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**SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE**No. 11

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Former IDLG head Jelani Poppal visited SIKA-East staff on 26 February. Mr. Poppal took time during his visit to speak to SIKA staff and answered several questions. Of particular interest was his comment that if he had to describe the current state of governance in Afghanistan, he would characterize it as “good.” Explaining, Poppal said that Afghanistan has in place many of the formal structures of government and has done good work over the past ten years in promoting development, security, and governance. He acknowledged however, that the work that had been done was insufficient to date to create a true nation.

Addressing the staff directly, he asked them to do their best work to implement SIKA, saying they had the necessary expertise, a sense of patriotism, and were morally bound through the teachings of Islam to help their countrymen. It is hoped that Mr. Poppal will continue to provide his expertise and advice as SIKA’s progresses.

SIKA-East also moved ahead with its planned roll-out into the district of Baraki Barak in Logar Province in Mid-March. Directors from the various IRs met this week to finalize the coordination in advance of the roll-out. The development of details implementation plan is under process and will be finalized by next week.

The SIKA-East team is expanding as well as activity increases in advance of the district roll-out. The new lease agreement on the SIKA-East second office has been signed, with the office being fully functional by early next week.

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**PROGRAM ACTIVITY**

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Below is a list of programmatic activity. The list is sectioned by program area and department. Should you require any additional information on any specific item do not hesitate contact us at [communications.weekly@sikaeast.com](mailto:communications.weekly@sikaeast.com).

- Second round of the DSF workshop was conducted from Feb 28<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Staff from all IRs, M&E, Capacity Building, the SIKA-East Central Support Unit, representatives from MRRD, and members from our PMU staff attended the three day workshop designed to help “Afghanize” the stability framework.
  - The session was extremely successful with significant input from both local and expatriate staff.
  - The English Version of the DSF will translated in to Pashto/Dari and will be distributed to the staff.
  - Key information for the Service Provider catalogue for the district of Baraki Barak has been collected and will be finalized by the end of next week.
  - A working draft of the provincial profiles for Logar, Wardak, Ghazni, and Paktya has been circulated amongst SIKA-East IRs. These are living documents designed to be updated as information is gathered. The final document will be released to SIKA-East partners on completion.
  - The service providers inventory of Baraki Barak district has been completed and will be
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finalized by next week; as well, the basic format of the M&E database has been developed.

- The SIKA-East team is conducting training on how to use one- source mechanism.
- The PMU heads are in close contact with provincial authorities to ensure all staff share a consistent understanding of the start-up plan of the SIKA-EAST program.

#### OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION:

- The lease agreement for our new office has been signed and will be fully functional within a week.
- Quotations for fire wall have been received and evaluation is under process.
- RFQ has been issued for 100 lap top computers.
- HR has recruited 4 additional staff this week and 30 more are in the recruitment process. 3 expatriate STTAs joined to support SIKA-E.

#### PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS

##### Paktya PMU:

- The PMU held meetings with the head of Provincial Cultural Department, NSP, DDA and CDS and has collected necessary information for the SPC.

##### Logar PMU:

- PMU held meetings with the IRC, UN Habitat, and NSP and has collected the dates needed for SPC. Preliminary plan is under process to start SIKA-East in Baraki Barak district by 15 Mar 201
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