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STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

WEEKLY REPORT
(JULY 12-JULY 19, 2012)

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STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

WEEKLY REPORT

Submitted to:

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Prepared by:

AECOM International Development

DISCLAIMER:

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BACKGROUND

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

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY REPORT

During the week of July 18th, the SIKA WEST COP accompanied by the IR 3 and IR 4 leads visited Farah Province to meet with the head of DRRD and the PST to discuss augmenting the District Stabilization Committee in Bala Baluk and capacity building needs of the DRRD. IR3 conducted a successful two-day communications skills building workshop for 20 government officials in Farah. IR4 held meetings with DRRD senior staff in Farah to identify the best-functioning CDCs in Balak Baluk district with whom partnerships could be forged to deliver services. Work is ongoing in all three provinces (Herat, Badghis and Farah) to collect information for district profiles and service provider catalogues. The USAID Office of the Inspector General (OIG) gave a presentation to all SIKA WEST staff July 16th.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEKLY REPORT INCLUDE:

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1:

- On July 15th, IR1 officers met with IR4 to discuss possible mitigation or grant activities related to the identified sources of instability -- poverty and unemployment – for inclusion in the Bala Baluk District Project Portfolio (DPP).

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2:

- IR2 developed an action plan for the production of a draft Service Provider Catalogue (SPC) for Bala Baluk district, with a target deadline of August 4th, 2012. Thirty-five service providers including government line ministries, NGOs, INGOs and USAID projects were identified and inserted into the draft Bala Baluk SPC.
- IR2 conducted a meeting with IR4 Lead, Mr. Saroj Basnyet and briefed him about projects implemented by NSP and NABDP in Bala Baluk. IR2 also described the implementation challenges in Bala Buluk district.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3:

- On July 17-18th IR3 conducted a communications skills-building workshop for 20 provincial government officials in Farah Province. Participants included the governor's spokesperson, six staff from DRRD (including NABDP) as well as employees from the Department of Water and Power, Health, Women's Affairs, Public Works, Information and Culture, and four members of the Bala Baluk district team. The participants learned how to create messages, identify audiences, choose the correct vehicle to send messages to different types of audiences, as well as how to develop a communications plan for their ministry. Developing functioning and effective communication between the provincial and district-level government, DDAs, CDCs and citizens in Farah province is

a central plank in SIKA WEST's efforts to improve governance and the delivery of services at the local level.

- IR3 conducted a communications capacity needs assessment with officials from seven government departments in Farah Province on July 18th. The needs assessment will inform upcoming training plans as well as allow for more strategic and impactful communication interventions in Farah Province.
- IR3 prepared a video clip to convey greetings from Farah DRRD to the people of Farah province during the Holy month of Ramadan. The production-quality video-clip can be shown on Afghan government television to support DRRD's efforts to be visible to the Farah public.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4:

- The IR4 team travelled to Farah from July 16 to July 18 to discuss with the Project Support Team (PST) their experience related to construction of projects through Community Development Councils (CDCs). Out of 118 CDCs already established in Bala Buluk, 12 CDCs had a favorable reputation, meaning they completed projects within the fixed time period. Three of these CDCs were located in Shewan Bala, Shewan Wasad, and Shewan Payan.
- IR4 introduced the main components of the program to the Deputy Director of MRRD in Farah Province Engineer Shah Mahamoud. His staff will participate in all phases of IR4 activities.
- IR4 discussed with the PST the need to take into account the ethnic composition of Bala Baluk to ensure that upcoming grant activities do not exacerbate local tensions. The Alizai, Hachekzai, Barakzai and Noorzai are the main tribes in the district. The PST recommended that projects start simultaneously in at least two or more areas in order to diffuse tension. .
- IR4 and the Farah PST started stakeholder mapping--identifying main stakeholders in the Bala Baluk district. These included officials from District Entities, members of the District Development Assemblies, members of CDCs, teachers and other influential persons. Names of influential members of Bala Baluk society will be recommended to be included in the District Stabilization Committee (DSC) which will begin identifying sources of conflict.

DETAILED PROVINCIAL/DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

Farah PST

- SIKA WEST COP travelled to Farah Province to meet the PST and discuss forward-moving activities in Bala Baluk district with the DRRD director. The Farah PST hosted communications skills building training and organized a communications needs assessment of provincial line departments. PST staff received M & E training, and attended a presentation on effective leadership. In order to collect data for the District Profile (DP) and SPC, Farah PST conducted a series of meetings with line departments.

Herat PST

- The Herat PST conducted a series of meetings with line departments to obtain information for the district profiles and Herat province SPC. They held meetings with the Herat Municipality, the Department of Haj, the Committee of Law Services, the Mustofiat (finance dept), Water Management Directorate and AISA. They also met with a member of the Shindand DDA and an influential leader from Koshk e Rabat Sangi.

Badghis PST

- The Badghis PST continued gathering data for the SPC and district profiles. They held meetings with line Departments, district Governors, DDA members and community elders to verify and comprehend the collected data. During the reporting period, they met with the district governor of Moqur district as well as prominent elders from Moqur district. They also held meetings with the director of Culture and Information, Telecommunications, Education and the Chamber of Commerce.

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- A CBD representative travelled to Farah Province to prepare for the inaugural communications training hosted by the PST. The training was held in the new US-military built conference room at DRRD.
- A CBD official gave a presentation on “Good Leadership” to the Farah PST on July 15th. This included information on what makes a good leader, different styles of leadership and traits of a good leader. Building leadership skills is an integral part of capacity-building’s agenda in the key districts.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Two members of the M&E Herat team gave an introduction to M&E and indicators to the PST in Farah province on July 17th. They also provided separate training to the PST manager and M&E officer on site visit monitoring, key informant interviews, electronic and hard copy filing of indicators, reporting and success stories and various methods for data collection.

OPERATIONS

- On July 16th the USAID Office of the Inspector General (OIG) gave a presentation to all SIKA WEST staff on its rules and regulations.
- SIKA WEST operations staff attended an overview presentation of all SIKA WEST programming activities on July 17th. Better understanding of overall programming will enhance their job performance and satisfaction.

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 were be shared with USAID during this reporting period.
- The hiring freeze was lifted and new staff recruitment is proceeding apace.
- To date 76 national employees have been recruited (27 female and 49 male), and 22 positions are still in the hiring process.
- The SIKA Regional HR Compliance Manager was mobilized to SIKA-West and is currently working with recruitment staff on enhancing recruitment procedures.

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

- Modifications have now been completed on the CCTV capability in place.
- A five day field visit to Farah Province for three expats and four Afghans was implemented without incident
- Admin and life support issues persist with the APPF
- Additional security upgrades have been submitted to operation department for review and action
- 100% weapons check conducted
- Weapon training was conducted with the APPF MST personnel
- APPF mobilized an Officer and the biometrics team visited SIKA-West.

LOOKING AHEAD/NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES.

- IR4 will work with the PST in Farah on stakeholder mapping in Bala Baluk.
- All PSTs will continue with the collection and verification of information for the district profiles and service provider catalogues.
- IR2 will travel to Farah Province on July 23 to provide technical support and conduct meetings with identified service providers for the collection and verification of data for the Bala Baluk SPC.
- The Capacity Building Manager will travel to Farah to meet with the DRRD and design a needs based capacity building module.
- The local DCOP position will be shortlisted and interviews will take place.

Project Implementation Images:



SIKA-West COP meets Farah PST Team



IR3 conducts communications training for 20 provincial officials in Farah Province