

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS – WEST PROGRAM (SIKA-WEST)

WEEKLY UPDATES: May 4 - 10, 2012

Program

- From May 5th to May 7th, three SIKA-West staff traveled to Farah to conduct joint interviews with the MRRD for the PMU positions. At the request of the PRRD Director, the interviews were put on hold until such time to allow for USAID and SIKA-West expat participation on the interview panel. While in Farah, the team also visited NABDP to discuss and receive information on the targeted districts including the District Development Plan (DDP) for Pusht Rod.
- On May 7th, SIKA-West met with USAID, to discuss recent developments with USAID and MRRD in Kabul. The team discussed the need to wait for the execution of the Implementation Letter between MRRD and USAID prior to proceeding with the provincial roll-outs. It was agreed that work on developing the district profiles for the six targeted districts would begin with the PRRDs. SIKA-West/MRRD area based teams are being created to collect MRRD existing profiles and identify gaps.
- The SIKA-West M&E Officer traveled to Kabul May 9 attend the MISTI - Community of Practice Workshop on May 10. The workshop's objective was to further develop the "community of practice" idea and learn from other USAID program's experiences with measuring stability and to discuss the MISTI Stabilization Trends and Impact Evaluation survey instrument in detail with USAID and all interested implementing partners.
- The SIKA-West Engagement Manager joined USAID and other SIKA COP's for a pan-SIKA COP meeting at USAID on May 3rd. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the progress of the Implementation Letter and to discuss SIKA wide coordination.
- In preparation for provincial roll-outs, SIKA-West hosted USAID on May 9th for a dry run session of the SIKA-West Overview. The participants gave a great deal of feedback that will be incorporated into the presentation.
- The expatriate Capacity Building Manager Michael O'Mahonney mobilized to post on May 10th.

Administration

SIKA-West Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	37	0	0	0
In process	19	8	9	9
Females hired	12	0	0	0
Males hired	25	0	0	0

- Preparations for the move to the new office compound continued throughout the week and a move-in date of May 16th is scheduled. Two safe rooms in the new office and residence have been installed and the procurement of furniture is underway. The conference room has been set up and is now in use.

- The equipment belonging to the landlord of the new compound was checked, tagged, and registered during the week. Additionally the project inventory was labeled and floor plans were drafted.

On May 10th SIKA-West staff attended the Code of Conduct and Anti-Trafficking trainings provided by the Home Office Colleagues.

- SIKA-West made contact with two local medical clinics (Kisha Health Care and Hakim Albironi) during the week to ensure there are appropriate medical facilities available for international staff. Additional facilities are also being considered and follow-up meetings are scheduled for next week.

Security

The security status is amber. Security upgrades for the office compound and arrangements with APPF continued through the week and will be in place on May 16.

Next Week Activities – May 11- 17

- The COP will travel to Farah and Badghis to serve on the recruitment panels and to meet with the PRRD regarding issues with recruitment.
- Interviews for PMU staff will continue in each province through the week.
- The RFQ for the baseline survey will be finalized and released.
- Recruitment and the procurement process are ongoing. The majority of the Herat-based staff is expected to be online by the end of May. Start-up procurement will continue until the new office space is fully equipped.
- Preparations for the move to the office compound and security upgrades will continue and SIKA-West will move to the new compound on May 16th.