



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# STABILIZATION IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

## WEEKLY REPORT (SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2012)

Contract Number: AID-306-C-12-00004

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM.

# STABILIZATION 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

---

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

During the week interview panels were held in both Herat and Badghis Provinces to recruit applicants for Provincial Stabilization Team (PST) and District Stabilization Team (DST) positions. IR1 continued to revise and refine the District Stabilization Matrix (DSM) from information gathered at last month's Bala Baluk District Stabilization Committee (DSC) meeting culminating in a draft District Project Portfolio (DPP). During the week potential projects and locations were also identified by the Bala Baluk DSC, and included in a draft Bala Baluk District Project Portfolio (DPP).

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK INCLUDE:

#### INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1

##### Highlights

- On September 08, IR1 Stabilization Program Officers (SPOs) continued working on the Bala Baluk DSM, particularly focused on the steps recommended by the Chief of Party (COP) and the Capacity Building Department (CBD). On September 11 – 12, the IR1 SPOs held a follow-up meeting with the COP, CBD and other Intermediate Results (IR) line managers, with the aim of producing a draft DPP for Bala Baluk District. Various representations of the Bala Baluk DSC was also contacted to provide information on potential project locations.
- On September 09, the IR1 SPO conducted a mission to Badghis province to start a one week capacity building session with the Provincial Support Team (PST). As part of this training, on September 10 - 11, the IR1 SPOs conducted sessions for Badghis PST staff covering the best ways to support the provincial and district government officials.

##### Challenges

- IR1 staff was unable to get all members of the Bala Baluk DSC to reconvene on short notice, therefore, in order to answer queries about possible project locations; they had to rely on a select few participants who were visiting the Farah Provincial Center near the end of the week. As SIKA-West staff organizes regular DSC meetings, then this will no longer be an issue.

##### Coming Next Week

- IR1 staff plan on following up on the recent Bala Buluk DSC meeting, finalizing the SAM, DSM and the DPP.
- IR1 SPO will continue to provide capacity building training to PST staff in Badghis and Farah, as per the training calendar produced by CBD.
- IR1 will produce the final draft of the roll out plan for Pusht-e-Rod district

#### INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2

- NTR

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3**

### **Highlights**

- During the week, IR3 staff conducted three days of Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for the recently recruited Communication and Public Outreach Officer, and the Herat PST Communications Officer.

### **Challenges**

- Challenges experienced by IR3 included the cancellation of a training trip to the Farah Provincial Center, following a bomb explosion near the Provincial Governor's Compound on September 9, which was reported to have killed one person and injured 12<sup>1</sup>.

### **Plans for the coming week**

- On September 17, the IR3 Communications Officer will travel from Herat to Farah to provide capacity building training to the Farah PST Communications Officer, in preparation for roll-out communications training to DRRD and DSC counterparts.
- On September 17, the IR3 officer will sit on the Bala Buluk district interview selection panel, along with a DRRD representative and a USAID representative.
- On September 19, IR3 will conduct training for its DSC & DRRD counterparts in Farah covering the building of communications skills, consultations and developing a communications plan.
- By the end of the week, IR3 staff also plan to have completed the Farah DRRD Strategic Communications Plan.

## **INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4**

### **Highlights**

- To build the capacity of District Entities, PST and DST staff, IR4 prepared power point presentations and training materials on the Principles of Surveying; Safety and Health Training; Basics of Survey and Construction Materials; Maintenance, Sustainability, and Stabilization including Annex A: Maintenance and Community Organisation, and Annex B: Establishments Of Funding Mechanism For Maintenance.
- IR4 submitted a request to HR to recruit staff for the posts of DST Community Mobilisers and Community Development Technicians in Farah, Herat and Badghis.
- On September 9, the IR4 lead selected two out of four short-listed candidates for the post of Grants and Compliance Officer, based in the PST Herat office.
- The IR4 lead also prepared a short list of applicants for the post of Senior Environment Officer, Environment Officer and Senior Community Development Officer to be based in SIKA-West HQ office, and Community Mobilizer for PST Herat office. A total of 11 candidates were short-listed from over 100 applicants.
- Recently recruited, Sohail Shariq joined IR4 as Grants and Compliance Officer on September 10.

### **Challenges**

- IR4 reported that an ongoing challenge is the lack of decent, secure accommodation for HQ-Herat staff on trips to Farah and Badghis. The SIKA-West Operations Team is currently working on providing a solution to this issue.

### **Plans for the coming week**

- Next week IR4 plans to improve the capacity of PST and DST staff, and District Entities in Farah Province through training on Maintenance, Sustainability and Stabilization from September 10-13.
- From September 15, the IR4 lead will be part of an interview panel in Farah to select candidates for multiple PST and DST positions.
- IR4 staff will also move ahead with developing a presentation on the Principles of Surveying.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/7510-farah-blasts-kill-1-injure-12-near-governor-compound>

## **GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **Gender Component**

#### **Highlights**

##### **SIKA-West Internal Gender Working Group**

- The Gender Department chaired the Internal SIKA West Gender Working Group on September 11, which allows for gender related discussions, updates and guidance between all IRs and other departments. During this week's meeting the following issues were discussed and decided upon.
  - a) **IR1-** Establish contact with female members of Bala Baluk DDA as well as contact senior female members of the communities represented by the DSC members. These communities include, Ganjabad, Dehzak, Shewan, Kanesk, Nawbahar, Aref Abad, Tapa Sadat, Gerani, Kal Kala, Said Noormamad, Zarmardan, Pooza Langar, Kashman & Kariz Nabi.
  - b) **IR2-** Identifying the services available for Women & placing them in the Service Provider Catalog.
  - c) **IR3-** Move forward with a communications release with Farah DoWA on services provided
  - d) **IR4-** Identifying vocational training programs for women in Shewan, Gerani and Dehzak
  - e) **M&E-** Tracking all activities towards meeting Program Gender Indicators

##### **Farah Gender Working Group**

- The Farah Gender Working Group met on September 11 with representatives from DoWA, DRRD, MPH and Wadan Afghanistan, who discussed the following points;
  - a) Agreement that DOWA would provide one female member of their staff to participate in the Gender Working Group at the provincial level and one male member of their staff at the Bala Baluk DSC meetings.
  - b) Meeting between Farah PST Gender Officer and WHO about their current monthly vaccination programs and treatment for TB and where the SIKA-West program can work to expand the number of Bala Baluk residents who both receive vaccinations and are treated for TB.
  - c) Meeting with the Bala Baluk District Governor on the planned roll out for literacy courses for women in Ganjabad, Shewan, Gerani, Dehzak and Kanesk.
  - d) Discussion on current efforts to coordinate with UN Habitat on expanding literacy courses within Bala Baluk District Center.
  - e) Discussions on list of illiterate students received from recent meeting with the DOE and how these students may be assisted by the SIKA West Literacy programming.
  - f) Discussions on what steps the SIKA-West program can take to assist Wadan in their current efforts to combat drug addiction amongst women.

#### **Challenges**

- On September 9, the Farah Provincial Governors office was attacked. This resulted in security measures which restricted movement in Farah Provincial Center on September 9-10.

#### **Coming Week**

- Weekly sessions of both the internal SIKA-West Gender Working Group and Farah Gender Working Group are scheduled to be held. Reports will be generated from both meetings and will be included in the SIKA-West Monthly Report.

### **Capacity Building Component**

#### **Highlights**

##### **CBD Headquarters**

- The CBD has been engaged in facilitating the DSM discussions in Herat HQ and preparing the DPP in coordination with all the IR's. The DSM analysis meeting was held on September 12, with the findings to be made available to all departments on Saturday 15.
- To date, an additional three training modules were completed this week, bringing the program total to 52, covering IR1-IR4/M&E and Gender- which have been translated into Dari and Pashto and shared with the SIKA-West program.

- The HQ, Farah, Badghis and Herat Training Calendars have been updated and sent to all provinces and departments for the week ending September 12, 2012. These calendars coordinate all IR/M&E and Gender training activities.
- The CBD team worked with IR1, IR3 and IR4 to develop training materials which will enable them to train RRD counterparts and District Entities (DEs) in the field.

#### **CBD Farah Component**

- The Farah DRRD Capacity Needs Assessment, Farah Bala Baluk DSC Needs Assessment and Farah District Governors Needs Assessment have been reviewed and are now being used to guide capacity building programming.
- CBD has now identified program counterparts within the DRRD, Bala Baluk DSC and Bala Baluk DG's Office.
- As a first step, the CBD is coordinating DRRD and DSC capacity building training between September 15-22, which will bring the Farah DRRD and DSC members together for the first time in group stabilization training. The training will include the following;
  - a) **IR1-** All program material related to DSC Establishment, Roles & Responsibilities of Counterparts, DSM Process and DPP Selection.
  - b) **IR2-** Service Provider Catalog Uses
  - c) **IR3-** Communications Plan Development For DRRD, District Government and DSC
  - d) **IR4-** Community Empowerment, Community Stabilization Practices, Project Maintenance
  - e) **M&E-** Project Site Monitoring
- CBD is coordinating shared program support for DRRD at the provincial level and the Bala Baluk DG at the district level, providing PST/DST personnel to provide administrative and program support across all programming including Stabilization activities.

#### **CBD Herat Component**

- In order to further prepare the Herat PST team, the following training has been provided during the past week:
  - a) **IR1-** Stability Analysis Mechanism Process, DSC Formation Process, DPP Analysis
  - b) **IR3-** Adult Learning Techniques, Communication Plan Development
  - c) **IR4-** Community Stabilization Practices
  - d) **CBD Gender-** Gender Mainstreaming Part I
  - e) **M&E-** Project Site Visits

#### **CBD Badghis Component**

- In order to further prepare the Badghis PST team, the following training has been provided during the past week
  - a) **IR1-** Stability Analysis Mechanism Process, DSC Formation,
  - b) **CBD Gender-** Gender Mainstreaming Part I and II
  - c) **M&E-** Project Indicators, Project Site Visits, Attendance Sheet Records, Trackstick Use

#### **Coming Week**

- CBD will coordinate continued training for SIKA West HQ, Farah PST/DST, Farah DRRD, Bala Baluk DSC, Badghis PST, Herat PST. This training will include contributions from IR1-IR4/M&E/Gender

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

#### **Highlights**

- On September 8, an M&E Officer met with MISTI GIS staff in Kabul to discuss the mapping needs of SIKA-West. The Officer was provided with a number of hard copy maps of Western Afghanistan, and soft copies will be sent in the near future. These maps will be used to identify project locations, ensuring that they fall within in Strategic Zones of Influence.



- On September 9, an M&E Officer flew to Badghis to conduct a one week M&E training session for the PST M&E Officer and other PST IR staff, as part of preparations for roll-out into the districts. The basics of M&E will be covered such as project site visits and , as well as the use of monitoring technology such as Tracksticks and GPS Cameras. While in Badghis the M&E Officer will also check the state of the PST’s filing and information storage systems, and propose changes if necessary.
- The M&E lead was part of an interview panel recruiting five PST positions in Badghis Province. The DRRD Director and USAID were also part of the September 10-12 panel.

**Challenges**

- During the recent recruiting trip to Badghis Province, the M&E lead was very reliant on the USAID representative to get him on and off the Spanish PRT, due to a lack of ISAF identification. SIKA-West operations staff are now exploring options to secure appropriate identification to allow SIKA-West staff access to NATO bases in Afghanistan.

**Plans for the coming week**

- Next week the M&E lead plans to roll-out finished RFPs for a Database Designer and Baseline Survey.
- M&E Officers will also be training PST staff in Badghis, Farah and Herat Provinces as part of the CBD training calendar.

**HR & RECRUITMENT**

- To date, 82 employees (28 female, 54 male) have been hired and 40 positions are the recruitment process.

SIKA-West Recruitment				
Staff	Herat Office	Herat Province	Farah Province	Badghis Province
Hired	60	6	11	5
In process	14	8	7	11
Females hired	23	2	2	1
Males hired	37	4	9	4

**DELIVERABLES**

- Weekly Report

**SECURITY OPERATIONS**

- Conducted various Herat City moves without incident.
- APPF staff conducted security during the recent recruiting visit from September 9-12 in Badghis Province. The trip went smoothly with no incidents to report.
- Continued to liaise with other projects operating within the Herat area.
- Conducted weapons training with APPF MST personnel.
- Conducted compound defense plan with expatriate personnel.