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# STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

## WEEKLY REPORT (AUGUST 3–8, 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

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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. The 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

SIKA-West continued roll-out activities in Farah Province and continued to collect stakeholder information in both Badghis and Herat Provinces. The main highlight of the week was the formal establishment of the Bala Baluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) following a meeting held on August 8 in the Bala Baluk District Governor's office. Another highlight of the week included a meeting in Kabul between all of the SIKA IP's, USAID, IDLG, and MRRD.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK INCLUDE:

#### KABUL MEETING

- On August 6<sup>th</sup>, IDLG hosted a SIKA Implementing Partners Meeting. All the SIKA IP's (AECOM and DAI) along with their respective USAID representatives, MRRD leadership and IDLG leadership were in attendance. The meeting was an opportunity for the four SIKAs to present their programs, structure, partnership with GIRoA, and speak to the progress made during the implementation of the program in pilot districts. IDLG took note of the programs and stated that they would issue a memo to USAID which would pave the way for the signing of the elusive IL (Implementation Letter).

#### INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1

- On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the ACOR, USAID Farah FPO, and the SIKA-West IR1 Lead met with the Farah Provincial Governor in his residence to brief him on the District Stabilization Committee (DSC) and the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) process. During the meeting the Governor expressed some doubt about the relevance of the Bala Baluk District Development Assembly (DDA) and Community Development Council (CDC) representatives and requested a briefing from the Farah PRRD Director on the current situation of these organizations. The Governor said he would like to see a more powerful Bala Baluk DDA with representatives who can better communicate with the people and thus be more influential.
- On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the ACOR, SIKA-West IR1 Lead, SIKA-West Stability Program Officer, PRRD Director, NABDP Director and SIKA-West Farah PST Manager met with the Provincial Governor, during which time the PRRD Director briefed the Governor on the structure and current situation of the DDA and CDC at the district level in Bala Baluk. It was agreed to move ahead with the current members of the DDA as facilitators of the DSC process, with the provision that DDA members and DST staff roles will be to facilitate the monthly DSC and its sub-sector meetings, making sure that all the District Entities participate as the main stakeholders. It was agreed that the current members of the DDA should move ahead as facilitators of the DSC process, under the provision that the DDA and DST staff will continue to execute the monthly DSC and DSC sub-sector meetings and ensure that all District Entities participate as the main stakeholders.
- On the afternoon of August 2<sup>nd</sup> the ACOR, SIKA-West IR1 Lead, SIKA-West Stability Program Officer, PRRD Director, NABDP Director and SIKA-West Farah PST Manager met with the Bala

Baluk District Governor in the Farah PRRD Director's office, where he was briefed on the SIKA-West program and the DSC process. The District Governor was initially pushing for the participants in the DSC meetings to be provided with transportation allowances. However after discussions regarding the sustainability of the meeting process, the Governor agreed that the participants would not be paid allowances during the August 8 meeting at his Bala Baluk District Center office.

- On August 3<sup>rd</sup> the ACOR and SIKA-West IR1 Lead held a consultation meeting with the Farah PST and Bala Baluk DST staff to discuss the SIKA-West program, each staff member's role, and to make preparations for the DSC meeting.
- The HQ IR1, Farah PST and Bala Baluk DST Staff closely coordinated with each other in preparation for the Bala Baluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meeting on August 8. The HQ IR1 prepared a SIKA-West and DSC overview and had it translated into the Pashtu language. The HQ IR1 SPO traveled by road to Farah City to assist the PST and DST staff in preparation for the briefing and other arrangements for the meeting. The PST and DST staff assisted the Bala Baluk District Governor with making arrangements for the meeting.
- The Bala Buluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) was formally established in a meeting held on August 8<sup>th</sup> in the Bala Buluk District Governor's office. Based on initial verbal reports from the field, attendees at the meeting included the District Governor (Chairman) and 13 other DSC members (five DDA members, ANA Commander, ANP Commander, and representatives from the following line departments: Law, Haj, Education, Agriculture, Finance and RRD). The Farah PST Manager and the IR1 Stability Officer presented the SIKA-West overview and information on the DSC's roles and responsibilities in the Pashtu language. In addition to the 14 DSC members, approximately 22 local community observers attended the meeting. The District Governor set the date of the next DSC meeting for August 26<sup>th</sup>, where he plans to include two additional line departments: Justice and Information Technology. The agenda for the next meeting will include the Stabilization Analysis Mechanism (SAM) training and a discussion on the sources of instability in the Bala Baluk District.

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2**

- IR2 collected, analyzed, and updated information on services and service providers for the Bala Baluk Service Provider Catalog. IR2 provided a draft of the SPC to the IR3 lead for editing and feedback on August 5.

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3**

- IR3 worked with the Farah DRRD to complete a first draft communications plan, signed off by the Farah DRRD Deputy Director on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The plan covers internal communications, external communications, and a section on how the public can communicate with DRRD employees. It encompasses a practical approach for the best ways of communicating with people living in remote villages. The plan is a great step forward, but will require greater specificity in the timeline and activities.
- In conjunction with the Herat-based PST, IR3 completed the first draft of a Shindand district profile on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The district profile covers information on the different tribal groups, services available such as education, health and sanitation, economic activities such as agriculture and handicrafts, as well as an overview of security. It also includes a section on local government, including an introduction to the new district governor who was appointed earlier in the week. The district profile will remain in draft form until SIKA WEST activities start in Shindand and more information can be collected and confirmed in the field.

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4**

- IR4 Herat HQ and Herat Project Support Team (PST) community mobilizers began to develop community empowerment training materials to improve the capacity of PST, DST, DRRD and District Entity staff in Bala Buluk and Farah. Some of the topics covered include maintenance, sustainability and stabilization.
- IR4 Badghis PST Technician Mr. Joma Khan visited Herat to develop technical training materials with the intention of enhancing the capacity of PST, DST, DRRD and District Entities staff.

## **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 comments from all IRs regarding the District Profiles and Service Provider Catalog for the Shindand and Koshk e Sangi.
- The Farah PST collected information for the IR3 Key Informant Interview in the Shiwan Village, Bala Baluk District, and Farah Province. The team also continued to collect information for the Bala Baluk District Profile and Service Provider Catalog and helped prepare for the Bala Baluk DSC meeting.
- The Badghis PST continued to collect data for the District Profiles and the Service Provider Catalog. PST staff met with the Badghis DRRD to discuss potential facilitation and training programs in the future.

## **GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

- The Capacity Building Department completed the Farah DRRD Capacity Needs Assessment and is currently translating the document into Dari and Pashtu.
- The CBD team started the Bala Baluk District Entity Needs Assessment to identify capacity building needs.
- The CBD team began development of Gender Mainstreaming materials for the upcoming PST/DST training.
- The CBD team continued the development of the Gender Mainstreaming Framework with the intent of tying gender activities together with each IR component under the SIKA-West program.
- The CBD prepared a Literacy Training roll-out for the Bala Baluk District, identifying a number of female students.
- The CBD team prepared RFPs for Literacy Training, Gender Health and Nutrition Training in Bala Baluk. RFPs were also prepared for Computer Programming, English Language and Technical Engineering roll-out for Farah DRRD.
- A total of 36 Training Modules covering IR1-IR4, M&E and Gender have been completed, translated into Dari/Pashtu, 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 which enables them to train DRRD counterparts and district entities in the field.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- The M&E team conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to collect IR3 indicator baseline information for the Bala Baluk District. It is expected that all KII data will be collected by mid-August.
- M&E management was involved with preparation of a six-month project work plan for Bala Baluk District in Farah Province.

## **HR & RECRUITMENT**

- To date, 78 employees (27 female, 17 male) have been hired and 17 positions are in process.

SIKA-West Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	56	6	11	5
In process	7	2	1	4
Females hired	22	2	2	1
Males hired	34	4	9	4

## DELIVERABLES

- NTR

## SECURITY OPERATIONS

- Conducted various Herat City moves without incident.
- Continued to liaise with other projects operating within the Herat area.
- APPF personnel with weapons were encountering problems with the Embassy Air flight traveling to Farah--the paperwork in Dari is not being recognized. The APPF Commander contacted the MOI, APPF head office to try and resolve this issue and obtain translated documentation.
- Conducted weapons training with APPF MST personnel.
- Conducted compound defense plan with expatriate personnel.

## LOOKING AHEAD/NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

- IR4 staff plan to prepare training materials for community empowerment and implementation of small-scale, community-driven stabilization service delivery options.
- Development of initiatives in order to develop the capacity of PST staff and District Support Team. (DST), DRRD and District Entities in Farah and Bala Baluk.
- IR1 plans to provide training to the recently recruited Stability Program Officer.
- During the coming week IR1 will follow up and produce a report from the Bala Baluk DSC meeting held on August 8.
- The six month Bala Baluk engagement work plan will be finalized.

## IMAGE



*Bala Baluk District Stabilization (DSC) meeting on August 8 at the District Governor's Office*