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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

QUARTERLY REPORT
FY2015 QUARTER II



APRIL 2015

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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

QUARTERLY REPORT FY2015 QUARTER II

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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 |
| 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 Entities are defined as “institutions that are Afghan-led and 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 January, February, and March 2015.

2.1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

IR.1 STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, 44 (10 male, 8 female, and 26 mixed) GIRoA led Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were held. Participants in these KSWs included Provincial and District Governors and Line Department representatives (412 males, 20 females), District Development Assemblies (DDAs) (434 males, 147 females), MRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) (23 males), and community elders (885 males, 229 females). 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 recommended solutions utilizing existing GIRoA resources.

The Governance Department and the Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn, Farah Center, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Chaghcharan, Du Layna, Shahrak, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Guzara Komite Sobate Woleswalis to the respective Provincial and District Governments. The PGOs and DGOs expressed their appreciation to the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program for its support and stated that moving forward; the Komite Sobate Woleswalis will continue without logistical or financial support from the program.

SIKA-West has observed the continuation of independent female, male and mixed KSW meetings in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn, Farah Center, Qadis, Muqur, Qala-i-Naw, Chaghcharan, Du Layna, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi and Guzara Districts during the months of February and March. These are continuing under the leadership of the Provincial and District Governments and Departments of Women's Affairs and no longer receive any logistical or financial support from SIKA-West.

List of the FY2015 QII Komite Sobate Woleswali Meetings:

| District | Province | Male/ Female/ Mixed | Location | Jan 2015 | Feb 2015 | Mar 2015 | Total # of Participants | |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | Male | Female |
| Bala Boluk | Farah | Male | DG Compound | Jan 22,2015 | Feb10, 2015 | Mar 26, 2015 | 147 | 0 |
| Bala Boluk | Farah | Female | District Center (Private Homestead) | Jan 26,2015 | Feb 6, 2015 | Mar 17, 2015 | 0 | 29 |
| Pusht-e Rod | Farah | Male | DG Compound | Jan 11,2015 | Feb 4, 2015 | Mar 11, 2015 | 111 | 0 |
| Pusht-e Rod | Farah | Female | District Center (Private Homestead) | Jan 11,2015 | Feb 3, 2015 | Mar 19, 2015 | 0 | 24 |
| Lash Wa Juwayn | Farah | Male | DG Compound | Jan18,2015 | Feb 16, 2015 | Mar 16, 2015 | 138 | 0 |
| Lash Wa Juwayn | Farah | Female | District Center (Girls Primary School) | Jan 14,2015 | Feb 9, 2015 | N/A* | 0 | 18 |
| Khak-e-Safayd | Farah | Male | N/A* | N/A* | N/A* | N/A* | 0 | 0 |
| Farah Center | Farah | Mixed | PG Compound | Jan 13,2015 | Feb 8, 2015 | Mar 25, 2015 | 110 | 15 |
| Qadis | Badghis | Mixed | DAIL Hall | Jan17,2015 | Feb 9, 2015 | Mar 18, 2015 | 94 | 36 |
| Muqur | Badghis | Mixed | DG Compound | Jan27,2015 | Feb 21, 2015 | Mar 9, 2015 | 135 | 24 |
| Qala-i-Naw | Badghis | Mixed | PG Compound | Jan 11,2015 | Feb 9,2015 | N/A* | 109 | 35 |

| District | Province | Male/ Female/ Mixed | Location | Jan 2015 | Feb 2015 | Mar 2015 | Total # of Participants | |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | Male | Female |
| Chaghcharan | Ghor | Mixed | PG Compound | Jan 13, 2015 | Feb 18, 2015 | Mar 31, 2015 | 92 | 18 |
| Du Layna | Ghor | Male | DG Compound | N/A* | N/A* | Mar 31, 2015 | 24 | 0 |
| Shahrak | Ghor | Male | N/A* | N/A* | N/A* | N/A* | 0 | 0 |
| Pashtun Zarghun | Herat | Mixed | DG Compound | Jan 6, 2015 | Feb 04, 2015 | Mar 17, 2015 | 172 | 52 |
| Kohsan | Herat | Mixed | District Center (Goharshad Hall) | Jan 13, 2015 | Feb 17, 2015 | Mar 30, 2015 | 159 | 15 |
| Shindand | Herat | Mixed | DG Compound | Jan 16, 2015 | Feb 08, 2015 | Mar 15, 2015 | 156 | 52 |
| Kushk-e-Robat Sangi | Herat | Mixed | DG Compound | Jan 18, 2015 | Feb 11, 2015 | Mar 9, 2015 | 226 | 59 |
| Guzara | Herat | Mixed | DDA Hall | Jan 20, 2015 | Feb 22, 2015 | N/A* | 81 | 19 |

*There were no KSW meetings in Khak-e-Safed and Shahrak Districts during the quarter 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 District prevented KSWs from taking place.

There were no KSW meetings in Du Layna during the months of January and February because of winter conditions.

There was no KSW meeting in Guzara and Qala-i-Naw during March because the District Governor was out the country for treatment and the Qala-i-Naw KSW meeting was rescheduled for April 22.

Examples of Major Problems Addressed By GIRA Utilizing Existing Resources

- In Guzara, when the mixed Komite Sobate Wolesswali met on January 20, 2015, district residents requested support from the Guzara District Government and Guzara District Development Assembly to address 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 male resident of Sabzwari Village requested support to protect the village homes and farmlands from seasonal flooding. The District Governor confirmed that the SIKA-West program is ending and cannot allocate new funding to Guzara District, and expressed that the local government will discuss these needs with the Herat DRRD NABDP, and NSP programs, USAID funded CCI IOM program and the Italian funded Intersos program.
- The Lash Wa Juwayn female KSW successfully lobbied the District Government to provide 'Teaching Methodology Training' to female teachers in Lash Wa Juwayn District. With the support of the District Government, the Farah Provincial Education Department conducted an eight-day "Teaching Methodology Workshop" for 36 female teachers in Lash Wa Juwayn District from February 8-16 without financial or logistical support from SIKA-West.
- On March 26, the Qadis KSW members discussed the danger posed by poppy cultivation and the drug trade within the district. With support of the community residents, the Qadis DGO arrested five people suspected of being involved in the drug trade.
- In Bala Boluk, during the male KSW meeting on March 26, the CDC representatives requested that their District Government identify potential third party donors to support continued development programming through the Bala Boluk Komite Sobate Wolesswali. The DGO shared this request with the Provincial Government for further action. As a result, the Farah Provincial Governor plans to travel to Bala Boluk to discuss this concern with the Bala Boluk DG and other KSW members.
- In Pusht-e Rod, during the male KSW meeting on March 11, the KSW members discussed security conditions within the District and petitioned the District Government to increase the number of security checkpoints on the District main road. The DGO pledged to share these concerns with the Provincial Government and advocate for the residents' needs.

In order to assess the impact of Stabilization Programming, community gatherings were conducted with CDCs in Qadis, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Chaghcharan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, Farah Center, and Bala Boluk. The CDCs were asked to provide their views on Stabilization Programming and if 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 from Akhta Khana Sofla Village in Chaghcharan noted that government support provided for the construction of a culvert (4m×2m) improved their access to markets and hospitals, especially in winter, and were grateful for the government's support. Women from Gerani Payeen village in Bala Boluk appreciated the local government's efforts in constructing 10 water dividers in their village. They reported that, before the construction of water dividers, there was regular conflict between farmers over the use of irrigation canals. They hope that this year their farmlands will be more productive. In Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, the Torghundi Sharqi CDC noted that their local government supported the rehabilitation of their irrigation canal, which prevents water loss and ensures that irrigation water reaches all 1,000 Jeribs (494.2 acres) of farmland. The Khowja Talkhatan CDC highlighted that their local government invested in their village school, which provides a much better educational environment for 500 students (300 girls, 200 boys). School authorities reported an increase of 200 students (80 boys and 120 girls) since the school was rehabilitated.

IR2 & IR.3 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

On February 28, the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach programming ended in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod (Farah Province); Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan (Herat Province); Chaghcharan (Ghor Province); Muqur, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw (Badghis Province). Program materials were organized, and handed over to our MRRD and IDLG national, provincial and district partners, in accordance with the IDLG and MRRD approved Transition Working Group (TWG) guidelines.

In line with the TWG, the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach Department handed over complete responsibility for the District Government and the DRRD SPC Hotlines to the Shindand, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn, Chaghcharan, Qadis, Muqur, and Qala-i-Naw District Governments and the DRRDs between February 24 and March 3. The Hotlines will be managed independently and funded by IDLG. Copies of the District Profiles, Provincial Service Provider Catalog, and Communications & Public Outreach Training Materials were handed over. Our IDLG partners at the district level thanked the SIKA-West Program for their support and highlighted how the communications and public outreach programming had improved the two-way communication between the local government and district residents.

During the quarter, District entities successfully completed 25 Communication & Public Outreach activities in accordance with the IDLG approved District Communication Plans. Designed to improve communications between Provincial and 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) Site Visits to ongoing grant funded CDC projects to reflect GIRoA leadership of these district investments.
- (c) Public meetings between DGO personnel and district residents to discuss community concerns.

District Government Hotlines recorded 124 district resident calls requesting GIRoA services to address familial and land disputes and security problems as well as provide updates on current MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West grant funded project activity. From these calls, 50 concerns were addressed directly by GIRoA while the remainder (74) was under review/process by the respective District Government Offices.

Examples of Communication & Public Outreach Activities Undertaken By GIROA

- (a) 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-KM stretch of district road in Doab Sufla Village on January 21. More than 50 male volunteers participated, including District Government officials. *“Today the Hashar showed that residents are supportive of the District Government; together, we can have a peaceful and developed district,”* stated Mr. Baser Ahmad Waseq, the District Government Administrative and Finance Manager.
- (b) As a direct result of advocacy training provided by the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Massow Barakzai CDC (Pusht-e Rod District) successfully lobbied the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide the community with water pumps in order to address shortfalls with their potable water supplies. The community successfully prepared their own Concept Note, outlining their need for water pumps and submitted this to ICRC on August 28, 2014. ICRC responded by providing technical training to the community and how to install and maintain water pumps. On February 16, 2015, the Massow Barakzai CDC received 16 hand water pumps, which were put to immediate use. *“We are happy that we could provide potable water for residents, now we are able to address our community’s needs,”* said Mr. Sharafudin, CDC Chairman.
- (c) The Shindand District Governor, Mr. Famarz Samandar, organized a coordination meeting with line-departments on February 8. As part of the efforts to make the district green, the DAIL agreed to provide free saplings to farmers. Another issue discussed was public transportation fares from Herat City to Shindand District, since there was a decrease in the cost of fuel. District line-departments agreed to reduce the transportation fares from 200AFN to 150 AFN.
- (d) 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 Paeen 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. Once complete, the project will safeguard an existing bridge, 345 homes and 50 Jeribs (24.7 acres) of community farmland from being flooded.

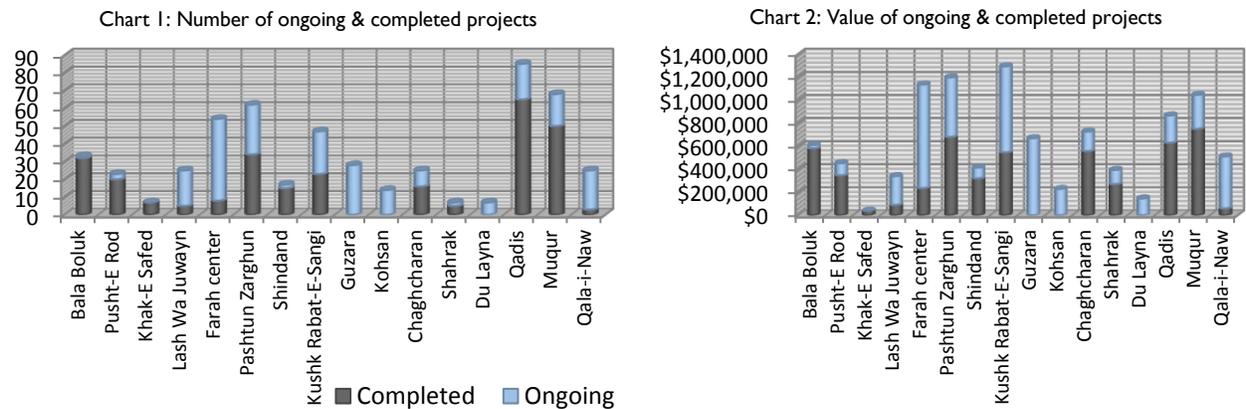
Examples of Communication & Public Outreach Supported District Government and DRRD SPC Hotlines

- (a) On February 18, a resident of Tapa-e Shiran village in Pusht-e Rod District, Farah Province complained that his neighbor was preventing him from selling his land to anyone except the neighbor. The District Governor invited both parties to the DGO on February 19 to discuss and resolve this issue. Both parties agreed that the price the neighbor was offering was fair and the resident agreed to sell his land to his neighbor.
- (b) On March 3, a resident of the Lash Wa Juwayn District Center called the District Government Hotline and reported to the DG that another villager did not want to pay back the money he lent him. The DG invited both parties to his office and discussed the issue with them. It was agreed that the villager would pay back the borrowed money and the conflict was resolved.
- (c) On February 22, a resident of Eidgah village in Qala-i-Naw, Badghis Province complained about corruption and nepotism in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. The caller was informed by the PGO that the government is seriously working on these issues and that the corruption will take some time to eradicate.
- (d) On March 7, a resident of Shorak village, Chaghcharan requested the address and contact details for the Japanese-funded Poverty Reduction Organization. The DRRD focal point provided the information utilizing the Ghor Service Providers Catalog.

IR.4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

CDCs and DDAs in SIKA-West’s target districts within Herat, Badghis, Ghor, and Farah provinces successfully completed 283 grant-funded projects, which have been identified, awarded, and monitored by our respective District Government and Provincial DRRD partners. These 283 grant funded projects are valued at \$5,109,917 (actual USD\$ spent) and include varied projects such as Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canals, Road Rehabilitation and Gravelling, Culvert Construction, School Rehabilitation, Gabion and Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall Construction, etc. Implemented and managed by CDCs and DDAs under Fixed Obligation Grant mechanisms, these projects are designed to support GIROA partners (IDLG and MRRD) to address district community grievances and reflect responsiveness in the provision of critical services. Currently, CDCs and DDAs are implementing 244 grant funded projects valued at USD\$4,950,509 (utilizing AFN50-58 exchange rate for actual amounts spent and pending milestone payments) (See Chart 1 and 2) and 19 pending projects valued at USD\$255,059 (utilizing exchange rate AFN50-USD\$1.00) are under development.

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



During this reporting period, Project Management Training (PMT) was held for 744 members (698 male, 46 females) of 186 CDC Grantees in Chaghcharan, Muqur, Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Guzara, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts. Led by the respective DRRD District Social Workers, DRRD Engineers and DGO personnel, these PMTs covered all aspects of the grant award, community mobilization requirements, engineering requirements, procurement processes etc. After successful completion of the training, the CDC Grantees received their first milestone payments.

Examples of Completed Grant Funded Projects Approved and 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 (148.2 acres) of community farmland.
- With oversight and technical support from the Pashtun Zarghun District Government and Herat DRRD, the Gaja Community Development Council successfully completed the construction of a water reservoir with a capacity of 2,000-m³ in Gaja village on February 12. This reservoir provides sufficient irrigation water for 10,000 Jeribs (4,942.1 acres) of farmland, reduces water loss and supports 320 farmers to remain on the land.
- On March 4, the Bal Ghor CDC in Qala-i-Naw successfully completed the construction of a 90 ML Gabion Flood Protection Wall in Bal Ghor Village. Identified by the Qala-i-Naw mixed KSW and awarded to the community by the Badghis Provincial Government (PG) and DRRD, the Gabion Flood Protection Wall will safeguard 20 Jeribs (9.8 acres) of community farmland and the Qala-i-Naw-Herat main road from seasonal floods.
- On March 28, the Qashlaq Naw Kham Abasi CDC successfully completed the construction of an 88 ML Canal Lining, including 48 ML Stone Masonry Flood Protection Wall, and 48 ML Gabion Flood

Protection Wall in Qashlaq Naw Kham Abasi Village, Muqur District. Before this project was completed, large volumes of water were lost to overflow and farmlands were frequently flooded during the wetter months. Now, the Canal and Protection Walls safeguard more than 1,000 Jeribs (494.2 acres) of community farmland and ensure year round irrigation for 1,680 community residents.

CROSCUTTING ACTIVITIES:

GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

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.

On February 28, SIKA-West Governance Programming ended in Khak-e-Safayd, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Shahrak, Chaghcharan, Muqur, Qadis, and Qala-i-Naw. Program materials were organized and handed over to our MRRD and IDLG national, provincial and district partners, in accordance with the TWG guidelines.

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 helped these farmers to improve their wheat yields, by educating them on improved 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.
- A five-day Conflict Management and Legal Awareness training was provided to 38 (28 male and 10 female) members of the Farah Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee from January 25-29. Topics included analyzing conflicts and methods of conflict resolution/mediation, which will be employed in government-led efforts to address conflicts within the region.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a ‘Work Plan Development’ Workshop was conducted in Kohsan District for 12 (male) government personnel on January 28. Covering developing annual work plans, strategic planning and procurement planning, this workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, the Governance Department conducted ‘Procurement and Financial Management’ workshops for 96 (male) governmental staff in Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, Muqur, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, and Kohsan between February 4 and 17. Participants learned about procurement procedures, financial planning, and budgeting.
- In-line with the IDLG approved District Governance Training Plan, the “Administration and Management” courses in Chaghcharan (Start Date: Oct 29, 2014 for 78 female government staff and recent university graduates) and Badghis (Start Date: Jan 6, 2015 for 60 (45 males, 15 females) government staff) were completed on Feb 28, 2015. These trainings were designed to improve government staff administrative skill sets. *“We do not have enough female staff in governmental line-departments. You, the female graduates, can fill this gap,”* said Mr. Mohammad Amin Tokhi, Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, during a speech.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMMING

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

Examples of the Gender Mainstreaming Activities:

- 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 and 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.
- On February 12, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit organized a 'Lessons Learned and Coordination Workshop' with participation of the Farah DOWA Legal Manager, Farah DRRD Deputy Director, IDLG Gender Specialist, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn District Governors and representatives from the Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod District Government Female Conflict Resolution Committees.' The participants discussed the impact of the SIKA-West Gender Programming in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts. Participants highlighted improvements in communication between district governments and female residents, where female concerns are now being listened to and actions taken by the local government to address those needs. It was agreed that the Female KSW members played an active role in addressing female residents' concerns and provided a public platform to discuss current community problems.
- 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 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.
- On February 24, the Farah Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) independently organized and led the Farah Gender Working Group (GWG) meeting with the participation of 38 (23 females, 15 males) representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Each sub-committee of the GWG reported their last month activities and plans. The Economic Sub-Committee reported that they identified 100 businesswomen (textile and dairy producers) and is working to provide them with Business Permits and link them with both national and international markets. The Economic Sub-Committee will select four female textile producers to attend the Herat Province Women Handicraft Exhibition scheduled for March 10 and 11. The GWG members agreed to establish an official bank account and lobby both government and non-governmental organizations to financially support the GWG activities. Ms. Zobaida, the Deputy of the MRRD/National Solidarity Program (NSP) in Farah Province, pledged to allocate some portion of the NSP gender-related funds to the GWG and lobby with other organizations for further support. This report reflects the continued sustainability of the Farah Gender Working Group, without financial or logistical support from SIKA-West.
- On February 28, SIKA-West Gender Programming ended in our target districts (Khak-e-Safayd, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn (Farah Province); Guzara, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan (Herat Province); Shahrak, Chaghcharan, Du Layna (Ghor Province); Muqur, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw (Badghis Province). Program materials were organized and handed over

to our MRRD and IDLG national, provincial and district partners, in accordance with the Transition Working Group guidelines.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- District Government personnel, DRRD DSWs, M&E personnel, and Engineers organized 1,057 project site visits prior to the approval of the next round of milestone payments for CDCs and DDAs in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces. These visits uncovered deficiencies that were in need of correction. For example, the Zad Saleh CDC, which is implementing a 75-ML Flood Protection Wall construction project in Qadis District, was advised to compact the backfilling of the flood protection wall.
- The Qadis, Qala-i-Naw, Pusht-e Rod, Lash Wa Juwayn, and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Government Personnel used the District Government Hotline Numbers and called 35 CDCs requesting updates on the progress of their projects. For example, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Executive Manager called the Rabat Mirza CDC, which is implementing a 220-meter Canal Project; the CDC reported that they suspended the work due to cold weather. The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor called the Kosha CDC, which is implementing a School Surrounding Wall construction project; the CDC completed the project and is waiting to receive its last milestone payment. This request was referred to SIKA-West staff, who followed up and confirmed that the CDC implemented the project in accordance with the project specifications and the last milestone was disbursed on February 25.
- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to 70 (male) Chaghcharan, Kohsan, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn, Pusht-e Rod, Qadis, Muqur, and Qala-i-Naw MRRD District Social Workers and Government Personnel. This training focused on Project Site Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing. The same training was provided to 30 (female) government staff and recent university graduates during the three-month “Administration and Management” training courses in Chaghcharan.
- The M&E Department has submitted data for the MISTI data call for the Final Performance Evaluation. Documents included the SIKA-West Grants Activity, Capacity Building, Communications and Gender programming trackers, PMP, Work Plan, Monthly and Quarterly Reports, Assessment & Evaluations, Lessons Learned, Transition Plans and Contract Amendments.
- In-line with overall monitoring efforts, the M&E Department randomly called 17 laborers on 11 project sites in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Kohsan, Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, Chaghcharan and Muqur Districts to verify that they were receiving their wages in accordance with the CDC Grant Agreements. M&E has crosschecked the reported amount with the projects’ BOQs and observed that these laborers received the amounts as per the agreements.

2.2 CONSTRAINTS AND CRITICAL ISSUES:

- Due to the cold weather, all projects in Du Layna, Shahrak, Chaghcharan and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, 2 projects in Guzara and 12 projects in Pashtun Zarghun were suspended until March 1.
- SIKA-West suspended milestone payments for four road rehabilitation projects in Farah Center due to deficiencies which were in need of correction such as poor drainage systems and low quality gravel used. SIKA-West Engineers inspected the projects, and advised the implementing CDCs (Dar Abad Bala, Bagh Kafi, Naw Abad Sang-e Zor, and Rahim Abad) to correct the deficiencies. The CDCs corrected the projects’ deficiencies by improving the drainage networks and procured better quality gravel. The projects are ongoing.
- Due to insecurity within the district, preventing staff from working safely within the Bala Boluk DGO, SIKA-West District personnel continue to work from the Farah Provincial Office. The staff will remain at the Farah Provincial office until the security conditions improve.
- SIKA-West is waiting on past requests on re-verifications of seven projects in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand and Qadis by MISTI. Some of these re-verification requests have been pending since December 2014.

- The Lash Wa Juwayn, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Kohsan, Chaghcharan, Qadis and Muqur DGO Hotline and the Badghis, Herat and Farah SPC Focal Points reported that they did not receive calls from residents between March 3-30. The issue was shared with IDLG and MRRD Regional Coordinators. As a follow up, a letter has been written by the IDLG SIKA-Unit, signed by the IDLG Deputy Minister (Policy and Technical), which was sent to Provincial and DGOs to inform them of their responsibilities to maintain and operate IDLG Hotlines.

3. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 INDICATOR/ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE:

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| S1: Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance | F | 42 | 67 | 110 | 477 | 360 | 301 | 512 | 845 | 65% | The SIKA-West program supported more sub-national government entities including CDCs and DDAs. 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; SIKA-West has assisted 845 sub-national government entities, exceeding our target by 333 or +65% |
| S2: Percent of Afghans reporting that their district government is responsive to the needs of local people | Stab-U Indicator | N/A | 58% ² | N/A | 55% ³ | 60% | 55% ⁴ | 60% | 57% | -3% | N/A |

1 - Target & Result Y1 cover Feb 2012 to Sep 2013, Target & Result Y2 cover Oct 2013 to Sep 2014, Target Y3 covers Oct 2014 to Aug 2015, and Result Y3 covers Oct 2014 to Mar 2015.

2 Source: MISTI Wave 3 Report Page 70. Results for the Wave 2 Survey for this indicator show: District Governor (63%), District Government (58%), Local Leaders (66%) and Provincial Government (51%).

3 Source: MISTI Wave 4 Report Page 70. Results for the Wave 4 Survey for this indicator show: District Governor (63%), District Government (55%), Local Leaders (63%) and Provincial Government (51%).

4. Source: MISTI Wave 4 Report Page 70. Results for the Wave 4 Survey for this indicator show: District Governor (63%), District Government (55%), Local Leaders (63%) and Provincial Government (51%). This figure will change when Wave 5 report is published.

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| S3: Number of District Entities with USG assistance for citizens to engage their subnational government | Stab-U Indicator | N/A | 112 | 233 | 484 | 75 | 301 | 308 | 897 | 191% | More District Entities have shown interest in working with SIKA-West. Hence, we have an increased number. Y1-3 targets totaled 308; SIKA-West has assisted 897 District Entities, exceeding our target by 589 or +191%. |
| S4: Number of activities with community contribution (see indicator 4.3) | Stab-U Indicator | 72 | 2 | 201 | 214 | 100 | 67 | 373 | 283 | -24% | All SIKA-West grant funded projects incorporate a community contribution. This contribution is recorded after the project has been completed. 283 grant funded projects have been completed and 244 projects are ongoing. Once complete, this will enable us to exceed our target of 373. |
| S5: Number of Afghans Trained (see indicators 2.3, 3.3, 4.4) | Stab-U Indicator | N/A | 2,428 | 5,272 | 6,615 | 5,000 | 2,854 | 10,272 | 12,501 | 22% | The SIKA-West program supported more sub-national government entities including CDCs and DDAs. 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 10,272; SIKA-West has assisted 12,501 sub-national government entities, exceeding our target by 2,229 or +22%. |

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| S6: Number of Persons Employed by stabilization program activities | Stab-U Indicator | N/A | 2 | 479 | 4,578 | 1,000 | 3,241 | 1,479 | 7,821 | 427% | Y1-3 targets total 1,479; SIKAWest stabilization program activities have employed 7,821 persons, exceeding our target by 6,342 or +427%. This result has been driven by the program 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 | 9,000 | 187 | 46,800 | 102,685 | 30,000 | 101,067 | 85,800 | 202,939 | 137% | Y1-3 targets total 50,340; 202,939 person days of employment have been created, exceeding our target by 117,139 or +137%. This result has been driven by the program larger numbers of small and labor intensive grant funded project activities in collaboration with our IDLG and MRRD partners. |
| S8: Number of stabilization activities implemented through grants to district entities (see indicator 4.3) | Stab-U Indicator | 72 | 2 | 201 | 216 | 75 | 67 | 348 | 283 | -19% | Y1-3 targets total 348; SIKAWest has completed 283 stabilization activities through grants, with 244 activities ongoing. Once complete, this will enable us to exceed our target of 348. |

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| S9: Number of SOIs against which stabilization activities have been executed | Stab-U Indicator | N/A | 6 | 12 | 16 | 7 | 0 | 19 | 22 | 16% | Y1-3 targets total 19; 22 SOI's have been identified against which stabilization activities have been executed; exceeding our target by 3, or 16%. This result has been driven by increased district community participation in GIRoA led stabilization programming through the Komite Sobate Wolesswalis. |
| S10: Number of stabilization Work Sessions Conducted for district entities (see indicator 1.2) | Stab-U Indicator | 88 | 85 | 100 | 132 | 130 | 81 | 318 | 298 | -6% | N/A |
| S11: Number of Districts in which SAM is utilized to develop programs (see indicator 1.2) | Stab-U Indicator | 7 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 0% | N/A |
| S12: Number of GIRoA Officials trained in aspects of government administration (See indicators 2.3 and 3.3) | Stab-U Indicator | N/A | 91 | 323 | 552 | 100 | 725 | 423 | 1,459 | 245% | Y1-3 targets total 423; 1,459 GIRoA officials have been trained in aspects of government administration, exceeding our target by 1,036 or +245%. This result has been driven by our programs strong collaboration with our MRRD and IDLG partners, the utilization of GIRoA approved training materials and the execution of programming, which relates directly to GIRoA needs. |

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| S13: Number of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services. (assets, credit, income or employment) | F/Gender | N/A | 1,045 | 1,525 | 1,525 | 100 | 356 | 1,625 | 3,010 | 85% | Y1-3 targets total 1,625; there have been 3,010 female participants; exceeding our target by 1,385 or +85%. This result has been driven by our programs capable gender component and strong collaboration with IDLG and MRRD to encourage female participation. |
| S14: Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entity activities (KSWs) | Gender | 27 | 82 | 36 | 73 | 100 | 18 | 163 | 173 | 6% | N/A |
| 1.1 Number of partnered District governments (and % of total) that show improved understanding of local Sources of Instability. | Program | 10 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 0% | N/A |
| 1.2 Number of Stabilization work sessions conducted with district entities. | F/Program | 88 | 85 | 100 | 132 | 130 | 81 | 318 | 298 | -6% | N/A |

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1.3 Number of Activities included in District Project Portfolios as a result of stabilization workshops | Stab-U/Program | 70 | 280 | 240 | 164 | 75 | 203 | 385 | 650 | 69% | Y1-3 targets total 385; 650 activities have been included in the DPPs because of stabilization workshops; exceeding our target by 265 or +69%. This result has been driven by increased engagement by district communities in the GIRoA led Komite Sobate Woleswalis as well as our program's focus on larger numbers of small and labor intensive grant funded project activities in collaboration with our IDLG and MRRD partners. |
| 2.1 Number of District Entities able to access stabilization services provided by GIRoA organizations/line departments | Program | N/A | N/A | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 0% | N/A |
| 2.2 Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the Service Providers Catalogue | Program | 7 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 22 | 18 | -18% | Y1-3 targets total 22; 18 SOIs 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 SOIs. 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. |

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 2.3 Number of people trained on Service Provider Catalog usage | Program | N/A | 160 | NA | 304 | 100 | 207 | 100 | 986 | 886% | Y1-3 targets total 100; 986 people have been trained on the SPC usage, exceeding our target by 886 or +886%. 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 have 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 | N/A | N/A | TBD | 64% | 65% | 64% | 65% | 64% | -2% | N/A |
| 3.2 Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs with USG assistance | Program | 9 | 86 | 16 | 231 | 24 | 118 | 49 | 535 | 992% | Y1-3 targets total 49; 535 public outreach/consultation activities have been conducted; exceeding our target by 486 or +992%. This result has been driven by the strong collaboration between our program and our MRRD and IDLG partners, who have wholly embraced this activity. |

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 3.3 Number of people trained in communications and outreach | F/Program | 300 | 1,602 | 1,291 | 921 | 500 | 221 | 2,091 | 3,222 | 54% | Y1-3 targets total 2,091; 3,222 people have been trained in C&O; exceeding our target by 1,131 or +54%. This result has been driven by strong collaboration between our program and our MRRD and IDLG partners, utilization of GIRoA prepared and approved training guidelines and materials and the execution of programming that relates directly to GIRoA needs. |
| 3.4 Number of PA's and DEs with a communication strategy or plan in place. | Program | 9 | 13 | 8 | 14 | 15 | 0 | 32 | 27 | -16% | Y1-3 targets total 32; 27 PAs and DEs 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. |
| 4.1 Percentage of people reporting improvement in service delivery by DEs and PAs. | Program | N/A | N/A | NA | 65% | 60% | 65% | 60% | 65% | 8% | N/A |

| Indicator Name and Number | DO & IR THAT THE PROJECT SUPPORTS | Target Y1 ¹ | Result Y1 | Target Y2 | Result Y2 | Target Y3 | Result Y3 | Cumulative Targets (Y1,2,3) | Cumulative Results (Y1,2,3) | % Variance between Cumulative Targets and Results | Reason for +/- 10% variance |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 4.2 Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions. | Stab-U/Program | 9,000 | 187 | 46,800 | 101,685 | 30,000 | 101,067 | 85,800 | 202,939 | 137% | Y1-3 targets total 85,800; 202,939 person days of employment have been created, exceeding our target by 117,139 or +137% 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 and MRRD partners. |
| 4.3 Number of grant activities completed in support of stabilization goals | Stab-U/Program | 72 | 2 | 120 | 216 | 75 | 67 | 267 | 283 | 6% | N/A |
| 4.4 Number of person-days of training implemented through grants. | Program | 280 | 3300 | 9,600 | 101,230 | 3,000 | 0 | 12,880 | 104,530 | 712% | Y1-3 targets total 12,880; 104,530 person days of training have been implemented, exceeding our target by 91,650 or +712%. 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 PLANNED FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

3.2.1 STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

The IDLG and MRRD partners will independently organize their monthly Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings, without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West. They will focus on both identifying current district concerns and proposing GIRoA led solutions.

3.2.2 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

On February 28, the SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach programming ended in Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod (Farah Province); Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan (Herat Province); Chaghcharan (Ghor Province); Muqur, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw (Badghis Province). The CPOD is preparing closeout reports for all program activities for the SIKA-West Districts of operation.

3.2.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

- DSWs, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel will undertake project site visits in SIKA-West Districts of operation.
- 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.

3.2.4 GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

On February 28, SIKA-West Governance Programming ended in our target districts (Khak-e-Safayd, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Farah Center, Lash Wa Juwayn, Shindand, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Shahrak, Chaghcharan, Muqur, Qadis, and Qala-i-Naw). The Governance Department is preparing closeout reports for all program activities for the SIKA-West Districts of operation.

3.2.5 GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMMING

The DOWA will independently organize their monthly Female Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings, without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West They will focus on both identifying current district concerns and proposing GIRoA led solutions.

3.3 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.
- SIKA-West Community Development Department (CDD) has noticed that most of the CDCs work quality for road rehabilitation in Farah Province was poor due to lack of a unique proper gravel source in the area. The CDD trained all CDCs having Road Rehabilitation projects on the correct mix of the existing gravel with screened gravel (ratio of 1:1) to obtain a proper mix to ensure good quality road projects at the end. A Province wide training program for all implementing CDCs has been launched.

- Good coordination and collaboration with high-ranking governmental officials was critical to successful program transition. For example, as part of the SIKA-West Transitional Guidelines, in order to ensure sustainability of the District Government Hotlines and the Komite Sobate Wolesswalis, the IDLG Deputy Minister for Policy & Technical Affairs, in collaboration with the IDLG SIKA-Unit, sent written instructions on March 31, 2015 to the Provincial and District Government Offices to inform them of their responsibilities to maintain and operate the District Government Hotlines and the Komite Sobate Wolesswalis. IDLG has allocated monthly financial support for both the Hotlines and Komite Sobate Wolesswalis.

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.
- 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.
- The SIKA-West Communications & Public Outreach and the Governance Departments handed over the first SIKA-West Program Transition Package to both IDLG and MRRD SIKA-Units during separate meetings on March 18. Materials included copies of the Communications Plans, District Profiles, Service Providers Catalogs, Communications and Governance Training Materials, and Komite Sobate Wolesswali Guidelines.
- In-line with the IDLG approved Transitional Working Guidelines, the IDLG Deputy Minister for Policy & Technical Affairs sent official written instructions to the Provincial and District Government offices to inform them of their responsibilities to maintain and operate the District Government Hotlines and the Komite Sobate Wolesswalis (KSWs). Monthly IDLG financial support has been allocated for both the Hotlines and KSWs.

4.2 LINKS WITH OTHER DONOR AGENCIES:

- SIKA-West M&E Personnel and Engineers attended the Italian-funded INTERSOS Program coordination workshop for Project Partners and Stakeholders on March 9. INTERSOS presented their ongoing activities and projects in Herat Province. SIKA-West shared the recently approved USAID Weekly Reports with the participants to avoid program duplication in the common district (Guzara).
- As a direct result of advocacy training provided by the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Massow Barakzai CDC (Pusht-e Rod District) successfully lobbied the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide the community with water pumps in order to address shortfalls with their potable water supplies. The community successfully prepared their own Concept Note, outlining their need for water pumps and submitted this to ICRC on August 28, 2014. ICRC responded by providing technical training to the community and how to install and maintain water pumps. On February 16, 2015, the Massow Barakzai CDC received 16 hand water pumps, which were put to immediate use.

4.3 LIST AND DISCUSS LINKS WITH OTHER USAID PROJECTS:

- The M&E Department has submitted data for the MISTI data call for the Final Performance Evaluation. Documents included the SIKA-West Grants Activity, Capacity Building, Communications and Gender programming trackers, PMP, Work Plan, Monthly and Quarterly Reports, Assessment and Evaluations, Lessons Learned, Transition Plans and Contract Amendments.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

5.1 PERSONNEL

- During the reporting period, SIKA-West experienced an anticipated turnover in personnel. The Finance Director demobilized from the project and was replaced as planned. The Grants and Compliance Director who was hired could not mobilize, and plans are underway to look at other candidates for the position in the next quarter.
- As a result of the winding down of the field activities during the quarter, 39 local national staff resigned or their contracts were ended.

5.2 ADAPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

- In-line with the IDLG and MRRD approved Transitional Working Guidelines, SIKA-West is longer provides logistic or financial support for the Komite Sobate Woleswalis and the District Government Hotlines. These activities are now being led by the IDLG and MRRD.
- As part of transition activities, the Community Development Department has stopped provision of lunches and transportation allowance to CDC members attending technical trainings and no longer assists with logistical support for closeout ceremonies.

5.3 MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

There was no modification for this period.

SUCCESS STORIES AND PHOTOS

Local Government Provides Water To Farmers In Pashtun Zarghun

With oversight from the Pashtun Zarghun District Government and technical support from the Herat Department of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (DRRD), the Gaja Community Development Council successfully managed the construction of a Water Reservoir with a capacity of 2000-M³; providing sufficient year round irrigation water for 5000 acres of farmland.

Valued at USD\$38,346, the construction of the Water Reservoir created short term employment for 112 community laborers, currently stores 2000-M³ water, irrigates 5000 acres of farmland and supports 320 community farmers to remain on the land and provide for their families.

“The old water reservoir was not able to store water for our farmland; a large amount of water was being wasted,”

Mr. Hazrat Khan, Gaja CDC Chairman.

“Before the construction of the new Water Reservoir I could only regularly irrigate 25 of 50 acres of my farmland, my thanks to the District Government for their support,”

Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, Farmer, Gaja village.

“The newly constructed water reservoir will provide sufficient water for Gaja village farmland, now more agricultural lands will be cultivated,”

Mr. Farhad Raufian,

Pashtun Zarghun District Governor.



SIKA-West M&E Department

BEFORE For years, more than 5000 acres of farmland in Gaja village, Pashtun Zarghun District of Herat Province did not receive sufficient water. The old and dilapidated water reservoir was not able to capture and hold enough water to meet the farmers' needs.



SIKA-West M&E Department

AFTER With oversight and technical support from the Pashtun Zarghun District Government and Herat DRRD, the Gaja Community Development Council successfully constructed a Water Reservoir with a capacity of 2000-m³ in Gaja village; providing sufficient irrigation water for 5000 acres of farmland, reducing water loss and supporting 320 farmer to remain on the land.