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Stability In Key Areas (SIKA)-West Agreement No: AID-306-C-12-00004

FY2014

Quarter IV



October 31st, 2014

1. Project Overview

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) –West program, which began on January 29, 2012 and is scheduled to end on August 31st, 2015. Led by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) the SIKA-West program is designed to promote stability in key areas by assisting provincial authorities and district-level government entities to improve governance programming and increase the provision of priority basic services; with the intended result of increasing citizen confidence in and support for, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). During the initial 26-month Base Period, the SIKA-West program employed a phased provincial roll-out within the four provinces of Farah, Badghis, Herat, and Ghor, incorporating 10 target districts. In February 2014, the SIKA-West program entered its 18-month Option Period and extended its engagement to an additional 6 districts within these provinces, bringing the current total to 16.

Prime Implementing Partner: AECOM International Development

Subcontractors: Overseas Strategic Consulting Ltd (OSC)
International City/Country Management Association (ICMA).

To achieve this objective, the SIKA-West team, in close cooperation with MRRD and IDLG, will train and assist District Entity (DE) officials and provincial authorities in:

- Developing a better understanding of community problems using the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM)/District Stability Matrix (DSM) and monitoring of stability trends. The Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) is an Afghanized tool, based on the District Stability Framework (DSF), designed to identify, prioritize, monitor, evaluate, and adjust programming intended to diminish the community “major problems,” following community input through the SAM tool.
- Finalizing District Project Portfolios (DPP) and successfully carrying out selected projects that enhance stability and good governance
- Continuing design and implementation of communication strategies that improve the relationship between provincial authorities, DEs and their citizens.

For SIKA-West, District Entity is defined as “institutions that are Afghan-led and who work at the district level. These institutions include government and non-government entities that play a ‘governance’ role in the district and/or will figure importantly in addressing stability.” Examples of DEs are Community Development Councils (CDC), District Development Assemblies (DDA), District Community Councils (DCC), Stability Working Groups (SWG), and other institutions in a given district that meet these criteria, such as Shuras.

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: Chaghcharan, Shahrak, and Du Layna Districts

2. Executive Summary

This report summarizes MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program activities undertaken across all program components and challenges faced during the months of July, August, and September 2014.

2.1 Summary of results for the reporting period and key achievements:

Stabilization Programming: During this reporting period, 29 GIRoA led Komite Sobate Woleswali (District Stabilization Committee) meetings were held. 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 Woleswali meetings provided an opportunity to identify and discuss a range of district community “major problems,” including unemployment, water disputes, presence of insurgent groups, illiteracy, lack of education facilities and flood damages, followed by prioritizing community proposed “solutions” to these problems which may be addressed by available government resources, in addition to grant funded activities such as rehabilitation of roads, culverts, irrigation canals, flood protection walls, clinic and schools and providing basic educational facilities.

Communications & Public Outreach Programming: District entities successfully completed 87 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans. These included producing a series of factsheets, conducting coordination meetings, and disseminating awareness-raising messages. During the quarter, a total of 152 provincial authorities and district entities used the Service Providers Catalogues (SPCs) and provided information about services listed in the SPC via visits, radio, and TV to residents. During the quarter, the District Government Hotlines received a total of 74 calls from residents complaining about different issues, including land, family, marriage, and security problems. The District Governors’ successfully responded to 43 complaints and resolved the conflicts. The other complaints are under review by the respective DGs.

Community Development Programming: To date, 353 grants valued at USD\$8,484,000 have been approved across all 16 target Districts. 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, 218 grants projects valued at \$3,399,080 were completed. Currently, CDCs are implementing 100 projects valued at \$3,831,208 in the target districts.

Governance Programming: The SIKA-West Governance Department mentored 625 District Government staff (561 males, 64 females) in the SIKA-West districts of operation. Mentoring included improving inventory/record keeping, organizational charts, report writing, and computer skills training.

As of the reporting date, 117 graduates of vocational training courses are supporting their families by utilizing vocational education skills in Shindand, Qadis, Muqur, Bala Boluk, and Khak-e-Safayd Districts. These graduates are providing embroidery, tailoring, carpentry, carpet weaving, mobile phone and auto-mechanic repairing services from their homes/shops and earning an income of AFN 3,520 per month.

Gender Mainstreaming Programming:

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.

2.2 Constraints and critical issues:

- Three SIKA-West staff and one driver were kidnaped coming from Pashtun Zarghun after a Project Management and Advocacy training on July 15th. Following negotiations with the kidnapers all three staff were released.
- Some CDC members in Kohsan District lack identity cards and some CDCs are due for re-election. The Community Development Department is working on these issues with the Herat DRRD; however there have been delays to Grant Application submissions.
- Due to security concerns, there has been a continued absence of District Government personnel within both the Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod District Government Offices.
- Due to security concerns in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Bala Boluk Districts, project site visits were postponed, leading to suspension of USD 23,388 milestone payments for Godar Gazak CDC in Bala Boluk and Chehel Dokhtaran Sufia CDC in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts.
- The Jak, Emarat Wosta, Bartakht Ulia, Nasrabad and Sowro CDCs in Shindand District did not provide security guarantees for MRRD SIKA-West personnel to visit their project sites. A one-month extension was provided to these CDCs by the District Government to provide security guarantees or their projects will be withdrawn.
- Program activities in Khak-e-Safayd District remain suspended since the attack on the District Governor's Compound in April 2014.
- The M&E Department could not re-check and verify the GPS coordinates for 30 projects in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Kushk Rabat-e Districts due to security concerns. M&E Department will organize site visits once the security situation improves.
- Due to Eid holiday the Dar Abad Sufia CDC in Farah Center couldn't complete their CDC's file which led to delay in submitting the Grant Applications for the Grant Department for further processing. The Community Development asked the CDC to complete their documents by October 16th.

3 Activity Implementation

3.1 Indicator/Activity Performance:

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Current Year Target	Current Year Result	% of variance between target and result	Next Year Target	Two FY Out Target	Reason for +/- 10% variance
S1: Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	F	0	110	477	333.63	360	NA	We counted CDCs as the sub-national government entities for this indicator. During the year, 287 CDCs and 257 government entities received USG assistance.
S2: Percent of Afghans reporting that their district government is responsive to the needs of local people	Stab-U Indicator	TBD	60%	60%	0	60%	NA	NA
S3: Number of District Entities with USG assistance for citizens to engage their subnational government	Stab-U Indicator	0	233	484	107.7	75	NA	More District Entities have shown interest in working with SIKa West. These include DOWA, Municipalities, Education and Health Departments hence an increase in the number during the year.
S4: Number of activities with community contribution (see indicator 4.3)	Stab-U Indicator	0	201	228	13.43	100	NA	Most of the projects with community contribution were completed during year.
S5: Number of Afghans Trained (see indicators 2.3, 3.3, 4.4)	Stab-U Indicator	0	5,272	4368	-17.14	5,000	NA	Although currently behind schedule, all Departments are working to increase the numbers in the next quarter.
S6: Number of Persons Employed by stabilization program activities	Stab-U Indicator	0	479	4608	862	1000	NA	This figure is measured once the grant is completed and closed out and all paperwork from the CDC is handed over

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Current Year Target	Current Year Result	% of variance between target and result	Next Year Target	Two FY Out Target	Reason for +/- 10% variance
								to SIKA-West. Most of the projects were completed during the year hence we have an increased number.
S7: Number of person-days of employment created	Stab-U Indicator	0	11,340	102544	804.26	30,000	NA	The same as above
S8: Number of stabilization activities implemented through grants to district entities (see indicator 4.3)	Stab-U Indicator	0	201	217	7.9	75	NA	NA
S9: Number of SOIs against which stabilization activities have been executed	Stab-U Indicator	0	12	8	-33.3	7	NA	Most of the SOIs are similar in the SIKA-West districts of operation and we don't double count them, such as unemployment and lack of government investment in agricultural sectors.
S10: Number of stabilization Work Sessions Conducted for district entities (see indicator 1.2)	Stab-U Indicator	0	105	141	34.28	130	NA	Six new districts were added to the SIKA-West districts of operation.
S11: Number of Districts in which SAM is utilized to develop programs (see indicator 1.2)	Stab-U Indicator	0	10	16	60	16	NA	Six new districts were added to the SIKA-West districts of operation.
S12: Number of GIRoA Officials trained in aspects of government administration (See indicators 2.3 and 3.3)	Stab-U Indicator	0	323	1172	262.84	100	NA	More GIRoA have shown interest in working with SIKA West.
S13: Number of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services. (assets, credit, income or employment)	F/Gender	0	1,525	1909	25.09	100	NA	More women have shown interest in working with SIKA West.
S14: Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entity activities (KSWs)	Gender	0	36	87	141.66	100	NA	This is a result of the addition of 6 new programming districts.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Current Year Target	Current Year Result	% of variance between target and result	Next Year Target	Two FY Out Target	Reason for +/- 10% variance
1.1 Number of partnered District governments (and % of total) that show improved understanding of local Sources of Instability.	Program	0	10	16	60	16	NA	The same as above
1.2 Number of Stabilization work sessions conducted with district entities.	F/Program	0	100	141	41	130	NA	The same as above
1.3 Number of Activities included in District Project Portfolios as a result of stabilization workshops	Stab-U/Program	0	240	219	-8.75	75	NA	NA
2.1 Number of District Entities able to access stabilization services provided by GIRoA organizations/line departments	Program	NA	NA	16	NA	16	NA	SIKA-West is operating in all 16 districts of operation. All 16 district governments are able to identify sources of instability and plan SOI mitigation activities.
2.2 Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the Service Providers Catalogue	Program	0	10	5	-50	5	NA	The SIKA-West Communications Dept. continued working with the district entities to plan SOI mitigating activities using the SPC. More activities will be planned to reach the target.
2.3 Number of people trained on Service Provider Catalog usage	Program	0	NA	271	NA	100	NA	NA
3.1 Number of people reporting improvement in the responsiveness of GIRoA district entities with regards to SOI resolution	Program	TBD	NA	64%	NA	65%	NA	NA
3.2 Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs with USG assistance	Program	0	16	257	1506.2	24	NA	The respective district governors implemented most of the activities outlined in their communications plans.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Current Year Target	Current Year Result	% of variance between target and result	Next Year Target	Two FY Out Target	Reason for +/- 10% variance
3.3 Number of people trained in communications and outreach	F/Program	0	1,291	1166	-9.68	500	NA	NA
3.4 Number of PA's and DEs with a communication strategy or plan in place.	Program	0	8	10	25	15	NA	The Communications Dept developed two new communications plans for Shahrak District Governor and the Chaghcharan Youth Association and the second-round communications plans for Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, Qadis, Muqur, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Shindand and Chaghcharan District Governors.
4.1 Percentage of people reporting improvement in service delivery by DEs and PAs.	Program	TBD	NA	65%	NA	65%	NA	NA
4.2 Number of person days of employment created through SIKAWest interventions.	Stab-U/Program	0	46,800	102544	119.11	30,000	NA	Most of the projects were completed during the year hence we have an increased number.
4.3 Number of grant activities completed in support of stabilization goals	Stab-U/Program	0	120	217	80.83	75	NA	The same as above
4.4 Number of person-days of training implemented through grants.	Program	0	9,600	103030	973.22	3000	NA	Most of the trainings were more than 6 months in duration.

3.2 Key Activities Accomplished during the Quarter: Below is a summary of the activities accomplished during the quarter, organized by Stabilization, Communications & Public Outreach, Community Development, Governance, and Gender Mainstreaming programming:

3.2.1 Stabilization Programming:

- Twenty nine GIRoA- led Komite Sobate Woleswali (District Stabilization Committee) meetings were held.
- A total of 1,777 people (285 females, 1,492 males) participated in the Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings.
- Conflict Resolution Skills trainings were provided to 30 Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members in Qala-i-Naw and Du Layna District. Topics included definition of conflict, causes of conflict, conflict management, characteristics of a good mediator, and tools and techniques to resolve a conflict.
- The District Government Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) identified and addressed 17 conflicts ranging from forced marriage to inheritance, lands and familial disputes.

3.2.2 Communications & Public Outreach Programming:

- A total of 152 provincial authorities and district entities used the Service Providers Catalogues (SPCs) and provided information about services listed in the SPC via visits, radio, and TV to residents.
- Twelve training workshops were held on SPC usage for 249 governmental and non-governmental staff.
- Thirteen Communications-related trainings were provided to 181 people including government officials, women and youth.
- The District Governors completed 87 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans. These included producing a series of factsheets, conducting coordination meetings, and disseminating awareness-raising messages. Seven second-round Communications Plans were developed for the District Governments.
- Four Advocacy and Concept Note Development trainings were provided to 41 people including the CDCs, women and farmers.
- The second-round District Government Communication Plans in Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Qadis, Muqur, Shahrak, Chaghcharan and Bala Boluk have been developed in collaboration with District Governors and approved by the IDLG SIKa Unit.
- The Herat DRRD launched a two-day Service Providers Fair in Herat Province on. More than 80 governmental and non-governmental organizations displayed their services to the people. The Fair aimed to provide a platform for both governmental and non-governmental organizations to directly communicate with the people, display their available services and exchange contacts. During the two-day Fair thousands of people, including local people, women and school children visited the Fair and acquired information about the available services.

3.2.3 Community Development Programming:

- To date, 351 grant funded projects valued at USD\$8,450,974 have been approved by MRRD and IDLG in target districts.
- CDCs & DDA's are implementing 100 projects valued at USD\$3,831,208.
- 218 projects valued at USD\$3,339,080 have been completed.
- 19 projects valued at USD\$954,835 are pending with the Vetting Unit for action.
- Project Management Training was provided to 303 CDC members.

3.2.4 Governance Programming:

- A total of 625 District Government staff (561 males, 64 females) were mentored in improving inventory/record keeping, organizational charts, report writing, and computer skills.
- Plant Pests and Diseases training was provided to 127 farmers in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw. The farmers learned new methods of fighting plant pests and diseases.
- The Pashtun Zarghun District Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Abdul Rahim, was mentored on preparing a guideline on how to rent government agricultural lands on July 10th. The guideline gives detailed information on the steps required to rent government agricultural lands.
- A five-day Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management training was provided to 78 GIRoA staff from Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn, Farah Center, Qala-i-Naw and Qadis.
- “Good Governance” training was provided to 27 high ranking governmental officials from DRRD, DoWA, DoLSA, Environment, Education, Counter Narcotics, Anti-disaster, Agriculture and Haj & Religious Affairs Departments in Chaghcharan.
- A five-day Project Management training was started for 40 GIRoA staff in Badghis Province. Topics included project leadership, types of projects, project cycle, project design, project planning and monitoring and evaluation.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Haj and Religious Affairs Manager, Mr. Abdul Ghani Jamshidi, was supported on preparing a guideline on how to rent government agricultural lands.
- The Governance Department has supported the Pusht-e Rod District Government led effort to streamline the process of receiving requests for and processing national ID Cards for district residents. New guidelines have been developed that are shared with the district residents to avoid delays.
- The Qadis Education Department developed and distributed a guideline that provides detailed information on how a student can move from one school to another. Before developing the guideline, it was difficult and time-consuming for residents to move their school children.
- The Bala Boluk Education Department published instructions on how students can obtain graduation certificates. The publication of these instructions will help school graduates in obtaining their certificate and continuing further education.

3.2.5 Gender Mainstreaming Programming:

- Provincial Gender Working Group meetings were conducted in Herat, Badghis, Ghor, and Farah Provinces.
- Eight Female Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were conducted in Du Layna, Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, Lash Wa Juwayn and Shahrak Districts.
- Conflict Resolution Skills training was provided to 16 influential women Qadis District
- The Conflict Resolution Committee for women addressed a total of 11 familial conflicts in Shindand, Chaghcharan, Muqur, Qala-i-Naw and Bala Boluk Districts.
- A three-day “Regional Gender Coordination Workshop” was held in Herat Province on August 31st. Participants included the DOWA Directors from Herat, Ghor, Farah and Badghis and the Gender Specialists. The workshop aimed to provide an opportunity for the participants to present their organizations’ gender-related activities and improve coordination among them.

3.3 Planned for Next Reporting Period:

3.3.1 Stabilization Programming

- Support will be provided to the District Governors to organize their monthly Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings
- The District Government Led Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees will identify and address domestic conflicts in their communities
- Support the District Governments to produce internal “Stabilization Snapshot”.
- Support will be provided to KSWs to identify available government resources/ non-government resources that can be employed to address identified community “problems.”

3.3.2 Communications & Public Outreach Programming

- The Communications & Public Outreach Department will support the DRRD/IDLG to organize Service Providers Fairs
- Support will be provided to the DRRDs to maintain, revise and update their Service Providers Catalogues (SPCs)
- The District Governments will implement their Communications Plans’ activities
- Communications-related trainings will be provided to the district government staff
- Support will be provided to the District Governors to brief Provincial Governors on District Activities (Including IDLG/MRRD SIKAWest Activities)
- District Governors will lead public events to promote district activities

3.3.3 Community Development Programming

- Feasibility studies will be conducted for the proposed projects by KSWs
- District Project Portfolios (DPPs) will be prepared for the KSWs feasible proposed projects
- Project Management trainings will be provided to the projects implementer CDCs
- Will provide weekly feedback to CDC’s on project quality, deficiencies and advice on corrective procedures.
- Technical Training Workshops will be provided for CDC foremen to ensure that projects are progressing according to the developed timeline, budgets and technical and quality specifications are being met.
- In collaboration with DGs/DRRD DSWs post completion site visits will be conducted to ensure CDC’s are following up with the agreed maintenance actions.

3.3.4 Governance Programming

- Support will be provided to IDLG/DRRD to improve service delivery performance
- Continuing mentoring and support for vocational training graduates

3.3.5 Gender Mainstreaming Programming

- Monthly Female Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings will be held.
- Support District Government Led Female Conflict Resolution Committees to identify and address familial conflicts.
- Support the Female KSWs to produce internal “Stabilization Snapshot”.
- Support for DoWA-led Provincial Gender Working Groups in the target provinces.

3.4 Lessons learned:

- Community leaders and influential people have an important role in solving conflicts at the district and village level. The Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) for women in Qala-i-Naw involved the community leaders in resolving a familial conflict and was able

to successfully resolve the conflict. The SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit will mentor all CRCs in SIKA-West districts of operation to apply this approach and involve the community leaders in their conflict resolution activities.

- As a result of proposals put forward during Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings, some projects have been started in insecure areas after receiving assurances from some CDCs, DDAs, and DGs about accompanying staff to project sites for inspection and monitoring visits in order to ensure their safety. In many cases, after the end of Project Management Training and first milestone payments, CDCs would renege on their assurances to accompany project staff, leading to problems with project quality and completion. In light of this, SIKA-West has resolved to engage different stakeholders in Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings so that projects will not be implemented in insecure areas where there is an absence of local government structures.
- As a result of different and inconsistent coordinates being read from GPS cameras being used by project staff in various districts, SIKA-West M&E has Started using smart phone instead of Track Stick
- Due to delays in getting projects that can be processed quickly by the SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD), it was proposed that CDD technicians actively participate in Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings to provide participants with the criteria for possible projects that can be funded. This came as a result of having a lot of projects being prioritized in the KSW meetings which are later found to be either unfeasible because of technical or budgetary constraints.
- Coordination and cooperation between residents and local government is a key for successful implementation of projects in insecure areas. The Mohammad Amin CDC in Shahrak District was not able to implement their road rehabilitation project based on the required specification with high quality due to security concern. The community elders, the implementer CDC and the Acting District Governor held a meeting, discussed their challenges and agreed to provide security for the mentioned CDC to implement their project with high quality.
- Coordination with the high ranking Provincial Government authorities proved a key to have more government line-departments in implementation of activities. Most of the line-departments in Ghor Province were reluctant to contribute to the Ghor Service Providers Fair (SPF). The Ghor Provincial Governor and the DRRD Director organized a meeting with line-departments, discussed about the importance of the SPF and convinced the line-departments to actively take part in the event.

4 Collaboration with GIROA, other donor projects, or other USAID projects

4.1 Links with relevant GIROA ministries:

- Weekly coordination meetings were held with the respective District Governors and the DRRDs. An overview of the activities, achievements, and challenges was shared.
- Copies of weekly and monthly reports and the monthly work plans were shared with the District Governors, DRRD, and IDLG.
- Coordination meetings were held with the Provincial Departments of Women's Affairs (DOWA) in Herat, Badghis, Ghor, and Farah.
- The respective District Government staff and the DRRD DSWs, organized projects site visits in all districts of operation in order to check on their progress.
- With support of the Stabilization Department, the District Governors organized their monthly KSWs monthly meetings.
- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the District Governors implemented their respective Communications Plans.

4.2 Links with other donor agencies:

- SIKA-West has reached out to INTERSOS, a non-profit humanitarian aid organization, working in Guzara District of Herat Province to explore ways of collaborating in projects implementation in common districts. The SIKA-West Stabilization Department will organize a meeting with INTEROS on October 29th.
- A coordination meeting was held with the NABDP Institutional Development Officer, Mr. Nikomanesh on August 16th. Discussion focused on DDA re-election process in the SIKA-West districts of operation. The NABDP agreed to facilitate the re-election process with some financial support from SIKA-West.
- As part of the efforts to build linkages with other MRRD projects, a meeting was held with the MRRD/AREDP. The SIKA-West and AREDP shared their activities, components and objectives. It was agreed to organize more coordination meetings and explore capacity building efforts including sharing training materials.

4.3 List and discuss links with other USAID projects:

- A coordination meeting was held with the Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI), a USAID funded program, on July 13th. SIKA-West and CCI discussed their program objectives and work structure. Both parties agreed that CCI would attend the Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings in Herat and Badghis Provinces and SIKA-West agreed to provide a list of projects that were not feasible based on SIKA-West criteria to the CCI for their consideration.
- Representatives from the SIKA-West M&E Department and Programming attended the MISTI Summit in Kabul on August 27th. The theme of the meeting was "Transition to Sustainable Development".

5 Management and Administrative Issues

5.1 Personnel

- During the reporting period, SIKA-West experienced an anticipated turnover in personnel. The DCOP who left the project was replaced as planned and started work on September 28th. The Grants Program Manager demobilized from the project in August, and a replacement has already been hired and is anticipated to assume this position in late October.
- Offices in 15 Districts are operational and hiring and training of staff is almost complete according to the proposed staffing plan. Program activities in Khak-e-Safayd District remain suspended since the attack on the District Governor's Compound in April 2014.

5.2 Adaption of the Activity

- The SIKA-West Work Plan is being revised to include the additional six districts that were approved by USAID. The SIKA-West has consulted with both IDLG and MRRD to come with an agreement on targeted activities for the new Districts. The new Districts are Guzara, Kohsan, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Qala-i-Naw and Du Layna. The new work plan is anticipated to be completed and submitted to USAID in the next quarter.
- As part of the outcome indicators' measurement in the PMP, SIKA-West engaged Eureka Research Company to assist with a Mid-Term Assessment during the quarter. Eureka has finalized the questionnaire for the Assessment and will conduct training for surveyors on interview techniques, and survey methodology in the next quarter. The Mid-Term Assessment is expected to commence on October 18th.

- Although there has been an improvement in the turnaround time of approvals for projects sent for vetting, the process remains lengthy and is a serious constraint. During the reporting period, 26 CDC grantees (with the total value of USD 1,369,747) were submitted for vetting, but vetting eligibility notices were received from the Vetting Unit for 10 of those grantees (totally USD 572,644). Delays in receiving the eligibility notices is slowing down the implementation process, as grants cannot be awarded without the official eligibility notices. Updates about outstanding vetting and approval requests are submitted to the COR on a weekly basis in order to expedite the approvals process and to highlight the highest priority requests.

5.3 Modifications and Amendments

Modification Number 8 was granted on August 27th, 2014. The purpose of the modification was to realign the budget, and decrease the Total Estimated Cost (TEC) of the contract by USD\$8, 998,824.00 from USD\$62, 998,825.00 to USD\$54, 000,000.00.

Service Provider Fair In Herat Promotes Government Services



Photo Credit: USAID-SIKA-WEST

During the two-day Fair several thousand Herat residents (including men, women & children) acquired information on a variety of government services.

“Today Herat for the first time witnessed their Service Provider Fair. Both governmental organizations and civil societies could display their services,”

Mr. Khalil Parsa

**Herat Civil Society Institution
Network Coordinator.**

U.S. Agency for International Development
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Recognizing the importance of promoting available government and private services to the residents of Herat province, the Herat Department of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (DRRD) and Provincial Government Office (PGO), with the support of the USAID Stability In Key Areas-West program planned, organized and launched a two day Service Provider Fair in Herat City between August 10-12, 2014. More than 80 government departments

and non-governmental organizations participated in the Fair, displaying their goods and services and providing a platform for provincial residents to directly communicate with their local government, observe and apply for services and exchange contact details. Examples of government departments that participated in this event include; Herat DRRD (NSP, AREDP, NABDP), Counter Narcotics Department, Department of Womens Affairs (DOWA), Department of Education, AISA etc.

Mr. Aqa Mohammad Sediqi (Herat DRRD Director) spoke about the importance of this Fair, *“People in the city have more information about their government services, we should organize such events at the district level as well”*

Haji Khalil Ahmad Shahid Zada (Herat Member of Parliament) commented *“This Fair bridges the government with local people and raises people’s awareness about governmental and non-governmental organizations’ services”*