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AFGHANISTAN

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

MONTHLY REPORT (MARCH 2013)



In mid-March, nearly 30 women and men attended a three-day conference on “Gender Integration in Stability Process.” The conference, which was facilitated by SIKA-East and held in Kabul, focused on delivering gender mainstreaming in the districts where SIKA-East is being implemented.

March 2013

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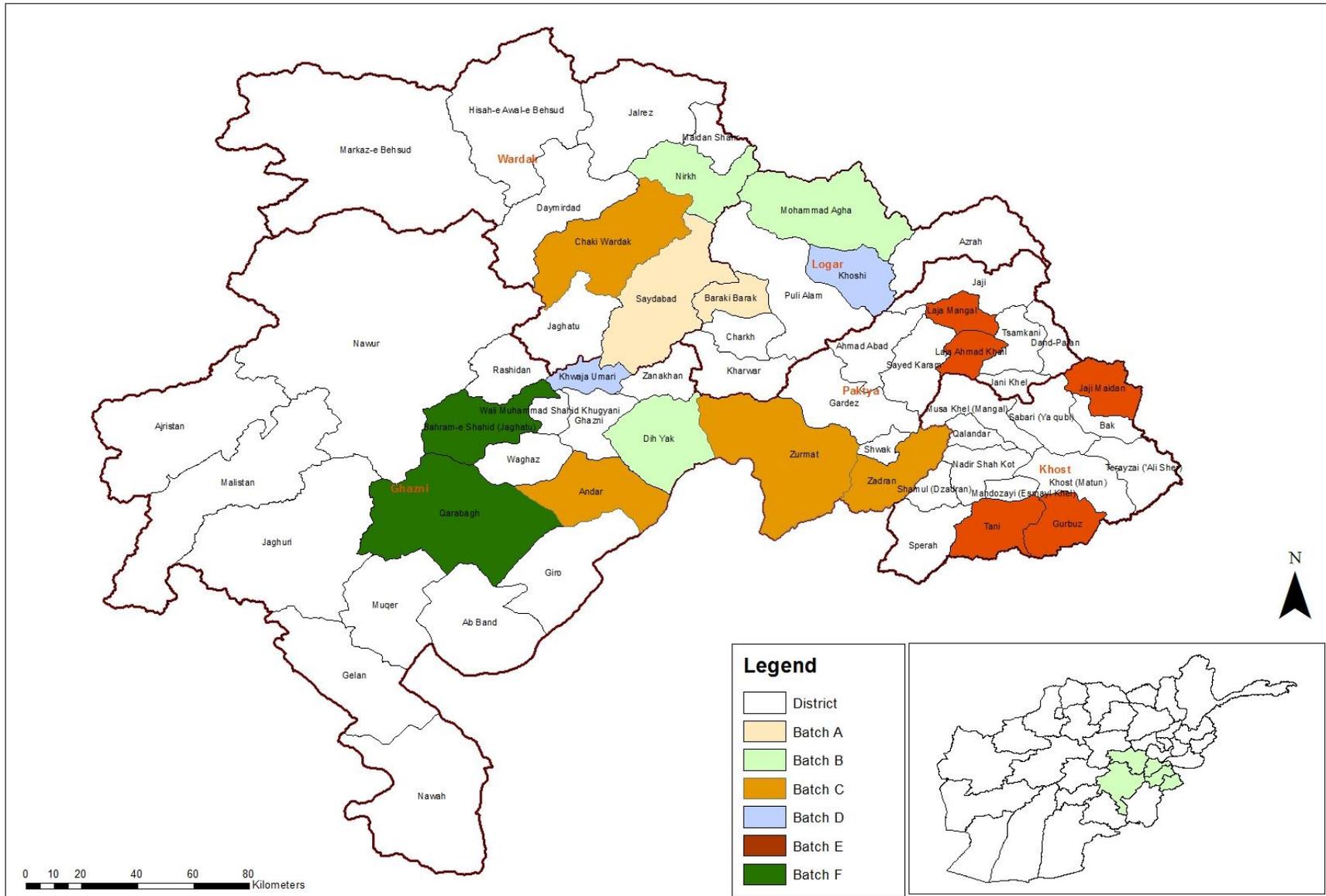
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ACRONYMS

ALP	Afghan Local Police
CDC	Community Development Council
DCC	District Community Council
DDA	District Development Assembly
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DoWA	Department of Women Affairs
DE	District Entities
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DSU	District Support Unit
FP	Facilitating Partner
GRC	Grant Review Committee
HR	Human Resource
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRD	International Relief and Development
MELU	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Unit
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NSP	National Solidarity Program
PMC	Project Management Committees
PMU	Provincial Management Unit
PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Department
SIKA-East	Stability in Key Areas-East
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

SIKA-East District Implementation



BACKGROUND

This Stability in Key Areas-East (SIKA-East) monthly report provides an overview of program activities during March 2013. These activities are grouped geographically according to the five provinces in which SIKA-East is currently active. This report presents a comprehensive picture of SIKA-East activities during the reporting period, which is also covered by SIKA-East weekly reports 64 through 68.

This report provides information on objective-based project implementation and on relationships with and the involvement of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), and the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) at the provincial and district levels. It also covers training sessions conducted for members of Community Development Councils (CDC), District Development Assemblies (DDA), and other stakeholders. Finally, the report provides information on documents that were prepared during the month.

OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

PRRD and IDLG continued to lead SIKA-East stabilization initiatives in Logar, Maydan Wardak, Ghazni, and Paktya, as well as the expansion of SIKA-East into Khost. Several meetings were held with PRRD staff and governmental officials in that province to keep them abreast of plans and activities. Work continued on a new office for SIKA-East in Khost City, which is expected to be completed in early April. The hiring of new staff for the Khost office is proceeding according to plan.

During the month, five more districts, designated as Batch E, were selected for program implementation. They are Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan in Khost, and Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal in Paktya. Plans are under way to establish District Support Unit (DSU) offices in the districts, and hiring has begun.

Following last month's program launches in Andar and Chaki Wardak, the focus in those districts in March was to push ahead with the training of their DDA+s. Trainings also continued in Dih Yak and Nirkh. Because of the delays in implementing SIKA-East in Baraki Barak, stakeholders in that district underwent re-training in Project Design and Development / Grant Process and Application, while their counterparts in the other pilot district, Saydabad, received training in Lobbying.

In early March, PRRD and SIKA-East trainers conducted workshops in Stability Planning Process in Zadran and Zurmat in Paktya Province, where the program was also introduced last month, and oversaw the drafting of DPPs. However, during the training, the DDA+s and SIKA-East agreed that additional influential stakeholders needed to be informed about the program to gain their concurrence and encourage broader participation. The DDA+ identified a



Women from Andar attend Project Design and Development training.



Participants in Stability Planning Process training in Zurmat work on developing their District Project Portfolio.

number of additional key actors and proceeded to organize meetings to include them. Further training for men from Zurmat and Zadran was delayed due to the scheduled inauguration of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) in those districts. The DDA and the field team proposed a short suspension of the training program to prevent rumors of a SIKA-East association with ALP and to provide additional time for broader consultations. Program activities in Zadran and Zurmat are scheduled to resume in April.

PRRD's social organizers continue to be integral to SIKA-East, helping to conduct trainings, liaising with communities at the grass-roots level, and reporting on program activities back up to PRRD management. Besides improving coordination between the implementing partners, their contribution enhances the program's transparency and accountability. They do all of this under challenging security conditions and for a much smaller salary than their SIKA-East counterparts.

Three District Project Portfolios (DPPs) – for Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, and Nirkh – were submitted to USAID this month and were subsequently approved. SIKA-East reviewed the DPPs for Andar, Chak, and Zadran districts and is preparing to submit them to USAID. An analysis of the DPPs produced to date shows that the communities attribute most of their problems to scarce resources and lack of livelihood opportunities, as well as the absence of government services in their district.

On March 17, SIKA-East met with representatives of International Rescue Committee (IRC), which was recently contracted as NSP Facilitating Partner (FP) in Zurmat and Zadran Districts in Paktya. The purpose of this meeting was to find out about NSP rollout plans and explore ways to cooperate and harmonize activities in the two districts. IRC has proven relationships, expertise, capacity, and training that can be valuable for stabilization programming, and there may be opportunities to leverage this creatively.

Between March 12 and 14, SIKA-East, in collaboration with PRRD and DoWA, facilitated a three-day conference in Kabul titled “Gender Integration in Stability Process.” Close to 30 participants – almost equally divided between men and women and including gender specialists, prominent leaders, and program staff from Kabul and target districts – participated in the workshop. The objective was to strengthen the capacity of SIKA-East and its government partners to streamline gender and apply gender analysis across all phases of the program within the framework of Islamic and Afghan culture. The workshop served as an initial step in building partnerships and strengthening capacity in SIKA-East target districts to deliver gender mainstreaming in a meaningful and sustainable way.

At the district level, PRRD Directors and SIKA-East staff continued to process grant applications and prepare engineering plans for projects identified by members of DDAs and other stakeholders as promoting stabilization. Plans also proceeded for a Service Providers Coordination Meeting to be held in Ghazni at the beginning of April and for a Service Providers Fair planned for Puli Alam later that month.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Baraki Barak District: Program implementation in Baraki Barak is still a major challenge. On the morning of March 13, two members of SIKA-East's Baraki Barak field staff and a DDA member were seized and held for two hours by Taliban insurgents. According to a report they filed after the incident, the three men were threatened and given a final warning to cease working with SIKA-East or they would be killed. On March 26, SIKA-East learned that the Taliban had informed the DDA members that they could tell SIKA-East staff that they can continue their work as normal and there would be no threats from the Taliban side.

The local DDA continues to resist being based in the district and is conducting business in Puli Alam, the provincial capital. PRRD and SIKA-East are working to resolve differences between the DDA and the

District Governor. The issue of moving the office to the district center is still unsolved. Negotiations are in progress with governmental authorities and community representatives to solve this issue.

Logar Service Providers Fair: On March 31, PRRD's Acting Director and Economy Director, along with the Logar DoWA Director, attended a coordination meeting with the SIKA-East PMU to receive an update on the Service Providers Fair, which was originally planned for March 10 and 11 and subsequently postponed. The SIKA-East representative informed the others that the vendor nominated to handle logistical preparations for the fair had failed to receive approval from USAID and the fair needed to be postponed again. All the service providers had been informed of the situation. On the positive side, nearly all of them are 90-percent ready for the event and can mobilize quickly when a firm date is set. However, the original postponement did affect several service providers negatively, especially those, like DAIL, that had collected perishable products to be exhibited at the fair. It is feared that the postponement will affect several service providers' commitment to participate in the event.

Grant Application Delays: The delays in issuing grants for DPP projects has caused some district stakeholders to begin losing patience with the program. Some people in the districts have been heard to charge SIKA-East of being incompetent or even liars. It is hoped that this situation can be reversed by prioritizing quick-impact projects and by working with CDCs that are legally constituted and have all of their documentation in order.

SIKA-East is facing additional challenges in Andar, Chaki Wardak, Zadran, and Zurmat, where NSP has not been fully implemented and where CDCs are largely absent, leaving the program with limited options for grantees. As a possible solution to this problem, SIKA-East will consider using existing tribal *shuras* or Project Management Committees (PMCs) as potential grantees, provided that MRRD and IDLG endorse this.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING TRACKERS

The following spreadsheets show the status of program activities, including trainings, in the districts where SIKA-East has already been launched.

SIKA-EAST TRAININGS TRACKER*

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION	I - ORIENT				II - PLAN					III - EXECUTE								IV - EVALUATE & LEARN		TOTAL		
	Stakeholder Orientation - Female SDU	Stakeholder Orientation - Male SDU	Governance Foundation - Female SDU	Governance Foundation - Male SDU	Stability Planning Process - Female SAPU	Stability Planning Process - Male SAPU	Resource Dialogue & Advocacy - Female COU	Advocacy - Male COU	Infrastructure Project Planning SDU	Project Design and Development - Female SDU	Project Design and Development - Male SDU	Grant Process - Female GSU	Grant Process - Male GSU	Grant Management - Female GSU	Grant Management - Male GSU	Short Courses	Fundraising Training - Male GSU	Fundraising Training - Female GSU	Lessons Learnt - Female MELU	Lessons Learnt - Male MELU		
PREVIOUS QUARTERS (8-Dec-11 to 31-Dec-12)																						
TARGET		4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2				1	1			
Launch Date	District																					
June 4, 2012	Saydabad					1	1	1	1			1		1				1	1			
June 11, 2012	Baraki Barak					1	1	1	1			1										
November 18, 2012	Nirakh			1	1	1	1	1		1												
November 25, 2012	Mohammad Agha			1	1	1	1	1														
December 25, 2012	Dih Yak																					
ACTUAL				2	2	4	4	4	2	1	0	2	0	1				1	1			24
%		0%	0%	50%	50%	80%	100%	100%	50%	25%	0%	100%	0%	50%				100%	100%			
QUARTER JAN-MAR 2013																						
TARGET		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	7	7	7	7				1	1			
Launch Date	District																					
June 11, 2012	Baraki Barak Review	1				1	1			1	1											
June 4, 2012	Saydabad														1	1		1	1			
November 25, 2012	Mohammad Agha								1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
November 18, 2012	Nirakh										1	1	1	1	1	1						
December 25, 2012	Dih Yak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1			
February 7, 2013	Zadran	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1			
February 7, 2013	Zurmat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
February 7, 2013	Chaki Wardak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
February 19, 2013	Andar	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
ACTUAL		5	5	3	5	5	6	3	4	5	6	5	3	3	1	1		3	3			66
%		100%	100%	60%	100%	100%	120%	60%	80%	100%	86%	71%	43%	43%				300%	300%			

* Spreadsheet reflects training activities as of March 31, 2013. Black figures represent trainings conducted to date; red are planned. Yellow-highlighted cells represent trainings conducted this month.

SIKA-EAST DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

S/N	Province	District	PREPARATION					I - ORIENT				II - PLAN					III - EXECUTE										IV - EVALUATE & LEARN		
			# Province offices established	# Province staff hired	# District offices established	# District staff hired	# District profiles completed	# Stakeholder register produced	# District launch held	# Provincial Service Provider Catalog produced	# Provincial Department Service Profile produced	# DPP produced	# DPP approved by DG / PRRD	# DPP approved by USAID	# Resource coordination meetings held	# Service Provider Fair held	# Engineering packages planned	# Engineering packages in process	# Engineering packages completed	\$ Engineering packages completed	# Applications planned	# Applications in process	\$ Applications submitted	# Grants awarded	# Grants completed	\$ Grants awarded	\$ Grants disbursed	# District Lessons Learnt Report produced	# District Evaluation Report produced
CUMULATIVE (to date)			10	90	0	9	9	2		8	5				174	27	33	\$1,278,905	185	112	\$549,529								
DISTRICTS																													
Batch A																													
1	Logar	Baraki Barak		1	7		1	1		1	1																		
2	Maydan Wardak	Saydabad		1	11		1	1		1	1			85	10	18	\$506,733	85	18	\$242,183									
Batch B																													
3	Ghazni	Dih Yak		1	8		1	1		1	1			30	4				30	26									
4	Logar	Mohammad Agha		1	11		1	1		1	1			33	6	13	\$666,678	33	32	\$307,346									
5	Maydan Wardak	Nirakh		1	8		1	1		1	1			26	7	2	\$105,494	37	36										
Batch C																													
6	Ghazni	Andar		1	9		1	1		1																			
7	Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak		1	9		1	1		1																			
8	Paktya	Zadran		1	9		1	1		1																			
9	Paktya	Zurmat		1	7		1	1																					
Batch D																													
10	Ghazni	Khawja Umari		1	5																								
11	Logar	Khoshi			6																								
PROVINCES																													
1	Wardak		1	15				1				1	1																
2	Logar		1	15				1				1																	
3	Ghazni		1	16																									
4	Paktya		1	17																									
5	Khost		0	5																									
CUMULATIVE (to date)			4	68			2					2	1																

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

In March, PRRD directors and SIKA-East provincial staff in all five target provinces met regularly to discuss stabilization progress, challenges, and plans and to coordinate upcoming activities with government entities. Program activities are summarized on a province-by-province basis below.

GHAZNI

PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Coordination Letter to Service Providers: The PRRD Director signed a letter addressing all service providers who work in Ghazni within various sectors and requesting them to review the DPP prepared by members of the Dih Yak DDA+, CDC, and *shuras*. The purpose of this activity is to coordinate the DPP with service providers to seek their resources and support in implementing projects listed in the document.

Service Providers Coordination Meeting: Through another official letter, the PRRD Director invited all service providers in Ghazni to participate in a Service Providers Coordination Meeting scheduled to be held on April 2. This one-day meeting will give the service providers an opportunity to get together and coordinate their efforts towards the development of Ghazni, particularly for Dih Yak and Andar Districts. At the meeting, the participants will review the Dih Yak DPP and check possible opportunities for implementing and coordinating proposed projects.

Significant Meetings:

- Throughout March, the PRRD Director and his staff held regular coordinations meetings with the Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU). The meetings were called to discuss various aspects of SIKA-East implementation in the province, including grant documents, support letters to be signed, CDCs and the endorsement of their key members by PRRD, and other issues.
- The Ghazni gender officer had a series of meetings with the Ghazni Central Statistic Organization and women-led organizations to collect data about their activities. She prepared a list of women-led service providers and influential women who will be invited to attend a Resource Development Meeting planned for Dih Yak.
- On March 10, the PMU manager participated in a joint PRRD and NSP coordination meeting to discuss CDC endorsement and NSP forms. NSP agreed to share its forms that contain information on CDC members. SIKA-East will use the forms for grant processing.

ANDAR DISTRICT

Trainings and Activities:

- On March 3, PRRD and SIKA-East completed the Stability Planning Process training for men from Andar District. The workshop resulted in a DPP and list of Cycle 1 projects. The average number of participants was 47.
- On March 3 and 4, a Resource Dialogue training session was conducted for female members of the Andar DDA+. During the training, the participants learned what services and resources are available in their geographical areas and how to access those services using the Service Providers Catalogue developed for Ghazni Province.

- Training in Project Design and Development / Grant Process and Application Development was conducted between March 5 and 11 for Andar women. The same training was conducted for men from the district from March 17 to 19. Fifty women and their *muharams* attended the first session, and 35 men the second.
- On March 11 and 12, male members of the Andar DDA+ received training in Advocacy; 42 men took part. During the next two days, 40 of them attended training in Infrastructure Project Planning.
- Between March 17 and 19, a workshop in Project Design and Development was conducted for 33 men from the Andar DDA+ and CDCs.
- On March 18 and 19, Fundraising training was provided to Andar men and women.
- The Andar DSU completed their DPP and submitted the result to SIKA-East's Kabul office.



Women from Andar District attending Project Design and Development training

DIH YAK DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On March 12, a large meeting was conducted with Dih Yak community elders, DDA and CDC members, and other influential people from the district, as well as the PRRD Director, Head of Programs, Social and Development Affairs Manager, and NSP representatives. The CDC members discussed their concerns about NSP and SIKA-East. They also discussed nonfunctioning CDCs and those with incomplete memberships. Those CDCs suggested that new members be selected soon.
- The first meetings of male and female communication committees for Dih Yak were conducted at the beginning of March. Each committee is composed of five to six members selected by the larger DDA in the district. The committee's job is to design and implement a plan to promote, at the community level, the actions the DDA is taking to improve the situation in the district from a stability perspective.
- On March 17, the Dih Yak District Governor, PRRD Director, PRRD Program Manager, and PRRD social organizer met with the Dih Yak grants team to discuss the CDC problems in Dih Yak. They agreed that:
 - The community can make changes to any of the CDCs' key members, e.g. in cases of corruption, relocation, or death; and
 - According to the NSP Manager, only three of the



SIKA-East's Manager for Ghazni addresses the meeting of Dih Yak community elders held on March 12.



The men's communication committee meets in Dih Yak on March 10.

four key members can be changed. At least one of the key members must be an original member in order to process the clearances for new members. In order to make changes in the CDC key members, an application must be written and signed by all CDC members stating their intent to make changes to their *shura*.

- The Dih Yak DPP was submitted to USAID on March 3, and approved on March 23. It had earlier been reviewed and endorsed by the Dih Yak DDA+, PRRD Director, and District Governor. As was mentioned above, the DPP was also shared with all governmental, non-governmental, and private sector service providers in the province. Nearly all of them approved those projects that fall within their purview. Replies are still awaited from the Department of Health, Education, and a few other service providers.
- The Ghazni engineering team began to conduct surveys for Dih Yak Cycle 1 projects. By the end of the month, they had completed surveys and developed proposals for 30 wells in the Sulaimanzai area of the district.

Trainings and Activities:

- On March 18, a one-day Fundraising training was conducted for 19 male members of the Dih Yak DDA+. The overall goal of this training was to train DDA+ and social organizers on common methods of identifying donors and asking for fundraising both at the district and provincial level. This training is specifically targeted towards assisting individuals at the community level in implementing projects outside the scope of SIKA-East grants, and special attention was paid to Cycle 1 projects as examples during the workshop. The same training was conducted for 15 DDA+ women on March 19.



A SIK-East trainer facilitating Fundraising training for Dih Yak women

KHWAJA UMARI DISTRICT

Establishment of DSU Office: The Kwaja Umari DSU office was established this month. Rehabilitation work was completed, and furniture and office equipment were shipped and installed. The hiring of staff, which began last month, continued through March.

NEXT STEPS FOR GHAZNI

- Coordinate regularly with the Ghazni PRRD Director, Provincial Governor, and District Governors for Dih Yak, Andar, and Khwaja Umari;
- Complete engineering and technical surveys for Deh Yak Cycle 1 projects;
- Complete development of Andar DPP;
- Launch SIKA-East in Khwaja Umari district;
- Conduct initial trainings for Khwaja Umari; and
- Conduct Resource Coordination Meeting in Ghazni.

KHOST

Significant Meetings and Activities:

- During a meeting with the PRRD Director on March 7, the Director specified a space for SIKA-East's PMU office connex within the PRRD compound.
- On March 10, the PMU Manager met with the Provincial Governor to brief him on planned SIKA-East activities and the selection of Gurbuz, Tani, and Jaji Maidan Districts for program implementation. He also met with the PRRD Director and discussed planned activities in the target districts.
- The PRRD Director and Khost PMU manager met on March 27 to discuss program startup and implementation. It was decided to obtain official letters from the Provincial Governor and District Governor for to help ensure the smooth running of the program.
- The process of procuring a connex building, furnishings, and other equipment for the Khost PMU continued. The office will be set up in April. Meanwhile, staffing for the Khost office is nearly complete. Several candidates have passed the interview and are ready to join SIKA-East.

NEXT STEPS FOR KHOST

- Set up office at provincial and district levels and continue to hire staff;
- Participate in regular meetings with PRRD;
- Participate in training of trainers workshops; and
- Start preparation of a Service Provider Catalogue for Khost.

LOGAR

PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Significant Meetings:

- On March 3, the SIKA-East manager for Logar Province attended a meeting in the provincial council compound. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Logar-based USAID partners and their relevant activities to a UNAMA representative. The provincial council members, government officials, and the Baraki Barak District Governor seriously insisted that the Baraki Barak DSU office be moved to the district center as soon as possible for better implementation of the program, despite the resistance of the local DDA leadership to support this move.
- On March 31, PRRD's Acting Director and Economy Director, along with the Logar DoWA Director, attended a coordination meeting with the SIKA-East PMU manager to receive an update on the Service Providers Fair that was originally planned for March 10 and 11. The event had to be postponed at the request of governmental service providers, who expected to be busy at that time with reporting, budget estimating, and other activities associated with the beginning of the new Afghan year.

The PMU manager informed those at the meeting that the vendor nominated to handle logistical preparations for the fair had failed to receive approval from USAID,

which would again affect the date for the fair. All the service providers had been informed of the situation. On the positive side, nearly all of them are 90-percent ready for the event and can mobilize quickly when a firm date is set. However, the original postponement did affect several service providers negatively, especially those, like DAIL, that had collected perishable products to be exhibited at the fair. It is feared that the postponement will affect several service providers' commitment to participate in the event.



GRC Session in Puli Alam

BARAKI BARAK DISTRICT

Security Incident: On the morning of March 13, two members of SIKA-East's Baraki Barak field staff and a DDA member were seized and held for two hours by Taliban insurgents. According to a report they filed after the incident, they were threatened and given a final warning to cease working with SIKA-East or they would be killed. On March 26, SIKA-East learned that the Taliban had informed Baraki Barak DDA members that they could tell SIKA-East staff that they may continue their work as normal and there would be no threats from the Taliban side.

Office Move: On March 17, Baraki Barak staff were invited to Kabul to meet with SIKA-East's Deputy Chief of Party to discuss the security situation in connection with the possible move of the Baraki Barak office to the district center. It was decided to meet with the DDA+ to discuss the issue. However, due to security threats DDA members were afraid to show up for the meeting. Another attempt to meet with them to resolve the issue is planned for early April.

On March 24, the Acting PRRD Director and MRRD partners met with SIKA-East's PMU Manager for Logar to again discuss moving the Baraki Barak office to the district center. It was decided to call another

meeting between DDA core members, the Provincial Governor, and the District Governor so that all parties can try to find the best solution to the problem.

Cycle 1 Projects: The Baraki Barak DDA+ designated 44 DPP initiatives as Cycle 1 projects, identified responsible CDCs, nominated PMCs, and prepared the first drafts of related action plans.

Trainings:

- Between March 3 and 5, Project Design and Development Training was conducted for Baraki Barak DDA+ members; 41 men took an active part in the training.
- From March 5 to 7, SIKA-East’s provincial and Kabul-based trainers conducted training in Grant Process and Application Development for 30 female members of the Baraki Barak DDA+. The focus of these sessions was the completion of applications for Cycle 1 projects.
- The same training was conducted for male members of the DDA+ between March 10 and 14. By the end of these trainings, more than 30 applications had been filled out, including six that were completed at the women’s training.

MOHAMMAD AGHA DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- The men’s communication committee for Mohammad Agha met on March 3 to discuss ways to improve and strengthen the system of spreading their messages into the community and communicating with district authorities. The women’s communication committee met on March 4 to discuss similar issues.
- On March 17 and 18, the women’s and men’s communication committees held their fourth meetings, at which they decided to update the Director Governor on relevant activities of the DDA+. The participants of both committees agreed to hold joint meetings in future. This will help them share lessons learned, have a single agenda, and develop a district-wide plan. They also decided to invite a representative of the District Governor to attend future meetings. It is worth mentioning that between each meeting the members go back to their communities to brief the DDA members on the contents of the last meeting and obtain their agreement on steps taken.
- On March 24, SIKA-East staff met with the DDA+ members of Abparan *hawza*, who submitted a letter requesting a specific location for their project. The letter was shared with SIKA-East main office for further processing. During the week, surveys were completed for four karezes in the *hawza*.



The Mohammad Agha women’s communication committee meets to discuss how to get their message out.

Significant Activities:

- On March 27, a Grant Review Committee, consisting of the Mohammad Agha grant team and engineers, met in Puli Alam to review applications from the different projects.
- The Mohammad Agha DPP was submitted to USAID on March 3 and approved on March 23.

KHOSHI DISTRICT

DSU Office: Renovation of the Khoshi DSU office was completed this month. The office will be set up and start functioning as soon as the furniture and equipment are sent to the district in early April. Staffing continued throughout the month.

NEXT STEPS FOR LOGAR

- Hold regular meetings with the Provincial Governor and District Governors, and weekly meetings with PRRD;
- Conduct Service Providers Fair;
- Collect data for Khoshi District profile; and
- Start collecting data for Khoshi Service Providers Catalogue.

PAKTYA

PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Postponement of Activities:

- Activities in Zurmat and Zadran Districts were suspended in early March. The following are among the reasons for the suspension:
 - The relationship between community elders and the Zurmat District Governor is poor; and
 - The simultaneous holding of SIKA-East's Stakeholders Engagement training and establishment of ALP has created a misperception about the program in the targeted districts.
 - The absence of important stakeholders has made program implementation difficult in the districts.
- In order to solve these problems, SIKA-East management, in close cooperation with the Zurmat and Zadran DSUs, discussed the issues in more detail and proposed the following:
 - During the trainings conducted so far, it was discovered that there are other very powerful and influential stakeholders in the districts, who have strong connections with government entities, local communities, and even anti-government elements. It was decided that SIKA-East's DSU managers should meet with these people, with the technical and advisory support of SIKA-East's Kabul and PMU team members, and provide them with detailed information about SIKA-East;
 - If some tribal heads are considered powerful stakeholders and are missing from the stakeholders list, they should be added; and
 - A team consisting of Kabul HQ, PMU, and DSU staff should meet with these influential people and inform them about DPP implementation in the respective districts.

Significant Meetings:

- On March 5, SIKA-East's capacity building and communication officers for Paktya met with a provincial council member in her office to coordinate program activities and women's involvement in them. The provincial council member suggested conducting awareness training for women of Gardiz and maintained that the women of this area are mentally prepared to participate in such trainings.
- On March 7, based on an invitation from Paktya's Women's Affairs Department, Paktya provincial staff participated in a Women's Day celebration that was arranged by DoWA.
- On March 11, the Paktya PMU manager and deputy mManager met with the PRRD Director to inform him that two new districts will be covered by the program soon and that SIKA-East suggests Ahmad Abad, Mir Zaka, and Sayed Karam Districts. The PRRD Director, in consultation with the Provincial Governor, proposed Ahmad Abad and Sayed Karam Districts.
- On March 14, the PRRD Director for Paktya hosted a meeting with partner organizations to receive an update on their activities. Representing SIKA-East, the deputy PMU manager mentioned that staffing for Zurmat and Zadran Districts is nearly complete. He also informed the meeting that SIKA-East has announced positions for the two new districts of Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal,



At the March 14 meeting, SIKA-East updates the PRRD Director and other participants on program implementation in Paktya.

which were recently approved by IDLG for program implementation.

- On March 17, SIKA-East met in Kabul with representatives of International Rescue Committee (IRC), which was recently contracted as NSP Facilitating Partner (FP) in Zurmat and Zadran Districts. The purpose of this meeting was to find out about NSP rollout plans and explore ways to cooperate and harmonize activities in the two districts. IRC has proven relationships, expertise, capacity, and training that can be valuable for stabilization programming, and there may be opportunities to leverage this creatively.

Some points covered included IRC's consultative, inclusive stakeholder engagement strategy, which is similar to SIKA-East's. They hold briefings for large gatherings of influential stakeholders before district entry, establish advisory boards with key influential figures, and sign a solidarity agreement laying out agreed roles and responsibilities. They also follow NSP's High Risk Areas Implementation Strategy, which has a more flexible approach to FP compliance with the operational manual. They do not find CDC capacity to be an issue; i.e. they do not have lists of unqualified CDCs.

- On March 25, SIKA-East representatives met with Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim, Member of Parliament from Paktya Province. The meeting participants discussed SIKA-East implementation in Paktya, as well as the Zurmat and Zadran issue. Mr. Ibrahim promised to meet with the relevant community leaders of both districts and provide complete support for the program.

ZADRAN DISTRICT

Trainings and Activities:

- On March 3, Stability Planning Process training was conducted for 59 men from the Zadran DDA+ and CDCs. It was followed by a one-day Resources Dialogue session, at which the participants received a copy of a new Service Providers Catalogue for Paktya. After drafting the District Project Portfolio, the trainees listed 20 initiatives for Cycle 1 priority, nominated PMCs, and prepared the first drafts of related action plans. As NSP rollout is pending in the district and there are no CDCs, participants nominated DDA and DCC members, as well as other local representatives, to serve on management committees.
- During the Stability Planning Process, the DDA+ and SIKA-East agreed that additional influential stakeholders needed to be informed about successful implementation of the program to gain their concurrence and encourage broader participation. The DDA+ identified ten key actors and proceeded to organize the meetings.
- Further training in Stability Planning Process and Advocacy for men from Zurmat and Zadran was delayed due to scheduled exercises by the Afghan Local Police (ALP) in those districts. The field team proposed a short suspension of the training program to prevent rumors of a SIKA-East association with ALP.

ZURMAT DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On March 24, the Zurmat DSU manager met with the NSP Manager in his office to discuss challenges regarding CDCs and program implementation processes in the district. Two days later, the Paktya PMU manager and Zurmat DSU manager sat with the NSP's Provincial Manager, who provided them with NSP forms and promised to support program implementation in Paktya.
- On March 25, the Zurmat DSU manager met the president of the Zurmat DDA to discuss activities in the district. However, because of the security situation in Zurmat, weekly and monthly meetings with government entities are not planned.

- On March 26, three influential community members visited the DSU office in Zurmat to express their concern about program suspension in the district. The DSU team leader assured them that SIKA-East would resume its activities as soon as the situation in Zadran District becomes suitable for program implementation. The visitors promised to support SIKA-East in their area.

Trainings and Activities:

- On March 3, PRRD and SIKA-East trainers conducted a Stability Planning Process workshop in Zurmat District. During the sessions, the trainees identified root causes of instability in the district and prioritized solutions. A total of 41 attendees took active part in the workshop. During an evaluation of the workshop afterwards, the trainees said they were satisfied with the training contents and what they learned, and that apart from security there is no other concern for SIKA-East implementation in Zurmat District.

NEXT STEPS FOR PAKTYA

- Participate in weekly PRRD coordination meetings along with other related organizations; and
- Conduct Resource Coordination Meeting.



Participants in Stability Planning Process training in Zurmat work on developing their District Project Portfolio.

MAYDAN WARDAK

PROVINCIAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Significant Meetings:

- During the month, the Maydan Wardak PRRD Director and his staff held several coordination meetings with the SIKA-East PMU manager and staff, as well as key stakeholders. During the sessions, SIKA-East representatives updated participants on program progress and plans and discussed ways to implement the program better. The PRRD Director instructed the project implementers to prepare and present their annual plan.
- The Wardak PRRD Director hosted a meeting with SIKA-East provincial staff and representatives of Grants and Sub-contract Unit in order to clarify the issue of qualified and unqualified CDCs on the list received by NSP Facilitating Partners (FP). According to the PRRD, this list is the only FP internal document and SIKA-EAST can proceed to work with those CDCs if the activity is not redundant or already planned by some other donor. In addition, the PRRD Director endorsed the minutes of the recent Grant Review Committee meeting and further processing of the grant applications from the Khar and Srakala Markazi CDCs.
- On March 13, the PRRD Director met with the PMU manager to discuss the issue of the PRRD endorsement letter required in cases where alternative CDC officials need to be authorized to act on behalf of a CDC. The Director requires significant changes, essentially eliminating any authority or endorsement of members of CDCs. It was recommended that MRRD provide direction to all PRRDs on the validity of CDCs, members, and officers.

CHAKI WARDAK DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On March 24, the newly appointed District Governor of Chaki Wardak paid a visit to the DSU office, where he received a briefing on the program. The following day, SIKA-East staff provided a short presentation of the program. The District Governor promised to support the program.

Trainings and Activities:

- On March 3, PRRD and SIKA-East trainers completed the second part of the Stability Planning Process workshop in Chaki Wardak District. Following this session, they spent the next two days training 44 men from the Chaki Wardak DDA+ in Resource Dialogue and Advocacy. The participants used the recently developed DPP to guide them in identifying specific advocacy projects that would directly address sources of instability they had identified the previous week.
- After drafting the DPP, the DDA+ prioritized 26 initiatives as Cycle 1 projects, identified responsible CDCs, nominated PMCs, and prepared the first drafts of related action plans. In order to better coordinate project implementation, SIKA-East shared the DPP with service providers, seeking their input and plans for implementation of proposed projects in light of their current resources.
- From March 10 to 14, Chaki Wardak DSU staff attended a Project Design and Development / Grant Process ToT workshop in Kabul, which prepared them to conduct similar workshops for members of the local DDA+.
- A two-day training session on Infrastructure Project Planning was held on March 17 and 18 for 32 men from Chaki Wardak CDCs.

- On March 18 and 19, training in Project Design and Development / Grant Process was conducted for 22 women in the DoWA meeting hall in Wardak. On March 24, female DDA members received Project Design and Development Training; 22 women participated. The topics discussed included grant applications, grant criteria, endorsement letters, community contributions, and an eligibility checklist. An identical training was conducted for 41 male members of the DDA+ on March 25.

NIRKH DISTRICT

Significant Meetings:

- On March 11, the District Governor met with SIKA-East's manager for Nirkh to receive an update on the program. SIKA-East requested office space within the District Governor's compound, and he agreed to provide it.
- On March 17, the Nirkh DSU manager updated the Deputy District Governor on program implementation in the district.
- The men's and women's communication committees for Nirkh held their second and third meetings during the month. Last month, at their first meeting, they developed an initial protocol for communicating back to their communities and to the larger DDA so that everyone will be equally well informed. In the second meeting, held this month, they filled out strategic communication worksheets on identifying the overall objective of the DDA and other audiences. During the third meeting, they discussed the comments, suggestions, and buy-in provided by the DDA+ on the second meeting. It is the practice of the communication committees to share the content of each meeting with the DDA+ and obtain their agreement on steps taken to date.



Male communication committee meeting in Nirkh District

Trainings and Activities:

- On March 6 and 7, Nirkh and Saydabad communication and outreach officers held separate Fundraising trainings for 24 male and 18 female members of the district's DDA and CDCs. The overall goal of these sessions is to train the DDA+ and social organizers on common methods of identifying donors and asking for fundraising at both district and provincial levels. This training is specifically targeted towards assisting individuals at the community level in implementing projects outside the scope of SIKA-East grants, and special attention is paid to Cycle 1 projects as examples during the workshop.
- The community development officer finalized the Nirkh district stakeholder survey and collected information about community elders.
- On March 11, the Nirkh DPP was submitted to USAID; it was approved five days later. PRRD shared the Nirkh DPP with service providers to seek their input and plans for implementation of the proposed projects in light of their current resources.
- The Nirkh grants team worked on 32 applications. Four of the applications are on hold following PRRD notification, and one, Bazi Khill, has been officially submitted to Kabul and USAID's vetting unit.
- SIKA-East's engineer for Nirkh completed surveys for a canal protection wall for Deh-e Muslem village and the repair of a karez for Shah Kabul Kalan village.

SAYDABAD DISTRICT**Significant Meetings:**

- During the month, SIKA-East's communication and outreach staff conducted the third and fourth meetings of the communication committees for the district, whose members include men and women from the Saydabad DDA+ and CDCs. The third communication committee meetings were held on March 12. The participants came to the conclusion that people are still not clear about the DDA's activities and responsibilities and agreed to work to improve communications and communication channels among district entities, local people, influential members of the community, and governmental and non-governmental institutions. At the end of the meeting they filled out the worksheets on messages and communication channels.
- The communication committees held their fourth meetings on March 18. The committees took the larger objective and framed a message, focusing on the activities that the DDA+ and District Governor should take to bring stability to the district. They continued working to build on the previous meeting and completed two more worksheets on identified resources to implement the communication plan and identified potential partners.

Trainings and Activities:

- On March 26 and 27, a Lobbying training was conducted for men and women from the Saydabad DDA+. The overall goal of the training was to enhance the capacity of DDA+ and social organizers on lobbying contacts in line departments and other decision makers. This will help to decrease gaps between people and provincial/district government entities and other decision makers.
- The Saydabad engineering team completed estimates and drawings for the Hakim Khil and Noori CDC projects, which the team surveyed last week.

NEXT STEPS FOR MAYDAN WARDAK

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with PRRD and the District Governor;
- Conduct Grant Process Training for men from Chaki Wardak;
- Submit Saydabad and Nirkh grant applications to Kabul office;
- Follow up on Chaki Wardak and Nirkh DPPs with sector directorates and local NGOs; and
- Follow up endorsement letter approval with PRRD.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED AND COMBINED ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

Gender Integration in Stability Process: Between March 12 and 14, SIKA-East facilitated a three-day conference in Kabul titled “Gender Integration in Stability Process.” The event was closely coordinated with PRRD and DoWA offices in Paktiya, Ghazni, Logar, and Wardak. Twenty-seven men and women, including gender specialists and prominent leaders as well as program staff from SIKA-East target districts, participated in this workshop. The objective was to strengthen the capacity of SIKA-East and its government partners to streamline gender and apply gender analysis across all phases of the program within the framework of Islamic and Afghan culture. The workshop was designed in a highly interactive way in order to draw significant input from the participants on possible ways to successfully negotiate gender in stability programming in the context of field conditions. Having capacity to apply gender analysis will enable participants to identify gender issues and explore ways to leverage the existing formal and informal structures and relationships to integrate women’s interests, needs, and priorities with those of men and boys in the Stability Planning Process. The workshop served as an initial step in building partnerships and strengthening capacity in SIKA-East target districts to deliver gender mainstreaming in a meaningful and sustainable way.



A SIKA-East trainer makes a point during a group session at the gender integration conference.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

STABILITY ANALYSIS AND PLANNING UNIT

Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, and Nirkh DPPs: The DPPs for Dih Yak and Mohammad Agha were submitted to USAID on March 3 and approved on the 23rd. The Nirkh DPP was submitted on March 11 and approved five days later.

Andar, Chak, and Zadran DPPs: SIKA-East reviewed the Andar, Chak, and Zadran Districts’ DPPs. Members of DDAs and influential people of the community will present these DPPs to their respective District Governor, PRRD Director, and Afghan government line departments to review and endorse. An analysis showed that the community attributes most of their problems to scarce resources and lack of livelihood opportunities, as well as the absence of government services in their districts.

Activity Rollout Plan Revision: SIKA-East revised its Activity Rollout Plan and set a tentative timeline for program implementation in the newly approved districts of Khoshi, Khwaja Umari, Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Laja Mangal.

RESOURCE DELIVERY UNIT

Preparation for Service Providers Fairs: A SIKA-East technical committee reviewed the proposals of companies applying to provide logistical services for the upcoming Service Providers Fairs planned for Ghazni and Paktya. Two companies were selected to handle logistics for the fairs, and the related documents will be submitted to USAID for vendor vetting approval at the beginning of April.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH UNIT

Setting up Communication Committees: During this reporting period, SIKA-East assisted DDA members in Zurmat and Zadran to set up men’s and women’s communication committees for their districts. The larger DDA in both districts selected five to six members each to sit on the committees. The overall objective of the communication committees is to develop a comprehensive communication and outreach plan for the DDA+ and the District Governor’s office that addresses communication on three levels. Communications need to go up to the provincial and national level to ensure that district priorities are heard when budgeting decisions are made, across to the DDA+ to be sure it is speaking with one voice on community needs, and down to the community so that local constituents are aware of the work the DDA+/District Governor are doing for them. The messages developed should be rooted in stability and the work the government is doing for the community.

Radio Play Scripts: As PRRD and DG are engaged in other priorities, SIKA-East extended the deadline for radio play script approval.

SERVICE DELIVERY UNIT

Cycle 1 Project Lists: SIKA-East updated and corrected Cycle 1 project lists in coordination with the DSUs. These files will be uploaded in OneSource to make sure the DSUs have access to the files.

Engineering Design Packages: The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Province	District	Designs		Project Completion Status	
		Total Design in Progress	Design Completed 100%	In Progress (\$)	Completed (\$)
Wardak	Saydabad	10	18	144,861.50	506,732.70
	Nirkh	7	2	267,918.36	105,493.96
Logar	Mohammad Agha	6	13	353,781.62	666,678.42
Ghazni	Dih Yak	4	0	112,452.68	-
	Sub-total	27	33	879,014.16	1,278,905.08
Grand total		60		2,184,452.28	

GRANTS AND SUB-CONTRACTS UNIT

Grant Applications: Grant and Sub-contracts Unit prepared seven grant packages from Saydabad and Mohammad Agha Districts and submitted them to USAID for approval. The Grant Review Committee (GRC) reviewed 16 applications that were received this month: eight from Saydabad, one from Nirkh, and seven from Mohammad Agha. Eighty-seven applications are currently under development.

CDC Endorsement: In March a new directive was issued by MRRD on CDC membership endorsement. SIKA-East was informed by MRRD’s Senior Program Officer to allow a replacement of CDC/DDA members and new bank signatories through a simplified procedure in cases of the migration, death, or permanent absence of CDC members until new community elections can take place. This directive was issued mainly to those CDCs who have already nominated members to replace the old ones. It also allows CDCs to open bank accounts in private banks only if a normal Da Afghanistan Bank CDC account is no longer valid and cannot be reactivated. A further coordination meeting between MRRD and SIKA-East was held to discuss PRRD endorsement, pre-existing and new bank accounts, and alternative payment methods such as

payment by bank check. The team sent an official letter to PRRD and NSP offices to collect the required CDC information for Andar and Deh Yak districts.

Monitoring Committees: Most of the communities suggested that they want monitoring committees consisting of key CDC members and will officially introduce this proposal to the PRRD. The monitoring committee has the responsibility of overseeing the work of CDCs and can report to the District Governor and PRRD or related offices.

Meeting with Da Afghanistan Bank: The Grant and Subcontract Compliance Director met with Da Afghanistan Bank representatives to discuss the use of pre-existing bank accounts for grant payments to CDCs. Several issues with using pre-existing accounts were identified, and it was agreed to schedule a meeting with NSP to discuss options and the way forward. She also had a meeting with representatives of FAIDA, a USAID-funded project being implemented by Chemonics, in order to explore the use of the Mobile Money M-Paisa payment method for grantees and vendors.

SIKA-East Grants Pipeline

District	Complete App Package Received by SIKA	Value of Complete Application Package	# Apps Sent to USAID for Approval	# Apps in USAID Vetting Process	Apps under Development (Men)	Apps under Development (Women)	Apps Approved by GRC
Saydabad	16	\$506,732	2	2	5	0	8
Nirkh*	1	\$105,493	0	1	27	5	0
Mohammad Agha*	13	\$666,678	5	9	28	2	5
Dih Yak*	0	0	0	0	17	3	0
Total	30	\$1,278,903.00	7	12	77	10	13

**Pending USAID approval of DPP*

CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER UNIT

During the month several trainings were conducted to project beneficiaries, facilitated jointly by program units and Capacity Building and Gender Unit. These are listed in Appendix A.

SECURITY UNIT

Security Risk Assessment: Security Department finalized the Security Risk Assessment of the Khost PMU office, as well as DSU offices in Tani District in Khost and Chaki Wardak in Maydan Wardak.

Armored Vehicles Registration: The SIKA-East Security Director met with the General Director of Traffic Department of Kabul to discuss the delay in the registration of the USAID-supplied armored vehicles and steps that need to be taken to finalize the registration process.

Baraki Barak Incident: Security Department followed up with the illegal checkpoint incident involving two SIKA-East staff members in Baraki Barak,, which was reported on earlier. The department met Baraki Barak DSU staff and applied extra measures for their security.

OPERATIONS UNIT

Procurement Activities: The status of vetting for procurement purchases and grants is shown in the following tables:

Procurement Vetting Tracker

SIKA-East Log No.	Vetted Company	Document Requested from Vendor	Complete Document Package Received from Vendor	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending	Remarks
PO-001	Tal Wadan Group	1 Jan 13	3 Feb 13	3 Feb 13	10 Mar 13	35	Approved
PO-002	Soofi INN	1 Jan 13	31 Jan 13	31 Jan 13	10 Mar 13	35	Approved
PO-003	Jubaili Bros	1 Jan 13	3 Feb 13	3 Feb 13		51	
PO-004	Tal Wadan Group	11 Feb 13	11 Feb 13	11 Feb 13	10 Mar 13	35	Approved
PO-005	Mohammad Ashraf Rasooli	17 Feb 13	17 Feb 13	17 Feb 13	14 Mar 13	25	Approved
PO-006	Mohammad Nadim Amin	13 Feb 13	16 Feb 13	18 Feb 13	19 Feb 13	1	US Citizen, No vetting Need
PO-007	Mansoor Haroon Logistics Services Co.	21 Feb 13	21 Feb 13	21 Feb 13		33	Returned, because of expired license.
PO-008	Telecom Development Company Afghanistan Limited, T/A ROSHAN	11 Mar 13	13 Mar 13	14 Mar 13		12	
PO-009	Easy Connect ISP	17 Mar 13	20 Mar 13	20 Mar 13		4	
PO-010	Afghan Crystal Amu Ltd	24 Mar 13	25 Mar 13			0	

Grants Vetting Tracker

SIKA-East Log No.	Vetted Organization / Project	Documents Received from Grants Department	Initial Submission to USAID	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending
VAR # G001	Mohammad Shapoor, Head of Hassan Khel I CDC	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		33
VAR # G002	Mohammad Jan, Head of Rahmabad CDC	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		33
VAR # G003	Mohammad Jan, Head of Rahmabad CDC	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		33
VAR # G004	Shah Wali, Head of Kamal Khill CDC	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		33
VAR # G005	Abdul Hameed, Head of Sra Kala Markazi CDC	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		33
VAR # G006	Abdul Hameed, Head of Sra Kala Markazi CDC	7 Mar 13	7 Mar 13	10 Mar 13		21
VAR # G007	Saleh Mohammad, Head of Bazi Khil CDC	12 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			
VAR # G008	Dawa Jan, Head of Panami Nalab CDC, Karez Extension (Panami Nalab)	14 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			
VAR # G009	Momin Khan, Head of Chinarai Mira Jan CDC, Karez Extension (Chinarai Mira Jan) Project	14 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			
VAR # G010	Sayed Rahman, Head of Dagg Qala CDC, Karez Extension (Dagg Qala) Project	14 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			
VAR # G011	Habibullah, Head of Pacha Qala CDC, School Boundary Wall Construction (Pacha Qala) Project	14 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			
VAR # G012	Sami-ul-Haq, Head of Rasool Khel CDC, Protection Wall Construction Project	14 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			
VAR # G013	Aqa Jan, Head of Mazgin Community Development Council (CDC), School Boundary Wall Construction	14 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			
VAR # G014	Saleh Mohammad, Head of Bazi Khil CDC	12 Mar 13	17 Mar 13			

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

The Human Resources unit recruited and hired 39 employees in February. The following table provides details on the newly hired staff:

Recently Hired SIKA-East Staff

No.	Position/Title	Gender	Employer	Unit	Province
1	Senior Capacity Building Officer	Male	OSC	CBGU	Kabul
2	Engineer Technician	Male	AECOM	SDU-ESG	Wardak
3	Engineer Trainer	Male	Ti	SDU-ESG	Kabul
4	District Team Leader	Male	AECOM	DSU	Logar
5	Quality Control / Audit Officer	Male	AECOM	Audit	Kabul
6	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Operation/ Security	Ghazni
7	Field Service Officer	Male	AECOM	Operation/ Security	Ghazni
8	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Wardak
9	Regional Coordinator	Male	AECOM	MRRD	Kabul
10	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Ghazni
11	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Ghazni
12	District Engineer	Male	AECOM	SDU-ESG	Ghazni
13	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Wardak
14	Stability Analysis Planning Unit Officer	Male	AECOM	SAPU	Ghazni
15	Grants & Subcontracts Compliance Manager	Male	IRD	GSU	Kabul
16	Grants & Subcontracts Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Ghazni
17	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Logar
18	Communication & Outreach Officer	Male	OSC	COU	Logar
19	Community Development Officer	Male	AECOM	SDU-CDG	Ghazni
20	Community Development Officer	Male	AECOM	SDU-CDG	Logar
21	Senior Governance Officer	Male	AECOM	IDLG	Kabul
22	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Logar
23	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Logar
24	Provincial Engineer	Male	Ti	SDU-ESG	Khost
25	Field Finance Assistant	Male	AECOM	Finance	Wardak
26	Gender Officer	Male	AECOM	CBGU	Paktya
27	Watchman (GH)	Male	AECOM	Operation	Ghazni
28	Stability Analysis Planning Unit Officer	Male	AECOM	SAPU	Logar
29	Community Development Officer	Male	AECOM	SDU-CDU	Paktya
30	Field Finance Assistant	Male	AECOM	Finance	Logar
31	Communication & Outreach Officer	Male	OSC	COU	Khost
32	Communication & Outreach Officer	Male	OSC	COU	Wardak
33	Stability Analysis Planning Officer	Male	AECOM	SAPU	Khost
34	M&E Officer	Male	AECOM	MELU	Khost
35	Grants & Subcontracts Training Officer	Male	IRD	GSU	Logar
36	M&E Officer	Male	OSC	MELU	Logar
37	Stability Analysis Planning Officer	Male	AECOM	SAPU	Khost
38	Communication & Outreach Officer	Female	OSC	COU	Ghazni
39	Resource Development Officer	Male	AECOM	RDU	Logar

NEXT STEPS

- Launch the program in Khoshi and Khwaja Umari Districts;
- Conduct the following ToT's for newly hired SIKA-East staff from Khoshi and Khwaja Umari districts: Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Foundation, Stability Planning Process, Infrastructure Project Planning, and Project Design and Development;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning and Project Design and Development trainings for Zadran;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training for women from the Andar DDA+;
- Begin broadcasting radio plays;
- Continue men's and women's communications committee meetings in target districts;
- Initiate communication committee meetings in Chaki Wardak and Andar;
- Prepare March Monthly Media Analysis Report;
- Continue project design in districts with active Cycle 1 project lists;
- Complete approval packages for USAID for the 16 grant applications that were reviewed by the GRC;
- Prepare application packages currently under GRC evaluation and determination;
- Continue cost analysis for projects;
- Conduct Grants Management ToT;
- Follow up on issues affecting Zurmat, Zadran, and Baraki Barak with DDA/CDCs and provincial government departments;
- Establish new district offices in Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Laja Mangal;
- Conduct SRA of DSU offices for Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan, Ahmad Khill, and Laja Maidan;
- Follow up on the AV registration at the Traffic Police Department;
- Finalize hiring of the Senior Security Officer for Kabul; and
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 112 staff:
 - Sixty-six vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Thirty-six vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - Ten vacancies in process with IRD.

APPENDIX A

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS CONDUCTED IN MARCH

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
March 3	Stability Planning Process – Male	Chak	Training	42	
March 3	Stability Planning Process – Male	Zadran	Training	59	
March 3-4	Stability Planning Process – Male	Zurmat	Training	47	
March 3-4	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Female	Andar	Training		31
March 3-5	Project Design and Development – Male	Baraki Barak / Puli Alam	Training	41	
March 4-5	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Chak	Training	44	
March 5-7	Grant Process and Application Development – Female	Baraki Barak / Puli Alam	Training		30
March 5-11	Project Design and Development / Grant Process and Application Development – Female	Andar	Training		35
March 6	Fund Raising – Male	Nirkh	Training	24	
March 7	Fund Raising – Female	Nirkh	Training		18
March 10-14	Project Design and Development / Grant Process	Kabul	ToT	16	
March 10-14	Grant Process and Application Development – Male	Baraki Barak / Puli Alam	Training	50	
March 11-12	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Andar	Training	42	
March 12-14	Gender Integration in Stability Process	Kabul	Workshop	13	14
March 13-14	Infrastructure Project Planning	Andar	Training	40	
March 17-19	Project Design and Development / Grant Process – Male	Andar	Training	33	
March 17-18	Infrastructure Project Planning	Chak	Training	32	
March 18	Fundraising – Male	Dih Yak	Training	19	
March 18-19	Project Design and Development / Grant Process – Female	Chak	Training		22
March 19	Fundraising – Female	Dih Yak	Training		15
March 24	Project Design and Development – Female	Chak	Training		22
March 25	Project Design and Development – Male	Chak	Training	41	
March 26	Lobbying – Male	Saydabad	Training	9	
March 27	Lobbying – Female	Saydabad	Training		17

APPENDIX B

SIGNIFICANT MEETINGS CONDUCTED IN MARCH

Date	Topic	Location	Narrative Description	Result
March 3	Communication committee meeting DDA+ – Male	Mohammad Agha	Explaining the purpose of the meetings and the roles and responsibilities of a communications committee.	The committee will draft a ToR and membership criteria. The participants filled out worksheets for choosing materials and activities, as well as establishing expanding the coalitions.
March 3	Communication committee meeting DDA+ – Female	Mohammad Agha	Explaining the purpose of the meetings and the roles and responsibilities of a communications committee.	The participants identified 19 different projects that will not be covered by SIKA-East.
March 5	Meeting	Paktya	Discussion about women's activities in the province with a member of Provincial Council	It was suggested that SIKA-East should conduct awareness and capacity building trainings for the women.
March 6	Sector coordination	Logar	Conducted to update provincial officials on the program implementation process	The participants were updated on SIKA-East activities.
March 10	Communication committee meeting DDA+ – Male	Nirakh	Explaining the purpose of the meetings and the roles and responsibilities of a communications committee.	Improved communication among community and local authorities
March 10	Communication committee meeting DDA+ – Female	Dih Yak	Explaining the purpose of the meetings and the roles and responsibilities of a communications committee.	The committee members learned about their individual roles and responsibilities.
March 11	Communication committee Meeting DDA+ – Female	Dih Yak	Explaining the purpose of the meetings and the roles and responsibilities of a communications committee.	The committee members learned about their individual roles and responsibilities.
March 11	Coordination	Paktya	Discussing SIKA-East activities with PRRD Director	The PRRD Director was informed that SIKA-East is going to cover two new districts.
March 11	Communication committee DDA+ – Female	Nirakh	Explaining the purpose of the meetings and the roles and responsibilities of a communications committee.	The committee members agreed to brief the larger DDA on the committee's activities.
March 12	Communication committee meeting DDA+ – Female	Saydabad	Discussing tasks carried out by committee and ways to communicate with larger DDA+ How the committee communicates with the larger DDA+ and facilitates better communication with the CDCs in the district.	The committee members agreed to brief the larger DDA on committee's activities by conducting meetings from time to time.

March 12	Community problems	Dih Yak	A large meeting with community elders to hear their concerns about SIKA-East and NSP	People discussed their concerns, and SIKA-East / NSP representatives sought solutions to their problems.
March 13, 14, & 17	DPP Dih Yak	Ghazni	Meeting with each department of GIROA to coordinate implementation of DPP Cycle 1 projects	Some Cycle 1 projects have been addressed by service providers using their existing resources as mentioned above.
March 14	Communication committee	Kabul	Discussed communication committee meetings that are going on in Mohammad Agha District, existing challenges, and possible solutions.	A memo was developed as a guideline which will be used for those districts in which communication committees have not yet been set up.
March 14	Coordination	Paktya	Discussing SIKA-East activities with PRRD Director	The PRRD Director was informed that SIKA-East is going to cover two new districts.
March 17	Communication committee – Male	Mohammad Agha	Establishing Mohammad Agha DAA+ communication team/committee.	The members agreed to conduct joint male and female meetings.
March 17&18	Communication committee	Mohammad Agha	Communication committee meeting was conducted for both male and female members. Discussion centered on subjects that were stated in a previously developed memo.	Committee members agreed that a representative of the District Governor will participate in future meetings and that meeting leads will rotate among committee members at future meetings.
March 18	Saydabad communication committee meeting DDA+ – Male	Saydabad	How the committee communicates with the larger DDA+ and facilitates better communication with the CDCs in the district.	The members agreed to update the larger DDA+ on committee discussions.
March 18	Meeting	Paktya	Meeting with NSP Manager in his office with intention to receive Zurmat CDCs' related information through formal support letter from PRRD.	The PMU received the required information.
March 20	Communication committee meeting – Female	Nirkh	Communication team described the meeting's goal and how to select the audience and fill work sheets on DDA members.	The participants promised to communicate with DDAs and CDCs in selecting the audience.
March 21	Logar Service Providers Fair	Puli Alam	Information on SPF was shared with PRRD.	The PRRD Director promised to support the event.
March 24	Discussion on project location	Mohammad Agha	Meeting was held with the Mohammad Agha district Abparan <i>Hawza</i> DDA+ and CDC members about their problems of the project location.	SIKA-East received community request letter for the selection of locations and sent it to Kabul main office for further processing.
March 24	Communication committee meeting	Nirkh	The communication officer described the goal, how to select the audience and fill work sheets on DDA members.	The participants promised to communicate with DDAs and CDCs in selecting the audience.

March 25	Armoured vehicle registration	Kabul Traffic Police Department	Discussing the delay on the registration of the USAID supplied AV's at the Traffic Police Department.	The issue was communicated to USAID for further actions.
March 26	Coordination	Khost	Regular weekly meeting with PRRD and other stakeholders	Provided information on program start-up.

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