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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 088 (AUGUST 16-22, 2013)



August 18 meeting in Gardiz to discuss how to involve the women of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail in SIKA- East programming.

August 22, 2013

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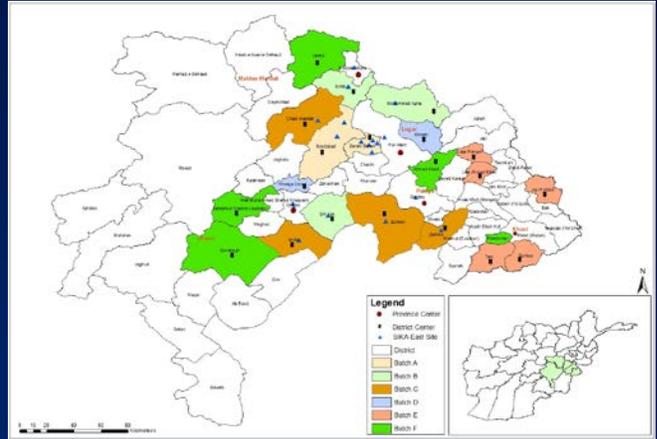
STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) - EAST

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

- On August 18, a major meeting was held in Gardiz to discuss how to involve the women of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail in SIKA-East programming.
- The Khost PMU reviewed the District Project Portfolios (DPP) for Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan and got them endorsed by the DDA+, District Governor, and PRRD Director. The DPPs were then sent to Kabul for further processing.
- On August 15, the Saydabad DSU team met with elders from Tangi Hawza to try to find a way to start SIKA-East projects in the area. It was decided to give them three more weeks to find ways to help SIKA-East staff conduct project surveys without jeopardizing their security.
- Four FOG approval applications, with a value of \$27,165, were processed this week and forwarded to USAID for approval; none require vetting approval. To date, 92 approval applications have been submitted to USAID for approval; 85, with a value of \$3,505,972 have been approved; and 63 grants have been awarded at a value of \$2,552,140.
- First, second, and third milestone payments, with a value of \$190,148, have been processed and were paid to various CDCs on August 22.



Workers dump spoils from the Patan Khil karez rehabilitation project in Maydan Wardak's Saydabad District.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On August 20, the Program Management Unit (PMU) manager met with the Provincial Governor to update him on program progress around the province. The Provincial Governor said he appreciated the hard work the SIKA-East team was doing toward stability in Ghazni Province and promised to continue to support the program.
- On August 15, the Ghazni PMU awarded three more projects in Dih Yak District, followed by Grant Management Training.
- The Ghazni PMU conducted a Grant Review Committee (GRC) meeting for three projects in Andar District. The committee approved all three and sent the result sheet to Kabul for further processing.
- On August 21, the unit prepared the documents for the first milestone of two projects in Dih Yak District.

Andar District

- On August 18, the Andar DSU developed a proposal to construct a boundary wall for Mula Mushki Alam High School and sent it to Kabul for further review.

Dih Yak District

- On August 20 and 21, respectively, the Dih Yak district engineer visited the sites of the Tanfer and Ramak Akli projects, where canals are being lined with stone masonry. Work is proceeding satisfactorily.

Jaghatau District

- DSU staff spent the week in Kabul attending a Stability Planning Process Training of Trainers (ToT) so that they can later conduct the same training for members of the Jaghatu DDA+ and CDCs.

Khwaja Umari District

- On August 18, DSU staff conducted Grants Process and Application Development training for 61 men from the Khwaja Umari DDA+ and CDCs.

Qarabagh District

- The Qarabagh DSU prepared the list of invitees to the upcoming SIKA-East launch.
- The DSU also continued to develop a stakeholder list.

KHOST

- On August 20, PMU staff met with the Provincial Governor's chief of staff to discuss a location for the planned August 26 Resource



Stonemasonry work under way on the Tanfer canal in Dih Yak District



Grants Process and Application Development training in Khwaja Umari

Coordination Meeting, where stakeholders from Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan, and Tani Districts will be able to meet with different service providers. A venue for the Resource Coordination Meeting was selected. All service providers who are expected to participate in the meeting have been informed about the importance of attending.

- The Khost PMU reviewed the District Project Portfolios (DPP) for Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan and submitted them to the DDA+, District Governor, and PRRD Director for endorsement. Following endorsement, the DPPs were sent to Kabul for further processing.

Gurbuz District

- The district Strategic Planning Committee reviewed and finalized the Cycle 1 project list of Gurbuz District.
- On August 22, the Gurbuz men's communication committee meeting held its first meeting. It was an introductory meeting in which the men discussed their overall objectives, how to make the DDA more effective, and protocols for obtaining approvals from the DDA and CDCs.

Jaji Maidan and Tani Districts

- On August 18, the communications and outreach officer conducted a research-based workshop in Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts, during which the staff learned how to develop messages and design a brochure using Microsoft Picture Manager.
- On August 21, Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training was held for 56 members of the Jaji Maidan DDA+ and CDCs. During the sessions, the men learned about SIKA-East's Service Provider Catalogue for Khost and how to advocate for projects that may be implemented by local service providers.

LOGAR

- On August 20, the PRRD Director hosted a meeting which was attended by the Logar PMU manager, along with the heads of the Dubandi Village CDCs, to discuss the replacement of certain CDC members. It was decided to meet the NSP representatives and obtain information on the replacement procedure.
- From August 18 to 20, the PMU communication officer and stability planning officer participated in a Lobbying, Negotiation, and Coalition Building ToT in Kabul.

Baraki Barak District

- On August 14, women from the Baraki Barak DDA+ had a sub-coordination meeting with the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) and Sado Khan Hakimi Medical Complex. During the meeting, the DDA + members discussed their problems, such as the



August 14 sub-coordination meeting with DoWA in Baraki Barak

mortality rate due to a lack of female doctors, malnutrition of mothers and children, drug addiction, and the incorrect use of medicine due to lack of awareness. The DoWA director promised to help them in this regard. In addition, the representative of Sado Khan Hakimi Medical Complex mentioned that they will soon establish a mobile clinic that can travel throughout the district and provide free medical services for the inhabitants of Baraki Barak. It was also decided to hire a short-term medical trainer to provide midwifery training for the women so that they can help each other.

Khoshi District

- On August 19, the Khoshi District Governor met with the DSU manager to receive an update on program progress. The District Governor promised to support SIKA-East to make it successful in Khoshi District.
- On August 20, female DDA+ members held a sub-coordination meeting with the Department of Education and DoWA to share such problems as a lack of classrooms and drinking water for students. The women also asked that vocational training and literacy courses be offered. The Director of Education promised to find solutions to their problems.

Mohammad Agha

- On August 15, the Mohammad Agha DSU contacted key members of the Wazeeri CDC to disburse the second milestone payment for their project.
- During the week, the DSU engineer and grants officer visited the sites of several infrastructure projects to help them prepare documentation for second milestone payments and to obtain information for site visit reports on construction progress.

MAYDAN WARDAK

Chaki Wardak District

- On August 20, the Chaki Wardak DSU team conducted a sub-coordination meeting in the PRRD conference hall in Maydan Shahr. The attendees included men and women from the DDA+ and CDCs, along with key representatives of the Municipality, DoWA, and the Department of Culture and Information. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss projects in the DPP and to seek support from government service providers for some of the CDCs' non-grant projects.



August 20 sub-coordination meeting with the Department of Education



Kamal Khil school boundary wall project in Mohammad Agha District



August 20 sub-coordination meeting in the PRRD conference hall in Maidan Shahr

Jalriz District

- Due to security restrictions, no travel was allowed during the week. Thus, progress on the Jalriz stakeholders survey was delayed.

Nirxh District

- On August 19, the Nirxh grants officer and district engineers visited the sites of the Karimdad, Jaw Qul, and Qul Akhwand Zada road projects. First milestone works had been successfully completed, and the projects were running as per the required schedule and plan.
- On August 20, the grants officer made a site visit to the Deh Kharqa karez project and found that work quality and progress were acceptable.

Saydabad District

- On August 15, the Saydabad DSU team met with elders from Tangi Hawza to try to find a way to start SIKA-East projects in the area. It was decided to give the CDCs, Provincial Council members, and DDA three more weeks to find ways to help SIKA-East staff conduct project surveys without jeopardizing their security.
- On August 15, the Saydabad communication and outreach officer conducted the first joint communication committee workshop to be attended by members of both the men's and women's committees. Both committees shared the ideas they developed and achievements they made during their previous separate meetings.
- On August 18, DSU grant team visited the site of the Usef Khill culverts projects to monitor progress.

PAKYA

- On August 18, a major meeting was held in Gardiz to discuss how to involve the women of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail in SIKA-East programming. The participants, who numbered 30, included DDA/CDC members, tribal elders, mullahs, and other influential people from the target districts. Also attending were the head of the Paktya provincial council, PRRD representative, and the District Governor. After discussing SIKA-East and the importance of women's participation in the program, the participants introduced two representatives from each district to work closely with SIKA-East. They also prepared a list of women and presented it to SIKA-East for future use. It was decided to conduct future events and workshops in Gardiz and to assign a female trainer for each training.

Laja Ahmad Khail District

- On August 18, the DSU team conducted a sub-coordination meeting in Gardiz City. During the session, eight members of the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA/CDC and community elders shared their problems with representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and



Deh Kharqa karez rehabilitation project in Nirxh



August 15 joint meeting of men's and women's communication committees in Saydabad



August 18 gender meeting in Gardiz

Livestock. The agriculture department head said they were planning to recruit an agriculture manager and establish a branch in Laja Ahmad Khail District and they were also planning to set up a veterinary clinic there. He asked community elders and DDA members to help his organization with these activities so they can be done correctly and on time.

- On August 21 and 22, the DSU team conducted a workshop on Infrastructure Project Planning for 55 men from the Laja Ahmad Khail DDA+ and CDCs.

Laja Mangal District

- On August 18 and 19, an average of 50 men from the Laja Mangal DDA+ and CDCs attended a workshop in Resource Dialogue and Advocacy.

Zadran District

- On August 20, the DSU team conducted a coordination meeting with members of the Zadran DDA+ to request their help in escorting SIKA-East project surveyors to project sites.

Zurmat District

- During the week, the Zurmat grants team succeeded in getting almost all the Cycle 1 projects signed and endorsed by their related directorates in order to avoid duplication of projects and achieve close coordination with the various sector directors.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization Unit

- This week, SIKA-East conducted a Stability Planning Process ToT for Batch F districts (Qarabagh, Jalriz, and Jaghatu). During this training SIKA-East staff and PRRD social organizers were trained on Stability Analysis Methodology SAM, Resource Development, Communications, Advocacy, and project clarification and project prioritization. This process, which is designed to be the backbone of all SIKA-East activities, has a comprehensive DPP as its initial outcome. Also this week, other ToTs were conducted in Advanced Advocacy and Project Design and Development to prepare field staff to conduct similar trainings in their districts.
- On August 21 and 22, a SIKA Induction training was conducted for newly hired staff. The aim of this training was to orient the new staff on policies and procedures and help them understand the roles of the internal departments of SIKA-East and the relationship with government line departments.



August 18 sub-coordination meeting with the Agriculture Director



August 20 coordination meeting with Zadran DDA

- The DPPs for Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts were reviewed and endorsed by the DDA+, District Governor, and PRRD and shared with the Kabul team for the further processing. The next step is to translate the DPPs and submit them to USAID with an accompanying narrative.
- During the week, SIKA-East opened the bids for the Service Providers Fair that will be held in Khost province in September.
- The first draft of the Khwaja Umari district profile was finalized this week. This is one of a series of profiles aimed at a wide audience of development practitioners, produced as a reference tool to better understand complex regional dynamics in the districts and provinces. Relying on both existing public resources and conversations with local residents, the profiles aim to bring valuable information together in an easily accessible format.

Trainings and Workshops Conducted This Week

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
August 15-19	Grant Management	Ghazni City	Training	26	
August 18-20	Advanced Advocacy	Kabul	ToT	14	3
August 18-22	Grants Process and Application Development	Khwaja Umari	Training	61	
August 18-22	Stability Planning Process	Kabul	Workshop	NA	
August 21	Project Design and Development	Kabul	ToT	40	
August 21	Fundraising – Male	Mohammad Agha	Training	56	
August 21	Fundraising – Female	Mohammad Agha	Training		23
August 21-22	SIKA Induction	Kabul	Training	35	
August 21-22	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Jaji Maidan	Training	56	
August 22-25	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Tani	Training	62	

Grants and Project Management Unit

- Three FOG grants remain with USAID pending approval from the previous week's submission of 20. In addition, four FOG approval applications, with a value of \$27,165, were processed this week and forwarded to USAID for approval; none require vetting approval. One vetting approval for Shetam CDC with a grant value of \$78,182 was received during the week, but no FOG grant or in kind grant agreements were awarded this week.
- Sixty-three awarded and approved grant applications, along with their supporting documents, have been entered into the web-based MIS database.
- First, second, and third milestone payments, with a value of \$190,148, have been processed and were paid to various CDCs on August 22.
- To date, 92 approval applications have been submitted to USAID for approval, 85 have been approved at a value of \$3,505,972, and 63 grants have been awarded at a value of \$2,552,140.

Engineering Support Group

- 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 111 projects in all of the above-mentioned districts except for Zadran. The table on the following page 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.

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	0	11	20	21	20	553,615	19	538,512
Mohammad Agha	20	23	1,110,264	1	24	22	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nirakh	15	17	992,108	2	18	14	13	13	773,363	11	590,078
Dih Yak	10	11	495,880	4	8	11	11	9	360,269	8	278,731
Chaki Wardak	11	11	517,761	6	3	11	11	11	517,761	3	118,944
Andar	19	4	236,000	1	4	3	3	0	0	0	0
Baraki Barak	26	17	772,677	6	4	15	11	10	275,088	0	0
Total	105	108	4,843,523	20	72	96	92	85	3,505,972	63	2,552,140

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	194,539	963,067
	C	Chaki Wardak	2	11	147,767	575,302
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,111	1,406,845
	A	Baraki Barak	9	13	319,844	860,394
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	1	12	0	602,434
	C	Andar	5	3	280,982	247,311
	C	Zadran	4	0	519,235	0
Sub-totals			33	111	1,926,177	5,482,293
Grand Totals			144		7,408,470	

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit

- On August 22, MERU hosted the SIKAs M&E Community of Practice for MISTI, ACAP II, and all four SIKAs. In addition, MERU participated in the quarterly Stabilization M&E Summit on August 20 and the SIKA Summit on August 21. A total of 37 people – 29 men and 8 women – participated in the SIKA Summit. The SIKA Community of Practice took place with the same group of people, and the participants shared their experiences on the subjects of Standardization of Program Implementation, Involvement and Leadership of GIRoA, and the Implementation and Effectiveness of Non-Grant Projects Process.

Human Resources and Recruiting Unit

- The Human Resources and Recruiting Unit filled eight positions during the week: four for AECOM, one for OCS, and three for IRD.

Security and Risk Management Unit

- Security reviewed the CVs for 14 candidates for the district Field Service Officer position, and as not one qualified candidate was identified, all the positions were reannounced.
- Security continued to investigate the loss of seven laptop computers from the Logar PMU office during Eid. The theft is also being investigated by the Logar Province CID.

Security Incidents in SIKA-East Targeted Districts

Date	Type	Description	Deaths	Injuries
August 14	Night letters	Night letters were posted in the villages and mosques of Saydabad District telling the district elders to stop taking funds from NSP and PRRD for development projects.	NA	NA
August 18	Phone threat	SIKA-East IT Network Engineer, Sayed Mohammad Amin Sadaat, was told by an unknown caller to stop movements to Logar Province. Security is investigating the matter.	NA	NA
August 20	Abduction	The head of the Yosufkhail Village CDC was abducted by insurgents following posting of the above threat letter. The district elders are following up to obtain the release of the CDC head.	NA	NA

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Prepare for program launches in Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts;
- Disburse payments for two projects in Dih Yak District;
- Conduct site visits to ongoing projects in Dih Yak;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Implementation trainings for four CDCs;
- Meet with NSP to discuss 13 villages that have not yet established CDCs in Andar District; and
- Conduct a coordination meeting for the Andar women's communication committee.

KHOST

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Hold a district strategic planning meeting for Tani Cycle 1 projects;
- Hold sub-coordination meetings in Gurbuz and Tani Districts;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning training in Jaji Maidan and Tani Districts; and
- Conduct Resource Coordination Meeting on August 26.

LOGAR

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct a sub-coordination meeting; and
- Complete surveys for the Padkhawab and Baraki Rajan projects.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Monitor 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 Service Providers Fair;
- Collect data to update the Service Providers Catalogue; and
- Conduct communication committee meetings.

PAKTYA

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and District Governors;
- Conduct Project Design and Development and Grants Process and Application trainings for Laja Ahmad Khail District;
- Conduct Project Design and Development and Grants Process and Application workshops for Laja Mangal District;
- Conduct a sub-coordination meeting for Laja Mangal District;
- Conduct a male communication committee meeting for Zadran;
- Conduct two sub-coordination meetings for Zadran District;
- Conduct a Grant Review Committee session and a sub-coordination meeting for Zurmat;
- Conduct a Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation workshop for Garda Serai; and
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning training for men from the Laja Mangal DDA+ and CDC.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct three Advocacy ToTs for field staff;
- Review the Tani and Jaji Maidan DPPs and analyze them for capacity building category three grants;
- Work on the capacity building grant (Category II and III);
- Hold follow-up meetings for the radio plays in-kind grant;
- Finalize the Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh district profiles;
- Prepare the initial draft of district profiles for Jaghatu and Jalriz;
- Conduct site visits in Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Zadran, and Andar District to document milestone accomplishments and processing for payment;
- Conduct Grants Management training for ten CDCs;
- Continue surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zadran, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects;
- Review project implementation reports;

- Conduct interviews for a Field Services Officer for the Khost PMU;
- Follow up with the Logar CID on the investigation of the seven laptops lost in the Logar PMU; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 136 positions:
 - 106 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 2 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 28 vacancies in process for IRD.