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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
JANUARY 2015



The Yousof Zai CDC Constructing A 50-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Taraki Khoshnow Village, Muqur District: Expected To Safeguard 300 Houses And 80 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

February 2015

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

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
January 2015

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

Submitted to:
USAID Afghanistan

Prepared by:
AECOM International Development

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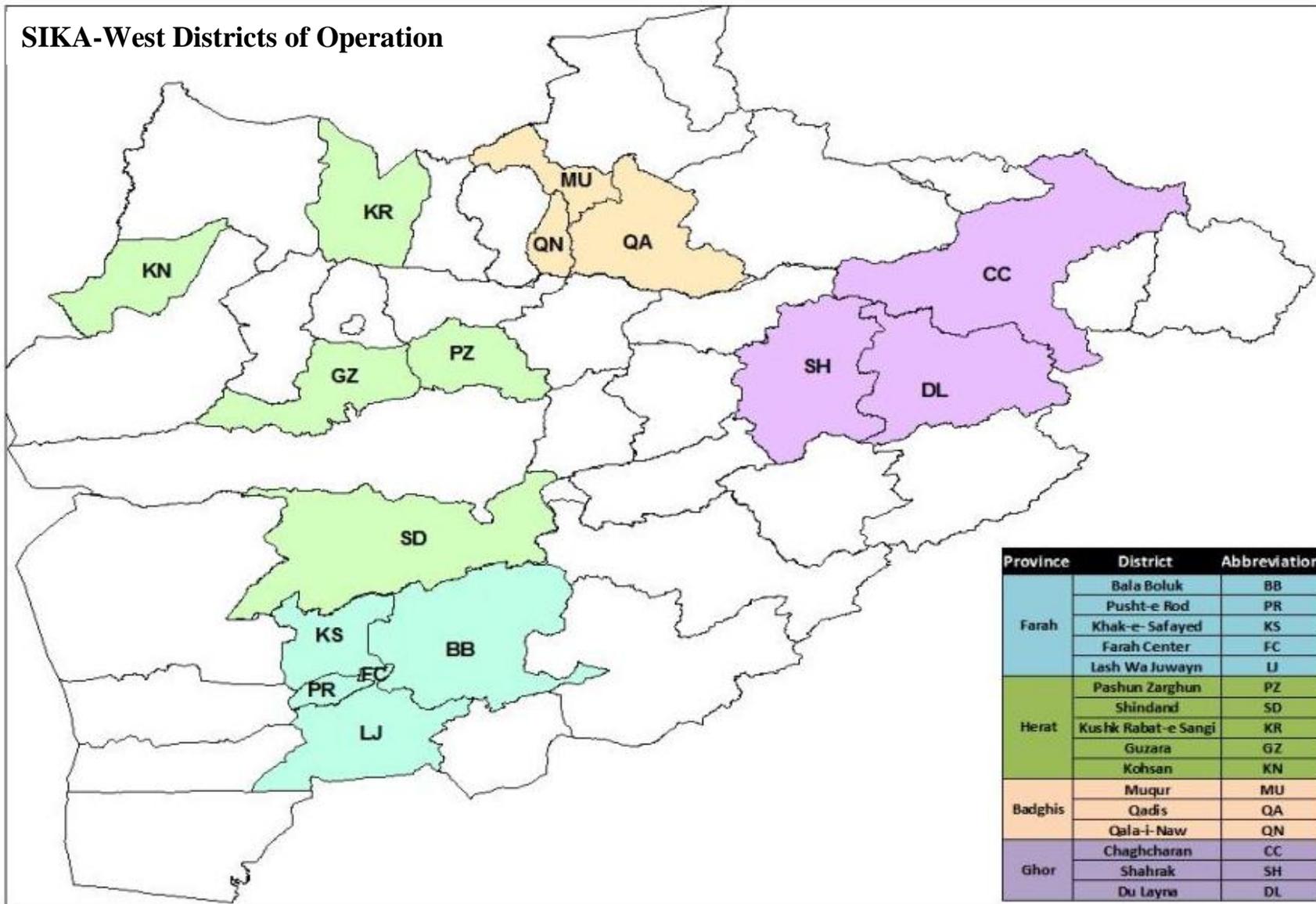
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ACRONYMS

AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CCI	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
IOM	International Organization for Migration
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 Catalogue
TCRC	Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee
CRC	Conflict Resolution Committee
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

SIKA-West Districts of Operation



INTRODUCTION

Program Profile: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) –West program, 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.

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

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

This report summarizes MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program activities undertaken across all program departments during the month of January 2015. The report provides a programmatic overview and breakdown of activities by program focus, and outcome, detailing successes, challenges, and lessons learned. The report also highlights the leading role of the MRRD and IDLG partners with respect to both district and provincial programming.

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, 16 GIROA-led Komite Sobate Wolesswali (KSW) meetings were held (3 Female, 3 Male and 10 Mixed KSWs).

District	Province	Male/Female/ Mixed	Location	Date of KSW's
Bala Boluk	Farah	Male	DG District Center Compound	January 22, 2015
Bala Boluk	Farah	Female	Provincial Center (DOWA)	January 06, 2015
Pusht Rod	Farah	Male	DG District Center Compound	January 11, 2015
Pusht Rod	Farah	Female	Provincial Center (DOWA)	January 11, 2015
Lash Wa Juwayn	Farah	Male	DG District Center Compound	January 18, 2015
Lash Wa Juwayn	Farah	Female	District Center (Girls Primary School)	January 14, 2015
Farah Center	Farah	Mixed	PG Provincial Center Compound	January 13, 2015
Qala-i-Naw	Badghis	Mixed	PG Provincial Center Compound	January 11, 2015
Qadis	Badghis	Mixed	DAIL District Center Agriculture Hall	January 17, 2015

District	Province	Male/Female/ Mixed	Location	Date of KSW's
Muqur	Badghis	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	January 27, 2015
Chaghcharan	Ghor	Mixed	Provincial Center (PGO)	January 13, 2015
Pashtun Zarghun	Herat	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	January 06, 2015
Kohsan	Herat	Mixed	District Center (Goharshad Hall)	January 13, 2015
Shindand	Herat	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	January 16, 2015
Kushk-e-Robat Sangi	Herat	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	January 18, 2015
Guzara	Herat	Mixed	District Center (DDA Hall)	January 20, 2015

*There were no Komite Sobate Wolesswali's held in Khak-e-Safed, Shahrak and Du Layna Districts during the months of January for the following reasons; a) Khak-e-Safed programming has been suspended since April 2014 due to the destruction of the Khak-e-Safed DGO b) Winter conditions in Shahrak and Du Layna Districts prevented KSW's from taking place.

The purpose of the Komite Sobate Wolesswali is to provide a forum for district residents and sub-national government entities to discuss current problems and grievances affecting residents within the districts and where government-led actions can address and mitigate these grievances. Participants in these KSWs included Provincial & District Governors & Line Department representatives (156 males, 8 females), District Development Assemblies (DDAs) (150 males, 75 females), MRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) (12 males), and community elders (313 males, 65 females).

The Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod and Lash Wa Juwayn male & female Komite Sobate Wolesswalis and the Farah Center, Chaghcharan, Guzara, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Muqur mixed Komite Sobate Wolesswalis were successfully led by the respective District Governors.

Key points discussed within these KSW's included the following;

Examples of Major Problems Addressed By GIROA Utilizing Existing Resources & Third Party Donors

- (a) In Guzara, during the Komite Sobate Wolesswali on January 20, 2015, district residents requested support from the Guzara District Government and Guzara District Development Assembly to address a number of community grievances. Female KSW members requested that the District Government address the poor conditions of the rural road network from Rabat Sulaiman Village to Nawabad Guzara Village and a resident of Sabzwari Village requested support to protect the village homes and farmlands from seasonal flooding. Having confirmed with the KSW members that SIKA-West program is ending and is no longer available to allocated new funding to Guzara District, the District Governor informed KSW members that the local government would be discussing these needs with the Herat DRRD NABDP & NSP programs, USAID funded CCI IOM program and the Italian funded Intersos program.
- (b) In Qadis, during the Komite Sobate Wolesswali on January 17th 2015, female KSW members requested that the Qadis District Government provide support to find employment for young women who have recently graduated from High School (12th Class). The District Governor Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik stated that he would discuss this matter with the Badghis Provincial Department of Education to determine if there are available vacancies within the district schools for these young women to apply for.
- (c) In Qala-i-Naw, during the Komite Sobate Wolesswali on January 11, 2015, KSW members petitioned the local government to focus on the increasing cost of goods within the provincial marketplace. The Qala-i-Naw Deputy Provincial Governor acknowledged that there had been an increase recently in

both the cost of goods and transportation delivery costs. He will arrange to have municipal representatives present at the next scheduled meeting to brief KSW members on why these increases are taking place.

In order to assess the impact of Stabilization Programming, during this month community gatherings were conducted with CDCs in Qadis, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Chaghcharan and Bala Boluk. The CDC's were asked to provide their views on the Stabilization Programming and whether GIRoA has played an active role in addressing identified grievances. The CDCs reported that the KSWs provided a platform for residents to directly communicate with their local government, share their concerns and grievances and advocate for their communities' needs. Women in Akhta Khana Sofla Village in Chaghcharan noted that government support provided to construct a culvert (4m×2m) improved their



Women Providing Feedback On The Impact Of SIKAWest Programing In Chaghcharan, Ghor Province.

access to Chaghcharan provincial markets and hospitals, especially in winter and were grateful for the government's support. Women in Gerani Payeen village in Bala Boluk appreciated the local government efforts in constructing 10 water dividers in their village. They reported that before the construction of water dividers, there was always conflict between farmers over the use of irrigation canals. They hope that this year their farmlands will be more productive. The Bara Khana CDC in Chaghcharan were grateful for government support and highlighted that the rehabilitated 5-KM road improved access for 1548 families to the Provincial Center. Residents reported that before the road was rehabilitated, they had difficulties in moving their produce to the Provincial Markets and to transport patients to hospitals. They noted that now the road is in better condition and takes one and half hour (compared to two hours before) to travel to the Provincial Center hence a decrease in the transport fares for a trip to the Provincial Center from 600AFN to 300AFN.

The Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee in Farah successfully addressed a land dispute between two families who were in conflict for over 20 years. The Farah TCRC organized a mediation session with conflicting parties attended by 100 people, including the Provincial Government Authorities, DDA, Chief of Police, Head of Provincial Peace Council and community elders on January 1st, 2015. The participants spoke on the importance of peace and reconciliation and convinced the conflicting parties to end their conflict and support each other to have a peaceful society.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, District Governors and their staff completed 17 Communications & Public Outreach activities outlined in their respective IDLG approved District Communications Plans. These activities included; the development of GIRoA Factsheets, organizing & conducting District Government & Provincial Government Line Department Meetings, site visits to inspect the work progress on GIRoA led district development programming and broadcasting GIRoA approved messaging related to the provision of available services. Below are the highlights of the activities:

- The Badghis Provincial Economic and Cultural Specialist (Mr. Abdul Rahim Erfan) visited the work progress of a 47-meter Flood Protection Wall construction project in Deh Sorkhak Paen village in Qala-i-Naw on January 11. The Economic and Cultural Specialist was pleased with the work progress and quality and asked the residents to pay attention to the project's maintenance. The implementing

CDC completed 52% of the work. Once completed, the project is expected to safeguard an existing bridge, 345 homes and 50 Jeribs of community farmland from being flooded. This project was identified through the Qala-i-Naw Komite Sobate Woleswali and was awarded by the Provincial Government to resolve the community's current grievance of being subjected to seasonal flooding.



The Badghis provincial economic & cultural expert visited the work progress of 47-meter flood protection wall construction project in Deh Sorkhak Paean village, Qala-I-Naw; expected to safeguard an existing bridge, 345 houses and 50 Jeribs of farmland from being flooded.

- The Shindand Acting District Governor (ADG), Mr. Samandar, organized a monthly coordination meeting with district line-departments on January 7, including DAIL, Education, Economy, NDS and the Justice Department. One highlight included the Education Manager reporting that his department's district building is in need of rehabilitation. In response, the ADG provided a new temporary workspace for the education department personnel while the District Government worked on securing funds for the rehabilitation efforts. The ADG was also informed that the District Courthouse lacked sufficient staff to operate effectively. Lobbying efforts will begin with the Provincial Court for further action.

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- The Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Sectorial Manager, Mr. Monawar Shah Wahidi, the MRRD District Social Worker, Mr. Bashir Ahmad, and representatives of the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi DDA visited Faiz Abad Village and inspected the work progress on a 100 ML Flood Protection Wall project. With 70% of the work completed to date, the visiting group was pleased with the progress to date. Designed to protect 300 Jeribs of community farmland from being damaged by seasonal floods, the project was identified and awarded by the Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi District Government led Komite Sobate Woleswali, in response to the community's identified need.



The Pashtun Zarghun district government organized a 'peace football tournament' watched by over 2000 people; 13 teams competed for a championship trophy provided by the district government and carried peace messages printed on their clothes.

- With support from the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Pashtun Zarghun District Government organized a 'Peace Football Tournament' in the district center for local youth. With a crowd of over 2000 local residents, 13 district football teams competed for a championship trophy on January 8, while wearing sports equipment that carried peace messaging. The Pashtun Zarghun District Government took the opportunity during this event to remind local residents of the benefits of maintaining law and order and a peaceful environment.

- With support from the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department and in line with the IDLG approved Pusht-e Rod & Qadis District Government Communications Plans, workshops were held for the Pusht Rod Youth Association (12 male members), Pusht-e Rod District Farmers (15 males) and Qadis District School Teachers (20 male) to educate them on the use and value of the Farah & Badghis DRRD Service Provider Catalogs in order to identify available GIROA line departments and third party providers for available goods and services.
- The Kohsan District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Nezamudin Rahmani organized a public meeting with the Kohsan Youth Association (50 male members) to listen to their concerns regarding the lack of employment opportunities, adult literacy courses and drug rehabilitation centers; the lack of which contribute to the current social problems within the district. The DEM acknowledged these concerns and pledged to raise these issues with the Herat Provincial Government & available third party donors in order to find support for these needs.
- The Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib, organized the monthly Line Department Coordination Meeting with participation of the Municipality, Water Supply, Education Department, DoLSA, Statistics and the Justice Department. Key points discussed included the need to inspect and possible rehabilitate the Jar-e-Kushk Irrigation Canal in Qala-i-Nawa, which was unable to handle the current volume of water flow and prone to overflow. The Badghis DRRD and municipal authorities were assigned to inspect the canal and provide solutions. Representatives from the Provincial Water Supply Department stated that a number of government departments were not paying their monthly water bills. The DPG requested a list of those departments that were late in payment so that he could take further action.
- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Government organized a Hashar (Volunteer Effort) to clear and remove snow from a 3 Kilometer stretch of district road in Doab Sufla Village on January 21. More than 50 male volunteers participated, including District Government officials. *“Today, Hashar showed that residents are supportive of the District Government; together, we can have a peaceful and developed district.”* Mr. Baser Ahmad Waseq , District Government Administrative & Finance Manager.



In-Line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District Government organized a Hashar (Public Work) and removed snow from a 3-KM Road in Doab Sufla Village on January 21.

Examples of Communication & Public Outreach Supported District Government Hotlines

- (a) On January 10, the Shindand DG received a call from a resident of Qasaba Village requesting information on how to obtain a National Identity Card (Tazkira). The caller was advised to come to the District Government Office and bring the required documents (Photo, Petition and Parents' Tazkira) to obtain the Tazkira.
- (b) On January 11, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi DG called to 5 CDCs who are implementing flood protection walls and canal lining to ask about the progress of their projects. The CDCs reported that

they are working in accordance with the projects' specifications and asked the DG to speed up the process of the milestone payment. The DGO shared the issue with SIKA-West and the milestone payments were processed for those CDCs projects that had no deficiencies.

- (c) On January 20, a resident of Lash Wa Juwayn complained about the high fares for the public transport despite the recent decrease in fuel prices. On January 25, the DG discussed the issue with the Public Transport Department and they agreed to reduce the fare from 350AFN to 250AFN.
- (d) On January 25, the Shindand DG received a call from a resident of Qasaba village. The resident complained why SIKA-West program was no longer conducting public events in the District. The DG responded that SIKA-West program was in the process of transition and moving forward the public events will be led by the DGO.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date CDC's and DDA's in our target districts within Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah provinces successfully completed 247 grant funded projects which have been identified, awarded and monitored by our respective District Government and Provincial DRRD partners. These 247 grant funded projects are valued at \$4,132,750 (Actual USD\$ Spent) and include varied projects such as a) Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canals b) Road Rehabilitation & Gravelling c) Culvert Construction d) School Rehabilitation e) 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 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 221 grant funded projects valued at USD\$5,439, 642 (Utilizing AFN50-58 Exchange Rate For Actual Amounts Spent & Pending MS Payments) (See Chart 1 & 2) and 67 pending projects valued at USD\$753,442 (Utilizing Exchange Rate AFN50- USD\$1.00) are under development.

Chart 1: Number of ongoing & completed projects

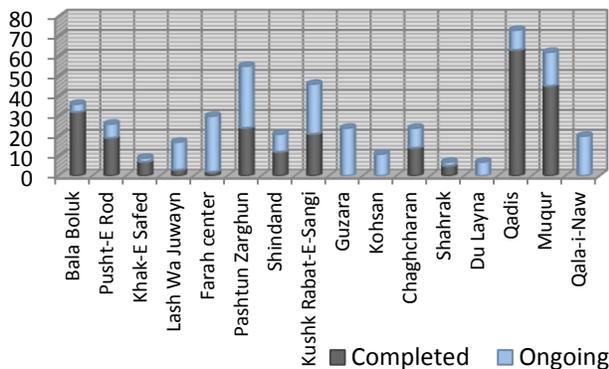
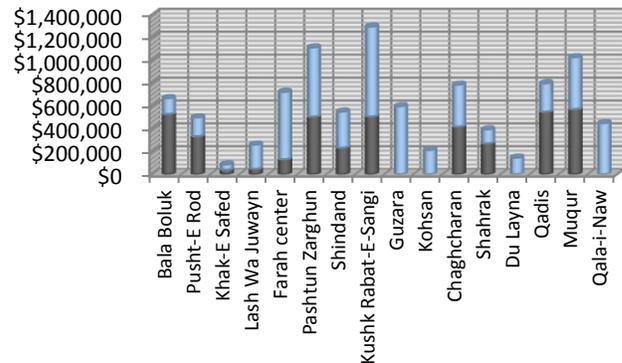


Chart 2: Value of ongoing & completed projects



During this reporting period, Project Management Training (PMT) for 15 CDC Grantees were held in Farah Center, 7 CDC Grantees in Muqur, 12 CDC Grantees in Guzara, 11 CDC Grantees in Pashtun Zarghun, 6 CDC Grantees in Kushk-e-Rabat Sangi, 7 CDC Grantees in Qala-i-Naw and 12 CDC Grantees in Lash Wa Juwayn. Led by the respective DRRD District Social Workers, DRRD Engineers and DGO personnel (District Executive Managers, Technical & Sectorial Managers), these Project Management Trainings covered all aspects of the grant award, community mobilization requirements, engineering requirements, procurement processes etc. After the successful completion of this Project Management Training the CDC Grantees were awarded their 1st Milestone Payments.

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

- On January 6, the Kanesk Wasat CDC in Bala Boluk District successfully constructed a 15-meter Aqueduct and Pier for an existing Metallic Aqueduct which increases the control and volume of water flow to 300 Jeribs of community farmland.

- On January 12, the Rehabilitation of a 100-meter Wash Culvert was completed by the Godar Gazak CDC in Bala Boluk. The Wash Culvert will assist in the provision of water to 100 Jeribs of community farmland which supports 1080 people.
- The Ashtor Khan CDC in Chaghcharan successfully completed the Rehabilitation of a 3-KM Road including one Box Culvert and six Concrete Pipe Culverts on January 17. The road and culverts will improve access for 350 district families to the Provincial Centre.

GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, the SIKA-West Governance Department continued mentoring Provincial and District Government personnel within our target districts, utilizing the IDLG approved District Governance Training Plan and subject matter. Mentoring activities included supporting improved inventory & recordkeeping practices, organizational development, report writing and computer skills training.

Examples of IDLG Approved Governance Programming

- With the support of the Governance Department, the Pusht-e Rod District Agriculture Department independently provided wheat cultivation training to Pusht-e Rod District farmers (15 males) on January 6 and Lash Wa Juwayn District farmers (15 males) on January 7. In response to a request from the local farming communities, the Agriculture Department assisted these farmers to improve their current wheat yields, by educating them on improve wheat seed varieties, types of fertilizers to use and proper irrigation methods. This outreach by the District Agriculture Department reflects improved responsiveness by the local government to district resident concerns utilizing current and available resources.
- With the support of the Governance Department, the Farah Provincial Department of Health organized a Hashar (Volunteer Effort) to clean the Provincial Hospital Building, Provincial Drug Rehabilitation Center and Provincial Department of Health Compound on January 08, with more than 100 GIROA personnel participating. *“We will continue such efforts in future and invite other line-departments to join us,”* Dr. Abdul Jabar Shayeq, Farah Health Department Director. These Hashars are organized to address community needs, utilizing available and existing resources.
- In-line with the IDLG approved District Governance Training Plan, a two-month “Administration & Management” training course commenced for 60 (46 male, 14 female) government personnel in Qala-i-Naw on January 06. The training program was designed to improve the current students’ administrative skill sets.
- In line with the IDLG approved District Governance Training Plan, the Governance Department conducted a “Procurement & Financial Management” workshop for 13 (male) governmental staff in Pashtun Zarghun District on January 25 and 26. Participants learned about procurement procedures, financial planning and budgeting, and balance analysis. The same training was provided to 30 (male) governmental staff in Chaghcharan and 40 (male) governmental staff in Farah Province.
- A five-day Conflict Management and Legal Awareness training commenced



A Five-Day Conflict Management And Legal Awareness Training Was Kicked Off For 38 (28 Males & 10 Females) Members Of The Farah Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee On January 25.

for 38 (28 male/10 female) members of the Farah Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee on January 25. Topics included analyzing conflicts and methods of conflict resolution/mediation which will be employed in government led efforts to address conflicts within the region.

- Report Writing training was provided to 4 (male) government Personnel in Lash Wa Juwayn and Pusht-e Rod Districts in order to improve the capacity of governmental personnel to prepare their departments' activity reports and submit to their respective District Governors.
- With the support of the Governance Department, the Muqur District Education Department conducted a training session for students in Mazid Ha High School on how they can apply for and obtain an official school graduation certificate. All 12th class students who graduate require a certificate in order to apply for higher education institutions.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Shindand Municipality Department developed a guideline on how to obtain a business permit. The guideline outlines the steps to be taken when one wants to set up and register a business. The guidelines were published and distributed to shopkeepers and hung in public venues within the District Center.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Kohsan District Agriculture Department provided "Tree Grafting" training to 48 (male) district farmers on January 22. The farmers learned different methods of tree grafting including budding and clef grafting.
- The SIKA-West Governance Officer provided on-the-job training on "Filing System Standardization" to Ms. Sima Yusufi, the Kohsan Municipality Inventory Officer on January 21. Topics included file labeling, coding and indexing. *"Now I will be able to file the documents in standardized format which makes it easier for future usage,"* Ms. Yusfi.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Pashtun Zarghun District Agriculture Department provided "Orchard Extension" training focusing on Tree Pruning to 16 (male) district farmers on January 21. Farmers learned proper pruning techniques for the common trees in the community including apricot, apple, and peach.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Clinic organized an anti-addiction information session attended by 15 (males) people on January 31. The participants were informed about the dangers of drug addiction and encouraged them to introduce drug addicts to the clinic for treatment.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a 'Work Plan Development' Workshop was conducted in Kohsan District for 12 (males) government personnel on January 28. Covering developing annual work plan, strategic planning and procurement planning, this workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.



Ms. Sima Yusufi, the Kohsan Municipality Inventory Officer receiving on-the-job training on Filing System on January 21.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING UNIT

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

- The Farah Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) Director, Ms. Lailima Sediqi, organized a meeting with the Farah Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) to seek ways of increasing the number of women employed in governmental departments. It was agreed that all current vacant positions be shared with the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) and that DoWA introduce qualified candidates and a representative of DoWA be part of the interview panel.
- The Farah Gender Working Group (GWG) Economic Sub-Committee successfully advocated for the inclusion of female produced textiles to be displayed in provincial stores. Mr. Ghulam Rasool Amini, who is the Municipality Administrative Manager and a businessman, identified 20 stores in Farah Center which will begin to display local women's textile products (carpets, clothing etc.).
- On January 27, the SIKA-West Gender Mainstreaming Unit organized a 'Lessons Learned and Coordination Workshop' with participation of the Badghis DOWA Director (Ms. Zarghuna Shirzad), the Badghis Provincial Government Technical & Sectorial Specialist, the Badghis DRRD Program Manager, the Muqur District Revenue Manager and the Qadis and Muqur Conflict Resolution Committees' Heads. The participants evaluated SIKA-West gender activities in Qadis, Muqur and Qala-i-Naw and discussed the program's transition activities. The participants highlighted that now women have more involvement in social and political activities. *"At the beginning women did not want to attend the Komite Sobate Woleswali, with support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, now women eagerly attend the KSW and discuss their concerns and advocate for their needs,"* stated the Badghis DRRD Program Manager
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor (Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi), the Ghor DOWA Director (Ms. Masooma Anwari), the PGO Gender Specialist (Ms. Manizha Behzad), the DRRD Social Development Manager (Mr. Khair Mohammad Naebi) and the DRRD DSW (Mr. Najmuddin) evaluated the impact of the SIKA-West gender activities. The DOWA Director highlighted that the Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) was successful in addressing familial conflicts. She pledged to support the CRC and the Gender Working Group after the SIKA-West program ends. The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor noted that the GWG created a network between the organizations interested in gender-related activities.

The below table shows the SIKA-West's progress towards achieving Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicator targets:

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Jan 2015 Result	Cumulative Total
S1: Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	110	360	79	767
S2: Percent of Afghans reporting that their district government is responsive to the needs of local people	NA	TBD	60%	62%	62%
S3: Number of District Entities with USG assistance for citizens to engage their subnational government	NA	233	75	79	819
S4: Number of activities with community contribution	72	201	100	5	241

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Jan 2015 Result	Cumulative Total
S5: Number of Afghans Trained (see indicators 2.3, 3.3, 4.4)	NA	5,272	5,000	847 (784 Males) (63 Females)	11592 (9212 Males) (2380 Females)
S6: Number of Persons Employed by stabilization program activities	NA	479	1,000	167 (Males)	5874 (5834 Males) (40 Females)
S7: Number of person-days of employment created	9,000	11,340	30,000	3864 (Males)	148221 (144583 Males) (3638 Females)
S8: Number of stabilization activities implemented through grants to district entities (see indicator 4.3)	72	201	75	5	241
S9: Number of SOIs against which stabilization activities have been executed	NA	12	7	0	22
S10: Number of stabilization Work Sessions Conducted for district entities (see indicator 1.2)	88	105	130	16	271
S11: Number of Districts in which SAM is utilized to develop programs (see indicator 1.2)	7	10	16	13	16
S12: Number of GIRoA Officials trained in aspects of government administration (See indicators 2.3 and 3.3)	NA	323	100	137 (134 Males) (3 Females)	1187 (1094 Males) (93 Females)
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)	NA	1,525	100	57	2953
S14: Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entity activities (KSWs)	27	36	100	3	171
1.1 Number of partnered District governments (and % of total) that show improved understanding of local Sources of Instability.	10	10	16	16	100% 16/16
1.2 Number of Stabilization work sessions conducted with district entities.	88	100	130	16	255
1.3 Number of Activities included in District Project Portfolios as a result of stabilization workshops	70	240	75	6	630
2.1 Number of District Entities able to access stabilization services provided by GIRoA organizations/line departments	NA	TBD	16	11	16
2.2 Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the Service Providers Catalogue	7	10	5	0	15

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Jan 2015 Result	Cumulative Total
2.3 Number of people trained on Service Provider Catalog usage	NA	TBD	100	107 (males)	967 (888 Males) (79 Females)
3.1 Number of people (percentage) reporting improvement in the responsiveness of GIRoA district entities with regards to SOI resolution	NA	TBD	65%	64%	64%
3.2 Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs with USG assistance	9	16	24	9	520
3.3 Number of people trained in communications and outreach	300	1,291	500	0	3218 (2627 Males) (592 Females)
3.4 Number of PA's and DEs with a communication strategy or plan in place.	9	8	15	11	27
4.1 Percentage of people reporting improvement in service delivery by DEs and PAs.	NA	NA	60%	65%	65%
4.2 Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions.	9,000	46,800	30,000	3864 (males)	148221 (144583 Males) (3638 Females)
4.3 Number of grant activities completed in support of stabilization goals	72	120	75	5	241
4.4 Number of person-days of training implemented through grants.	280	9,600	3,000	0	104530 (34043 Males) (70487 Females)

LESSONS LEARNED

- In order to teach CDCs and maintain the current quality of infrastructure projects, the Community Development Department is continuing with its efforts to have CDCs complete a small segment of their project activities to ensure adherence to project specifications before allowing the CDC to continue and complete the project. This has greatly improved both the quality of the projects and the project completion timelines. For example, in Qala-e Naw, the Deh Sorkhak Payeen CDC was asked to construct a sample 5-meter length of their Stone Masonry Protection Wall before they were allowed to continue work on the 70-meter wall. It was observed that pointing was not properly done and there were gaps between stones. The CDC was mentored to correct the deficiencies before being allowed to continue.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- The District Government Staff, the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), M&E personnel and Engineers organized 355 project site visits prior to the approval of the next round of milestone payments for CDCs in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces. These visits uncovered deficiencies that were in need of correction. For example, the Islam Qala Shamali CDC in Kohsan was advised to compact their road properly and the Mir Hai Lamani CDC in Qala-i-Naw was advised to increase the width of the gabion layer from 170cm to 200cm.

- The Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Government Personnel used the District Government Hotline Numbers and called to 20 CDCs requesting updates on the progress of their projects. For example, 5 CDCs who are implementing flood protection walls construction and canal lining projects reported they are working based on the projects' specification and asked the DG to speed up the process of the milestone payment.



The DRRD DSW, SIKA-West Engineer And M&E Personnel Visiting The Work Progress Of A 50-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Panj Deh Village, Lash Wa Juwayn: Expected To Safeguard 3000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to 30 (males) Chaghcharan, Lash Wa Juwayn, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qala-i-Naw, Pusht-e Rod, Pashtun Zarghun and Qadis DRRD DSWs and Government Personnel focusing on Project Site Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections. The training has improved the quality of both the monitoring reports and photos that are used for processing milestone payments and close out reports.
- SIKA-West completed data uploading of projects' financial information and effective indicators for the October-December 2014 Quarter into the USAID Afghan Info Database. The uploaded data was submitted on January 31 after a review by the USAID ACOR.

CHALLENGES

- Due to the current cold weather, all projects in Du Layna, Shahrak, Chaghcharan and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, two projects in Guzara and 12 projects in Pashtun Zarghun are suspended until winter conditions pass. These projects are expected to resume on March 1.
- SIKA-West suspended activities for four projects in Farah Center due to reports of quality control issues. SIKA-West is sending a team to visit the projects to ascertain their current status and recommend appropriate action.
- Three members of the Akhund Zadaha CDC and four daily laborers who were kidnapped on December 28, 2014 in Guzara District were released on January 23. The CDC members were not physically harmed during their captivity. The Akhund Zadaha CDC grant funded 2-KM Road Rehabilitation project and the other 5 projects in and around Akhund Zadaha Village are still suspended until SIKA-West is assured that security on the project site can be maintained.
- The M&E Department has been unable to confirm 13 Project Site GPS Points in Bala Boluk District due to current security concerns. The M&E Department is working with the local communities to try and resolve this matter as quickly as possible.
- Due to current insecurity within Bala Boluk District, SIKA-West district staff are currently working out of the Farah Provincial Office. The SIKA-West Security Team will continue to monitor the situation.

DELIVERABLES

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

- December 2014 Monthly and Weekly Reports

U.S. Agency for International Development/Afghanistan

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