

## STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS – WEST (SIKA-West) PROJECT WEEKLY UPDATES

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Week: May 25 – 31, 2012

### Program

- On May 26, SIKA-West met with National Area Based Development Project (NABDP) Community Mobilizer, to gain local knowledge on working with District Development Councils.
- On May 27, SIKA-West met with the Acting Director Herat DRRD, and briefed him on the IR1 component of SIKA-West. He assigned a DRRD point of contact for the IR1 Stabilization Teams. The team also met with the NSP Manager and later with the NABDP Manager. Both parties were briefed on the objectives of IR1 and discussed possible collaborative efforts between the programs.
- On May 29, SIKA-West held a consultative meeting at DRRD office in Herat with the Head of the Engineering Department of NABDP, to discuss the process of making grant payments to beneficiary communities.
- On May 28, SIKA-West Senior Program Officer arrived in Farah and met with the RRD Director to agree the TORs for the Bala Baluk District Support Team and receive advice on advertising for the positions. The positions were advertised on local television and posted in the Bala Baluk district governors' office and at the PRRD.
- On May 29, SIKA-West Senior Program Officer and Farah PRRD Director met the Farah Deputy Governor and included the Governor by phone to discuss implementing SIKA in Bala Baluk. The Governor agreed that Bala Baluk will be the first district for SIKA implementation and gave his approval to begin activities. SIKA-West and PRRD then met with the Bala Buluk Governor, and the head of the DDA and some District entities to introduce the program. SIKA-West met with elders of Shiwan village to listen to their concerns and explained that MRRD/SIKA-West Program is an MRRD Afghan led program and would hire staff from Bala Buluk district for the DST.
- On May 30, SIKA-West met with the District governor and explained the process of collecting CVs for the Bala Baluk positions and discussed office space at the district level. With the arrival of the SIKA-West HR in Farah, the recruitment process is well underway.
- On May 24 IR2 started data collection on Bala Buluk district of Farah province. The information gathered will be used to embed in the profile assessment form which paves the way to develop district profile; a tool helps to mitigate source of instabilities.
- On May 29 and 30 an 'Introduction to Communications' training was held at the Herat DRRD. Eleven participants attended, including three women, and attendees included staff from the DRRD, NSP, NABDP and AREDP. Training continues next week and will incorporate feedback from the communications needs assessment.
- On May 31, SIKA-West conducted an Introduction to Gender Awareness/Mainstreaming training for staff to ensure that gender is incorporated in all aspects of programming.
- On May 29, USAID and SIKA-West met to discuss the process of recruitment of the DST and implementation in Bala Baluk. MRRD is requesting a meeting in Kabul to further discuss the Bala Baluk implementation.
- On May 27 the SIKA-West first Quarterly Report January 29 – April 30, 2012 was submitted to USAID.
- On May 30, the SIKA-West March and April monthly reports were submitted to MRRD.

## Recruitment

SIKA-West Ongoing Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	50	3	1	1
In process	10	5	8	8
Females hired	19	1	0	0
Males hired	31	2	1	1

## Security

- Security upgrades for the office compound and arrangements with APPF continued through the week, with the airlock gate completed on May 30. All low level/second floor windows on the guesthouse are complete, the caged doors are currently being installed, drop down pins have been put in place.
- All SOPs have been reviewed and updated.

### NEXT WEEK

- COP to Kabul to meet with MRRD to discuss Bala Baluk implementation
- DCOP to Farah to interview Bala Baluk DST positions and discuss SIKA with RRD and other stakeholders.
- SIKA-West will begin work with the Bala Baluk DDA.
- Recruiting for Badghis and Farah PST positions are ongoing. All new PST staff will begin training on June 10. The IR1 officer in Farah PST will start work on 02 June and assist with the implementation process in Bala Baluk.