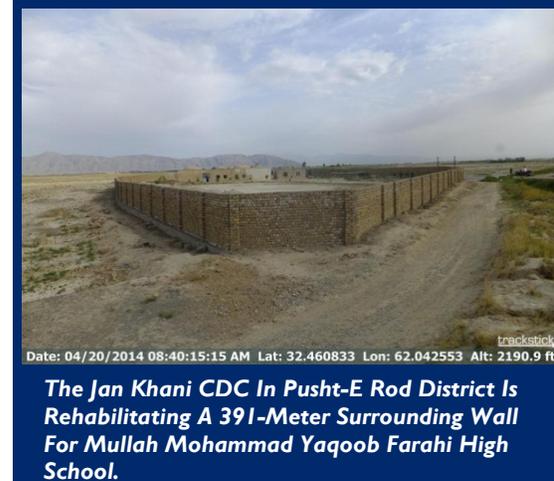
KHAK-E-SAFAYD DISTRICT

The SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Director held a coordination meeting with Mr. Abdul Khaliq the District Governor on April 14th. The DG was pleased with the current support provided to improve communications between the district and provincial governments but requested that District Governors/Provincial Governor coordination meetings be held monthly instead of quarterly. The CPOD is working to address this request.

As of April, a total of 12 grants valued at \$208,720 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing four projects valued at \$156,935. These projects include road rehabilitation and vocational trainings. To date, seven grants projects valued at \$45,044 have been completed.



Mr. Haji Faiz Mohammad, Kariz Haji Wakil CDC Head, Receiving A Copy Of The Farah Service Providers Catalog (SPC) On April 21st.



The Jan Khani CDC In Pusht-E Rod District Is Rehabilitating A 391-Meter Surrounding Wall For Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Farahi High School.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

The PST monthly work plans were approved by DRRD and the DSTs' plans approved by the District Governors. The Key activities are preparation for the DSC meetings, Project Management trainings, and Project Site Visits.

QADIS DISTRICT

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the District Governor, facilitated the Komite Sobate Woleswali on April 22nd. Four CDCs—Naw Abad Tahte Markaz, Kayqobad, Zanborak, and Mohajirin—could not start their culvert rehabilitation projects due to security concerns. These CDCs pledged to provide a grantee letter to ensure security for the technicians. Unfortunately, only Mohajirin CDC could provide the grantee letter and the other projects were canceled by the District Governor. New major problems including lack of irrigation water was identified by the participants. Following a lengthy discussion, the participants proposed irrigation canal rehabilitation projects as solutions, among others.

As of April, a total of 67 grants with a value of \$719,548 have been approved. CDCs are implementing 33 projects valued at \$437,189. To date, 31 grants projects with a value of \$196,574 have been completed. These projects included culvert, road, and aqueduct rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

MUQUR DISTRICT

The Muqur District Governor held the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on April 23rd. The participants were informed that the Dahane Rigi CDC (3-Km road rehabilitation project) was rejected by the USAID Vetting Unit. The Komite Sobate Woleswali members introduced the Lodin Baloocha and Mohammad Zai Herati CDCs as new implementers. The participants discussed a major problem, seasonal floods, and identified flood protection walls and irrigation canals rehabilitation as solutions.

Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the District Executive Manager (DEM), along with the DRRD DSW and CDC members, visited the work progress of the road rehabilitation project in Jahan Dosti village on April 16th. The community residents asked the district government to rehabilitate the irrigation canal that was destroyed recently due to heavy flooding. Mr. Azimi pledged to share this request with the District Governor and the provincial authorities for support. The SIKA-West CPOD will coordinate with the Stabilization Programing Department to invite the respective CDC to the upcoming Komite Sobate Woleswali to share their concerns.

As of April, a total of 44 grants with a value of \$653,285 have been approved. Currently CDCs are implementing 23 projects valued at \$343,668. To date, 20 grants projects with a value of \$263,287 have been completed. These projects included culvert and road rehabilitation and vocational trainings.



The Mohammad Zai Mullah Khil Qarbandi CDC Rehabilitated A 1.15-Km Road And One Culvert In Muqur District.



Mr. Raees Shah Mohammad (left side) and Mr. Hamidullah (right side) embraced and ended their conflict in Qadis on April 27th.



Mr. Abdul Rahman, The Qadis DSW, Visited The Work Progress Of Culverts Rehabilitation In Haji Abdulla Village, Qadis On April 21st.

HERAT PROVINCE

On April 24th, a bi-weekly coordination meeting was conducted between SIKA-West COP and DRRD Director, Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi. The COP provided an update on some of the requests by DRRD as well as general program activities. The meeting concluded with the DRRD Director requesting the COP to attend at least one of the DRRD Programs Monthly Coordination Meetings in order to share information about some of the SIKA-West activities as well as to be introduced to other DRRD Programs Heads.

SHINDAND DISTRICT

Stabilization Practices training was provided to the Shindand Komite Sobate Woleswali members on April 19th. Consequently, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, the District Governor, led the meeting on April 21st. A dispute between Dolourg CDC and Rebat Rod, Deh Mirza Qasem, Chishma, and Khaja Nooh CDCs was raised. The five opposing CDCs complained that the Dolourg CDC is not qualified to implement the 4-KM road rehabilitation. The District Governor advised the opposing CDCs to let the Dolourg CDC implement the project and they directly monitor the project implementation and quality. A week's time was given to come up with a final decision or he will cancel the project. The SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department will track this issue and provide further updates.

As of April, a total of 25 grants valued at \$831,629 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 18 projects valued at \$630,190. To date, five grant projects valued at \$38,250 have been completed.

KUSHK RABAT-E SANGI DISTRICT

Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, the District Governor, conducted the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on April 23rd. The meeting focused on addressing the Khola Murgh Sofla CDC's concern for water intake rehabilitation project, which was recently put on hold. The cashier of this CDC was arrested by police, accusing him of having a hand in the death of a person in his village. The DG assigned the TCRC to follow up this issue and alternatively asked the CDC to elect another cashier if the TCRC fails to address and resolve this problem.

As of April, a total of 26 grants valued at \$744,362 have been approved. Currently CDCs are implementing 11 projects valued at \$358,985. To date, 13 grant projects valued at \$313,343 have been completed. These projects included culvert, flood protection wall, and road rehabilitation.

PASHTUN ZARGHUN DISTRICT

The Intra-District Komite Sobate Woleswali was held with collaboration of Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor and Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor, at the Pashtun Zarghun District Center on April 15th to share views on district stabilization programming and learn from each other's approaches as lead facilitators. An issue was raised by Siagar CDC about a pipe scheme project funded by MRRD/National Solidarity Program (NSP) in their village 10 years ago. The CDC claimed that with the allocated budget, they could only complete 50% of the project. The participants identified lack of government basic



Date: [10-April-2014 10:09:46 AM]
Mr. Mowlai Ahmad, The Pashtun Zarghun Haj And Religious Affairs Manager, Organizing Government Files Based On A New "Filing System" Techniques To File His Documents.



Lat: [34.262022° N]; Long: [62.474397° E]; Alt: [1011.5 m]; Date: [12-April-2014 12:19:14 PM]
A Recently Rehabilitated 48-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Qazaq Sofla Village, Pashtun Zarghun District.



Date: 04/15/2014 11:02:19:13 AM Lat: 34.231060 Lon: 62.675413 Alt: 3623.0 FT
Mr. Farhad Raufian, The Pashtun Zarghun District Governor (Left Side) And Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, The Qadis District Governor (Right Side), Jointly Held An Intra-District Komite Sobate Woleswali Meeting In Pashtun Zarghun District Center On April 15th.

services as a major community problem and proposed completion of the pipe scheme project as a solution.

As of April, a total of 27 grants valued at \$779,564 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing three projects valued at \$193,036. To date, 19 grant projects valued at \$354,469 have been completed. These projects included flood protection wall, culvert and school rehabilitation and vocational trainings.

GHOR PROVINCE

CHAGHCHARAN DISTRICT

Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, the Ghor DRRD Director, facilitated the Komite Sobate Woleswali Chaghcharan meeting on April 23rd. An update of the status of the projects was provided to the participants. The Pozalich CDC members emphasized the importance of a bridge construction over Hari-road and asked the District Government to conduct a feasibility study for this project. The SIKA-West Community Development officer will conduct the feasibility study on May 4th.

As of April, a total of 18 grants valued at \$765,784 have been approved. 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

A meeting was held with Mr. Khaja Mohammad Seddiqi, the new Shahrak District Governor on April 19th. An overview of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program objectives and components was provided to the District Governor. Respectively, the DG pledged to cooperate with the program.

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

CHALLENGES

The Khak-e-Safayd Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting scheduled for April 20th was postponed because most of the people are busy with harvesting. Additionally, the Sarkari Kariz CDC could not start their road and culvert rehabilitation project due to security concern.

Due to security concerns, movement is restricted in Khak-e-Safayd District.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Intra-District Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting proved a successful approach for the District Governors to share views on district stabilization programming and learn from each other's approaches as lead facilitators. The Qadis and Pashtun Zarghun District Governors organized an Intra-District Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on April 15th. Following this Intra-District meeting, the Qadis District Governor facilitated the Komite



The SIKA-West M&E Personnel And Engineers Assessed The Work Progress Of 2-KM Road Rehabilitation Project In Tonian Deh Shakar Village, Pashtun Zarghun On April 13th.



Students in Sultan Razia School are happy that Sport Education was included in their curriculum in Chaghcharan.



The SIKA-West Engineers doing feasibility study for a 5-KM road and one culvert rehabilitation project in Jawra Ha village, Shahrak District.

Sobate Woleswali meeting better organized comparing to the previous meetings. The SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department will apply this approach with other District Governors.

As part of the effort to improve the District Government Complaint Hotline's efficiency, a toll-free number will be set up in Chaghcharan District. Using this system, residents can call this number and share their concerns and problems without cost.

As part of the transition initiative, the SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDC) provided Training of Trainers (ToT) mentoring on Project Management Training (PMT) to the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) and the District Governors' focal points. The DSWs and the DGs' focal points, as co-facilitators, successfully conducted the PMT trainings to the CDCs. Further on-the-job mentoring will be provided to enable them to independently conduct such trainings in the future. This approach will be applied to other programming activities as a key to the exit strategy of the SIKA-West program.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The District Government Staff and the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) conducted 41 monitoring visits. The M&E personnel and Engineers organized 184 monitoring visits covering different interventions including DSC meetings and communications-related and capacity building trainings and projects in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces.

A Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) review is planned for the end of April. The output will be a revised PMP and revised data gathering techniques and tools.

Project impact assessments were conducted for four water divider rehabilitation projects in Bala Boluk. Employment opportunities for residents and increased water for irrigation were mentioned as immediate benefits of the projects by community residents. Impact assessments will be continued in the coming weeks for completed rehabilitation projects.

Performance Management Plan Indicators, Aid Effectiveness Metrics, District Spending data and updates on Project Sites were uploaded into the Afghan Info data for the January-March 2014 quarter. The recently approved Work plan and the Jan-March 2014 were also uploaded to the Afghan Info database.

All the external trainings were uploaded into the USAID TraiNet system. In addition, the January, February and March monthly reports, the Quarterly report (Jan-Mar), and the Badghis Service Providers Catalog were uploaded into the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse website.

DELIVERABLES

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

- March 2014 Monthly
- Weekly Reports
- January-March 2014 Quarterly Report

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	4	\$205,160	2	\$110,000	38	\$833,254	9	8	1	\$198,355	24	\$419,257
2		Pusht-E Rod	5	\$283,489	0	\$0	21	\$377,899	4	4	0	\$156,050	14	\$126,564
3		Khak-E Safed	4	\$309,000	1	\$98,000	12	\$208,720	4	2	2	\$156,935	7	\$45,044
4	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	5	\$232,058	3	\$142,450	27	\$779,564	3	3	0	\$193,036	19	\$354,469
5		Shindand	2	\$163,189	0	\$0	25	\$831,629	18	18	0	\$630,190	5	\$38,250
6		Kushk Rabat-E-Sangi	1	\$65,284	0	\$0	26	\$744,362	11	11	0	\$358,985	13	\$313,343
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	\$73,971	1	\$74,000	67	\$719,548	33	23	10	\$437,189	31	\$196,574
10		Muqur	0	\$0	0	\$0	44	\$653,285	23	23	0	\$343,668	20	\$263,287
			22	\$1,332,151	7	\$424,450	285	\$6,367,306	125	112	13	\$3,637,163	138	\$1,825,277

U.S. Agency for International Development/Afghanistan
www.usaid.gov