

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

NO. 82

GHAZNI

- On July 7, the Ghazni Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director met with SIKA-East's Provincial Management Team (PMT) 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.
- During the reporting period, the Ghazni engineering team completed proposals for four projects. They will share the projects with the Community Development Council (CDC) to obtain their approval.

Andar District

- A six-month strategic communication plan for Andar District was prepared and shared with the District Governor. The plan will be sent to the Kabul office after his approval.
- On July 7, the District Development Assembly (DDA) members and Andar DMT 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 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.

Dih Yak District

- On July 8, the Dih Yak District Management Team (DMT) prepared three projects for the Grant Review Committee (GRC). The documents were submitted to the Kabul office for review.

Jaghatu District

- The Jaghatu DMT started a survey of communication agents in key hawzas.

Khwaja Umari District

- The Khwaja Umari DDA+ completed the first draft of the District Project Portfolio (DPP) and asked local leaders to engage in community consultations and obtain endorsement of their respective constituents.
- The team also prepared a list of possible female participants for a Project Design and Development Workshop.

Qarabagh District

- SIKA-East 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. The district profile was completed and submitted to the Kabul office for review.

KHOST

- On July 8, the Khost PMT manager participated in a coordination meeting with the PRRD. The PMT 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 next week. The PRRD Director promised to send someone.

Gurbuz District

- From July 7 to 9, a Stability Planning Process workshop was conducted for Gurbuz CDC and DDA members. During this session, the Gurbuz DDA+ listed the source of instability in the district, identified the root causes, and proposed solutions.



Gurbuz CDC and DDA members in a group session during Stability Planning Process training

LOGAR

- On July 4, the deputy PMT 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 including PRRD and Baraki Barak DRRD representatives, who reviewed and approved the proposed projects.
- On July 7, the PRRD Director met with the Logar PMT to discuss the GRC. The PMT manager explained the GRC process and the PRRD Director decided to assign professional engineers who have technical knowledge rather than social organizer to participate in GRC meetings.
- The Logar PMT manager developed a monthly activity report and submitted it to PRRD.

Baraki Barak District

- On July 7, DMT 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 DMT started a project survey in Pad Khab Roghani hawza. After several meetings, the DDA members from that hawza agreed to escort the SIKA-East engineers to the hawza for the survey.
- On July 8, grant application documents for four women's projects were completed and submitted to the Kabul office for further processing.

Khoshi District

- On July 8, the Khoshi District Governor met with the DMT manager, who updated him on SIKA-East progress in the district. The District Governor promised to give the program his full support.

Mohammad Agha

- The Mohammad Agha men's and women's communication committees conducted meetings during the week. This allowed the women's committee to develop their communication committee agenda and also learn how to communicate their problems and concerns with government and local authorities in the area.

- The Mohammad Agha DMT 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. The checklist will be submitted to the Kabul office for further processing.
- On July 7, DMT 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.
- Staff also contacted the Rahmabad, Dagg Qala, and Chenari CDCs to provide project progress reports and photos as second milestone documents.
- Meanwhile, work was under way on boundary walls for schools in Kamal Khill, Rahmadabad, and Qala Taj Khan, and a karez extension in Bahadurkhill.



Construction is well under way on the school boundary wall at Qala Taj Khan.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On July 7, the PMT manager participated in a coordination meeting with the PRRD Director and CDC members of Sia Chob and Baghak hawzas. The participants discussed the endorsement letters for the hawzas, and the PRRD Director promised to process them as soon as possible.

Chaki Wardak District

- On July 7, the Chaki Wardak and Saydabad DMTs conducted a Grant Managements workshop for five grantee CDCs. The main purpose of the workshop was to familiarize everyone with the forms and formats that have to be filled out and followed during the progress of a project.

Jalriz District

- The Wardak PMT prepared a list of Jalriz DDA and CDC members and presented it to the PRRD Director for review and confirmation.

Nirkh District

- On July 8, the men's communication committee conducted their thirteenth communication meeting and discussed the role of the communication committee in all the phases of project implementation.
- The Nirkh grant team filled out and revised all 36 grant applications in the district.

Saydabad District

- The Saydabad grant 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.
- After holding several advocacy trainings, the female DDA head and a few other members of the community created their message and advocated for



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

opening the girls school in Tangi Hawza of Saydabad District, which was closed due to threats by insurgents. The head of the DDA visited community elders and obtained their order to reopen the school.

- On July 8, the Saydabad DMT 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 Service Providers Catalogue (SPC).

PAKTYA

- On July 7, the Paktya gender officer met with the provincial manager of Health Net to discuss the issue of women's unavailability in Zurmat, Zadran, Laja Mangal, and 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.
- On July 7, the Paktya gender officer had a follow-up meeting with manager of Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC) to discuss and obtain a list of women in Laja Mangal District. The AWEC manager said that the list is almost finalized and she will be happy to share it with SIKA-East.



Paktya gender officer meeting the provincial manager of the Health Net

Laja Ahmad Khail

- From July 4 to 6, SIKA-East and PRRD conducted a Stability Planning Process workshop for an average of 59 members of the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA and CDCs. The facilitators introduced SIKA-East and role of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) in implementation of the program. This session ended with the first draft of the DPP.

Laja Mangal

- From July 4 to 6, Laja Mangal CDC and DDA members participated in a Stability Planning Process workshop. 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 conducted in Laja Mangal District at the participants' request. At the end of the training, the participants had identified sources of instability, proposed solutions, and drafted a DPP. The DPP is currently is under review in Kabul.

Zadran District

- On July 7, the PRRD Director, along with the Paktya PMT and Zadran DMT managers, met with representatives of Garda Serai District. Garda Serai is a sub-district of Zadran District, which will be covered by SIKA-East under Zadran. The Garda



Meeting with Garda Serai representatives

Serai representatives signed an agreement to support implementation of SIKA-East in their area.

Zurmat District

- This week it was planned to conduct a communication committee meeting for male members of the Zurmat DDA. However, due to change in the activity plan, the meeting had to be postponed until next week.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- After developing a questionnaire to evaluate and review the immediate result of the Service Providers Fairs (SPF) held in Paktya and Logar, SIKA-East staff interviewed many of those fairs' participants, both service providers and interested visitors. The questions directed at the service providers focused on the improvement of their business, the types of contacts they made, and the people they met. 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 reports are ready to be shared with senior management.
- SIKA-East requested USAID approval for two grantees from Baraki Barak District, whose grants have a total value of \$165,337. As of the end of this week, SIKA-East has requested 59 grant approvals from USAID, and 56 grants, with a total value \$2,164,458, have been approved.
- SIKA-East conducted Grant Management Training in Maydan Wardak for eight grantees, including three from Chaki Wardak and five from Saydabad.
- SIKA-East organized and executed first milestone payments for nine grantees from Nirkh and Saydabad and twelve from Mohammad Agha, with a total value of \$197,086. The payments went smoothly without any problems with the CDCs' authorized representatives.
- Current Status of Grants Pipeline:

District	Under Development	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	11	8	22	19	19	513,369	17	443,859
Mohammad. Agha	20	23	1,110,264	2	21	22	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nirkh	17	15	816,949	3	15	12	8	8	454,634	8	452,507
Dih Yak	15	6	237,302	2	3	6	5	2	51,636	1	23,944
Chaki Wardak	13	9	423,719	2	0	3	3	3	118,944	1	18,948
Andar	23	0	\$0	2	2	0	0	0	0		0
Baraki Barak	40	3	238,600	2	2	3	2	2	0		0
Total	132	81	\$3,545,667	24	51	68	59	56	\$2,164,458	49	\$1,941,189

- The following trainings were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
July 4-6	Stability Planning Process	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	49	
July 4-6	Stability Planning Process	Laja Mangal	Training	46	
July 7-9	Stability Planning process	Gurbuz	Training	61	
July 7-10	Grant Project Management	Saydabad	Training	38	
July 7-10	Grant Project Management	Chaki Wardak	Training	26	

- SIKA-East continued project design and development for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Zadran, and Andar Districts, with regular consultations and technical assistance between project management committees and the SIKA-East engineering team. The following table outlines project progress:

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	Nirkh	3	16	285,877	872,471
	C	Chaki Wardak	3	9	17,435	496,816
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,111	1,406,845
	A	Baraki Barak	11	5	714,123	386,195
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	4	8	136,816	372,844
	C	Andar	6	2	253,855	193,812
	C	Zadran	1	0	298,231	0
Sub-totals			38	95	2,170,146	4,555,921
Grand Totals			133		6,726,068	

- The Human Resource Unit filled eight positions during this period: three for AECOM and five for IRD.

Security

- Security Unit processed the airport passes for 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).
- Security finalized the Security Risk Assessments (SRA) of the Zadran and Ahmad Abad DMT offices. The Zadran DMT has recorded a rise in insurgent activity. The SRA is focused on the details of the vulnerability of the DMT office.
- This week's incidents that affected SIKA-East are covered in the following table:

Date	Time	District/ Province	Location	Type of incident	Impact on project
July 4	1550 hrs	Saydabad/ Wardak	Saydabad center	Phone threat to SIKA-East employee	This incident was directed to SIKA-East Community Development Officer of Saydabad.
July 7	1100 hrs	Zurmat/ Paktya	Neknam village	Armed clash between ANA and insurgents	This incident impacted SIKA-East staff movements to the area for project implementation.
July 7	1200 hrs	Zurmat/ Paktya	Zawo	Ambush on ANA and ANP	This incident impacted SIKA-East staff movements to the area for project implementation.
July 7	1530 hrs	Saydabad/ Wardak	Malikhail and Hasan Khill villages	Armed clash targeting ISAF supply convoys	This incident impacted some SIKA-East staff who normally use this route to go to work.
July 8	1007 hrs	Nirkh/ Wardak	Ghonda Khill village	Illegal checkpoint established in the mentioned village	The village is on the main road between Maydan Shahr and Nirkh DMTs, so this affected staff movements.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct male and female communication committee meetings in Dih Yak, Khwaja Umari, and Andar; and
- Prepare the initial draft of the Khwaja Umari district profile.

KHOST

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process workshop for male CDC and DDA members in Tani and Jaji Maydan; and
- Collect data to update the SPC.

LOGAR

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Finalize the Baraki Barak district profile;
- Conduct male and female communication committee meetings in Baraki Barak and Khoshi;
- Conduct Project Design And Development training for Khoshi; and
- Conduct Grant Management training for Baraki Barak.

PAKTYA

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Review the Gurbuz DPP;
- Conduct a sub-coordination meeting in Zadran District;
- Conduct male and female communication committee meetings in Zurmat; and
- Follow up on the issue of women's participation in SIKA-East in Zurmat and Zadran.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct male and female communication committee meetings in Nirkh and Chaki Wardak;
- Conduct project monitoring in Nirkh and Saydabad Districts;
- Consider and respond to community problem letters;
- Collect data to update the SPC;
- Conduct Grant Award Management workshop; and
- Conduct communication committee workshops.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct GRC in Dih Yak and Baraki Barak for 20 grant applications;
- Publish requests for proposals for vocational training grants;
- Design flyers and poster templates;
- Conduct training for Kabul staff in Word-based graphic design, and at the same time work on translating manuals into Dari and Pashto;
- Conduct a three-day meeting with provincial communication officers to teach them about message-driven brochure/flyer graphic design;
- Continue surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zadrán based on DPP Cycle 1 projects;
- Follow up on Wardak guest house replacement;
- Follow up and monitor delivery of equipment and office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Continue recruiting to fill 94 positions:
 - 61 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 6 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 27 vacancies in process for IRD.