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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
APRIL 2015



The Alkozay Ha & Bahador Zay Ha CDC Completed The High School Rehabilitation Project In Mar Abad Village, Pashtun Zarghun District. Now That The School Is Rehabilitated, 2,076 Students (1,121 Boys, 955 Girls) Have A Better Educational Environment And Facilities.

May 2015

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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
April 2015

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DISCLAIMER:

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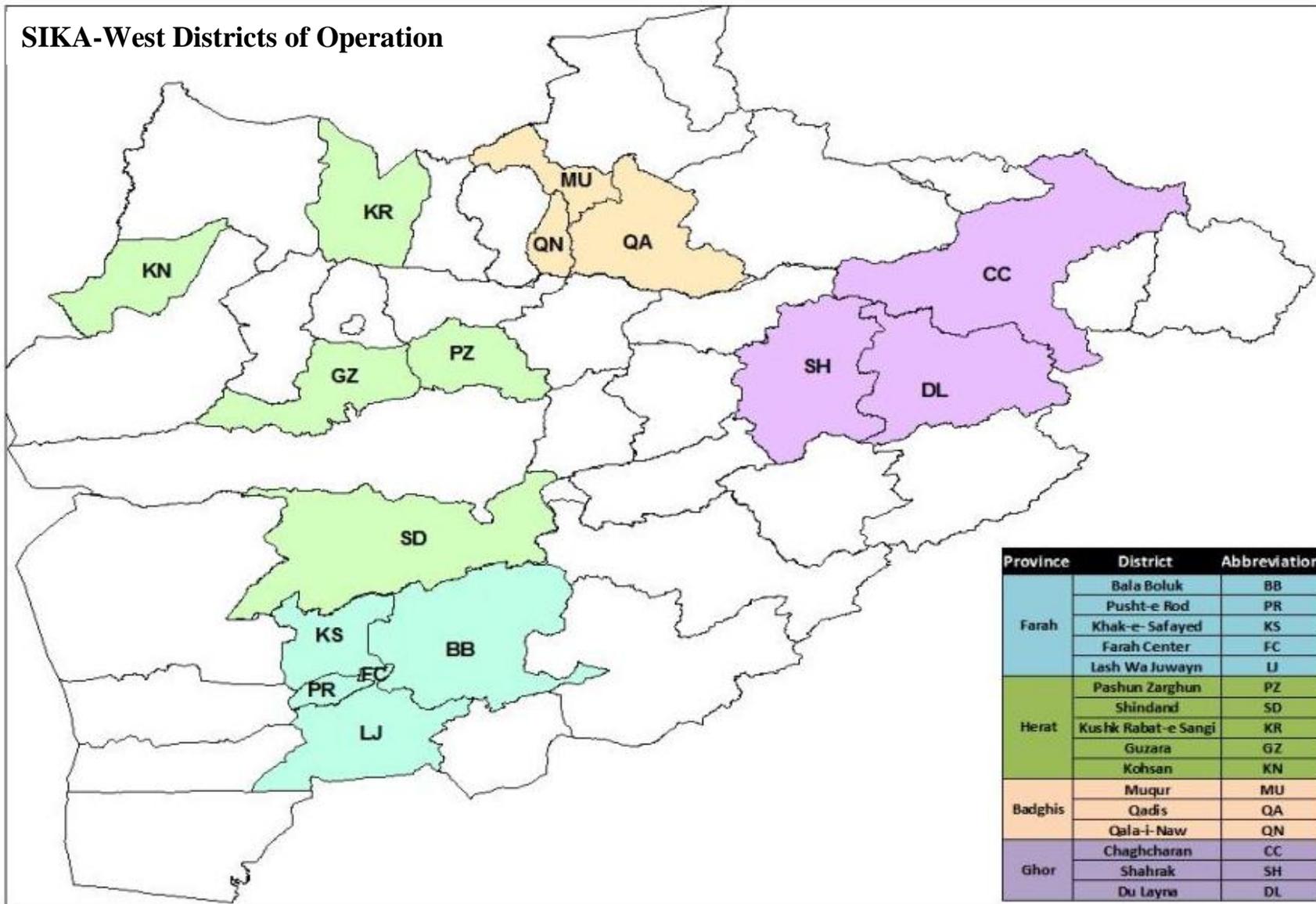
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ACRONYMS

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
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 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.

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

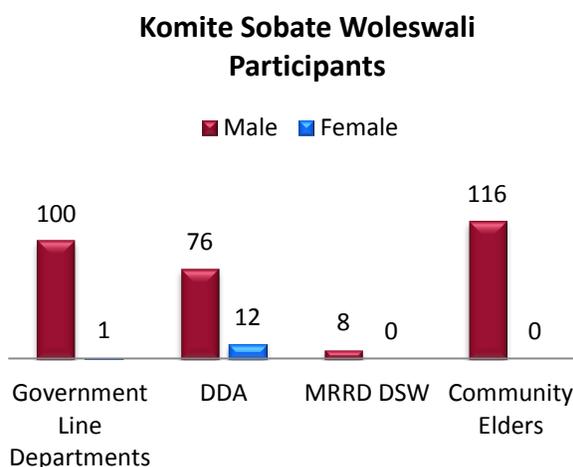
SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

This report summarizes MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program activities undertaken across all program departments during the month of April 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, nine GIROA-led Komite Sobate Woleswali (KSW) meetings were held (four male and five mixed). These Komite Sobate Woleswali meeting were undertaken by IDLG and MRRD without logistical or financial support from SIKA-West, reflecting our program partners' leadership in sustaining critical district based programming.

The purpose of the Komite Sobate Woleswali 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 and District Governors and Line Department representatives (100 males, 1 female), District Development Assemblies (DDAs) (76 males, 12 females), MRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) (8 males), and community elders (116 males).



List of the April 2015 Komite Sobate Woleswali Meetings

District	Province	Male/ Female/ Mixed	Location	Date of KSWs	# of Participants	
					Male	Female
Lash Wa Juwayn	Farah	Male	DG District Center Compound	April 13, 2015	50	0
Qadis	Badghis	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	April 21, 2015	31	5
Muqur	Badghis	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	April 22, 2015	19	0
Qala-i-Naw	Badghis	Mixed	Provincial Center (PGO)	April 23,2015	24	1
Du Layna	Ghor	Male	DG District Center Compound	April 29, 2015	11	0
Shahrak	Ghor	Male	DG District Center Compound	April 1,2015	17	0
Shahrak	Ghor	Male	DG District Center Compound	April 13,2015	25	0
Kohsan	Herat	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	April 13, 2015	25	0
Kushk-e-Robat Sangi	Herat	Mixed	DG District Center Compound	April 19, 2015	105	7

*The Komite Sobate Woleswali meetings were not held in the districts below during the month of April for the following reasons:

- The Khak-e-Safed programming has been suspended since April 2014 due to the destruction of the Khak-e-Safed DGO.
- The Guzara District Governor was out of the country for treatment and the KSW meeting was rescheduled for May 2.
- The Farah Center, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, and Shindand KSW meetings were postponed due to insecurity within these districts.
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, who is the Head of the KSW, was on his official leave; therefore, the meeting was rescheduled for May 26.
- The Pashtun Zarghun DG postponed the KSW meeting scheduled for April 25. The DG reported that they will conduct the KSW meetings once they receive the funds allocated by the IDLG.

EXAMPLES OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ADDRESSED BY GIROA UTILIZING EXISTING RESOURCES AND THIRD PARTY DONORS:

- On April 19, during the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi mixed KSW meeting, the District Government agreed to take action to address the communities' lack of access to potable water. The DG informed the KSW members that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will repair 600 water wells in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District. The DGO organized a separate meeting with the DDA and CDC members to identify communities which are in need of water wells. A list of the villages was prepared and will be submitted to ICRC on May 15, 2015 (tentatively).
- On April 23, during the Qala-i-Naw mixed KSW, the participants discussed the ongoing Polio vaccination campaign by UNICEF in Badghis Province. The PGO asked the Education Department and the Haj & Religious Affairs Department to cooperate with UNICEF and inform residents about the vaccination campaign.
- On April 22, during the mixed KSW, the Muqur DG responded to the communities which were in need of food assistance. The DG informed the participants that World Vision International (WVI) will provide food assistance for 900 families (70 KG of wheat to each family) in 31 villages in Muqur District. With cooperation of the KSW members, the WVI conducted a survey and identified eligible families. The food assistance packages will be distributed on May 10.
- SIKA-West received information from the USAID funded CCI/IOM program that they were collaborating with the Guzara District Government and Komite Sobate Woleswali to identify & implement infrastructure projects within the district. SIKA-West is in discussions with IOM to receive further details, which will be provided in upcoming reports.

COMMUNICATIONS 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 & IDLG national, provincial and district partners, in accordance with the IDLG & MRRD approved Transition Working Group (TWG) guidelines.

The Communications & Public Outreach Herat HQ Department has developed the Shahrak District Profile which was reviewed and approved by the DGO and IDLG. The District Profile has been sent to USAID for approval.

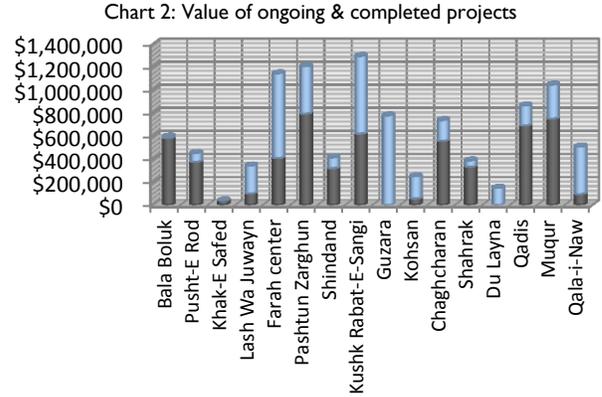
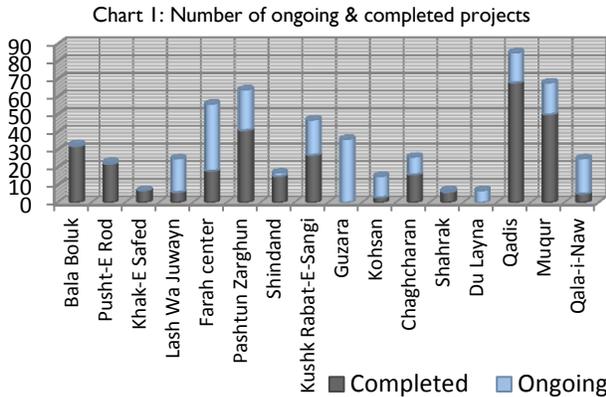
The Communications & Public Outreach Herat HQ Department is working to finalize project video footage which highlights both the continued role and importance of the IDLG/MRRD led Komite Sobate Woleswalis' roles in addressing district community grievances and the current impact of GIROA led basic services. Once finalized this video footage will be shared with our USAID COR for review.

EXAMPLES OF DISTRICT GOVERNMENT AND DRRD SPC HOTLINES

- a) On April 11, a resident of Kariz Naw village in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi reported that his family members are in conflict over the division of the lands inherited by their late father. The DGO referred this issue to the village Shura for mediation who worked with the family members to divide their lands equally.
- b) On April 18, a resident of Muqur District reported to the DGO that there was an ongoing dispute between he and another villager over their shared farmland border. One side was claiming ownership of farmland owned by the other. The Muqur Executive Manager travelled to the area and made a ruling on the border between the two pieces of farmland.
- c) On April 17, a resident of Chapak Bala village, Pusht-e Rod District reported that he is in conflict with another villager over the use of a shared irrigation canal. The District Governor organized a meeting with the conflicting parties. A consensus was reached over the use of the canal, based on an agreed schedule.
- d) The Badghis SPC Focal Point reported that he received a call from a resident of Ab Kamari on April 22. The resident asked why SIKA-West did not work in Ab Kamari. The SPC Focal Point informed the resident that SIKA-West was operating in Qala-i-Naw, Qadis and Muqur, not Ab Kamari.
- e) The Ghor SPC Focal Point reported that member of Zartalay CDC asked for the DRRD Program Manager's contact number and a resident of Pay Kamar village asked for the Education Director's contact number. The SPC Focal Point provided the information requested.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date, CDCs and DDAs in SIKA-West's target districts within Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah provinces successfully completed 316 grant-funded projects which have been identified, awarded and monitored by our respective District Government and Provincial DRRD partners. These 316 grant funded projects are valued at USD\$5,718,299 (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 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 current district community grievances and reflect responsiveness in the provision of critical services. Currently, CDCs and DDAs are implementing 225 grant funded projects valued at USD\$4,475,244 (utilizing AFN50-58 exchange rate for actual amounts spent and pending milestone payments) (see charts 1 and 2) and 1 pending project valued at USD\$7,424 (utilizing exchange rate AFN50- USD\$1.00) is under development.



During this reporting period, Project Management Training (PMT) was held for 47 members (31 male, 16 females) of 11 CDC Grantees in Chaghcharan, and Guzara Districts. Led by the respective DRRD District Social Workers, DRRD Engineers and DGO personnel (District Executive Managers, Technical and 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 first milestone payments.

EXAMPLES OF COMPLETED GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS APPROVED AND HANDED OVER TO GIROA

- On April 23, the Rais Sayed Mohammad CDC completed the construction of a 10-ML Aqueduct in Rais Sayed Mohammad Village. This project was awarded by the Qadis District Government and the Badghis DRRD through the mixed Qadis KSW to address the shortage of irrigation water and ensure that the community had sufficient water for 3,000 Jeribs (1,482 acres) of farmland. *“We appreciate the Rais Sayed Mohammad CDC who implemented this high quality project. Now it is the community’s responsibility to maintain their project,”* Mr. Saleh Mohammad Baik, the Qadis District Governor.
- With oversight and technical support from the Qadis District Government and the Badghis DRRD, the Zad Saleh and Naw Abad Zad Saleh CDCs successfully completed the construction of a 150-ML Flood Protection Wall in Zad Saleh Village, Qadis District on April 12. Now that the Flood Protection Walls has been constructed, 50 Jeribs (24.7 acres) of farmland and an existing village road will be safeguarded from seasonal flood damage.
- On April 29, Barkhol Ulia CDC successfully completed their Culvert Construction project. This grant funded project was awarded by the Du Layna District Government and the Ghor DRRD through the male Du Layna KSW to address the poor road conditions surrounding the community and improve access for 133 families to travel from the community to neighboring villages and the District Center.



The Rais Sayed Mohammad CDC Successfully Constructed A 10-ML Aqueduct In Qadis District Which Will Provide Sufficient Water For 3,000 Jeribs (1,482 Acres) Of Farmland.



The Barkhol Ulia CDC Successfully Completed The Construction Of Seven Culverts In Barkhol Village, Du Layna District. These Culverts Will Improve Access For 133 Families To The District Center And Neighboring Villages.

- With oversight and technical support from the Farah Provincial Government and the DRRD, the Noor Abad Bagh CDC completed the rehabilitation of the Farah Orphanage including construction of five sets of latrines, a volleyball ground (220-M²) and a soccer field (560-M²) in Farah Center on April 27. Now that the Orphanage has been rehabilitated, 192 orphans (133 boys, 59 girls) will benefit from improved living conditions.



The Noor Abad Bagh CDC completed the rehabilitation of the Farah Orphanage which will provide better living and educational conditions for 192 orphans (133 boys, 59 girls).

GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

On February 28, SIKA-West Governance Programing 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). 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. The Governance Department is currently engaged in reviewing, organizing and archiving program records.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMMING

On February 28, SIKA-West Gender Programing 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. The Gender Departments is currently engaged in reviewing, organizing and archiving program records.

The below table shows 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	Cumulative Target	April 2015 Result	Cumulative Result
S1: Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	110	360	512	9	854
S2: Percent of Afghans reporting that their district government is responsive to the needs of local people	NA	NA	60%	60%	55% ¹	57%
S3: Number of District Entities with USG assistance for citizens to engage their subnational government	NA	233	75	308	9	906
S4: Number of activities with community contribution	72	201	100	373	39	322

1- 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 the Wave 5 report is published.

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Cumulative Target	April 2015 Result	Cumulative Result
S5: Number of Afghans Trained (see indicators 2.3, 3.3, 4.4)	NA	5,272	5,000	10,272	54 (38 male, 16 female)	12,555 (9,524 male, 3,031 female)
S6: Number of Persons Employed by stabilization program activities	NA	479	1,000	1,479	1,370 (male)	9,191 (9,151 male, 40 female)
S7: Number of person-days of employment created	9,000	11,340	30,000	85,800	33,343	236,282 (232,644 male, 3638 female)
S8: Number of stabilization activities implemented through grants to district entities (see indicator 4.3)	72	201	75	348	39	322
S9: Number of SOIs against which stabilization activities have been executed	NA	12	7	19	0	22
S10: Number of stabilization Work Sessions Conducted for district entities (see indicator 1.2)	88	105	130	318	9	307
S11: Number of Districts in which SAM is utilized to develop programs (see indicator 1.2)	7	10	16	16	16	16
S12: Number of GIRoA Officials trained in aspects of government administration (See indicators 2.3 and 3.3)	NA	323	100	423	0	1,459 (1,320 male, 139 female)
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	1,625	16	3,026
S14: Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entity activities (KSWs)	27	36	100	163	0	173
I.1 Number of partnered District governments (and % of total) that show improved understanding of local Sources of Instability.	10	10	16	16	16	100% 16/16
I.2 Number of Stabilization work sessions conducted with district entities.	88	100	130	318	9	307
I.3 Number of Activities included in District Project Portfolios as a result of stabilization workshops	70	240	75	385	20	650

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Cumulative Target	April 2015 Result	Cumulative Result
2.1 Number of District Entities able to access stabilization services provided by GIRoA organizations/line departments	NA	16	16	16	16	16
2.2 Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the Service Providers Catalogue	7	10	5	22	0	18
2.3 Number of people trained on Service Provider Catalog usage	NA	NA	100	100	0	986 (907 male, 79 female)
3.1 Number of people (percentage) reporting improvement in the responsiveness of GIRoA district entities with regards to SOI resolution	NA	NA	65%	65%	64%	64%
3.2 Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs with USG assistance	9	16	24	49	4	535
3.3 Number of people trained in communications and outreach	300	1,291	500	2,091	0	3,222 (2,630 male, 592 female)
3.4 Number of PA's and DEs with a communication strategy or plan in place.	9	8	15	32	0	27
4.1 Percentage of people reporting improvement in service delivery by DEs and PAs.	NA	NA	60%	60%	65%	65%
4.2 Number of person days of employment created through SIKa-West interventions.	9,000	46,800	30,000	85,800	33,343	232,644 (197,986 male, 3,638 female)
4.3 Number of grant activities completed in support of stabilization goals	72	120	75	267	39	322
4.4 Number of person-days of training implemented through grants.	280	9,600	3,000	12,880	0	104,530 (34,043 male, 70,487 female)

STATUS OF PROGRAM OFFICE CLOSURES

Programming activities have been completed in Shahrak (April 19, 2015), and Bala Boluk Districts (April 30, 2015) and all program staff have been withdrawn. SIKA-West will no longer be reporting on activities from these districts.

LESSON LEARNED

The SIKA-West program was affected by severe floods in Qala-e-Naw and Muqur Districts, with the height of flood waters reaching between 5-7 meters. Five project site locations were significantly damaged, while two other project site locations suffered minor damages. Floodwaters like these had never before been witnessed. As a result of these severe floods, SIKA-West took the proactive step to re-design its existing Gabion Flood Protection Walls in Qala-e-Naw and Muqur to Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) structures, which will serve to be more resilient in the event that these floods are repeated.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- During this reporting period, District Government Office (DGO) personnel, 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 and DDAs in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces. These visits uncovered deficiencies that were in need of correction. For example, the Kang-e Zahak CDC, which is implementing a 230-ML School Surrounding Wall project in Lash Wa Juwayn District, was advised to do the masonry work of its project in accordance with the project's specification and the Meyan Do Jow CDC, which is implementing a Bridge construction project in Pashtun Zarghun, was asked to replace rusty re-bar.
- In line with overall monitoring efforts, the M&E Department randomly called 43 laborers on 24 project sites in Qadis, Lash Wa Juwayn, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qala-i-Naw, Muqur, Guzara, Farah Center, Kohsan, and Chaghcharan to verify whether they were receiving their wages in accordance with the CDC Grant Agreements. M&E crosschecked the reported amount with the projects' BOQs. It was noticed that six laborers did not receive their wages in accordance with the CDC Grant Agreement. SIKA-West M&E and Community Development Department followed up with the CDC to make sure the laborers are paid their outstanding wages.
- On April 5, the SIKA-West M&E Department met with the IDLG Senior Program Manager to discuss the project's PMP Indicators reporting for the Quarterly Reports. The SIKA-West Quarterly Report (FY2015 QI) was reviewed. The IDLG Senior Program Manager suggested reporting the Indicators' results disaggregated by Year 1, 2 and 3 instead of cumulative numbers. This new approach will provide further explanation of the variance between the yearly targets and results. SIKA-West will incorporate this suggestion in upcoming reports.
- M&E Department has started updating the USAID Afghan Info Database for FY2015 QII. Information includes financial data, PMP indicators and status of grant projects. The updates will be completed and uploaded on May 15.
- During the month, SIKA-West M&E Department collected GPS coordinates for 16 project sites in Chaghcharan, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Bala Boluk, Farah Center, Qala-i-Naw, Shahrak, and Muqur. These verified GPS points were included in the SIKA-West Tracker and submitted to MISTI on April 15.

CHALLENGES

- Due to current insecurity within Bala Boluk District, the M&E Department was unable to collect GPS coordinates for five projects. The SIKA-West Security Department has recommended postponing future travel within the region until the security environment is more permissive.

- On April 6, heavy floods washed away three ongoing and one completed Gabion Flood Protection Wall construction projects in Qala-i-Naw District and one completed Canal Lining project in Muqur District. SIKA-West Engineers organized post-flood assessments and measured the damage. A separate detailed report was provided to USAID highlighting the finding and recommended solutions.
- SIKA-West Engineers could not conduct project site inspections for 20 projects in Pusht-e Rod, Pashtun Zarghun, Guzara, Muqur, and Chaghcharan Districts due to insecurity, which resulted in the delay of USD \$216,086 in milestone payments.

DELIVERABLES

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

- March 2015 Monthly Report
- Weekly Reports

U.S. Agency for International Development/Afghanistan

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