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# STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

WEEKLY REPORT  
(JUNE 30 – JULY 5, 2012)

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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

## WEEKLY REPORT

**Submitted to:**

USAID | Afghanistan

**Prepared by:**

AECOM International Development

**DISCLAIMER:**

The authors' views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

## BACKGROUND

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stabilization in Key Areas (SIKA) – West program on January 29, 2012. The SIKA-West 18-month contract (with an additional 18-month option period) is intended to increase stability and pave the way to transition in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor. This program will be led by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in partnership with USAID and SIKA-West.

## KEY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

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### SUMMARY OF WEEKLY REPORT

Following guidance from USAID, during the week of June 30<sup>th</sup> –July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 SIKA-W focused on program implementation in Farah Province, specifically Bala Buluk District, as well as ongoing recruitment and trainings for the other provincial offices. SIKA-W continued designing data/information collection templates and reporting tools, and finalizing internal processes and procedures. The first draft of a District Stability Matrix (DSM) for Bala Buluk was produced and will be revised this week following USAID guidance.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEKLY REPORT INCLUDE:

#### INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1:

- Following the previous week's mission to Bala Buluk District, Farah Province IR1 staff produced a draft Bala Buluk District Stabilization Matrix (DSM), utilizing information provided by the District Stabilization Committee. Using this tool the committee identified three Sources of Instability (SoIs) including SOI# 1: lack of respect for community religious elders from government and the international community; SOI#2: poverty and unemployment. SOI#3: lack of a district Madarassa and schools.
- On July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 the IR1 Stabilization Program Officers (SPOs) held a Strategic Stabilization Meeting (SSM) with senior management and staff including the acting COP, M&E, CBD, IR4, IR3, and IR2. During this meeting the SPOs presented their findings from the Bala Buluk mission and a draft of the DSM.
- Following feedback from the Alternate Contracting Officers Representative (A-COR) regarding confusion on the composition of the DSC, IR1 will be going back into the Bala Baluk community to collect SoIs for a second draft of the DSM, ensuring that the DSC is more representative of all actors in the district, and the DDA will be acting as a facilitator.
- The IR1 SPOs also worked on developing Training of the Trainer (ToT) material which will be submitted to the CBD for review next week.

#### INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2:

- IR2 coordinated the collection of information for the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC) and District Profile (DP).

#### INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3:

- Training modules for Communication Campaign, Conducting Meaningful consultations and Social Marketing have been completed. The consultation training module will be used for DRRD Farah training planned to occur on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The other material will be used in trainings later in the year.

- On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the IR3 PST Communication Officer met with the Head of DRRD Farah to discuss the possibility of conducting IR3 communication skills building training for DRRD staff and other GIRoA staff in Farah province. The DRRD Head welcomed the training and underlined the importance of communications in achieving project objectives. IR3 intends to conduct a two day training workshop for the staff of DRRD and its National Programs and other relevant directorates on building communication skills, developing communication plans and conducting consultations on July 15-16 in Farah.

#### **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4**

- On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 IR4 made a presentation to the COR and A-COR at the SIKA-W Herat Compound related to identification of service delivery options. Topics covered were IR1: recommendation from district stabilization matrix, IR2: recommendations for Bala Buluk, experience and ethnic composition of staff embedded in Farah DRRD and from Bala Buluk, background information related to identification of stability working groups.

#### **DETAILED PROVINCIAL/DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**

- In Farah, PST staff continued collecting information for the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC) from government departments and non-government organizations (NGOs). They also collected information for the SPC and District Profile from Bala Baluk District and Pusht Rod District.
- In Badghis, final touches were put to the office located in the DRRD building. PST staff also spent the week collecting information for the SPC and DP for Qadis and Moqor District. A meeting was held with the MRRD Director on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 to discuss SIKA-W activities for the coming week and gain MRRD support. PST staff have reported that they are finding it challenging to collect information from some government departments due to a lack of an official letter of introduction.
- In Farah PST staff also spent the week collecting information for the SPC and DP for Shindand and Koshk e Rabat Sangi Districts.

#### **GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

- The CBD team continued the development of Gender Mainstreaming materials for the upcoming PST and DST trainings. The team also worked on the development of the Gender Mainstreaming Framework to tie Gender activities to each IR component and planned Gender Training for Farah PST from July 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- The final CBD Orientation program participant feedback forms were translated and will be shared with the M&E department in the coming week
- In coordination with M&E the CBD department created a database which will track the internal trainings provided to each employee.
- 19 training modules covering IR1-IR4/M&E and Gender have been completed and translated into Dari and Pashto, and are now under final revision.
- A training calendar has been created which will coordinate all IR/M&E and Gender Training activities in the field during the month of July 2012.
- During the week the CBD team worked with IR1, IR3 and IR4 to develop training materials to enable them to train RRD counterparts and District Entities in the field.
- Feedback was received from Farah, Badghis and Herat PST and Farah DRRD, which will help guide future training and roll-out of CBD training in Farah Province.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- In the provincial offices the M&E team members were tasked with collecting information for the SPC and District Profile. In the SIKA-W Herat office staff continued working on developing reporting templates, the M&E database, and an M&E training handbook. Two M&E Officers will be sent to conduct training for the PST M&E Officer in Farah and PST staff from July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

## OPERATIONS

- NTR

## RECRUITMENT

- On June 21st, 2012, a hiring freeze place was placed on the program until an audit of all of the files could be conducted. The audit results will be shared with USAID next week and SIKA-W will submit a formal report in the next reporting week.
- On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 AECOM SIKA Technical Director arrived to fill the Acting DCoP role. He will support the AECOM SIKA-W Engagement Manager who is currently filling the Acting-CoP position. AECOM is currently recruiting to fill the vacancies.
- To date 76 national employees have been recruited (27 female and 49 male), and 22 positions are still in the hiring process.

SIKA-West Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	54	6	9	7
In process	15	2	3	2
Females hired	22	2	2	1
Males hired	32	4	7	6

## DELIVERABLES

- NTR

## SECURITY

- SIKA-W is operating at amber status with no incidents to report. Multiple security moves have been conducted around the city without encountering any problems. CCTV cameras have been installed and will be operating in the next week.
- SIKA-West will be represented by the AECOM Security Director at the APPF meeting taking place in Kabul.

## LOOKING AHEAD/NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES.

- IR2 will follow-up with PSTs to ensure information for the District Profile and SPC is being collected and entered correctly.
- A team from SIKA-W Herat will conduct a support visit to Farah PST from July 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 led by the IR4 Community Development Manager. The team will ensure that feedback and advice provided by the USAID Alternate COR is being implemented at the district level.
- IR1 will revise the DSM and work on reforming the DSC following USAID advice
- IR3 plans to hold a series of trainings for IR3 staff including the newly-hired Communications Officers in the Herat and Farah PSTs. Planned topics include adult learning techniques, basic communication skills and developing communications plans.