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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 085 (JULY 26-AUGUST 1, 2013)



School boundary wall construction in Qala Taj Khan in Mohammad Agha District

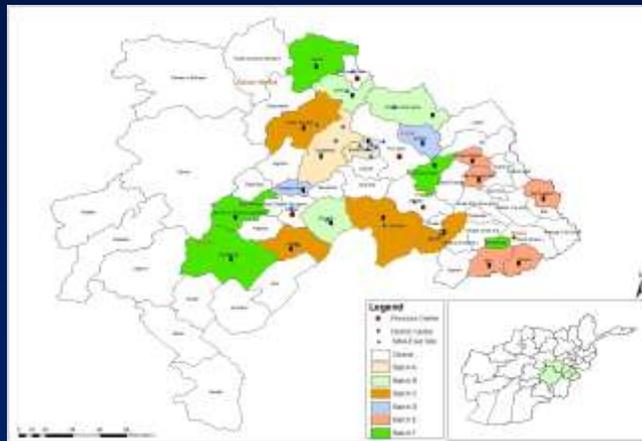
August 1, 2013

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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, the grants team processed nine Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) applications with a total value of \$348,508. Five have been approved, two are still under review with USAID, and two others are being internally reviewed.
- A total of \$124,688 was issued to CDCs this week as milestone payments. The total value of milestone payments made for the month of July is \$320,387.
- By the end of the week, SIKA-East had completed designs for 104 projects for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Andar Districts.
- Security Department followed up on the abduction by insurgents of SIKA-East's community development officer in Khwaja Umari; he was released on July 29.
- The Taliban and Hezb-i-Islami party checkpoint on the road between Nirkh and Maydan Shahr is creating a large problem for SIKA-East's daily activities in Nirkh District. Additionally, the Taliban repeated their demand that tribal elders tell villagers to leave their jobs with the government.
- This week, SIKA-East conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Foundation training in Jalrez, Qarabagh, and Jaghatu Districts. The PRRD social organizers also participated in this training and will co-facilitate the training at the field level.
- On July 28, a ToT in Grant Review Committee responsibilities and activities was conducted in the Paktya Provincial Management Unit office for eight members of the provincial and district staffs.
- From July 28 to August 1, the Khoshi District Support Unit conducted Grant Process and Application Development training for that district's CDC and DDA members.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On July 21, the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting. The participants discussed the hiring of social mobilizers. The PRRD Director announced the date and time of the written test and approved the shortlisted candidates for it.
- On July 24, the Dih Yak women's communication committee met with the director of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) and discussed the general problems of women in the district. As a result, the DoWA director promised to raise specific issues at the next meeting of the Provincial Development Council.
- The Ghazni gender office collected and updated data on female service providers in the province.

Andar District

- The Andar District Support Unit (DSU) updated the list of hawzas and villages in Andar District and submitted it to the Kabul office.
- On July 30, communication committee members shared the Andar District Project Portfolio (DPP) with the Departments of Education and Health to advocate for its funding and incorporating these projects into their budgeting plans. This will help avoid duplication of effort and allow community representatives to advocate for their district priorities.

Dih Yak District

- On July 29, a meeting to discuss strategic communications in the district was conducted in the Dih Yak DSU office. The participants were 27 key members of Community Development Councils (CDC), community elders, DDA members, communication committee members, the district police commander, and other influential people. The participants discussed the importance of the communication committee and their responsibilities.
- On July 26, an opening ceremony was held to launch implementation of the Ramak CDC Zagon Kariz extension project. SIKA-East staff briefed the villagers and stakeholders on different aspects of project status, the responsibilities of key members of the CDC and project management committee, and the project budget.
- On July 28 and 29, 35 men from the Ramak, Aklay, and Kohna Deh CDCs received training in Infrastructure Project Implementation at the Oranus Hotel in Ghazni City.
- On July 30, the Dih Yak women's communication committee conducted their second meeting and discussed the importance of their committee and the role of women in the community.



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



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

Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts

- The DSU started a survey of resiliencies and grievances in Qarabagh and Jaghatu Districts.

Khwaja Umari District

- Due to security concerns and the kidnapping of Mohammad Ayaz Nemati, SIKA-East community development officer for Khwaja Umari, all activities have been postponed in the district.

KHOST

- On July 30, the Khost Deputy PMU manager met the District Governor of Mando Zai District and briefed him on SIKA-East. He also submitted the official letter of the Provincial Governor about SIKA-East in Mando Zai. The District Governor promised to support the program in his district and provide space for the DSU in his compound.
- The Khost Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) was finalized by the provincial staff and shared with the Kabul team for review. A total of 85 key service providers were identified and included in the SPC, along with all necessary information.

Gurbuz District

- From 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 40 men and 40 women.
- The Gurbuz DPP was endorsed by members of the DDA after review. The DPP will be shared with the District Governor, PRRD, and line departments.
- On July 30 and 31, training in Resource Dialogue and Advocacy was conducted for 58 Gurbuz women. On the second day, the participants also elected the members of the communication committee.



Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for Gurbuz women

Jaji Maydan and Tani Districts

- The Jaji Maydan DSU started Stability Planning Process training on August 1. This training will continue next week.
- During the week, the Khost PMU continued the language review of the DPP and list of sources of instability of Jaji Maidan and Tani Districts.

LOGAR

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

- During the week, the Logar PMU worked on Requests for Proposals for tailoring training and embroidery projects, and sent them to Kabul for further processing.

Baraki Barak District

- On July 25, the women's commutation committee held a meeting, at which they discussed planned activities and the materials needed for them.

Khoshi District

- Between July 28 and August 1, the Khoshi DSU conducted Grant Process and Application Development training for an average of 63 men from the Khoshi DDA and CDC.

Mohammad Agha

- During the week, Mohammad Agha DSU staff visited the sites of several infrastructure projects to monitor progress, take photos, and gather information. They also prepared second milestone reports on the projects.
- The Mohammad Agha DSU met with representatives of the Abparan Bala and Abparan Payen CDC and provided them with information on how to achieve smooth project implementation in their area.
- On July 28, the Mohammad Agha DSU conducted a message delivery meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to share information with, and increase coordination between, community and district entities and government officials. It was also meant to deliver a message to government officials and regular citizens about the commitment of the DDA+, community members, and the government to stability in the district, villages, and communities. Fifty-five men and women attended, including members of the DDA and representatives of youth, civil society, the media, and women's organizations.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On July 28, the PRRD Director met with the PMU manager. The PRRD Director mentioned that they require the monthly report in PRRD's format, and the PMU manager subsequently complied.

Chaki Wardak District

- On July 29, the Chaki Wardak communication team facilitated the ninth communication committee meeting for women and discussed the importance of having a communication plan, the selection of communication channels, and when to start practical work on a communication plan. The participants promised to share the points of discussion with the larger DDA.



July 30 meeting with the PRRD Director



Grant Process and Application Development Training in Khoshi



Boundary wall construction in Qala Taj Khan in Mohammad Agha District

- Chaki Wardak DSU staff held several meetings with various line departments, including Education, Agriculture, and Mines, and discussed the planned Service Providers Fair (SPF). He provided an update on the event and requested the departments to participate.
- On July 29, the Chaki Wardak men's communication committee held their seventh meeting. They discussed developing a public relations plan and relations between community and government bodies.

Jalrez District

- Office renovation continued in Jalrez District during the week.

Nirkh District

- On July 23 and 29, the Nirkh M&E officer visited the Abda Khail karez repair and the Karimdad road projects sites, respectively. Both projects are going according to the plan, and the construction is of good quality.
- The Taliban and Hezb-i-Islami party checkpoint on the road between Nirkh and Maydan Shahr is a large problem for SIKA-East's daily activities in Nirkh District. Additionally, the Taliban repeated their demand that tribal elders tell the villagers to leave their jobs with the government.

Saydabad District

- On July 25 Saydabad DSU facilitated the fourteenth communication committee meeting for women and discussed the implementation of communication plan.
- On July 28, Saydabad DSU conducted female sub-coordination meeting with the Afghan Women Education Center (AWEC) representatives. The main focus of this meeting was coordination between service provider and district entities. Besides, AWEC representative explained about their planned activities for women in Saydabad district.

PAKTYA

- On July 29, the Paktya Deputy PMU manager participated in a meeting held in the PRRD office. During the meeting, the previous DDA members complained about being dismissed. The PRRD Director explained that their DDA has been dismissed by the majority of community members, not by PRRD or SIKA-East. However, if required another election will be held after Eid.
- On July 28, a ToT in Grant Review Committee responsibilities and activities was conducted in the Paktya PMU office for eight members of the PMU and DSU staffs.



Abda Khail karez repair under way in Nirkh



July 29 meeting with Paktya PRRD Director

- On July 30, the Paktya PMU manager met with the PRRD Director to select a qualified DDA for the local radio play agreement. The team selected the Zurmat DDA.
- The Paktya gender officer met with the head of the Ahmad Abad DDA and shared information about SIKA-East. The head of the DDA mentioned that they had worked with other PRRD programs and they had female DDAs; however, those organizations are not active due to the security situation and cultural barriers.

Laja Ahmad Khail

- On July 28, the first session of Stability Planning Process training got under way for 55 members of the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA and CDC.

Laja Mangal District

- Also on July 28, Stability Planning Process training was begun for 58 members of the DDA and CDCs in Laja Mangal District.

Zadran District

- On July 28, the Zadran DSU staff met with members of the DDA, tribal shuras, other influential people from the district, and the commander in charge of security in Garda Serai to discuss the official start-up of SIKA-East in that area. The participants said they strongly supported the program and appreciated its introduction to their area. The next day, the Zadran DSU began a stakeholder survey in Garda Serai.
- On July 30, the Zadran men's communication committee conducted their third meeting. The participants discussed message development, selection of communication channels, and completion of worksheets.

Zurmat District

- On July 25, the Zurmat team had its first sub-coordination meeting with the Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock. They discussed essential points and asked the director about three tractors and 70 tons of wheat which were supposed to be distributed to the community. They also discussed the establishment of a cooperative in the district. The Director suggested further discussions on the issues.
- On July 30, the DSU Communication and Outreach Officer conducted the third meeting of the men's communication committee. After a review of their last meeting, the committee primarily discussed message development and the selection of communication channels.
- On July 30, the Zurmat grants and sub-contracts officer met with the Provincial Management Council (PMC) and was able to get the deputy head of the PMC to signed all the letters that had been sent to them.



July 28 ToT training on Grant Review Committee procedures



July 28 meeting with representatives of Garda Serai to discuss SIKA-East implementation in their area



July 30 meeting of the Zurmat men's communication committee

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- District profiles of Dih Yak and Andar were updated during the week. Having them updated with all the social, political, and economic changes in these districts will help SIKA-East, MRRD, and IDLG to better implement program activities.
- SIKA-East's Kabul team reviewed the Tani DPP and provided feedback to the field team so they can move on with the second part of the Stability Planning Process. During the second part, members of the DDA, CDCs, DCC, and other influential people from the community discuss available service providers in the area. They learn about communication and advocacy and build project concept notes for each project, where they examine the feasibility of the projects.
- Following last week's training on messaging, SIKA-East developed a messaging list, which is currently under internal review. Once it is finalized, the message list will be shared with District Governors, PRRD Directors, and members of DDAs and other influential people from the community for their comment and feedback. The next step will be to share the list with IDLG, MRRD, and USAID for final approval.
- PRRD and SIKA-East, with contributions from the governmental line departments of Khoshi District, completed the Khoshi district profile. The document is currently being finalized in Kabul, after which SIKA-East will submit it to USAID.
- SIKA-East's Kabul team developed a plan for a resource coordination meeting for Khost Province. This plan will be shared with senior management and Khost provincial staff for further processing, which includes sharing the plan with government departments, especially IDLG and MRRD.
- This week, SIKA-East conducted a ToT in Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Foundation training in Jalrez, Qarabagh, and Jaghatu Districts. The social organizers also participated in this training and will co-facilitate the training at the field level.
- During the week, the grants team processed nine Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) applications with a total value of \$348,508. Five have been approved, two are still under review with USAID, and two others are being internally reviewed.
- Fifty-seven approved and awarded applications, plus the supporting documents for 50 of them, have been entered in the MIS web-based database.
- CDC milestone payments were made this week for a total of \$124,688. Total milestone payments made for the month of July 2013 come to \$320,387. The current status of the grants pipeline is shown on the following page.
- SIKA-East field and Kabul-based engineers continued design and development work on projects slated for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Zadran, and Andar Districts. By the end of the week, SIKA-East had completed designs for 104 projects in all of the above-mentioned districts except for Zadran. The table on the following page outlines project progress.

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

Engineering Design Pipeline

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	4	30	89,700.24	826,940.52
	B	Nirakh	2	17	187,413.90	963,066.97
	C	Chaki Wardak	2	10	103,334.43	557,866.45
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,110.74	1,406,844.89
	A	Baraki Barak	7	10	431,337.25	666,182.15
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	3	10	112,717.73	491,913.57
	C	Andar	6	2	253,854.65	193,811.64
	C	Zadran	3	0	450,399.86	0
Sub-totals			33	104	2,002,868.8	5,106,626.19
Grand Totals			136		7,109,494.99	

Trainings and Workshops

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
July 28	Grant Review Committee ToT	Paktya	Training	8	
July 28-31	Stability Planning Process	Gurbuz	Training	38	
July 28-31	Stability Planning Process	Laja Ahmad Khail	Taining	55	
July 28-31	Stability Planning Process	Laja Mangal	Training	58	
July 30-31	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Gurbuz	Training		50
August 1	Stability Planning Process	Jaji Maidan	Training	NA	
July 28 – August 1	Grant Process and Application Development	Khoshi	Training	63	

- The Human Resource Unit filled six positions during this period: three for AECOM and three for IRD.
- Security Department followed up on the kidnapping by insurgents of SIKA-East employee Mohammad Ayaz Nemati, community development officer for Khwaja Umari. The kidnapping took place after an attack on the Khwaja Umari District administration center on the evening of July 24. While fleeing from the area, the insurgents came upon Mr. Nemayati, who was working in a field. They grabbed the SIKA-East man and took him with them. After communications and follow up with the district authorities and elders, Mr. Nemayati was released on July 29.
- Security Department finalized the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) for Mando Zai District of Khost Province. The SRA was conducted prior to mobilization to identify possible challenges after SIKA-East intervention in the district.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct Grant Review Committee session for two projects of Dih Yak; and
- Prepare the documents for three Dih Yak projects.

KHOST

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for Gurbuz men;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process Training, part one and two, for Tani CDC and DDA members; and
- Continue Stability Planning Process Training in Jaji Maidan District.

LOGAR

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Facilitate a communication committee meeting in Baraki Barak; and
- Monitor the ongoing projects in Mohammad Agha.

MAYDAN WARDAK

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

PAKTYA

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Continue stakeholder survey in Garda Serai;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training in Laja Ahmad Khail; and
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training in Laja Mangal.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Finalize Khwaja Umari, Baraki Barak, and Saydabad district profiles;
- Follow up on internal approval process for the SIKA East messaging list and proceed with partner approval;
- Prepare initial narrative drafts of Gurbuz and Qarabagh district profiles;
- Fill Qarabagh and Jaghatu survey form of resiliencies and grievances;
- Conduct message-driven brochure/flyer design training for two days;
- Hold a follow-up meeting with AWEC regarding women's participation in SIKA-East;
- Prepare and process payments for completed milestones for 11 CDCs from Mohammad Agha and Dih Yak Districts;
- Conduct a GRC in Dih Yak District for two additional grant applications;
- Continue surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zadran, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects;
- Conduct in-house technical training for provincial engineers;
- Conduct assessment of all DSU offices to provide them with bunkers for emergency cases; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 139 positions:
 - 105 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 3 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 31 vacancies in process for IRD.