



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

MONTHLY REPORT (AUGUST 2013)



Local laborers work on the Deh Kharqa karez rehabilitation project in Nirkh District of Maydan Wardak Province.

August 2013

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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

MONTHLY REPORT (AUGUST 2013)

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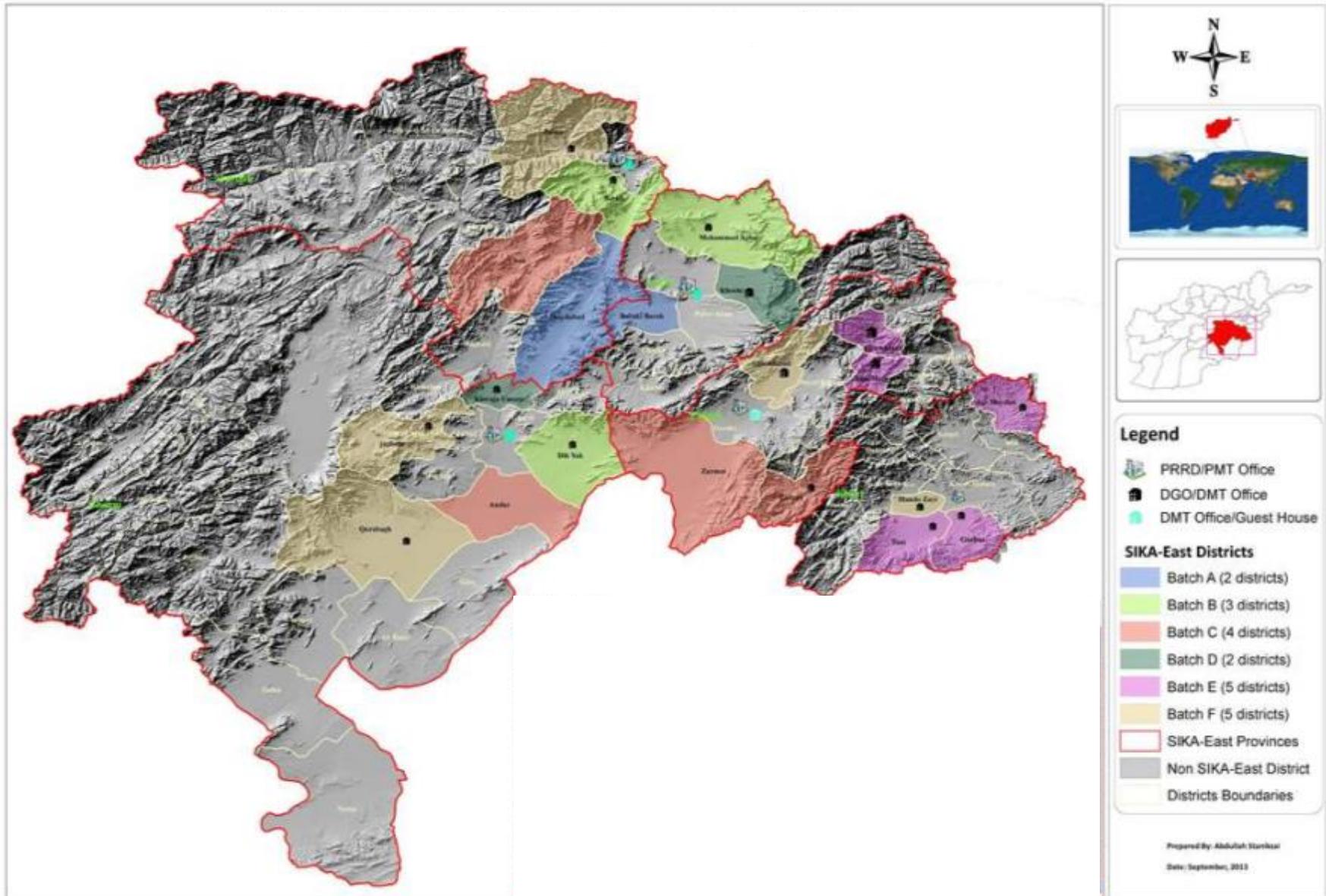
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ACRONYMS

CDC	Community Development Council
CLDD	Community Led Development Department
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCC	District Community Council
DDA	District Development Assembly
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DSU	District Support Unit
DSW	District Social Worker
GRC	Grant Review Committee
HR	Human Resource
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
LoP	Life of Project
MERU	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NDS	National Directorate of Security
PMU	Provincial Management Unit
PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development
RFP	Request for Proposals
SAM	Stability Analysis Methodology
SIKA-East	Stability in Key Areas-East
SPC	Service Providers Catalogue
SPF	Service Providers Fair
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 August 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 85 through 90.

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. SIKA-East currently operates in 18 districts in the provinces of Logar, Paktya, Khost, Maydan Wardak, and Ghazni.

OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

In August, SIKA-East, led by MRRD and IDLG, focused its stabilization and governance efforts primarily on the awarding and management of grants in those districts where the program has been operating longest. To date, SIKA-East has awarded 66 grants, totaling \$2,639,624, for community-based projects that address local sources of instability. In addition, 93 grant applications have been submitted to USAID for approval, and 89, with a combined value of \$3,750,472, have been approved. Feeding the grants pipeline, the program this month completed 31 engineering designs in eight districts of Ghazni, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya Provinces. Designs for 32 other projects are under way.

Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and SIKA-East staff continued to conduct joint trainings, mostly for members of DDAs and CDCs in Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan in Khost Province and Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal in Paktya. These trainings enable the participants to identify sources of instability in their areas and plan projects to mitigate them.

In the reporting period, the DPPs for Andar and Zurmat were approved, enabling the program to move into the grants phase of implementation. The Khoshi and Khwaja Umari DPPs – as well as those for Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts – have been approved by the DDAs, District Governors, and PRRD Directors and are currently being finalized.

On August 26, a resource coordination meeting was held in Khost Province. Nearly 140 people attended the event. These included service providers, local government officials, and representatives



August 18 gender meeting in Gardiz, Paktya Province



Deh Kharqa karez rehabilitation project in Nirkh District of Maydan Wardak Province



Project Design and Development Training in Laja Mangal District of Paktya Province

from the DDAs, DCCs, and CDCs from Khost's Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts, where SIKA-East was recently launched. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the three districts' DPPs to the community and line directors of the province and to acquaint the district entities with the local service providers, their service types, and procedures for accessing their resources.

Initial drafts for district profiles for Khwaja Umari, Jaghatu, and Qarabagh were completed, helping SIKA-East and its government counterparts keep up with environmental changes within a district.

SIKA-East worked on program launches in Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts in Ghazni Province and in Jalrez District of Maydan Wardak, scheduled for September 1. Efforts continued toward office setup in Ahmad Abad District, while Khost prepared to open an office in its district of Mando Zayi.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Life of Project (LoP) Perspectives: Preliminary planning is under way to prepare SIKA-East on two scenarios, depending on the pending award of an option period. In case the program is not extended and closes down operations on March 6, 2014, current projections point towards closing all grants by the end of December, allowing for a three months' mandatory monitoring period; trainings will be finished by the end of January 2014. This coincides with a peak in program activities in the pipeline, which will have then maximum delivery by the end of the calendar year. SIKA-East is currently operating under the assumption of finalizing all programmatic objectives by March 6, 2014, while planning for handover of some activities to governmental counterparts to ensure their sustainability. Once an option period term is communicated, SIKA-East will plan and pace activities more strategically across the extended period. SIKA-East will continue to consult with USAID on strategic decisions pertaining to the two LoP scenarios in order to ensure effective use of resources and personnel.

Security Situation: The greatest operational challenge to SIKA-East in August was the worsening security situation in the provinces, especially in Maydan Wardak. The presence of Taliban and other checkpoints on the roads seriously restricted travel during the month. This was exacerbated by anger at a government ban on motorcycles in some areas, which some insurgents have used as an excuse to seize anyone working for the government. Additionally, the Taliban repeated their demand that tribal elders in the area tell the villagers to leave their jobs with the government.

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



August 26 resource coordination meeting in Khost



The governor of Khost Province, Mr. Abdul Jabbar Naimi, addresses the resource coordination meeting.

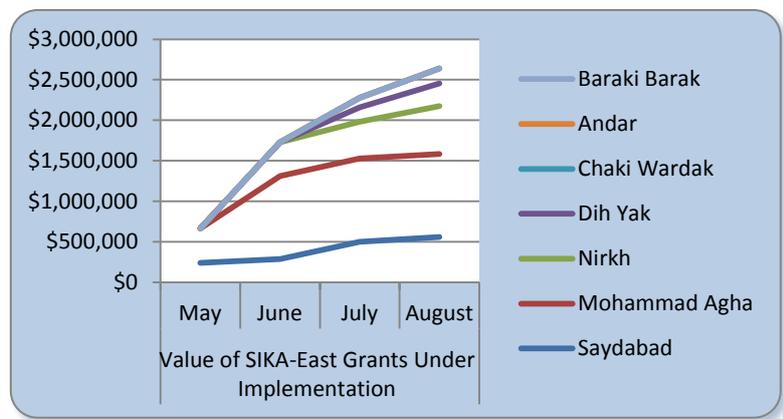
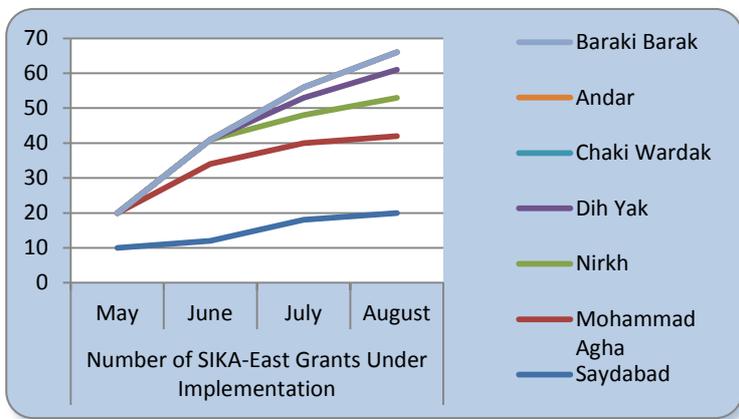


SIKA-East's district engineer (left) discusses work on the Ganda Chesma kariz extension project in Chaki Wardak District of Maydan Wardak Province.

- During the Eid holiday, burglars broke into the PMU office and stole seven laptops and one digital camera. The unit reported the theft to PRRD and National Directorate of Security (NDS), who have initiated an investigation.
- On August 18, a written threat was posted on a wall of a SIKA-East grant project warning that individuals involved in the project – PRRD and the CDC – should not take part in it or they would be dealt with according to Amerat (Taliban) rules and regulations with no right to recourse.
- On August 20, the head of the Yosufkhail Village CDC was abducted by insurgents following posting of the above threat letter. He was released four days later through the efforts of community elders.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING TRACKERS

The charts below illustrate the progress of the SIKA-East grants program over time:



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

SIKA-EAST TRAININGS TRACKER*

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION		I - ORIENT				II - PLAN					III - EXECUTE										IV - EVALUATE & LEARN		TOTAL						
		Stakeholder Orientation - Female SDU	Stakeholder Orientation - Male SDU	Governance Foundation - Female SDU	Governance Foundation - Male SDU	Stability Planning Process - Female SAPU	Stability Planning Process - Male SAPU	Resource Dialogue & Advocacy - Female COU	Resource Dialogue & Advocacy - Male 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	Infrastructure Project Implementation GSU		Lobbying - Female GSU	Lobbying - Male 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	Saydabad					1	1	1		1	1							1								1	1		
June 11, 2012	Baraki Barak	1				2	2	1		1	1																		
November 18, 2012	Nirkh			1	1	1	1	1		1	1				1	1		1											
November 25, 2012	Mohammad Agha			1	1	1	1	1		1	1				1	1													
December 25, 2012	Dih Yak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1				1	1									1	1			
February 7, 2013	Zadran	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1														1	1			
February 7, 2013	Zurmat		1		1		1	1		1	1																		
February 7, 2013	Chaki Wardak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1			1															
February 19, 2013	Andar	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1			1															
May 9, 2013	Khoshi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1																		
May 9, 2013	Khwaja Umari	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1																		
June 19, 2013	Laja Ahmad Khail		1																										
June 19, 2013	Laja Mangal		1																										
June 21, 2013	Gurbuz		1			1																							
June 21, 2013	Jaji Maidan																												
June 21, 2013	Tani																												
ACTUAL		7	10	7	9	10	12	8		10	11	6	9	4	7	1	1								3	3			118
QUARTER JUL-SEP 2013																													
Launch Date	District																												
June 4, 2012	Saydabad																1					1							
June 11, 2012	Baraki Barak									1															1	1	1	1	
November 18, 2012	Nirkh															1													
November 25, 2012	Mohammad Agha																								1	1	1	1	
December 25, 2012	Dih Yak									1						1						1							
February 7, 2013	Zadran															1													
	Zadran / Garda Serai	1			1																								
February 7, 2013	Zurmat															1													
February 7, 2013	Chaki Wardak															1		1						1	1	1	1		
February 19, 2013	Andar																												
May 9, 2013	Khoshi											1	1	1	1											1	1		
May 9, 2013	Khwaja Umari											1	1	1	1														
June 19, 2013	Laja Ahmad Khail																												
June 19, 2013	Laja Mangal																												
June 21, 2013	Gurbuz					1	1	1		1	1																		
June 21, 2013	Jaji Maidan		1		1					1	1																		
June 21, 2013	Tani		1		1					1	1																		
ACTUAL		0	3	0	3	1	5	1		5	0	7	1	4	2	4	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	3	4	4	

* Spreadsheet reflects training activities as of August 31, 2013. Figures represent trainings conducted to date. July trainings are highlighted in light blue, August trainings in yellow. SIKA-East inductions and trainings of trainers are not included.

GRANTS PIPELINE SUMMARY

Pre-Award Cycle																					
DISTRICT	Grant Applications In Process						USAID Vetting Process						GRC Process			USAID Approval to Award					
	Under Development	Applications Received	Total		Pending with USAID	Approved by USAID	Applications Not Require USAID Vetting		Schedule for GRC	Approved by GRC	App. On-hold or Rejected	Approval Requested		Approval Received							
Saydabad	4	\$42,080	25	\$718,833	29	\$760,914	0	\$0	11	\$470,277	11	\$183,887	0	\$0	21	\$575,716	1	22	\$647,703	21	\$575,716
Mohammad Agha	20	\$1,059,440	23	\$1,110,264	43	\$2,169,704	1	\$58,884	24	\$1,266,182	7	\$151,955	0	\$0	22	\$1,025,875	1	22	\$1,025,875	22	\$1,025,875
NirKh	15	\$504,768	17	\$992,108	32	\$1,496,876	2	\$175,159	18	\$85,696	7	\$152,758	0	\$0	14	\$868,299	3	13	\$773,364	13	\$773,364
Dih Yak	10	\$224,556	11	\$495,880	21	\$720,436	4	\$197,398	8	\$442,177	11	\$209,303	0	\$0	11	\$495,880	0	11	\$268,287	9	\$360,269
Chaki Wardak	11	\$293,438	11	\$517,761	22	\$811,199	6	\$328,184	3	\$153,800	11	\$249,215	0	\$0	11	\$517,761	0	11	\$517,761	11	\$517,761
Andar	19	\$438,119	4	\$236,000	23	\$674,119	1	\$86,926	4	\$215,098	15	\$204,945	0	\$0	3	\$222,400	0	3	\$222,400	3	\$222,400
Baraki Barak	26	\$554,380	17	\$772,677	43	\$1,327,057	6	\$358,191	5	\$348,351	20	\$272,665	0	\$0	15	\$711,769	0	11	\$635,414	10	\$275,088
Grand Total	105	\$3,116,781	108	\$4,843,523	213	\$7,960,304	20	\$1,204,742	73	\$2,981,581	82	\$1,424,728	0	\$0	97	\$4,417,699	5	93	\$4,090,803	89	\$3,750,472

Post Award Implementation Cycle														
DISTRICT	Award and Implementation				Grant Agreement Types				Activity Type					
	Award/Ongoing	Completed	Closed		FOG		In-Kind		Infrastructure		Non-Infrastructure			
Mohammad Agha	22	\$1,025,875	0	\$0	0	\$0	22	\$1,025,875	0	\$0	22	\$1,025,875	0	\$0
Saydabad	20	\$559,361	0	\$0	0	\$0	20	\$559,361	0	\$0	20	\$559,361	0	\$0
NirKh	11	\$590,078	0	\$0	0	\$0	11	\$590,078	0	\$0	11	\$590,078	0	\$0
Dih Yak	8	\$278,731	0	\$0	0	\$0	8	\$278,731	0	\$0	8	\$278,731	0	\$0
Chaki Wardak	5	\$185,579	0	\$0	0	\$0	5	\$185,579	0	\$0	5	\$185,579	0	\$0
Andar	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Baraki Barak	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Grand Total	66	\$2,639,623	0	\$0	0	\$0	66	\$2,639,623	0	\$0	66	\$2,639,623	0	\$0

DISTRICT	Payments					Total				
	1st Milestone	2nd Milestone	3rd Milestone	4th Milestone						
Mohammad Agha	22	\$218,421	15	\$195,498	5	\$60,428	0	\$0	42	\$474,348
Saydabad	19	\$106,421	7	\$50,799	1	\$11,167	0	\$0	27	\$168,387
NirKh	11	\$108,764	7	\$136,125	0	\$0	0	\$0	18	\$244,890
Dih Yak	8	\$51,288	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	8	\$51,288
Chaki Wardak	2	\$17,974	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$17,974
Andar	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Baraki Barak	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Grand Total	62	\$502,870	30	\$382,423	6	\$71,594	0	\$0	98	\$956,887

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED AND COMBINED ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

- SIKA-East conducted a ToT in **Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation** in Kabul for staff from Batch F districts (Qarabagh, Jalrez, and Jaghatu). PRRD social organizers also participated in this training and will co-facilitate the trainings in the field.
- Between August 18 and 20, a three-day ToT in **Advanced Advocacy** was conducted for PRRD social organizers and SIKA-East communication staff. Fourteen men and three women attended the sessions.
- SIKA-East conducted a five-day **Stability Planning Process** ToT for 26 men. The attending SIKA-East staff and PRRD social organizers were trained on Stability Analysis Methodology (SAM), Resource Development, Communications, basic Advocacy, and project clarification and project prioritization. This process, which is designed to be the backbone of all SIKA-East activities, has a comprehensive DPP as its initial outcome.
- SIKA-East and PRRD trainers conducted a ToT on **Project Design and Development** for 43 men from the Batch F districts.
- SIKA-East conducted a **Resource Dialogue and Advocacy** ToT for the Batch F districts. The ToT was attended by 18 men and one woman.
- On August 27 and 28, a **Grant Process and Application Development** ToT was conducted for recently hired staff from Khost and Paktya Provinces. Sixteen men and two women attended.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND STABILIZATION UNIT

District Social Workers: In consultation with MRRD's Community Led Development Department (CLDD), SIKA-East drafted an outline and agenda for induction and training of the newly hired district social workers (DSW) in SIKA-East districts where these positions were unfilled. The DSWs will perform joint PRRD and SIKA-East duties during the life of the program and are envisaged to be moved to the official government tashkhel following the end of the program. The planned training, which will consist of several existing SIKA-East and MRRD modules, will be jointly conducted by SIKA-East and MRRD staff.

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

- USAID approved the Andar DPP (August 8) and the Zurmat DPP (August 29) in the reporting period.
- 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 DPPs for Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts were reviewed and endorsed by the DDA+, District Governor, and PRRD and shared with the Kabul team for further processing. The next step is to translate the DPPs and submit them to USAID with an accompanying narrative.
- SIKA-East analyzed the Dih Yak and Andar DPPs to ensure that they applied all the criteria established for prioritization of projects, surveys, and grant awards.

SIKA-East Short-Term Embedded Personnel: SIKA-East started developing scopes of work for short-term local national employees, who will be based either with PRRD or with the

Department of Economy at the provincial level. The main role of these new employees will be to provide a bridge between SIKA-East and other programs.

Sub-coordination Meetings: In recent months, SIKA-East has been organizing sub-coordination meetings in various districts, where community members have a chance to discuss their issues and share their concerns about DPP projects with service providers. During August, SIKA-East facilitated a number sub-coordination meetings for community members of 12 districts with representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health, Women's Affairs, Counter-narcotics, Public Works, and other organizations.

Service Provider Events: SIKA-East is working on logistical arrangements for Service Provider Fairs (SPF) for Maydan Wardak, Khost, Ghazni, Logar, and Paktya Provinces. The Maydan Wardak SPF is scheduled for September 24 and 25, and the Khost SPF for September 28 and 29. Preparations for the Khost event, the first SPF in that province, include hiring a vendor to cover the logistical arrangements and deliver all the required services. SIKA-East reviewed the draft Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) from Khost and is currently working to improve its language and formatting. Besides these SPFs, a resource coordination meeting is scheduled to be held in Puli Alam in Logar Province on September 30.

Advanced Advocacy Trainings: August saw the initiation of advanced advocacy trainings that will eventually roll out to all 21 districts. These trainings focus specifically as a follow-up to the earlier basic advocacy trainings and cover, in more detail, fundraising, coalition building, lobbying and negotiation strategies. The workshops are intended to continue to give district entities a solid base to identify and implement development projects rooted in stability planning beyond the shorter-term grants provided by SIKA-East. They will also help develop a long-term capability in the trainees to advocate for more strategic program development in the districts they represent.

Communications Advisors: A scope of work is being prepared for the position of communications advisor to the District Governor. These positions will be short-term and of a technical nature. The communications advisor's role will be to assist the District Governor to improve communications among his own team and with local citizens and other district entities. The advisors will work to lead and support the governors to better understand their roles and responsibilities and execute their duties. The advisor will also provide technical assistance and advice as they relate to strategic communications aimed at sustaining district stabilization.

Research-based Message Development: SIKA-East's recently developed messaging list is currently under internal review. Once it is finalized, the message list will be shared with District Governors, PRRD Directors, 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.

In-Kind Grant for Radio Plays: A scope of work and concept note were prepared for an in kind grant for Tani, Zurmat, Andar, Baraki Barak, and Saydabad Districts to rebroadcast the six radio plays that were first aired in April and May. The radio plays will be used to foster a district dialogue on sources of instability and resources available to combat the identified sources.

Radio Call-in Show: A request for proposals (RFP) was prepared this month for an in kind grant to produce a series of radio programs to run twice a week for 13 weeks in all five provinces – 65 shows and 130 broadcasts in total. Panelists for each weekly program will typically include a representative of a DDA, the District Governor's office, a representative from PRRD or another governmental office, and a local community leader or citizen. The panelists will typically represent a different targeted district, although some shows may include representatives from multiple districts. Each program will include a lively discussion on a given topic and allow listeners to phone in

questions and directly engage with program guests. Topics will include, among others, education, governmental accountability, gender equality, and dispute resolution. The overall goal of the program is to raise the profile and awareness of the PRRD and IDLG and the work they do for local communities among Afghan listeners. The RFP is expected to be posted in early September, along with a job announcement for a Radio Call Officer to manage the program.

District Profiles: During August, the district profiles for Khoshi and Khwaja Umari were submitted to USAID, those for Saydabad and Baraki Barak were updated, and initial drafts of the profiles for Jaghatu and Qarabagh were completed. The periodic review and updating of district profiles helps SIKA-East and its government counterparts (District Governors and PRRD staff) to keep up with all the changes within a district.

Gender Mainstreaming: To integrate a gender perspective at the time of DPP formation in the future, SIKA-East provincial gender officers will participate in all Strategic Planning Process trainings in the field and facilitate male and female stakeholders engagement in this regard. As a part of a comprehensive process to strengthen gender mainstreaming component of the program, SIKA-East is working on hiring senior gender experts to help align program activities with Afghanistan Subnational Governance Policy and strengthen viability of female enterprise skill development initiatives funded through SIKA-East.

GRANTS AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

Grant Applications Status: During August, USAID approved an additional 21 grant applications. To date, 93 grant applications have been submitted to USAID for approval, and 89, with a combined value of \$3,750,472, have been approved. SIKA-East has awarded 66 grants, totaling \$2,639,624. The current status of grant applications is summarized in the following table.

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

District	Under Development	Apps. Received	Apps. Received	USAID Approval Requested	USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded	
	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Saydabad	4	25	718,833	22	21	575,716	20	559,361
Mohammad Agha	20	23	1,110,264	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nirakh	15	17	992,108	13	13	773,363	11	590,078
Dih Yak	10	11	495,880	11	9	360,269	8	278,731
Chaki Wardak	11	11	517,761	11	11	517,761	5	185,579
Andar	19	4	236,000	3	3	222,400	0	0
Baraki Barak	26	17	772,677	11	10	275,088	0	0
Total	105	108	4,843,523	93	89	3,750,472	66	2,639,624

Milestone Payments: GSU's Kabul team organized and executed payments for the completion of first, second, and third milestones for 50 grantees from Nirakh, Saydabad, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, and Dih Yak Districts. The total value of the payments was \$485,753. The payments went smoothly without any problems with the CDCs' authorized representatives.

Grant Management Training: Ten CDCs from Nirakh, Saydabad, Dih Yak, and Chaki Wardak Districts successfully completed Grant Management Award training and started implementing projects with a total value of \$339,941. Seven of the CDCs completed first milestone payments in August; the remaining three will receive first milestone payments in September.

Grant Review Committees: During the month, GRCs approved 13 infrastructure projects in Ghazni and Maydan Wardak Provinces, with a total value of \$727,565.

Non-infrastructure Projects: The non-infrastructure support team prepared and published four RFPs 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. Bids have been received and are being evaluated. Grant applications are expected to be submitted to USAID in early September.

Engineering Design Packages: In August, Engineering Support Group completed designs for 31 projects in eight districts of Ghazni, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya Provinces. So far, the designs of 113 projects, with a total value of \$5,637,758, have been completed, while the designs for 32 other projects are under way. The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Status of SIKA-East Engineering Design Packages

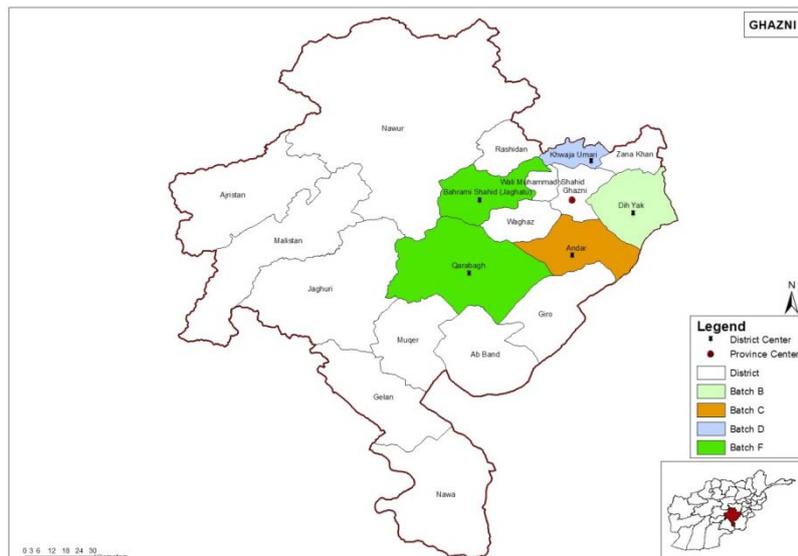
Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	4	30	89,700	826,941
	B	Nirakh	1	18	90,911	1,033,472
	C	Chaki Wardak	1	12	62,706	660,363
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,111	1,406,845
	A	Baraki Barak	10	13	402,591	860,394
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	1	12	0	602,434
	C	Andar	5	3	280,982	247,311
	C	Zadran	4	0	535,192	0
Khost	E	Gurbuz	0	0	0	0
Sub-totals			32	113	1,836,193	\$5,637,758
Grand Totals			145		7,473,951	

On August 28 and 29, Kabul-based engineers conducted technical training for five provincial and six district engineers from all five SIKA-East provinces. The training goals were to improve the engineers' skills in project feasibility review, environmental aspects, and the survey and design of several types of infrastructure projects.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

In August, PRRD Directors and SIKA-East 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

- SIKA-East attended two significant meetings with the Provincial Governor and with the PRRD Director updating them and other participants on program progress and achievements.
- With the support of the Provincial Governor, preparations are under way to obtain office space for the Qarabagh District Support Unit within the District Governor's compound.
- In the reporting period, the program awarded three new grants for projects in Dih Yak District, followed by Grant Management Training.
- Throughout the month, the program prepared documents and disbursed funds for first milestone payments to several CDCs implementing small infrastructure projects.

ANDAR DISTRICT

- During August, the Grant Review Committee (GRC), consisting of representatives from both PRRD and SIKA-East, approved three grants in the district, with a total value of \$222,400: Payendi and Khairwall bridge, Mash school boundary wall, and Kunsef high school boundary wall.
- SIKA-East assisted several CDCs to identify and hire skilled and unskilled labor for five small infrastructure projects funded by the program and commencing implementation: Zagone karez



Tanfer canal protection wall project in Dih Yak District



Meeting of the Andar men's communication committee



Sub-coordination meeting of Dih Yak representatives with the Director of Education in Ghazni City

extension, Tanfer canal lining, Tasan Bala karez extension, Kohnadeh karez extension, and Aklai canal repair.

- SIKA-East received grant applications for three projects with a combined value of \$222,339: Payendi and Khairwall bridge, Mash school boundary wall, and Kunsef high school boundary wall. Pending USAID approval, implementation is projected to start in September.
- A new proposal was prepared to construct a boundary wall for Mula Mushki Alam high school.
- The men's and women's communication committees of the expanded Andar DDA, established with SIKA-East support and training, started work on their strategic communication plans in support of the wider public information effort to improve communication between government and citizens.
- The Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) for Andar was finalized for the upcoming Service Providers Fair (SPF).

DIH YAK DISTRICT

- In the reporting period, the GRC approved three grants, with a value of \$110,900, to Dih Yak CDCs. In addition, USAID approved two grant applications, worth \$91,982, for projects in Dih Yak District. The program made eight first milestone payments, totaling \$51,288.
- SIKA-East conducted Infrastructure Project Implementation training for 24 members of the Andar Mash, Konsaf, Abdul Rahim, and Pinda CDCs.
- Two new projects were pre-approved for implementation in the district.
- The Dih Yak communication committee members held sub-coordination meetings with representatives of the Departments of Education, Health, and Agriculture to share Dih Yak residents' concerns in those sectors. The committee also met with several CDCs in Ghazni City, sharing the overall communication plan with the CDCs and explaining its linkage with awarded SIKA-East grants and the CDCs' role in awarded projects.
- On August 14, a grants training officer travelling to Kohna Deh village for first milestone payment verification documents was halted by a Taliban checkpoint. He reacted in time and was able to leave the area and safely return to the district center office.

JAGHATU DISTRICT

- The Jaghatu office renovation continued through the month and is to be completed in the next reporting period.
- Preparations were completed for the inaugural event of the SIKA-East launch activities in Jaghatu District on September 1.
- The Jaghatu district profile draft was completed and is currently under review.



Meeting of the Dih Yak women's communication committee



Workers break ground on the Aklai canal project in Dih Yak District



Stonemasonry work under way on the Tanfer canal in Dih Yak

KHWAJA UMARI DISTRICT

- Due to security concerns and the July 24 kidnapping of the SIKA-East community development officer for Khwaja Umari, all activities were suspended from the beginning of the month through August 18, when operations resumed as normal.
- The program conducted a Grant Process and Application Development training for 61 men from the Khwaja Umari DDA+ and CDCs.

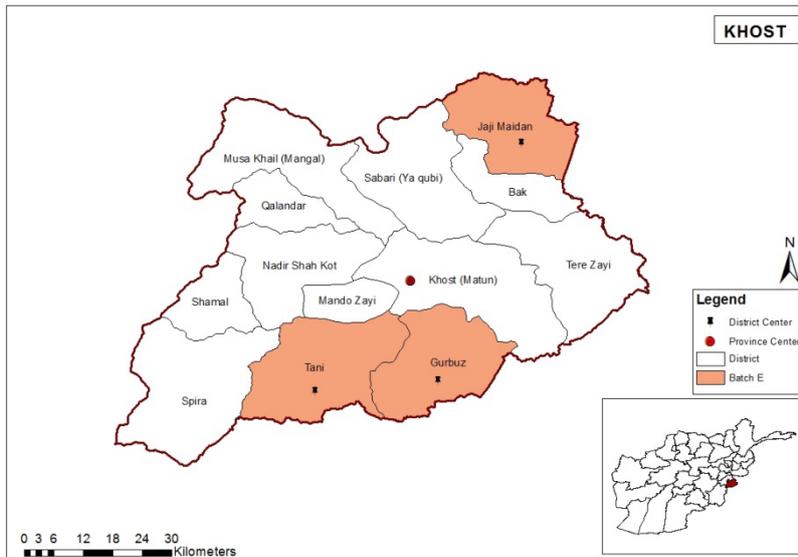
QARABAGH DISTRICT

- An introductory meeting took place with the District Governor, who promised his full support for SIKA-East and the provision of office space within the compound.
- Throughout the month, the program conducted stakeholder mapping and collected information for the Qarabagh district profile.
- Preparations were under way for the SIKA-East launch on September 1.

NEXT STEPS FOR GHAZNI

- Coordinate regularly with the Ghazni PRRD Director, Provincial Governor, and District Governors;
- Launch SIKA-East in Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts;
- Start conducting trainings and develop DPPs in both districts;
- Move forward with surveys, designs, and implementation for Andar and Dih Yak Cycle I projects; and
- Award more grants to CDCs and DDAs in Andar and Dih Yak Districts, and begin awarding grants in Khwaja Umari.

KHOST



The governor of Khost Province, Mr. Abdul Jabbar Naimi, addresses the gathering.

PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- On August 26, a resource coordination meeting was held in the Provincial Governor's guesthouse. Besides many service providers, the gathering was attended by the Provincial Governor, the PRRD Director, and line department directors, as well as representatives from the DDAs, DCCs, and CDCs from Khost's Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the three districts' DPPs to the community and line directors of the province and to acquaint the district entities themselves with the attending service providers, their service types, and procedures for accessing their services. Over 130 people attended the event.
- After the resource coordination meeting, members of the Gurbuz and Tani DDA+s attended a sub-coordination meeting with the directors and/or representatives of several line departments to discuss the services they have to offer and how to access them.
- The Khost SPC is undergoing a final review. A total of 85 key service providers were identified and included in the revised SPC.
- SIKA-East participated in the monthly meeting of the Khost Capacity Building Working Group, held in the office of the Provincial Governor. The SIKA-East representative updated the participants about program activities and plans.
- The PRRD Director and DDA+ representatives endorsed SIKA-East proposed projects for Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts.
- SIKA-East delivered research-based messaging workshops in Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts, during which participants learned how to develop public information messages and design basic promotional materials.



August 26 resource coordination meeting in Khost

- The DPPs for Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan were endorsed by the respective DDA+, District Governor, and PRRD Director and are currently being finalized.

GURBUZ DISTRICT

- From July 28 to August 1, separate Stability Planning Process sessions were conducted for men and women from the Gurbuz DDA+ and CDCs. The average number of participants was 38 men and 41 women.
- The district Cycle I list of prioritized projects addressing sources of instability will be completed in the next reporting period.
- PRRD and SIKA-East staff conducted training in Infrastructure Project Planning for 36 men from the Gurbuz DDA and CDCs. Among other things, the participants learned about project feasibility and environmental compliance, field measurements, plans and specifications, estimates and bills of quantities, and project action plans.
- A two-day Resource Dialogue and Advocacy workshop was conducted for 37 members of the Gurbuz DDA and CDCs. During the workshop, the participants also established a new communication committee.
- The Gurbuz men's communication committee held its first meeting. It was an introductory meeting in which the men discussed their overall objectives, how to make the DDA more effective, and protocols for obtaining approvals from the DDA and CDCs.

JAJI MAIDAN DISTRICT

- Over a week's time in August, the second session of the SIKA-East Stability Planning Process training for the district was attended by an average of 56 men from the Jaji Maydan DDA and CDCs. The participants identified Cycle I projects and learned about project eligibility and resource development.
- A two-day Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training was held for 56 members of the Jaji Maidan DDA+ and CDCs. Participants learned about SIKA-East's Service Provider Catalogue for Khost and how to advocate for projects that may be implemented by local service providers.
- A three-day Infrastructure Project Planning training for 56 men from the Jaji Maidan DDA+ and CDCs was conducted.

MANDO ZAYI DISTRICT

- SIKA-East met with the Mando Zayi District Governor to explain the goals and implementation program of SIKA-East and to elicit cooperation. The District Governor assigned two rooms in his compound for a DSU office.
- Preparations are under way for the opening of a SIKA-East office in the district.

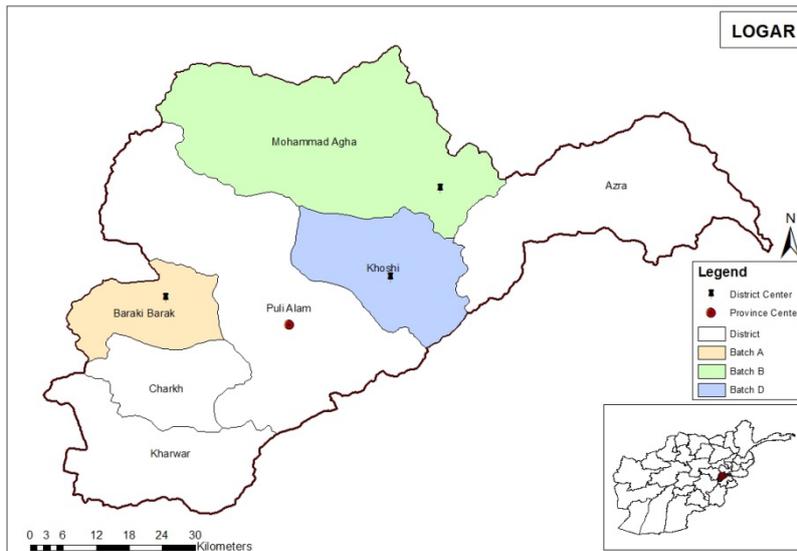
TANI DISTRICT

- During multiple sessions in the reporting period, the second part of Stability Planning Process training was conducted for an average of 48 men from the Tani DDA+ and CDCs. During this session, the participants learned about the various functional areas of SIKA-East, such as grants, resource development, communication, and engineering. They also selected Cycle I projects.
- The SIKA-East Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training of members of the DDA+ and CDCs was attended by 53 men. Four members were elected to be on the Tani district communication committee.
- Infrastructure Project Planning was conducted for 55 men from the Tani DDA+ and CDCs.

NEXT STEPS FOR KHOST

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Conduct Khost Service Providers Fair;
- Complete stakeholder survey and launch SIKA-East in Mando Zayi District;
- Conduct Project Design and Development Workshop and Grant Process and Application Development for men and women from the Gurbuz DDA+ and CDCs;
- Conduct trainings in Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation, as well as Stability Planning Process and Resource Dialogue and Advocacy, for women of Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts;
- Conduct trainings in Project Design and Development and Grant Process and Application Development for men from the Tani and Jaji Maidan DDA+s and CDCs;
- Hold four sub-coordination meetings for men and women; and
- Conduct eight meetings of district men's and women's communication committees.

LOGAR



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- On August 20, the PRRD Director hosted a meeting that was attended by the heads of the Dubandi Village CDCs and SIKA-East representatives, to initiate the replacement of several CDC members. Working closely with the PRRD Director and Provincial Governor, SIKA-East is trying to find a solution to the Mohammad Agha community concerns about the distribution of Cycle I projects.
- The PRRD Director and Provincial Governor subsequently formed a special committee – consisting of the SIKA-East PMU manager, PRRD’s Head of Programs, and a representative of the Provincial Governor – to review awarded and ongoing projects in Mohammad Agha.
- During the Eid holiday, burglars broke into the PMU office and stole seven laptops and one digital camera. The unit reported the theft to PRRD and National Directorate of Security (NDS), who have initiated an investigation.

BARAKI BARAK DISTRICT

- PRRD and SIKA-East jointly reviewed and approved three karez development projects for the CDCs of Qala Nazir, Eido Khil, and Qala Yousuf.
- The men’s and women’s communication committees of Baraki Barak conducted separate meetings, at which they developed activity calendars and estimated budgets for planned events, according to the training received from SIKA-East.



Sub-coordination meeting with DoWA in Baraki Barak.

Snippet: On August 14, seven women from the Baraki Barak DDA+ had a sub-coordination meeting with the Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA) and Sado Khan Hakimi Medical Complex. During the meeting, the DDA+ members discussed their problems, such as the mortality rate due to a lack of female doctors, malnutrition of mothers and children, drug addiction, and the incorrect use of medicine due to lack of awareness.

The DoWA director promised to help them in this regard. In addition, the representative of Sado Khan Hakimi Medical Complex mentioned that they will soon establish a mobile clinic that can travel throughout the district and provide free medical services for the inhabitants of Baraki Barak. It was also decided to hire a short-term medical trainer to provide midwifery training for the women so that they can help each other.

- Practicing skills learned at SIKA-East Advocacy workshops, women from the Baraki Barak DDA+ held a sub-coordination meeting with representatives of the Department of Civil Society. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to improve women's lives in the district and elicit support.
- SIKA-East conducted separate Fundraising trainings for men and women from the Baraki Barak DDA+ and CDCs; 41 men and 27 women attended.
- On August 29, the same participants received separate trainings in Lobbying.
- The program has been providing support to prepare the four grant applications submitted by female DDA members in July. The grants cover embroidery, tailoring, and poultry training, plus support for vegetable and fruit processing projects. Trainings are estimated to take place in November, pending USAID approval of the grants.
- During August, eight grant applications, worth \$109,751, were approved by USAID for projects in Baraki Barak District.

KHOSHI DISTRICT

- SIKA-East started regular coordination meetings with the District Governor to update him on SIKA-East activities in the district. The DDA+ men's communication committee drafted a communication plan and selected communication tools and channels, while working on their messaging development and strategy, in accordance with the SIKA-East-provided training.
- On August 14, ten men from the Khoshi DDA+ attended a sub-coordination meeting with representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) and Water Management. The DDA+ members discussed the challenges they face with the two organizations and in return received promises of support in the future.
- Female DDA+ members held a sub-coordination meeting with the Department of Education and DoWA to share such problems as a lack of classrooms and drinking water for students. The women also asked that vocational training and literacy courses be offered. The Director of Education promised to find solutions to their problems.
- The Khoshi women's communication committee held a sub-coordination meeting with the Department of Civil Society, during which they requested the department to facilitate capacity building and vocational trainings for them. The department promised its support.
- SIKA-East conducted Grant Process and Application Development training for an average of 64 men from the Khoshi DDA+ and CDCs. During the training, the grants team helped the participants to develop grant applications. They also discussed



**Sub-coordination meeting with
 Mohammad Agha DoWA**



**Kamal Khil school boundary wall
 project in Mohammad Agha District**



**Grant Process and Application
 Development workshop for Khoshi
 men**

the accompanying grant application narrative and endorsement letter.

- Two one-day Fundraising trainings were conducted for 46 men and 41 women from the Khoshi DDA+ and CDCs.

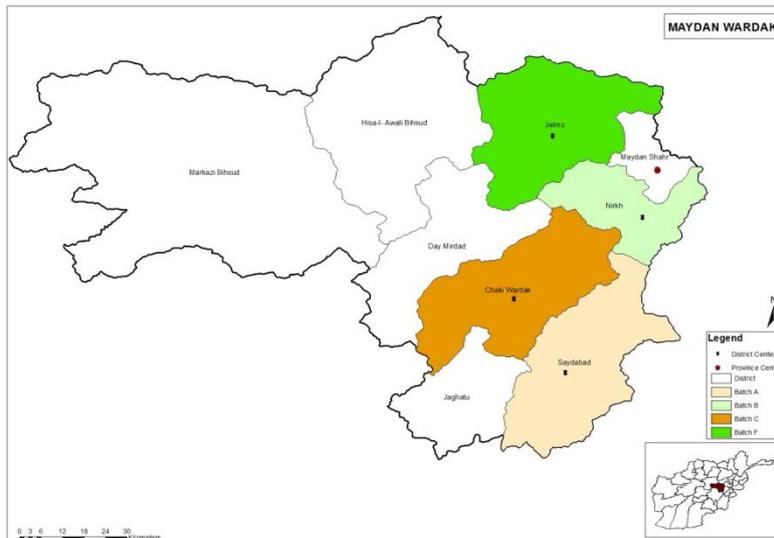
MOHAMMAD AGHA DISTRICT

- In August, the Mohammad Agha office made 22 first milestone payments, worth \$218,421; 15 second milestone payments, valued at 195,498; and five third milestone payments worth \$60,428.
- The men's and women's communication committees of Mohammad Agha conducted separate meetings to evaluate their work. They mentioned that this is the first time that women have had a chance to meet religious elders and present their ideas in person.
- On August 25, the women's communication committee held sub-coordination meetings with DoWA and the Department of Civil Society, requesting the service providers to offer them literacy and vocational training courses and other programs to improve their economic level. The service providers promised to take the necessary steps to improve the women's lives.
- Separate Fundraising trainings were conducted for 56 men and 23 women from the Mohammad Agha DDA+ and CDCs.
- Lobbying training was conducted for men and women from the Mohammad Agha DDA+; 50 men and 25 women participated in separate training sessions

NEXT STEPS FOR LOGAR

- Participate in regular coordination meeting with the PRRD;
- Conduct GRC meeting for Baraki Barak;
- Conduct communication committee meetings;
- Conduct resource coordination meeting; and,
- Conduct sub-coordination meetings.

MAYDAN WARDAK



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- The PRRD Director met with SIKA-East and other MRRD implementing partners to discuss general coordination, a reporting system to PRRD, and the upcoming SPF, providing assurance that he would support all SIKA-East activities in Maydan Wardak Province.
- Security deteriorated in Maydan Wardak during August. The government's ban on motorcycles, a primary means of transportation in an agricultural area, has angered many people, and anti-government elements have started to seize anyone who works with the government.
- Due to this security situation, travel was severely restricted during the month. As a result, the stakeholders survey in Jalrez and site visits to projects in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad Districts were delayed.

CHAKI WARDAK DISTRICT

- During the month, USAID approved eight grant applications, with a combined value of \$398,817, and SIKA-East made two grant awards, totaling \$73,367, for small infrastructure projects in Chaki Wardak.
- The program completed the grant application for a new water flow control project for Shahbaz Khan Village.
- DSU engineers completed design and technical documents for the construction of a super-passage for Ala Mohammad Khail and Bidak CDCs.
- Eight grant applications were approved by a GRC and are currently being processed for submission to USAID.
- On August 20, the Chaki Wardak SIKA-East team conducted a sub-coordination meeting in the PRRD conference hall in Maydan



A section of completed stone-masonry canal, with cast concrete covers, for the Srakala Markazi canal rehabilitation project in Saydabad District



SIKA-East's district engineer (left) discusses work on the Ganda Chesma kariz extension project in Chaki Wardak District of Maydan Wardak Province.



SIKA-East's grants officer (right) hands over a grant records file to the officers of one of the CDCs who attended the Grant Management Award training for CDCs from Chaki Wardak and Nirkh Districts.

Shahr. The attendees included men and women from the DDA+ and CDCs, along with key representatives of the Municipality, DoWA, and the Department of Culture and Information. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss projects in the DPP and to seek support from government service providers for some of the CDCs' projects that are not eligible for grants.

- SIKA-East conducted a Fundraising workshop for members of the DDA+ and CDCs, as well as some key tribal elders; 39 people attended. The purpose of the workshop was to find funding sources for grants that are included in the DPP but which SIKA-East cannot fund because of policy restrictions.
- Also, a Lobbying training and a Fundraising training were conducted for 16 women from the Chaki Wardak DDA+.
- A Grant Management Award training was conducted for 54 men from eight CDCs from Chaki Wardak District and two CDCs from Nirkh.
- A Lobbying training was delivered to 25 men from the Chaki Wardak DDA+ and CDCs.

JALREZ DISTRICT

- The renovation, furnishing, and equipping of the Jalrez DSU office is complete. Recruitment of staff is under way.
- SIKA-East started conducting a stakeholders engagement survey but had to suspend it from August 4 to 11 for security reasons. The survey was resumed and completed on the 24th.

NIRKH DISTRICT

- During the month, USAID approved five grant applications, with a combined value of \$318,730, and SIKA-East made three grant awards, totaling \$137,571, for small infrastructure projects in Nirkh.
- SIKA-East made three first milestone and seven second milestone payments to CDCs implementing projects.
- The joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC approved two new grant applications.
- SIKA-East conducted a Grants Management – Implementation workshop for 26 members of three Nirkh CDCs.
- Grant Management Award training was conducted for 54 men from eight CDCs of Chaki Wardak District and two CDCs of Nirkh.
- 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.
- In spite of the security situation, SIKA-East personnel made several site visits to Karimdad, Qul Akhwand Zada, and Jaw Qul



Deh Kharqa karez rehabilitation project in Nirkh



August 15 joint meeting of men's and women's communication committees in Saydabad. 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 girls schools in Tangi Hawza, which were closed due to threats by insurgents. The women were instrumental in bringing together community elders, parents of school-age girls, and other stakeholders in girls education. A delegation of elders then approached the insurgents and persuaded them to lift their opposition to girls schools. Several schools for girls opened at the end of August.

road repair and the Ander Payan, Abda Khil, and Deh Kharqa karez repair projects, with satisfactory findings.

SAYDABAD DISTRICT

- In August, USAID approved two grant applications, worth \$62,347, and SIKA-East awarded two grants, with a value of \$67,509 for projects in Saydabad District. The program disbursed 19 first milestone payments, seven second milestone payments, and one third milestone payment, totaling \$168,387, to Saydabad CDCs implementing projects.
- Six grant applications for trainings are in process and will be completed in the next reporting period.
- The Saydabad District Governor, PRRD Director, and SIKA-East started joint preparations for the upcoming resource coordination meeting in Saydabad. SIKA-East conducted several meetings with different service providers regarding the upcoming SPF.
- The program met with elders from Tangi Hawza to find a way to start SIKA-East projects in the area. It was decided to give the CDCs, Provincial Council members, and DDA three more weeks to find ways to help SIKA-East staff conduct project surveys without jeopardizing their security.
- The program held a Grants Management and implementation workshop for 43 members of a Saydabad CDC.
- Infrastructure Projects Implementation training for 26 men from the Saydabad DDA+ and CDCs was also held.



Sisy karez extension and reservoir construction project in Saydabad

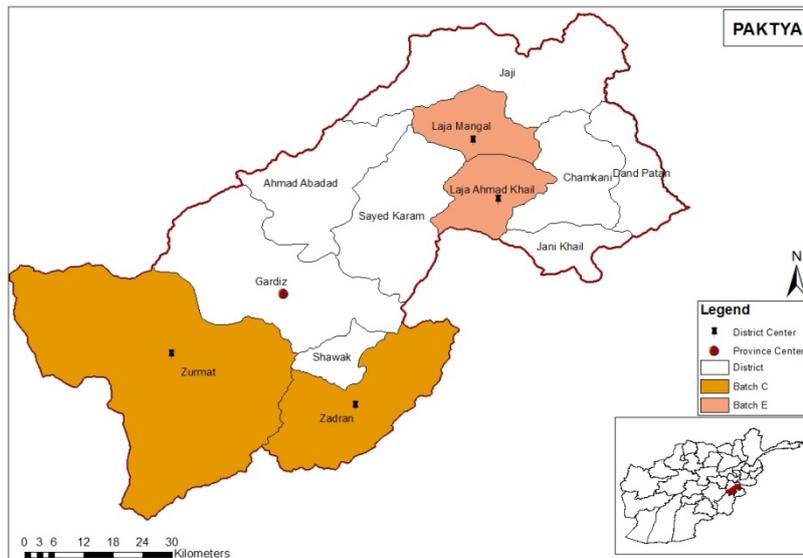


Hakim Khill karez extension and repair project in Saydabad

NEXT STEPS FOR MAYDAN WARDAK

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD and the District Governor;
- Complete the renovation of the Jalrez DSU office;
- Launch SIKA-East in Jalrez District;
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation, Governance Foundation, and Stabilization Planning Process trainings in Jalrez;
- Award several grants for Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad Districts;
- Develop a communication plan for Chaki Wardak district;
- Conduct a second SPF in Maydan Shahr;
- Conduct a GRC meeting for five grants in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad Districts;
- Conduct Grant Management Trainings for grantees of projects approved by USAID;
- Continue to fill out grant applications;
- Conduct project surveys of potential projects according to Engineering's plan; and
- Monitor ongoing SIKA- funded infrastructure projects.

PAKTYA



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- On August 18, to increase women's participation in and benefits from the program, a major meeting was held in Gardiz to discuss the involvement of women from Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail Districts in SIKA-East programming. The participants, who numbered 30, included DDA/CDC members, tribal elders, mullahs, and other influential people from the target districts. Also attending were the head of the Paktya provincial council, PRRD representatives, and the District Governor. After discussing SIKA-East and the importance of women's participation in the program, the participants introduced two representatives from each district to work closely with SIKA-East. They also prepared a list of women and presented it to SIKA-East for reference. It was decided to conduct future events and workshops in Gardiz and to assign a female trainer for each training.

AHMAD ABAD DISTRICT

- Renovation of the Ahmad Abad DSU office is under way.

LAJA AHMAD KHAIL DISTRICT

- SIKA-East facilitated a sub-coordination meeting in Gardiz City, where eight members of the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA/CDC and community elders shared their problems with representatives of DAIL. The department head said they were planning to recruit an agriculture manager and establish a branch in Laja Ahmad Khail District and they were also planning to set up a veterinary clinic there. He asked community elders and DDA members to help his organization with these activities so they can be done correctly and on time.



Meeting of SIKA-East with the Khost PRRD Director to coordinate the upcoming gender meeting in Gardiz on increasing women's participation in SIKA-East.



Meeting of Laja Ahmad Khail citizens with the head of the Department of Health



Sub-coordination meeting with the Agriculture Director

- On August 28, members of the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA and other community members met with the head of the Department of Health to discuss various problems, including the lack of quality medicine in their area. The director promised to provide medicine in the near future. The community then met with the head of the Red Crescent and requested him to provide better treatment for disabled children. The Red Crescent representative promised to talk to their main office and arrange for the children to go abroad for treatment.
- PRRD and SIKA-East conducted a joint Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for 56 men from the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA+ and CDCs. The curriculum included the basic elements of advocacy: goals, audiences, messages, coalitions, budgets, and the importance of having a strategy.
- SIKA-East conducted a workshop on Infrastructure Project Planning for 60 men from the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA+ and CDCs.
- The program also conducted Project Design and Development training for 56 men from the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA+ and CDCs.

LAJA MANGAL DISTRICT

- An average of 47 men from the Laja Mangal DDA+ and CDCs attended a workshop on Resource Dialogue and Advocacy.
- SIKA-East conducted Infrastructure Project Planning training for 53 men from the Laja Mangal DDA+ and CDCs.
- The program also organized Project Design and Development training attended by 33 DDA and CDC members.

ZADRAN DISTRICT

- A three-day Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation workshop was conducted for the Garda Serai community. An average of 57 members of the Garda Serai DDA+ and CDCs participated in the training.
- The program completed the stakeholder survey for Garda Serai, canvassing all four main tribes located in Garda Serai – the Toree Khil, Sultan Khil, Sori Khil, and Prangay.

ZURMAT DISTRICT

- The Zurmat men's communication committee met with the Provincial Governor to discuss various issues and to make a plan to meet with President Karzai to talk about current developmental issues of the district. The Provincial Governor promised to try to get an appointment for them with the President.
- During the month, the Zurmat grants team succeeded in getting almost all the Cycle I projects signed and endorsed by their



Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training in Laja Ahmad Khail



Project Design and Development Training in Laja Mangal



Coordination meeting with Zadrans DDA



Garda Serai stakeholder survey

related directorates in order to avoid duplication of projects and achieve close coordination with the various sector directors.

- The Zurmat DPP was approved by USAID on August 29.

NEXT STEPS FOR PAKTYA

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other stakeholders;
- Launch SIKA-East in Ahmad Abad District;
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation training, as well as a Stability Planning Process workshop, for Ahmad Abad; and
- Hold two sub-coordination and communication committee meetings in each district.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REPORTING UNIT

M&E Field Activities: In August, MERU completed 45 site visit reports for first, second, and third milestones of grant projects. Nineteen of the site visits took place in Mohammad Agha District, twelve in Saydabad, nine in Nirkh, one in Chaki Wardak, and four in Dih Yak District. Although most site visits showed positive results, a few minor deficiencies were recorded by SIKA-East, followed by a satisfactory remedial response by the grantees.

TraiNet and AfghanInfo: MERU has collected and verified the AfghanInfo Data for FY2013 Q3 covering April, May, and June 2013. This information has been uploaded to the AfghanInfo portal and submitted to USAID for approval.

SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT UNIT

Security Incidents in SIKA-East Target Districts

Date	Type	Description	Deaths	Injuries
August 3	Armed attack	Insurgents attacked the Mohammad Agha district center using RPGs and small arms. Insurgents also targeted the balloon over the ISAF base, which was destroyed. No one was killed or injured during the attack.	NA	NA
August 7-11	Theft	During the Eid holiday, burglars broke into the PMU office and stole seven laptops and one digital camera. The unit reported the theft to PRRD and National Directorate of Security (NDS), who have initiated an investigation.	NA	NA
August 14	Taliban checkpoint	A grants training officer in Ghazni's Dih Yak District was travelling to Kohna Deh village for first milestone payment verification documents and was halted by a Taliban checkpoint, where vehicles and persons were being searched. Before his turn came, he hailed a rickshaw and was able to leave the area and return to the district center office. In similar circumstances in future, he was told he should destroy the documents he is carrying, as they can be reproduced at a later date.	NA	NA
August 18	Phone threat	SIKA-East IT Network Engineer, Sayed Mohammad Amin Sadaat, was told by an unknown caller to stop movements to Logar Province. Security is investigating the matter.	NA	NA
August 18	Written threat	A written threat was posted on a wall of a SIKA-East grant project warning that individuals involved in the project – PRRD and the CDC – should not be or they would be dealt with according to Amerat (Taliban) rules and regulations with no right to recourse.	NA	NA
August 20	Abduction	The head of the Yosufkhail Village CDC was abducted by insurgents following posting of the above threat letter. He was released on August 24 through the efforts of community elders.	NA	NA
August 21	Night letter	A night letter was posted on the door of the head of the CDC in Aslam Khil Village in Saydabad.	NA	NA
August 27	Attempted abduction	The field technician from the Saydabad DSU had traveled to Janjoi Village to monitor three projects. At the site, the head of the CDC invited him to his house for lunch. While they were inside, insurgents surrounded the house and told the CDC head to hand over the engineer to them, but he refused to do so. During the night, the insurgents called the CDC head and threatened him for bringing the SIKA-East engineer to his house.	NA	NA

OPERATIONS UNIT

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 August)

No	Vetted Company	Description	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Acknowledgment by USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending	Remarks
28	Ernst & Young Ford Rhodes Sidat Haidar	Tax Advisory Services	6 Jun 13	10 Jun 13	2 Jul 13	26	Approved
36	Afghan Global Ltd	IT Equipment	9 Jul 13	10 Jul 13	3 Aug 13	24	Approved
37	Royal Osaka Logistics and Service Co.	Lease of 294 Samsung Galaxy Smart Phones	23 Jul 13	23 Jul 13	3 Aug 13	11	Approved
38	Ample Logistics Services	Food/Refreshments & Cleaning Supplies for PMU & DSU Offices	6 Aug 13	7 Aug 13		25	
39	Rahman Safi Impact Consultancy	Focus Group	6 Aug 13	7 Aug 13	27 Aug 13	21	Approved
40	Track 24 FZE	Security Track and Risk Management Services	20 Aug 13	27 Aug 13		11	
41	Digit Zone Ltd	Toner ad Cartridges	29 Aug 13	5 Sep 13		2	
42	Tal Waddan Group	Service providers fair in Wardak and Khost	29 Aug 13	5 Sep 13		2	

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

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 #G064	Toor Khil CDC, Toor Khil Deep Wall Project	2 Jul 13	2 Jul 13	3 Jul 13	3 Aug 13	31	Approved
VAR #G065	Tara Khil CDC, Building Flood Diversion over Streams (Siphon)	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13	3 Aug 13	26	Approved
VAR #G066	Karimdad Shamli CDC, Boring Wells & Construction of Protection Wall	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13	3 Aug 13	26	Approved
VAR #G067	Shah Mazar CDC, Installation of Top Ring and Apron for Karez Opening	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13	5 Aug 13	22	Approved
VAR #G068	Qala Nazem Kochi CDC, Rehabilitation of Kojal Karez	7 Jul 13	7 Jul 13	8 Jul 13	July-24-2013	16	Approved
VAR #G069	Lalak Khil CDC, Development of New Surrounding Wall for Lalak Khil School	15 Jul 13	15 Jul 13	16 Jul 13	3 Aug 13	18	Approved
VAR #G070	Shetam CDC, Construction of Protection Wall for Agricultural Land	15 Jul 13	15 Jul 13	16 Jul 13	5 Aug 13	20	Approved
VAR #G071	Miran CDC, Boring of 35 Potable Water Wells	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Aug 13	31	Approved
VAR #G072	Salih Khil CDC, Construction of Wall	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Aug 13	31	Approved
VAR #G073	Tasan Payan CDC, Construction of Aqueduct and Protection Wall	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Jul 13	18 Aug 13	31	Approved
VAR #G074	Qala Sadeq CDC, Construction of Qala-e-Kohen School Surrounding Wall	30 Jul 13	30 Jul 13	7 Aug 13		32	Approved
VAR #G075	Lalak Khil CDC, Deep Wells Project	30 Jul 13	30 Jul 13	7 Aug 13		32	
VAR #G076	Abbas Qala CDC, Installation of Top Ring and Apron for Karez	30 Jul 13	30 Jul 13	7 Aug 13		31	Approved
VAR #G077	Shetam CDC, Construction of Canal and Pool	6 Aug 13	6 Aug 13	7 Aug 13	21 Aug 13	14	Approved
VAR #G078	Baraki Barak DDA, Tailoring, Embroider, and Poultry Training	4 Aug 13	4 Aug 13	7 Aug 13		27	Approved
VAR #G079	Angorbagh PMC, Karez Extension and	4 Aug 13	4 Aug 13	7 Aug 13		27	

	Rehabilitation of Reservoir and 12 Existing Wells						
VAR #G080	Khan Jan Khil CDC, Construction of Dadil Road and Culverts	4 Aug 13	4 Aug 13	7 Aug 13		27	Approved
VAR #G081	Dasht-e-Qala Nazeer CDC, Installation of Top Rng and Apron for Karez Opening	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		18	
VAR #G082	Eidkhil CDC, Installation of Top Rng and Apron for Karez Opening	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		18	
VAR #G083	Qala Yousaf CDC, Installation of Top Rng and Apron for Karez Opening	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		18	
VAR #G084	Deh Pak CDC, Road Rehabilitation and Construction of Retaining Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		18	
VAR #G085	Mohammad Khil PMC, Construction of Super Passage	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13			18	
VAR #G086	Ibrahim Khil PMC, Construction of Protection Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		18	
VAR #G087	Barghosa PMC, Construction of School Boundary Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		18	
VAR #G088	Sarposh PMC, Construction of Nek Paikot School Boundary Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		18	
VAR #G089	Goda PMC, Construction of Protection Wall	14 Aug 13	14 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		17	
VAR #G090	Kanesf CDC, Reconstruction of Mullah Mashki Alam High School Boundary Wall	27 Aug 13	27 Aug 13			4	

PROGRAM-WIDE NEXT STEPS

- Conduct Service Provider Fairs in Maydan Wardak and Khost;
- Conduct Resources Coordination Meetings in Logar and Maydan Wardak;
- Develop draft DPPs of Tani, Jaji Maidan, Jalrez, Zadran–Garda Serai, Jaghatu, and Qarabagh;
- Complete stakeholder identification for Ahmad Abad, Jaghatu, and Qarabagh districts;
- Resolve the issue of Mohammad Agha Cycle I projects in close collaboration with governmental counterparts and the local community;
- Evaluate proposals for non-infrastructure grants for Saydabad and Baraki Barak Districts and select vendors to provide requested trainings and training tools;
- Follow up and monitor implementation of awarded grants, supporting CDCs to successfully implement grants in line with rules and regulations;
- Accelerate development of grant applications, working with DDAs+, CDCs, and PMCs in cooperation with PRRD and IDLG representatives in new SIKA-East active districts;
- Continue surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zadran Districts, based on DPP Cycle I projects lists;
- Continue with office establishment in the newly approved districts of Jaghatu and Mando Zayi;
- Continue to track and coordinate all field activities that are scheduled to take place next month;
- Finalize the recruitment of field services officers for SIKA-East PMUs and DSUs;
- Review and implement Security SOPs for travel and training of SIKA-East employees; and
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 141 staff.

APPENDIX

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS CONDUCTED IN AUGUST

No	Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
1	July 28-August 1	Stability Planning Process – Male (Part II)	Laja Mangal	Training	56	
2	July 28-August 1	Stability Planning Process – Male (Part II)	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	52	
3	July 28-August 1	Grant Process and Application Development – Male	Khoshi	Training	64	
4	July 31-August 6	Stability Planning Process – Male (Part II)	Jaji Maidan	Training	56	
5	August 4-5	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	56	
6	August 4-5	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Gurbuz	Training	37	
7	August 4-14	Stability Planning Process – Male (Part II)	Tani	Training	48	
8	August 6-14	Grant Management – Male	Saydabad	Training	43	
9	August 6-14	Grant Management – Male	Nirkh	Training	26	
10	August 13	Fundraising – Male	Khoshi	Training	46	
11	August 14	Fundraising – Female	Khoshi	Training		41
12	August 14-15	Infrastructure Project Planning – Male	Gurbuz	Training	36	
13	August 18-19	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Laja Mangal	Training	47	
14	August 18-20	Advanced Advocacy	Kabul	ToT	14	3
15	August 18-22	Stability Planning Process	Kabul	ToT	26	
16	August 18-25	Grant Process and Application Development – Male	Khwaja Umari	Training	61	
17	August 21	Project Design and Development	Kabul	ToT	43	
18	August 21	Fundraising – Male	Mohammad Agha	Training	56	
19	August 21	Fundraising – Female	Mohammad Agha	Training		23
20	August 21-22	SIKA-East Induction	Kabul	Training	28	5
21	August 21-22	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Jaji Maidan	Training	56	
22	August 21-22	Infrastructure Project Planning – Male	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	60	
23	August 21-22	Infrastructure Project Implementation	Saydabad	Training	26	
24	August 22-25	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Tani	Training	53	
25	August 25	Fundraising – Male	Chaki Wardak	Training	39	
26	August 25-26	Infrastructure Project Planning – Male	Laja Mangal	Training	53	
27	August 25-26	Project Design and Development – Male	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	56	
28	August 25-26	Stakeholder Orientation – Male	Garda Serai	Training	54	
29	August 25-27	Infrastructure Project Planning	Jaji Maidan	Training	56	
30	August 25-27	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Kabul	ToT	18	1
31	August 26	Lobbying – Female	Chaki Wardak	Training		16
32	August 26	Lobbying – Male	Mohammad Agha	Training	50	
33	August 26-27	Infrastructure Project Implementation	Dih Yak	Training	24	
34	August 27	Governance Foundation – Male	Garda Serai	Training	60	
35	August 27	Lobbying – Female	Mohammad Agha	Training		25
36	August 27	Fundraising – Female	Chaki Wardak	Training		16
37	August 27	Project Design and Development – Male	Laja Mangal	Training	36	
38	August 27-29	Infrastructure Project Planning – Male	Tani	Training	55	
39	August 27-29	Grant Process and Application Development	Kabul	ToT	16	2
40	August 27-31	Grant Management – Award	Chaki Wardak	Workshop	54	

41	August 28	Lobbying – Male	Chaki Wardak	Workshop	25	
42	August 28	Fundraising – Male	Baraki Barak	Training	41	
43	August 28	Fundraising – Female	Baraki Barak	Training		27
44	August 28-29	PMT/DMT Manager Training	Kabul	ToT	22	
45	August 28-September 1	Stability Planning Process – Male (Part II)	Gurbuz	Training	38	
46	August 28-September 1	Stability Planning Process – Female (Part II)	Gurbuz	Training		41
47	August 29	Lobbying – Female	Baraki Barak	Training		27
48	August 29	Lobbying – Male	Baraki Barak	Training	44	

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