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AFGHANISTAN

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

MONTHLY REPORT (MAY 2013)



During Grants Management Training for grant recipients from Saydabad, a SIKA-East trainer explains the grant agreement and its attachments to one of the recipients.

May 2013

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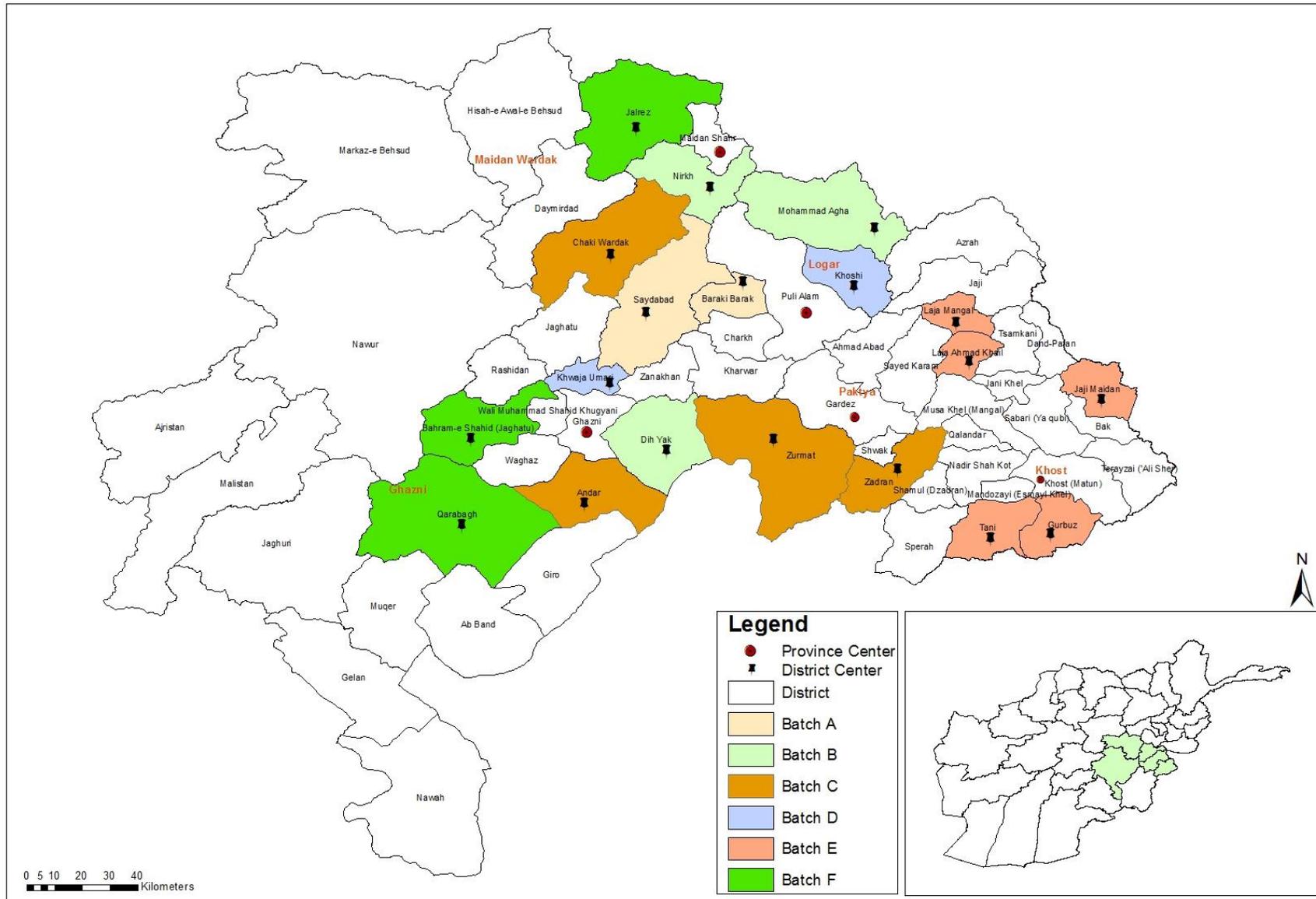
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ACRONYMS

ACSO	Afghan Central Statistics Office
ANSF	Afghan National Security Forces
CDC	Community Development Council
DCC	District Community Council
DDA	District Development Assembly
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DSU	District Support Unit
FOG	Fixed Obligation Grant
GRC	Grant Review Committee
HR	Human Resource
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IRD	International Relief and Development
MELU	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Unit
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NDS	National Directorate of Security
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSP	National Solidarity Program
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PMU	Provincial Management Unit
PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development
SCA	Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
SIKA-East	Stability in Key Areas-East
SRA	Security Risk Analysis
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

SIKA-EAST DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION



BACKGROUND

This Stability in Key Areas-East (SIKA-East) monthly report provides a comprehensive picture of program activities during May 2013. The activities are grouped geographically according to the five provinces in which SIKA-East is currently active. Program activities during the reporting period are also covered by SIKA-East weekly reports 72 through 78.

This report provides information on objective-based project implementation and on relationships with, and the involvement of, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), and the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) at the provincial and district levels. It also covers training sessions conducted for members of Community Development Councils (CDCs), District Development Assemblies (DDAs), and other stakeholders.

OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

During May, MRRD and IDLG continued to lead SIKA-East implementation activities, including expansion into several new districts. This month, Jalriz in Maidan Wardak became the latest district to be approved for program implementation. SIKA-East is now active in 19 districts in five provinces.

On May 9, SIKA-East was officially launched in Khwaja Umari District in Ghazni Province and Khoshi District in Logar. Both events were presided over by their respective Provincial Governors and attended by numerous other government officials, tribal and community leaders, DDA and CDC members, and people from the communities. Approximately 80 people attended the Khwaja Umari launch, and 110 the Khoshi event. At both launch meetings, Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) representatives outlined the goals of SIKA-East and explained how the program will be implemented, emphasizing that its primary goal is to improve the lives of rural people in the district through better service delivery by district authorities.

Both launches were followed within days by the first sessions in a series of trainings that are designed to help members of DDAs, CDCs, and district government analyze the sources of instability in their area and identify projects designed to eliminate or mitigate them. By the end of the course of trainings, the participants know how to implement and manage those projects, many of which will be financed through USAID grants.

In fact, the first SIKA-East grants were awarded in May, a major milestone for the program. A total of 22 awards were made out of the 25 approved for award. Eleven CDC grant recipients in Saydabad and eleven recipients in Mohammad Agha have begun grant activities. It is anticipated that SIKA-East will begin processing payment requests in early June.



At the Khwaja Umari launch meeting, the goals and objectives of SIKA-East are outlined for the participants. Women were well represented at the event.



At the Khoshi launch, the acting PRRD Director summarizes SIKA-East's goals and objectives.

Towards the end of the month, special Grant Management Training took place for the Mohammad Agha and Saydabad grant recipients. This training covers grant management best practices in areas such as record retention, procurement, budgeting, monitoring and reporting, transparency and accountability, hiring, and other key areas. Several grant recipients were quick to begin implementing their projects, holding the requisite inauguration ceremony and beginning site preparation.

For several months, SIKA-East has been developing six radio dramas that focus on services that are currently available to citizens and ways that people can interact with their government at the district and provincial level. The themes of the dramas include educational opportunities, water issues, opportunities for youth, and service availability for women. On May 11 and 12, the six radio plays began to be aired on a regular schedule in Logar, Wardak, and Ghazni Provinces. Initial reaction was very positive based on initial conversations with citizens in the district. Local government officials – including DDA+s, line ministries, and governors’ offices – were given multiple copies of the schedule to distribute and encourage local citizen to listen. Over 200 copies of the broadcast schedule have been distributed in this manner.

On May 15, SIKA-East launched its web-base database, which has been under development for several months. The new system is fast and user friendly and can accommodate a wide number of users at the same time. It also has a high capacity for document storage. The system is now available to all SIKA-East staff with access to the Internet and approved user privileges.

On May 20, SIKA-East hosted the M&E Community of Practice for all SIKAs to share experiences amongst the four SIKA programs on key implementation issues. Twenty-nine people participated in the event. Topics discussed included engaging stability stakeholders, the process and resources for non-construction grants/projects, the design and implementation of projects in insecure areas, and gender mainstreaming in SIKAs.

At the end of the month, final preparations were being made for a Service Providers Fair to be held in Gardiz in Paktya Province on June 3 and 4. Sixty-three service providers have registered to set up booths during the fair. Booklets and other promotional materials are on hand, and signs and banners for the booths have been printed and set up. Service providers are making their individual preparations, including lining up product samples. A similar event is planned for Ghazni on June 17 and 18.



At Grants Management Training for grant recipients from Saydabad, a SIKA-East trainer presents a recipient with a binder in which to keep all the records for his project.



Men of the Baber Khail CDC in Saydabad hold a ceremony to inaugurate a project to extend a kariz in their community.



Web-based database launch in SIKA-East’s Kabul office

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Baraki Barak District: The longstanding impasse between the Baraki Barak District Governor and DDA may be on the way to a resolution. On May 15, the Deputy Provincial Governor met with the District Governor and the managers of SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU) for Logar and District Support Unit (DSU) for Baraki Barak to discuss the existing challenges in that district. It was decided to hold another meeting with the DDA+. On May 26, the Baraki Barak District Governor and SIKA-East DSU manager met so that the District Governor could receive an update on program activities. The District Governor promised his support and assistance and suggested that SIKA-East activities should be closely coordinated with him.

Saydabad Tangi Hawza: In the Saydabad DPP, there are several projects that have been proposed by members of the DDA, CDCs, and influential people of the community for implementation in the Tangi Hawza. However, because of security and still unresolved issues within the community, SIKA-East has not been able to check the feasibility of the projects in Tangi. On May 15, the Saydabad DSU met with members of the DDA and CDCs, as well as a provincial council member from Tangi Hawza, in hopes of getting more community buy-in and coming up with better solutions. The provincial council member mentioned that she knows more influential people in Tangi Hawza and will invite them to the PMU office, with the hope that after meeting with them, a positive solution can be found.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING TRACKERS

The following spreadsheets show the status of program activities, including trainings, in the districts where SIKA-East has already been launched.

SIKA-EAST TRAININGS TRACKER*

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION	I - ORIENT				II - PLAN					III - EXECUTE										IV - EVALUATE & LEARN		TOTAL			
	Stakeholder Orientation - Female SDU	Stakeholder Orientation - Male SDU	Governance Foundation - Female SDU	Governance Foundation - Male SDU	Stability Planning Process - Female SAPU	Stability Planning Process - Male SAPU	Resource Dialogue & Advocacy - Female COU	Advocacy - Male COU	Infrastructure Project Planning SDU	Project Design and Development - Female SDU	Project Design and Development - Male SDU	Grant Process - Female GSU	Grant Process - Male GSU	Grant Management - Female GSU	Grant Management - Male GSU	Grant Management Training Award - Female GSU	Grant Management Training Award - Male GSU	Grant Management Training Implementation - Female GSU	Grant Management Training Implementation - Male GSU	Short Courses GSU	Fundraising Training Male GSU		Fundraising Training Female GSU	Lessons Learnt - Female MELU	Lessons Learnt - Male MELU
PREVIOUS QUARTERS (Dec 2011 to Mar 2013)																									
Launch Date	District																								
June 4, 2012	Saydabad																								
June 11, 2012	Baraki Barak																								
November 18, 2012	Nirakh																								
November 25, 2012	Mohammad Agha																								
December 25, 2012	Dih Yak																								
February 7, 2013	Zadran																								
February 7, 2013	Zurmat																								
February 7, 2013	Chaki Wardak																								
February 19, 2013	Andar																								
ACTUAL	5	5	5	7	7	10	7	6	6	6	7	3	4	1	1						3	3			86
QUARTER APR-JUN 2013																									
Launch Date	District																								
June 4, 2012	Saydabad																								
June 11, 2012	Baraki Barak Review																								
June 4, 2012	Saydabad																								
November 25, 2012	Mohammad Agha																								
November 18, 2012	Nirakh																								
December 25, 2012	Dih Yak																								
February 7, 2013	Zadran																								
February 7, 2013	Zurmat																								
February 7, 2013	Chaki Wardak																								
February 19, 2013	Andar																								
May 9, 2013	Khoshi																								
May 9, 2013	Khawaja Umari																								
ACTUAL	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	3	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	0				2	0	0	0		25

* Spreadsheet reflects training activities as of May 31, 2013. Figures represent trainings conducted to date. Yellow-highlighted cells represent trainings conducted this month. SIKA-East inductions and trainings of trainers are not included.

SIKA-EAST DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

S/N	Province	District	PREPARATION					I - ORIENT			II - PLAN					III - EXECUTE										IV - EVALUATE & LEARN	
			#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	Grants Track										#	#	
															Province offices established	Province staff hired	District offices established	District staff hired	District profiles completed	Stakeholder register produced	District launch held	Provincial Service Provider Catalog produced	DPP produced	DPP approved by DG / PRRD			DPP approved by USAID
CUMULATIVE (to date)					11	157	9	11	11	4	11	5	5		26	\$1,213,942	68	\$2,922,792	94	\$4,136,734	20	\$663,157					
DISTRICTS																											
Batch A																											
1	Logar	Baraki Barak			1	11	1	1	1		1	1	1		3	\$232,332	0	\$0		\$232,332							
2	Maydan Wardak	Saydabad			1	14	1	1	1		1		1		7	\$101,850	25	\$634,063	32	\$735,913	10	\$238,371					
Batch B																											
3	Ghazni	Dih Yak			1	10	1	1	1		1	1	1		3	\$112,231	6	\$266,958	9	\$379,189							
4	Logar	Mohammad Agha			1	13	1	1	1		1	1	1		6	\$257,024	23	\$1,261,461	29	\$1,518,485	10	\$424,786					
5	Maydan Wardak	Nirrh			1	12	1	1	1		1	1	1		3	\$277,194	14	\$760,310	17	\$1,037,504							
Batch C																											
6	Ghazni	Andar			1	12	1	1	1		1	1		1	\$97,831	0	\$0		\$97,831								
7	Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak			1	12	1	1	1		1			3	\$135,480	0	\$0		\$135,480								
8	Paktya	Zadran			1	12	1	1	1		1																
9	Paktya	Zurmat			1	11	1	1	1		1																
Batch D																											
10	Ghazni	Khwaja Umari			1	10		1	1		1																
11	Logar	Khoshi			1	10		1	1		1																
Batch E																											
12	Khost	Gurbuz				8																					
13	Khost	Tani				6																					
14	Khost	Jaji Maidan				4																					
15	Paktya	Laja Ahmad Khail				5																					
16	Paktya	Laja Mangal				5																					
Batch F																											
17	Ghazni	Jaghatu				2																					
18	Ghazni	Qarabagh				0																					
PROVINCES																											
1	Wardak		1	19							1			1													
2	Logar		1	18							1			1													
3	Ghazni		1	19							1			1													
4	Paktya		1	19							1			1													
5	Khost		1	15																							
CUMULATIVE (to date)			5	90				9			4			4													

SIKA-EAST GRANT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

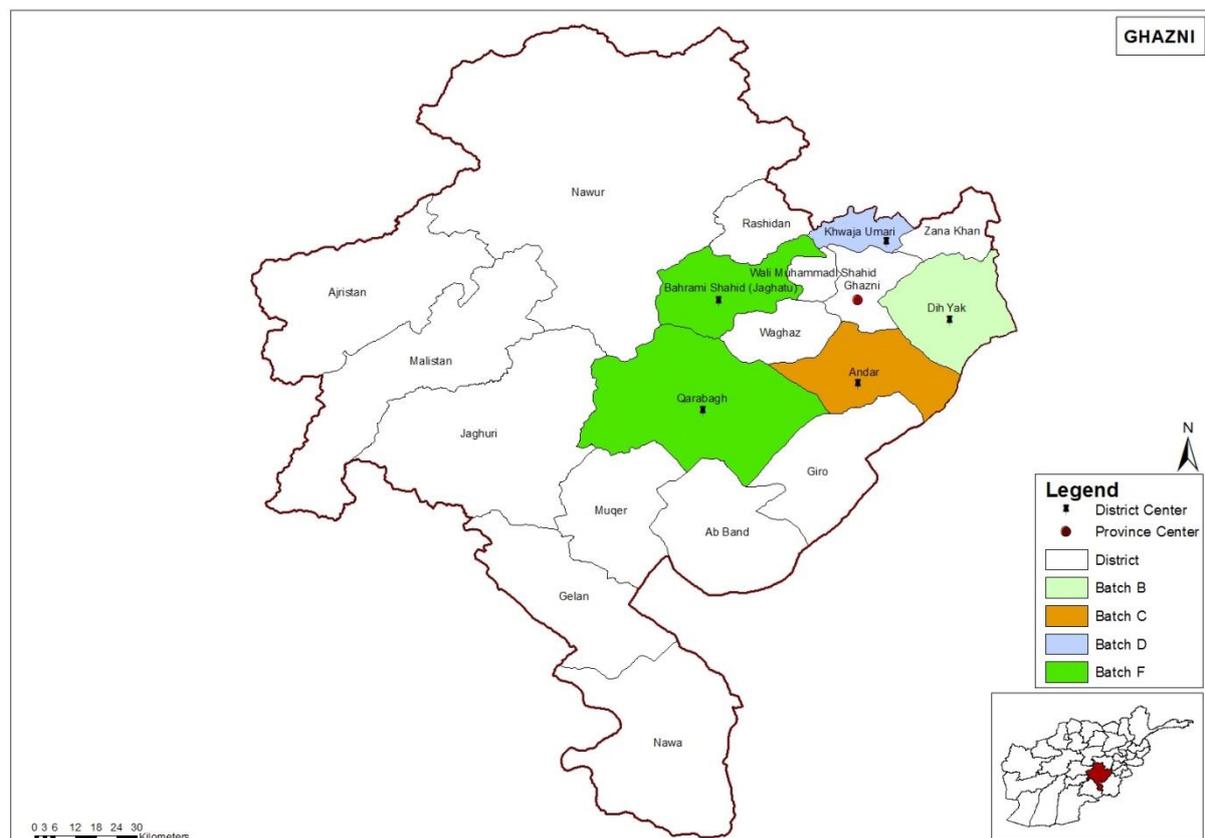
No.	Province	District	Village	Project	Specifi cations	Sector	Unit	No.	Start Date	Budget in USD	Budget in AFS	Beneficiaries	Contracting Agency	Project Status
1	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Kamal Khill CDC	School boundary wall construction		Education	Each	1	20 May 13	46,790	2,479,883	950	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
2	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Rahmabad CDC	School boundary wall construction		Education	Each	1	22 May 13	55,690	2,951,546	500	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
3	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Rahmabad CDC	School boundary wall construction		Education	Each	1	22 May 13	39,452	2,090,957	500	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
4	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Qala Taj Khan CDC	School boundary wall construction		Education	Each	1	20 May 13	23,654	1,253,640	600	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
5	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Bahadurkhil CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	20 May 13	23,491	1,244,997	1,080	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
6	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Chinarai CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	20 May 13	41,543	2,201,758	1,850	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
7	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Dagg Qala CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	23 May 13	34,059	1,805,140	2,100	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
8	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Pacha Qala CDC	School boundary wall construction		Education	Each	1	23 May 13	60,449	3,203,776	650	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
9	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Panami Nalab CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	23 May 13	38,062	2,017,273	1,620	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
10	Logar	Mohammad Agha	Rasool Khel CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	23 May 13	61,597	3,264,663	1,680	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
Total			10	10						424,786	22,513,632	11,530		
1	Wardak	Saydabad	Kharian CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	20 May 13	20,688	1,096,463	2,870	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
2	Wardak	Saydabad	Srakala Markazi CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	20 May 13	38,627	2,047,215	2,709	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
3	Wardak	Saydabad	Bobbar Khill CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	20 May 13	16,178	808,905	420	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing

No.	Province	District	Village	Project	Specifications	Sector	Unit	No.	Start Date	Budget in USD	Budget in AFS	Bene.	Contracting Agency	Project Status
4	Wardak	Saydabad	Hashim Khil CDC	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	20 May 13	19,806	990,303	2,660	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
5	Wardak	Saydabad	Sheekh Azam CDC	Shallow well boring, hand pump installation, and hygiene education		Water supply and sanitation	Each	1	20 May 13	5,257	262,857	441	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
6	Wardak	Saydabad	Sheekh Azam CDC, Zarsang Village	Shallow well boring, hand pump installation and hygiene education		Water supply and sanitation	Each	1	23 May 13	5,257	262,857	294	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
7	Wardak	Saydabad	Zora Khil	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	23 May 13	23,243	1,162,173	2,870	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
8	Wardak	Saydabad	Aman Khil	Kariz extension		Irrigation	Each	1	23 May 13	19,490	974,524	1,260	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
9	Wardak	Saydabad	Srakala Markazi CDC, Arab Khil Village	Construction of canal, canal rehabilitation, water reservoir rehabilitation		Irrigation	Each	1	23 May 13	42,498	2,222,625	2,240	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
10	Wardak	Saydabad	Sisy CDC	Kariz rehabilitation		Irrigation	Each	1	27 May 13	47,326	2,366,320	399	SIKA -East	Awarded/ Ongoing
Total			9	9						238,371	9,827,922	15,764		
Grand Total			19	19						663,157	32,341,554	27,294		

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

In May, PRRD Directors and SIKA-East provincial staff in all five target provinces met regularly to discuss stabilization progress, challenges, and plans and to coordinate upcoming activities with government entities. Program activities are summarized on a province-by-province basis below.

GHAZNI



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- Throughout the month, service providers registered to participate in the Service Providers Fair to be held in Ghazni City on June 17 and 18. So far, sixty service providers have registered to take part in the fair. Logistical arrangements for the event are going well. By the end of May, the list of invitees had been finalized and invitations printed, and service provider booklets designed; security measures are being arranged with line departments.
- At the end of May, the PMU communication and outreach officer distributed 200 copies of the revised radio play schedule to the DDAs for Andar, Dih Yak, and Khwaja Umari Districts. The main purpose was to inform the community about radio play broadcasting channels and exact times.

Significant Meetings:

- On May 1, SIKA-East's PMU manager attended a coordination meeting hosted by National Solidarity Program (NSP), which was also attended by the PRRD Director and staff, by SIKA-East's regional coordinator at MRRD, and by representatives of several other organizations involved with development in Ghazni. The participants again discussed the issue of SIKA-East grant applications because of problematic CDCs, and NSP was tasked with finding solutions.

- On May 6, the PRRD Deputy Director for Ghazni held his weekly coordination meeting, which the manager of SIKA-East's PMU attended. The aim of the meeting was to share information on the planned launch of SIKA-East in Khwaja Umari District on May 9. After reviewing the event's agenda and list of invitees, the PRRD Deputy Director signed off on the documents, and they were sent to Kabul for further action.
- On May 6, the invitation letters for the Khwaja Umari District launch meeting were distributed to the Provincial Governor, District Governor, line department heads, and other invitees. The DDA and CDC members were also informed about the date and venue of the launch.
- On May 7, the PRRD Director and SIKA-East manager met with the newly assigned Governor's Executive Director to brief him on the program. The Executive Director said he appreciated SIKA-East and promised to support it throughout the implementation process.
- On May 7, a DSU team met with members of several problematic CDCs that have been slow to submit the documents for their projects, in spite of encouragement to do so from the DSU and even the District Governor. The CDCs promised to complete the documents as soon as possible.
- On May 20, the PRRD Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting with the manager of SIKA-East's PMU to discuss the Service Providers Fair that is scheduled to be held in Ghazni City on June 17 and 18. Regarding the fair's venue, it was decided to meet with governmental organizations that have large halls and request the use of one of them for the event.
- From May 19 to May 21, the PMU gender officer conducted meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide services for women, requesting them to participate in the Service Providers Fair. All the organizations agreed to take part.
- On May 26, the PMU gender officer met with Ms. Hamidah Gulistan, a member of the Ghazni provincial council, to discuss how to motivate women from the province to participate in the fair.

ANDAR DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- The Andar women's communication committee conducted its sixth meeting on May 6. The participants followed the previous meeting points.
- The combined men's and women's communication committee for Andar conducted its third meeting on May 13. The objective of the meeting was to follow up on the previous meetings and make sure that the completed worksheets have been shared with and agreed upon by the larger DDA+. Worksheets on message and communication channels were completed.
- On May 27 and 28, men and women from communities in Andar District held separate meetings to discuss their concerns regarding the provision of services by public and private organizations operating in the district and to discuss the coordination and implementation of DPP non-grant projects to be channeled through service providers. The community members' requests and issues discussed during the meetings were recorded and will be shared during follow-on sub-coordination meetings with PRRD and the Departments of Education, Public Health, Irrigation, Agriculture, NSP, and other service providers.



Andar men meet to discuss their concerns about service providers.

Other Activities:

- During May, the Andar DPP was signed by the DDA, CDCs, PRRD Director, PRRD social organizer, and PMU manager. A copy was sent to Kabul.
- DSU staff completed 12 grant applications from Andar CDCs and had them signed by the heads of the concerned CDCs, along with the mandatory certificates for eight grant projects.
- Technical surveys for three infrastructure projects have been completed; a proposal for one of them is also complete, and work on the other two is in progress.
- During the month, the Ghazni PMU collected information for the Andar district profile, updated it, and submitted it to Kabul.

DIH YAK DISTRICT**Significant Meetings:**

- The men's and women's communication committees for Dih Yak conducted their seventh meetings on May 7 and discussed action points from previous sessions. In order to implement the district communication plan smoothly, they shared the development and health portions of the plan with the Directorates of Education and Health.
- On May 6 and 7, the District Governor met with CDC and DDA members. On the subject of CDC documents required for SIKA-East grant purposes, the Governor suggested that PRRD re-elect members for those CDCs that do not regularly participate in meetings and do not prepare their documents.
- On May 12, the DSU manager met with the Dih Yak District Governor to follow up the issue of problematic CDCs and DDAs. The DG continued to conduct meetings with CDCs and the DDA to solve their problems and re-elect key members if they are no longer present or are unwilling to continue their job in those organizations.
- On May 21 and 22, community men and women held separate sub-coordination meetings. The main purpose of the meetings was to provide community members with an opportunity to identify gaps in service delivery and share them with service providers. The meetings also give community members an opportunity to lobby for the implementation of projects that address sources of instability.
- On May 27, the Dih Yak District Governor met with SIKA-East staff based on the district compound. He explained that he is very busy and that, in the interests of better coordination and efficiency, he was delegating to the District Governor for Zana Khan responsibility for all the tasks he himself used to handle in connection with SIKA-East.



The Dih Yak District Governor, communication committee members, and SIKA-East staff meet on May 12 to discuss the problematic CDCs.

Other Activities:

- The DSU prepared the mandatory certificates for 12 projects in Dih Yak District and had them signed by the heads of the concerned CDCs. They also completed and signed the Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) eligibility checklist for six projects, and completed application packages for three district CDCs.
- The DSU engineering team has completed seven proposals for infrastructure projects and submitted them to Kabul for further processing.

- Technical surveys for three infrastructure projects have been completed. Proposals for the projects are 90 percent complete and will be finalized shortly.
- The DSU updated the district profile and submitted it to the Kabul office.
- Engineering surveys and design development continued for Dih Yak Cycle 1 projects. At present, six design packages, worth \$266,958, have been completed, and three more, worth \$112,231, are under development.
- On May 29, the DSU communication officer organized the ninth men's communication committee meeting, which was held in Ghazni City. The purpose of the meeting was to share the Dih Yak communication plan with committee members and the District Governor.
- As a practical example of the work of the communication committee, the village of Robot, with about 2,000 families, has had serious flooding issues. The committee coordinated with the District Governor, who arranged a meeting with the Ghazni High Peace Council representative. After several meetings, the council approved a 200-meter wall and coordinated with the PRRD. A PRRD engineering team conducted a survey for the project, and construction is estimated to begin in the next couple of weeks. This is a very good example of the DDA+, District Governor, and other government entities working together to solve a problem raised at the community level and will likely have a positive impact on the perception of MRRD and the government of Afghanistan as a whole among the people of this village.



Joint meeting with Dih Yak Director General, DRRD staff, and communication committee members

JAGHATU DISTRICT

- The Ghazni PMU shortlisted candidates for the Jaghatu and Qarabagh DSUs. Interviews have been scheduled with the candidates. Staffing for the new districts is 70 percent complete.
- The District Governor's compound is currently under construction, and while it is, the Governor is working out of a nearby private residence. SIKA-East has identified a house for rent in the vicinity and has requested Security to carry out a risk assessment of the building. If it is favorable, Procurement will contact the owner of the building to negotiate a rental agreement.

KHWAJA UMARI DISTRICT

- On May 9, SIKA-East was officially launched in Khwaja Umari District. Presided over by Mohammad Mosa Khan Akbarzada, Provincial Governor, the launch meeting was held in Ghazni City and was attended by approximately 80 government officials, tribal and community leaders, donor representatives, DDA+ members, and people from the community. Ghulam Sanayee Mayel, PRRD Director for Ghazni, opened the launch meeting and gave a brief explanation of SIKA-East. Following remarks by the Provincial Governor and a representative of DoWA, the District Governor for Khwaja Umari, Ali Dost Shams, spoke about his hopes for SIKA-East in the district and encouraged everyone to support the



At the Khwaja Umari launch meeting, the goals and objectives of SIKA-East are outlined for the participants. Women were well represented at the event.

program. The launch meeting concluded with a question and answer session led by the Provincial Governor.

- On Monday, May 27, at 6:00 in the evening, anti-government elements attacked the Khwaja Umari District Governor's compound and maintained the attack, using mortars and small arms, for the next two hours. All of the mortars were fired from Qabaldal Village, which is on the border with Maydan Wardak Province. Some of the mortars hit buildings used by district and police staff. The head of National Directorate of Security (NDS) in the area said the attackers were Taliban from Maydan Wardak's Jaghatu District. Nobody was killed or injured during the incident. DSU staff were advised to stay home the next day.

Significant Meetings:

- On May 20, the DSU Manager met with the District Governor and DDA head to prepare the list of participants for the upcoming Service Providers Fair.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- From May 12 to 14, training in Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation was conducted for an average of 36 women from the Khwaja Umari DDA and other influential women in the district. The same three-day training was held for men starting on May 14 and was attended by an average of 54 members of the DDA and other important men from the district.
- From May 19 to 23, women from the Khwaja Umari DDA and CDCs received Stability Planning Process Training. Over the five days of training, an average of 49 women attended on a daily basis. The women identified a list of local resiliencies in the community that they will be able to draw on during project implementation.
- On May 26 and 27, the first two days of Stability Planning Process training was conducted for men from the Khwaja Umari DDA, District Community Council (DCC), CDCs, and other influential community members. However, the session scheduled for May 28 had to be postponed because of the attack on the District Governor's compound the night before. The training resumed in Ghazni City on May 29 and is scheduled to continue through June 9. An average of 40 men took part in the training.
- In early May, the Ghazni gender officer produced a list of 149 women active in governmental or social activities in Kwaja Umari District, as well as a list of NGOs conducting female literacy courses in the district.
- A stakeholder engagement survey of men and women in the district was completed. Lists of the identified stakeholders were prepared and approved by the Khwaja Umari District Governor.



Group work during the Stability Planning Process training for men from Khwaja Umari

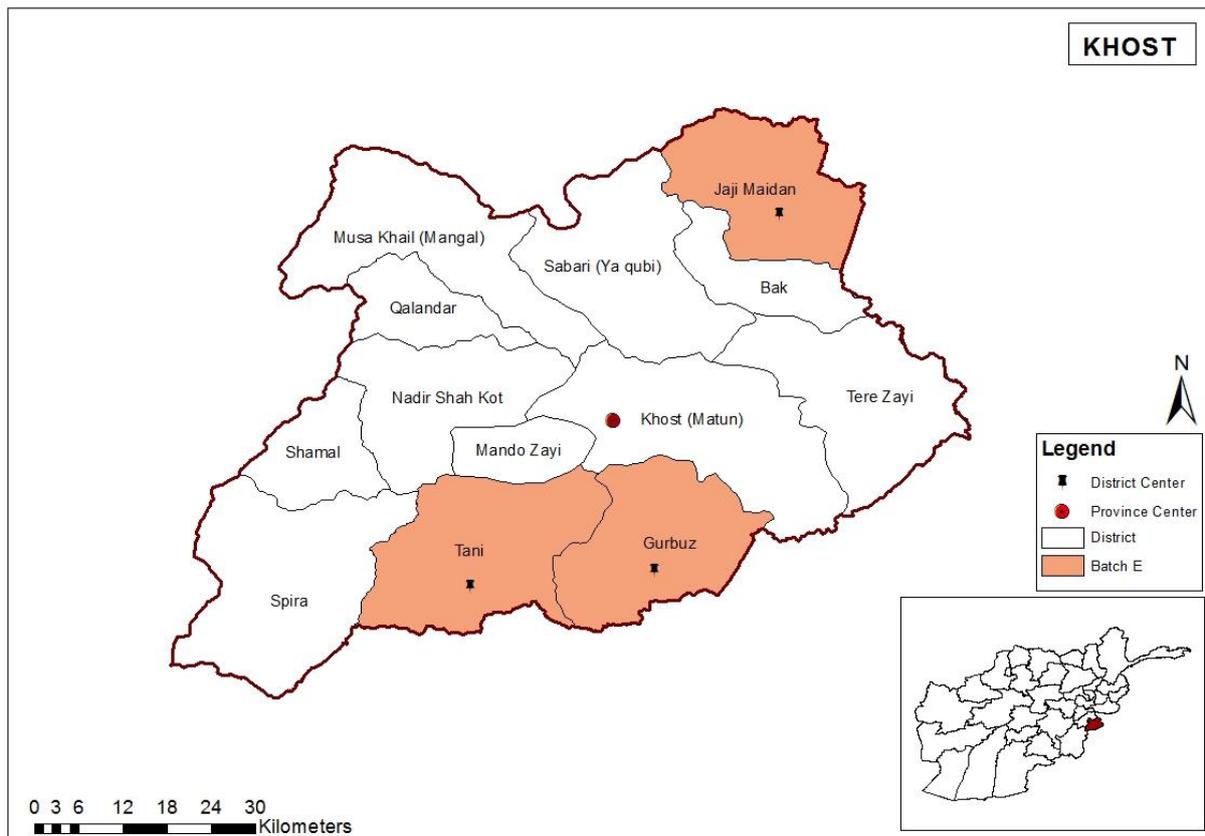
QARABAGH DISTRICT

- The Ghazni PMU shortlisted candidates for the Jaghatu and Qarabagh DSUs. Interviews have been scheduled with the candidates. Staffing for the new districts is 70 percent complete.
- The District Governor assigned two rooms for SIKA-East's DSU office in his own headquarters. The two rooms need minor repairs. An estimate to rehabilitate the office space has been completed, and, following the usual bidding processes, a contractor has been selected to begin the work.

NEXT STEPS FOR GHAZNI

- Coordinate regularly with the Ghazni PRRD Director, Provincial Governor, and District Governors;
- Conduct a Service Providers Fair on June 17 and 18;
- Conduct Project Design and Development Training of Trainers (ToT) for Khwaja Umari District;
- Develop Khwaja Umari DPP and identify Cycle 1 projects;
- For Andar District, complete proposals for three infrastructure projects and technical surveys for four projects, and develop at least six project applications for presentation to the Grant Review Committee (GRC);
- For Dih Yak District, complete proposals for six infrastructure projects and technical surveys for two projects, and develop eight project applications for the GRC; and
- Conduct Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Foundation ToT for Jaghato and Qarabagh Districts.

KHOST



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- The installation of a connex to serve as an office building was completed at the beginning of the month. The office is now set up and in full operation.
- The Khost PMU continued to recruit staff for the new districts of Jaji Maidan, Tani, and Gurbuz. At the end of May, recruiting stood at 83 percent complete. Most of the PMU and DSU-level staff have participated in key SIKA-East trainings.
- Stakeholder surveys are under way in all three districts where SIKA-East is being implemented.
- PMU staff have begun collecting information for a new Khost Service Providers Catalogue.

Significant Meetings:

- On May 7, the Khost PMU manager met with the NSP manager to discuss SIKA-East and data compiled by NSP on CDCs and DDAs that could be useful to SIKA-East. The NSP manager promised to provide the data and support program implementation.
- On May 12, the PRRD Director held a coordination meeting that was attended by the Khost PMU manager and representatives of other organizations implementing MRRD projects. The meeting emphasized the importance of helping and supporting each other to implement all the projects successfully. The representatives of NSP and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) agreed to share information about CDCs and DDAs.
- On May 14, the Provincial Governor hosted a coordination meeting, at which SIKA-East's PMU manager for Khost discussed SIKA-East progress in the province. The Governor asked the PMU manager to participate in the Provincial Development Council (PDC) meetings that are held twice a month on a regular basis.

- On May 19, the Khost PRRD Director invited SIKA-East's PMU manager to his office to share information about program progress and planned launches. He also received a copy of the Pashtu version of the program work plan. The PRRD Director promised to give SIKA-East full support.
- On May 21, the Khost PMU manager met with the Director of DoWA. The PMU manager introduced the program and sought DoWA's support in introducing women and motivating them to contribute in project implementation and to participate in meetings and other program events in their province. The DoWA Director promised to cooperate with SIKA-East in stakeholder analysis. She also agreed to provide a contact list of women's councils that are active in Khost.



May 19 meeting between the Khost PRRD Director (right) and SIKA-East's PMU Manager

- On May 25, The Provincial Governor's chief of staff arranged a coordination meeting, at which the PMU manager updated him on SIKA-East's achievements, plans, and other activities.

Other Activities:

- The process of stakeholder analysis has been launched in Khost and will be complete in early June.

GURBUZ DISTRICT

- In the last week of May, the renovation of the Gurbaz DSU office was completed. The building will be ready for operation once the necessary furnishings and equipment have been received and installed.
- On May 27, the DSU team leader and other district staff met with the District Governor, DDA members, and religious scholars and community elders. The main topic of discussion was the stakeholder analysis survey, and it was decided that key elders will nominate stakeholders to participate in the program and events. During the meeting, the District Governor and others proclaimed their full support for SIKA-East and promised to respect all the rules and regulation associated with implementing the program.

JAJI MAIDAN DISTRICT

- In April, the District Governor provided two rooms in his compound for the Jaji Maidan DSU office. In May, office equipment was procured for the office and is due to arrive in the first week of June.
- Recruiting is well under way. The DSU manager and three other staff have been hired, and candidates for other positions have been short-listed for interviews.

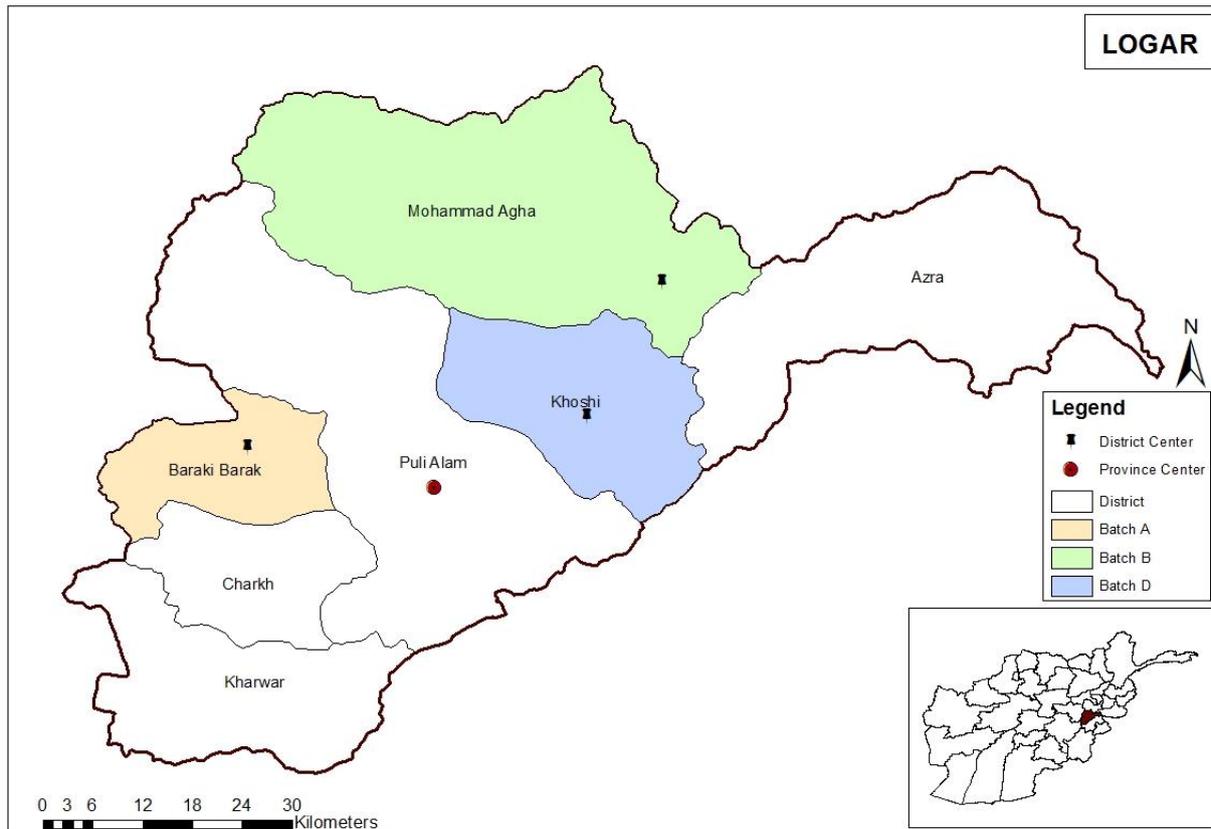
TANI DISTRICT

- The renovation of the Tani DSU office by Spectrum Construction Company got under way on May 28.

NEXT STEPS FOR KHOST

- Participate in regular meetings with PRRD;
- Continue to set up offices at provincial and district levels and complete hiring of staff;
- Launch SIKA-East in Gurbaz, Jaji Maidan, and Tani Districts;
- Conduct stakeholder surveys and Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation workshops for Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts of Khost; and
- Complete district profile.

LOGAR



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Significant Meetings:

- On May 1, the PRRD Director held his weekly coordination meeting, at which SIKA-East's acting PMU manager informed everyone that the program will be launched in Khoshi District on May 9. A discussion followed on how the event can be well managed and who will be invited to attend.
- On May 6, the acting PRRD Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting with SIKA-East's acting PMU manager. During the meeting, they discussed the upcoming Khoshi District launch and shared the agenda and list of participants, which the PRRD Director approved. They met again the next day for further discussion about the launch.
- On May 7, a PMU representative participated in the provincial council meeting along with other organizations implementing MRRD projects. During the meeting, provincial council members again insisted on moving the program's Baraki Barak office to the district center and requested that SIKA-East find the best solution to the problem. In addition, the District Governor of Azra District requested that SIKA-East be implemented in his area.
- On May 13, the Deputy Provincial Governor met with the PMU manager to receive an update on SIKA-East activities in those districts of Logar where the program is under way. The Deputy Governor promised to cooperate fully in program implementation.
- On May 13, the recently hired PRRD Director received SIKA-East's PMU manager to be introduced and receive a briefing on SIKA-East goals, objectives, and achievements in Logar Province. He expressed his appreciation for the program and promised to support and cooperate in its implementation.

- On May 16, the PMU manager attended a provincial council meeting and provided detailed information on SIKA-East. He also sought support in solving local problems and challenges. The provincial council members promised to support and assist in the successful implementation of the program.
- On May 20, the PMU manager participated in the regular coordination meeting with the PRRD Director and provided updates on program activities, including the ongoing trainings in Khoshi District. The PRRD Director said he appreciated SIKA-East's efforts toward stability.
- On May 20, IDLG representatives met with the PMU manager to discuss current challenges and problems in Logar Province, especially in Baraki Barak District. They then met separately with the PRRD Director, Baraki Barak DSU manager, and key members of the Baraki Barak DDA. During the meetings, they asked the various parties about SIKA-East activities and challenges, and received detailed information in reply. The Baraki Barak DDA+ shared their concerns about the District Governor and his support for program implementation. The IDLG representatives promised to support the program.
- On May 26, the PRRD Director held his weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by representatives of SIKA-East, NSP, and NABDP, as well as PRRD rank and file. The PRRD Director asked SIKA-East to provide his organization with social organizers when they are needed and to supply him with a list of all participants at program trainings.

Trainings:

- Some staff from the PMU office participated in a Grants Management TOT in the Kabul main office from April 29 to May 2.

BARAKI BARAK DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On May 7, the Baraki Barak DSU manager met with DDA members to discuss the refusal of the District Governor to endorse SIKA-East documents. The DDA members appreciated the efforts of SIKA-East to resolve the impasse. Negotiations on the matter continue.
- Following consultation with community members regarding implementation of the DPP for Baraki Barak, sub-coordination meetings were arranged with certain service providers to discuss various projects. On May 13 and 14, community members met with the Directors of the Departments of Irrigation and Water Supply, Education, Public Health, and PRRD at their individual offices. Female community members of Baraki Barak were also able to meet with officials of the Department of Women's Affairs. These meetings will be conducted frequently with each service provider to coordinate everyone's efforts and thus meet the demands of both the community and the service providers.
- On May 15, the Deputy Provincial Governor met with the District Governor of Baraki Barak and SIKA-East's PMU manager and DSU manager for Baraki Barak to discuss the existing challenges in that district. It was decided to hold another meeting with the DDA+.



Community members meet with the Director of the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply

- On May 26, the Baraki Barak District Governor and SIKA-East DSU manager met so that the District Governor could receive an update on program activities. He promised his support and assistance and suggested that SIKA-East activities should be closely coordinated with him.



May 26 meeting with Baraki Barak District Governor

Other Activities:

- On May 19, the Logar PMU completed the update of the Baraki Barak district profile and then shared it with the concerned departments to verify its accuracy and completeness. By the end of May, the process was approximately 70 percent complete. The process will take at least two more weeks to complete.
- On May 20, the district engineer completed a survey of 15 wells in the Chalozai Hawza of Baraki Barak District.
- On May 27, the district engineer conducted technical surveys for the surrounding walls of three schools and three deep wells in Chalozai Hawza.

KHOSHI DISTRICT

- In early May, a stakeholder engagement survey of men and women in the district was completed. Lists of the identified stakeholders were prepared and approved by the Khoshi District Governor.
- On May 9, while SIKA-East was being launched in Khwaja Umari, a second launch meeting was taking place in Khoshi to roll out SIKA-East in that district. The Khoshi launch was attended by approximately 110 men and women. The District Governor of Khoshi, Bismillah Khan Khoshiwal, welcomed the participants. Eng. Mohammad Daud Shirzad, representing PRRD, explained the program to the participants, who included government officials, members of the DDA, CDCs, and DCC, and other people from the district. The PRRD Director for Logar and SIKA-East's Program Support Manager outlined their stabilization planning in more detail, emphasizing that SIKA-East's primary goal is to improve the lives of rural people in the district through better service delivery by district authorities.



At the Khoshi launch, the acting PRRD Director outlines SIKA-East's goals and objectives.

Significant Meetings:

- On May 19, the DSU manager met with the Khoshi District Governor and updated him on ongoing plans and activities. The Director Governor said he appreciated SIKA-East's efforts and promised to support the program.
- On May 26, the PRRD Director for Logar, accompanied by SIKA-East's PMU manager, visited the program's Khoshi district office, where the Director had a chance to visit a session of men's Stability Planning Process training. The PRRD Director talked about the importance of the SIKA-East program and encouraged the participants to support it. He encouraged them to select projects for the DPP that will benefit all communities and not just one tribe. Afterwards, the PRRD and SIKA-East team met

the Governor and security commander of the district, who welcomed them and promised to support the program.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- Following the launch of SIKA-East in Khoshi on May 9, the first trainings got under way the following week. On May 12 and 13, Stakeholder Orientation training was facilitated for an average of 38 women from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs. On May 15, the same training was conducted for male members of the DDA and CDCs; an average of 59 men participated.
- On May 14, women from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs participated in Governance Foundation Training facilitated by the program's capacity building officer for Logar; 50 women attended. On May 16, the same training was conducted for 59 male members of the DDA and CDCs.
- Between May 19 and 23, Stability Planning Process training was conducted for an average of 40 women members of the Khoshi DDA and CDCs. As part of the training session, the women learned about resources available to them in their province and ways to access them. They were given copies of the Logar Service Providers Catalogue and shown how to use it to implement projects designed to address sources of instability listed in their DPP.
- From May 26 to 28, the same Stability Planning Process training was conducted for an average of 55 men from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs.
- The needed information for the Khoshi district profile was provided, and the document was sent to Kabul for further processing.

MOHAMMAD AGHA DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On May 5, SIKA-East facilitated a meeting between community members and Directors of the Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Health to discuss their issues and concerns, primarily the delivery of basic services at the community level. Among the concerns they shared with the service providers were the lack of qualified female doctors and medicines, the increase in agricultural diseases and absence of products to prevent them, the need for cold storage, problems in the water supply, and the lack of school teachers. The community members welcomed this initiative by SIKA-East and said they intended to meet other service providers, using the Service Providers Catalogue developed by SIKA-East, to try to solve their problems.
- On May 5 and 6, the men's and women's communication committees for Mohammed Agha met separately, but with the same intention of discussing how to best share their communication plan with the District Governor and DDA.
- On May 12, a GRC meeting was conducted in Mohammad Agha's DSU office. Ten applications were reviewed, and all received concurrence for further approval processing.
- On May 21, the men's communication committee for Mohammad Agha met in the DSU office to conduct their tenth meeting. During the meeting, the participants discussed monitoring and evaluation methods and developed a detailed M&E plan for future use.



May 5 meeting of Mohammad Agha men's communication committee

The Mohammad Agha communication committee also began work on identifying a plan for promoting the newly awarded SIKA-East grants in a way that CDC, DDA, and District Governor are able to

promote the grants as examples of positive work that local governing entities are instituting on behalf of the government of Afghanistan.

- On May 22, the women’s communication committee conducted their eighth meeting. The participants discussed ideas for a 12-month work plan and agreed to begin developing the work plan in their next sessions.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- On May 15 and 16, SIKA-East conducted sessions in Grant Management Training – Award for USAID-approved applications. To ensure and increase the quality of the training and dedicate sufficient time for applicants to understand Grant Agreement terms, conditions, and reporting requirements, training was conducted with smaller groups of four to five CDCs at a time. The training was officially opened by the District Governor, who said how much he appreciated SIKA-East’s activities in Mohammad Agha and encouraged the participants to support this program.



Some of the participants at Grant Management Training in Mohammad Agha this week

- From May 21 to 23, Grant Management Training – Implementation was held for members of the nine CDCs who attended the Grant Management Training – Award the week before. A total of 62 people attended. This training is a condition of award under the first grant agreement milestone. The training covers grant management best practices in areas such as record retention, procurement, finance, budget, monitoring and indicator reporting, transparency and accountability, hiring, and other key areas. The MRRD NSP procedures manual and forms are used as the basis for the best practice training.

- On May 26, the CDC that recently received a grant to build a school boundary wall in Pacha Qala held a groundbreaking ceremony and performed basic site preparation for construction work. An agreement was submitted on who would provide skilled and unskilled labor for the job, and a CDC official described how the project would proceed and also provided some technical information about it.



Groundbreaking ceremony and site preparation for a school boundary wall project in Pacha Qala

- Also on May 26, similar ceremonies and activities took place in connection with boundary wall projects for the Rasool Khill and Rahmadabad CDCs.

- From May 28 to 30, the PMU communication and outreach officer worked at verifying the Mohammad Agha district profile and incorporating updated information.

- The DSU engineering officer conducted technical surveys for a kariz in Loi Qali Dashtak, and he also prepared proposals with bills of quantities and other technical documents for a kariz in Sagi Gerga Qali and a boundary wall at Alozi Najaran in Kotoobkhil Hawza.

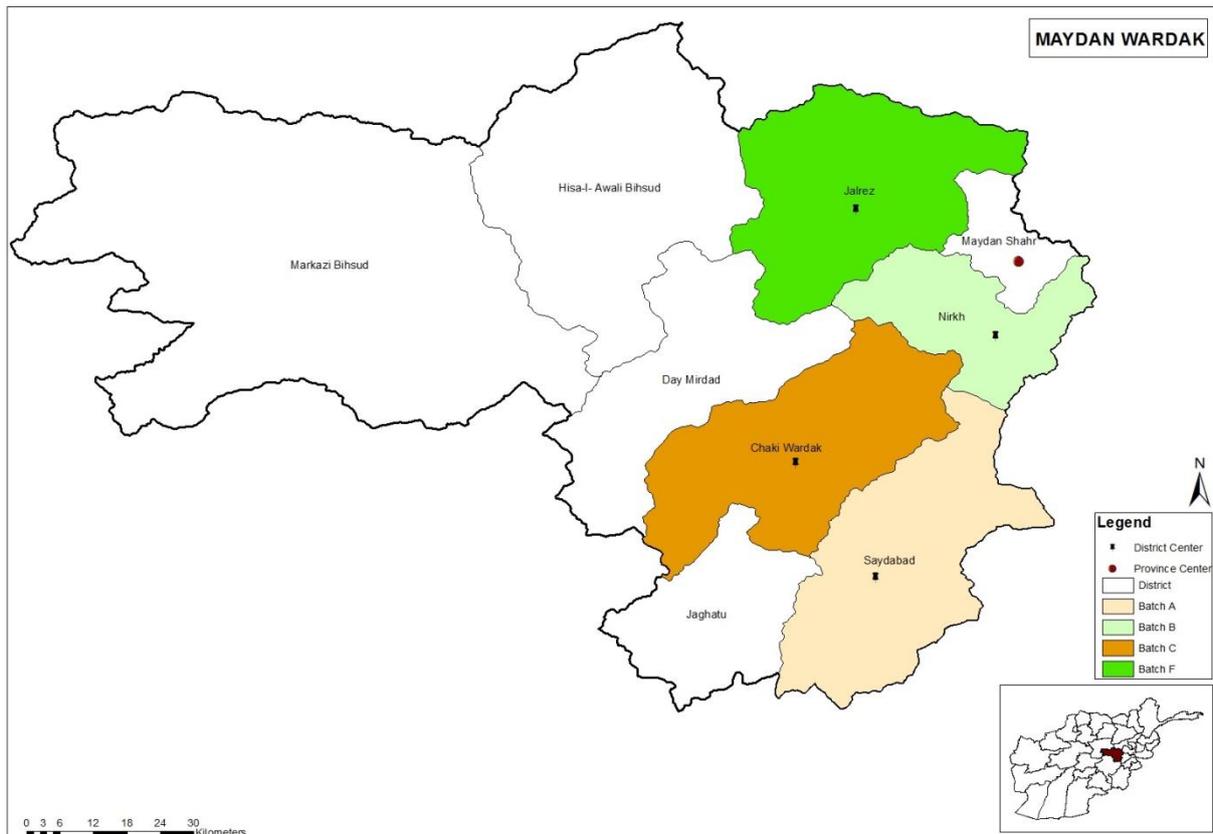
- On May 29, the men’s communication committee for Mohammad Agha met in the District Governor’s office to conduct their eleventh meeting. The District Governor also participated in the session to discuss how to promote the recently awarded SIKA-East grants as part of a larger effort by the government of Afghanistan to support stability in the district. This is notable, as the District Governor

works under IDLG while the DDA works under MRRD, which occasionally leads to a lack of communication and coordination between the two bodies in certain districts throughout Afghanistan. The work of the DDA+ to engage the District Governor is an important step forward in coordination between the two local government entities.

NEXT STEPS FOR LOGAR

- Participate in regular PRRD coordination meetings;
- Conduct Project Design and Development ToT for Khoshi District;
- Conduct Construction Project Implementation Training for Mohammad Agha District project superintendents;
- Conduct projects surveys in Baraki Barak;
- Hold communication committee meetings in Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak; and
- Hold provincial-level Resource Coordination Meeting.

MAYDAN WARDAK



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- On May 14, the Maydan Wardak PRRD Director continued to endorse alternate CDC officials, including 21 from Nirkh and two from Saydabad.
- During May, the PRRD Director signed 23 endorsement letters and submitted them to Grants and Sub-contracts Unit for further processing.

Significant Meetings:

- On May 7, the Provincial Governor's Executive Director held a coordination meeting at which SIKA-East's PMU manager discussed the radio dramas and obtained government approval to air them.
- On May 9, the Paktya gender officer met with the head of the Directorate of Public Health to discuss cooperating to mobilize female health care volunteers in SIKA-East districts.
- On May 12, the PRRD Director held his regular coordination meeting with MRRD project implementers. During the meeting, SIKA-East's PMU manager advised the participants that Jalriz District had recently been approved by USAID for program implementation. The PRRD Director promised his full support for SIKA-East in the new district.
- On May 19, SIKA-East's PMU manager attended a coordination meeting with PRRD and representatives of MRRD projects. The PMU manager discussed the community-based database with the NSP representative and offered him an electronic copy of the database for review.
- On May 26, the PRRD Director held his weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by representatives of PRRD, SIKA-East, NABDP, NSP, and the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA). One topic discussed was the procedures for issuing grants for projects in Chaki Wardak, where no CDCs exist for some 11 hawzas. PRRD said that if the community were to elect the CDC head,

deputy, and treasurer and the Director General approved, that would be acceptable and PRRD would endorse it.

Trainings:

- On May 21 and 22, Grant Management Implementation Training was conducted for an average of 76 men from the Maydan Wardak DDA and CDCs.

CHAKI WARDAK DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- The women's communication committee of Chaki Wardak conducted their second meeting on May 6 at the PRRD conference hall. The objective of the meeting was to propose an overall goal to the DDA+ for the next six to 12 months. The participants presented their previous week's activities to the committee members, then built on the last meeting to complete worksheets on objectives and audiences.
- On May 12, the Chaki Wardak women's communication committee conducted their third meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to make sure that the completed worksheets had been shared with the DDA+ and received their concurrence. At the end of the meeting, the worksheets on message and communication channels were completed.
- On May 22, the men's communication committee conducted its fourth meeting, which focused on developing cogent messages, selecting communication channels, and effectively conveying the messages to the community.



Meeting of the fourth men's communication committee meeting in Chaki Wardak

Other Activities:

- The DSU grant team prepared support letters for eight CDCs. They also received approved support letters from community members, which were signed by the District Governor. They now need to be signed by the PRRD Director.
- During the month, the Chaki Wardak DSU worked on completing grant applications for key members of the Salih Khill and Mulah Jan Khill CDCs. They also invited representatives of the Mulah Jan Khill and Kharoti CDCs to process their endorsement letters with the Chaki Wardak District Governor and Maydan Wardak provincial council.
- The Chaki Wardak DSU updated the Wardak Service Providers Catalogue during the week.

JALRIZ DISTRICT

- The Jalriz District Governor met with SIKA-East PMU staff to discuss program implementation in his district. The Governor assigned office space for DSU staff in his compound. The building will need some renovation, and steps are being taken to accomplish this.

NIRKH DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- At the request of various community members, SIKA-East scheduled sub-coordination meetings where they could meet service providers to discuss service delivery in the district. The men and women who had requested the meetings then met individually with the Directors of Agriculture, Public Works, and Disaster Management in their offices, respectively, on May 5 and 6. In the meetings, the

community members shared their concerns and suggestions with each service provider, who in turn explained their services, projects, and plans and in most cases provided satisfactory answers to the community members.

- On May 9, SIKA-East conducted a GRC meeting for 11 applications received from Nirkh. Eight applications received GRC concurrence to advance for further approval, while three applications were kept on hold. The three relate to road reconstruction and require additional feasibility review before submission to USAID due to serious concerns about the technical complexity, duration, and resources required.



May 5 sub-coordination meeting with Director of Department of Public Works for Nirkh

- On May 14, the women's communication committee for Nirkh held its seventh meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to update the participants on the previous meetings' completed worksheets and to discuss the next steps. SIKA-East provided technical advice to the committee members on how to prepare a six-to-twelve-month district communication implementation plan.



May 14 meeting of the Nirkh women's communication committee

- On May 20, the Nirkh District Governor and intelligence manager met with the DSU manager to discuss the work process, as well as successes and challenges faced during program implementation.
- On May 21, the men's communication committee conducted their eighth meeting. The main goal of the meeting was to discuss the district communication plan and the selection of communication channels, materials, and activities to put the plan into practice. The communication committee members agreed to share the discussed topics with the larger DDA+ and seek their agreement.
- On May 26, the men's communication committee for Nirkh conducted their ninth meeting. Like the previous meeting, the focus was on developing the district communication plan and selecting communication channels, materials, and activities to put the plan into effect.
- On May 27, the women's communication committee held its ninth meeting. The agenda focused on finalizing a strategic communications plan.
- On May 27, the Nirkh DSU team participated in a district coordination meeting with the Deputy District Governor and CDC heads, which focused on expediting the awarded SIKA-East projects and especially getting them started physically as soon as possible.

Other Activities:

- The Nirkh resource development officer updated the Maydan Wardak Service Providers Catalogue to include Department of Agriculture services in Nirkh.

SAYDABAD DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On May 8, the men's communication committee for Saydabad conducted its eighth meeting. The participants discussed ways to develop their communication plan, find their audience, and share their

communication plan with other CDC members. The following day, the female communication committee conducted its eighth meeting with the same agenda.

- In the Saydabad DPP, there are several projects that have been proposed by members of the DDA, CDCs, and influential people of the community for implementation in the Tangi Hawza. However, due to certain security issues and lack of community support, SIKA-East has not been able to check the feasibility of the projects in Tangi. On May 8, SIKA-East managed to bring the stakeholders of the Tangi Hawza together to discuss ways forward.

On May 15, the Saydabad DSU again met with members of the DDA and CDCs, as well as a provincial council member from Tangi Hawza, in hopes of getting more community buy-in and coming up with better solutions. The provincial council member mentioned that she knows more influential people in Tangi Hawza and will invite them to the PMU office, with the hope that after meeting with them, a positive solution can be found.

- On May 20, the Saydabad men's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting at the PRRD conference hall. The objective of the session was to follow up on previous ones and make sure that the completed worksheets had been shared with the DDA+ and received its agreement. They also discussed tracking and monitoring the implementation of their communication strategy.
- The women's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting the next day, focusing on communication plan development and communication channels.
- On May 28, the Saydabad men's communication committee held its tenth meeting. The main focus was on finalizing a communication plan, including budgeting for it.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- On May 15 and 16, SIKA-East conducted sessions in Grant Management Training – Award for USAID-approved applications. In order to maximize the quality of the training and to dedicate enough time for the applicants to understand the Grant Agreement terms, conditions, and reporting requirements, training was conducted with smaller groups of four to five CDCs at a time. A total of 32 grant recipients attended.
- Between May 21 and 23, Grant Management Training – Implementation took place for grant recipients located in Saydabad. The training covers best practices in grant management, including record retention, procurement, finance, budget, monitoring, transparency, hiring, and other key areas.



Saydabad men's communication committee meeting



SIKA-East staff meeting with members of Tangi Hawza community



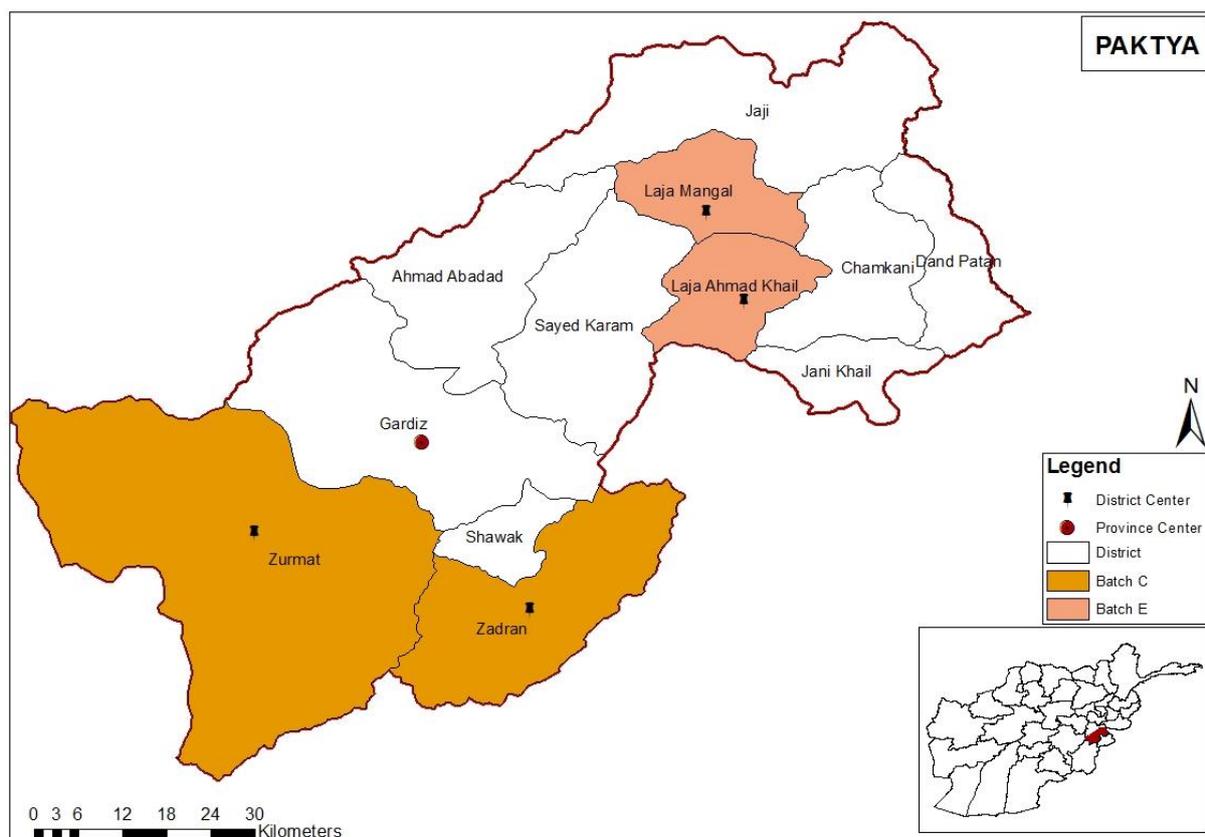
During Grants Management Training – Implementation for grant recipients from Saydabad, a SIKA-East trainer explains the grant agreement and its attachments to a recipient.

- The Saydabad Service Providers Catalogue was updated during the month.
- In kind grant applications continue to be processed in Saydabad for non-infrastructure activities identified in the DPP Cycle 1 project priority list. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are also in development to obtain qualified vendors. The RFPs will be issued after the requirements (scope, schedule, and budget) are defined with the grantees.
- On May 27, the Saydabad grants team coordinated the project inauguration and site preparation activities for a project to extend a kariz and provide a walkway for the Sra Qala Markazi CDC.
- On May 28, the team helped inaugurate three more projects for kariz repairs and extensions in Zara Khail, Aman Khail, and Baber Khail.

NEXT STEPS FOR MAYDAN WARDAK

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD and the District Governor;
- Conduct Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Foundation ToT for Jalrez District of Wardak;
- Conduct Project Implementation Training for Saydabad District project superintendents;
- Prepare new grant application packages for Chaki Wardak and send to Grants and Sub-contracts Unit in Kabul; and
- Continue office setup and staff recruitment for newly approved district of Jalriz.

PAKTYA



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- Preparations for the Paktya Service Providers Fair, to be held in Gardiz on June 3 and 4, are almost complete. Sixty-three service providers have registered to set up booths during the fair, and 75 booths have been installed to accommodate those who could use more space. The venue for the event is the municipality hall, which is in a secure area. Invitations have been distributed to all service providers, CDC members, and other stakeholders. Booklets and other promotional materials are on hand, and signs and banners for the booths have been printed and set up. Service providers are making their individual preparations, including lining up product samples.
- On May 5 and 6, the Paktya PMU interviewed 20 candidates for the Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail DSUs. They selected eight candidates for various positions.

Significant Meetings:

- On May 4, the Paktya gender officer met with the Deputy Director of Afghan Women's Social and Cultural Association (AWSCA) in her office. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the SIKA-East program, and especially its benefits for women. They also discussed the role of civil society in the development of gender equality. The AWSCA Deputy Director promised to work with SIKA-East to bring some positive changes to the lives of women in the province.



Paktya gender officer meeting with AWSCA Director

- On May 9, the Paktya PMU manager and deputy manager attended a coordination meeting with the PRRD Director to share information on the planned Service Provider Fair in Gardez. In this fair, people from the districts of Zurmat, Laja Mangal, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Zadran will be invited to learn about existing service providers and the types of services they normally provide.
- With the same purpose, the PMU manager met the Provincial Governor on May 13. The Provincial Governor expressed his support for the fair. He also endorsed a letter giving the Governors of the four targeted districts responsibility for officially introducing 100 key community members from their district to SIKA-East so they can be invited to attend.
- On May 13, the Paktya gender officer participated in a meeting at DoWA. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to decrease violence against women. This meeting was arranged by the Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization and included participants from several different organizations.
- On May 16, a Paktya PMU representative visited the head of the Afghan Central Statistics Office (ACSO) in his office in order to complete the Laja Mangal standardization form. The ACSO Manager provided all related information and data.
- On May 21, the PMU manager visited the Paktya Deputy Governor to discuss the longstanding litigation and antagonism between the Zadran and Garda Serai communities, as a result of which the people of Garda Serai have appealed to be recognized as an independent district. The Garda Serai community now wants SIKA-East intervention in their area. The PRRD Director has suggested implementing the program there under Zadran coverage. The District Governor has approved this suggestion, and the approved proposal was submitted to SIKA-East's Kabul office.
- On May 27, the Paktya gender officer attended the Provincial Policy Dialogue Conference sponsored by Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation. Established in 1992, AABRAR first set up a bicycle training program, the first in Afghanistan, to help people with disabilities enhance their mobility and ride bicycles to and from their work places. AABRAR is dedicated to the social, civic, and economic integration of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups as well as to the social and economic development of civil society in Afghanistan. The purpose of the Paktya conference was to discuss issues that women face in their communities, including security, health, education, and vocational trainings. The attendees discussed solutions for these problems, which they intend to share with various international agencies.



Paktya PMU Manager meeting with the Paktya Deputy Governor on May 21

LAJA AHMAD KHAIL AND LAJA MANGAL DISTRICTS

- The PMU office conducted interviews during the month to fill initial positions for district staff.

ZADRAN DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On May 13, the manager of SIKA-East's Zadran office met with the DDA chairman and asked him to have his members meet to endorse the Zadran DPP so that it can be forwarded to the District Governor for his endorsement. Both endorsements were obtained the following day.

- On May 27, the DSU team met with the DDA chairman and members to acquire updated information about their DPP and its endorsement by the Paktya PRRD Director. The DPP has already been forwarded to the Director, who said he would compare it with the Provincial and District Development Plans, after which he would provide the necessary endorsement if no changes were required. The DDA members promised that they would follow up with PRRD and deliver the endorsed DPP to SIKA-East's district office as soon as possible.



Zadran DSU meeting with DDA chairman

Trainings and Activities:

- On May 1, Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training was conducted for 47 men from the Zadran DDA+. The participants paid close attention and took an active part in the discussions.
- On May 5 and 6, the Zadran training team conducted Infrastructure Project Planning training for an average of 59 participants. The training focused on project feasibility, field measurements, bills of quantities, cost estimating, and environmental assessments.
- From May 20 to 22, Project Design and Development Training was conducted for an average of 44 men from the Zadran DDA and CDCs.

ZURMAT DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On May 14, the Zurmat District Governor, along with SIKA-East's PMU manager and 25 community representatives from Gardez and Zurmat, met to welcome the recently appointed PRRD Director. During the meeting, the PMU manager introduced SIKA-East and briefed the PRRD Director on program implementation. He also informed everyone about the upcoming Service Providers Fair.



SIKA-East's PMU Manager in a meeting with the recently appointed PRRD Director and District Governor along with 25 community members

Trainings and Other Activities:

- On May 7, the Zurmat DSU conducted a DPP verification session with DDA members of six hawzas. The SIKA-East staff shared the DPP list with DDA members for review and verification. At the end, the DDA members certified the document.
- From May 19 to 22, Stability Planning Process Training was conducted for an average of 46 members of the Zurmat DDA and CDCs.
- Between May 26 and 28, Advocacy and Resource Dialogue training was conducted for men from the Zurmat DDA and CDCs, as well as other community stakeholders. The training was held in Gardiz. An average of 48 men participated actively and shared their thoughts with the facilitators.



Zurmat CDC and DDA members receiving training in Stability Planning Process

NEXT STEPS FOR PAKTYA

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other stakeholders;
- Facilitate Service Provider Fair in Gardiz City;
- Conduct stakeholder surveys and launch SIKA-East in new districts of Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal;
- Conduct workshops in Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation, as well as follow-on trainings, for Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal;
- Conduct Project Design and Development workshop for Zurmat District; and
- Secure endorsement of DPPs for Zadran and Zurmat by the DDA, District Governor, and PRRD, and submit them to Kabul for USAID approval.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED AND COMBINED ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

- On May 1 and 2, a Training of Trainers (ToT) session on Advocacy was conducted in Kabul for newly hired field staff, as well as new staff from MRRD. A broad mix of new communication officers, field staff from other departments, and MRRD social organizers participated in the training. The training will be replicated for field staff as part of SIKA-East implementation plans. The training was led jointly by the male communication officer from Zurmat in Paktya province and the female communication officer from Chaki Wardak in Maydan Wardak, allowing the participants access to a wide range of experience in advocacy work already conducted by SIKA-East.



SIKA-East's communications officer for Chaki Wardak conducts a session of Advocacy training.

- From April 29 to May 2, the SIKA-East and PRRD training team conducted a four-day Grant Management ToT workshop for program staff from Saydabad, Nirkh, and Mohammad Agha Districts. The training was divided in two parts: Grant Management Training – Award (one day), including explanation of the grant agreement and applicable attachments, and Grant Management Training – Implementation (three days), during which the emphasis was on grant management best-practice and work-plan components. Seventeen members of SIKA-East provincial and district staff participated in the sessions.
- On May 12 and 13, SIKA-East conducted SIKA Induction training for newly hired staff. The purpose of this training was to educate the new staff about the policies, approaches, and specifically the roles and responsibilities of all the program units of SIKA-East. This will enhance their ability to interact and work closely with PRRD social organizers and other government line departments.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

SIKA-East Reorganization: In preparation for technical unit/group restructuring, functions and scopes of work for new units were drafted, along with a comparative matrix aligned with the program implementation cycle. Newly identified leadership met with unit management and staff to map the transition process over the next several weeks.

STABILITY ANALYSIS AND PLANNING UNIT

District Project Portfolios: The status of DPPs in the endorsement and approval pipeline is as follows:

- The Chaki Wardak DPP has been endorsed by the DDA, District Governor, and PRRD, and is about to be submitted to USAID for approval.
- The Andar DPP is currently being endorsed by the DDA, District Governor, and PRRD, and is expected to be submitted to USAID for approval next month.
- The Zadran DPP is on hold, pending a response from USAID, MRRD, and IDLG on the Garda Serai issue.
- The Zurmat DPP is in the preliminary stage of endorsement by the DDA, District Governor, and PRRD, after which it will be submitted to USAID for approval.

Standardized SoIs: SIKA-East finalized work on standardizing the sources of instability (SoIs) and their root causes, which will make it possible to observe patterns of SoIs and root causes across the districts

and provinces where SIKA-East is being implemented. Some of the common SoI and root causes that are appearing in almost all the districts are disputes over land, social tensions due to unresolved injustices, general physical insecurity, marginalization of women from governance processes and public life, mistrust between government and people, and a frustrated and disenfranchised youth population.

Policy for Changes to DPPs: SIKA-East finalized the DPP policy that will guide and set proper procedures for changes in the DPP. This policy covers four main concerns that SIKA-East and PRRD face after the DPP is developed:

- Replacing projects from Cycle 1 with other projects from the DPP;
- Changing projects in the DPP;
- Modifying projects (e.g., changing the location or the name of the project, or adding additional activities to the project); and
- Adding a new project to the DPP.

In this policy, each of these four points is provided with an answer so that field staff can work better with members of DDAs and provide answers to hawza representatives.

RESOURCE DELIVERY UNIT

Service Providers Fairs: Throughout the month, SIKA-East's Kabul staff provided support in preparing for the Service Providers Fairs to be held in Gardiz on June 3 and 4 and in Ghazni City on June 17 and 18. These preparations included the printing of folders and Service Provider Booklets, selection of a venue, setting up of booths for the service providers, and coordination of the event with relevant government entities. Sixty-three service providers are registered to participate in the Paktya fair, and 60 for Ghazni. It has been expected that more than 1,000 people from various sectors and districts will visit the two fairs.

Sub-coordination Meetings: During May, members of DDAs and CDCs in Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Dih Yak, and Andar Districts had the chance to discuss their issues and share their concerns about DPP projects with service providers in a series of sub-coordination meetings. During the meetings, groups of community members from the districts visited the offices of government service providers – including the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health, Women's Affairs, Counter Narcotics, Public Works, and Rural Rehabilitation and Development – to identify gaps in service delivery and lobby for the implementation of projects that address sources of instability.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH UNIT

Radio Plays: On May 11 and 12, the six radio plays began to be aired on a regular schedule in Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Ghazni Provinces. Initial reaction was very positive based on initial conversations with citizens in the district. Local government officials – including DDA+s, line ministries, and governors' offices – were given multiple copies of the schedule to distribute and encourage local citizen to listen. Over 200 copies of the broadcast schedule have been distributed in this manner. A constituent feedback was that local residents had heard the dramas during the day, but indicated they would receive much broader listenership if one of the scheduled daytime slots was shifted to the evening. SIKA-East worked with the production company and adjusted the broadcast schedule accordingly, and an updated schedule was redistributed.

Communication Committee Meetings: In the course of the month, 11 DDA+ communication committee meetings were held, covering the districts of Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Andar, Nirkh, Saydabad, and Mohammad Agha. For Chaki Wardak, only the female communication committee met, and in Saydabad, only the men; in the other districts both men and women met.

The districts that have been meeting longer, such as Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, and Nirkh, are in the final stages of consolidating the work done in earlier meetings into a comprehensive communication strategy for their district. These strategies incorporate the views of the male and female committee members, as well as the perspective of the District Governor's office. As those documents are finalized, the committees will share them with SIKA-East for input and technical advice on implementation.

Advocacy Training Follow-up: As districts complete advocacy trainings and begin to initiate communication committees that play a key role in working to implement advocacy ideas, SIKA-East has begun tracking individual advocacy efforts that training participants credit the advocacy training with strengthening. The initiatives are selected by the individuals in the districts and SIKA-East does not direct issue selection other than to encourage advocacy with an eye towards addressing previously identified sources of instability and projects in the DPP that may not be covered by a SIKA-East grant.

SERVICE DELIVERY UNIT

Stakeholder Engagement Process Review: A critical review of the stakeholder engagement process was documented based on internal SIKA-East discussions in April 2013. The process, challenges, and recommendations on the way forward were provided in a brief report to senior management, including:

- **Improving Functionality and Sustainability:** Stakeholder groups need to perform practical functions at district level, as established by local partners in conjunction with SIKA-East. Particularly for the DDA+, it would be useful to examine the current composition, size, committee structure, and membership skill sets as well as shape SIKA-East implementation to be sure these are optimized for strong performance. Both need to be aligned with more enduring governance processes and institutional systems.
- **Increasing Representation and Participation:** Local leaders and government officials are essential stabilization stakeholders. From the outset, partners and SIKA-East must agree on and promote inclusive representation and active involvement to successfully transfer ownership and institutionalize capacity.

Stakeholder Registers: Stakeholder registers for the six districts of Andar, Dih Yak, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, Saydabad, and Baraki Barak have been reviewed, updated, and linked with related organizations in the SIKA-East data base.

Engineering Design Packages: Project design and development continued for seven districts in Ghazni, Logar, and Maydan Wardak, with regular consultations and technical assistance between project management committees and DSU/ESG teams. The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Status of SIKA-East Engineering Design Packages

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	7	25	101,850	634,063
	B	Nirkh	3	14	277,194	760,310
	C	Chaki Wardak	3	0	135,480	0
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	23	257,024	1,261,461
	A	Baraki Barak	3	0	232,332	0
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	3	6	112,231	266,958
	C	Andar	1	0	97,831	0
Subtotals			26	68	1,213,943	2,922,791
Grand Totals			94		4,136,735	

GRANTS AND SUB-CONTRACTS UNIT

Grant Awards: The first SIKA-East grants were awarded this month. A total of 22 awards were made out of the 25 approved for award. Eleven CDC grant recipients in Saydabad and eleven recipients in Mohammad Agha have begun grant activities. It is anticipated that SIKA-East will begin processing payment requests in early June.

Grant Management Training: Between May 21 and 23, Grant Management Training took place for grant recipients located in Saydabad and Mohammad Agha Districts. This training is a condition of award under the first grant agreement milestone. The training covers grant management best practices in areas such as record retention, procurement, finance, budget, monitoring and indicator reporting, transparency and accountability, hiring, and other key areas. The MRRD NSP procedures manual and forms are used as the basis for the best-practice training. The training also established a Grantee Record File for each grantee, which contains key documents and is designed so the grantee can maintain all records related to their implementation in one binder. All grantees were reminded of the required record retention period of three years after the end of the grant.

In Kind Grant Applications: In Kind Grant applications are being processed in Mohammad Agha and Saydabad Districts for non-infrastructure activities identified in the DPP Cycle 1 project priority lists. RFPs are also in development, in coordination with the DDA and CDCs, to obtain qualified vendors to conduct the trainings and distribute the associated tool kits to students. The DDA and CDCs help to define the scope, schedule and budget as well as recommend qualified vendors who will compete for firm, fixed, unit-price contracts. One RFP was issued in May for poultry training to benefit up to 375 female students in Baraki Barak District of Mohammad Agha Province.

CDC/DDA Tax Exemption: In order to continue with grant awards and implementation until the tax issue is finally solved, SIKA-East will continue with awards by adding text to the Grant Agreement which specifies tax withholding until a final determination is made by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) on the tax exemption status of CDCs/DDAs.

CDC/DDA Past Performance and Vetting: A meeting took place on Saturday, May 18, at MRRD to resolve remaining issues over the collection of required documents and information related to CDC vetting and past performance. It was agreed that MRRD Kabul is in the best position to systematically provide the information from the file archives and database. SIKA-East again provided, to the MRRD MIS department, information on CDCs from eight districts identified within DPP Cycle 1 project priority lists. Obtaining this information will allow for faster processing of USAID Vetting requests, as well as FOG Eligibility Checklist processing.

Grant Applications Status: Kabul and field teams continued to support CDCs in grant application development processes, including the collection of required support documents. The current status of grant applications is summarized in the table on the following page

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER UNIT

Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: SIKA-East finalized its Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and shared it with staff and USAID. It is currently being translated into Pashto, after which it will be sent to the provinces.

Enhancing Female Mobilization: During the month, the provincial gender officers engaged with provincial stakeholders to enhance female mobilization in the SIKA-East project cycle through individual meetings and by participating in or co-facilitating SIKA-East events.

SIKA-East Grants Pipeline
(Cumulative through May 31, 2013)

District	Under Development	Apps. Received	Apps. Received	Vetting Pending with USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	GRC Approved	USAID Approval Requested	USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded	
	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Andar	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dih Yak	18	3	111,036	2	0	0	0	0	0		
Mohammad Agha	21	23	1,110,264	7	13	23	22	12	490,052	10	424,786
Nirkh	20	12	667,991	4	10	9	8				
Saydabad	6	18	547,522	4	3	17	14	13	295,654	10	238,371
Chaki Wardak	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Baraki Barak	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	128	56	2,436,813	17	26	49	44	25	785,706	20	663,157
	Total	184									

PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT

Updated Activity Plan: SIKA-East units updated SIKA-East’s standard roster of implementation activities, ten-month activity schedule, and associated training/ event participant lists across districts, provinces, and Kabul. The consolidated data will inform unit work planning and budget projections from June 2013 to March 2014.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING UNIT

Results Framework: The SIKA-East Results Framework and Performance Management Plan (PMP) narrative has been sent to USAID for review and approval. SIKA-East is working to complete the Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS) section of the PMP.

Web-based Database: On May 15, SIKA-East launched its web-base database, which has been under development for several months. This effort started with the development of an interim database for each unit, which was accessible only to the related unit staff. The new database now serves as a management tool for tracking SIKA-East activities both in Kabul and field offices. The new system is fast and user friendly and can accommodate a wide number of users at the same time. It also has a high capacity for document storage. The system contains a predefined module for each department, which includes data entry, user rights, a basic reporting system, and other useful features. The system is now available to all SIKA-East staff with access to the Internet and approved user privileges.



Web-based database launch in SIKA-East’s Kabul office

M&E Community of Practice: On May 20, SIKA-East hosted the M&E Community of Practice for all SIKAs to share experiences amongst the four SIKA programs on key implementation issues. A total of 29 people, including 24 men and 5 women, participated in the event. Topics discussed included the process and resources for non-construction grants/ projects, engaging stability stakeholders, the design and implementation of projects in insecure areas, and gender mainstreaming in SIKAs.

Summit on Sources of Instability and Root Causes: On May 21, SIKA-East participated in a Summit on Sources of Instability and Root Causes. The goal of this session was to produce one set of SoIs and RCs applicable to all four SIKAs. SIKA-East presented a list of standardized SoIs and RCs to representatives of all other SIKAs, MRRD, and IDLG. During this workshop, representatives of all four SIKAs discussed the systematic causes that will allow them to see a clear pattern of problems that the government of Afghanistan faces across all of their programs. Also discussed was the sustainability of the program and its partnership with government in finding systematic solutions to systematic problems.

Stabilization M&E Summit: The following day, SIKA-East took part in the quarterly Stabilization M&E Summit, which was hosted by MISTI and held at the Checchi compound. The focus for this summit was the use of the data MISTI collected in the Wave 1 survey that ended in December 2012.

SECURITY UNIT

Mohammad Agha Threat: Security followed up on the May 1 IED threat report on Mohammad Agha district center. When the threat was received, SIKA-East district staff were evacuated, and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) were deployed as a precaution. Security's field services officer discussed the matter with the security officials of Mohammad Agha District and was assured that the situation was under control by ANSF. After the security of the district center was established, the staff were advised to resume duty in the Mohammad Agha DSU.

Khwaja Umari Attack: On Monday, May 27, at 6:00 in the evening, anti-government elements attacked the Khwaja Umari District Governor's compound and maintained the attack, using mortars and small arms, for the next two hours. During the incident, Security remained in close communication with the DSU manager, who ensured that SIKA-East staff left the compound safely. See a full account of the incident in the section on Khwaja Umari (Ghazni).

Security Risk Assessments: Security Department finalized security risk assessments (SRAs) of the DSU premises in Laja Mangal, Ahmad Khail, and Zurmat Districts in Paktya Province. The SRAs covered the security of the DSU compound, as well as staff vulnerability, when operating in the districts. The assessments also give a clear security overview of the districts to SIKA-East staff prior to deployment.

Armored Vehicles Registration: SIKA-East armored vehicle licensing is still being delayed by the head of Kabul Traffic Department. Inspectors were assigned by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to follow up on the matter with Kabul Traffic Department. The outcome of the inspection was that the letter sent by parliament for putting a stop to armored vehicle registration at the Traffic Police Department is to be reviewed by the MoI Minister and sent back to Traffic Police Department to move the registration process forward. The letter is still under review with the MoI Minister.

OPERATIONS UNIT

Logistics: SIKA-East in Kabul shipped equipment and furniture to the Khost PMU, and furniture to the newly hired staff of Logar and Wardak Provinces.

Procurement Activities: The status of vetting for procurement purchases and grants is shown in the following tables:

Procurement Vetting Tracker

(for unapproved purchases and purchases approved in May)

No.	Vetted Company		Document Requested from Vendor	Complete Document Package Received from Vendor	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending	Remarks
16	Remote Medical Solutions International	Medical Services	24-Apr-13	25-Apr-13	29-Apr-13	07-May-13	32	
17	Mr. Enayatullah Nazari	Gulf 2 Lease	25 Apr 13	25 Apr 13	27 Apr 13		5	Approved
18	Mr. Hesamuddin	Gulf 1 Lease	25 Apr 13	25 Apr 13	27 Apr 13		5	Approved
19	Jubaili Bros Co.	Generator	1-May-13	1-May 13, Re-send May 08			30	
20	Jewel of East Logistic and Service Co.	IT equipment	5 May 13	6 May 13	7 May 13	28 May 13	21	Approved
21	IO Global Service PVT. Ltd	Internet Bandwith	9 May 13	9 May 13	12 May 13	28 May 13	16	Approved
22	Tal Waddan Group (Logistic Service Co).	Rental Vehilces for PMU/DSU	9 May 13	9 May 13	12 May 13	28 May 13	16	Approved
23	Afghan ICT Solution Co.	VSAT	12 May 13	14 May 13	16 May 13		15	
24	Khan Smooth Logistic and Service Company.	Septic tank/water	16 May 13	19 May 13	29 May 13		2	
25	Asia Light Global Technical Services Company.	Generator for PMU/DSU offices	19 May 13	19 May 13	21 May 13		10	

Grants Vetting Tracker

(for unapproved grant applications and applications approved in May)

SIKA-East Log No.	Vetted Organization / Project	Documents Received from Grants Department	Initial Submission to USAID	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending	Approved
VAR # G001	Mohammad Shapoor, Head of Hassan Khel CDC / Retaining Wall Construction	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13	Returned for more information	0	Additional information requested
VAR # G014	Ahmaddudin, Head of Wazeeri CDC, Siya Bini Kariz Extension Project	8 Apr 13	10 Apr 13	14 Apr 13		16	
VAR # G020	Jaw Qul CDC, Road Rehabilitation Project	1 May 13	2 May 13	2 May 13	23 May 13	21	Approved
VAR # G021	Mohammada Jan, Head of Qala Kochi CDC, Construction of Chenzayee Village Road and 9 Culverts Project	10 Apr 13	10 Apr 13	14 Apr 13		16	Approved
VAR # G022	Sisy CDC, Sisy Kariz Rehabilitation and Building Kariz Opening Project	2 May 13	2 May 13	6 May 2013	16 May 13	10	Approved
VAR # G023	Kooli CDC, Ghullam Khan Kariz Extension Project	2 May 13	2 May 13	2 May 13	28 May 13	25	Approved
VAR # G024	Soor Kariz CDC, Soor Kariz Extension Project	5 May 13	5 May 13	6 May 2013		21	
VAR # G025	Smooch Berg CDC, Smooch Berg Kariz Extension Project	5 May 13	5 May 13	6 May 2013	23 May 13	16	Approved
VAR # G026	Abparan Bala and Payan CDC, Abparan Bala and Payan Kariz Extension Project	6 May 2013	6 May 2013	7 May 13	28 May 13	20	Approved
VAR # G027	Kako Khil CDC, Kako Khil Road Rehabilitation Project	6 May 2013	6 May 2013	7 May 13	28 May 13	20	Approved
VAR # G028	Deh Kharqa CDC, Deh Kharqa Kariz Extension Project	6 May 2013	6 May 2013	7 May 13	28 May 13	20	Approved
VAR # G029	Kooli CDC, Kariz Extension Project	7 May 13	7 May 13	8 May 13	28 May 13	19	Approved
VAR # G030	Beco Naizgul Khni Qala CDC, Khni Kariz Extension Project	9 May 13	9 May 13	12 May 13		19	

VAR # G031	Beco Naizgul Khni Qala CDC, Beco Niazgul Qala Kariz Extension Project	9 May 13	9 May 13	12 May 13		19	
VAR # G032	Mahmood Khil CDC, Mahmood Khil Kariz Extension Project	12 May 13	12 May 13	14 May 13		17	
VAR # G033	Mahmood Khil CDC, Charshanbi Kariz Extension Project	13 May 13	13 May 13	14 May 13		17	
VAR # G034	Qala Abdul Rauf CDC, Construction of Abdul Rauf Super Passage Project	14 May 13	14 May 13	16 May 13		15	
VAR # G035	Nazeer Qala Abbazak CDC, Nazeer Qala Kariz Extension Project	14 May 13	14 May 13	16 May 13		15	
VAR # G036	Shah Kabul Kalan CDC, Nawe Kariz Extension Project	14 May 13	14 May 13	16 May 13		15	
VAR # G037	Karimadad Jonobi CDC, Road Rehabilitation and Retaining Wall Construction plus Karimadad Road Culvert Construction Project	15 May 13	16 May 13	19 May 13		12	
VAR # G038	Badee Khil CDC, Badee Khil Kariz Extension Project	15 May 13	16 May 13	19 May 13		12	
VAR # G039	Stara Shiga Baghak CDC	15 May 13	16 May 13	19 May 13		12	
VAR # G040	Ramak CDC, Ramak Zagone Kariz Extension Project	20 May 13	20 May 13	21 May 13		10	
VAR # G041	Tasan Bala CDC, Tasan Bala Kariz Extension Project	20 May 13	20 May 13	21 May 13		10	
VAR # G042	Patan Khil CDC, Shash Qala Kariz Extension Project	26 May 13	26 May 13	28 May 13		3	
VAR # G043	Khwoja Kotgi CDC, Dewalgai and Khwoja Kotgi Kariz Extension Projects	27 May 13	27 May 13				

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

The Human Resources unit recruited and hired 61 employees in May. The following table provides details on the newly hired staff:

Recently Hired SIKA-East Staff

No.	Position/Title	Gender	Employer	Unit	Province
1	General Maintenance Technician	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Center
2	Cook & Cleaner	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Khwaja Umari
3	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Jaghata
4	Field Finance Assistant	Female	AECOM	Finance	Kabul
5	Field Finance Officer	Male	AECOM	Finance	Kabul
6	Finance Officer (Payroll)	Male	AECOM	Finance	Kabul
7	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Center
8	IT Network Engineer	Male	AECOM	IT	Kabul
9	M&E Officer	Male	AECOM	MELU	Kabul
10	Admiin Assistant	Male	AECOM	MRRD	Kabul
11	Procurement Assistant	Female	AECOM	Procurement	Kabul
12	Procurement Assistant	Male	AECOM	Procurement	Kabul
13	Senior Security Officer	Male	AECOM	Security	Kabul
14	Cook & Cleaner	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Center
15	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Gurbuz
16	General Maintenance Technician	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Center
17	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Tani
18	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Jaji Maidan
19	Community Development Officer	Male	AECOM	COU	Gurbuz
20	Community Development Officer	Male	AECOM	COU	Jaji Maidan

21	Community Development Officer	Male	AECOM	COU	Tani
22	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Tani
23	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Gurbuz
24	District Team Leader	Male	AECOM	PSU-DSU	Jaji Maidan
25	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Baraki Barak
26	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Khoshi
27	Provincial Management Unit Manager	Male	AECOM	PMU	Center
28	District Team Leader	Male	AECOM	PMU	Khoshi
29	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Laja Ahmad Khail
30	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Zurmat
31	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Laja Mangal
32	Cook & Cleaner	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Zadran
33	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Laja Ahmad Khail
34	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Laja Mangal
35	District Team Leader	Male	AECOM	PSU-DSU	Laja Mangal
36	Cook & Cleaner	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Chak
37	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Field Ops	Nirkh
38	Stability Analysis Planning Officer	Male	AECOM	SAPU	Center
39	District Engineer (STTA)	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Saydabad
40	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Andar
41	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Andar
42	Admin & HR Assistant	Male	IRD	HR	Kabul
43	Senior Grants & Subcontracts Compliance Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Kabul
44	Control, File Archive and Data Entry Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Kabul
45	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Mohammad Agha
46	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Baraki Barak
47	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Baraki Barak
48	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Khoshi
49	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Zadran
50	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Zadran
51	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Saydabad
52	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Saydabad
53	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Chak
54	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Chak
55	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Nirkh
56	Communication & Outreach Officer	Female	OSC	COU	Tani
57	Communication & Outreach Officer	Male	OSC	COU	Jaji Maidan
58	M&E Officer	Male	OSC	MELU	Gurbuz
59	M&E Officer	Male	OSC	MELU	Tani
60	Communication & Outreach Officer	Male	OSC	COU	Laja Ahmad Khail
61	Communication & Outreach Officer	Male	OSC	COU	Laja Mangal

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize the DPPs for Chaki Wardak, Andar, Zadran, and Zurmat and submit them to USAID;
- Review the DPPs from Khwaja Umari and Khoshi and send them for endorsement;
- Continue training newly hired staff on the Stability Analysis Methodology;
- Discuss ways forward for Tangi Hawza in Baraki Barak;
- Conduct Service Provider Fairs in Ghazni and Paktya;
- Conduct Resources Coordination Meetings in Logar and Maidan Wardak;
- Complete data collection for the Khost Service Providers Catalogue;
- Continue to broadcast radio plays in Ghazni, Logar, and Maydan Wardak Provinces, and initiate them in the Paktya accent for Zadran and Zurmat;
- Produce monthly Media Analysis Report for May;
- Continue working on review on Andar and Baraki Barak district profiles;
- Continue working on data collection for Jaghatu, Qarabagh, Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, Ahmad Khail, and Laja Mangal district profiles;
- Prepare district profiles for Khoshi, Khwaja Umari, and other new districts;
- Finalize Mohammad Agha and Saydabad Districts' communication implementation plans;
- Continue conducting men's and women's communications meetings in targeted districts;
- Organize a meeting with the STTA gender consultant and all COU officers on how to integrate the communication committees from two units into one;
- Conduct Advocacy ToT for Batch E district staff;
- Conduct fourth and fifth SIKA Inductions for new staff;
- Finalize standardized training modules and submit to management for approval;
- Continue to support application development and collection of the required supporting documentation for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Dih Yak, Baraki Barak, and other districts that are ready for application development;
- Organize development of non-infrastructure grants applications from approved Cycle 1 project list;
- Continue processing and preparing grant applications for GRC, including cost/price analysis;
- As USAID vetting approval is received, award additional grants;
- Finalize changes to grants database and enter data;
- Conduct M&E trainings for SIKA-East M&E officers, PMU and DSU team leaders, and MRRD / IDLG field staff;
- Continue working to complete the PMP;
- Continue to prepare the web-based database training manual for trainees, and finalize standard operating procedures for the web-based database;
- Follow up on office space and office establishment in the newly approved districts of Jalriz and Jaghatu with related District Governors and PMU/DSU teams;
- Follow up on equipment shipment to newly approved districts of Ahmad Khail, Gurbuz, and Jaji Maidan;
- Design training for PMU engineers;
- Continue to review surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zurmat, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects;

- Prepare to hold a gender workshop for field staff;
- Continue to identify female stakeholders in newly selected districts;
- Finalize registration of the eight USAID-supplied armored vehicles through the Anti-Terrorism Department of the Ministry of Interior in order to acquire licenses for the vehicles;
- Initiate training for all security field services officers in PMUs and DSUs; and
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 81 staff:
 - 36 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - 5 vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - 40 vacancies in process with IRD.

APPENDIX A

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS CONDUCTED IN MAY

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
April 29 - May 2	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Kabul	ToT	12	3
April 29 - May 2	Grants Management	Kabul	ToT	17	
May 1-2	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Zadran	Training	47	
May 5-6	Infrastructure Project Planning	Zadran	Training	59	
May 12-13	SIKA Induction	Kabul	Workshop	22	1
May 12-13	Stakeholder Orientation – Female	Khoshi	Training		38
May 12-13	Stakeholder Orientation – Female	Khwaja Umari	Training		36
May 14	Governance Foundation – Female	Khoshi	Training		50
May 14	Governance Foundation – Female	Khwaja Umari	Training		36
May 14-15	Stakeholder Orientation – Male	Khwaja Umari	Training	54	
May 14-15	Stakeholder Orientation – Male	Khoshi	Training	59	
May 15-16	Grants Management Training – Award	Mohammad Agha	Training	40	
May 15-16	Grants Management Training – Award	Saydabad	Training	32	
May 16	Governance Foundation – Male	Khwaja Umari	Training	54	
May 16	Governance Foundation – Male	Khoshi	Training	59	
May 19-22	Stability Planning Process	Zurmat	Training	46	
May 19-23	Stability Planning Process	Khwaja Umari	Training	0	49
May 19-23	Stability Planning Process	Khoshi	Training	0	40
May 20-22	Project Design and Development (IPP)	Zadran	Training	44	0
May 21-22	Grant Management Implementation	Maydan Shahr	Training	67	0
May 21-23	Grant Management Implementation	Mohammad Agha	Training	62	
May 26-27	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Zurmat	Training	48	
May 26-28	Stability Planning Process – Male	Khoshi	Training	55	
May 26-29	Stability Planning Process – Male	Khwaja Umari / Ghazni	Training	40	

APPENDIX B

SIGNIFICANT MEETINGS CONDUCTED IN MAY

Date	Topic	Location	Narrative Description	Result
May 1	Coordination	Ghazni	The participants discussed the issue of SIKA-East grant applications and of problematic CDCs.	NSP was tasked with finding solutions.
May 1	Coordination	Logar	The PMU Manager informed the participants about SIKA-East launch in Khoshi District.	The PRRD reviewed and approved the agenda and list of participants for the event.
May 4	SIKA-East and Women	Paktya	The gender officer met with the Deputy Director of AWSCA and discussed SIKA-East benefits to women and role of civil society development of gender equality.	The Deputy Director of AWSCA promised to work with SIKA-East to bring positive changes in women's lives.
May 5	Sub-coordination	Mohammad Agha / Logar	SIKA-East facilitated the meeting between community members and Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Health. The community members shared their concerns with the mentioned entities.	The community member appreciated the initiative and planned to meet the other service providers using the SPC.
May 5	Communication Committee Meeting	Mohammad Agha / Logar	The men's communication committee conducted a meeting and discussed how to share their communication with District Governor.	They decided to follow up and find the best way.
May 5 and 6	Sub-coordination Meeting	Nirkh / Maydan Wardak	SIKA-East facilitated a meeting between the community members and Departments of Agriculture, Public Works, and Disaster Management. The community members shared their concerns with the mentioned entities.	The service providers provided satisfactory answers to the questions raised by community members.
May 6	Communication Committee Meeting	Mohammad Agha / Logar	The women's communication committee conducted a meeting and discussed how to share their communication with the District Governor.	They decided to follow up and find the best way.
May 6	Baraki Barak Issues	Logar	The provincial council members discussed Baraki Barak issue and insisted on moving the office to the district center.	SIKA-East was asked to find the best solution for this problem.
May 6	Communication Committee Meeting	Chaki Wardak / Maydan Wardak	The women's communication committee conducted their second meeting with the objective to propose an overall goal to the DDA+ for the next six to twelve months.	The participants built on the last meeting to complete worksheets on objectives and audiences.

May 6 and 7	Re-election of CDC Bembers	Dih Yak / Ghazni	The District Governor met with CDC and DDA members.	On the subject of CDC documents required for SIKA-East grant purposes, the Governor suggested that PRRD re-elect members for those CDCs that do not regularly participate in meetings and do not prepare their documents.
May 7	Introductory Meeting	Ghazni	The aim of the meeting was to brief the newly hired Governor's Executive Director on SIKA-East.	The Executive Director appreciated SIKA-East and promised to support it throughout the implementation process.
May 7	Communication Committee Meeting	Dih Yak / Ghazni	The men's and women's communication committees conducted their seventh meeting.	In order to implement the district communication plan smoothly, they shared the development and health portions of the plan with the Directorates of Education and Health.
May 7	Required Forms and Data	Khost	The PMU manager met with NSP manager and they compiled required data about CDCs for SIKA-East use.	The NSP manager promised to support SIKA-East in program implementation.
May 7	Coordination	Wardak	The main point was to discuss the radio drama with Provincial Governor's Executive Director.	The Provincial Governor's Executive Director approved airing the drama.
May 8	Communication Committee Meeting	Saydabad / Maydan Wardak	The men's communication committee conducted its eighth meeting.	The men discussed ways to develop their communication plan, find their audience, and share their communication plan with other CDC members.
May 9	Launch	Khwaja Umari / Ghazni	The SIKA-East program was launched in new district; 80 people, including representatives from PRRD, DRRD, DG, DoWA, DDAs, and CDCs, participated. The program was well explained to the participants.	The launch meeting concluded with a question and answer session led by Provincial Governor.
May 9	Launch	Khoshi / Logar	The SIKA-East program was launched in Khoshi with the participation of 110 men and women from different government organizations, CDCs, and DDAs.	The launch was conducted with a question and answer session led by PRRD and the District Governor.
May 9	Coordination	Paktya	The PMU manager informed the PRRD Director about conducting SPF.	The PRRD Director mentioned that people from Zurmat, Laja Mangal, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Zadrán should be invited in the fair.
May 12	Re-election of CDC Members	Dih Yak / Ghazni	The DSU solved the issue of problematic CDCs and DDAs with the District Governor.	The District Governor met with CDCs and DDAs to solve their problems and instructed them to re-elect members if they are no longer present or unwilling to continue their job.
May 12	Coordination	Khost	The meeting emphasized the importance of helping and supporting each other among organizations implementing MRRD projects to implement all the projects successfully.	The representatives of NSP and NABDP agreed to share information about CDCs and DDAs.

May 12	Coordination	Maydan Wardak	The PMU manager informed the PRRD Director that Jalriz District has been selected for program implementation.	The PRRD Director promised his full support for SIKA-East in the new district.
May 12	Communication Committee Meeting	Chaki Wardak / Maydan Wardak	The women's communication committee conducted their third meeting.	The completed the worksheets on message and communication channels.
May 13	Communication Committee Meeting	Andar/ Ghazni	The men's communication committee conducted their third meeting with the objective to follow up on the previous meeting.	The participants made sure that to share the completed worksheets have been shared and agreed upon by the larger DDA.
May 13	Coordination	Logar	The Deputy Provincial Governor received an update on SIKA-East activities.	The Deputy Governor promised to cooperate fully in program implementation.
May 13	Women's Rights	Paktya	ACSF organized the meeting in DoWA and the participants discussed the ways to decrease the violence against women.	
May 13 and 14	Sub-coordination Meeting	Baraki Barak / Logar	Community members met with the Directors of the Departments of Irrigation and Water Supply, Education, Public Health, DoWA, and PRRD at their individual offices.	It was decided to conduct these meetings frequently with each service provider to coordinate everyone's efforts and thus meet the demands of both the community and the service providers.
May 14	Communication Committee Meeting	Andar / Ghazni	The women's communication committee conducted their third meeting with the objective to follow up on the previous meeting.	The participants made sure that the completed worksheets have been shared and agreed upon by the larger DDA.
May 14	Coordination	Khost	The PMU manager and Khost District Governor discussed SIKA-East progress.	The DG asked the PMU manager to participate in PDC regular weekly meetings.
May 14	Introductory	Zurmat / Paktya	The PMU manager, Director General, and 25 community members met with the newly hired PRRD Director and briefed him on the program.	The new PRRD Director promised to support the program.
May 14	Communication Committee Meeting	Nirxh / Maydan Wardak	The women's communication committee held their seventh meeting.	SIKA-East provided technical advice to the communication committee members on how to prepare a six-to-twelve-month district communication implementation plan.
May 15	Coordination	Ghazni	The PMU Manager discussed the problematic CDCs with the PRRD Director and other representatives of organizations that implement MRRD projects.	The representative of Care International mentioned that if instructed by their central office, their provincial office would update the forms for the problematic CDCs and support SIKA-East in this regard.
May 15	Coordination	Baraki Barak / Logar	The Baraki Barak DSU manager explained the existing challenges in Baraki Barak to the Deputy Provincial Governor and District Governor.	It was decided to hold another meeting with the DDA+.

May 16	Provincial Council Meeting	Logar	The PMU Manager participated in a provincial council meeting and sought their support in solving the problems.	The council members promised to support and assist in the successful implementation of the program.
May 16	Data Collection	Paktya	The PMU representative met with ACSO manager and requested data about Laja Mangal District.	The ACSO manager provided all related information and data.
May 19	Coordination	Khoshi / Logar	The PMU manager updated the District Governor on program progress in the province.	The District Governor appreciated SIKA-East activities and promised to support the program.
May 19	Coordination	Khost	The PMU manager updated the PRRD Director on SIKA-East progress in the province.	The PRRD Director appreciated the program and promised to support it.
May 19	Coordination	Maydan Wardak	The PMU manager discussed the community-based database with NSP.	The NSP representative asked for the soft copy of database for further approval.
May 30	Baraki Barak Challenges	Logar	IDLG representative met to discuss Baraki Barak issues with PRRD Director, Baraki Barak DSU manager, and Baraki Barak DDA key members.	The DDA members share their concerns about Baraki Barak DG and sought IDLG support in this regards
May 20	Coordination	Ghazni	The PMU manager provided an update on the Service Providers Fair.	It was decided to meet with governmental organizations and see if they have large halls for the fair.
May 20	Coordination	Nirkh / Maydan Wardak	The DSU Manager discussed the work process, successes, and challenges faced during program implementation with Nirkh District Governor and intelligence manager.	The DG appreciated SIKA-East effort.
May 20	Communication Committee Meeting	Saydabad / Maydan Wardak	The men's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting with the objective to discuss tracking and monitoring implementation of communication strategy.	The participants made sure to inform the larger DDA group about decisions made in communication committee meetings.
May 21	Communication Committee Meeting	Saydabad / Maydan Wardak	The women's communication meeting conducted their ninth meeting. They focused on communication plan development and communication channel	SIKA-East prepared communication plans for communication committees in Saydabad.
May 21	Service Delivery of Service Providers	Andar / Ghazni	The men's community members gathered and discussed the activities of service providers in their area.	Sub-coordination meeting will be scheduled accordingly
May 21	Program Introduction	Khost	The PMU manager introduced the program to DoWA and sought their support in motivating women to take part in implementation.	The director of DoWA promised to cooperate with SIKA-East in stakeholder analysis. She also agreed to provide a contact list of the women's councils that are active in Khost.
May 21	Communication Committee Meeting	Mohammad Agha / Logar	The men's communication committee conducted their tenth meeting and discussed monitoring and evaluation method.	They developed a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan for future use.

May 21	SIKA-East in Gerda Serai	Zadran / Paktya	The PMU Manager discussed Gerda Serai and the request of the community to see SIKA-East implemented in their district.	The DG approved PRRD suggestion regarding coving Gerda Serai under covered of SIKA-East in Zadran District
May 22	Communication Committee Meeting	Mohammad Agha / Logar	The women's communication committee conducted their eighth meeting. The participants discussed the work plan for next 12 months.	They agreed to develop the work plan in next sessions
May 22	Service Delivery of Service Providers	Andar / Ghazni	Female community members gathered and discussed the service delivery of service providers in their area.	Sub-coordination meeting will be scheduled accordingly.
May 22	Communication Committee Meeting	Chaki Wardak / Maydan Wardak	The men's communication committee conducted their fourth meeting.	The participants focused on developing cogent messages, selecting communication channels, and conveying the messages to the community.
May 26	Service Providers Fair	Ghazni	The gender officer met a member of Ghazni provincial council.	They discussed the ways to motivate women to take part in SPF
May 26	Coordination	Logar	The MRRD projects implementers provided updates on their projects	The PRRD Director asked SIKA-East to provide his organization with social organizers when they are needed and to supply him with a list of all participants at program trainings
May 26	Visit to Khoshi DSU	Khoshi / Logar	The PRRD director and PMU manager visited the SPP training site.	The PRRD Director talked about the importance of SIKA-East and encouraged the participants to support the program and select such projects that will benefit them in future.
May 26	Coordination	Maydan Wardak	Discussed the procedures for issuing grants for projects in Chaki Wardak, where no CDCs exist for some 11 hawzas.	The PRRD stated that if the community were to elect the CDC head, deputy, and treasurer and the Director General approved, that would be acceptable and PRRD would endorse it.
May 26	Coordination	Baraki Barak / Logar	The DSU Manager provided an update on program progress.	The DG promised his support and assistance and suggested that SIKA-East activities should be closely coordinated with him.
May 26	Communication Committee Meeting	Nirkh / Maydan Wardak	The men's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting.	They focused on developing the district communication plan and selecting communication channels, materials, and activities to put the plan into effect.
May 27	Services Provided to the Community	Andar / Ghazni	Men from communities discussed their concerns regarding the provision of services by public and private organizations operating in the district and discussed the coordination and implementation of DPP non- grant projects to be channeled through service providers.	The community members' requests and issues discussed during the meetings were recorded and will be shared during follow-on sub-coordination meetings with PRRD and the Departments of Education, Public Health, Irrigation, Agriculture, NSP, and other service providers.

May 27	Communication Committee Meeting	Nirkh / Maydan Wardak	The women's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting.	They focused on finalizing a strategic communications plan.
May 27	Service Providers List	Khost	The DSU visited the Department of Economy to update the Service Providers Catalogue.	The Department of Economy provided a list of service providers.
May 27	Stakeholder Analysis Survey	Gurbuz / Khost	The DSU staff met with the District Governor and others to discuss the stakeholders analysis survey.	It was decided that key elders will nominate stakeholders to participate in the program and events.
May 27	Coordination	Nirkh / Maydan Wardak	The DSU team met with the District Governor and discussed expediting the awarded projects .	It was decided to start the project implementation soon.
May 27	Updates on DPP	Zadran / Paktya	The DSU manager updated the DDA Chairman and members on their DPP and its endorsement by PRRD.	The DDA members promised they would follow up with PRRD and deliver the endorsed DPP to SIKA-East's district office as soon as possible.
May 28	Services Provided to the Community	Andar / Ghazni	Women from communities held a meeting to discuss their concerns regarding the provision of services by public and private organizations operating in the district and to discuss the coordination and implementation of DPP non-grant projects to be channeled through service providers.	The community members' requests and issues discussed during the meetings were recorded and will be shared during follow-on sub-coordination meetings with PRRD and the Departments of Education, Public Health, Irrigation, Agriculture, NSP, and other service providers.
May 28	Program Implementation	Jalriz / Maydan Wardak	The District Governor and SIKA-East PMU staff met to discuss program implementation in the district.	The District Governor assigned office space for DSU staff in his compound.
May 28	Communication Committee Meeting	Saydabad / Maydan Wardak	The men's communication committee conducted their tenth meeting.	They focused on finalizing a communication plans, including budgeting for it.
May 29	Communication Committee Meeting	Dih Yak / Ghazni	The men's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting.	The participants decided to share the communication plan with committee members and the District Governor.
May 29	Communication Committee Meeting	Mohammad Agha / Logar	The men's communication committee conducted their eleventh meeting. The District Governor also participated in the session to discuss how to promote the recently awarded SIKA-East grants as part of a larger effort by the government of Afghanistan to support stability in the district.	The work of the DDA+ to engage the District Governor is an important step forward in coordination between the two local government entities.

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