



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

MONTHLY REPORT (JULY 2013)



Clockwise from upper left: Men from Dih Yak meet to discuss strategic communications. Kariz rehabilitation project under way for the Sisy CDC in Saydabad District. Men from the Tani DDA and CDC itemize sources of instability during Stability Planning Process training.

July 2013

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



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

MONTHLY REPORT (JULY 2013)

Contract Number: AID-306C-12-00002

Submitted to:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Afghanistan

Prepared by:

AECOM International Development

DISCLAIMER:

The authors' views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

CONTENTS

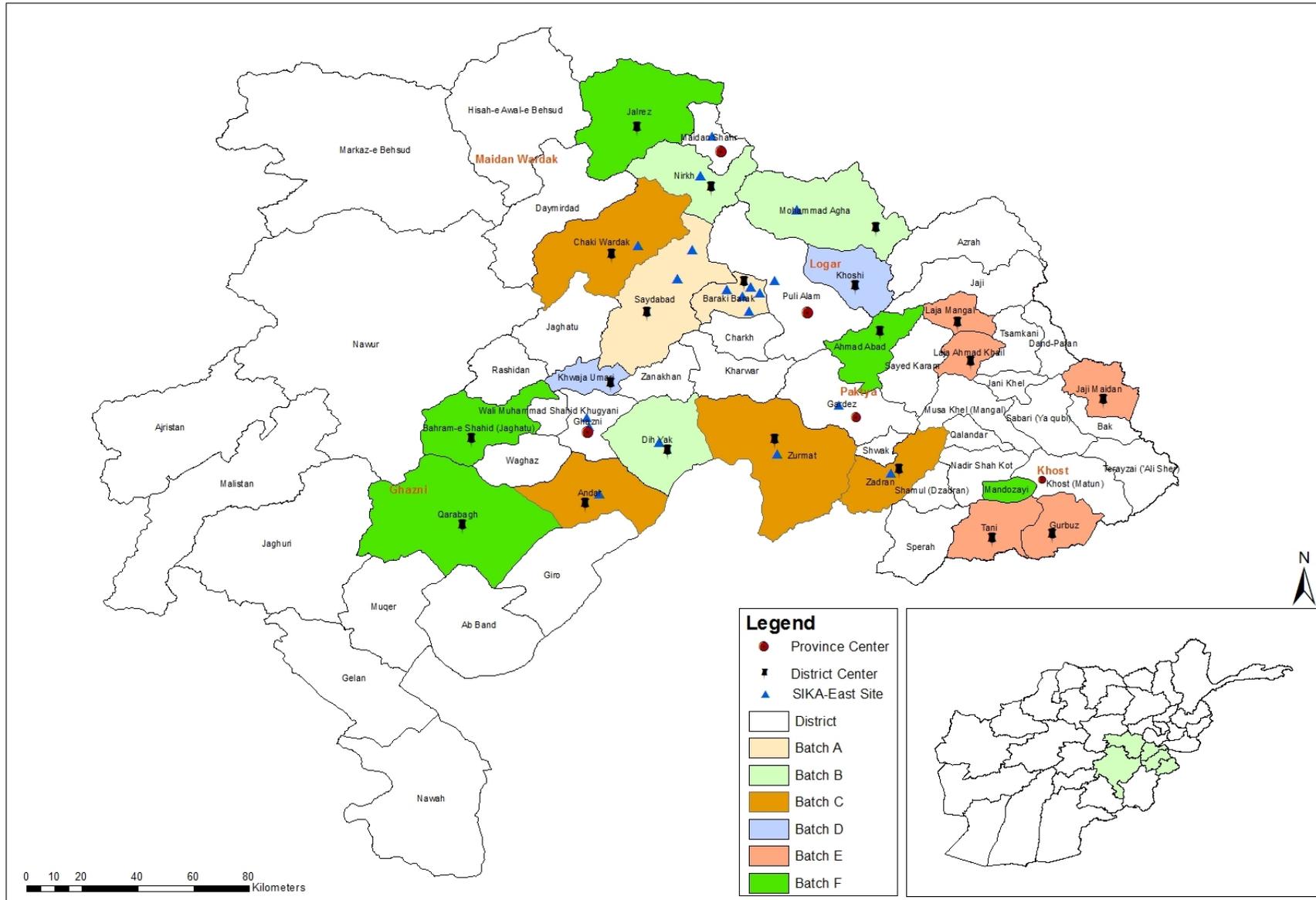
CONTENTS	I
ACRONYMS	III
BACKGROUND	1
OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS	1
Major Challenges and Potential Solutions	3
Implementation and Training Trackers.....	3
SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES	6
Ghazni	6
Provincial-Level Activities	6
Andar District.....	7
Dih Yak District.....	8
Jaghatu District.....	9
Khwaja Umari District	10
Qarabagh District.....	10
Next Steps for Ghazni	11
Khost	12
Provincial-Level Activities	12
Gurbuz District.....	13
Jaji Maidan District	13
Tani District.....	14
Next steps for Khost	14
Logar	15
Provincial-Level Activities	15
Baraki Barak District.....	16
Khoshi District.....	17
Mohammad Agha District	18
Next Steps for Logar.....	19
Maydan Wardak	20
Provincial-Level Activities	20
Chaki Wardak District	21
Jalriz District	22
Nirakh District	22
Saydabad District	23
Next Steps for Maydan Wardak.....	24
Paktya	25
Provincial-Level Activities	25
Laja Ahmad Khail District	26
Laja Mangal District.....	27
Zadran District	27
Zurmat District	28
Next Steps for Paktya.....	29

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED AND COMBINED ACTIVITIES.....	30
Workshops and Trainings	30
Other Significant Activities	30
Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization	30
Engineering Support Group	32
Grants and Sub-contracts Unit	32
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit	33
Security Unit	33
Operations Unit.....	35
Human Resources Unit	37
Next Steps.....	37
APPENDIX A	39
Workshops and Trainings Conducted in July	39
APPENDIX B	40
Significant Meetings Conducted in July	40

ACRONYMS

AWEC	Afghan Women's Education Center
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
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRD	International Relief and Development
MERU	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NABDP	National Area Based Development Program
NDS	National Directorate of Security
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSP	National Solidarity Program
PMU	Provincial Management Unit
PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development
RFP	Request for Proposals
SCA	Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
SIKA-East	Stability in Key Areas-East
Sol	Source of Instability
SPC	Service Providers Catalogue
SPF	Service Providers Fair
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 July 2013. The activities are grouped geographically according to the five provinces, plus Kabul, in which SIKA-East is currently active. Program activities during the reporting period are also covered by SIKA-East weekly reports 81 through 85.

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

Led by MRRD and IDLG, and with USAID approving grant requests expeditiously, SIKA-East had another very successful month.

Following last month's launches in Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts in Khost Province and in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts in Paktya, Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and SIKA-East staff conducted a record number of trainings – in Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation, Stability Planning Process, and Resource Dialogue and Advocacy, among others – for members of DDAs and CDCs in the new districts. For districts where SIKA-East has been active longer, the trainings and workshops mostly focused on grants – Grant Process and Application Development, Grants Project Management, and Infrastructure Project Implementation – to prepare future grant recipients to manage their grants and the projects they will fund.

After the award of the first 41 SIKA-East grants in May and June, USAID approved 20 grant applications in July, and SIKA-East awarded 15 more grants. The value of the 68 grant applications approved by USAID to date is \$2,894,955, while the 56 grants awarded come to \$2,277,898. Twenty-one CDCs successfully started grant implementations and completed the first milestone during July. Kabul's grants team organized and executed payment for completion of the first milestone for nine grantees from Nirkh and Saydabad Districts and twelve from Mohammad Agha District, for a total disbursement of \$197,086. Payment went smoothly without any problems with CDCs' authorized representatives.

This month, the non-infrastructure support team prepared and published four Requests for Proposals for a series of tailoring, embroidery, fruit and vegetable processing, and poultry raising



Men from the Gurbuz DDA and CDC itemize sources of instability during Stability Planning Process training.



Grant Process and Application Development training for women from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs



Men from Karimdad Jonobi in Nirkh excavate the foundation for a retaining wall alongside the road into their village.

trainings in the districts of Saydabad and Baraki Barak. These trainings will address community requests identified in approved District Project Portfolios (DPP), most of them made by women, and additionally seek to create longer-term market opportunities for women from the districts.

In the field, PRRD Directors and SIKA-East staff continued to process grant applications and prepare preliminary engineering plans for projects identified by members of DDAs and other stakeholders as promoting stabilization. In July, Kabul's engineering support group completed the design of 21 projects for five districts of Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Ghazni Provinces. So far, the group has completed designs for 103 projects, with a combined value of \$5,035,877, and is working on the designs for 33 more projects. The total value of these 136 engineering packages is \$7,114,852.

To ensure a steady supply of infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects for the engineering and grants pipelines and to spread the benefits of the program more widely, SIKA-East continued throughout July to seek endorsements and approvals of DPPs from districts where the program was recently launched. Following USAID approval of the Chaki Wardak DPP at the end of June, the Zadran DPP, which had earlier been submitted to USAID, was approved on July 8. After endorsement by the DDA, District Governor, PRRD, and line departments, the Andar DPP was submitted to USAID for approval on July 21, and the Zurmat DPP on July 29. The Khoshi, Khwaja Umari, and Gurbuz DPPs have been approved by their DDAs, District Governors, and PRRD Directors, and are currently undergoing further processing in Kabul.

During July, SIKA-East developed new district profiles for Andar and Khoshi Districts and updated the profiles for Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, and Saydabad. Reviewing and staying updated with all the social, political, and economic changes in these districts helps SIKA-East and its government counterparts remain current with all the changes within the districts. The updated district profiles for Andar, Dih Yak, and Mohammad Agha, along with the new profile for Khoshi District, were submitted to USAID during the month.

Also in July, Mando Zayi District in Khost Province was approved as SIKA-East's twenty-first district, and plans are proceeding to implement the program there.

In the past few months, the communication committees have been putting together strategic communication plans in many SIKA-East districts. This month, SIKA-East Kabul reviewed the communication plans from Andar and Dih Yak Districts and provided guidance and feedback to the field staff.



Workers make progress on a karez extension for Saydabad's Zora Khil CDC.



Kariz rehabilitation project under way for the Sisy CDC in Saydabad District



The Dih Yak women's communication committee met on July 23 to discuss their strategic communication plan.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Endorsement of Chaki Wardak CDCs/PMCS: In July, the Maydan Wardak PRRD Director again raised several issues that had already been addressed and agreed with USAID and MRRD earlier. He requested that SIKA-East staff complete the NSP Form 3, make payments to grantees using old NSP bank accounts, and use Fixed Obligation Grants (FOG) instead of In-Kind grants. This problem was communicated to MRRD, along with evidence that these issues have been previously discussed and agreed upon among the partners. The PRRD Director then continued to endorse grantees. However, the problem caused a significant delay in the processing of new grant applications in Chaki Wardak District.

Security Situation: Several security incidents occurred during July that affected SIKA-East personnel and activities. The following were the most serious:

On July 4, insurgents attacked the Zadran district center, inflicting damage on the SIKA-East office and stock room, but were beaten off by security forces. There were no injuries to staff. This incident constitutes a direct threat against SIKA-East staff in the district and warrants further discussion as to whether program operations should continue from the district center moving forward.

On July 24, insurgents launched an attack against the Khwaja Umari district compound, which lasted around 30 minutes. While fleeing from the area, the insurgents came upon Mohammad Ayaz Nemati, SIKA-East community development officer for the district, who was working in a field that the insurgents fled through. They seized the SIKA-East man and took him with them. Security Department followed up on the abduction of Mr. Nemati, and after communications and follow-up with the district authorities and elders, were able to secure his release on July 29.

The Taliban and Hezb-i-Islami party checkpoint on the road between Nirkh and Maydan Shahr continues to be a significant problem for SIKA-East's daily activities in Nirkh District. Additionally, the Taliban repeated their demand that tribal elders in the area tell the villagers to leave their jobs with the government.

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's PMU manager and gender officer for Paktya meet with the District Governors of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail.



Construction under way on the school boundary wall at Qala Taj Khan in Mohammad Agha District



SIKA-East's communications officer and engineer meet with Andar DDA members on July 7 to discuss project surveys.

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 Jun 2013)																									
Launch Date	District																								
June 4, 2012					1	1	1	1	1		1							1				1			
June 11, 2012	1				2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1									1	1		
November 18, 2012				1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1							
November 25, 2012			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
December 25, 2012	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1									1	1		
February 7, 2013	1	1		1		1		1	1		1											1	1		
February 7, 2013		1		1		1	1	1	1		1														
February 7, 2013	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1												
February 19, 2013	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1		1												
May 9, 2013	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																
May 9, 2013	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1																
June 19, 2013		1																							
June 19, 2013		1																							
June 21, 2013		1			1																				
June 21, 2013																									
June 21, 2013																									
ACTUAL	7	10	7	9	10	12	8	10	11	6	9	4	7	1	1							3	3		
QUARTER JUL-SEP 2013																									
Launch Date	District																								
June 4, 2012																									
June 11, 2012									1																
November 18, 2012																									
November 25, 2012																									
December 25, 2012									1																
February 7, 2013															1										
February 7, 2013															1										
February 7, 2013																							1		
February 19, 2013																									
May 9, 2013													1	1	1										
May 9, 2013										1	1	1													
June 19, 2013									1																
June 19, 2013									1																
June 21, 2013									1	1															
June 21, 2013		1		1					1																
June 21, 2013		1		1					1																
ACTUAL	0	2	0	2	0	5	1	0	2	1	2	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23

* Spreadsheet reflects training activities as of June 30, 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. July trainings highlighted in light blue.

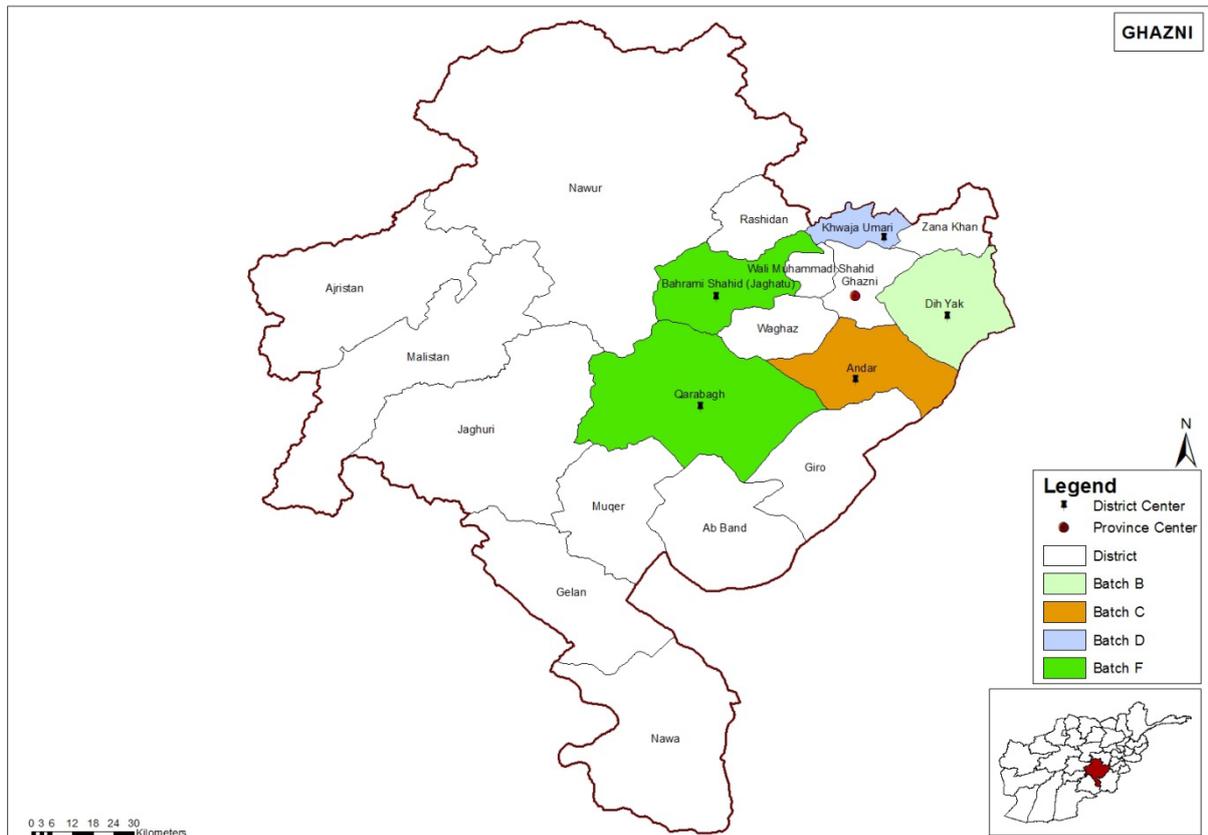
SIKA-EAST DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

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	Stability Cooperation Agreement signed	District launch held	Provincial Service Provider Catalog produced	DPP produced			DPP approved by DG / PRRD
CUMULATIVE (to date)					11	196	10	16	0	16	4	16	12	7		33	\$2,078,975	103	\$5,035,878	136	\$7,114,853	56	\$2,277,898					
DISTRICTS																												
Batch A																												
1	Logar	Baraki Barak			1	11	1	1		1		1	1	1		7	\$507,443	9	\$595,433		\$1,102,876	0	\$0					
2	Maydan Wardak	Saydabad			1	15	1	1		1		1		1		4	\$89,700	30	\$826,941	34	\$916,641	18	\$500,544					
Batch B																												
3	Ghazni	Dih Yak			1	12	1	1		1		1	1	1		3	\$112,718	10	\$491,914	13	\$604,632	5	\$177,901					
4	Logar	Mohammad Agha			1	13	1	1		1		1	1	1		6	\$374,111	25	\$1,406,845	31	\$1,780,956	22	\$1,025,875					
5	Maydan Wardak	Nirkh			1	8	1	1		1		1	1	1		2	\$187,414	17	\$963,067	19	\$1,150,481	8	\$454,634					
Batch C																												
6	Ghazni	Andar			1	11	1	1		1		1	1			6	\$253,855	2	\$193,812		\$447,667	0	\$0					
7	Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak			1	12	1	1		1		1	1	1		2	\$103,334	10	\$557,866		\$661,200	3	\$118,944					
8	Paktya	Zadran			1	12	1	1		1		1	1	1		3	\$450,400	0	\$0		\$450,400	0	\$0					
9	Paktya	Zurmat			1	12	1	1		1		1	1															
Batch D																												
10	Ghazni	Khwaja Umari			1	11		1		1		1	1															
11	Logar	Khoshi			1	11	1	1		1		1	1															
Batch E																												
12	Khost	Gurbuz				10		1		1		1																
13	Khost	Tani				9		1		1		1																
14	Khost	Jaji Maidan				10		1		1		1																
15	Paktya	Laja Ahmad Khail				11		1		1		1	1															
16	Paktya	Laja Mangal				9		1		1		1	1															
Batch F																												
17	Ghazni	Jaghatu				9																						
18	Ghazni	Qarabagh				10																						
19	Paktya	Ahmad Abad																										
20	Maydan Wardak	Jalriz																										
21	Khost	Mando Zayi																										
PROVINCES																												
1	Wardak		1	20				1		1				2	1													
2	Logar		1	19				1		1				1	1													
3	Ghazni		1	18				1		1				1	1													
4	Paktya		1	20						1				1	1													
5	Khost		1	18																								
CUMULATIVE (to date)			5	95			10	3		4				5	4													

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

In July, 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

Significant Meetings:

- On July 1, the Ghazni gender officer had several meetings with different women’s service providers in order to obtain their opinion about the Service Provider Fair (SPF) recently held in Ghazni. All the service providers expressed their thanks for the event and requested that similar ones be held in future.
- On July 2, the PRRD Director met with SIKA-East’s Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager to receive an update on SIKA-East achievements and plans for the month. The SIKA-East manager also discussed the launch of SIKA-East in Qarabagh and Jaghatu Districts and sought the Director’s suggestions and comments. The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East’s efforts toward stability in Ghazni Province.
- On July 7, the PRRD Director met with SIKA-East’s PMU manager. Among other things, they talked about renovating the space the PRRD Director allocated to SIKA-East for use as an office. It was decided to contact the Kabul office to discuss ways to approach the issue.
- On July 15, the PMU manager met with the PRRD Director and Provincial Governor to discuss office requirements for the Qarabagh District Support Unit (DSU). It was decided to approach the Qarabagh District Governor and request space for the SIKA-East office within his compound.

- On July 16, the PRRD Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by SIKA-East's PMU manager. During the meeting, they discussed the Khwaja Umari DPP, which the PRRD Director reviewed and endorsed.
- On July 21, at the PRRD Director's regular weekly coordination meeting, SIKA-East's PMU manager updated the participants on SIKA-East activities in all five districts where the program is being implemented. The participants also discussed the hiring of social mobilizers. The PRRD Director announced the date and time of the written test and approved the shortlisted candidates for it. The PRRD Director said he appreciated SIKA-East's stabilization efforts in Ghazni.
- On July 23, the Provincial Governor held a meeting at which the PMU manager brought up the issue of space for the Qarabagh office. It was decided that the Qarabagh District Governor will provide office space for SIKA-East after rooms in his compound have been renovated.
- On July 24, the Dih Yak women's communication committee met with the head of DoWA and discussed the general problems of women in the district. As a result, the DoWA director promised to raise specific issues at the next meeting of the Provincial Development Council.

Other Activities

- From July 17 to 23, the PMU completed a survey of key hawza- and district-level members of the DDA, as well as other stakeholders, for Qarabagh and Jaghatu Districts.
- During the month, the PRRD Director and District Governor endorsed the Khwaja Umari District Project Portfolio (DPP). The DPP was submitted to Kabul for further processing, and copies were shared with the PRRD Director, District Governor, and Khwaja Umari DSU.

ANDAR DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On July 7, the DDA members and Andar DSU met to discuss two projects that are located in an insecure area. The DDA members observed that surveys for the projects are not possible in some areas due to the volatile security situation. It was decided to get the support of the District Governor, PRRD Director, and influential community members to replace the projects with others. An outcome is still being awaited.
- Similarly, on July 14, the Andar DSU manager met with the Andar DDA members and Payandi Village CDC members to discuss the villagers' proposed projects. The DDA pointed out that surveys for construction of the Nani dam and Sardi Village high school boundary wall could not be performed, and hence those projects



SIKA-East's communications officer and engineer meet with Andar DDA members on July 7 to discuss project surveys.

could not be implemented, as they are located in an insecure area, and they should be changed. It was also decided that the Project Management Committees (PMC) of those areas should be invited to agree to changing the projects. This issue is still pending.

- On July 16, the Andar men's communication committee conducted their seventh meeting and discussed the outcome of a meeting they had with the District Governor regarding the road between Andar and Giro District. He said that he would construct the road when he received funding for it.
- On July 23, the men's communication committee held their eighth meeting, following up on action points of the previous meeting. They requested the Departments of Health and Education to consider the requirements of clinics and schools in the district.
- On July 30, communication committee members shared the Andar DPP with the Departments of Health and Education to advocate for its funding and incorporating certain projects into their budgeting plans. This will help avoid duplication of effort and allow community representatives to advocate for their district priorities.

Other Activities:

- Following a series of planning meetings, the Andar men's and women's communication committees prepared their strategic communication plan and submitted it to the District Governor. The communication plan will be revised once the District Governor provides his comments and suggestions, and the final version will be submitted to Kabul.
- The Andar DSU updated the list of hawzas and villages in Andar District and submitted it to the Kabul office.

DIH YAK DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On July 14 and 15, respectively, the men's and women's communication committees conducted their twelfth meetings. They discussed the importance of the community in project implementation.
- On July 22 and 23, the men's and women's communication committees again met to discuss the strategic communication plan for July. The committee members decided to meet with religious scholars, community elders, and CDCs throughout the district and spread their messages regarding the advantages of stability. The women's committee conducted individual meetings with educated and influential women and talked about their problems with a view to sharing them with DoWA.
- On July 29, a meeting to discuss strategic communications in the district was conducted in the Dih Yak DSU office. The participants were 27 key members of CDCs, community elders, DDA members, communication committee members, the district police commander, and other influential people. The participants discussed the impor-



The Dih Yak women's communication committee met on July 23 to discuss their strategic communication plan for July.



July 29 meeting of men from Dih Yak to discuss strategic communications

tance of the communication committee and their responsibilities.

- On July 30, the Dih Yak women’s communication committee conducted another meeting to discuss the importance of their committee and the role of women in the community.

Other Activities:

- The grants officer conducted Grant Management training for one grantee in Dih Yak District, and implementation officially started. This is the first grant awarded in this district.
- The grants team processed six endorsement letters for Dih Yak CDCs. The endorsement letters were signed by key members of the CDCs, the District Governor, the DDA, and a representative of National Solidarity Program (NSP), and were submitted to PRRD for final approval.
- On July 14, the Dih Yak DSU, along with a PRRD representative, conducted a Grant Review Committee (GRC) meeting for Dih Yak projects. During the meeting, they reviewed and approved three projects for further processing.
- From July 21 to 24, Grants Project Management training was conducted for 29 members of three CDCs. The participants learned about community capacities, ways to manage their project expenses, the implementation process, reporting, and purchasing rules and regulations. During the training, CDC members developed a work plan for grant implementation. Preparations for completion of the first milestone started immediately.
- On July 26, an opening ceremony was held to launch the Ramak CDC Zagon kariz extension project. SIKA-East staff briefed the villagers and stakeholders on different aspects of project status, the responsibilities of key members of the CDC and project management committee, and the project budget.
- On July 28 and 29, 34 men from the Ramak, Aklay, and Kohna Deh CDCs received training in Infrastructure Project Implementation at the Oranus Hotel in Ghazni City.
- During July, five grants, worth \$177,901, were awarded for projects in Dih Yak District. Preparations for completion of the first milestone have already started.

JAGHATU DISTRICT

- The Jaghatu district profile was completed and submitted to Kabul for review.
- During the reporting period, the Jaghatu communications officer conducted surveys of key hawza- and district-level DDA members and stakeholders.

Staff surveyed key hawza members for nomination to the men’s and women’s communication committees that are being set up for Jaghatu District.



A Grants Project Management training was held in Ghazni City from July 21 to 24.



Men from the Ramak, Aklay, and Kohna Deh CDCs in Dih Yak attend training in Infrastructure Project Implementation.

KHWAJA UMARI DISTRICT**Significant Meetings:**

- On July 18, both men's and women's communication committees conducted their first joint meeting. The meeting facilitator explained the responsibilities of the committee and described the ways they could link the DDA+ to government, service providers, and communities.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- The Khwaja Umari DDA+ completed the first draft of the DPP and asked local leaders to engage in community consultations and obtain the endorsement of their respective constituents. The DDA, District Governor, and PRRD Director subsequently signed the endorsement letter for the DPP.
- On July 14 and 15, a Project Design and Development workshop was conducted for Khwaja Umari DDA+ members; an average of 62 men attended.
- From July 16 to 18, the same workshop was given to an average of 31 women from Khwaja Umari.
- From July 21 to 23, SIKA-East conducted Grant Process and Application Development training for 27 men from the Khwaja Umari DDA+. During the training, activities identified in the DPP by the female representatives were analyzed and draft applications developed.
- On July 24, insurgents launched an attack against the Khwaja Umari district compound, which lasted around 30 minutes. While fleeing the area, the insurgents came upon Mohammad Ayaz Nemati, SIKA-East community development officer for Khwaja Umari, who was working in a field they were passing through. They grabbed the SIKA-East man and took him with them. Security Department followed up on the matter, and Mr. Nemati was released on July 29.
- On July 25, insurgents again attacked the Khwaja Umari district compound, firing five mortar rounds. Two landed near the district building, and the other three in the nearby Tormay Village. Nobody was injured in the attack.
- Due to security concerns and the kidnapping of Mr. Nemati, all activities have been postponed in the district.

QARABAGH DISTRICT

- The PRRD Director, District Governor, and SIKA-East staff collected initial information for the Qarabagh District profile. This document provides general information about the district, as well as information on its tribal structure, present government, and other matters. This will help SIKA-East and stakeholders gain situational awareness about the district and implement the program more effectively. The district profile was completed and submitted to the Kabul office for review.

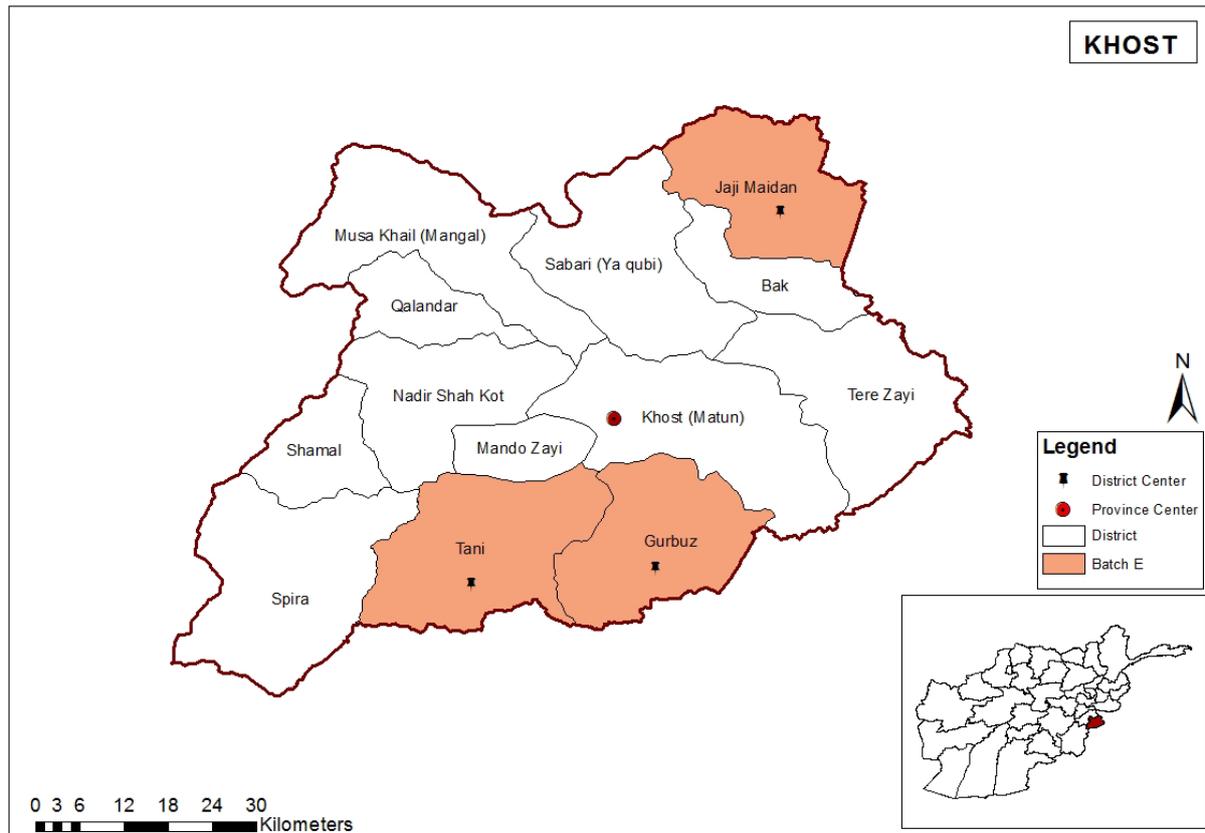


**Project Design and Development
workshop in Khwaja Umari**

NEXT STEPS FOR GHAZNI

- Coordinate regularly with the Ghazni PRRD Director, Provincial Governor, and District Governors;
- Establish DSU offices in Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts;
- Launch SIKA-East in Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts;
- Conduct sub-coordination meetings in Khwaja Umari District; and
- Move forward with surveys, designs, and implementation for Andar and Dih Yak Cycle 1 projects.

KHOST



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Significant Meetings:

- On July 1, the PRRD Director met with the SIKA-East PMU manager to share information about ongoing training sessions in the different districts. Through an official letter, the Khost PMU requested the PRRD to select and send a representative to SIKA-East trainings, and the PRRD Director agreed to do so.
- On July 8, during the PRRD Director's weekly coordination meeting, the PMU manager updated everyone on SIKA-East's achievements and plans for the coming week. He also asked the PRRD Director to assign someone to participate in trainings planned for the following week. The PRRD Director agreed to send someone.
- At the PRRD Director's July 15 coordination meeting, the PMU manager provided an update on program implementation in Khost Province. The PRRD Director was satisfied with the progress and said that the PMU should contact him if any help or support was required.
- On July 22, during the weekly coordination meeting, the subject of SIKA-East intervention in Mando Zayi District was discussed. The PRRD Director decided to issue a letter to the Provincial Governor and through him advise the Mando Zayi District Governor about SIKA-East implementation in the district.
- On July 30, the District Governor of Mando Zayi received a briefing on SIKA-East from the deputy PMU manager, who also submitted the official letter of the Provincial Governor about SIKA-East implementation in Mando Zayi. The District Governor promised to support the program and provide space for the DSU in his compound.

Other Activities:

- The Khost Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) was finalized by the provincial staff and shared with the Kabul team for review. A total of 85 key service providers were identified and included in the SPC, along with all necessary information.

GURBUZ DISTRICT

- From June 30 to July 4, 2013 Stability Planning Process training was conducted for 41 women from the Gurbuz DDA and CDCs. The training addressed the stability concept, social responsibility, a range of local resiliencies from the women's perspective, grievances, local sources of instability (SoI), and the importance of women's participation in stabilization programming. The women produced a preliminary DPP from their own perspective.
- On July 1, as part of the above training, a one-day Resources Dialogue Workshop was conducted for the Gurbuz women. The purpose of this workshop was to enable them to identify existing resources and to use them to address their problems. Despite significant security challenges in Gurbuz District, influential women from all the hawzas attended.
- From July 7 to 9, a Stability Planning Process workshop was conducted for 61 men from the Gurbuz DDA and CDCs. During this session, the DDA+ listed the sources of instability in the district, identified the root causes, and proposed solutions in the form of their DPP. Afterward, the Khost PMU and PRRD conducted a review of the Gurbuz DPP and sources of instability document from the standpoint of language, while the participants in the training returned to their villages to review the DPP with the elders and other influential people.
- On July 17, the Gurbuz DPP was endorsed by members of the DDA after local review. In August, after second-phase Stability Planning Process training between July 28 and 31, the DPP will be shared with the District Governor, PRRD, and line departments.
- From July 28 to August 1, separate second-phase Stability Planning Process sessions were conducted for men and women from the Gurbuz DDA+ and CDCs. An average of 38 men and 41 women attended.
- On July 30 and 31, training in Resource Dialogue and Advocacy was conducted for 50 Gurbuz women. On the second day, the participants also elected the members of the communication committee.

JAJI MAIDAN DISTRICT

- On July 2 and 3, Jaji Maydan CDC and DDA members received Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation Training. Fifty-four men participated, including representatives of PRRD and IDLG.



Women from the Gurbuz DDA and CDCs do group work during Stability Planning Process training.



Men from Gurbuz attend a Stability Planning Process group session.



Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for Gurbuz women.

- From July 17 to 19, a DSU team conducted Stability Planning Process training for an average of 55 men from the Jaji Maydan DDA and CDCs.
- On July 24, members of the Tani and Jaji Maydan DDA+s met to verify their recently developed DPPs and the sources of instability they are meant to address. At the end, the DDA+ members signed and approved the DPPs.

TANI DISTRICT

- From June 30 to July 2, Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation Training was conducted for an average of 76 men from Tani. The participants included representatives of PRRD, IDLG, the DDA and District Development Council (DCC), and other influential figures from the district.
- From July 14 to 16, the first phase of Stability Planning Process Training was conducted for the Tani DDA and district CDC. An average of 61 men participated.
- On July 24, members of the Tani DDA+ met to verify their recently developed DPP and the sources of instability cited therein. Afterward, they signed and approved the DPP.

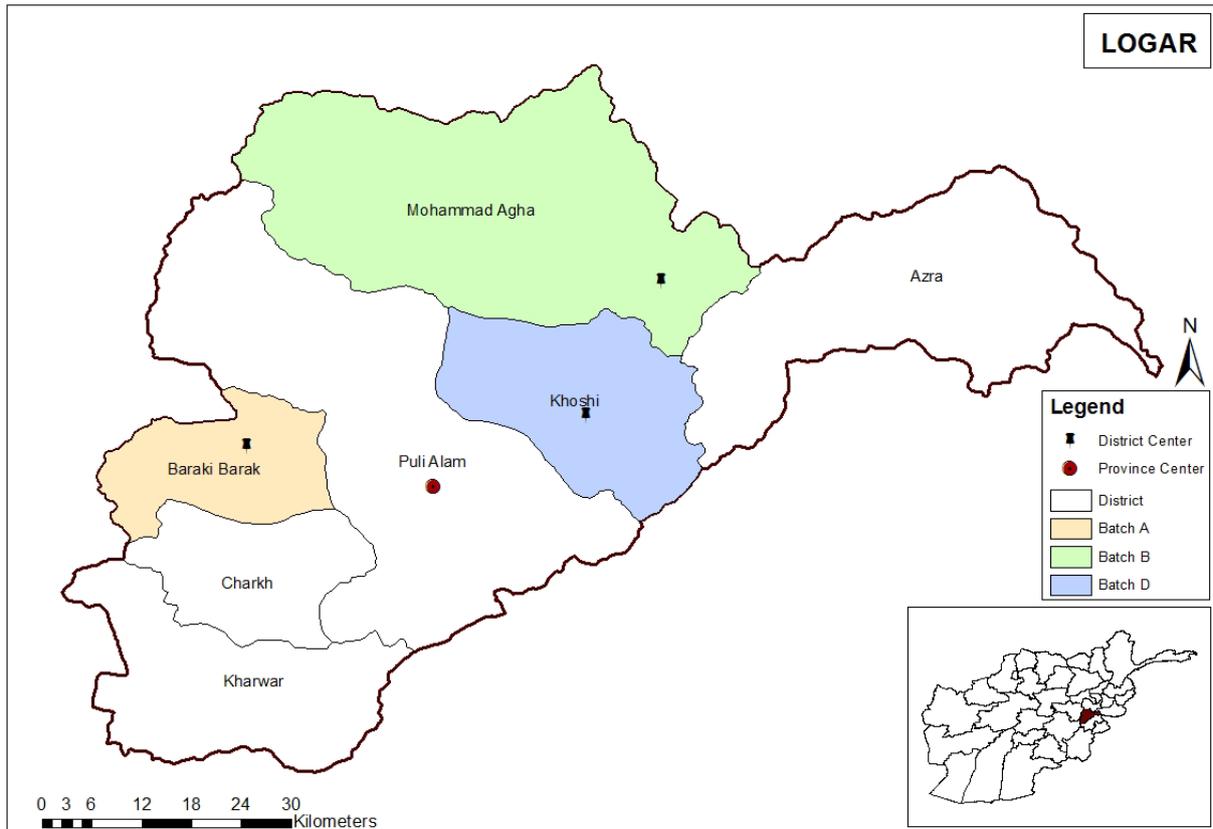
NEXT STEPS FOR KHOST

- Participate in regular meetings with PRRD;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for men in Gurbuz District;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning training in Gurbuz;
- Conduct male and female communication committee meetings in Gurbuz;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process training (second part) in Tani District;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training in Tani;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning training in Tani;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process training (second part) in Jaji Maydan District;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training in Jaji Maydan; and
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning Training in Jaji Maydan.



Men from the Tani DDA and CDC itemize sources of instability during Stability Planning Process training.

LOGAR



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Significant Meetings:

- On July 1, the PMU manager participated in the weekly coordination meeting with PRRD and other stakeholders. The PRRD Director asked for clarification on Mohammad Agha Cycle 1 projects. He mentioned that the Provincial Governor is concerned about the issue and asked for a PRRD response to the community. The PRRD assigned a team to visit Mohammad Agha District to clarify and provide analysis and a report.
- On July 4, the deputy PMU manager met with the Provincial Governor's secretary to update him on program progress in targeted districts. The secretary promised to support the program across the province.
- On July 6, the Logar GRC held a meeting to review three projects in Baraki Barak District. The participants included PRRD and Baraki Barak DRRD representatives, who reviewed and approved the proposed projects.
- On July 7, the PRRD Director met with the Logar PMU manager to discuss the GRC. The PMU manager explained the GRC process, and the PRRD Director decided to assign professional engineers who have technical knowledge rather than social organizers to participate in future GRC meetings.
- The Logar PMU manager developed a monthly activity report and submitted it to PRRD.
- On July 15, the head of Dih Naw Hawza in Mohammad Agha District met with the Logar PMU manager to discuss his concerns about the Cycle 1 projects. He felt that the project selection was not equal for all the hawzas and wanted SIKA-East to address this matter with the community. The PMU manager agreed to.

- On July 15, the PMU manager met with a representative of National Directorate of Security (NDS) at the PRRD compound. The PMU manager explained the program to him, and the NDS man promised to support the implementation of SIKA-East across the province.
- On July 25, the PRRD Deputy Program Director met with the PMU representative to discuss Mohammad Agha District. The PMU representative shared the Mohammad Agha communication plan and meeting agenda and expressed interest in having a PRRD representative participate in the meeting. The Deputy Program Director promised to cooperate and support the meetings to make them successful.
- On July 30, the PRRD Director held his bi-weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by the Logar PMU manager and representatives of International Rescue Committee (IRC), National Area Based Development Program (NABDP), NSP, and other MRRD programs. The participants brought the PRRD Director up to date on their programs' activities, plans, and challenges.

Trainings:

- The Logar PMU collected quotations for the cost of materials for the embroidery project and shared it with the Kabul office for further processing. The unit also posted an advertisement about the tailoring training in different public locations in Puli Alam.

BARAKI BARAK DISTRICT**Significant Meetings:**

- On July 7, DSU staff met with DDA members from the Baraki Rajan Hawza to discuss speeding up project surveys in their hawza. The parties decided to start a project survey on July 11.
- On July 8, the Baraki Barak DSU started a project survey in Pad Khab Roghani Hawza. After several meetings, the DDA members from that hawza agreed to escort the SIKA-East surveyors to the hawza.
- On July 8, grant application documents for four women's projects were completed and submitted to the Kabul office for further processing.
- On July 15, the men's and women's communication committees conducted their third meeting. The participants discussed notions for a communication plan for the district and decided to focus on developing one at their next meetings.
- On July 25, the women's communication committee held a meeting, at which they discussed planned activities and the materials needed for them.



July 30 meeting with the Logar PRRD Director

Trainings and Other Activities:

- On July 21 and 22, the Baraki Barak DSU conducted Infrastructure Project Implementation training for five CDCs in Baraki Barak; 21 DDA+ members took an active part in it.
- In early July, four grant applications for women were signed by female DDA members. The grants are for embroidery, tailoring, and poultry training, plus support for vegetable and fruits processing projects. The grant applications were forwarded to Kabul for further processing.
- On July 22, the Baraki Barak grants unit started working on a checklist for a boundary wall construction project for the Naw Abad Qala Baboky CDC.
- During July, four grant applications, worth \$275,088, were approved by USAID for projects in Baraki Barak District.

KHOSHI DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On July 8, the Khoshi District Governor met with the DSU manager, who updated him on SIKA-East progress in the district. The District Governor promised to give the program full support.
- On July 14, the men's communication committee held their first meeting. The main topic of discussion was the importance of communication and how to develop strong communication ties with the local authorities.
- On July 17, the DSU manager met with the Khoshi District Governor to discuss security and program-related problems. The District Governor instructed the DSU manager to change the training venue to a safer place. It was decided to conduct trainings at the district center conference hall temporarily.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- From July 14 to 16, Khoshi DSU staff conducted a Project Design and Development workshop for an average of 50 women from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs. The participants discussed project management, project work plans, practical project work, construction measurements, management of activities, and bills of materials.
- On July 17 and 18, the same workshop was held for men from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs; an average of 54 men took part.
- From July 21 to 23, the Khoshi DSU conducted Grant Process and Application Development Training for 43 women from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs. Between July 28 and August 1, the same training was delivered to an average of 64 men from the district. The participants learned about the various types of grants, awarding of grants, and issues concerning restrictions and ineligibility. They also worked on prequalifications, cover page and narrative applications, and the collection of necessary documents.



Grants Process and Application Development training for men and women from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs



Project Design and Development training for Khoshi women

MOHAMMAD AGHA DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On July 1, the DSU arranged a meeting between the District Governor and DDA members primarily to discuss the complaints of the community regarding the balance of Cycle 1 projects among the hawzas. The DDA+ decided that the Cycle 1 plan is acceptable, but that it would be better to consider hawza balance during the awarding of grants.
- On July 2, the PRRD Director met with the PMU manager to receive an update on program progress in the SIKA-East target districts. The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East activities and promised to support the program throughout the implementation process.
- On June 30 and July 1, respectively, the men's and women's communication committees met to discuss message delivery, and they also selected the members who would be best to communicate with the service providers.
- The communication committees met again the following week. The women's committee developed their agenda and also learned how to communicate their problems and concerns with government and local authorities.
- The Mohammad Agha DSU invited key members of the Kamal Khill CDC to discuss their project and prepare a Fixed Obligation Grant field checklist with new updated templates for 12 projects.
- On July 15, the DSU manager participated in a meeting with DRRD and provided an update on the re-election of Mohammad Agha CDCs.
- On June 22 and 23, the Mohammad Agha men's and women's communication committees held separate meetings to discuss holding a special meeting soon on the subject of message delivery. They prepared a list of invitees for the meeting and decided to include the Director of Women's Affairs.
- On July 28, the Mohammad Agha DSU conducted a message delivery meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to share information with, and increase coordination between, community and district entities and government officials. It was also meant to deliver a message to government officials and regular citizens about the commitment of the DDA+, community members, and the government to stability in the district, villages, and communities. Fifty-five men and women attended, including members of the DDA and representatives of youth, civil society, the media, and women's organizations.



Men's communication committee meeting in Mohammad Agha

Other Activities:

- On July 7, DSU staff contacted key representatives of CDCs that have been approved for grants to implement 12 projects in order to give them their first milestone payment.
- During the month, Mohammad Agha DSU staff visited the sites of several infrastructure projects to monitor progress, take photos, and gather information. They also prepared second milestone reports on the projects and provided guidance to the workers and CDC project managers for better implementation of the projects.

NEXT STEPS FOR LOGAR

- Participate in regular coordination meeting with the PRRD;
- Conduct communication committee meeting for Baraki Barak DDA+; and
- Conduct project surveys in Mohammad Agha District.

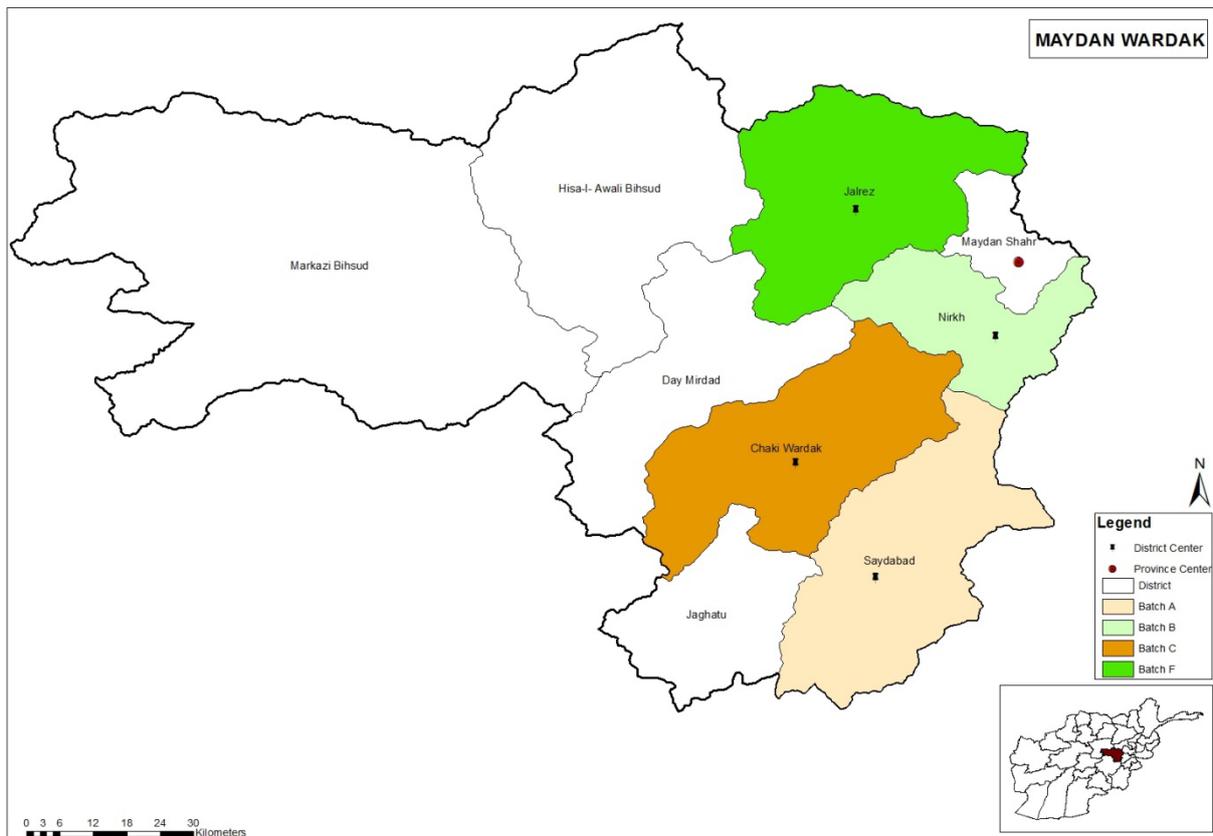


Two views of construction under way on the school boundary wall at Qala Taj Khan



Kariz extension at Panama

MAYDAN WARDAK



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Significant Meetings:

- On July 2, at the regular coordination meeting with the PRRD Director, the Maydan Wardak PMU manager and representatives of other implementers of MRRD projects discussed 16 incomplete¹ and blacklisted CDCs. These CDCs have not had their financial clearance with PRRD for their NSP-funded projects. In order to formally process their dismissal, it was decided to coordinate with the Provincial Governor and announce it through local radio. As soon as these CDCs are dismissed, the selection of new CDCs will start.
- On July 7, the PRRD Director met with the PMU manager and CDC members of Sia Chob and Baghak Hawzas to discuss the hawzas' endorsement letters. The PRRD Director promised to process them as soon as possible.
- On July 14, the question of the Chaki Wardak endorsement letters was broached at the PRRD Director's weekly coordination meeting. He promised to approve the letters as soon as the provincial council endorsed them.
- On July 16, the Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak DSUs conducted a GRC meeting and reviewed six projects: four from Nirkh, one from Chaki Wardak, and one from Saydabad. Based on the recommendation of the PRRD representative, the application from the Nirkh Karimdad CDC for water wells was put on hold until further clarification; the others were recommended for approval.

¹ Many CDCs had full membership and officers when formed, but now contain much fewer members and not all officers are still active.

- On July 21, the PRRD Director met with SIKA-East's PMU manager to discuss the hiring process and terms of reference of social organizers in Jalriz District.
- On July 28, the PRRD Director met with the PMU manager and requested that SIKA-East provide him with the monthly report in PRRD's format; the PMU manager agreed to comply.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- From July 7 to 11, the Chaki Wardak and Saydabad DSUs conducted a Grants Management workshop for five grantee CDCs. The main purpose of the workshop was to familiarize everyone with the forms and formats that are to be filled out and followed during the progress of a project. The participants were also updated on the status of the projects and implementation process.
- Towards the end of July, issues with the Maydan Wardak PRRD Director were resolved, and he began to sign endorsement letters for PMCs. SIKA-East will continue to work with PMCs to develop grant applications and determine appropriate grant mechanisms. The capacity of each individual PMC will be assessed, together with the complexity of requested activities, after which SIKA-East will determine how to implement grants. One option that has been considered is a Blended Grant, which includes procurement from the SIKA-East side and direct implementation from the community side. In this way, SIKA-East will ensure community ownership of the project and a high level of involvement in the grant management process.

CHAKI WARDAK DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On July 21, the Chaki Wardak DSU held a coordination meeting with a member of the provincial council and head of the Ganda Cheshma CDC. At the end, a project contract was signed between SIKA-East and the CDC.
- On July 16, the Chaki Wardak women's communication committee held their eighth meeting, at which they discussed their communication plan and the identification of communication channels.
- On July 22, the men's communication committee conducted their sixth meeting and discussed the importance of communication, the media, and the development of effective messaging and a strategic communication plan.
- On July 29, the Chaki Wardak communication team facilitated the ninth communication committee meeting for women and discussed the importance of having a communication plan, the selection of communication channels, and when to start practical work on a communication plan. The participants promised to share the points of discussion with the larger DDA.



Grant Review Committee reviewing projects for three districts



An average of 30 participants per day attended the Grants Management workshop for Chaki Wardak grantees.



SIKA-East's district engineer and community development officer for Chaki Wardak discuss an irrigation project with the head of the PMC.

- During the month, Chaki Wardak DSU staff held several meetings with various line departments, including Education, Agriculture, and Mines, and discussed the planned SPF. They provided an update on the event and requested the departments to participate.
- In order to update the SPC, they also met several different governmental and non-governmental service providers to collect the required data.
- On July 29, the Chaki Wardak men's communication committee held their seventh meeting. They discussed developing a public relations plan and relations between community and government bodies.

Other Activities:

- During the month, USAID approved four grant applications, with a combined value of \$173,885, and SIKA-East made three grant awards, totaling \$118,944, for small infrastructure projects in Chaki Wardak.

JALRIZ DISTRICT

- Repair work continued throughout the month on the DSU office in Jalriz.
- The Maydan Wardak PMU continued recruitment for the Jalriz DSU.
- The Maydan Wardak PMU prepared a list of Jalriz DDA and CDC members and presented it to the PRRD Director for review and confirmation.

NIRKH DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- At the beginning of July, the Nirkh DSU met different governmental and non-governmental service providers, obtained information about their current range of services, and updated the SPC.
- On July 8, the men's communication committee held their thirteenth communication meeting and discussed the role of the communication committee in all phases of project implementation.
- On July 9, the Nirkh DSU held a coordination meeting with the head of the Omar Khail CDC to brief him on the project implementation cycle and approach.
- On July 13, the women's communication committee conducted their thirteenth meeting and discussed project implementation, project budgets, the start and end of projects, seasonal information about projects, and project types.
- On July 15, the men's communication committee conducted their fourteenth meeting and discussed such project-related matters as available budgets, implementation times, project benefits for the community, and the selection of communication channels.



The resource development officer for Chaki Wardak meets with the local head of the Department of Agriculture to persuade him to attend the upcoming SPF.



July 8 meeting of the Nirkh men's communication committee

- On July 17, the Nirkh women’s communication committee conducted their fourteenth meeting. They discussed the goals of the communication committee, implementation of the communication plan prepared by the men’s and women’s communication committees, and identifying their audience. They decided to conduct joint communication committee meetings in future.

Other Activities:

- During the month, one grant, for a project valued at \$37,583, was awarded in Nirkh.
- From July 14 to 16, the Nirkh engineering team trained CDCs from Joi Asiab, Jowqul, and Deh Khirqa on the project work plan, bills of quantities, and ways to submit receipts for purchased materials to the DSU.
- On July 17 and 18, Nirkh DSU staff visited various project sites and ensured the quality of project implementation.
- On July 23 and 29, the Nirkh M&E officer visited the Abda Khail karez repair and the Karimdad road projects sites, respectively. Both projects are going according to plan, and the construction is of good quality.
- The Taliban and Hezb-i-Islami party checkpoint on the road between Nirkh and Maydan Shahr is a significant problem for SIKA-East’s daily activities in Nirkh District. Additionally, the Taliban repeated their demand that tribal elders tell the villagers to leave their jobs with the government.

SAYDABAD DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- In early July, the Saydabad DSU had several meetings with various service providers to obtain updated data about their current and planned activities. Using the data, the team updated the Maydan Wardak SPC.
- On July 14, the Saydabad men’s and women’s communication committees conducted their thirteenth meetings and discussed various aspects of project implementation, including project types, budgets, and cycles.
- On July 21, the Saydabad DSU manager participated in a coordination meeting with representatives of Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), Afghan Women’s Education Center (AWEC), and the Departments of Health and Education. SCA and AWEC plan to implement different projects for women and called this meeting to obtain information and suggestions regarding women’s participation in the projects. The participants discussed the importance of coordination between service providers and district entities.
- On July 22, the Saydabad men’s communication committee held its fourteenth meeting and discussed the implementation of their communication plan.



Kariz cleaning project in Nirkh District



Men from Karimdad Jonobi in Nirkh excavate the foundation for a retaining wall alongside the road into their village.



Women’s communication committee meeting in Saydabad District

- On July 25, the Saydabad DSU facilitated the fourteenth communication committee meeting for women and discussed the implementation of a communication plan.
- On July 28, DSU staff conducted a sub-coordination meeting with a representative of AWEC. The main focus of the meeting was coordination between service providers and district entities. In addition, the AWEC representative explained about their planned activities for women in Saydabad district.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- In July, six grants, worth \$214,084, were awarded for projects in Saydabad. The Saydabad grants team made several visits to the sites of infrastructure projects that are being implemented. They also commenced work on non-infrastructure projects, such as training in poultry raising for women. Six grant applications for trainings are in process and will be completed soon.
- Throughout the month, the Saydabad engineering team also conducted site visits to several projects to check on progress. They also took the opportunity to explain some technical issues about work quality to the CDC managers and workers.
- After holding several advocacy trainings, the head of the women's DDA and a few other members of the community created their message and advocated for opening the girls school in Tangi Hawza, which was closed due to threats by insurgents. The head of the DDA visited community elders and obtained their order to reopen the school.
- The Saydabad District Governor, PRRD Director, and SIKA-East's PMU manager started preparing for the upcoming coordination meeting in Saydabad. During the preparation phase, SIKA-East contacted CDC and DDA members and briefed them on the event.

NEXT STEPS FOR MAYDAN WARDAK

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD and the District Governor;
- Complete the renovation of the Jalriz DSU office;
- Recruit for the DSU office in Jalriz;
- Launch SIKA-East in Jalriz District;
- Award several grants for Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak Districts;
- Conduct Grant Management and Grant Award Training for Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak. Districts;
- Conduct Infrastructure Projects Implementation workshop for Saydabad and Nirkh Districts; and
- Conduct GRC for Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak grant applications.

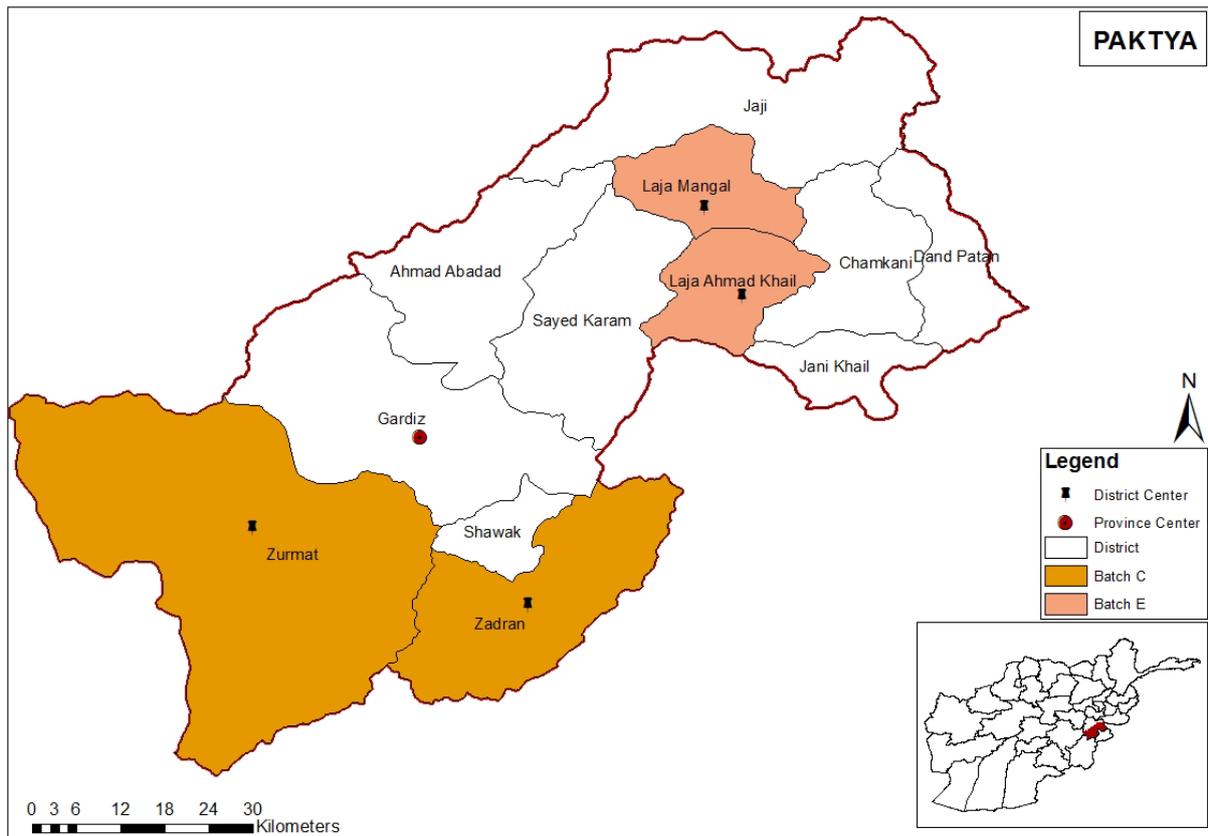


Workers make progress on a karez extension for Saydabad's Zora Khil CDC.



Kariz rehabilitation project under way for the Sisy CDC in Saydabad District

PAKYA



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Significant Meetings:

- On July 1, the Paktya gender officer met the head of the Paktya provincial council to discuss the unavailability of women in Zurmat and Zadran Districts for participation in SIKA-East stabilization programming. The provincial council head promised to discuss the issue with the District Governor and to meet again to discuss.
- On July 2, at the PRRD Director's regular weekly coordination meeting, the PMU manager updated the PRRD Director and the other attendees on SIKA-East activities and trainings in target districts. The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East and its impacts on the communities in Paktya.
- Also on July 2, the PMU manager and gender officer met with the District Governors of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail to discuss the participation of women in those districts. The District Governors stated that this is a cultural matter and they will share it with the tribal elders and influential people to try to find a solution.
- On July 7, the gender officer broached the same subject with the provincial manager of Health Net, who promised to discuss the issue with women beneficiaries of Health Net and to support SIKA-East as far as he can in this regard.



SIKA-East's PMU manager and gender officer for Paktya meet with the District Governors of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail.

- On July 15, the PMU manager and gender officer met with the manager of AWEC to follow up on the issue of women's involvement in SIKA-East. The AWEC manager explained that the women's councils formed by AWEC have been working on implementation of different projects for women. She said that SIKA-East can involve the councils in program implementation. She suggested that SIKA-East train the council members so that they can replicate the trainings for the female community members. She promised to provide a list of members of the women's councils soon.
- On July 21, the gender officer again met with the manager of AWEC. She said she had prepared a list of women in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal who might be interested in participating and submitted it to the District Governor and community elders, who had expressed interest in increasing the number of women in the program.. They promised to work on it and try to find a place for women in the program.
- On July 29, the Paktya Deputy PMU manager participated in a meeting held in the PRRD office. During the meeting, the previous DDA members complained about being dismissed. The PRRD Director explained that their DDA had been dismissed by the majority of community members, not by PRRD or SIKA-East. However, if required, another election could be held after Eid.
- On July 30, the PRRD Director met with the PMU manager to select a qualified DDA for the local radio play agreement. The team selected the Zurmat DDA.
- The Paktya gender officer met with the head of the Ahmad Abad DDA and shared information about SIKA-East. The head of the DDA mentioned that they had worked with other PRRD programs and they had female DDAs; however, those organizations are not active due to the security situation and cultural barriers.

Training:

- On July 28, a ToT in Grant Review Committee responsibilities and activities was conducted in the Paktya PMU office for eight members of the PMU and DSU staffs.

LAJA AHMAD KHAIL DISTRICT

- From July 4 to 6, PRRD and SIKA-East conducted a Stability Planning Process workshop for an average of 49 men from the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA and CDCs. The facilitators introduced SIKA-East and explained the roles of MRRD and IDLG in implementing the program. The session ended with the first draft of the DPP.
- On July 14, the Laja Ahmad Khail DSU manager met with the DDA members to verify sources of instability and propose solutions for them. They also discussed the DPP and reviewed the projects that had been selected by community elders.



SIKA-East's PMU manager and gender officer meet with the manager of AWEC on July 21.



July 28 ToT training on Grant Review Committee procedures



Stability Planning Process training under way in Laja Ahmad Khail

- On July 28, the second session of Stability Planning Process training got under way for 57 members of the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA and CDC.

LAJA MANGAL DISTRICT

- From July 4 to 6, Laja Mangal CDC and DDA members participated in a Stability Planning Process workshop; an average of 46 men attended. Due to a lack of space, the first day of the training was conducted in Laja Ahmad Khail District. The second and third days of training were held back in Laja Mangal District at the participants' request. At the end of the training, they had identified sources of instability, proposed solutions, and drafted a DPP, which is currently under review in Kabul.
- On July 14, the DSU manager met with Laja Mangal DDA members to discuss SoIs in their area, as well as their root causes and solutions.
- On July 28, the second part of Stability Planning Process training began for 52 members of the Laja Mangal DDA and CDCs.

ZADRAN DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On July 7, the PRRD Director, along with the Paktya PMU and Zadrans DSU managers, met with representatives of Garda Serai. Garda Serai is a sub-district of Zadrans, which will be covered by SIKA-East under the Zadrans program. The Garda Serai representatives signed an agreement to support implementation of SIKA-East in their area.
- On July 28, the Zadrans DSU staff met with members of the DDA, tribal shuras, other influential people from Garda Serait, and the commander in charge of security in the sub-district to discuss the official start-up of SIKA-East there. The participants said they strongly supported the program and appreciated its introduction to their area. The next day, the Zadrans DSU began a stakeholder survey in Garda Serai.

Trainings and Other Activities:

- On July 1, the SIKA-East engineer for Zadrans began to conduct site surveys for pipe scheme projects in the villages of Bara Waza and Dwa Khala. With the help of influential community members, the surveys were completed in one week.
- On July 15, a DSU team performed a survey for a pipe scheme project for Naser Khail Hawza. Many people from the community accompanied them and expressed appreciation that one of their projects is about to get under way. They promised to escort SIKA-East staff to the project site and assure their security during project implementation.



Fifty-five men from Laja Mangal receive training in Stability Planning Process.



July 7 meeting with Garda Serai representatives



SIKA-East's engineer and M&E officer for Zadrans perform a site survey for the Naser Khail pipeline project.

- From July 16 to 20, the Zadran DSU conducted Grant Process and Application Development Training for 40 men from the Zadran DDA and CDCs.
- On July 22, Zadran DSU and DDA representatives completed surveys of three projects. The DDA members were satisfied and expressed their appreciation to SIKA-East for its efforts in their area.
- The District Governor, PRRD Director, and SIKA-East team are planning to hold a sub-coordination meeting between community members and certain service providers in Zadran District. The meeting will focus on non-infrastructure DPP projects and their implementation. This is the second time that community members of Zadran will meet with the service providers.
- At two in the morning on July 25, insurgents attacked the Zadran district compound, but no casualties or equipment damage occurred.
- On July 30, the Zadran men's communication committee held their third meeting. The participants discussed message development, selection of communication channels, and completion of worksheets.

ZURMAT DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On July 16, the Zurmat communication officer conducted the third meeting of the men's communication committee. Message development and the selection of communication channels were the main topics.
- On July 21, the men's communication committee held their fourth meeting and discussed various committee activities and required data.
- On July 25, the Zurmat team had its first sub-coordination meeting with the Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock. They discussed essential points and asked the director about three tractors and 70 tons of wheat that were supposed to be distributed to the community. They also discussed the establishment of a cooperative in the district. The Director suggested further discussions on the issues.
- On July 30, the DSU staff facilitated the next meeting of the men's communication committee. After a review of their last meeting, the committee primarily discussed message development and the selection of communication channels.
- On July 30, the Zurmat grants and sub-contracts officer met with the PMC and was able to get the deputy head of the PMC to sign all the letters that had been sent to them.



July 30 meeting of the Zurmat men's communication committee

Trainings and Other Activities:

- Between July 23 and 27, PRRD and SIKA-East trainers conducted a five-day Grant Process and Application Development training, which was attended by 47 men from the Zurmat DDA and CDCs.

NEXT STEPS FOR PAKTYA

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other stakeholders;
- Conduct trainings in Resource Dialogue and Advocacy and Infrastructure Project Planning for Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts;
- Conduct communication committee meetings, sub-coordination meetings, and GRC meetings for Zadrán and Zurmat Districts; and
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation Training for Garda Serai Sub-district.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED AND COMBINED ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

- From July 1 to 3, a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Project Design and Development was conducted for staff members from the Khoshi and Khwaja Umari DSUs. Topics for discussion were project management, action plans, project feasibility, and the development of bills of quantities and work plans.
- On July 4, SIKA-East conducted a one-day gender workshop in Kabul, which was attended by 16 staff members from the Khoshi and Khwaja Umari DSUs.
- Between July 28 and 30, a ToT in Infrastructure Project Planning was conducted in Kabul for seven newly hired district engineers from Ghazni, Khost, Logar, and Paktya Provinces.
- From July 28 through August 1, SIKA-East conducted a ToT in Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation training in Kabul for staff from Jalrez, Qarabagh, and Jaghatu Districts. PRRD social organizers also participated in this training and will co-facilitate the trainings in the field.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND STABILIZATION

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

- The Chaki Wardak DPP was submitted to USAID on June 25 and approved the next day.
- The Zadran DPP, which was submitted to USAID on May 30, was approved on July 8.
- After endorsement by the DDA, District Governor, PRRD, and line departments, the Andar DPP was submitted to USAID for approval on July 21.
- The Zurmat DPP was also endorsed by the DDA, District Governor, and PRRD Director and submitted to USAID on July 29.
- The Khoshi and Khwaja Umari DPPs have been approved by the DDAs, District Governors, and PRRD Directors and are currently undergoing translation, language review, and preparation of the accompanying narratives.
- The Gurbuz DPP was endorsed by DDA+, DG, and PRRD Director and is currently being translated.

Post-SPF Evaluations: SIKA-East has successfully completed the first round of Service Provider Fairs (SPF) in Maidan Wardak, Logar, Paktya, and Ghazni. In order to assess their immediate impact, the team conducted an overall post-fair evaluation. SIKA-East developed a questionnaire used to conduct a survey with the target group: service providers participating in the fairs for promotion of their products, plus the SPFs visitors. Each SPF participant was asked:

- What types of contacts did you make at the fair?
- Has your business improved because of the fair? How?
- Who did you meet at the fair that has helped your business? How have they helped?
- Have your sales improved because of the fair? If yes, can you tell us how much?
- If your business has improved, have you had to hire new workers? How many? How many total workers do you have now?

The interviewees were quite satisfied with the SPFs. For instance, the Alkozai group of companies reported an increase in sales and plans to hire more staff to accommodate it. Almadina Honey Co. is expecting support from some companies they met at the fair. The interview reports were submitted to Kabul and are being analyzed.

Khost SPF and SPC: SIKA-East is preparing for an SPF in Khost Province. This preparation includes hiring a vendor to cover the logistical arrangements and deliver all the required services for the event. SIKA-East reviewed the draft SPC from Khost and is currently working to improve its language and formatting.

Khost Resource Coordination Meeting: SIKA-East's Kabul team developed a plan for a resource coordination meeting for Khost Province. This plan will be shared with senior management and Khost provincial staff for further processing, which includes sharing the plan with government departments, especially IDLG and MRRD.

Communication Committee Meetings: During July, several communication committee meetings were held for both men and women in Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Maydan Districts of Logar and Maydan Wardak Provinces. These meetings allowed the community representatives, both female and male, to develop their communication committee agenda because they will be meeting often from now on. Also, during these meetings, the participants learned how to communicate their problems/concerns with local government authorities.

Strategic Communications Plans: In the past few months, the communication committees have been putting together strategic communication plans in many SIKA-East districts. This month, SIKA-East Kabul reviewed the communication plans from Andar and Dih Yak Districts and provided guidance and feedback to the field staff.

Research-based Message Development: In July SIKA-East developed a list of research-based messages that thematically follow the topics of the radio plays that aired in May and June, as well as action-oriented messages that address some concerns raised in focus group surveys. It is anticipated that in-kind grants will be provided to districts in the fall to continue airing the radio plays, and SIKA-East will increase the multimedia approach by providing editable templates of brochures that complement the radio play topics. The initial topics from the radio plays were chosen by reviewing district-identified SoIs that cut across multiple districts. The messages developed will aid DDA+ members and District Governors in facilitating stability-based dialogue with local communities on topics that matter most such as water, opportunities for youth, and education for girls.

SIKA-East field staff viewed and finalized the research-based messaging and SIKA-East messaging list, which is now undergoing internal review. Once it is finalized, the message list will be shared with District Governors, PRRD Directors, and members of DDAs and other influential people from the community for their comment and feedback. The next step will be to share the list with IDLG, MRRD, and USAID for final approval. SIKA-East also created two manuals in Microsoft Word-based brochure design and picture managers for low-level computer literacy users.

District Profiles: During July, SIKA-East developed new district profiles for Andar and Khoshi Districts and updated the profiles for Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, and Saydabad. Reviewing and staying updated with all the social, political, and economic changes in these districts will help SIKA-East and its government counterparts remain current with all the changes within the districts. The updated district profiles for Andar, Dih Yak, and Mohammad Agha, along with the new profile for Khoshi District, were submitted to USAID during the month.

Gender Strategy: SIKA-East held several meetings during the month to discuss ways forward on the implementation of the recently developed Gender Strategy. The main goals of the meetings were to operationalize the gender strategy and find ways to increase the participation of women in SIKA-East. The meetings helped create a gender mainstreaming framework for achieving gender equality throughout all SIKA-East areas of operation.

DSW Training Plan: SIKA-East is working on a training plan for MRRD district social workers. This training plan will include a combination of both SIKA-East and MRRD training curricula. The training will take place once all the 22 district social workers have been hired.

Skill Training: This month, Palatena, the contractor hired in May to design and deliver skills training for trainers, completed the detailed outline for the training curriculum and was given the go-ahead to start developing the trainers' guide and the other training materials.

ENGINEERING SUPPORT GROUP

Engineering Design Packages: In July, ESG completed design of 21 projects for five districts of Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Ghazni Provinces. So far, the designs of 103 projects with a total value of \$5,035,877, have been completed, while the designs for 33 other projects are under way. 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	4	30	89,700	826,941
	B	Nirakh	2	17	187,414	963,067
	C	Chaki Wardak	2	10	103,334	557,866
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,111	1,406,845
	A	Baraki Barak	7	9	507,443	595,433
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	3	10	112,718	491,914
	C	Andar	6	2	253,855	193,812
Paktya	C	Zadran	3	0	450,400	0
Subtotals			33	103	2,078,974	5,035,877
Grand Totals			136		7,114,852	

GRANTS AND SUB-CONTRACTS UNIT

Grants Approved: USAID approved an additional 20 grant applications during July. This brings the total number of approved grants to 68 in six districts with an award value of \$2,894,955.

Grant Awards: Twenty-one CDCs successfully started grant implementation and completed the first milestone. GSU's Kabul team organized and executed payment for completion of the first milestone for nine grantees from Nirakh and Saydabad Districts and twelve from Mohammad Agha District, for a total value of \$ 197,086. Payment went smoothly without any problems with the CDCs' authorized representatives.

Non-infrastructure Projects: The non-infrastructure support team prepared and published four Requests for Proposals (RFP) for a series of tailoring, embroidery, fruit and vegetable processing, and poultry raising trainings in the districts of Saydabad and Baraki Barak. These trainings will address community requests identified in approved DPPs, most of them made by women, and additionally seek to create longer-term market opportunities for women from the districts.

Endorsement of Chaki Wardak CDCs/PMCS: In July, the Maydan Wardak PRRD Director again raised several issues that had already been addressed and agreed with USAID and MRRD earlier. He requested that SIKA-East staff complete the NSP Form 3, make payments to grantees using old NSP bank accounts, and use Fixed Obligation Grants (FOG) instead of In-Kind grants. This problem was

communicated to MRRD, along with evidence that these issues have been previously discussed and agreed upon among the partners. The PRRD Director then continued to endorse grantees. However, the problem caused a significant delay in the processing of new grant applications in Chaki Wardak District.

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 following table.

SIKA-East Grants Pipeline
(Cumulative through July 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
Saydabad	4	25	718,833	1	10	23	20	20	553,615	18	500,544
Mohammad Agha	20	23	1,110,264	1	23	22	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nirakh	17	15	816,949	1	16	14	11	11	598,205	8	454,634
Dih Yak	12	9	353,688	4	4	9	7	7	268,287	5	177,901
Chaki Wardak	12	9	423,719	1	2	4	4	4	173,885	3	118,944
Andar	23	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baraki Barak	31	13	515,255	3	2	9	4	4	275,088	0	0
Total	119	94	3,938,708	11	61	81	68	68	2,894,955	56	2,277,898

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REPORTING UNIT

M&E Field Activities: MERU completed 25 site visits reports for grant projects, including 11 for the grant projects first milestone and five for the second milestone in Mohammad Agha District, five in Saydabad, three in Chaki Wardak, and one in Nirakh.

Province	District	Milestone 1	Milestone 2
Maydan Wardak	Saydabad		5
Maydan Wardak	Nirakh		1
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak		3
Logar	Mohammad Agha	11	5

TraiNet and AfghanInfo: On July 3, MERU uploaded the TraiNet FY2013 Q2 data into the TraiNet portal. In addition, MERU has collected and verified the Afghan Info Data for FY2013 Q3, covering April, May, and June 2013. The unit is working with Finance to verify/clarify the expenditures.

SECURITY UNIT

Security Risk Assessments: Security finalized the Security Risk Assessments (SRA) of the Zadrans and Ahmad Abad DSU offices, as well as Maidan Shahr's PMU guesthouse. The Zadrans DSU has recorded a rise in insurgent activity. The SRA is focused on the details of the vulnerability of the DSU office and other program facilities. Security also finalized the SRA for Mando Zayi District of Khost Province. The SRA was conducted prior to mobilization to identify possible challenges after SIKA-East intervention in the district.

Armored Vehicles Registration: The armored vehicle licenses are delayed awaiting action from the Anti Terrorism Department of the Ministry of Interior. The Anti Terrorism Department currently does not have the stickers that formally establish the credibility of the armored vehicle licenses.

Security Incidents in SIKA-East Target Districts

Date	Type	Description	Deaths	Injuries
July 1	Rocket attack	A rocket was fired from an unknown location toward the military base in Puli Alam. The rocket did not hit the target but exploded to the south of the SIKA-East DSU office. The incident occurred around 17:00, and no SIKA-East staff were injured.	N/A	N/A
July 4	Small arms, RPG, mortar attack	Insurgents attacked the Zadran district center, inflicting damage on the SIKA-East office and stock room, but were beaten off by security forces. There were no injuries to staff. This incident constitutes a direct threat against SIKA-East staff in the district and warrants further discussion as to whether program operations should continue from the district center moving forward.	N/A	N/A
July 4	Phone threat	Security investigated the threatening phone calls and letter that have been received since last March by the Puli Alam field finance officer but which he only disclosed on this date. Security is assessing the situation for further action.	N/A	N/A
July 7	Armed clashes between ANA and insurgents	Two incidents in the villages of Neknam and Zawo in Zurmat District of Paktya Province impacted SIKA-East staff movements to areas for project implementation.	N/A	N/A
July 7	Armed clash between ANA and insurgents	This incident in Mali Khail and Hasan Khail Villages in Saydabad District of Maydan Wardak Province affected SIKA-East staff movements to areas for project implementation.	N/A	N/A
July 8	Illegal checkpoint	The Taliban and Hezb-i-Islami party checkpoint on the road between Nirkh and Maydan Shahr is a significant problem for SIKA-East's daily activities in Nirkh District. Additionally, the Taliban repeated their demand that tribal elders tell the villagers to leave their jobs with the government.	N/A	N/A
July 24	Small arms, RPG, mortar attack	Insurgents launched an attack against the Khwaja Umari district compound, which lasted around 30 minutes. While fleeing from the area, the insurgents came upon Mohammad Ayaz Nemati, SIKA-East community development officer for the district, who was working in a field that insurgents fled through. They seized the SIKA-East man and took him with them. Security Department followed up on the kidnapping of Mr. Nemati. After communications and follow-up with the district authorities and elders, Mr. Nemayati was released on July 29.	N/A	N/A
July 25	Mortar attack	Insurgents again attacked the Khwaja Umari district compound, firing five mortar rounds. Two landed near the district building, and the other three in nearby Tormay Village. Nobody was injured in the attack.	N/A	N/A

Airport Passes: Security Unit processed the airport passes for four of the SIKA-East armored vehicles through Kabul International Airport and Ramp 5 Military Airport. They also acquired the armored vehicle licenses from Anti-Terrorism Department of Ministry of Interior (MoI).

Driver Safety Training: During the month, a member of SIKA-East's Tani staff had an accident while riding a motorcycle and was severely hurt; 36 hours later, he passed away from his injuries. As a result, Security initiated Driver Safety Training for all the PMUs and DSUs.

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 July)

No	Vetted Company	Description	Final submission of all documents to USAID	Acknowledgment by USAID	Vetting approved by USAID	Days Pending	Remarks
27	Zeenat Aria Ltd.	Home Appliances kitchenware	6 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	3 Jul 13	23	Approved
28	Ernst & Young Ford Rhodes Sidat Haidar	Tax Advisory Services	6 Jun 13	10 Jun 13		51	
29	Ahmad Ilham Ltd	Diesl fuel for office generator	6 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	23 Jun 13	17	Approved
30	Park Star Hotal	Hotal/Hall booking	6 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	18 Jun 13	12	Approved
31	Hamid Ilyas Ltd	Furniture	6 Jun 13	10 Jun 13		51	
32	Ariana Network Services	Internet Bandwith for office	6 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	23 Jun 13	13	Approved
32a	Nasar Ali Zaman Razaie Ltd	Cleaning Supply	12 Jun 13	13 Jun 13	10 Jul 13	27	Approved
33	Clean House Cleaning Service Co.	Empty of septic tank & garbage	12 Jun 13	13 Jun 13	24 Jul 13	41	Approved
34	Royal Osaka Logistic and Service Co	Grocery for expats/engine oil & filters for kabul office, PMU & DSU generators	1 Jul 13	2 Jul 13	9 Jul 13	7	Approved
35	Royal Osaka Logistic and Service Co	District office Generators	3 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	9 Jul 13	6	Approved
36	Afghan Global ltd	IT Equipments	9 Jul 13	10 Jul 13		21	
37	Royal Osaka Logistic and Service Co	Lease of 294 pcs samsung galaxy smart phone	23 Jul 13	23 Jul 13		8	

Grants Vetting Tracker
 (for unapproved grant applications and applications approved in July)

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 # G042	Patan Khil CDC, Shash Qala Kariz Extension	26 May 13	26 May 13	28 May 13	2 Jul 13	35	Approved
VAR #G046	Bata CDC, Poultry Farm in Bata Haji Qala Project	9 Jun 13	9 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	24 Jul 13	20	Approved
VAR #G047	Payendi CDC, Bridge Construction Project of Khairawal and Payeni Villages	9 Jun 13	9 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	8 Jul 13	20	Approved
VAR #G048	Abo Khan CDC, Poultry Farm in Mihtar Godali Abo Khan and Bagha	9 Jun 13	9 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	9 Jul 13	20	Approved

VAR #G049	Mash CDC, Repairing and Boundary Wall Construction for Mash Female School	9 Jun 13	9 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	7 Jul 13	20	Approved
VAR #G050	Dih Yak DDA, Digging of 30 Bore Wells in Salimanzi Village	9 Jun 13	9 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	3 Jul 13	20	Approved
VAR #G051	Taimani Badam CDC, Monthain Karez Extension	10 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	24 Jul 13	43	Approved
VAR #G052	Lashkar Khil CDC, Construction of Protection Wall in Dehehnew	10 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	11 Jun 13	24 Jul 13	43	Approved
VAR #G053	Alozia Najran CDC, Construction of Protection Wall in Katab Khil Area	10 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	11 Jun 13	9 Jul 13	28	Approved
VAR #G054	Usefkhil CDC, Culverts Construction	11 Jun 13	11 Jun 13	13 Jun 13	9 Jul 13	26	Approved
VAR #G055	Zin Khan Khil CDC, Zin Khan Khil Deep Wells	13 Jun 13	13 Jun 13	16 Jun 13	9 Jul 13	23	Approved
VAR #G056	Loy Kali Dashtak CDC, Karez Extension for Loy Khali Dashtak Dewallgai	13 Jun 13	13 Jun 13	16 Jun 13	10 Jul 13	24	Approved
VAR #G057	Haser Tangi Dashtak CDC, Karez Extension for Haser Tangi Dashtak	13 Jun 13	13 Jun 13	16 Jun 13	10 Jul 13	24	Approved
VAR #G058	Amankhil CDC, Hamzakhil Karez Extension and Amankhil Culverts Construction	16 Jun 13	16 Jun 13	17 Jun 13	10 Jul 13	23	Approved
VAR #G059	Sagay Garge CDC, Dewallgai and Dalil Karez Extension	19 Jun 13	19 Jun 13	20 Jun 3	14 Jul 13	24	Approved
VAR #G060	Akali CDC, Super Passage Construction and Canal Rehabilitation	24 Jun 13	24 Jun 13	17 Jul 13	17 Jul 13	0	Approved
VAR #G061	Deh Kharotee CDC, Deh Kharotee Kurez Rehabilitation	24 Jun 13	24 Jun 13	17 Jul 13	17 Jul 13	0	Approved
VAR #G062	Ganda Cheshma CDC, Ganda Cheshma Karez Extension and Rehabilitation	26 Jun 13	26 Jun 13	27 Jun 13	17 Jul 13	20	Approved
VAR #G063	Tagab Payan CDC, Construction of New Surrounding Wall for Tagab Payan School	26 Jun 13	26 Jun 13	27 Jun 13	17 Jul 13	20	Approved
VAR #G064	Toor Khil CDC, Toor Khil Deep Wall Project	2 Jul 13	2 Jul 13	3 Jul 13		28	
VAR #G065	Tara Khil CDC, Building Flood Diversion over Streams (Siphon)	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13		23	
VAR #G066	Karimdad Shamli CDC, Boring Wells & Construction of Protection Wall	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13		23	
VAR #G067	Shah Mazar CDC, Installation of Top Ring and Apron for Karez Opening	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13		23	
VAR #G068	Qala Nazem KochiCDC, Rehabilitation of Kojal Karez	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13		23	Approved
VAR #G069	Lalak Khil CDC, Development of New Surrounding Wall for Lalak Khil School	15 Jul 13	15 Jul 13	16 Jul 13		15	
VAR #G070	Shetam CDC, Construction of Protection Wall for Agricultural Land	15 Jul 13	15 Jul 13	16 Jul 13		15	
VAR #G071	Miran CDC, Boring of 35 Potable Water Wells	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13		13	
VAR #G072	Salih Khil CDC, Construction of Wall	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13		13	
VAR #G073	Tasan Payan CDC, Construction of Aqueduct and Protection Wall	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13		13	

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

The Human Resources unit recruited and hired 34 employees in July. The following table provides details on the newly hired staff:

Recently Hired SIKA-East Staff

No.	Position/Title	Gender	Employer	Unit	Province
1	Program Support Unit Officer	Male	AECOM	FPM	Kabul
2	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Khost
3	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Khost
4	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Khost
5	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Wardak
6	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Wardak
7	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Paktya
8	Community Development Officer	Male	AECOM	ISS	Paktya
9	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	ISS	Wardak
10	Procurement Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Kabul
11	Grants & Subcontracts Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
12	Cleaner (Office)	Male	AECOM	MRRD	Kabul
13	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Khost
14	Deputy PMU Manager	Male	AECOM	PMU	Khost
15	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
16	Grants & Subcontracts Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
17	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Field Operations	Wardak
18	Grants Procurement Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Khost
19	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
20	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	Engineering	Wardak
21	M&E Officer	Male	AECOM	MERU	Ghazni
22	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
23	M&E Officer	Male	OSC	MERU	Khost
24	HR Assistant	Female	AECOM	HR	Kabul
25	Grants & Subcontracts Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Logar
26	Communication officer	Male	OSC	DSU	Wardak
27	Roving PMU Manager	Male	AECOM	PSU	Kabul
28	HR Assistant	Male	AECOM	HR	Kabul
29	Procurement Officer	Male	AECOM	Procurement	Wardak
30	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
31	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
32	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
33	Gender Officer	Female	AECOM	ISS	Khost
34	Procurement Officer	Male	AECOM	Procurement	Logar

NEXT STEPS

- Follow up and monitor implementation of awarded grants, supporting CDCs to successfully implement grants in line with rules and regulations;
- Continue surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zadran Districts, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects lists;

- Prepare for Infrastructure Project Planning and Infrastructure Project Implementation training in several districts;
- Conduct in-house technical ToT for SIKA-East engineers in Kabul;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Implementation Training for several districts;
- Evaluate received RFPs for non-infrastructure grants (tailoring, embroidery, poultry training) for Saydabad and Baraki Barak Districts, and select vendors that will provide requested trainings and training tools;
- Finalize the district profiles for Baraki Barak and Khwaja Umari;
- Conduct Project Design and Development ToT;
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation ToT;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process ToT;
- Conduct SIKA Induction for newly hired staff;
- Conduct SIKA Induction for PRRD district social workers;
- Establish DSU offices in Jalriz, Ahmad Abad, Jaghatu, and Qarabagh Districts;
- Launch SIKA-East in Jalriz, Qarabagh, and Jaghatu Districts;
- Work on the HR database;
- Continue with database trainings for field staff;
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 138 staff:
 - 105 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - 3 vacancies in process with OSC;
 - 30 vacancies in process with IRD.

APPENDIX A

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS CONDUCTED IN JULY

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
June 30-July 4	Stability Planning Process Female	Gurbuz	Training		41
June 30-July 4	Stakeholder Orientation	Tani	Training	73	
July 1-3	Project Design and Development	Khoshi/Kabul	ToT	15	
July 2	Governance Foundation	Tani	Training	79	
July 2-3	Stakeholder Orientation	Jaji Maidan	Training	54	
July 4	Governance Foundation	Jaji Maidan	Training	54	
July 4-6	Stability Planning Process Male - I	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	49	
July 4-6	Stability Planning Process Male - I	Laja Mangal	Training	46	
July 7	Grant Project Management	Saydabad	Training	37	
July 7-9	Stability Planning Process Male - I	Gurbuz	Training	61	
July 7-11	Grant Project Management	Chaki Wardak	Training	30	
July 14	Verifying SOIs, RCs and Their Solutions	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	20	
July 14-15	Project Design and Development	Khwaja Umari	Training	62	
July 14-16	Stability Planning Process Male - I	Tani	Training	61	
July 14-16	Project Design and Development	Khoshi	Training		50
July 15	Verifying SOIs, RCs and Their Solutions	Laja Mangal	Training	14	
July 16-18	Project Design and Development	Khwaja Umari	Training		31
July 16-20	Grants Process and Application Development	Zadran	Training	40	
July 17	Verifying SOIs, RCs and Their Solutions	Gurbuz	Training	59	
July 17-18	Project Design and Development Training	Khoshi	Training	54	
July 17-19	Stability Planning Process Male - I	Jaji Maidan	Training	55	
July 21-22	Infrastructure Project Implementation	Baraki Barak	Training	21	
July 21-23	Grants Process and Application Development	Khwaja Umari	Training	27	
July 21-24	Grants Project Management	Dih Yak	Training	29	
July 22-23	Grants Process and Application Development	Khoshi	Training		43
July 24	Verifying SOIs, RCs and Their Solutions	Tani	Training	34	
July 24	Verifying SOIs, RCs and Their Solutions	Jaji Maidan	Training	28	
July 28	Grant Review Committee ToT	Paktya	ToT	8	
July 28-29	Infrastructure Project Implementation	Dih Yak	Training	34	
July 23-27	Grants Process and Application Development	Zurmat	Training	47	
July 28-30	Infrastructure Project Planning	Kabul	ToT	7	
July 28-31	Stability Planning Process Male - II	Laja Mangal	Training	52	
July 28-August 1	Stability Planning Process Male - II	Gurbuz	Training	38	
July 28-August 1	Stability Planning Process Female - II	Gurbuz	Training		41
July 28-August 1	Stability Planning Process Male - II	Laja Ahmad Khail	Taining	57	
July 28-August 1	Grants Process and Application Development	Khoshi	Training	64	
July 28-August 1	Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation	Kabul	ToT	22	
July 30-31	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Gurbuz	Training		50

APPENDIX B

SIGNIFICANT MEETINGS CONDUCTED IN JULY

Date	Topic	Location	Narrative Description	Result
July 1	SPF coordination	Ghazni	The gender officer sought the opinion of female service providers through different meetings.	All the service providers expressed their thanks for the events and requested holding similar events in future.
July 1	Coordination with the PRRD	Khost	Discussed the ongoing trainings and asked the PRRD Director to send a representative to participate in the trainings.	The PRRD Director agreed to send a representative.
July 1	Female participation in SIKA-East	Paktya	The gender officer discussed the unavailability of women in Zurmat and Zadran Districts with the chief of provincial council.	The chief of the provincial council promised to discuss the issue with the District Governor and to meet again to discuss.
July 1	Coordination with the PRRD	Logar	The PRRD Director asked for clarification on Mohammad Agha Cycle 1 projects.	The PRRD assigned a team to visit Mohammad Agha District to clarify and provide analysis and a report.
July 2	Coordination with the PRRD	Ghazni	Updated the PRRD on the progress of SIKA-East in the target districts.	The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East's efforts toward stability in Ghazni Province.
July 2	Coordination with the PRRD	Mohammad Agha/Logar	Updated the PRRD Director on program progress.	The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East's activities and promised to support the program throughout the implementation process.
July 2	Women's participation in Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail	Paktya	Discussed with the District Governors of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail women's participation in their districts.	The District Governors stated that this is a cultural matter and they will share it with the tribal elders and influential people to find a solution.
July 2	Coordination with the PRRD	Maydan Wardak	The participants discussed 16 incomplete and blacklisted CDCs.	In order to formally process their dismissal, it was decided to coordinate with the Provincial Governor and announce their dismissal through local radio.
July 2	Coordination with the PRRD	Paktya	Updated the PRRD Director on SIKA-East activities and trainings in target districts.	The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East and its impacts on the community.

July 3	Cycle 1 projects in Mohammad Agha	Mohammad Agha/Logar	Discussed the complaints of the community with the District Governor and DDA + members regarding the balance of Cycle 1 projects among the <i>hawzas</i> .	It was decided to hold a meeting with the PRRD Director to resolve this issue.
July 4	Coordination with the Provincial Governor	Logar	Updated the Provincial Governor's Secretary on program progress in targeted districts.	The secretary promised to support the program across the province.
July 7	Coordination with PRRD	Ghazni	Discussed renovating the space the PRRD Director allocated to SIKA-East for use as an office.	It was decided to contact the Kabul office to discuss ways to approach the issue.
July 7	Cycle 1 projects	Andar/Ghazni	The DDA members observed that surveys for the projects are not possible in some areas due to the volatile security situation.	It was decided to meet with the District Governor and influential community members to try to find a solution to the problem.
July 7	GRC	Logar	Explained the GRC to the PRRD Director.	
July 7	Projects' survey	Baraki Barak/Logar	The DDA members were asked to speed up project surveys.	The parties decided to start project surveys as soon as possible.
July 7	Coordination with the PRRD Director	Maydan Wardak	Discussed the endorsement letters for the <i>hawzas</i> .	the PRRD Director promised to process them as soon as possible.
July 7	Unavailability of women in SIKA-East target districts	Paktya	Discussed with the manager of Health Net women's unavailability in Zurmat, Zadran, Laja Mangal, and Laja Ahmad Khill Districts, and ways to involve women in program implementation.	The Health Net manager mentioned that he will discuss the issue with women beneficiaries of Health Net and support SIKA-East in this regard.
July 7	Gerda Serai, the new sub-district	Zadran/Paktya	The PRRD Director and DSU manager explained SIKA-East to Gerda Serai representatives.	The Garda Serai representatives signed an agreement to support implementation of SIKA-East in their area.
July 7	Women's involvement in Laja Mangal District	Paktya	Followed up with the AWEC on Laja Mangal women's involvement in SIKA-East.	The AWEC manager said that a list of influential women in the district is almost finalized and she will be happy to share it with SIKA-East.
July 8	Coordination with PRRD	Khost	Updated the PRRD Director on SIKA-East's achievements and plans for the coming week and asked him to assign someone to participate in trainings.	The PRRD Director promised to send someone.
July 8	Coordination with the District Governor	Khoshi/ Logar	Updated the District Governor on SIKA-East progress.	The District Governor promised to give the program his full support.
July 8	Communication committee	Nirkh/Maydan Wardak	Men's communication committee discussed the role of the communication committee in all the phases of project implementation.	They understood their role and responsibilities toward stability.
July 9	Male and female communi-	Mohammad Agha/	Discussed ways to communicate their problems with	Women's committee developed their communication committee agenda and also

	cation committee meeting	Logar	the concerned parties.	learned how to communicate their problems and concerns with government and local authorities in the area.
July 13	Female communication committee	Nirakh/Maydan Wardak	Discussed project implementation, project budgets, the start and end of projects, seasonal information about projects, and the types of projects.	The participants agreed to share the matters with the larger DDA.
July 14	Villagers' proposed projects	Andar/Ghazni	The CDC and DDA members indicated that two projects cannot be implemented due to insecurity; hence, they should be changed.	It was also decided that the Project PMC of those areas should be invited to agree to change the projects.
July 14	Male communication committee	Khoshi/Logar	Discussed the importance of communication and how to develop strong communication ties with the local authorities.	The participants agreed to share the matters of discussion with the larger DDA.
July 14	Sources of instability	Laja Ahmad Khail/Paktya	Verified sources of instability and proposed solutions for them.	Reviewed the projects that had been selected by community elders.
July 14	Coordination with the Deputy PRRD Director	Maydan Wardak	Discussed the Chaki Wardak endorsement letters.	The PRRD Deputy Director promised to approve the letters as soon as the provincial council endorsed them.
July 15	Coordination with the PRRD	Ghazni	Discussed office requirements for the Qarabagh DSU.	It was decided to approach the Qarabagh District Governor and request space for the SIKA-East office within his compound.
July 15	Cycle 1 projects	Logar	Dih Naw Hawza head discussed his concerns about the Cycle 1 projects. He felt that the project selection was not equal for all the hawzas and wanted SIKA-East to address this matter with the community	It was decided to set up a meeting between the DSU manager and community next week.
July 15	Male and female communication committees	Baraki Barak/Logar	Discussed notions for a communication plan for the district.	It was decided to focus on developing one at their next meetings.
July 15	Male communication committee	Nirakh/Maydan Wardak	Discussed such project-related matters as available budgets, implementation times, project benefits for the community, and the selection of communication channels.	The participants agreed to share the matters with the larger DDA.
July 15	Coordination with the PRRD	Mohammad Agha/Logar	Updated the PRRD Director on program progress in the district.	The PRRD Director was satisfied with SIKA-East progress.
July 15	Women's involvement	Paktya	Followed up the women's involvement issue with the manager of AWEC.	The manager of AWEC suggested that SIKA-East train the members of the women's council established by AWEC so that they can replicate

				the trainings for the female community members. She promised to provide a list of members of the women's councils soon.
July 16	Coordination with the PRRD	Ghazni	Discussed the Khwaja Umari District DPP.	The PRRD Director reviewed and endorsed the DPP.
July 16	Communication committee	Andar/Ghazni	The men's communication committee discussed the outcome of a meeting they had with the District Governor regarding the road between Andar and Giro District.	He said that he would construct the road when he received funding for it.
July 16	Coordination with the PRRD	Khost	Provided an update on program implementation in Khost Province.	The PRRD Director was satisfied with the progress and said that the PMU should contact him if any help or support was required.
July 17	Coordination with the District Governor	Khoshi/Logar	Discussed security and program-related problems.	The District Governor instructed the DSU manager to change the training venue to a safer place. It was decided to conduct trainings at the district center conference hall temporarily.
July 17	Female communication committee	Nirkh/Maydan Wardak	Discussed the goals of the communication committee, implementation of the communication plan prepared by the men's and women's communication committees, and identifying their audience.	They decided to conduct joint communication committee meetings in future.
July 18	Coordination with the PRRD	Khost	Discussed SIKA-East intervention in Mando Zayi District.	The PRRD Director decided to issue a letter to the Provincial Governor and through him advise the Mando Zayi District Governor about SIKA-East implementation in the district.
July 21	Coordination with the PRRD	Ghazni	Updated the PRRD on SIKA-East activities in all five districts where the program is being implemented.	The PRRD Director said he appreciated SIKA-East's stabilization efforts in Ghazni.
July 21	Coordination with the SCA, AWEC, and the Departments of Health and Education	Saydabad	Discussed the importance of coordination between service providers and district entities.	They decided to hold such meetings in future.
July 21	Coordination with the PRRD	Ghazni	Discussed the hiring of social mobilizers.	The PRRD Director announced the date and time of the written test and approved the shortlisted candidates for it.
July 21	Women's participation	Paktya	Followed up with the AWEC manager the issue of women's participation in Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail.	The AWEC manager mentioned that she has prepared the list of women and submitted it to the District Governor and community elders, who had expressed interest in increasing the number

				of women in the program. They promised to work on it and try to find a place for women in the program
July 22	Male communication committee	Dih Yak/Ghazni	Discussed the strategic communication plan for July	Decided to meet with religious scholars, community elders and CDCs throughout the district and spread their messages regarding the advantages of stability.
July 22	Male communication committee	Saydabad/Maydan Wardak	Discussed the implementation of their communication plan.	They decided to implement their plan in August.
July 22	Male communication committee	Mohammad Agha/Logar	Discussed holding a special meeting soon on the subject of message delivery.	They prepared a list of invitees for the meeting.
July 23	Female communication committee	Mohammad Agha/Logar	Discussed holding a special meeting soon on the subject of message delivery.	They prepared a list of invitees for the meeting and decided to include the Director of Women's Affairs.
July 23	Female communication committee	Dih Yak/Ghazni	Talked about their problems.	Decided to share their problems with the DoWA.
July 23	Coordination with the Provincial Governor	Ghazni	Discussed Qarabagh DSU office space.	It was decided that the Qarabagh District Governor will provide office space for SIKA-East after rooms in the District Governor's compound have been renovated.
July 23	Male communication committee	Andar/Ghazni	Followed up on action points of the previous meeting.	They requested the Departments of Health and Education to consider the requirements of clinics and schools in the district.
July 24	Female communication committee	Ghazni	Discussed their problems with the DoWA director.	She promised to raise specific issues at the next meeting of the Provincial Development Council.
July 25	Coordination with the PRRD Deputy Program Director	Logar	Discussed Mohammad Agha District. The PMU representative shared the Mohammad Agha communication plan and meeting agenda and expressed interest in having a PRRD representative participate in the meeting.	The Deputy Program Director promised to cooperate and support the meetings to make them successful.
July 25	Female communication committee	Saydabad/Maydan Wardak	Discussed the implementation of communication plan.	It was decided to start the implementation of the plan.
July 28	Coordination with the PRRD Director	Maydan Wardak	The PRRD Director mentioned that they require the monthly report in PRRD's format.	The PMU manager provided the report accordingly.
July 28	Sub-coordination with AWEC	Saydabad	Discussed coordination between service provider and	AWEC representative explained about their

			district entities.	planned activities for women in Saydabad district.
July 29	Female communication committee	Chaki Wardak	Discussed the importance of having a communication plan, the selection of communication channels, and when to start practical work on a communication plan.	The participants promised to share the points of discussion with the larger DDA.
July 30	Female communication committee	Dih Yak/Logar	Discussed the importance of their committee and the role of women in the community.	They understood their roles and responsibilities.
July 30	Coordination with the District Governor	Khost	Briefed the District Governor of Mando Zayi on SIKA-East and submitted the official letter of the Provincial Governor about SIKA-East in Mando Zayi.	The District Governor promised to support the program in his district and provide space for the DSU in his compound.
July 30	Coordination with the PRRD	Logar	Updated the PRRD Director on program progress.	The PRRD Director was satisfied about the progress and promised further support.

U.S. Agency for International Development

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20523

Tel: (202) 712-0000

Fax: (202) 216-3524

www.usaid.gov