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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 092 (SEPTEMBER 12-19, 2013)



A plenary session of the SIKA-East All Staff Conference in Kabul, which was attended by almost 500 employees from Kabul and the five provinces and 21 districts where SIKA-East is active.

September 19, 2013

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

SIKA-East Holds All Staff Conference in Kabul

On September 18 and 19, SIKA-East held a two-day all staff conference in Kabul. The conference was attended by nearly 500 program staff from Kabul and the five provinces and 21 districts where SIKA-East is active. Also present were PRRD Directors from Ghazni, Khost, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya, plus colleagues from IDLG and MRRD SIKA-East Coordination Units.

The purpose of the gathering was to provide a forum for program staff to get to know each other better, share successes and challenges, and exchange experience. The conference also provided an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen SIKA-East's partnership with MRRD and IDLG and improve coordination in the field.

The September 18th session got under way with some brief welcoming remarks by Martijn Hekman, SIKA-East Chief of Party. He pointed out that, with 78 grants under implementation, SIKA-East has been gaining momentum lately and needs to continue to move forward. He expressed optimism that USAID will extend SIKA-East beyond March 6, the end of the current contract extension.

Mr. Hekman introduced Mohammad Tariq Ismati, Deputy Minister of MRRD. Mr. Ismati talked at length about the relationship between stability, development, and community involvement. "Development is important," he said, "but what is even more important is communities working together and planning for the development of their district. We have insecurity because we don't have development. In order for the right kind of development to take place, we need communities to speak with one voice and plan it together." A question and answer period followed, which focused on plans for SIKA-East through the rest of the no-cost extension period and beyond.

Then the provincial PRRD Directors and the heads of SIKA-East's provincial units talked about program implementation in their areas. Rahwatullah Sarwari, PRRD Director for Logar, observed: "Many previous programs have created DDAs; however, at the end of program implementation, the DDAs almost lost their function. SIKA-East is kickstarting these DDAs and making their wheels turn again. This program has been a source of governance and has encouraged better cooperation between the government and community. We want the program to continue, and we want to see Cycle 2."



Mohammad Tariq Ismati, Deputy Minister of MRRD

"Development and stability need the engagement of both communities and the government."

"We regret it when we lose people to terrorists, but our resolve to go forward remains strong, and we are willing to take risks to bring development and stabilization to the people."



Fareeb Mohmandzai, Deputy Minister of IDLG for Policy and Strategy

"Our expectation is that SIKA will build the capacity of existing institutions and officials to enable them to better perform their tasks and become more accountable and transparent."

"Bringing stability is no easy or quick task. You cannot build stability in three to six months. Short time frames equal short opportunities. Short timelines will make us fail. We want SIKA beyond 2014."

Eng. Rahmani, PRRD Director for Paktya, commented on the effect SIKA-East has had on his organization. “This program has changed the districts in which it is being implemented and raised the profile of PRRD. The PRRD Director now receives a large number of people in his office, basically from Zadran and Zurmat, asking for our assistance. Even when we cannot help them, we refer them to the relevant addresses.”

The September 19th meeting focused on SIKA-East’s working relationship and coordination with the program’s partners, MRRD and IDLG, as well as line departments and service providers. Fareeb Mohmandzai, Deputy Minister of IDLG for Policy and Strategy, attended the morning session. In his speech, he too focused on achieving stability. “Two key ways of improving stability in the districts are through improved service delivery and strengthened relationships between the government and the people.”

The two-day conference also featured a number of presentations on business ethics, security, and logistics, as well as finance, human resources, and project photography. These were intended to acquaint the many new hires with SIKA-East policies and procedures, and to bring longer-standing employees up to date.



**Eng, Mohammad Usman Mahidi,
PRRD Director, Khost**

“This program is about changing people’s mentality, and mentality change takes time. We would like to see the program extended, and we don’t want it to slow down at this critical point.”



Approximately 500 SIKA-East staff members from the field and Kabul attended the conference.



**Jan Mohammad Hekmatjo, PRRD
Director, Maydan Wardak**

“Security is a huge challenge. I only hope that SIKA continues to expand and becomes a national program, like NSP and NABDP.”

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization Unit

- SIKA-East continued to work on finalizing Category II and III projects, whose goal is to strengthen the capacities and service delivery of governmental institutions and district entities so they can better address the concerns of community people.
- During the week, SIKA-East completed the last round of Advanced Advocacy Training of Trainers. The purpose of this course was to prepare SIKA-East district and provincial staff, and more importantly PRRD social organizers, to co-facilitate these sessions in the field.
- SIKA-East continued to prepare the initial draft of the district profile for Jalrez in Maydan Wardak. These district profiles help SIKA-East and its government partners to better understand the dynamic in the district in terms of its social, political, and economic situation. They also help program stability officers and district social organizers to understand the environment in a district before they start conducting stability planning trainings there.
- SIKA-East also continued to work on the narratives to accompany the District Project Portfolios (DPP) for Laja Mangal, Laja Ahmad Khail, Tani, and Khwaja Umari, when they are submitted to USAID for approval.
- SIKA-East selected a short-term Radio Call Officer this week to manage a series of radio call-in programs. Financed by an in-kind grant, the programs will run twice a week for 13 weeks in all five provinces. Through dialogue between panelists and callers, the program is intended to raise the profile and awareness of the PRRD and IDLG and the work they do for local communities among Afghan listeners.

Trainings and Workshops Conducted This Week

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
September 9-13	Grant Process and Application Development – Male	Laja Ahmad Khail	Training	54	
September 11	Coalition Building – Female	Chaki Wardak	Training		17
September 11-12	Stakeholder Orientation – Female	Jalriz	Training		16
September 11-15	Stability Planning Process – Female	Jaji Maidan	Training		45
September 11-16	Grant Process and Application Development – Male	Gurbuz	Training	51	
September 12	Negotiation Strategy – Female	Chaki Wardak	Training		16
September 12-17	Stability Planning Process – Female	Jaghatu	Training		35
September 15-16	Infrastructure Project Implementation – Male	Baraki Barak	Training	21	
September 12	Coalition Building – Male	Khoshi	Training	43	
September 12	Coalition Building – Female	Mohammad Agha	Training		29
September 12	Stakeholder Orientation – Male	Qarabagh	Training	49	
September 12	Stakeholder Orientation – Female	Qarabagh	Training		19
September 12-16	Grant Process and Application Development – Female	Jaji Maidan	Training	56	
September 14-15	Infrastructure Project Implementation – Male	Dih Yak	Training	8	
September 15	Governance Foundation – Female	Jalriz	Training		18
September 15	Negotiation Strategy – Male	Khoshi	Training	41	
September 15	Governance Foundation – Male	Qarabagh	Training	49	
September 15	Governance Foundation – Female	Qarabagh	Training		19
September 9-11	Project Design and Development – Male	Tani	Training	62	
September 12-16	Grant Process and Application Development – Male	Tani	Training	69	
September 12-16	Stability Planning Process – Female	Tani	Training		39

Grants and Project Management Unit

- During the week, two grant agreements were awarded from Chaki Wardak District and one from Saydabad District, with a total value of \$103,949.
- During the week, 12 payments for first, second and third milestones were disbursed to Community Development Councils (CDCs) in Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, and Andar Districts.

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	0	29	945,703	0	11	26	20	22	649,620	21	700,974
Mohammad Agha	20	23	1,110,264	1	24	22	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nirkh	14	20	1,131,149	1	19	18	13	13	784,302	12	666,999
Dih Yak	10	12	536,692	4	8	11	11	9	360,269	9	352,487
Chaki Wardak	7	15	673,666	8	5	15	11	11	550,228	7	284,103
Andar	19	5	340,801	2	4	4	0	3	222,400	2	127,806
Baraki Barak	19	16	881,091	5	10	16	11	10	571,121	5	269,597
Zurmat	19	1	40,812	2	0	1		0	0	0	0
Zadran	10	2	82,015	2	0	2		0	0	0	0
Total	118	123	5,742,193	25	81	115	88	90	4,163,815	78	3,427,841

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, Andar, Zadran, and Gurbuz Districts. By the end of the week, SIKA-East had completed designs for 123 projects in all of the above-mentioned districts except for Zadran and Gurbuz. The following table outlines progress.
- The review of design documents for several projects continued during the week. The final review was completed for projects in Baraki Barak District. The documents were sent for CDC/PMC approval.

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	0	19	0	1,115,264
	C	Chaki Wardak	2	14	75,619	769,822
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,111	1,406,845
	A	Baraki Barak	7	18	187,960	1,104,817
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	1	12	0	602,434
	C	Andar	4	4	204,006	331,285
	D	Khwaja Umari	0	0	0	0
Paktya	C	Zadran	3	1	449,604	85,592
	C	Zurmat	3	0	98,550	0
Khost	E	Gurbuz	3	0	246,704	0
	E	Jaji Maydan	0	0	0	0
Sub-totals			33	123	1,726,254	6,242,999
Grand Totals			156		7,969,252	

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- At the PRRD Director's weekly coordination meeting, the Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager and other participants discussed SIKA-East achievements and ongoing and planned activities in Ghazni Province.
- The next day, the Deputy Governor held a coordination meeting, which SIKA-East's PMU manager and regional coordinator attended. The main subject of discussion was SIKA-East coordination with the Provincial Governor and line departments.
- Later that day, the SIKA-East representatives met with the head of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) to discuss women's involvement in program implementation. The DoWA Director expressed her appreciation that SIKA-East has involved women in the program.
- During the week, the PMU prepared the first milestone documents for the Payendi and Shetam ditch and canal projects.
- The PMU manager and staff met with officials from the Tassan Payeen CDC in Dih Yak to discuss the status of their projects, which were recently stopped by insurgents. The CDC said they were negotiating with the insurgents to resolve the problem.



Stonemasonry work under way on the Zagone karez extension project in Dih Yak District

Andar District

- The Andar men's communication committee met on September 15. The committee prepared a plan to share remaining DPP projects with line ministries and other departments.

Dih Yak District

- During the week, grant officers from the Dih Yak District Support Unit (DSU) made site visits to the Zagone karez and canal extension, the Kohna Deh karez extension, and the Shetam school boundary wall and canal projects. All of them were proceeding well, and work was being conducted according to plan.
- DSU engineers conducted training in Infrastructure Project Implementation for eight men from the Ebad, Shetam, and Tassan Payeen CDCs. The training focused, among other things, on project drawings and bills of quantities.
- The DSU manager met with the District Governor, chief of police, and community elders to discuss projects with incomplete documents and projects that have been halted for security reasons. The DSU manager said he would refer the issues to Kabul and hoped to resolve them soon.

Jaghata District

- From September 12 to 17, PRRD and DSU staff conducted Stability Planning Process training for 35 women from the Jaghatu District Development Assembly (DDA) and CDCs. The participants came out with a clear list of projects for Cycle 1.

Khawaja Umari District

- The Khawaja Umari DSU team completed five grant applications and obtained the signatures of the relevant CDCs. Six further applications were signed by the DDA for further processing.

Qarabagh District

- On September 12, DSU staff conducted Stakeholder Orientation training for 49 men from the Qarabagh DDA+ and CDCs. A separate Stakeholder Orientation training was conducted for 19 women from those organizations.
- Three days later, separate Governance Foundation trainings were held for the same participants.

KHOST

- On September 15, the PRRD Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting, at which SIKA-East's PMU manager updated him on the SIKA-East All Staff Conference on September 18 and 19. The PRRD Director raised his concern about the security of the



Stability Planning Process training for women from the Jaghatu DDA and CDCs



Qarabagh men attend Governance Foundation training in Ghazni's Oranus Hotel

PRRD office in Khost and asked the PMU manager to discuss this with SIKA-East authorities in Kabul.

Gurbuz District

- On September 12, the PMU manager met with the Gurbuz District Governor's chief of staff to discuss the Service Providers Fair (SPF) that is planned to be held in Khost Province on September 29 and 30. The chief of staff promised to share the information with the District Governor.
- On September 16, the five-day Grant Process and Application Development training for men ended; an average of 51 men attended. During the training, the trainees learned how to develop grant applications and the other required documents for grants, and they also filled out actual grant applications for several Cycle I projects.

Jaji Maidan District

- During the week, PRRD and SIKA-East staff conducted Stability Planning Process training for 45 women from the Jaji Maidan DDA and CDCs. During these sessions, the participants learned about project concepts, stability analysis, accountability, Cycle I project selection, and resource development.
- On September 16, Grant Process and Application Development training started for 56 men from the Jaji Maydan DDA and CDCs. This training will continue and be completed next week.

Tani District

- During the week, the same two trainings that were conducted for the men and women of Jaji Maidan were held for men and women from the Tani DDA and CDCs. Thirty-nine women attended the Stability Planning Process training, and 69 men the Grant Process and Application Development training.

LOGAR

- On September 16, the PMU manager – along with the DSU managers of Mohammad Agha, Khoshi, and Baraki Barak Districts – participated in the Logar PRRD Director's regular coordination meeting. The PRRD Director mentioned that he was satisfied with SIKA-East's coordination. However, he showed concern about the project costs in the Mohammad Agha DPP. He felt that the DDA+ members did not budget the projects correctly and in accordance with the norms. He also mentioned that the DPP had been changed in the Kabul office. He suggested that PRRD representatives should monitor the projects along with SIKA-East representatives to assure the quality of work and that SIKA-East should disburse second



In a group session during Stability Planning Process training, women from the Jaji Maidan DDA and CDCs write down sources of instability in their area.



September 16 coordination meeting with the Logar PRRD Manager

milestone payments only after PRRD confirmation. He also stated that he would not endorse any project documents if payment did not occur in the presence of a PRRD representative.

- On September 17, Logar PMU and DSU staff went through security training, where they learned how to deal with security threats.

Baraki Barak District

- At a coordination meeting held by the District Governor on September 12, the Baraki Barak DSU manager updated the Governor on SIKA-East progress in the district and replied to his concerns. The District Governor promised to continue his support to make the program successful in Baraki Barak.
- On September 15 and 16, DSU staff conducted Infrastructure Project Implementation training for 21 men from the Baraki Barak DDA and CDCs.
- Seven women from the Baraki Barak DDA held a sub-coordination meeting with the Departments of Public Health and Women's Affairs on September 12. They insisted on establishing first aid courses for women in the district. However, both service providers mentioned that all they can do is hire a short-term female doctor to train the women in first aid.

Khoshi District

- On September 12, DSU staff conducted Negotiation training for 41 men from the Khoshi DDA+ and CDCs. The trainees learned about the importance, elements, and process of negotiation.
- Four days later Coalition Building training was conducted for the Khoshi. During this session, they learned about the types and benefits of coalitions and the strategy for building them.

Mohammad Agha District

- On September 16, women from the Mohammad Agha DDA+ and CDCs had sub-coordination meetings with representatives of PRRD and Afghan Women's Education Center. During the meetings, the women shared their problems and challenges and were promised support in the future.
- On September 12, DSU staff conducted Coalition Building training for 29 women from the Mohammad Agha DDA+ and CDCs.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- At the PRRD Director's weekly coordination meeting on September 15, the Wardak PMU manager provided updates on program progress in all the target districts. The PRRD manager suggested that SIKA-East should pay transportation fees for PRRD staff that



September 12 sub-coordination meeting of the Baraki Barak DDA with DoWA and DoPH



Men from Khoshi during a Negotiation training group session

monitor projects. The message was forwarded to Kabul for a decision.

Chaki Wardak District

- On September 15, staff from the Chaki Wardak and Saydabad DSUs, along with members of the DDAs and CDCs, held sub-coordination meetings with the Department of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled (DoLSAMD); the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL); and the World Food Program (WFP). The DDA and CDC members obtained information about the services those organizations have to offer. The DSU representatives informed the service providers about the upcoming SPF and requested them to attend.
- On September 11, the Chaki Wardak DSU conducted Coalition Building training for 17 influential women from the district. The next day, the women received training in Negotiation Strategy.
- On September 16, the Chaki Wardak women's communication committee met and prepared their communication plan, which they hope will enable them to receive funding from different donors.

Jalrez District

- On September 11 and 12, PRRD and SIKA-East trainers conducted Stakeholder Orientation training for 16 members of the Jalrez women's communication committee.
- On September 15, DSU staff conducted Governance Foundation training for 18 women from the Jalrez DDA+ and CDC. The facilitator introduced SIKA-East, its objectives, partners in the program, and the role of local government in its implementation.

Nirakh District

- On September 15, the Nirakh men's and women's communication committee conducted their seventeenth meetings separately. The participants discussed implementation of their communication plan and also filled out an application for an in-kind grant to air radio plays.

Saydabad District

- On September 12, the Saydabad DSU conducted the seventeenth men's and women's communication committee meeting, a joint session. The committee members discussed implementation of the second phase of their communication plan. They also filled out grant application forms for an in-kind grant to broadcast radio dramas.
- On September 15, DSU staff, along with members of the Saydabad DDA+, held a sub-coordination meeting with representatives of DAIL and AREA/WFP. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss



Joint session of the Saydabad men's and women's communication committees on September 12



At the Zara Khil karez extension project in Saydabad, workers lower concrete rings into the karez well.

fundraising for projects that will not be undertaken by SIKA-East. The service providers said they would analyze their resources and take action accordingly.

- Staff from the Saydabad DSU met with different service providers in order to provide information and coordinate the upcoming SPF.
- On September 12, DSU engineering and M&E staff visited the sites of the Usef Khil and Sisy projects to check on the quality and quantities of the ongoing construction work.

PAKYA

- On September 12, the Paktya PMU and DSU staff went through Security Message Training. The training was conducted to provide awareness to the staff on how to deal with security threats.

Gerda Serai Sub-district

- From September 14 to 16, Paktya PMU staff conducted Stability Planning Process Training (Part I) for 57 men from Gerda Serai Sub-district.

Laja Ahmad Khail

- From September 9 to 13, Grant Process and Application Development training was held in Laja Ahmad Khail. An average of 55 men participated. During the training, they completed 23 applications for Cycle I projects.

Laja Mangal District

- The Grant Process and Application Development training that began on September 8 in Laja Mangal ended on September 15. An average of 44 men from the DDA and CDCs actively participated in the training and filled out 22 grant application for Cycle I projects.

Zadran District

- On September 16, DSU grants staff met with the Provincial Management Committee (PMC) for Dwa Khula Village in order to select new sub-committee members. The list of proposed sub-committee members was sent to Kabul for further processing.

Zurmat District

- During the week, the DMU engineer completed surveys for the Loy karez rehabilitation and protection wall and the Guldad Khail high school boundary wall.
- On September 16, the Zurmat DDA+ manager met with the regional manager of National Area Based Development Program. They decided to meet again soon to elect a new DDA head.



A stonemason points the joints on a new culvert being built by Saydabad's Usef Khil CDC.



Stability Planning Process training for men from Garda Serai Sub-district



September 16 meeting with Dwa Khula Village PMC

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit

- During the week, MERU completed 14 site visit reports for first, second, and third milestones: four in Nirkh, seven in Saydabad, and seven in Mohammad Agha District.

Human Resources and Recruiting Unit

- The Human Resources and Recruiting Unit filled five positions during the week: four for AECOM and one for IRD.

Security and Risk Management Unit

- On September 14, 30 insurgents attacked the Laja Mangal district center with heavy and small arms. No one was injured or killed in the incident, and there was no damage to government facilities.
- Security Department conducted weapons handling training for the Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) guards.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue surveys and designs for Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Zadran, Zurmat, and Gurbuz based on DPP Cycle I projects;
- Review project implementation reports;
- Provide confirmation to grants in order to compare the completed activities with the milestones;
- Conduct Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Training for Mohammad Agha District;
- Develop grant applications for Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Zadran, Baraki Barak, Zurmat, and Andar;
- Collect the required documents for first, second, and third milestone payments;
- Conduct Grant Review Committee sessions for Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Andar Districts;
- Process and finalize the APPF LoE with the contract department;
- Follow up with Kabul International Airport for passes for SIKA-East armored vehicles;
- Continue recruiting to fill 141 positions:
 - 118 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 4 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 19 vacancies in process for IRD.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct Stability Planning Process training for members of the Qarabagh DDA and CDCs; and
- Prepare the first milestone documents for the Shetam canal project.

KHOST

- Conduct women's communication committee meeting in Gurbuz;
- Conduct men's communication committee meeting in Gurbuz Tani and Jaji Maydan;
- Conduct women's sub-coordination meetings in Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan;
- Conduct a men's sub-coordination meeting in Gurbuz; and
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training for Tani and Jaji Maidan CDCs and DDAs.

LOGAR

- Conduct communication committee meetings;
- Conduct Coalition Building trainings; and
- Collect required documents for the second milestone payment for the Mohammad Agha Abparan Hawza karez extension project.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Conduct project surveys according to the Engineering group's schedule;
- Monitor ongoing SIKA-East projects in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad Districts;
- Fill out grant applications according to the Grants unit's plan;
- Collect data to update the Service Providers Catalogue; and
- Conduct communication committee and sub-coordination meetings.

PAKTYA

- Conduct sub-coordination meetings in Zadran and Zurmat; and
- Conduct a communication committee meeting in Zurmat.