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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 086 (AUGUST 2-8, 2013)



A SIKA-East community development officer (middle) meets with two of the 42 elders canvased during a stakeholder survey in the Garda Serai region of Zadran District, Paktya Province.

August 8, 2013

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by AECOM.

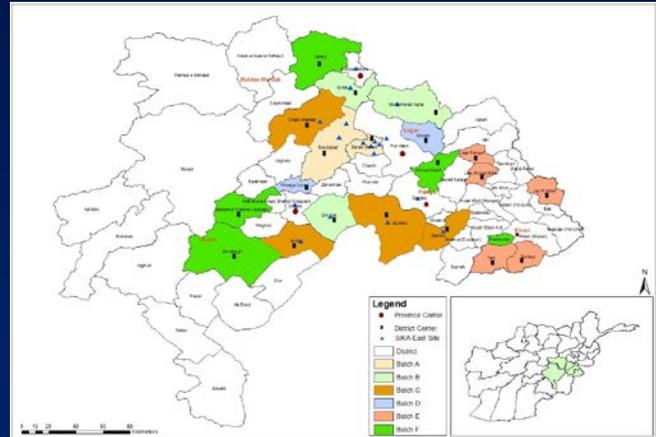
STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - EAST

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 and submitted 20, of which 17 have been approved; the remainder are still under review with USAID.
- By the end of the week, SIKA-East had completed designs for 107 projects for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Andar Districts.
- On August 5, the Dih Yak DSU conducted a Grant Review Committee (GRC) session at which they reviewed and approved two projects. On the same day in Baraki Barak, another GRC approved three karez extension projects.
- Also on August 5, the Khost PMU manager met with the Mando Zayi District Governor and provided information about SIKA-East's plans for launching and implementing the program in his district. The District Governor provided two rooms in his compound for the SIKA-East DSU office.
- District profiles for Saydabad and Baraki Barak were recently updated, while initial drafts of the profiles for Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh are being prepared.
- SIKA-East's M&E team completed three site visits during the week: one in Mohammad Agha and another in Saydabad for second milestone qualification, and one in Dih Yak for the first milestone.



Stonemasons at work on the Arab Khail karez extension in Nirkh District of Maydan Wardak Province

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On August 5, at the PRRD Director's weekly coordination meeting, the PMU manager updated him and the other participants on SIKA-East progress and achievements.
- On August 3, the grants officer prepared the documents for the first milestone of two projects and sent them for further processing.

Andar District

- On August 4, the Andar DSU entered three new service providers in the database and updated the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC).

Dih Yak District

- On August 1, several community representatives held a sub-coordination meeting with the provincial Director of Education in Ghazni City.
- On August 5, the Dih Yak DSU conducted a Grant Review Committee (GRC) session at which they reviewed and approved two projects.
- On August 4, the Dih Yak district engineering team visited the sites of three ongoing projects and provided feedback to the supervisors and workers.
- On August 4 and 5, the Dih Yak DSU completed a Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) checklist for two projects and the first milestone documents for a third project.

Jaghatau and Qarabagh Districts

- Both Jaghatu and Qarabagh DSUs prepared the list of invitees for the upcoming district launches and shared them with the Kabul office.
- A private house has been leased for the Jaghatu DSU office.

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 August 5, the PMU manager met with the Mando Zayi District Governor to explain the goals and implementation program of SIKA-East and to ask for his cooperation. The District Governor assigned two rooms in his compound for a DSU office. PMU engineering staff prepared a bill of quantities for renovation of the office space and submitted it to Kabul for further processing.



August 1 sub-coordination meeting with Director of Education in Ghazni City

Gurbuz District

- On August 4 and 5, a Resource Dialogue and Advocacy workshop was conducted for 38 members of the Gurbuz DDA and CDCs. During the workshop, the participants also established a new communication committee.

Jaji Maydan

- The second session of Stability Planning Process training, which started on July 31, ended on August 6. The training was attended by an average of 56 men from the Jaji Maydan DDA and CDCs. The participants identified Cycle 1 projects and learned about project eligibility and resource development.

Tani Districts

- The second part of Stability Planning Process training for 50 men from the Tani DDA and CDC started on August 4 and is still under way.

LOGAR

- On August 4, the PRRD Deputy Program Director met with the Logar PMU manager to discuss arrangements for a GRC meeting to review projects proposed for Baraki Barak. They agreed to conduct the GRC the following day.

Baraki Barak District

- On August 5, representatives of PRRD and the SIKA-East grants team held a GRC to review three kariz development projects for the CDCs of Qala Nazir, Eido Khil, and Qala Yousuf. They approved all three projects and sent the grant application requests to Kabul for further processing.
- Also on August 5, 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.

Khoshi District

- On August 1, the grants team conducted Grant Process and Application Development training for 74 men from the Khoshi DDA+ and CDCs. During the training, the grants team helped the participants to develop grant applications. They also discussed the accompanying grant application narrative and endorsement letter.
- On August 4, the Khoshi DSU manager met with the District Governor to update him on SIKA-East activities in the district. The District Governor expressed his satisfaction with SIKA-East progress, promised to support the program, and suggested more coordination. At the end, they agreed to hold regular coordination meetings in future.



The Logar PRRD Director and PMU Manager meet on August 4 to set up a GRC meeting.



August 1 Grant Process and Application Development workshop for Khoshi men

- On August 5, the PMU manager met with a community elder of Dubandi Hawza and provided him with information on the project selection procedure. He responded to the elder's immediate concerns and promised to be available to answer any other questions and concern that might arise regarding SIKA-East.
- On August 6, the men's communication committee held a meeting in the DSU office. The participants drafted a communication plan, selected communication tools and channels, and filled out the worksheet.

Mohammad Agha

- On August 4, the Mohammad Agha grants team visited the sites of school boundary wall projects at Qala Taj Khan and Kamal Khil. The team reviewed the projects' progress and administrative documents.
- On August 4, the District Governor met with the Mohammad Agha DSU manager to discuss the installation of a bunker at the district center for the safety of the center's workers in the event of an attack by insurgents. The District Governor promised to support the idea.
- The men's and women's communication committees of Mohammad Agha conducted separate meetings on August 5 and 6, respectively. They evaluated the communication committees' meetings from the beginning and specified the achievements as well as weak points of the committees. They mentioned that this is the first time that women have had a chance to meet religious elders and present their ideas. The committee members expressed their satisfaction with the meetings and promised to continue them.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On August 4, the PRRD Director met with the PMU manager and other MRRD implementing partners to discuss general coordination, a reporting system to PRRD, and the upcoming Service Providers Fair (SPF). The PRRD Director assured the PMU manager that he would support all SIKA-East activities in Maydan Wardak Province.

Chaki Wardak District

- Chaki Wardak DSU staff met with the Directors of Hajj and Religious Affairs and Agriculture to share information about the upcoming SPF in Maydan Wardak Province.
- On August 5, a GRC was held to review eight applications; all eight were approved.
- The DSU grants team issued first milestone payments to the CDCs managing the Gandachoshma and Kharooti projects.



Kamal Khil school boundary well



August 5 meeting of the Mohammad Agha men's communication committee

Jalrez District

- The renovation of the Jalrez DSU office is complete.

Nirakh District

- On August 5, a GRC meeting was held to review two grant applications; both were approved.
- During the week, Nirakh engineers visited the sites of the Karimdad and Jaw Qul road repair and the Abda Khil karez repair projects. They found that work was proceeding normally, the excavation of the foundation of the Karimdad road wall was 95 percent complete, and the leveling of Jaw Qul roadway was well under way. Both projects were being implemented according to plan, and the quality of the work was good.

Saydabad District

- The Saydabad grants team disbursed first milestone payments for four CDCs, and second milestone payments for three.
- On August 4, the Saydabad grants team visited the Hakim Khill karez extension and repair project and found everything in order.
- The Saydabad DSU conducted several meetings with different service providers and shared information regarding the upcoming SPF.

PAKTYA

- On August 5, the Paktya PRRD Director met with the PMU deputy manager and gender officer to coordinate an upcoming meeting on the role of women in SIKA-East. The invitees will include the District Governors of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail Districts, the PRRD Director himself, religious leaders, tribal elders, representatives of provincial councils, and other community leaders. The meeting is scheduled for August 18 in Gardiz City.

Ahmad Abad

- During the week, a quotation for renovation of the Ahmad Abad DSU office was submitted to procurement.

Laja Ahmad Khail

- On August 4 and 5, PRRD and DSU staff conducted Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for 58 men from the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA+ and CDCs. On the second day, the participants learned about the basic elements of advocacy: goals, audiences, messages, coalitions, budgets, and the importance of having a strategy. The participants actively shared their thoughts with the trainers.



Work on the Abda Khil karez extension in Nirakh



August 4 visit to the Hakim Khill karez extension and repair project in Saydabad



Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training in Laja Ahmad Khail

Zadran District

- On August 6, the Zadran DSU team completed the stakeholders survey for Garda Serai. During the survey, the team canvassed all four tribes located in Garda Serai – the Toree Khil, Sultan Khil, Sori Khil, and Prangay. In doing so, they met with 42 elders, who nominated 206 stakeholders.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- 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.
- 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, 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.
- District profiles for Saydabad and Baraki Barak were recently updated, while initial drafts of the profiles for Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh are being prepared. 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.
- 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.
- During the week, the grants team processed nine Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) applications and submitted 20, of which 17 have been approved; the remainder are still under review with USAID.
- Four FOG grants, with a value of \$183,815, were awarded, three in Nirkh, and 1 in Saydabad.
- This week saw the arrival of a database manager for the grants unit. Fifty application were uploaded into the database system.
- CDC milestone payments were made this week for a total of \$42,889. The current status of the grants pipeline is shown on the following page.



Garda Serai stakeholder survey

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	19	540,790
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	16	13	13	773,363	11	598,203
Dih Yak	10	11	444,870	4	4	11	11	9	613,608	5	177,901
Chaki Wardak	12	9	423,719	1	2	8	11	11	491,868	3	118,944
Andar	23	0	\$0	0	4	0	0	0	0		
Baraki Barak	31	13	574,756	3	2	15	11	10	460,876		
Total	179	96	4,089,391	11	61	95	88	85	3,919,205	60	2,283,812

- SIKA-East field and Kabul-based engineers continued design and development work on projects slated for Saydabad, Nirakh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Zadran, and Andar Districts. By the end of the week, SIKA-East had completed designs for 107 projects in all of the above-mentioned districts except for Zadran. The following table outlines project progress.
- The review of design documents for several projects continued during the week. The final review was completed for three projects for Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province.

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	826,941
	B	Nirakh	2	17	187,414	963,067
	C	Chaki Wardak	2	10	103,334	557,866
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,111	1,406,845
	A	Baraki Barak	10	10	445,477	666,182
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	1	12	0	602,434
	C	Andar	5	3	204,006	247,311
	C	Zadran	4	0	519,235	0
Sub-totals			34	107	1,923,277	5,270,646
Grand Totals			141		7,193,923	

- SIKA-East's M&E team completed three site visits during the week: one in Mohammad Agha and another in Saydabad for second milestone qualification, and one in Dih Yak for the first milestone.
- The Human Resource Unit filled ten positions during this period: five for AECOM, four for IRD, and one for OCS.

Trainings and Workshops

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
July 28-August 1	Stability Planning Process	Laja Mangal	Training	56	
July 28-August 1	Stability Planning Process	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	52	
July 28-August 1	Grant Project Management	Khoshi	Training	74	
July 31-August 6	Stability Planning Process (second session)	Jaji Maydan	Training	56	
August 4-5	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	58	
August 4-5	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Gurbuz	Training	38	
August 4-6	Stability Planning Process (second session)	Tani	Training	50	
August 6	Grants Management and Implementation	Chaki Wardak	Training	8	
August 6	Grants Process and Application Development	Saydabad	Training	8	
August 6	Grants Process and Application Development	Nirkh	Training	24	

- Security Department went through the CVs of field service officers for the Maydan Wardak and Logar DSUs. The FSO positions are being reannounced in order to recruit more suitable candidates.
- Security finalized the assessment of the DSU offices for provision of bunkers that can be used during emergencies or attacks on district administration centers. The need for bunkers has been prioritized based on the frequency of attacks on district centers where SIKA-East has DSU offices.
- Security acquired stickers from the Anti-Terrorism Department of the Ministry of Interior for the USAID-supplied armored vehicles of SIKA-East and South.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Disburse the first milestone payment for the Ramak kariz extension project in Dih Yak District;
- Conduct the ninth communication committee meeting in Andar District; and
- Conduct the fourteenth communication committee meeting in Dih Yak District.

KHOST

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Continue the Stability Planning Process training for Tani CDC and DDA+ members; and
- Start the Mando Zayi office renovation.

LOGAR

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct Fundraising training for men and women from the Khoshi DDA and CDCs; and
- Conduct a sub-coordination meeting in the Khoshi DSU office.

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;
- Conduct OneSource training for PMU and DSU staff in the Gardiz PMU office;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for men from the Laja Mangal DDA and CDCs; and
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning training for men from Laja Ahmad Khail District.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Prepare curriculum for a Coalition Building ToT, a one-day session, conducted across multiple groups, that highlights and simulates the three key stages of coalitions: building, growing, and maintaining;
- Conduct Security Advocacy ToT for ISS communication and outreach field staff;
- Finalize Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh district profiles;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process training for Batch F districts;
- 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;
- Continue with grant application development and the collection of required documentation – including endorsement letters, the CDC representatives' ID cards, and relevant forms – for Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Andar Districts;
- Continue to collect the required documents of the first and second milestones in Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak Districts;
- Continue working on vetting documents and the cost price analysis for projects;
- Follow up equipment shipments and office establishment in new districts;
- Continue surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zadran, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects;
- Shortlist field services officer CVs for the Khost, Ghazni, and Logar DSUs;
- Conduct first aid training for all SIKA-East APPF personnel;
- Conduct assessments of all DSU offices to provide them with bunkers for emergency cases; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 141 positions:
 - 107 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 3 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 31 vacancies in process for IRD.