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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT  
MAY 2014



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The Herat Provincial Governor (Mr. Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi), Herat DRRD Director (Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi), Member Of Parliament And Senior Members Of The Provincial And District Government Line Departments Cut The Ribbon To Inaugurate A Rehabilitated Flood Protection Wall In Qala Yusuf Khan Village, Pashtun Zarghun District On May 4<sup>th</sup>.

June 2014

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

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May 2014

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

**Submitted to:**  
USAID Afghanistan

**Prepared by:**  
AECOM International Development

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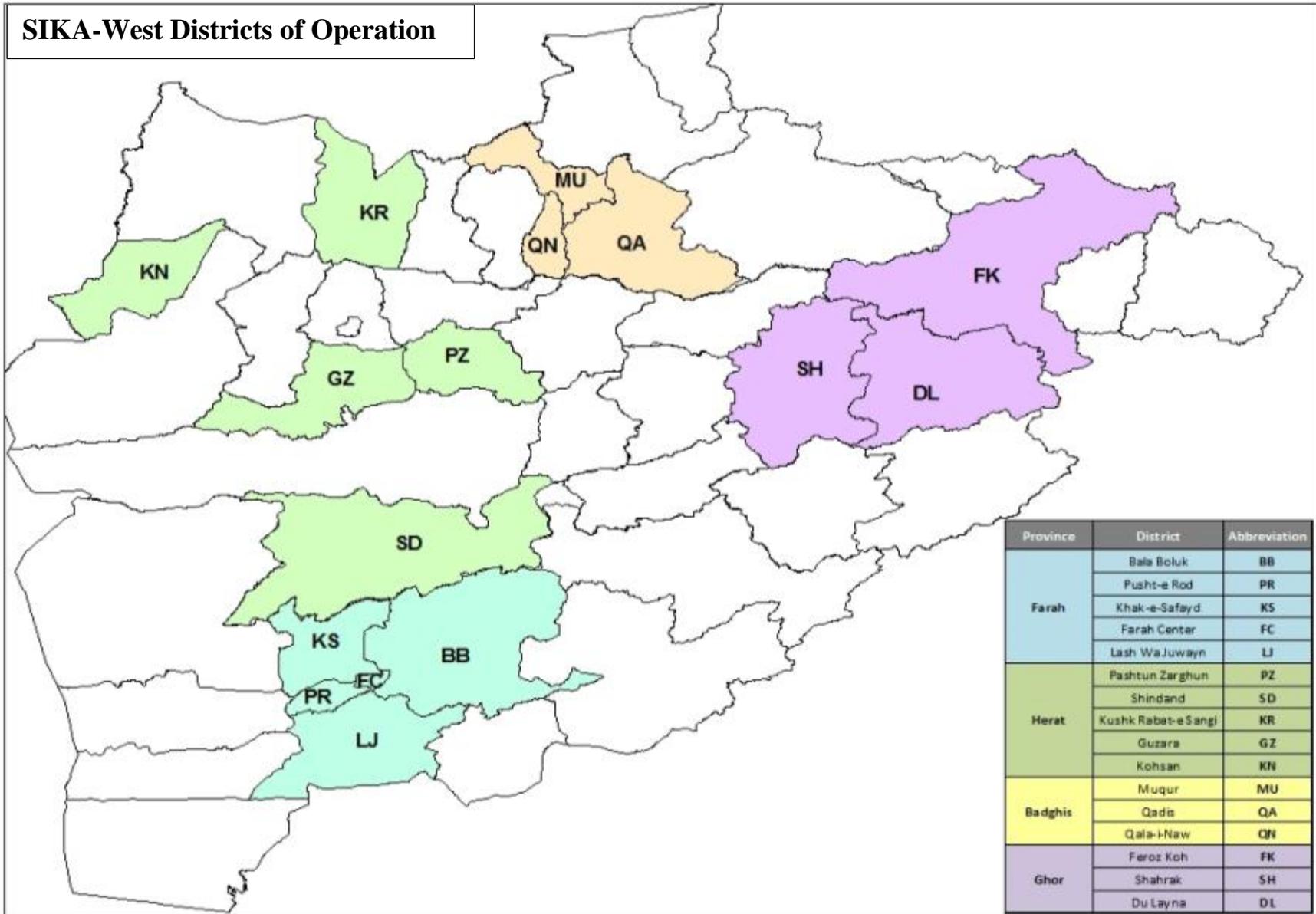
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## ACRONYMS

AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
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
CPOD	Communications & Public Outreach Department

## SIKA-West Districts of Operation



## 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: Farah Center, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e-Safayd, and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts
- Herat Province: Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, , Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Guzara, and Kohsan Districts
- Badghis Province: Qadis, Muqur, and Qala-i-Naw Districts
- Ghor Province: Feroz Koh, Shahrak, and Du Layna Districts

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program activities undertaken across all program departments during the month of May, 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, 14 GIRoA led Komite Sobate Wolesswali 1 (District Stabilization Committee) meetings were held in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, Kohsan, Qadis, Muqur, Qala-i-Naw, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Feroz Koh, Shahrak, and Du Layna 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.

In addition, to provide a platform for women in culturally sensitive districts to share their concerns and advocate for their needs, the Du Layna, Pusht-e Rod, and Bala Boluk Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings for women were held separately on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The participants analyzed their own major problems and proposed culvert rehabilitation and water pump installation as solutions to current district problems. In response to these requests, the SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will share these prioritized solutions at the next male Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings.

During May, the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department rolled-out to new districts of operation including the Farah Center and Lash Wa Juwayn District in Farah province, Guzara and Kohsan in Herat Province, Qala-i-Naw in Badghis Province, and Du Layna in Ghor Province. The Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings were held, Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided, and the participants identified their major problems including unemployment, illiteracy, drug-addiction, and lack of basic government services. Participants identified and proposed solutions including road, irrigation canal, school, and flood protection wall rehabilitation.

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

Below is a table detailing SIKAWest’s progress towards achieving Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicator targets. The Data Quality Assessment for the Performance Management Plan (PMP) Indicators was completed. An STTA from the AECOM Home Office revised the PMP, which includes a Theory of Change section and new outcome indicators. The revised PMP was submitted to USAID on May 31st for review and approval.

**Table I- IRI PMP Targets**

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

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	May 2014	Cumulative Total
1.1	Number of stabilization work sessions conducted for district entities (DEs)	88	100	16	154
1.2	Increase in percentage of SIKAWest target districts where DEs use the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) methodology to identify and address sources of instability (SOIs)	100%	100%	6	100% 16/16 Districts
1.3	Number of activities planned against SOIs identified through SAM stabilization work sessions in SIKAWest districts	105	150	91	757
1.4	Number of people participating in SAM stabilization work sessions	1,760	3,000	471	5,302
1.5	Number of activities which address identified SOIs and included in a District Project Portfolio (DPP), which is approved by the DRRD	70	240	9	312
1.6	Number of target districts in which the SAM tool has been used to identify activities that mitigate SOIs	7	10	15	16

## COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMING

During the month, district entities completed 24 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans, such as producing a series of factsheets, conducting coordination meetings, and disseminating awareness raising messages. Below are the highlights of the activities:

- Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, along with high ranking government officials, met with 80 community elders in Qarchaqai sub-district of Qadis on May 28<sup>th</sup>. “We can’t secure peace and development in the community, unless there is coordination and cooperation between the people and government,” said Mr. Naqibullah, an Ulema representative. Using the opportunity, participants shared their concerns including lack of potable water and flood protection walls in their community. The SIKAWest Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will invite the representatives of this sub-district to attend the next Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting and advocate for their needs.



**Farmers From Jahandosti, Zargar, Mazid, Jalakan, And Niazi Villages In Muqur District Organized A Hashar To Clean Their Irrigation Canal On May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

- On May 31<sup>st</sup>, more than 85 people from Jahandosti, Zargar, Mazid, Jalakan, and Niazi villages in Muqur District organized a Hashar, a public voluntary scheme, and cleaned their irrigation canal, which provides water for 415 Jeribs (830000 m<sup>2</sup>) of land. *“This shows people of Muqur District are united and care for the development of their community,”* Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the District Executive Manager.
- Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, organized a School Cleaning Campaign on May 26<sup>th</sup>. More than 100 students cleaned their school at the district center. Using the opportunity, students shared their concerns including lack of educational equipment like books, stationary, desks, and chairs. The DG will share these concerns with the Education Department at the District and Provincial level.
- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Shindand District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Besmellah Khan Azem, met with influential Ulema from Zerkoh sub-district of Shindand to listen to their concerns and encourage them to support the government in bringing peace and development in their areas. *“This is the first time we are invited to meet with the government and share our concerns,”* said Mullah Mohammad Gull, Ulema member. The participants asked the DEM to rehabilitate and provide furniture for their mosques. The DEM will share these issues with the District Governor and the Haj and Religious Affairs Department.
- The Feroz Koh Youth Association organized a televised round table about “Women’s Basic Rights” on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Masooma, the DOWA Director, an Ulema representative, a member of the youth association, and the Human Rights Commission Gender Officer attended the event. Topics discussed included women’s basic rights, access to education, healthcare, and respect for women. The round table was broadcast by Ghor Radio and Television.
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, organized a two-week anti-corruption football tournament in Feroz Koh on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Anti-corruption messages were printed on the players’ uniforms and posters and brochures were distributed to the spectators. During the upcoming two weeks, 14 teams will compete for the trophy provided by the Ghor Provincial Government.



**The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, Organized A Two-Week Anti-Corruption Football Tournament On May 29<sup>th</sup>.**

During the month, the Districts’ Government Hotlines received a total of 34 calls from residents complaining about different issues, including land, family, marriage, and security in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Feroz Koh, Muqur, Qadis, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts. The District Governors successfully responded to 12 complaints and resolved the conflicts. The other complaints are under review by the respective DGs. For details refer to Annex B.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Abdul Raouf, Farah DRRD Director, led the second round of the Service Providers Catalog (SPC) distribution event. The CDCs were briefed on the importance and use of the SPC. 215 copies of the SPC were distributed to 44 CDCs from Hakim Abad, Nasir Abad, Qala Arbab, Kahdanak, Khurmaleq, and other surrounding villages.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Farah DRRD Director established the Farah Public Service Introduction Committee. The main responsibilities of the committee are to update and revise the Farah Service Providers Catalog (SPC) and to organize the Farah Service Providers Fair scheduled for the last week of June. The committee members reviewed the second edition of the SPC and provided feedback. The SIKA-West

Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will incorporate the comments into the revised SPC.

The Herat Service Providers Catalog (SPC) Committee distributed 81 copies of the SPC to 18 governmental organizations in Herat Province and a total of 352 copies of the SPC to district entities in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, and Shindand Districts. These entities will use the SPC to provide information to residents about the available services listed in the SPC.

**Table 2 - IR2 PMP Targets**

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

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	May 2014	Cumulative Total
2.1	Number of DEs and PAs using the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC)	21	30	133	307
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	6	84
2.3	Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the SPC	7	10	1	3
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	12,960	528,780
2.5	Number of training workshops held on Service Provider Catalogue usage for District Entities	9	50	4	32

**Table 3 - IR3 PMP Targets**

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

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	May 2014	Cumulative Total
3.1	Percent increase in the number of regular meetings held between Provincial authorities and DEs	30%	30%	NTR	NTR <sup>2</sup>
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	1	19
3.4	Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs or PAs as outlined in the	9	16	24	189

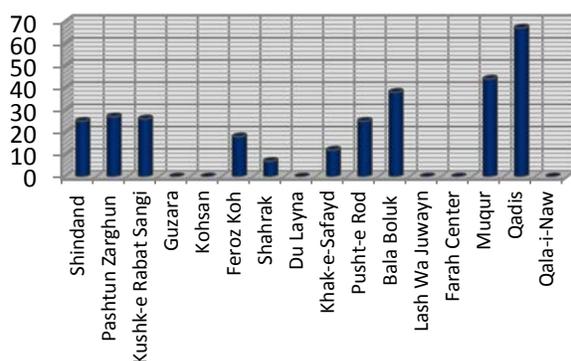
<sup>2</sup> A baseline for this indicator has been collected for Herat, Badghis, and Farah and will be collected from Ghor Province prior to the end of the first contract period. The impact assessment will be conducted during the second quarter of the option period.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	May 2014	Cumulative Total
	communications strategy or plan				
3.5	Number of trainings conducted for PAs and DEs in communications and outreach	42	80	2	87

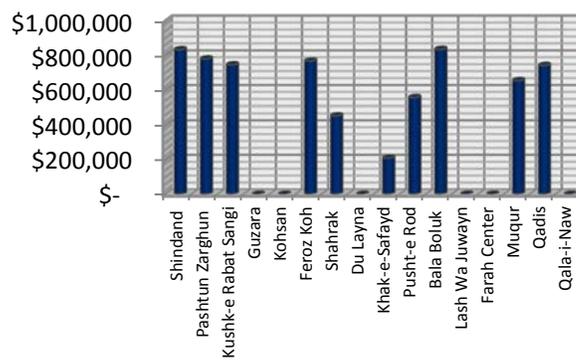
## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date, 292 grants valued at \$6,564,507 have been approved in all sixteen 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, 165 grants projects valued at \$2,205,727 were completed. Currently, CDCs are implementing 109 projects valued at \$3,795,773 in the target districts.

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



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



**Table 4- IR4 PMP Targets**

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

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	May 2014	Cumulative Total
4.1	Number of grants activities implemented against SOIs	72	120	34	138 <sup>3</sup>
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

<sup>3</sup> This figure shows the number of grants activities that have been completed.

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	May 2014	Cumulative Total
4.4	Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions	9,000	46,800	18,743	69,778 <sup>4</sup>
4.5a	Number of grants activities with community contribution	72	120	1	286 <sup>5</sup>
4.5b	Dollar value of community contribution	216,000	700,000	27,225	486,433 <sup>6</sup>
4.6	Number of trainings implemented through grants	7	120	1	73
4.7	Number of person-days of trainings implemented through grants	280	9,600	2,394	90,156 <sup>7</sup>

## GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

The SIKA-West Governance Department continued mentoring the District Government staff in the SIKA-West districts of operation. Mentoring included improving inventory/record keeping, organizational charts, report writing, and computer skills training. Below is a summary of the Governance Department achievements:

- In response to a request from the Martyrs and Disabled Department within the Department of Labor & Social Affairs (DOLSA), factsheets were prepared to inform victims of conflict on what steps they needed to take to receive their pensions. With the support of the SIKA-West Governance Department and in collaboration with the Farah DOLSA, the factsheets were prepared and distributed to Bala Boluk residents.
- On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, received support to prepare a complete record of project activities in Bala Boluk District, which was then submitted to (H.E. Mohammad Omar Shirzad) the Farah Provincial Governor.
- On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Noorullah, the Bala Baluk District Education Department Administrative Officer, was mentored on how to improve the department's filing and record keeping system. *"Now I am able to easily find and fast track the documents, while before it took hours, thanks to the Stability Program for the training and support,"* noted Mr. Noorullah.



**Mr. Abdul Baqi, A Victim Of War, Applying For A Pension At The Bala Boluk Martyrs And Disabled Sub-Department Of DOLSA.**



**On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Noorullah, The Admin Officer Of Education Department In Bala Boluk District Governor, Was Mentored On Improved Filing System.**

<sup>4</sup> This figure is measured once the grant is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

<sup>5</sup> This figure shows the number of grants activities with community contribution approved by USAID.

<sup>6</sup> This figure shows the dollar value of grants activities with community contribution approved by USAID.

<sup>7</sup> This figure is measured once the training is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over to SIKA-West.

- Following mentoring on preparing organizational charts, the Pusht-e Rod Education Department prepared and updated the office organizational chart on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Training on preparing an organizational chart was provided to three government staff members (the Executive Manager, the Admin & Finance Manager, and the Agricultural Manager) in Qadis and Muqur Districts on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Further support and mentoring will be provided to these staff to help in updating their organizational charts.
- Training on preparing an organizational chart was provided to six governmental staff members in Shindand District on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Further support and mentoring will be provided to these staff members to assist in updating their organizational charts.
- As a result of support from the SIKA-West Governance Department, the Shindand District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Besmellah Azimi, computerized the district government's staff payroll sheets. The new automated process will drastically reduce the time required to prepare the department's payroll.
- In line with efforts to improve District Government service delivery, the SIKA-West Governance Department mentored the Pashtun Zarghun District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) to prepare a comprehensive report on the impact of the recent floods in Pashtun Zarghun District. The DDMC successfully prepared and submitted the report to the Provincial DMC who responded by distributing food and emergency material items to the affected families.
- Training on preparing an organizational chart was provided to the Shahrak District Government Executive Manager on May 7<sup>th</sup>. By the end of the training, the EM updated the organizational chart.
- On-the-job training on basic computer skills and internet use was provided to Mr. Mohammad Sarwar, the Shahrak District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Tajmir Khan, the Literacy Manager, and Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, the Executive Manager. The SIKA-West Governance Department will provide further training to enable the staff to communicate with the District and Provincial Authorities through online resources.

## **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.

Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to eight members of the Shindand female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The CRC will prioritize existing familial disputes and mediate between the conflicting parties. *"It's good to see women are able to address the familial conflicts in their villages. It's the responsibilities of both men and women to bring peace and stability in their community,"* stated Abdul Hameed Noor, District Governor. The same training was provided to 12 members of Muqur female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Training topics included mediation method, negotiations skills, and conflict resolution techniques.

The Herat Provincial Gender Working Group meeting was held at the DOWA office on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The GWG members were informed that DOWA will facilitate and lead the next GWG meetings. In response to the DOWA Director request for Gender Mainstreaming and Anti-Harassment trainings, SIKA-West will provide the mentioned trainings to both DOWA staff and GWG members.



**Women Conflict Resolution Committee Members In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi Received Conflict Resolution Skills Training On April 29<sup>th</sup>.**

In response to a request from the Education Department, Gender Mainstreaming training was provided to 23 Sultan Razia girls' school teachers (10 men, 13 women) in Feroz Koh on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Topics included the definition of gender mainstreaming, the role of gender, and gender equality. The same training was provided to 20 governmental staff (10 men, 10 women) in Ghor Province on May 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Gender Mainstreaming Training was Provided to 23 Sultan Razia Girls' School Teachers (10 Men, 13 Women) in Feroz Koh On May 6<sup>th</sup>.**

The Ghor Gender Working Group meeting was held at the Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA) on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The GWG members were happy with the female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) activities and achievements and agreed to establish a female CRC or a Women's Council in Shahrak District. The SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will follow up on this issue.

The Feroz Koh Female Conflict Resolution Committee addressed a familial conflict in Qutus village. Two cousins were in conflict because of a fight between their children and were about to open a case in the court. The CRC organized a separate mediation session with the conflicting parties, and on May 14<sup>th</sup>, both families agreed to end their conflict.

The first Du Layna Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for women was held on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The women analyzed their major problems including unemployment and poverty, illiteracy, lack of communication between government and residents, and poor transportation network. Following discussion on the major problems, they proposed culvert rehabilitation, well digging, and public meetings with government as solutions. The SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department will share these issues at the next Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for men.

**Table 5- Gender and Program PMP objectives**

#	Indicator Description	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	May 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%	9%	22%
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	8	145

## PROVINCIAL & DISTRICT OVERVIEW

### FARAH PROVINCE

#### PROVINCIAL CENTER

The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department met with Mr. Mohammad Omar Shirzad, (Farah Provincial Governor) to find ways of improving communication between the Provincial Governor and Pusht-e Rod and Khak-e-Safayd District Governors on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The PG requested that further support be provided to District Governors to be able to communicate with the Provincial Government via e-mail. The Governance Department is following up on this request.

The Farah DRRD co-facilitated a four-day Project Management training for 24 members of six CDCs from Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts from May 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Following the training, the Ajoor, Godar Gazak, Mian Joy, Chahar Deh Joy Kaj, Saj Farsi, and Barakzai CDCs will receive the first milestone payments to start their projects.

Media training was provided to the Farah Provincial Government, the DRRD and the Police Department Spokespersons on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Topics included how to write a press release, media relations, and interview techniques. The staff will apply these techniques to better communicate with the local media and inform residents about government activities and achievements.

As part of the SIKA-West rollout to the new districts (Lash Wa Juwayn and Homy Markez, Farah Center), a meeting was held with the Farah Provincial Governor (H.E Mohammad Omar Shirzad), his deputy (Mohammad Younis Rasouli), the Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor (Mr. Samad Yar), the DRRD Director (Mr. Abdul Raouf), the DSWs, and DDA members on May 17<sup>th</sup>. A detailed presentation on MRRD/IDLG Stability Program, its components, and objectives was presented. The first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for Lash Wa Juwayn and Farah Center were then held on May 28<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> respectively.



***As Part Of The SIKA-West Rollout To The New Districts (Lash Wa Juwayn And Farah Center), A Meeting Was Held With The Farah Provincial Governor And Line-Departments On May 17<sup>th</sup>.***

#### BALA BOLUK DISTRICT

The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, organized the monthly coordination meeting with government line-departments on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The DG informed the line-departments that the security situation is now normal in the district and asked them to resume their duties. The participants highlighted the roles of Ulema in bringing security in the district. The DG will conduct a public meeting with Ulema to encourage them to support the government in bringing peace and stability in the community.

As of May, a total of 38 grants valued at \$833,254 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing nine projects valued at \$279,064. To date, 26 grant projects valued at \$433,708 have been completed.

#### PUSHT-E ROD DISTRICT

The Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for women in Pusht-e Rod was held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The participants analyzed the major problems (presence of insurgent group, diseases, unemployment, and illiteracy) and proposed culvert rehabilitation and water pump installation as solutions. In response to these requests, the SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will share them at the next male Komite Sobate Woleswali in Pusht-e Rod.

The Farah DRRD led a four-day Project Management Training for the Saj Farsi CDC in Pusht-e Rod District on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The training covered a review of the grant agreements, roles and responsibilities of CDC leadership, project milestone requirements, technical approaches, and procurement processes. Following the training, the CDC received the first milestone payment to start their road and culvert rehabilitation project.

As of May, a total of 25 grants valued at \$555,548 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 10 projects valued at \$421,389. To date, 14 grant projects valued at \$126,564 have been completed.

### **KHAK-E SAFAYD DISTRICT**

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Concept Note Development training was provided to 24 members of eight CDCs from Khak-e-Safayd District. These CDCs identified illiteracy as a major problem in their communities and proposed literacy courses as solutions. Following the training, the CDCs developed a concept note and submitted it to the Education Department. The same training was provided to the Ganj Abad CDC in Bala Boluk to develop a concept note for a community center refurbishment project.

As of May, a total of 12 grants valued at \$208,720 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing four projects valued at \$156,935. To date, seven grant projects valued at \$45,044 have been completed.

### **FARAH CENTER**

The Introductory Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting for Farah Center was held with participation of the Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Younis Rasoli, line-departments, DDA, and influential community elders on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Following the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training, the participants identified poverty, unemployment, lack of basic government services, illiteracy, corruption, and drug addiction as their major problems and proposed 13 solutions that included roads, flood protection walls, and school rehabilitation as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will conduct feasibility studies for the proposed projects.

### **LASH WA JUWAYN**

The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor, Mr. Samad Yaar, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department, led the first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Applying the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), participants identified their major problems, unemployment, illiteracy and poverty, and proposed solutions, culvert, flood protection walls, water dam and schools rehabilitation projects. *“The Stability Program is a great opportunity for Lash Wa Juwayn residents to address their major problems and bring peace and stability,”* Mr. Samad Yar.



**Mr. Qari Mohammad Anwar, An Ulema Representative, Talked About The Importance Of Stability And Peace According To Islam At The First Komite Sobate Wolesswali Lash Wa Juwayn Meeting On May 28<sup>th</sup>.**

### **BADGHIS PROVINCE**

#### **PROVINCIAL CENTER**

Separate coordination meetings were held with the Badghis DRRD Director, Sayed Rasul Akbari, and the Deputy Provincial Governor, Qamaruddin Shakeb, on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The SIKA-West District Governance Training Plan was shared. The plan will also be shared with the Badghis Provincial Capacity Building Committee to obtain their support of the implementation process.

The SIKa-West District Governance Training Plan was shared with the Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor, the line-departments, and the Qadis and Muqur District Governors on May 13<sup>th</sup>. In response to the recent floods, Disaster Risk Reduction Management training was planned for the first week of June. In addition, to utilize the existing training materials, a coordination meeting was held with the Badghis Administrative Reform Civil Service Commission. An agreement was made to share some of the training materials including the Human Resources Management, Administrative Procedures and Performance Appraisal.

## **QADIS DISTRICT**

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, Qadis District Governor, along with representatives of high ranking governmental officials, initiated a joint-visit to Langar-e Sharif Qadis sub-district on May 12<sup>th</sup> to inform the residents about government activities and listen to their concerns. The Education Department informed the people that a school will be constructed soon. Mr. Mohammad, a resident, requested the rehabilitation of the Shah Qiyasuddin Pilgrimage. The DG and 10 influential people from this sub-district will meet with the Provincial Governor to share this request.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, met with the 12 CDC representatives to encourage them to organize a Hashar, a public voluntary scheme, to clean the Zad Saleh irrigation canal which provides water for 50 Jeribs (100000 m<sup>2</sup>) of lands. Each CDC agreed to introduce eight people to attend the Hashar on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, in-line with his communications plan of improving engagement with the community, met with youth and sportsmen on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The DG delivered speeches on the importance of sport to youths and asked them to encourage other youths to participate in sporting activities. Youths shared illiteracy, lack of job opportunities, and lack of awareness on the harms of drug addiction as their main concerns. The DG along with the youth's representative will meet with the Provincial Sport Department to share these concerns.



**Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, The Qadis District Governor, In-Line With His Communications Plan Of Improving Engagement With The Community, Met With Youth And Sportsmen On May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

As a follow-up activity to respond to the residents' request to rehabilitate the Shah Qaiyasuddin Pilgrimage in Langar-e Sharif Qadis sub-district, the District Governor, met with H.E Ahmadullah Alizai, the Provincial Governor, on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The PG will send a delegation including the Department of Information and Culture to visit the Pilgrimage and assess possible support.

The Qadis District Governor organized a monthly coordination meeting with the line-departments on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Issues including the recent increase in meat prices, increase in robberies and governmental lands occupied by squatters were discussed. The DG assigned the Municipality Department to follow up on the increase in meat prices. A delegation will be sent to Chorchen village to investigate the issue of squatters. In addition, the DG will organize a public meeting with community elders to encourage them to support the Police Department in arresting the thieves.

To ensure the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting is properly organized and key discussion points are ready to be addressed, a pre-Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting was held with the Qadis District Sectorial Manager, the DSWs, and key DDA members on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The agenda and talking points were reviewed. Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik, the Qadis District Governor, organized the actual Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting focused on addressing the issue of Arbab Sarwar CDC that is not willing to complete its culvert rehabilitation project. An agreement was made to have a separate meeting with the mentioned CDC and come up with a final solution. In addition, the participants agreed to cancel the three projects (roads rehabilitation in Tajikha, Kabulcha, and Ghaib Ali Dasht villages) because the

CDCs cannot provide security for project sites. After the meeting, in order to increase the women's participation and involvement, the DG requested to invite some educated and influential women to the meeting. The SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will track this issue.

Main Elements of Communication training was provided to 13 Qadis District government staff on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Topics included the definition of communication, messaging, selecting audiences, bridging, and spinning. These staff will receive further trainings to improve their capacity to support the District Governor to implement his communications plan's activities.

Two of the graduates of the carpentry vocational training course in Jawaliq Sofla village in Qadis District established a private carpentry shop. Currently, these graduates have an average of 2500 Afs monthly income. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue support to vocational program graduates to start their own business and/or secure employment.

As of May, a total of 70 grants valued at \$740,556 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 27 projects valued at \$381,929. To date, 37 grant projects valued at \$251,835 have been completed.

## MUQR DISTRICT

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Abobakr Azimi, the Muqr Executive Manager, Mr. Besmela Wasir, the DRRD DSW, DDA, and CDC members visited the recently started 5-km road rehabilitation project in Lamani village. *"This project will address poverty and unemployment. You, the CDC, should work based on the project specifications,"* stated the Muqr EM.

Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, the Muqr District Governor, organized a "Peace and Reconciliation" meeting with participation of 300 people, including Mr. Ahmadullah Alizai, the Provincial Governor, Ms. Safia Aimaq and Mr. Khan Mohammad, Parliament members, district government officials, and influential Ulema and people on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Speeches about peace and stability were delivered by the high ranking officials. Although there was a mortar attack from Anti-Government Elements (AGE) during the meeting, the District Governor continued the meeting and the Afghan National Security Forces managed to control the situation.

The Muqr District Governor organized a public meeting with participation of 315 people including students, parents, teachers, influential people, and government officials at Sofla High School in the district center on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The District Governor highlighted the importance of education and asked the parents to send their children to school. Students shared their education concerns including lack of professional teachers and a need for a surrounding wall for the school. The DG pledged to share these issues with the provincial authorities. At the end, the DG distributed stationary to the students.

Concept Note Development training was provided to five Miranzai CDC members in Muqr District on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The CDC will develop a concept note for a pipe scheme project and submit it to third party organizations for financial resources.



**Laborers Rehabilitating A 3-KM Road, One Culvert And Two Washes In Achakzay Ha Village, Qadis.**



**Mr. Abobakr Azimi, The Muqr Executive Manager, Mr. Besmela Wasir, The DRRD DSW And DDA And CDC Members Visited The Recently Started 5-Km Road Rehabilitation Project In Lamani Village On May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Following the second round of Concept Note Development training on May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Kalanzai CDC in Muqur drafted a concept note for a bridge construction project. The CDC will share the concept note with the District Governor and the DDA for their review and approval. Once approved, the concept note will be submitted to third party organizations with the aim of receiving financial support.

Following the recent Hashar in Zad Naser village in Muqur District, the Kharistan CDCs also organized a Hashar to clean a 2-KM irrigation canal on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Almost 100 people from eight CDCs and the Executive Manager, the DRRD DSW, the DAIL Manager, and the District Commander's representative attended the event.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Muqur District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abobakr Azimi, and the DRRD DSWs, Mr. Besmellah and Mr. Mohammad Shah, along with the DDA members visited the recently completed road rehabilitation project in Abobakr Muhajer village. The DEM was pleased with the quality of the project and asked the residents to pay attention to its maintenance. In addition, the residents asked the government to provide them with potable water. The DEM will invite representatives from this village to share their concerns at the next Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting.



**The Kharistan CDCs In Muqur District Organized A Hashar To Clean A 2-KM Irrigation Canal On May 18<sup>th</sup>. Almost 100 People From Eight CDCs Attended The Event.**

The Muqur DEM organized the monthly coordination meeting with the line-departments on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The DEM asked each department to attend the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings and listen to residents' concerns. The DEM informed the participants about the residents' complaint about a Turkish company implementing the Ring Road Project, claiming their drivers drive fast and recklessly in the Bazaar. The head of the company will be invited for a meeting with the District Governor to address the issue.

The pre-Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting was held with the Muqur DEM, DSWs, and DDA members to review the agenda and talking points on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hadi Badghisi, organized the actual meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> with participation of 48 people. In response to the recent floods in Muqur, the participants proposed five new solutions including flood protection walls, roads, and culverts rehabilitation.



**Laborers Rehabilitating a 4-KM Road and a Culvert in Jan Dosti Village, Muqur District.**

Two past graduates of a tailoring vocational training course in Cheshma Dozak Ulya Village (Muqur District) are providing tailoring services from their homes. Currently these graduates are earning on average 6000 AFN per month. The SIKA-West Governance Department will continue support to vocational program graduates to start their own business and/or secure employment.

As of May, a total of 44 grants valued at \$653,285 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing nine projects valued at \$209,559. To date, 34 grant projects valued at \$397,396 have been completed.

## **QALA-I-NAW**

As part of the SIKA-West rollout to the new District (Qala-i-Naw) in Badghis, a coordination meeting was held with the Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor (Qamaruddin Shakib) and line-departments on May 14<sup>th</sup>. A detailed presentation on MRRD/IDLG Stability Program, its components and objectives was given. The first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting was scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to 23 DDA members (10 women, 13 men) in Qala-i-Naw to enable them to identify community major problems and propose solutions. The DDA members will share the community major problems and solutions at the first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib, with support of the Stabilization Programming Department (SPD), led the first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to enable the participants to identify their major problems and propose solutions. The Komite Sobate Woleswali members identified seasonal floods, poverty, unemployment, lack of basic government services, illiteracy, and insecurity as their major problems and proposed flood protection walls, culverts, roads, and irrigation canals rehabilitation projects as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will start feasibility studies next week.

## HERAT PROVINCE

### PROVINCIAL CENTER

Mr. Eddie Bloom, SIKA-West COR, met with the Herat staff on May 12<sup>th</sup>. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the SIKA-West staff during the base period and asked them to continue their efforts in the future. Mr. Bloom also presented Certificates of Appreciation from Mr. Eugene Young, Consul and U.S. Senior Civilian Representative, Herat, to SIKA-West Security staff for providing accurate and timely information during the recent Presidential Election.

Training on how to use the Service Providers Catalog (SPC) was provided to the Craftsman & Traders and Industrial Unions in Herat City on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. A total of eight SPCs were distributed to provide information to the people about the available services in the SPC.

As part of the SIKA-West rollout to the new Districts (Guzara and Kohsan), a coordination meeting was held with participation of the Herat Deputy Provincial Governor (Mr. Asiluddin Jami), the Herat DRRD Director (Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi), and the Guzara and Kohsan District Governors (Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal and Mr. Mohammad Zarif Shah) on May 13<sup>th</sup>. A detailed presentation on MRRD/IDLG Stability Program, its components, and objectives was given. The first Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were scheduled for Guzara on May 27<sup>th</sup> and Kohsan on May 28<sup>th</sup>.



***As Part Of The Rollout To The New Districts (Guzara And Kohsan), Meeting Was Held With The Herat Deputy Provincial Governor And Line-Departments.***

### SHINDAND DISTRICT

In line with Concept Note Development mentoring, the Bala Shahr CDC (Shindand) finalized their concept notes for vocational, agriculture, and infrastructure support. The Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DOLSA), the Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA), the Afghan Women Organization, the Economy Department, and the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) have been identified as potential donors.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, Shindand District Governor, organized a public meeting with 50 Arbabs and 10 district government officials on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting aimed to provide a platform for residents to share their concerns with the local government. Mr. Mohammad Basir, an Arbab from Char Qala village, complained that children can't go to school because of insecurity in their village. The DG pledged to coordinate with both provincial and district security officials to address this concern. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will follow up on this issue and provide further updates.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, the Shindand District Governor, organized a meeting with Ulema to discuss government activities and achievements. The DG highlighted the role of Ulema in bringing peace and asked them to cooperate with the government. The Ulema asked the District Governor to construct new mosques and provide furniture for the existing mosques. The DG will share these requests with the Provincial Authorities.

A pre-Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting was held with the Shindand District Governor and the DAA members to review the agenda and talking points. The actual Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting was led by the District Governor on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The SIKA-West Engineers informed the District Governor that the Faj Ulya didn't implement their 120-meter flood protection wall based on the project specification. The CDC didn't accept this claim, so the DG assigned a delegation of the SIKA-West and the District Government staff to visit the project site and confirm the issue. The SIKA-West M&E Department will track this issue and provide further updates. In addition, the representative of Women Council requested to provide leadership and management trainings. The SIKA-West Governance Department will follow up on this request.

The Shindand District Admin & Finance Manager, Mr. Bismillah Khan, met with the Ulema to listen to their concerns on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Ulema complained that they are marginalized by the district government and asked for more assistance, requesting refurbishment of mosques, provision of furniture, and allocation of a monthly salary. Mr. Khan will share these concerns with the Haj & Religious Affairs Department and Provincial Council of Ulema.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the SIKA-West Chief of Party (COP) met with the Shindand District Governor, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor. The DG on behalf of the district residents expressed appreciation for the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program and requested more support, specifically focusing on women's empowerment. To recognize the efforts of the District Governor in coordinating activities and cooperation with SIKA-West, an appreciation letter was given to him.

In response to the increase in poppy cultivation in Shindand District, Mr. Abdul Hameed Noor, the District Governor, organized separate meetings with the Counter Narcotics Department (CND) and Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (DAIL) on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The DG requested the CND and DAIL to provide loans to the farmers to stop poppy cultivation, conduct awareness raising campaigns, and introduce alternative crops. The CND and DAIL introduced the Sayara organization, which conducts awareness raising campaigns, and the USAID Agriculture Credit Enhancement/Agriculture Development



***The Showz Sharqi CDC (Shindand District) Successfully Rehabilitated The Showz Sharqi High School, With The Support of The Shindand District Government, Herat DRRD and Herat Department of Education.***



***The Wakhil Sayed CDC In Shindand District Rehabilitated A 95-Meter Water Intake Which Provides Water For 1000 Jeribs Of Lands.***

Fund program that provides loans to farmers. The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department (CPOD) will facilitate organizing meetings with these organizations.

Engineering and technical training was provided by Herat DRRD personnel to CDC supervisors/project foremen from four CDCs in Shindand on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Topics included project planning, site mobilization, and construction material quality, subjects which will assist the CDCs to properly implement their recently awarded grant projects.

As of May, a total of 25 grants valued at \$831,629 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 15 projects valued at \$569,541. To date, eight grant projects valued at \$123,270 have been completed.

## **KUSHK RABAT-E SANGI DISTRICT**

Led by DRRD, a four-day Project Management Training was provided to Yaka Toot CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District from April 29<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The training covered a review of grant agreements, roles and responsibilities of CDC leadership, project milestone requirements, technical approaches, and procurement processes. Following the training, the CDC will receive their first milestone to start a 200-meter gabion wall rehabilitation project.

In-line with Concept Note Development mentoring, the Khalifa Rahmat Sufla and Baghche Abdul Hakim CDCs (Kushk Rabat-e Sangi) finalized their concept notes for vocational, agriculture, and infrastructure support. The Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DOLSA), the Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA), the Afghan Women Organization, the Economy Department, and the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) have been identified as potential donors.

Following the Concept Note Development training on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Lak Lak Khana CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District developed a concept note for a four-month kitchen gardening project. The CDC will submit the concept note to third party organizations for financial resources.

The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari, led the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. An update of the status of the implementation of the projects was given to the participants. The DG informed the participants that they cannot propose new projects because feasibility studies are ongoing for the previous proposed projects. The CDCs were advised to be more cautious and inform the Security Department if they see any movement from Anti-Government Elements. A women's representative delivered speeches about the roles of the women in the community and requested provision of planning, budgeting, and marketing trainings for women handicrafts producers. The SIKA-West Governance Department will follow up on these requests.

As of May, a total of 26 grants valued at \$744,362 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing 11 projects valued at \$409,865. To date, 14 grant projects valued at \$327,747 have been completed.

## **PASHTUN ZARGHUN DISTRICT**

Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, organized the "Good Governance Practice" event on May 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Laborers Working To Rehabilitate 1.5-KM Road In Khaja Sabz Posh Village In Kushk Rabat-E Sangi District.**



**Mr. Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi, the Herat Provincial Governor, delivered a speech on peace and stability in Pashtun Zarghun District on May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

The DG hosted more than 300 people including the Provincial Governor, the Parliament member, high ranking Provincial line-departments, and influential people. Speeches on the importance of good governance and peace were delivered. At the end of the event, the Provincial Governor along with the high ranking officials cut the ribbon and inaugurated the recently rehabilitated flood protection wall in Qala Yusuf Khan Village. The Provincial Governor asked the people to be united and support the government in combating Anti-Government Elements (AGE) to have a peaceful society. The event was broadcast on Herat Radio and Television of Afghanistan.

The Community Development Department organized Project Maintenance site visits for Culvert and Flood Protection Wall projects in Pashtun Zarghun District. These visits are scheduled to ensure that CDCs are performing required maintenance on completed projects. No deficiencies were observed and the residents were happy with the completed projects.

A pre-Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting and training was held with Mr. Rashid Wahidi, Pashtun Zarghun District Executive Manager (EM), on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The EM was mentored on the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM). By the end of the training, the agenda and talking points of the Komite Sobate Woleswali, which is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>, were finalized.

Mr. Farhad Raufian, the Pashtun Zarghun District Governor, led the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The participants analyzed the previously identified major problems (unemployment, lack of trust between citizens and government, and insecurity) and proposed 13 new solutions (flood protection walls, water divider, road, surrounding wall for Saffron processing center, and community center rehabilitation). The District Governor appreciated the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program support for organizing the Provincial Governor visit to the Pashtun Zarghun District on May 4<sup>th</sup> and presented appreciation letters to the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West Stabilization Department Director and the Herat PST Deputy Manager.

As of May, a total of 27 grants valued at \$778,108 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing four projects valued at \$204,736. To date, 20 grant projects valued at \$431,674 have been completed.



***The Rawandan CDC Successfully Rehabilitated The Ghahistan High School In Pashtun Zarghun District.***

## **GUZARA**

The Introductory Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for Guzara District was held with participation of the Guzara District Governor, Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, District Government personnel, DDA members, and influential district residents on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training was provided to enable the participants to identify community major problems and propose solutions.

The Guzara District Governor, Mr. Nesar Ahmad Popal, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department, successfully organized the first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Using the Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM), participants identified poverty, unemployment, insecurity, drug-addiction, and illiteracy as their major community problems and proposed flood protection walls, roads, and schools rehabilitation projects as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will conduct feasibility studies next week.

## **KOHSAN**

The Introductory Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for Kohsan District was held with participation of the Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Mohammad Zarif Shah, District Government personnel, DDA members, and influential district residents on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Stability Analysis Mechanism (SAM)

training was provided to enable the participants to identify community major problems and propose solutions. The first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting for Guzara and Kohsan were scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Mohammad Zarif Shah, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department, successfully led the first Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The participants used the SAM and identified poor government service delivery, inadequate irrigation systems, and illiteracy as their major problems. Following a lengthy discussion, they proposed roads, culverts, flood protection walls, pipe scheme, and schools rehabilitation projects as solutions. The SIKA-West Community Development Department will conduct feasibility studies next week.

## **GHOR PROVINCE**

### **PROVINCIAL CENTER**

Coordination meetings were held with Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor and Mr. Taj Mohammad Zulal, the DRRD Director, on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The DPG highlighted the importance of the Komite Sobate Woleswali and the TCRC activities in bringing peace, development, and in resolving conflicts. The DRRD Director requested the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program to provide Engineering Software trainings to government staff to enable them to conduct their duties professionally. The SIKA-West Governance Department will assume responsibility for this request.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, a team from HQ, along with the Ghor PST staff, met with the Ghor Provincial Governor, the Deputy Provincial Governor and the DRRD Director. An overview of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program's activities and achievements in Feroz Koh and Shahrak were presented. The participants highlighted the effectiveness of the program, especially the TCRC, the Komite Sobate Woleswali, and the district government communications activities.

Basic Leadership training was provided to 23 women including the IDLG staff, CRC members, and civil society organization representatives in Ghor Province on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, organized a monthly coordination meeting with high ranking government authorities including the Provincial Governor, H.E Sayed Anwar Rahmati, the DRRD, DOWA, and DAIL Directors on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The participants highlighted the effectiveness of the first round of communications plans in reducing gaps between the government and residents. The Provincial Governor appreciated the initiative of the DPG in collecting aid for the recent landslide victims in Badakshan Province.

### **FEROZ KOH DISTRICT**

Following the second round of Concept Note Development training on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Sufak CDC in Chaghcharan District developed a concept note for a 15-KM road rehabilitation project. The CDC will share the concept note with the Provincial Governor's Office and the DDA for review and approval. Once approved, the CDC will submit the concept note to third party organizations for financial resources.

Engineering & technical training was provided by Badghis DRRD personnel to CDC supervisors/project foremen from four CDCs in Feroz Koh on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Topics included project planning, site mobilization and construction material quality, subjects which will assist these CDCs to properly implement their recently awarded grant funded projects.



**Laborers Working To Rehabilitate A 3410-Meter Pipe Scheme Network In Qargha Now Village, Shahrak District. Following The Completion Of The Project, 380 Families Will Have Potable Water.**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, along with the DDA members reviewed and finalized the agenda and talking points for the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting. The DPG organized the actual Komite Sobate Woleswali Feroz Koh meeting with participation of 51 people on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The participants discussed the previously identified major problems, poverty and unemployment, and proposed flood protection walls and pipe scheme rehabilitation projects as solutions.

Following the Concept Note Development training and mentoring, the Sufak CDC in Feroz Koh finalized and submitted a concept note for a 150-KM road rehabilitation project to Afghanistan, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), and Action Against Hunger (AAH) for financial resources. Afghanistan showed interest and will start feasibility studies soon. The other organizations will share the concept note with their main offices. These activities by the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department reflect efforts to collaborate with national and international organizations to expand the availability of resources to district residents.

As of May, 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.

## **SHAHRAK DISTRICT**

Following the Stabilization Practices training, Mr. Hafizullah, Shahrak Acting District Governor (ADG), successfully organized the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, after an almost eight month delay due to security concerns and severe cold weather. The ADG requested that the participants propose sustainable public welfare projects. The participants reviewed a previously identified major problem, unemployment, and proposed road and culvert rehabilitation as the solutions. In addition, the participants elected a new head for the Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC). The previous TCRC Head resigned after receiving a threat from the Taliban.

Mr. Shah Pasand Pahlawi, the Shahrak Acting District Governor, organized a football competition between two teams on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The competition aimed to encourage youth to play sports and build a sense of unity among them. Peace and unity messages were printed on the players' uniforms and flyers were distributed. At the end of the competition, sports materials were distributed to the players to appreciate them for attending the competition and encourage them to continue playing sports.

The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department, with cooperation of the Shahrak District Governor, produced folders with peace messages on their covers. A total of 68 folders were distributed to the Education, Police, and Agriculture Departments.

The Shahrak Acting District Governor, Mr. Hafizullah Habibi, organized the monthly coordination with the line-departments on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussions focused on ways to improve security in the district. An agreement was made to meet with the community elders to encourage them to support the security forces. A follow-up meeting was held with 30 community elders on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The community elders pledged to support the government in ensuring security in the community. In addition, the DG will meet with the Provincial Governor to send more security forces to the district.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Internal Communications training was provided to 16 governmental staff in Shahrak District. The training aimed to build the capacity of staff to better communicate with each other and improve service delivery to the residents. Topics included the importance of internal communications, barriers to internal communications, components, and tips to improve communication.



***Mr. Shah Pasand Pahlawi, The Shahrak Acting District Governor, Organized A Football Competition Between Two Teams On May 30<sup>th</sup> To Encourage The Youth To Play Sports And Build A Sense Of Unity Among Them.***

As of May, a total of seven grants valued at \$453,261 have been approved. Currently, CDCs are implementing seven projects valued at \$453,261. To date, no projects have been completed.

## **DU LAYNA**

As part of the rollout to new districts, a coordination meeting was held with Mr. Mohammad Hossain Daneshyar, Du Layna District Governor, in Ghor Province on May 6<sup>th</sup>. An overview of the SIKA-West components and objectives was presented. The DG pledged to support the program in his district. The first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>.

A coordination meeting was held with Mr. Ziauddin, the Du Layna District DDA Head, on May 11<sup>th</sup>. An overview of the MRRD/IDLG Stability Program, its components, and objectives was given. The first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting was scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Du Layna District Governor, Mr. Ahmad Hossain Daneshyar, with support of the SIKA-West Stabilization Programming Department organized the first Komite Sobate Wolesswali meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Applying the SAM, the participants identified their major problems (existence of Anti-Government Elements, unemployment, tribal conflicts, illiteracy, and lack of education) and proposed solutions (flood protection walls, pipe scheme, culverts, roads, and irrigation canal rehabilitation projects).

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

In-line with the effort to improve coordination between the SIKA-West Gender Unit and Herat Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA), a consolidated report and a list of all SIKA-West gender-related activities was prepared and submitted to DOWA. The same report will be prepared and submitted to the Farah, Badghis, and Ghor DOWAs.

As part of the SIKA-West M&E Project Impact Assessment reports, to address some of the complaints regarding the inadequate and low quality materials used in some of the projects, regular monitoring and spot checks will be conducted on some of the materials being used.

As part of the preparations for the MISTI project verification exercises, SIKA-West will be submitting GPS coordinates for each sub-project within a project. For example, if a project contains 10 water dividers, every individual water divider GPS point will be provided to MISTI on the USAID Projects Tracker. This will assist MISTI to locate all the water dividers within a project and also to avoid contestations and re-verification in the future.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The District Government Staff and the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) conducted 20 monitoring visits. The M&E personnel and Engineers organized 215 monitoring visits covering different interventions, including Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings and communications-related and capacity building trainings and projects in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces.

In-line with the recently approved work plan, M&E and the Database Team finalized a Work Plan Tracker that will track all departmental activities listed in the Plan. Information from the tracker will be reviewed at the end of each month to highlight progress on activities and any deviations from the plan.

The SIKA-West M&E Staff trained the Pashtun Zarghun and Shindand District Government focal points to write the Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings' reports. Following the training, the focal point successfully wrote the reports and shared with the respecting District Governors.

The M&E Team attended the SIKA-West Community of Practice meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the SIKA-East compound in Kabul. Discussions focused on similarities and differences in methodologies and how these can be standardized across the SIKAs. All SIKAs will standardize some of their processes and definitions as agreed to at the meeting.

As part of joint capacity building activities with MRRD/IDLG, SIKA-West will be conducting a five-day Community Mobilization and Stakeholders Engagement workshop from June 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The participants will be the Community Lead Development Department (CLDD) staff, including the District Social Workers and the Social Development Managers. The workshop will cover: coordination between district entities and Provincial Authorities, delivering stability messages, and definition of involved parties.

## **DELIVERABLES**

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

- April 2014 Monthly Report
- Weekly Reports
- Revised Performance Management Plan (PMP)
- Public Relations, Outreach and Communications Strategy

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