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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

QUARTERLY REPORT
FY2015 QUARTER I



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QUARTERLY REPORT FY2015 QUARTER I

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ACRONYMS

AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CCI	Community Cohesion Initiative
CDC	Community Development Councils
COP	Chief of Party
CPOD	Communications & Public Outreach Department
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Portfolio
DE	District Entities
DG	District Governor
DoLSA	Department of Labor and Social Affairs
DoWA	Department of Women’s Affairs
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DRRD	Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DSM	District Stability Matrix
DST	District Support Team
DSW	District Social Worker
GPS	Global Positioning System
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
ICMA	International City/Country Management Association
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IR	Intermediate Result
KSW	Komite Sobate Woleswali
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
SPC	Service Providers Catalog
TCRC	Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee
CRC	Conflict Resolution Committee
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

I. 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 31, 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 six 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.

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-e Rabat 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 October, November, and December 2014.

2.1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

IR.1 STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, 38 (8 Male, 5 Female & 25 Mixed) 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 KSW meetings provided an opportunity for District Governments to identify and discuss a range of district community “major problems,” “reasons” for those problems and recommend solutions utilizing both existing GIRoA resources and SIKA-West grant funding. “Major Problems” identified included insufficient government support to tackle illiteracy, lack of employment opportunities, lack of flood protection measures, insecurity and presence of armed groups, violence against women and lack of awareness of their rights. Both the provincial and district government leadership acknowledged their role in addressing these “major problems” and determined what could be addressed utilizing existing GIRoA resources and what would require grant funding support from SIKA-West.

Examples of Major Problems Addressed By GIRoA Utilizing Existing Resources

- (a) In Chaghcharan, during the Komite Sobate Woleswali on October 22nd 2014, provincial and district residents requested support from the government to address the ongoing conflict in the Allahyar area of Shahrak District. This conflict between Mullah Mustafa (Cheshee Tribe) and Mullah Burhan (Pahlawan Tribe) was ongoing for many years and had resulted in a number of Shahrak District residents fleeing to the Chaghcharan provincial center for safety. In response to this request, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor Mohammad Amin Tokhi travelled to Shahrak District with other GIRoA representatives to resolve this conflict. Other members of this team included the Provincial Director of the Peace Council and Provincial Council Members, among others. This group met with both Mullah Mustafa and Mullah Burhan and convinced the warring groups to end their current fighting, withdrawn their fighters from each other’s territory and enable district residents to return. On December 4 2014, during the Komite Sobate Woleswali in Chaghcharan, the Deputy Provincial Governor updated residents on his actions, and was greeted warmly by KSW members who appreciated GIRoA’s quick response and actions, remarking that these steps will improve stability within the district.
- (b) In Du Layna, during the Komite Sobate Woleswali on October 19, the district government and residents discussed the recent increase in armed groups operating within the district. The district government reminded residents that they could count on the support of the local government security forces. During the month of October 2014, two CDCs, Shayddan, and Shahjoy requested support from the district police to deal with an armed group that was in their area and the police responded, dealing with the threat and dispersing the armed group, with the assistance of the communities. In recognition of this effort, on November 17, 2014, during the KSW, the Du Layna District Governor provided a Letter of Appreciation to the district police and CDC members and received positive feedback from the district residents who recognized that their trust in the local government had been rewarded.
- (c) In Qala-e-Naw, during the Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on October 20, 2014, a female KSW member requested support from the provincial government to address the current threat of domestic violence against provincial and district women and their lack of understanding of their rights under Afghan law. In response, the Badghis Department of Women’s Affairs (DOWA) and representatives from the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) organized and implemented a 3 day workshop (Oct 27-29, 2014) for 150 provincial and district women to educate them on their

rights and let them know what government resources were available to them in the event that they needed help. Limited financial support was provided by SIKAWest to support this workshop, but the activity was organized, led, and undertaken by GIRA.

Examples of Major Problems Addressed By GIRA Utilizing SIKAWest Grant Funding

- (a) In Qala-e-Naw, Lash Wa Juwayn, Qadis, Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi, Farah Center, Kohsan and Chaghcharan the provincial and district governments addressed current community problems, including but not limited to, Lack of Flood Protection Measures, Lack of School Equipment, School Buildings & Orphanages In Need of Repair, and Rural Road Networks In Need of Rehabilitation. Both provincial and district governments acknowledge the role of government in addressing these grievances and improving the quality, range and scope of government services.
- (b) In responding to these identified community problems, the provincial and district governments authorized increased investment in ‘Construction of Gabion & Stone Masonry Flood Protection Walls’, ‘Rehabilitation of Canal Protection Walls’, ‘Provision of Furniture & Educational Materials To Boys/Girls District Schools’, ‘Rehabilitation of Boys/Girls District Schools’, ‘Construction of Irrigation Networks’, ‘Rehabilitation of Rural Road Networks’, ‘Rehabilitation of An Orphanage’, utilizing the SIKAWest grant funding.

In order to assess the impact of Stabilization Programming during this quarter, community gatherings were conducted with CDCs in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun Districts, and Farah Provincial Center. The CDCs were asked to provide their views on Stabilization Programming and whether GIRA has actively addressed identified grievances. The CDCs reported that the KSWs have built strong relationships between residents and local governments; now residents are in constant communication with their governments and have a positive view and respect for government. Farmers in Shor Abad village noted that government support provided to rehabilitate 4.5-KM road enabled them to transport their agricultural produce to the Farah Provincial markets timely. Women in Rabat Sangi Sharqi village appreciated the local government efforts in constructing a 60-meter flood protection wall, which safeguards the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Center Girls’ High School from being flooded, and now 1,247 students have a safer educational environment. In addition, residents in Abgarmi village in Pashtun Zarghun District noted improvement in their transportation network, which highlighted that they can now travel to the District Center and use the available government services including but limited to health facilities and agriculture and extension services. *“Now that the road is rehabilitated, we can travel to the District Center and use the available government services including health facilities,”* a resident from Abgarmi village.

IR2 & IR.3 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

District entities successfully completed 94 out of 122 Communication & Public Outreach activities in accordance with the IDLG approved District Communication Plans. Designed to improve communications between Provincial/ District Governments and their residents, these outreach activities included but were not limited to the following; a) Monthly District Government Line Department coordination meetings, which are designed to ensure that line departments are communicating with each other, pending district concerns are discussed and available resources identified to address these concerns b) Provincial Service Provider Fairs in Ghor & Badghis which enabled up to 60 government departments & non-governmental organizations to share their activities with provincial and district residents; c) Site Visits to ongoing grant funded CDC projects to reflect GIRA leadership of these district investments d) Agricultural Festival In Farah which celebrated the local pomegranate crop and encouraged the increased consumption and sale of the fruit e) Radio & TV Interviews for District Governors & DGO personnel to describe current activities and role of district government in addressing district problems f) Public Forum Meetings between DGO personnel and district residents to discuss current concerns g) Dissemination of Provincial/District Government activities to residents to raise awareness on available services and accomplishments; utilizing printed flyers and radio messaging. In addition, District Government Hotlines recorded a total of 212 district resident calls requesting GIRA services to address familial and land

disputes, security problems as well as provide updates on current MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West grant funded project activity. From these calls, 66 concerns were addressed directly by GIRoA while the remainders are under review/process by the respective District Government Offices.

Examples of Communication & Public Outreach Activities Undertaken By GIRoA

- (a) Our Ghor & Badghis DRRD Provincial Partners organized two day Service Provider Fairs in their respective provinces. The Ghor Service Provider Fair was held on October 19-20, 2015 and the Badghis Service Provider Fair was held on November 17-18. During these events up to 60 GIRoA Line Departments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) displayed their services and provided up to date activity and contact information to over 1000 provincial and district residents. This event was the first of its kind in Chaghcharan (Ghor Provincial Center).
- (b) On October 02, the Bala Boluk District Governor Mr. Sayed Mohammad and the Bala Boluk DRRD DSW Mr. Naser conducted a site visit in Rahim Abad Village, to inspect the work progress of an 80ML Canal Protection Wall & 15M Aqueduct that had been awarded by the District Government & Farah DRRD to the community, through the Komite Sobate Woleswali. Once complete, the Canal Protection Wall will ensure that available irrigation water is protected and available to irrigate 100 Jeribs of community farmland.
- (c) On October 16, the Muqur District Government Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abobakr Azimi, and the Muqur DRRD DSW Mr. Besmellah Waher conducted a site visit in Jan Dosti Village to monitor the community's maintenance of one Culvert, which was supported by the Muqur Komite Sobate Woleswali. The project was completed on February 19, 2014 and the DEM was pleased with its current condition and the improved access it provides for community residents to the District Center.
- (d) On October 29, the Farah DRRD, Farah DAIL, and Provincial Information & Culture Department organized a Pomegranate Festival in Farah City. More than 25 pomegranate producers introduced their range of six different types of Farah pomegranates to both provincial and district residents. *"The festival was a great opportunity for pomegranate producers to introduce their products to local residents and traders"* Farah DRRD Director, Eng. Abdul Rauf.
- (e) On November 02, the Qadis District Governor, Mr. Saleh Mohammad Bik visited Rais Sayed Mohammad Village and laid the foundation stone for a 10ML Aqueduct, which had been awarded to the community by the District Government, led Komite Sobate Woleswali. This project reflected investment by the local government to improve irrigation for 1482 acres of community farmland.
- (f) On November 10, the Kohsan District Governor, Mr. Juma Gol Rahmani participated in televised programming at the Kohsan Television Station and spoke about recent GIRoA achievements and activities within the district. He highlighted the role of government in supporting free education and medical services to district residents through the Department of Education & Health and broadcast the current District Government Hotline Number, reminding district residents to call the number and share their concerns with their local government.
- (g) On November 27, the Kushk-e Robat Sangi District Governor, Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari in the presence of other GIRoA officials visited the district center bazaar and held an open forum discussion with business owners to hear their concerns. One issue raised by local storekeepers was the nuisance created by cattle traders and their herds in blocking access to the district bazaar; in response the District Governor had the cattle traders placed in another location further from the bazaar; a second issue raised by storekeepers were the frequent power outages that damage electrical equipment; this concern was communicated by the District Governor to the Provincial Governments Office for further action.
- (h) In December, the Pusht-e Rod District Governor Mr. Ghawsuddin personal intervened to place seven male district residents in the Farah Provincial Drug Rehabilitation Clinic after receiving requests for assistance from district families. Once the treatment is complete, the District Governor will be working with the Provincial Department of Labor & Social Affairs (DOLSA) to provide employment opportunities for these men. *"I am very happy that these youth will be rehabilitated and can support their families"* Mr. Ghawsuddin, Pusht-e Rod District Governor.

- (i) On December 22, the Kohsan District Government Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Nezamuddin Rahmani conducted a site visit in Islam Qala Shamali Village to inspect the work progress on a 2KM Road Rehabilitation & Gravelling Project that had been awarded to the community by the District Government and Herat DRRD through the Kohsan Komite Sobate Wolesswali. The DEM was pleased with the quality of the work effort and looked forward to the completion of the project, which will improve access for 450 families to the Kohsan District Center.
- (j) On December 23, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor chaired the monthly line department coordination meeting to receive updates from his department on recent activities. The Revenue Department outlined that they had been successful in the collection of AFN100, 000 in business taxes from the district center bazaar. The Executive Manager outlined that the government run District Health Clinics are short of medicine and that this issue requires the immediate attention of the Farah Provincial Department of Health, with which he is currently in touch.

Examples of Communication & Public Outreach Supported District Government Hotlines

- (a) On October 18, the Muqur District Government Hotline received a call from a resident of Khalifa Village. The resident complained that a village elder had blocked the main village road with material and equipment, while constructing his new home. The District Executive Manager travelled to Khalifa Village and mediated between the two parties, ensuring that the construction materials were removed and the road was re-opened.
- (b) On November 14, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Government Hotline received a call from a resident of Faiz Abad Village, claiming that he had been injured in a physical altercation with another resident. The District Governor referred the case to the Justice Department and both parties were summoned to the DGO. The guilty party was ordered to pay AFN5000 to the injured resident.
- (c) On November 22, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DGO used the District Government Hotline to call Yaka Toot CDC, Yaka Toot Village, to follow up on the progress of their grant award to construct a 200ML Gabion Groyne. According to the CDC, work is progressing normally in line with technical specifications and there are no current challenges.
- (d) On November 27, the Qadis DGO used the District Government Hotline to call Sultan Ha CDC (Sultan Ha Village), to follow up on the progress of their grant award to construct one Culvert. According to the CDC, work is progressing as planned, but the community is in need of financial support for their irrigation canals and requested DGO support. The DGO has shared this request with the Provincial Government Office.
- (e) On December 06, the Badghis PGO used the Government Hotline to call Raees Sharaf-e-Bala CDC (Raees Sharaf Payeen Village) to follow up on the progress of their grant award to construct a 50ML Gabion Protection Wall. According to the CDC, they completed 40% of the work but only received 20% of the project value in milestone payments. This request was referred to SIKAWest who followed up and determined that the delay in payment was due to project deficiencies that were in need of correction before the next milestone payment would be authorized.

IR.4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date, CDC's and DDA's in our target districts within Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah provinces successfully completed 236 grant funded projects which has been identified, awarded and monitored by our respective District Government and Provincial DRRD partners. These 236 grant funded projects are valued at USD\$3,747,233 and include varied projects such as a) Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canals b) Road Rehabilitation & Gravelling, Culvert Construction, School Rehabilitations, Gabion & Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall Construction etc. Implemented and managed by CDC's and DDA's under Fixed Obligation Grant mechanisms, these projects are designed to support our GIRoA partners (IDLG & MRRD) to address current district community grievances and reflect responsiveness in the provision of critical services. Currently, CDC's and DDA's are implementing 153 grant funded projects, valued at USD\$4,602,988 and pending projects valued at USD\$2,781,597 are under development.

Please see Chart 1 & 2 below for Further Details on Community Development Programming

Chart 1: Number of ongoing & completed projects

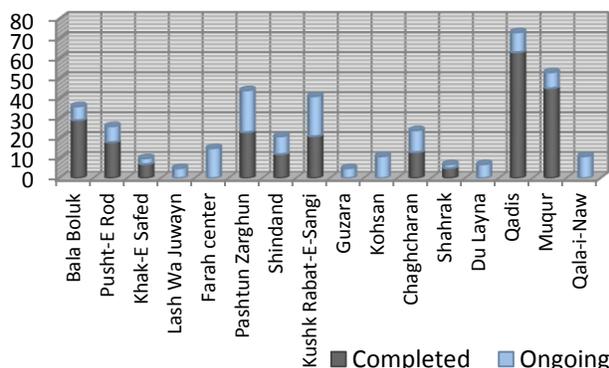
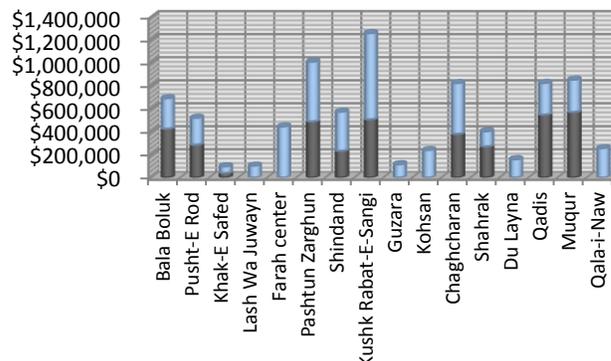


Chart 2: Value of ongoing & completed projects



Examples of Completed Grant Funded Projects Approved & Handed Over To GIROA

- The Torghundi Sharqi CDC in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District successfully constructed a 180 ML Concrete Irrigation Canal, which increases their control and volume of water flow, reduces wastage, and ensures that sufficient water reaches all 500 acres of community farmland, which supports almost 600 families.
- The Mahal Shahi CDC in Pashtun Zarghun District constructed a Super Passage, which controls seasonal floodwaters and protects residential homes, irrigation canals, and 70 acres of community farmland during seasonal flooding.
- The Chap Rodha CDC in Qadis successfully constructed an Aqueduct, which increases water flow, reduces wastage, and provides sufficient water for 150 acres of community farmland, supporting 300 farmers.
- The Khalifa Rahmat CDC in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi successfully Rehabilitated & Graveled a 3-KM Road and Constructed 5 Culverts, which has improved travelling conditions and minimized flooding within the area for 2100 families within 40 surrounding communities.

CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES:

GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, the SIKa-West Governance Department mentored 522 (444 male/78 female) District Government Office personnel and District Entities (Youth Groups, CDCs, DDAs) within our target districts. Mentoring activities were conducted in line with the IDLG approved District Governance Training Plan and included the following activities; Improvement In Inventory/Record Keeping Systems/ Organizational Improvements/ Report Writing, Work Plan Development & Computer Skill Sets.

Examples of IDLG Approved Governance Programming

- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan ,‘General Administration’ Workshops were conducted in Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Kohsan, and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi for 96 (91 males, 5 females) government personnel covering topics such as Administration Guidelines, Human Resource Management, and Performance Management, the workshops were designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, ‘Work Plan Development’ Workshop was conducted in Qadis and Muqur Districts for 24 (men) government personnel. Training covered Annual Work Plan, Development, and Strategic Planning & Procurement Practices. These workshops are designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.

- In line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a five-day Project Cycle Management Training (PCMT) was provided for 35 (men) governmental personnel from Lash Wa Juwayn, Pusht-e Rod, and Farah Center from November 1st-5th, covering Project Leadership, Types of Projects, Project Cycle, Project Design, Project Planning, and Monitoring and Evaluation. The training was conducted by Afghan Creative Consultancy Services.
- In line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, the Governance Department and the Ghor Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) collaboratively kicked off a three-month “Administrative & Management” training course for 60 female government staff and recent university graduates on November 1. By the end of this course, government personnel will have improved administrative skill sets.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMMING

The Gender Mainstreaming Unit (GMU) is responsible for the integration of gender across our programming components, targeting gender awareness initiatives and training programs, improving women’s access to DEs, and creating space for female voices and participation.

Examples of the Gender Mainstreaming Activities:

- With support from the GMU, five female Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were conducted in Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts. Women discussed their community major problems and identified areas where government support was needed. For example, the Lash Wa Juwayn KSW identified that the Lash Wa Juwayn Girls High School (which serves 800 female students) lacks basic sanitary facilities as well as sufficient desks and chairs. This grievance was shared with the District Government-led KSW on October 20 and the district government quickly agreed to address these conditions by seeking support from Farah DRRD through NSP and NABDP programming and third party donors. This request is not being addressed with SIKA-West grant funds.
- The Badghis, Herat, Ghor, and Farah Departments of Women’s Affairs (DOWA) Directors independently led their own Provincial Gender Working Group meetings. Five sub-committees (Economic, Health, Social, Cultural, and Advocacy) were established to handle the Gender Working Groups activities. Each Committee identified a range of activities where women’s needs and concerns needed to be addressed, including increasing health facilities for women, employment of women in governmental organizations, and improvement of women’s access to education. Initiatives will be shared with the Provincial DOWA’s for further action and/ or coordination with other third party donors.
- With support of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Badghis and Ghor DOWAs, the Guzara and Kohsan District Governors, and the Shindand Female Conflict Resolution Committee, each commemorated the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. Participants included Provincial and District Government personnel, community elders, and leading women from various district villages. Speeches on the importance of women’s rights were delivered. A representative from the Voice of Women Organization in Badghis Province informed the participants about the available services for women, including a shelter for those women affected by domestic violence.
- With support of the Farah Gender Working Group and DOWA, for the first time 70 women attended a driving course in Farah Province. The GWG and DOWA collaboratively lobbied with the Traffic Department to organize driving training sessions for women. Five women took the driving test and successfully passed. The remaining women will take the test in the coming weeks.
- With support from the Governance Department, 10 female graduates of IDLG/MRRD six-month grant funded Carpet Weaving & Embroidery Vocational Training Courses, which ended on February 2014 in Shindand District traveled to Herat City to display their products at the Women for Women Center’s Sunday Market on October 26. Although no sales were made at this event, the graduates made contacts with other textile producers, exchanged ideas on improving their products and spoke directly with carpet sellers to identify new carpet designs and changes in customer tastes.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The District Government Staff, the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), the M&E personnel, and Engineers organized 904 (SIKA-West Engineers: 426, M&E Personnel: 341, DSWs: 84 and Government Officials: 53) project site visits prior to the approval of the next round of milestone payments for the CDCs in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces. These visits uncovered deficiencies that were in need of correction. For example, the Bahador Ha CDC in Pashtun Zarghun was advised to correct plastering of the walls for their high school rehabilitation project, Haji Mohammad Ali Khan CDC (Qadis) was advised to use sand instead of gravel under their gabion wall project and the Mohammad Zai Herati CDC was required to improve the compaction of their road project.

The Qala-i-Naw, Bala Boluk, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Kohsan, Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Muqur and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Government Personnel used the District Government Hotline Numbers and called to 66 implementing CDCs to provide them an update on the progress of their projects. For example; The Head of the Raees Sharaf Bala CDC reported that they have completed 40% of the work but received money only for 20% of the work, the Deh Sorkhak Payeen CDC who are implementing a flood protection wall construction project reported that they were working based on the project specifications and the Abu Hanifa CDC informed the DGO that recent floods had washed away construction materials. The respective District Governors shared the reported complaints and concerns with SIKA-West for further action.

Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, Shindand, Lash Wa Juwayn, Chaghcharan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Muqur and Pashtun Zarghun District Social Workers and District Government Personnel (70 men). The training session focused on photography, Track Stick use, measurement tools, and report writing. These sessions will improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.

2.2 CONSTRAINTS AND CRITICAL ISSUES:

- In Shindand District, the Nawabad Pusht Koh, Nasrabad, Dolorg, Dokasha, Emarat Wosta, Jak, and Bartakht Ulia CDCs have been unwilling to continue with their project activities, remarking that security conditions do not allow them to do so. The District Government has responded by stating that these CDCs cannot continue to receive funding for these projects unless they begin implementation, and they risk having their projects withdrawn.
- All program activities in Guzara and Pashtun Zarghun Districts including the DDA-reelection were suspended due to security concerns on October 30. The suspension was lifted on November 16.
- Due to insecurity in Shindand, all program activities were suspended between December 11 and December 24.
- On December 28, 2014, three members of the Akhund Zadaha CDC and four daily laborers were kidnapped while working on a 2-kilometer Road Rehabilitation project. In addition, some construction machinery on the site was burned. SIKA-West has stopped six projects in and around Akhun Zadaha Village until this incident is resolved.
- Due to cold weather, all projects in Du Layna, Shahrak, and Chaghcharan; 8 projects in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi; 1 project in Kohsan; 2 projects in Guzara; and 12 projects in Pashtun Zarghun have been suspended until winter conditions improve.
- Due to security issues within Bala Boluk District, the SIKA-West district staff are working from the Farah Provincial Office until the situation improves.
- The M&E Department has been unable to confirm 15 Project Site GPS Points in Bala Boluk District due to current security concerns. M&E is working to train some CDC members and to hire local daily laborers to assist with monitoring and GPS points' collection.

3. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 INDICATOR/ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE:

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
S1: Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	F	0	42	110	360	144	688	+34.37%	More sub-national government entities including CDCs and DDAs were supported by the SIKA-West program. The program encompassed a range of activities that involved both governmental and non-governmental entities hence the increase in number. USG Assistance included trainings and mentoring of government and non-government entities. Y1-3 targets totaled 512; to date SIKA-West has assisted 688 sub-national government entities, exceeding our target by 176 or +34.37%

¹ - The variance is the percentage difference between the Year 1, 2 & 3 Targets, and the cumulative results to date. For example, the S1 indicator cumulative target is 512 and the cumulative result to date is 688, implying a 34.37% variance.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
S2:Percent of Afghans reporting that their district government is responsive to the needs of local people	Stab-U Indicator	0	NA	TBD	60%	60%	62%	NA	NA
S3:Number of District Entities with USG assistance for citizens to engage their subnational government	Stab-U Indicator	0	NA	233	75	144	740	+140.25%	More District Entities have shown interest in working with SIKA-West. Hence, we have an increased number. Y1-3 targets totaled 308; to date SIKA-West has assisted 740 District Entities, exceeding our target by 432 or +140.25%
S4:Number of activities with community contribution (see indicator 4.3)	Stab-U Indicator	0	72	201	100	18	236	-36.72%	All SIKA-West grant funded projects incorporate a community contribution. This contribution is recorded after the project has been completed. To date, 236 grant funded projects have been completed and 149 projects are ongoing, for 385, which will enable us to exceed our target of 373 once the remaining projects are completed.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
S5: Number of Afghans Trained (see indicators 2.3, 3.3, 4.4)	Stab-U Indicator	0	NA	5,272	5,000	1,702	10745	4.60%	NA
S6: Number of Persons Employed by stabilization program activities	Stab-U Indicator	0	NA	479	1,000	1,098	5707	+285.86%	Y1-3 targets total 1479; to date SIKA-West stabilization program activities have employed 5707 persons, exceeding our target by 4228 or +285.86%. This result has been driven by the programs focus on larger numbers of small and labor-intensive grant funded project activities in collaboration with our IDLG & MRRD partners.
S7: Number of person-days of employment created	Stab-U Indicator	0	9,000	11,340	30,000	41,734	144357	+186.76%	Y1-3 targets total 50,340; to date 144,357 person days of employment have been created, exceeding our target by 94, 017 or +186.76% This result has been driven by the program's on larger numbers of small and labor intensive grant funded project activities in collaboration with our IDLG & MRRD partners.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
S8: Number of stabilization activities implemented through grants to district entities (see indicator 4.3)	Stab-U Indicator	0	72	201	75	18	236	-32.18%	Y1-3 targets total 348; to date SIKAWest has completed 236 stabilization activities through grants, with 149 activities ongoing, for 385, which will enable us to exceed our target of 348, once the remaining grant funded projects are completed.
S9: Number of SOIs against which stabilization activities have been executed	Stab-U Indicator	0	NA	12	7	0	22	+15.78%	Y1-3 targets total 19; to date 22 SOI's have been identified against which stabilization activities have been executed; exceeding our target by 3 or 15.78%. This result has been driven by increased district community participation in GIRoA led stabilization programming through the Komite Sobate Woleswalis.
S10: Number of stabilization Work Sessions Conducted for district entities (see indicator 1.2)	Stab-U Indicator	0	88	100	130	38	255	-19.81%	Y1-3 targets total 318; to date 255 Stabilization Work Sessions have been conducted. Insecurity and winter conditions within key districts have led to the unplanned cancellation and/or postponements of these work sessions. Our program anticipates reaching our required target over the next two quarters.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
SI1: Number of Districts in which SAM is utilized to develop programs (see indicator 1.2)	Stab-U Indicator	0	7	10	16	15	16	0%	NA
SI2: Number of GIRoA Officials trained in aspects of government administration (See indicators 2.3 and 3.3)	Stab-U Indicator	0	NA	323	100	407	1050	+148.22%	Y1-3 targets total 423; to date 1050 GIRoA officials have been trained in aspects of government administration; exceeding our target by 627 or +148.22%. This result has been driven by our programs strong collaboration with our MRRD & IDLG partners, the utilization of GIRoA approved training materials and the execution of programming, which relates directly to GIRoA needs.
SI3: 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	NA	1,525	100	325	2896	+78.21%	Y1-3 targets total 1625; to date there have been 2896 female participants; exceeding our target by 1271 or +78.21%. This result has been driven by our programs capable gender component and strong collaboration with IDLG & MRRD to encourage female participation.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
S14: Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entity activities (KSWs)	Gender	0	27	36	100	12	167	2.45%	NA
I.1 Number of partnered District governments (and % of total) that show improved understanding of local Sources of Instability.	Program	0	10	10	16	16	100% 16/16	0%	NA
I. 2 Number of Stabilization work sessions conducted with district entities.	F/Program	0	88	100	130	38	255	-19.81%	Y1-3 targets total 318; to date 255 Stabilization Work Sessions have been conducted. Insecurity and winter conditions within key districts have led to the cancellation and/or postponements of these work sessions. Our program anticipates reaching our required target over the next two quarters.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
1.3 Number of Activities included in District Project Portfolios as a result of stabilization workshops	Stab-U/Program	0	70	240	75	180	624	+62.07%	Y1-3 targets total 385; to date 624 activities have been included in the DPP's because of stabilization workshops; exceeding our target by 239 or +62.07%. This result has been driven by increased engagement by district communities in the GIRoA led Komite Sobate Woleswali's as well as our programs focus on larger numbers of small and labor intensive grant funded project activities in collaboration with our IDLG & MRRD partners.
2.1 Number of District Entities able to access stabilization services provided by GIRoA organizations/line departments	Program	NA	NA	TBD	16	16	16	0%	NA

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
2.2 Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the Service Providers Catalogue	Program	0	7	10	5	3	15	-31.81%	Y1-3 targets total 22; to date 15 SOI's have been mitigated utilizing the SPC. A large number of providers in the SPC are GIRoA entities who are dependent on donor funding, this constrains their ability to act on and fund certain SOI's. Our program will continue to work with our GIRoA partners to assist them in their use of the Service Provider Catalog over the next two quarters.
2.3 Number of people trained on Service Provider Catalog usage	Program	0	NA	NA	100	81	545	445%	Y1-3 targets total 100; to date 545 people have been trained on the SPC usage; exceeding our target by 445 or +445%. This result has been driven by the fact that this is a new indicator added to the PMP for year 3 as part of an internal revision. Our program incorporated SPC trainings, which had been tracked and recorded since Y1.
3.1 Number of people reporting improvement in the responsiveness of GIRoA district entities with regards to SOI resolution	Program	TBD	NA	TBD	65%	64%	64%	NA	NA

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
3.2 Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs with USG assistance	Program	0	9	16	24	94	411	738.77%	Y1-3 targets total 49; to date 411 public outreach/consultation activities have been conducted; exceeding our target by 362 or +738.77%. This result has been driven by the strong collaboration between our program and our MRRD & IDLG partners, who have wholly embraced this activity.
3.3 Number of people trained in communications and outreach	F/Program	0	300	1,291	500	197	2720	30.08%	Y1-3 targets total 2091; to date 2720 people have been trained in C&O; exceeding our target by 629 or +30.08%. This result has been driven by strong collaboration between our program and our MRRD & IDLG partners, utilization of GIRoA prepared and approved training guidelines and materials & and the execution of programming which relates directly to GIRoA needs.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
3.4 Number of PA's and DEs with a communication strategy or plan in place.	Program	0	9	8	15	12	27	-15.62%	Y1-3 targets total 32; to date 27 PA's & DE's have a Communication Strategy in place. Due to the suspension of C&O programming in Khak-e-Safed District in early 2014 and cuts to the program budget during the Option Period (which limited our C&O programming timeframe and prevented 2 nd round Communication Plans in selected target districts), our program has been unable to meet this target to date. However, efforts towards this indicator will continue over the next two quarters.
4.1 Percentage of people reporting improvement in service delivery by DEs and PAs.	Program	TBD	NA	NA	60%	65%	65%	NA	NA

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
4.2 Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions.	Stab-U/Program	0	9,000	46,800	30,000	41,734	144357	68.24%	Y1-3 targets total 85,800; to date 144,357 person days of employment have been created, exceeding our target by 58,557 or +68.24% This result has been driven by the program's focus on larger numbers of small and labor intensive grant funded project activities in collaboration with our IDLG & MRRD partners.
4.3 Number of grant activities completed in support of stabilization goals	Stab-U/Program	0	72	120	75	18	236	-11.61%	Y1-3 targets total 267; to date SIKA-West has completed 236 grant activities in support of stabilization goals, with 149 activities ongoing, for 385, which will enable us to exceed our target of 267, once the remaining grant funded projects are completed.

Indicator Name and Number	DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS	Baseline Value	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Y3, Q1 Results	Cumulative Result to Date	% Variance between Cumulative Targets (Y 1,2,3) and Results to Date ¹	Reason for +/- 10% variance
4.4 Number of person-days of training implemented through grants.	Program	0	280	9,600	3,000	0	104530	711.56%	Y1-3 targets total 12,880; to date 104530 person days of training have been implemented, exceeding our target by 91,650 or +711.56% This result has been driven by the program's past focus on vocational training programs, which ran in duration from 4-6 months in length. In collaboration with MRRD, IDLG, and USAID, vocational training programs were phased out at the end of the base period. This is why there have been no additions to this indicator in Year 3.

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:

- Thirty-eight GIRA-led Komite Sobate Wolesswali (District Stabilization Committee) meetings were held attended by 2,008 people (348 females, 1,660 males).
- Conflict Management and Legal Awareness trainings were provided to 289 Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee (TCRC) members in Chaghcharan, Du Layna, Shahrak, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis, and Muqur Districts. Material included analyzing conflicts and methods of conflict resolution/mediation, which will be employed to address government-led efforts to address conflicts within the region.
- The District Government Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) identified and addressed nine conflicts, ranging from tribal conflicts to inheritance, lands, and familial disputes. Our records indicate that all requests for assistance that have been received by our District Government partners and their TCRC's are being reviewed.

3.2.2 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMMING:

- District entities successfully completed 94 out of 122 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans. Examples of the impact of this programming have been listed in earlier sections of this report.
- 'Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) usage' training was provided to 81 male government and non-governmental staff. The trainings aimed to improve their capacity to advocate and find potential third party donors to address their community major problems.
- Communications-related trainings were provided to 197 government and non-governmental staff (186 males, 11 females).
- Provincial and District Government personnel conducted 12 project site visits in Chaghcharan, Muqur, Qadis, Bala Boluk, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts. For example, on November 16, the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor visited the work progress of a culvert construction project in Pouza Leach village, Chaghcharan. The DPG was pleased with the work quality and asked the CDC to continue their work based on the project specifications. Examples of these site visits have been listed in earlier sections of this report.
- The Ghor and Badghis DRRD each organized a two-day Service Providers Fair in Ghor and Badghis Provinces on October 19-20 and November 17-18. More than 60 government and non-governmental organizations participated in each fair, displaying their goods and services. The fairs provided a platform for over a 1000 residents to directly communicate with members of their local government, observe and apply for services, and exchange contact details.

3.2.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING:

- To date, with oversight and technical support of the District Governments and the DRRDs in Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah Provinces, the CDCs successfully completed 236 grants projects valued at USD\$3,747,233 across all 16 target Districts.
- CDCs & DDAs are implementing 153 projects valued at USD\$4,602,988.
- Currently, 152 projects valued at USD\$2,781,597 are under development.

- In collaboration with MRRD & IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for 46 grant-funded projects in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, Farah Center, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Kohsan, Guzara, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts. These projects (Rehabilitation of Roads and Schools, Flood Protection Measures, Construction of Pipe Scheme Networks, Culverts, and Water Intakes) are designed to improve communities' access to district centers, protect their farmland, homes, and businesses from seasonal flooding, and improve education.
- MRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) led the CDC Project Management Training to 268 members of 51 CDC grantees in Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Farah Center, Chaghcharan, Du Layna, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts. MRRD & IDLG covered the Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes sections, while Community Development personnel covered the remaining material. After this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid to these CDCs.

3.2.4 GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING:

- A total of 522 District Government staff and District Entities' representatives (444 males, 78 females) were mentored in improving inventory/record keeping, organizational charts, report writing, work plan development, and computer skills.
- With the support of the Governance Department, the Herat DRRD NABDP successfully organized a District Development Assembly (DDA) re-election in Guzara District, Herat Province. More than 500 district CDC members gathered to elect 30 new DDA members. This new DDA will play a key role in future IDLG/MRRD governance programming within the district.
- 'General Administration' Workshops were conducted in Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Kohsan, and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi for 96 government personnel covering topics such as Administration Guidelines, Human Resource Management, and Performance Management, the workshops were designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- 'Work Plan Development' Workshop was conducted in Qadis and Muqur Districts for 24 government personnel. Training activities covered Annual Work Plan, Development, Strategic Planning, and Procurement Practices.
- With Governance Department support, the Shahrak District Population Registration Department (PRD) provided National Identity Cards (Tazkiras) to 30 eligible children. As a result, these children can now register with the Education Department, attend school, and receive certificates upon graduation.
- With support from the Governance Department, 40 farmers/ranchers from Lash Wa Juwayn District lobbied the District DAIL for material support to address diseases in their animal herds. As a first response, DAIL distributed 40 animal vaccination kits and pledged to follow up with provincial authorities to obtain more support.
- As part of improving government service delivery, computerized Petition Registration Databases were developed for the Ghor Provincial Government, the Shindand District Justice Department, and the Kohsan District Government Office. Before developing the databases, most petitions were lost, resulting in failure to respond to residents' concerns and problems in a timely manner.
- The Qadis, Muqur, Kohsan, Kushk Rabat Sangi, and Shindand Education Departments organized their first Parent-Teacher Conferences. A key point discussed was the issue of 12th grade students who do not have National Identity Cards (Tazkiras), which prevent them from applying for higher education institutions. It was agreed that a list of students who lack Tazkiras be sent to the Population and Registration Department for further action. Another issue discussed was the lack of private

educational courses for girls in Muqur in the winter. The Education Department pledged to take the lead and coordinate with private educational institutes to organize more classes during the winter; this pledge will be followed up on. In Qadis, the parents and teachers discussed the problem of student absenteeism. One result was the provision of parents' phone numbers to teachers, so that they can be called when their children are absent.

- In line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a five-day Project Cycle Management Training (PCMT) was provided for 35 governmental personnel from Lash Wa Juwayn, Pusht-e Rod, and Farah Center from November 1-5, covering Project Leadership, Types of Projects, Project Cycle, Project Design, Project Planning, and Monitoring and Evaluation. The training was launched by Afghan Creative Consultancy Services.
- The Governance Department and the Ghor Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) collaboratively kicked off a three-month "Administrative & Management" training course for 60 female government staff and recent university graduates. By the end of this course, government personnel will have improved administrative skill sets, in line with the IDLG Governance Training Plan. This course will be complete by the end of the first quarter of 2015.
- The Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Population Registration Department developed a guideline to speed up the process of obtaining a National Identity Card (Tazkira). The guideline provides detailed information about the steps and required documents for obtaining a Tazkira. Before developing the guideline, residents did not know what documents are required to receive a Tazkira, causing delays in the process.
- The Pashtun Zarghun and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Education Departments developed a guideline to speed up the process of obtaining an official school graduation certificate. The guideline provides detailed information about the steps and required documents for obtaining certificate, which will then enable students to apply for higher education institutes.
- On December 22, with support of the Governance Department, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Agriculture Department provided 'Plant Pest and Diseases Control' training to 15 farmers. The Agriculture Manager described techniques for preparing and using pesticides. By the end of the training, farmers learned new methods to fight plant diseases.
- The Muqur District Agriculture Department provided 'Tree Pruning and Pistachio Cultivation' training to 50 farmers on December 29. Improper methods of tree pruning have previously resulted in low yields. By the end of the training, the farmers learned standard methods of pruning for different types of trees and learned the steps and requirements of pistachio cultivation.

3.2.5 GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMMING:

- Five Female Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings were conducted in Pusht-e Rod, Bala Boluk, and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts.
- The Badghis, Herat, Ghor, and Farah Departments of Women's Affairs (DOWA) Directors independently led the Provincial Gender Working Group meetings. Five sub-committees (Economic, Health, Social, Cultural, and Advocacy) were established to handle the Gender Working Groups activities. Each Committee identified a range of activities where women's needs and concerns needed to be addressed, including increasing health facilities for women, employment of women in governmental organizations, and improvement of women's access to education. The numbers of participants involved in each meeting varies and is determined by the respective DOWA chairperson. Participants are drawn from GIROA line departments, third party international development organizations, and non-governmental organizations to ensure an open discussion on current gender programming, avoid the duplication of programming, and collaborate on shared concerns.

- With support of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Badghis and Ghor DOWAs, the Guzara and Kohsan District Governors, and the Shindand Female CRC, each commemorated the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. Participants included Provincial and District Government personnel, community elders, and leading women from various district villages. Speeches on the importance of women’s rights were delivered. A representative from the Voice of Women Organization in Badghis Province informed the participants about the available services for women, including a shelter for those women affected by violence. SIKA-West is unaware of any advocacy efforts, which have resulted in new laws protecting women against domestic violence.
- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Lash Wa Juwayn Female Komite Sobate Wolesswali (KSW) to the respective District Governors on December 11 and 23. The female KSW provides an avenue for district women to report their grievances and request local government support. The DGs committed to take the lead and support the female KSWs after the SIKA-West program ends.
- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Muqur, Chaghcharan Female Conflict Resolution Committees (CRCs) to the respective District Governors and DOWA. The female CRCs provide an avenue for district women to identify and address familial conflicts at the district level. The DGs and DOWA have committed to support the district CRCs after the SIKA-West program ends.

3.3 PLANNED FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

3.3.1 STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

- Support will be provided to the District Governors to organize their monthly male & female Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings. The KSWs will be handed over to the respective District Governors by the end of February 28, 2015. Efforts will be undertaken to merge Komite Sobate Wolesswalis with MRRD NABDP programming as a sustainable longer-term solution.
- The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) will be handed over to the respective District Governors by the end of February 28, 2015.
- Support the District Governments to produce internal “Stabilization Snapshot.”
- Community Gatherings will be held with residents to obtain feedback on the impact of SIKA-West programming in the districts of operation.

3.3.2 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

- Support will be provided to the District Governors to complete the activities outlined in their District Government Communications Plans by January 31, 2015.
- Communications –related trainings to the District Government and District Entities will be completed by January 31, 2015.
- The Communications & Public Outreach District Closeout reports for Khak-e-Safayd, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Road, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Shahrak, Chaghcharan, Muqur, Qadis, and Qala-i-Naw will be completed by March 31, 2015.
- The materials developed by the Communications & Public Outreach Department including the District Government Communications Plans, the District Profiles, the Service Providers Catalogue and the Communications & Public Outreach Assessment will be handed over to the IDLG & MRRD SIKA-Unit.

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' proposed feasible projects.
- Project Management trainings will be provided to the projects implementing CDCs.
- Will provide weekly feedback to CDCs on project quality, deficiencies, and advice on corrective procedures.
- Technical Training Workshops will be provided for CDC supervisors to ensure that projects are progressing according to the developed timeline and budgets, and technical and quality specifications are being met.
- In collaboration with DGs/DRRD DSWs, post completion site visits will be conducted to ensure CDCs are following up with the agreed maintenance actions.

3.3.4 GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

- 'Work Plan Development' trainings will be provided to the government personnel in Qala-i-Naw, Chaghcharan, Farah Center, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts.
- 'Procurement & Financial Management' trainings will be provided to the government personnel in Qala-i-Naw, Chaghcharan, Farah Center, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Muqur, and Qadis Districts.
- 'Good Governance' training will be provided to 30 female government staff in Farah Province on February 4, 2015.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a two-month 'Administration & Management' Training course will be kicked off for 60 governmental staff (45 males, 15 females) in Qala-i-Naw on January 6, 2015. The training aims to improve the government staffs' administrative skill sets.

3.3.5 GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMMING

- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit will hand over the Du Layna and Shahrak Female Komite Sobate Woleswalis to the respective District Governors.
- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit will hand over the Guzara, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, and Qadis Female Conflict Resolution Committees (CRCs) to the respective District Governors.
- Support the Female KSWs to produce internal "Stabilization Snapshot."

3.4 LESSONS LEARNED:

- Although SIKA-West has informed the government personnel about a "No Cash Policy for government staff," some government staff from Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts did not attend the Project Cycle Management training conducted in Farah Center because they wanted cash for their transportation and accommodation. SIKA-West will prepare an Operational Guideline for government staff and brief them prior to planning the upcoming trainings.
- Female Conflict Resolution Committees (CRCs) proved effective in addressing familial conflicts at the district/village level. Residents at the district and village level are very conservative and do not turn to the Justice Department for their conflicts. With support of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the CRCs resolved 30 familial conflicts. As part of the transition program, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit will support the Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) to take the leadership of the CRCs and establish more CRCs in the SIKA-West non-target Districts as well.
- As part of efficient coordination of program activities with GIRoA partners, it is vital that both verbal and written confirmation be obtained so that agreements reached are binding. It is a common

procedure in Afghanistan that confirmation is provided verbally with a follow-up in writing; however, it is sometimes difficult to get that written confirmation.

- Due to low capacity and lack of experience in implementing similar types of projects by some CDCs, the Community Development Department has devised a continuous on the job training for the CDCs to assist in the implementation of the projects as soon as they start their projects. District Stabilization Teams have therefore been provided with a list of the CDCs that require constant follow-up to ensure projects are implemented according to plan.
- Some of the CDCs lacked experience to implement the Gabion Flood Protection Wall projects, especially in terms of gabion box preparation and gabion basket filling. The Community Development Department has provided on the job trainings for these CDCs to assist them in preparing and filling gabion boxes based on the projects' specifications. SIKA-West decided to award Gabion Flood Protection Wall projects to CDCs who have implemented similar projects in the past and can provide skilled laborers.
- As a result of the decision to remove provision of lunches at KSW meetings to ensure sustainability of KSWs after the SIKA-West program ends, some District Governors noted reduced attendance of participants compared to previous meetings. Through discussions with the District Governors, it was decided to continue the meetings on a smaller scale and invite key male and female counterparts (District Government Line Departments, DDA's and CDC's)

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.
- As part of the transition, a two-day Western DRRD Directors Conference was conducted in Kabul on November 10th-11th. The conference was designed to review past MRRD-led programming under SIKA-West and consider transitional programming goals as the program comes to an end next year. Discussions focused on transition initiatives and recommendations, including the continuation of Komite Sobate Woleswali in collaboration with the District Government Offices, Provincial DRRD leadership in leading the Service Provider Fairs, and the transfer of SIKA-West contracted District Social Workers to MRRD.
- 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 meetings.
- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the District Governors implemented 94 out of 122 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans.

4.2 LINKS WITH OTHER DONOR AGENCIES:

- The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, lobbied with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Farah Province to provide humanitarian assistance to casualties of the

recent fight between Afghan Security Forces and anti-government elements in Ganj Abad village in Bala Boluk District. The ICRC pledged to investigate this case and provide assistance to eligible people.

- With the support of the Governance Department, the Herat DRRD NABDP successfully organized a District Development Assembly (DDA) re-election in Guzara District, Herat Province. More than 500 district CDC members gathered to elect 30 new DDA members. This new DDA will play a key role in future IDLG/MRRD governance programming within the district.
- The representatives of INTERSOS, a non-profit humanitarian aid organization, which is also working in Guzara District of Herat Province, attended the Guzara Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting on December 23. To avoid overlap and duplication of the activities, INTERSOS shared the list of the CDCs who are implementing projects and their future plans.

4.3 LIST AND DISCUSS LINKS WITH OTHER USAID PROJECTS:

- As part of USAID's third party verification, Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. conducted a Data Quality Assessment on two Indicators: Number of projects completed with community and GIROA involvement; and number of local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for citizens to engage their sub-national government. The verification looked at how the data is being collected, analyzed, and reported, as well as the integrity of the data. Checchi indicated that SIKA-West has a good mechanism in place and recommended that it share the system with other SIKAs.
- An M&E Program Team attended the last MISTI Summit in Kabul on December 10. The MISTI Wave 4 Stability and Impact findings presented at the Summit showed that overall, stabilization projects have resulted in improvements in stability, government capacity, and district and provincial government performance.
- The representatives of the Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI), a USAID funded program, and the CDCs who were implementing the projects under the CCI attended the Muqur Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings on October 26 and November 18. The CCI representatives shared their activity plans and scopes of works for the Muqur District, especially in the areas not covered by SIKA-West.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

5.1 PERSONNEL

- During the reporting period, the Grants and Contracts Program Manager was hired and started work on October 27. He replaced the Grants Program Manager who demobilized from the project in August.
- Offices in 15 Districts continued to be operational and hiring and training of staff was completed according to the proposed staffing plan. The program stopped all programming activities in Khak-e-Safayd District. Program activities had been suspended in the district since the attack on the District Governor's Compound in April 2014.

5.2 ADAPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

- In December, as part of the transition, provision of lunches was removed at the KSW meetings to ensure sustainability of the KSWs after the SIKA-West program ends. This approach was applied in Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Guzara, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, and Farah Center. The respective District Governors successfully organized and led the KSW meetings without provision of lunches.

- Due to security concern in some areas within Bala Boluk and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Districts, the SIKA-West M&E Department has been unable to undertake monitoring and GPS points' collection. M&E trained some CDC members and daily laborers to assist with monitoring.
- As part of the transition, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Lash Wa Juwayn Female Komite Sobate Woleswalis (KSWs) and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Muqur, and Chaghcharan Female Conflict Resolution Committees (CRCs) to the respective District Governors and DOWA. The DGs and DOWA have committed to support the district CRCs and KSWs after the SIKA-West program ends.

5.3 MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

There was no modification for this period.

SUCCESS STORIES AND PHOTOS

District Government Responds To Residents' Educational Needs

With oversight from the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government and technical support from the Herat Department of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (DRRD) and Herat Department of Education, the Rabat-e Sangi Gharbi Community Development Council successfully managed the rehabilitation of the Farooqia Boys' High School, creating a safe and secure education environment for 540 male students from Rabat-e Sangi Gharbi and 15 neighboring villages. .

Valued at USD\$29,091, the rehabilitation of the High School provided, dramatically improved conditions for students while providing short term employment to 45 male community laborers.

"The rehabilitated school provides a better education environment for our children"
Mr. Besmellah, Rabat –e-Sangi Garbi CDC

"Before the school was rehabilitated, students were studying in a very bad environment. Now we expect to enroll more students in the school"
Mr. Shir Aqa Sarwari
Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Governor

"The Farooqia Boys' High School was one of the best projects in the district"
Mr. Akhtar Mohammad
Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Education Manager



SIKA-West M&E Department

BEFORE Students in Rabat-e Sangi Gharbi Village Were Enrolled In A School That Was In Poor Condition & Preventing Students From Receiving A Proper Education



SIKA-West M&E Department

AFTER With oversight and technical support from the District Government, Herat DRRD & Herat DoE, The CDC Successfully Rehabilitated The Farooqia Boys' High School & Dramatically Improved Conditions For 540 male Sstudents.