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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 082 (JULY 12-18, 2013)



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

July 18, 2013

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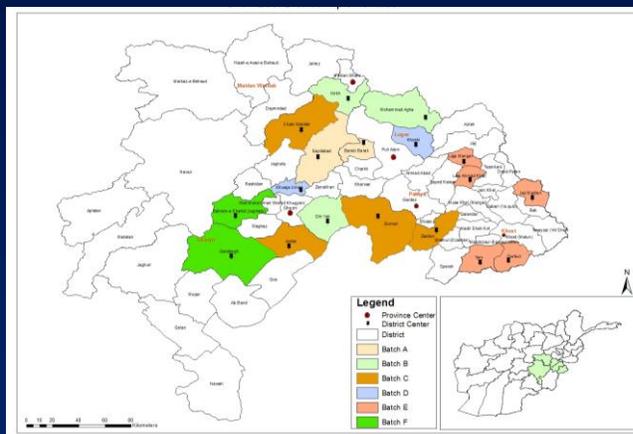
STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - EAST

SIKA-East is a USAID-funded initiative, led by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in partnership with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, that is designed to promote good governance and service delivery in targeted districts in eastern Afghanistan.

The focus of SIKA-East is on training, mentoring, and building the capacity of district civil servants to help them better understand and execute their roles and responsibilities and make them more effective public administrators.

SIKA-East also assists district-level government, through coordination at the provincial level, in responding to the population's needs and concerns so as to better instill confidence in the government and promote stability in the region.

The SIKA-East program works with community and district councils and other district entities, as well as local citizens, to identify sources of instability in their area and to address those issues through specific community-driven initiatives designed to improve services and people's quality of life.



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- During the week, 14 applications were approved by the Grant Review Committee (GRC) and will be further processed for USAID approval.
- SIKA-East's engineering team completed the final design review of a project for Chaki Wardak District and another for Nirkh.
- From July 14 to 16, the first part of Stability Planning Process Training was conducted for members of the Tani DDA and CDCs; an average of 62 men attended.
- The Khwaja Umari DDA, District Governor, and PRRD signed the endorsement letter for the Khwaja Umari DPP.
- On July 17, Stability Planning Process Training started for Jaji Maydan CDC and DDA members. This training will continue next week. An average of 60 men are expected to participate.
- During the week, SIKA-East held several meetings to discuss implementation of the gender strategy. These sessions resulted in creating a framework for gender mainstreaming to achieve gender equality throughout all the SIKA-East activities.



Stability Planning Process training in Tani District of Khost Province

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On July 15, the PMU manager met with the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director and Provincial Governor to discuss office requirements for the Qarabagh District Support Unit (DSU). It was decided to approach the Qarabagh District Governor and request space for the SIKA-East office within his compound.
- On July 16, the PRRD Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager. During the meeting, they discussed the Khwaja Umari District Project Portfolio (DPP), which the PRRD Director reviewed and endorsed.

Andar District

- On July 14, the Andar DSU manager met with the Andar District Development Assembly (DDA) members and Payandi Village Community Development Council (CDC) members to discuss the villagers' proposed projects. The DDA pointed out that surveys for construction of the Nani dam and Sardi Village high school boundary wall could not be performed, and hence those projects could not be implemented, as they are located in an insecure area, and they should be changed. It was also decided that the Project Management Council (PMC) of those areas should be invited to agree to changing the projects.
- On July 16, the Andar men's communication committee conducted their seventh meeting and discussed the outcome of a meeting they had with the District Governor regarding the road between Andar and Giro District. He said that he would construct the road when he received funding for it.

Dih Yak District

- On July 14, the Dih Yak DSU, along with a PRRD representative, conducted a Grant Review Committee (GRC) meeting for Dih Yak projects. During the meeting, they reviewed and approved three projects for further processing.
- On July 14 and 15, respectively, the men's and women's communication committees conducted their twelfth meetings. They discussed the importance of the community in project implementation.

Jaghatu District

- In Jaghatu, staff conducted a survey of key hawza members for nomination to the men's and women's communication committees that are being set up for Jaghatu District.

Khwaja Umari District

- From July 14 to 16, a Project Design and Development workshop was conducted for Khwaja Umari DDA+ members; an average of 62 men attended.
- The Khwaja Umari DDA, District Governor, and PRRD Director signed the endorsement letter for the Khwaja Umari DPP.



Project Design and Development workshop in Khwaja Umari

Qarabagh District

- Working with PRRD, the Ghazni PMU collected data for the Qarabagh district profile.

KHOST

- At the weekly coordination meeting held by the PRRD Director, the PMU manager provided an update on program implementation in Khost Province. The PRRD Director was satisfied with the progress and said that the PMU should contact him if any help or support was required.

Jaji Maydan District

- On July 17, Stability Planning Process Training started for men from the Jaji Maydan DDA and CDCs. The training will continue next week. The average attendance is expected to be 60.

Tani District

- From July 14 to 16, Stability Planning Process Training Part 1 was conducted for the Tani DDA and District CDC. An average of 62 men participated.

LOGAR

- On July 15, the head of Dih Naw Hawza in Mohammad Agha District met with the Logar PMU manager to discuss his concerns about the Cycle 1 projects. He felt that the project selection was not equal for all the hawzas and wanted SIKA-East to address this matter with the community. It was decided to set up a meeting between the DSU manager and community next week.
- On July 15, the PMU manager met with a representative of National Directorate of Security (NDS) at the PRRD compound. The PMU manager explained the program to him, and the NDS man promised to support the implementation of SIKA-East across the province.

Baraki Barak District

- On July 15, the men's and women's communication committees conducted their third meeting. The participants discussed notions for a communication plan for the district and decided to focus on developing one at their next meetings.
- The GRC reviewed and approved six applications for Baraki Barak District during the week.

Khoshi District

- From July 14 to 16, Khoshi DSU staff conducted a Project Design and Development workshop for women. The participants discussed project management, project work plans, practical project work, construction measurements, management of activities, and bills of materials.
- On July 17 and 18, the same workshop was held for men from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs; an average of 60 men took part.



Stability Planning Process Training in Tani District



An average of 50 women attended the Project Design and Development workshop in Khoshi District.

- On July 14, the men’s communication committee held their first meeting. The main topic of discussion was the importance of communication and how to develop strong communication ties with the local authorities.

Mohammad Agha

- On July 15, the DSU manager participated in a meeting with Districts Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD) and provided an update on the re-election of Mohammad Agha CDCs.
- During the week, SIKA-East’s district engineer for Mohammad Agha monitored kariz extension projects at Panama, Dag Kala, Bahadurkhal, and Chinary Mirajan. He also provided guidance to the workers and CDC project managers for better implementation of the projects.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On July 14, the PMU manager participated in a coordination meeting with the PRRD team and discussed the Chaki Wardak endorsement letters. The PRRD Deputy Director promised to approve the letters as soon as the provincial council endorsed them.

Chaki Wardak District

- On July 11, the Chaki Wardak DSU completed the four-day Grant Management training for Ganda Choshma, Kharoti, and Bagh Band CDCs. The participants were also updated on the status of the projects and implementation process.
- The Chaki Wardak grant team helped fill out a grant application for Shah Bazkhan Village and guided the community on the endorsement letter process.
- On July 16, the Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chak DSUs conducted a GRC and reviewed six projects: four from Nirkh, one from Chaki Wardak, and one from Saydabad. Based on the recommendation of the PRRD representative, the application from the Nirkh Karimdad CDC for water wells was put on hold until further clarification; the others were recommended for approval.

Jalriz District

- Office renovation continued in Jalriz District during the week.

Nirkh District

- On July 9, the Nirkh DSU held a coordination meeting with the head of the Omar Khail CDC to brief him on the project implementation cycle and approach.
- On July 13, the women’s communication committee conducted their thirteenth meeting and discussed project implementation, project



Kariz extension project at Panama



Grant Review Committee reviewing projects for three districts

budgets, the start and end of projects, seasonal information about projects, and the types of projects.

- From July 14 to 16, the Nirkh engineering team trained CDCs from Joi Asiab, Jowqul, and Deh Khirqa on the project work plan, bills of quantities, and ways to submit receipts for purchased materials to the DSU.
- On July 15, the men's communication committee conducted their fourteenth meeting and discussed such project-related matters as available budgets, implementation times, project benefits for the community, and the selection of communication channels.
- The Taliban and Hezb-e-Islami checkpoint on the Nirkh District road is a large problem for SIKA-East employees going about their daily activities in the district.

Saydabad District

- On 14 July, the Saydabad men's and women's communication committees conducted their thirteenth meetings and discussed various aspects of project implementation, including project types, budgets, and cycles.
- During the week, the Saydabad engineering team conducted site visits of several projects to check on progress. They also took the opportunity to explain some technical issues about work quality to the CDC managers and workers.

PAKTYA

- On July 15, the PMU manager and gender officer met with the manager of Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC) to follow up on the issue of women's involvement in SIKA-East. The AWEC manager explained that the women's councils formed by AWEC have been working on implementation of different projects for women. She said that SIKA-East can involve the councils in program implementation. She suggested that SIKA-East train the council members so that they can replicate the trainings for the female community members. She promised to provide a list of members of the women's councils soon.

Laja Ahmad Khail

- On July 14, the Laja Ahmad Khail DSU manager met with DDA members to verify sources of instability and propose solutions for them. They also discussed the DPP and reviewed the projects that had been selected by community elders.



Women's communication committee meeting in Saydabad District



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

Laja Mangal

- On July 14, the Laja Mangal team held a similar meeting with Laja Mangal DDA members to discuss the sources of instability in their area, as well as their root causes and solutions.

Zadran District

- On July 15, a DSU team performed a survey for a pipeline project for Naser Khail Hawza. Many people from the community accompanied them and expressed appreciation that one of their projects is about to get under way. They promised to escort SIKA-East staff to the project site and assure their security during project implementation.
- The District Governor, PRRD Director, and SIKA-East team are planning to hold a sub-coordination meeting between community members and requested service providers in Zadran District. The meeting will focus on non-infrastructure DPP projects and their implementation. This is the second time that community members of Zadran will meet with the service providers.

Zurmat District

- On July 16, the Zurmat communication officer conducted a meeting of the men's communication committee. Message development and the selection of communication channels were the main topics.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- During the week, SIKA-East reviewed the Baraki Barak and Khwaja Umari district profiles. Reviewing and staying updated on district profiles will help SIKA-East and its government counterparts remain current with all the changes within the districts.
- SIKA-East field staff viewed and finalized the research-based messaging and SIKA-East messaging list, which is now undergoing internal project revision before it is circulated to district- and provincial-level counterparts for their feedback and approval.
- In the past few months, communication committees have been putting together strategic communication plans in many SIKA-East districts. This week, SIKA-East Kabul reviewed the communication plan from Andar District and provided guidance and feedback to the field staff.
- SIKA-East Kabul-based staff are busy reviewing the DPPs from Laja Mangal, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Gurbuz Districts. This involves language review to make sure the language used in the DPP is not sensitive, as SIKA-East is working with the DDAs and members of the community in submitting them to District Governors and PRRD Directors.
- During the week, SIKA-East held several meetings to discuss implementation of the gender strategy. These sessions resulted in creating a framework for gender mainstreaming to achieve gender equality throughout all the SIKA-East activities.
- During the week, 14 grant applications were approved by GRCs and will be further processed for USAID approval.
- SIKA-East prepared and published four requests for proposals for conducting vocational trainings for Saydabad and Baraki Barak Districts.
- Issues with the Maydan Wardak PRRD Director have not yet been resolved, which is causing delays in the grant award process. The problems have been communicated with MRRD representatives in Kabul. SIKA-East has provided requested information and is hoping for a positive outcome.
- SIKA-East grants teams completed site visit reports for the second milestone of grant projects.

Current Status of Grants Pipeline

District	Under Development	Apps. Received	Apps. Received	Vetting Pending with USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	GRC Approved	USAID Approval Requested	USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded	
	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Saydabad	4	25	718,833	1	10	23	19	19	513,369	18	491,852
Mohammad Agha	20	23	1,110,264	1	23	22	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nirkh	17	15	816,949	2	15	14	8	8	454,634	8	452,507
Dih Yak	15	6	237,302	2	3	9	5	5	177,901	1	23,944
Chaki Wardak	13	9	423,719	2	0	4	3	3	118,944	3	112,212
Andar	23	0	\$0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baraki Barak	40	3	238,600	4	0	3	2	2	165,339	0	0
Total	132	81	\$3,545,667	13	54	75	59	59	2,456,062	52	2,106,390

- The following trainings and workshops were held this week

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
July 8	Grant Review Committee ToT	Zurmat/Paktya	ToT	9	
July 14-15	Project Design and Development	Khawaja Umari/Ghazni	Training	62	
July 14-16	Project Design and Development	Khoshi/ Logar	Training		50

- SIKA-East's engineering team completed the final design review of one project for Chaki Wardak and one project for Nirkh. The documents have been sent for CDCs' review and concurrence.
- 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	278,010	872,471
	C	Chaki Wardak	3	9	78,486	496,816
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,111	1,406,845
	A	Baraki Barak	9	7	664,835	439,293
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	3	9	84,938	472,008
	C	Andar	6	2	253,855	193,812
	C	Zadran	2	0	366,890	0
		Sub-totals	36	98	2,190,825	4,708,186
		Grand Totals	134		6,899,011	

- The Human Resource Unit filled three positions during this period: one from AECOM, one from OSC, and one from IRD.
- Security processed four of the USAID-supplied armored vehicles through Ramp 5 Military Airport in order to acquire airport passes.
- Last week, one of SIKA-East's Tani staff had an accident while riding a motorbike and was severely hurt; 36 hours later, he passed away from his injuries. As a result, Security initiated Driver Safety Training for all the PMUs and DSUs.
- Security investigated the threatening phone calls and letter that have been received since last March by the Puli Alam field finance officer but which he only disclosed this week. Security is assessing the situation for further action.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Continue Project Design and Development workshop for female DDA members;
- Conduct male communication committee meeting in Khwaja Umari;
- Conduct Grant Process and Application Training for female and DDA members of Khwaja Umari District;
- Prepare the list of participant for the Grants Management Training;
- Award four grants to the Dih Yak CDC;
- Conduct Grant Management training for three CDCs members;

KHOST

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct Gurbuz DPP language review;
- Present the Gurbuz DPP for endorsement by the DDA+, PRRD Director, and District Governor;
- Continue Stability Planning Process training in Jaji Maydan District;
- Collect data to update the SPC.

LOGAR

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Start engineering surveys in Baraki Rajan Hawza;
- Conduct a GRC meeting for Logar projects;
- Conduct communication committee meetings; and
- Conduct Grant Process and Application Development workshops for men and women.

PAKTYA

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct a GRC meeting for Zadran projects;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process Training in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal;
- Conduct a follow up meeting with the manager of AWEC;

- Meet with Zurmat and Zadran DDA members and the District Governor to solve gender issues;
- Conduct sub-coordination meeting in Zadran and Zurmat; and
- Conduct a communication committee meeting in Zurmat.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Consider and respond to community problem letters;
- Monitor the ongoing SIKA-East projects in Nirkh and Saydabad District;
- Fill out grant applications according to the grants unit's plan;
- Conduct project surveys according to the engineering group's plan;
- Collect data to update the SPC; and
- Conduct communication committee meetings.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Finalize the district profiles for Baraki Barak and Khwaja Umari Districts;
- Continue providing feedback to the field on communication plans;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in Khwaja Umari District;
- Finalize the DPP of Gurbuz District and submit it for endorsement;
- Follow up with arrangement for Service Providers Fair (SPF) in Logar and Paktya for the second round and the post-evaluation report of the first SPF;
- Prepare and process USAID approval request for 14 GRC-approved applications;
- Conduct Grant Management training and award four approved applications for Dih Yak District;
- Continue engineering survey and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Ya,k and Zadran, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Implementation training for Baraki Barak and Dih Yak;
- Follow up on Maydan Wardak guest house replacement;
- Follow up and monitor delivery of equipment and office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Continue recruiting to fill 103 positions:
 - 74 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 4 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 25 vacancies in process for IRD.