

**SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE**

No. 31

During the reporting period, IR-1 led district team completed the sixth and the final series of *Hawza* Stability Analysis Sessions for Sayedabad. As in the past, the meeting took place in the tribal hall of the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) compound and was fully supported by the PRRD Director and his staff. Several members of the District Development Assembly (DDA) and social organizers were instrumental in mobilizing community elders from *Tangi Hawza*, one of the most unstable areas in Sayed Abad, and encouraged a frank discussion among participants which ultimately resulted in the development of a Stability Plan for their *Hawza*. The Plan details specific sources of instability and general solutions to address their root causes. Apart from organizing invitations and logistics, the DDA and Social Organizer and are increasingly assuming a more active role in the facilitation of the sessions.

IR1 Team is currently reviewing *Hawza* Stability Plans from five clusters in Baraki Barak, the last of which was concluded past week, with the aim of identifying district-wide stability trends and prepare for the development of a comprehensive District Stability Plan.

With the assistance of the colleagues from the Capacity Building and Gender Department, IR2 and IR4, IR1 stability program officers facilitated a three-day *Hawza* Stability Session (Women's Perspective) in Kabul, where 37 women from Sayed Abad and Baraki Barak identified, from their unique perspective, main challenges to lasting stability in the two districts. While women shared many similar concerns with men from their areas, they also spoke about the issues involving ideology, tradition and social norms, which prevent women from taking a more active part in the governance process and playing stronger role in improving stability. During the session, an IR2 officer discussed the ways in which SIKAEast will assist District Entities (DE) in identifying existing resources and ways to access them. Many women, especially those who are engaged in DDAs, welcomed this information and asked SIKAEast to organize a similar session at the provincial level.

During the reporting period, IR3 Team prepared a monthly media analysis for Logar, Wardak, Paktya and Ghazni provinces, detailing security and other trends in the SIKAEast target districts during the month of June. IR3 also prepared a draft strategy for expansion of media reporting, which will be shared with Gender Department for their review and input. This document focuses on the importance of gender equity and tracking gender-related developments in media.

In preparation for the development of District Stability Plans and District Project Portfolios, the IR4 and IR1 Teams began designing the upcoming *Hawza*-level workshop on conceptualizing feasible projects. Based on *Hawza* stability planning and drawing on MRRD's National Solidarity Program (NSP) planning and proposal frameworks, the training will assist *Hawza* leaders to generate projects that address root causes of instability as well as analyze beneficiaries, resources, and sustainability.

IR4-Engineering Unit (ESG) had its first collaborative informal meeting with MRRD/NSP Director of engineering to discuss and coordinate resources, standard designs, construction management documents, and discuss other technical engineering considerations, which would be useful during the SIKAEast implementation. The team also begin reviewing and adapting the latest edition of the NSP Technical Engineering Manual in the work of SIKAEast.

IR4-Grants Unit continued to analyze lists of participants of *Hawza* Stability Analysis Sessions, and based on NSP database, collect information about their past performance and type of projects that have been implemented in specific areas through NSP. The aim of the analysis is prevent the duplication of proposed activities even during the early planning stage.

As part of its commitment to supporting the program, the Program Support Unit (PSU) managed, coordinated and led the daily activities of the Central Support Unit (CSU), Information and Communication Subunit (ICT) and Translations and Editing Subunit at central, and the Provincial Management Units (PMUs) at the provincial level. The effective coordination and communication of the relevant activities by PSU resulted in the improved program engagement and productivity. During the past week, the PSU held a meeting with Baraki Barak District Governor (DG) and discussed with him the general security situation in the district and the establishment of SIKA-East field office in Baraki Barak DG Compound. The DG promised to fully support the program and provide all the necessary assistance throughout the program implementation.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Team completed Afghan Info Quarter 3 and submitted the relevant information to USAID. M&E created user and password for TraiNet user for SIKA-East and will create data collection tools internally.

## FIELD ACTIVITIES

### WARDAK

The Wardak Provincial Management Unit (PMU) organized and facilitated the fifth series of *Hawza* Stability Sessions for Sayedabad. During the three-day meeting, an average of 25 community elders and local influential leaders from Tangi participated in discussions on stability and created a Stability Plan for their *Hawza*.

Wardak PMU was pleased with the eager participation of leaders from Tangi area in the sessions, especially since this is one of the most unstable areas in Sayedabad. CDC members and other leaders participated actively in the discussions and committed to support SIKA-East implementation in their villages. The Tangi *Hawza* meeting completed the roll out for Sayedabad district.



This week, the Wardak team, accompanied by PRRD, held several meetings with NSP implementing partner, the Swedish Committee, to identify DDA, CDCs and influential leaders from Nerkh in order to help prepare stakeholder mapping for the anticipated roll out in this district.

Also, during the week, PMU and DSU staff coordinated various meetings through PRRD Directorate with all the governmental, nongovernmental organizations and different service providers at provincial and district levels in order to collect data for the Wardak service provider catalog.

### GHAZNI

During the reporting period, the Ghazni PMU office worked on collecting data for the Service Providers Catalog and, thus far, collected information from over 50 government, non-governmental and international organizations. The team also held extensive meetings



with PRRD and NSP implementing partners in Ghazni in order to collect information about DDA, CDCs and other influential people in order to finalize the stakeholder mapping process for Andar and Deh Yak and prepare for the anticipated roll out in the two districts.

### **PAKTYA**

Paktiya PMU team conducted several interviews for key positions at the PMU and DSU levels.

### **LOGAR**

Logar PMU team finalized the *Hawza* stability sessions for Baraki Barak and several staff joined the Kabul IR1 team in analyzing the results and preparing for the follow up sessions.

## **PROGRAM NEXT WEEK KEY ACTIVITIES PROJECTION**

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IR1 team will continue analyzing the developed *Hawza* Stability Plans from Sayedabad and Baraki Barak and identify district-wide trends which would assist in the formulation of the District Stability Plans.

Together with PRRD counterparts, IR1 and IR4 will develop a plan and organize the follow-up *Hawza* stability sessions for the two districts, where community elders are expected to propose meaningful and sustainable activities to address the identified sources of instability.

IR2 will make arrangements for the anticipated one-day SPC information sharing session for DDA, CDC Members and PRRD at Pul-e Alam. The aim of this workshop is that participants better understand the available resources and organizations working at their area and mandate or working area of each organization. The workshop will complement the *Hawza* stability analysis sessions and will provide a useful guidance to the community vis-à-vis available internal and external resources during the project development phase.

IR3 plans to revise district profiles and, with IR1, IR4 and district teams, work on the data collection for the stakeholder mapping for the new districts, pending the approval from USAID and MRRD.

During the upcoming week, the PSU ICT Subunit will conduct brainstorming sessions with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Department and IR4, and will also work on the synchronization module of IR4 database.

Capacity building Team will conduct an initial baseline data collection for Training Needs Assessment (TNA) from PRRD Logar province. An Orientation of newly hired staff for Logar and Wardak will take place next week.

Grant Team will continue recruitment of district and province grant team members and work on the analysis of past performance of CDCs in Sayedabad and Baraki Barak.

HR Department will continue recruitment of 56 staff. The details are below:

- Vacancies under process with AECOM (25).
- Vacancies under process with OSC (13)
- Vacancies under process with IRD (18)
- Vacancies under process with Ti (0)

### **FIELD ACTIVITIES:**

**WARDAK**

- Coordination and collection of information necessary for the Nerkh district roll out

**GHAZNI**

- Completion of the work on connexes installed in PRRD compounds
- Preparation for rollout in Ghazni
- DSU office setup in Deh Yak

**PAKTYA**

- Move of the office furniture Waza Zadran DSU office

**LOGAR**

- Setup Barak Barak temporary office in Pul-e Alam