

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

Week: June 1 - 7, 2012

Program

- On June 2nd the SIKA-West team and USAID traveled to Farah to continue the recruitment process for the Bala Baluk DST. The team and the RRD Director met with the Farah Deputy Governor to share information about the SIKA program. The PRRD Director as a lead along with the Deputy Governor shows support and willingness for cooperation on the SIKA program.
- PST interviews were conducted on June 3rd with a selection panel consisting of DRRD, USAID and SIKA-West. One good candidate was selected and it was decided to readvertise two of the positions. The RRD Director conducted a coordination meeting which USAID and SIKA-West attended and learned about other activities in the province. It was noted that the meeting was very well run and attended.
- The RRD Director assigned a room inside the RRD building for the PST and requested that it be repaired and painted. A local woman's training program was contacted and hired to paint the office and hallway. USAID told the Director the room should not be used by the PST staff and he agreed to assign another space. He agreed that a conex could be used for a guestroom and one room in another conex could be used for office space. SIKA-West will work with DRRD to agree a way forward for the use of electricity of the PST.
- On June 4th, the SIKA-West and South teams along with USAID attended a meeting in Kabul with the MRRD SIKA Coordinator to discuss SIKA progress to date and receive feedback. MRRD confirmed implementation activities should begin in Bala Baluk and review the implementation and lesson learned in six months.
- On June 3rd, SIKA-West met with the Herat Director RRD to confirm attendance of the PST and RRD staff at the upcoming SIKA orientation. The Director said that he had been told by the MRRD Minister that he could no longer participate in SIKA activities until MRRD and USAID agreed the budget and signed the IL.
- On June 6th USAID and SIKA-West met to recap the Kabul and Farah trips and USAID agreed to write to the MRRD Coordinator to inform him that the PST teams from Herat and Badghis may not be able to start work as planned and USAID advised that they be kept on staff and await the provincial start up in Herat and Badghis after the IL is signed.
- Building on the previous weeks training, "Introduction to Internal Communications" training was delivered in the Herat DRRD offices on June 5th and 6th. The training covered the basics of Internal and Intra-governmental communications. Including why is Internal Communications necessary, How can it benefit the DRRD, Barriers to effective internal communications and How to develop and implement an Internal communications plan including components, outcomes and resources. Again the training was well attended with eleven participants, including three women, and attendees included staff from the DRRD, NSP, NABDP and AREDP. The session also informed SIKA-West of the communication approaches currently in place and follow up will take place after the IL is signed. IR3 also wrote and translated a training module on Internal Communications.
- The entire SIKA-West team has been preparing for the upcoming SIKA-West orientation and on June 6th USAID invited the MRRD SIKA Coordinator to attend the orientation.

Recruitment				
SIKA-West Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	49	7	8	8
In process	12	1	1	1
Females hired	18	2	2	1
Males hired	31	5	6	7

Security

- SIKA-West is operating at amber status with no incidents to report. In Bala Baluk, overall attacks remained within associated (Tactics, Techniques and Procedures) TTPs in the western region during this period after (Improvised Explosive Devices) IED's and (Small Arms Fire) SAF attacks were reported on isolated stretches of (Main Supply Routes) MSRs running north/south. Central western areas remain the focal point for activity with Shindand, Bala Baluk, Adraskan and Khaki Safed Districts and AGE continue to clash with ANSF in the border areas of Badghis/Turkmenistan and Faryab Provinces, as fighters and drug traffickers transit through the area.

NEXT WEEK

- The SIKA-West Orientation for new PST and RRD staff will take place.
- The revised Grants Manual and Work Plan will be submitted.