



AiD-EGC (JV)



Monthly Progress & Monitoring Report

JULY 2024

**KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA IRRIGATED-AGRICULTURE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KP-IAIP)**

Submitted by

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Project Overview

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Irrigated Agriculture Improvement Project (KPIAIP) is a key government initiative aimed at enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of irrigated agriculture in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Spearheaded by the Director General of On-Farm Water Management (DG-OFWM), the project focuses on increasing agricultural productivity, particularly benefiting small-scale farmers, including those in the newly merged districts. Its main objectives are to address critical challenges such as outdated irrigation techniques, inefficient resource management, and low agricultural yields.

To ensure the project's success, the AiD-EGC JV consulting firm has been brought on board to provide oversight and expertise. The Monitoring and Evaluation Consultants (M&EC) play a vital role in tracking the project's progress and measuring the outcomes of its activities. This report outlines the progress made in July 2024 and summarizes the key activities undertaken by the M&ECs. These monthly reports serve as an important tool for evaluating the overall advancement of the project and ensuring its alignment with the intended goals.

Achievements of the M&EC up to the Reporting Month

Following the submission of the final inception report, the team began executing project activities in line with the approved work plan. The field staff received comprehensive training and orientations tailored to their specific roles, equipping them with the necessary skills to carry out their responsibilities effectively. Participatory data collection formats and plans were collaboratively developed with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to ensure accuracy and consistency across field operations. Prior to the start of fieldwork, district staff from the OFWM were briefed on the project's goals and the consultants' planned activities. With continuous technical support from the PIU, the M&EC successfully conducted their field activities across the project area, completing tasks efficiently through strong collaboration with OFWM district offices and regional teams. The team had made significant progress in several key areas:

- The project office in Peshawar was fully established and staff were deployed to their respective positions.
- Newly recruited team members received specialized training and orientations for their roles in execution.
- The final inception report was submitted on schedule, incorporating valuable feedback from the PIU.
- Data-gathering formats were digitized and finalized after gathering input from relevant stakeholders, improving data accuracy and ease of use.
- Data from completed schemes for the first two years of the project were thoroughly cleaned to facilitate accurate field operations. A total of 4828 schemes were sampled based on approved criteria, enabling the team to plan and carry out efficient data collection. The team successfully conducted monitoring visits to 580 sampled sites across 25 districts, assessing critical outcome indicators.
- Field staff collected reliable data for outcome and impact analysis during site visits, which was used for further assessments.
- The draft Mid-Term Report was submitted to the PIU/Client on time for review and feedback.
- Initial work on the MIS Dashboard was completed under the guidance of KPIAIP experts, laying the groundwork for effective data management.
- Data from the 3558 schemes completed during the third year (2022-2023) were cleaned and sampled to ensure accurate future monitoring. Comprehensive field planning was conducted to monitor project progress and assess the impact of interventions. Monitoring visits were carried out at 990 sites across the Central, Northern, and Southern regions, covering completed schemes.

- A total of 1570 sub-component schemes across all regions of KPK have been visited by the M&EC team, marking a significant milestone.
- A total of 15 Monthly Progress and Monitoring Reports were submitted within the established timelines.
- 7 Quarterly Progress and Monitoring Reports have been delivered as per the project schedule.
- The MIS Dashboard was uploaded to the server for refinement and feedback after thorough input from experts.
- Key experts from the M&EC attended all mandatory meetings as required by the Directorate of OFWM.
- All anticipated deliverables were achieved with considerable support from the PIU, ensuring that project goals remained on track.

Progress Monitoring and Reporting

In July 2024, the M&EC focused on essential preparatory tasks to ensure effective monitoring and reporting for the KPIAIP project. Despite some delays caused by challenges in data sampling and reconciliation, the team made substantial progress in key areas critical for accurate project monitoring.

The field visits were not planned for July 2024 due to issues in finalizing the sampling data for the completed schemes for the year 2023-24. Although the field team had been prepared to begin monitoring visits during the last week of July, these activities had to be rescheduled. The delay was primarily attributed to cleaning of PIU data, which impacted the ability to select appropriate samples for field monitoring. To manage this situation, the M&EC maintained close communication with the PIU and district offices to address the data issues. The IT team worked diligently to clean and reconcile the data, ensuring that the finalized sampling for the 2023-2024 schemes would be available for fieldwork starting in August 2024.

A significant portion of July was dedicated to the reconciliation of data for schemes completed during the 2023-2024 period. The IT team, in collaboration with the PIU, undertook an extensive data cleaning exercise to ensure the accuracy of records. This process is critical for generating valid samples that will inform future monitoring activities. By the end of July 2024, the team had made considerable progress in cleaning the data, with gaps identified and addressed. The finalized data is expected to be ready in the coming weeks, enabling the field teams to resume their monitoring activities without further delays. The PIU's support was instrumental in overcoming the initial delays and the M&EC anticipate a smooth transition into field activities in the coming months.

The M&EC has already refined its monitoring strategies and ensured the readiness of the field teams for effective reporting. Field enumerators participated in discussions and planning sessions, where they shared their previous data collection experiences and suggestions for improving impact and outcome analysis. During the team meetings, field staff provided valuable insights from their past monitoring efforts, which were used to refine the digitized data



collection formats. Their feedback emphasized the importance of maintaining data quality and adhering to standardized processes during fieldwork.

A new work plan will be developed for coming months, detailing the upcoming field visits and outlining strategies to make up for any delays. The M&EC and field staff were guided to maintain close coordination with OFWM district offices to ensure that the revised work plan is executed efficiently. In order to keep the accuracy of the data collected from the field, the IT team has implemented procedures to streamline data entry and validation, which will minimize errors and enhance the reliability of the data used for impact assessments.

Key Challenges faced by the Team

1. During the reporting month, the M&EC encountered several challenges that impacted the timeline and progress of monitoring activities. These issues, although addressed proactively, caused delays in scheduled fieldwork and other project tasks. The primary challenge faced in July was the delay in finalizing the sampling data for the completed schemes completed during 2023-2024. The IT team worked closely with the PIU to expedite the data reconciliation process. It is anticipated that the data will be finalized by mid-August, allowing field visits to resume promptly.
2. As a direct result of the sampling delays, the field visits planned for July will be rescheduled. Close coordination with OFWM district offices and field staff will help streamline field operations to make up for lost time.
3. During the data cleaning process, several gaps and inconsistencies were identified in the data submitted for the schemes completed in 2023-2024. These discrepancies slowed down the reconciliation process and required additional coordination with district offices to rectify. The IT and M&E teams coordinated closely with district offices to fill in the data gaps. Efforts to improve the accuracy and consistency of the data will continue in the coming months to prevent future delays.

Next Month Activities of the M&EC

1. As the M&EC transition into August 2024, several key activities are planned to ensure the continuation of monitoring, data collection, and project assessment. With the data reconciliation nearing completion, the team is well-prepared to resume field activities and meet project targets. The primary focus will be on monitoring the impact and outcomes of the KPIAIP schemes completed during 2023-2024 and before that. The team will continue to collect reliable data from field visits to assess the impact of project activities.
2. The data cleaning and reconciliation process for the 2023-2024 schemes will be completed. This will ensure that accurate and up-to-date information is available for sampling and future monitoring activities.
3. The team will focus on preparing and submitting the monthly progress report that will include detailed insights from the field visits, data analysis, and overall project progress.
4. Regular coordination with the PIU and other stakeholders will continue throughout August to ensure that all activities remain aligned with the project's objectives. Meetings will focus on reviewing progress, addressing any emerging issues, and planning for upcoming fieldwork.

Annex I: Monthly Progress Review and Planning Meeting held in July 2024

The M&EC Team Meeting on Progress Review and Planning

Purpose	Monthly Progress Review and Planning Meeting
Location /site	M&EC Project Office Peshawar
Dates	July 31, 2024
Time	11:30 AM to 02:00 PM

Participants of the Meeting:

1. Mr. Intisar Ahmed (M&E Specialist)
2. Dr. Sajidin Hussain (Agri Expert) via WhatsApp
3. Mr. Amir Hadi (IT Expert)
4. Mr. Zulqamain (Environmental Expert) via WhatsApp
5. Mr. Mubarik Syed (Admin Assistant)
6. Mr. Umar Khan (HR and Admin)
7. Ms. Rakshanda Tayyab (M&E Assistant)
8. Ms. Sumayya Khan (Field Enumerator)
9. Mr. Ifkhar Bashir (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
10. Mr. Abdul Fattah (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
11. Mr. Faheem Ullah (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
12. Mr. Jawad Ahmed (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
13. Mr. Waqar Younis (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
14. Mr. Harris Rehman (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
15. Mr. Shahryar (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
16. Mr. Wajahat Ullah (Field Enumerator)
17. Mr. Sohrab Khan (Data Analyst)
18. Mr. Rafiqullah (Field Enumerator) via WhatsApp
19. Mr. Aammad Ahmed Khan (Data Analyst) via WhatsApp

Agenda of the Meeting

1. Progress Review as per Work-plan submitted for July 2024
2. Data Cleaning of KPIAIP Schemes completed during 2023-24
3. Work Planning for the month of August 2024
4. Any other issues

Details of the meeting

The meeting began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address from the M&E specialist, who outlined the key agenda items.

The participants were informed that as per the submitted work plan, the field team had planned to begin visits in the last week of the current month. However, due to delays in finalizing the sampling for completed schemes up until the end of June 2024, the visits could not proceed as scheduled. The IT team, led by Mr. Amir Hadi, maintained close coordination with PIU staff to obtain clean updated data. M&E specialist informed that the sampling process will take place in the coming month, in collaboration with PIU experts.

Field staff were asked to share their previous data collection experiences and suggestions for improving impact and outcome analysis. Their valuable feedback was collected to refine the digitized formats for the upcoming year. Addressing a query raised by Mr. Wajahat regarding field visit targets, M&E specialist assured that any backlog caused by delays in sampling or other factors can be managed in the following months. He highlighted the importance of maintaining the quality of sampling data and adherence to agreed processes, noting that these are critical for accurate impact data collection. He also referred to previous successful joint sampling exercises conducted by PIU and M&EC as examples of this approach.

The IT staff provided updates on the KPIAIP completed schemes data for the year 2023-24, which is currently being cleaned and reconciled in collaboration between PIU and M&EC. Participants were briefed on the existing data gaps and the procedures being implemented to expedite the reconciliation process. It was communicated that the finalized data would be made available to all stakeholders, including M&EC, by mid-August 2024, for sampling and other related activities.

Following detailed discussions on the field visits and related activities, the key experts agreed that a work plan should be developed once the sampling exercise is completed and client consent is obtained. The field teams were instructed to maintain close coordination with the respective regional and district staff of OFWM to ensure smooth collaboration throughout the process.

The meeting concluded with a note of appreciation to all attendees for their participation and contributions.

