

# **STABILITY IN KEY AREAS – WEST PROGRAM (SIKA-W)**

**WEEKLY UPDATES:** March 9-15, 2012

## **Program**

- The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and USAID agreed on an agenda for the upcoming MRRD Provincial Director's workshop. Workshop materials are currently being developed in close consultation with MRRD and USAID. At the request of MRRD, the workshop has been delayed until March 25<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will provide an overview of the SIKA-West program and the District Stability Framework (DSF). Sessions will include an initial overview of the SIKA-W Work Plan as well as the first quarterly participatory work plan development exercise. The Performance Management Plan will also be covered and targets will be discussed and agreed. During the workshop, the recruitment process for staff whom will be embedded at the provincial and district levels will also be discussed.
- DSF discussions with SIKA – E are ongoing and materials have been shared.
- DCOP, SIKA-W and Start-up PMP Specialist attended a meeting at USAID/Afghanistan in Kabul on March 14 to discuss the SIKA collective PMP and M&E strategy, including indicators, reporting framework, and outstanding issues for clarification. Also in attendance at the meeting was Dr. Samuel Schueth, Stabilization Officer- Monitoring and Evaluation, Stabilization Unit, who led the discussion for USAID, as well as members from the SIKA-East management and Monitoring and Evaluation team. Attendees discussed revisions to program indicators, including F-indicator usage, the baseline survey methodology, and how the teams will work with the new USAID MISTY Program during data collection and analysis. This meeting was very important as the teams were able to clarify many outstanding questions surrounding the PMP and have laid the groundwork to work together on data collection and monitoring moving forward.
- The SIKA – W Work Plan was submitted to USAID for approval.

## **Administration**

- The SIKA - W Monthly Report and the Branding and Marking Plan were submitted to USAID for approval.
- Recruitment for SIKA - W HQ, CCN Operations, Finance and technical staff continues and 25 individuals have been selected, reference checks are ongoing and four CNN finance and operational staff started work this week. Two short-term CNN staff arrived to assist with the MRRD Provincial Director's workshop. The University of Herat, UNAMA, WASSA, RWDOA, Peace Institute and other NGOs were contacted to assist in reaching out to qualified candidates with an emphasis on identifying qualified women.
- Expatriate IR 1 and IR 4 Leads have been selected.
- Some desks and office equipment were purchased this week, multiple RFQs were released and some bids have been received. Bid evaluation is on-going for computer and office equipment.
- The landlord of the property selected for office space and expatriate residences declined to rent his compound after negotiations.

## **Security**

- AECOM is working on the APPF transition.

- The shooting of innocent civilians in Kandahar perpetrated by a U.S. soldier and the commemoration of the 24<sup>th</sup> of Hoot resulted in AECOM expatriate staff being locked down at the Nazary Hotel.

### **Next Steps**

- Preparations for the MRRD workshop will continue together with USAID and MRRD
- SIKA-W Public Relations, Communications and Outreach Strategy will be submitted.
- DSF lessons learned workshop in Kabul will be attended by SIKA-W DCOP and other SIKA-W staff.
- APPF transitions are ongoing.
- Recruitment and procurement ongoing.
- The search for appropriate office and accommodation space is ongoing.
- Exemption from USG max lodging will be requested for staff staying at the Nazary and Baron hotels.
- Herawati Aziz, SIKA – W Finance Controller and Dale Butler, AECOM Controller will arrive at post next week.