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STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

WEEKLY REPORT
(JULY 26 – AUGUST 2, 2012)

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STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

WEEKLY REPORT

Submitted to:

USAID | Afghanistan

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. The 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

SIKA-West continued roll-out activities in Farah Province and continued to collect stakeholder information in both Badghis and Herat Provinces. Background documents such as the Service Provider Catalog and the District Profile for Bala Baluk were nearly completed.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK INCLUDE:

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1

- On July 26th, SPD and SPOs prepared a three week work plan for Bala Baluk on a Gantt chart. The chart is now being extended to include activities for a six month period.
- IR1 and the Capacity Building Department conducted a field trip to Farah City on July 28th—July 30th. The purpose of the trip was to coordinate with the DRRD Director, perform a capacity building assessment, conduct stabilization training and facilitate the Bala Baluk DSC enlargement process. At the request of the DRRD Director, a meeting with the Provincial Governor was also held in order to brief him and gain his support for expediting the establishment of a larger DSC.
- The stabilization training for the Farah PST and Bala Baluk DST focused on the three SOI topics identified during the first DSC meeting. Mitigation activities were identified for specific root causes and discussions were held on how to implement the activities. The Farah PST/DST Team identified government corruption as a root cause with specific regard to the Tazkera department. The Team is designing a public outreach campaign as a training exercise with the intention of using the reinforcement of traditional values to fight existing corruption.
- On July 31st, HQ IR1 conducted a stabilization training refresher course for Herat PST staff. The orientation took place in the conference hall program building.
- On July 31st, SPOs scheduled the upcoming trainings for Farah, Badghis and Herat PST staffs.
- On August 1st, IR1 traveled to Farah to facilitate the enlarging of the Bala Baluk DSC and to conduct Stabilization Programming training with the Farah PST and Bala Baluk DST.
- The IR1 Stability Program Officer, Mr. Abdullah Sodais, joined the Stability Program Department on August 1st.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2

- IR2 collected, analyzed, and updated information on services and service providers for the Bala Baluk Service Provider Catalog. Once completed, the catalog will be the first district catalogue produced by IR2. The first draft is planned to have a due date of August 4.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3

- Following the communications skills training conducted in Farah Province last week, IR3 worked with DDRD staff and leadership to develop a DDRD communications plan for Farah province. The participants identified key DDRD audiences and effective ways to reach each of those audiences. They also developed different messages that DDRD wants to convey to the public. These messages mostly focus on building trust and calling the public to maintain newly-implemented water projects in the villages. Based on the needs assessment conducted in mid-July, it was found that Farah DDRD has no strategy to communicate to the public. This first communications plan will help DDRD improve its communication both internally and with the Farah public.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4

- IR4 completed the Bala Baluk Stakeholder Assessment Report to identify additional influential and knowledgeable people for inclusion in the District Stability Committee.
- Staff compiled a list of 13 out of 118 existing Community Development Councils (CDCs) who have successfully implemented projects in the Bala Baluk district representing the Halizai, Hachekzai/Barakzai, or Noorzai tribes.
- IR4 Prepared the draft copy of the ethnic composition map of Bala Baluk district.
- Farah Project Support Team (PST) identified the Shiwan, Dahzak and Grani villages as potential locations for the implementation of service delivery options based on ethnic composition of the people in Bala Baluk.
- IR4 Revised the Bala Baluk Engagement Plan covering the first three weeks of August.

DETAILED PROVINCIAL/DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- The Herat PST collected Shindand and Koshk e Sangi District data for stakeholder analysis. The PST also collected a complete list of all CDCs in both districts and responded to questions from all teams regarding the District Profiles and Service Provider Catalog for the Shindand and Koshk e Sangi.
- The Farah PST collected information on influential leaders and mullahs in Bala Baluk for purposes of possible inclusion in a larger District Stabilization Committee. They also continued to collect information for the Bala Baluk District Profile and Service Provider Catalog.
- The Badghis PST continued to collect data for the District Profiles and the Service Provider Catalog. PST staff conducted a series of meetings with line departments, district governors, DDA members, and community elders.

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- The Capacity Department conducted a needs assessment on required trainings and skills for DRRD integrated staff with Farah PST. Farah DRRD shared the copy of DRRD's organizational chart (Tashkilat) with CBD and SPO.
- The development of Gender Mainstreaming materials were started for the upcoming PST/DST training.
- The "Understanding Gender Awareness (Part II)" presentation was completed and is being prepared for Farah roll-out training.
- The development of the Gender Mainstreaming Framework was under process with the intent to tie Gender activities together with each IR component under the SIKA West program.
- The CBD was preparing a Literary Training roll-out for Bala Baluk District.
- Gender Training was planned for Farah PST & DRRD.
- Thirty Three Training Modules covering IR1-IR4, M&E and Gender were completed, translated into Dari/Pashto, and shared with the SIKA West program.
- The training Calendar was updated, which coordinates all IR/M&E and Gender training activities in the field for the month of August.

- The team worked with IR1, IR3 and IR4 to develop training materials in order to enable them to train RRD counterparts and district entities in the field.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to collect indicator baseline information for the Bala Baluk District.
- Prepared a work plan for Bala Baluk District in Farah Province.

HR & RECRUITMENT

- To date, 72 employees (27 female, 45 male) have been hired and 20 positions are in process.

SIKA-West Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	52	6	9	5
In process	11	2	3	4
Females hired	22	2	2	1
Males hired	30	4	7	4

DELIVERABLES

- NTR

SECURITY OPERATIONS

- Conducted various Herat City moves without incident.
- Continued to liaise with other projects operating within the Herat area.
- Admin and life support issues continued to persist with the APPF.
- Conducted weapons training with APPF MST personnel.
- Briefed APPF personnel on the compound defense plan.

LOOKING AHEAD/NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

- IR4 staff plan to prepare training materials for Community Development Initiatives in order to develop the capacity of PST staff, District Support Team (DST), DRRD and District Entities in Farah and Bala Baluk.
- Work with Herat and Bagdhis PST on Stakeholder Assessment and other reports.
- All IRs will be involved in finalizing the six month Bala Baluk work plan with a conference to be held on August 5-6 at the SIKA-west Herat Office, facilitated by the M&E Manager.