

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

No. 32

Moving toward the development of District Project Portfolios (DPP) for Baraki Barak and Sayedabad, SIKAEast is planning the next phase of *Hawza* stability analysis sessions in Puli-e Alam and Maidan Shahr. In the upcoming meetings, district teams will work with *Hawza* leaders and relevant department heads on designing projects that will address the identified challenges to local stability, and also demonstrate the understanding of conceptualizing sustainable and accountable initiatives. Throughout the process, SIKAEast will rely on the procedures and forms that closely resemble those used in the National Solidarity Program (NSP), as participants will already be familiar with them. This will ensure that our program continues building on the best practices used during NSP and add value in working with the community on planning their interventions more strategically and with specific focus on improving stability.

To support the next phase of the Hawza Stability Analysis Sessions, SIKAEast inter-departmental team, led by IR4, finalized project concept development workshop content and conducted a three-day workshop for SIKAEast field team, PRRD Social Organizers and USAID Deputy Field Program Officers (DFPOs) from Logar and Wardak. The purpose of the training was to prepare the teams to effectively facilitate the upcoming concept development sessions. The sessions will mesh with the final *Hawza* stability analysis session, where CDC leaders will complete and endorse *Hawza* stability plans and propose project ideas to address root causes of instability. Designed to assist leaders to act practically upon envisioned stabilization initiatives, workshop participants will draft project work plans during the event, and engage in sessions on accountability, feasibility, benefit, and resources among other topics. *Hawzas* will draw project data from the work plan as it is developed to compile *Hawza* project portfolios for consolidation and recommendation to the DDAs. The work plan will underpin grant applications for those DEs that pursue funding and will provide an implementation framework for initiatives to be supported by non-grant technical assistance provided by SIKAEast and other service providers. IR1, IR2, and IR4 are delivering the training jointly, bringing an integrated approach to stability initiative planning and project execution.

IR4 ESG continued to analyze and discuss the National Solidarity Program (NSP) design and management manuals with Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD). The volumes represent a trove of field-tested technical data and tools that SIKAEast will draw upon as it establishes stability project norms and standards.

Program support unit during this reporting period made contribution to SIKAEast by managing the complex day to day program activities at central and field level. Additionally, in coordination with Operation Department and PMU Managers, PSU made arrangements for the installation of VSAT¹ antennas for PMU offices in Paktya, Ghazni and Maidan Wardak Provinces.

PSU Information & Communication Technology (ICT) subunit supported all departments and units in term of technical perspective and worked on IR4 grant database, finalized IR1 database & handed it over for use.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Department submitted the report on results for indicator 1.1 and 1.3 of IR1 to be included in third quarterly report. Policy and procedure or data collection with IR1, IR2 and IR4 was reviewed as well.

¹ Very Small Aperture Terminal

Capacity Building Department completed a report from the Hawza Stability Analysis Workshop (Women's Perspective) for 37 women from Logar and Wardak provinces, which was conducted last week. The CBD facilitated and fully supported the inter-departmental workshop on the Concept Development during Hawza Stability Analysis Sessions.

Security Department conducted Security Risk Assessments (SRA) in Sayed Abad and Nirkh districts of Wardak province. They also conducted security training for field staff and Paktia Security & Operations Officer.

Human Resource (HR) Department filled 3 positions for AECOM during the week.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

WARDAK

During the week, SIKA staff in Wardak participated in a regular coordination meeting with PRRD counterparts. The participants of the meeting discussed the Community Development Councils (CDC) that have not yet clarified their financial records or started their projects. The meeting was useful for SIKA-East, as it provides a breadth of information on the readiness of individual CDCs to engage in the grant cycle.

During the meeting, the participants also discussed second round of the NSP implementation in several districts in Wardak. It was decided to cancel the 2nd round of grants for Sayed Abad district due to security problems, however, the cancelation is pending the DDA approval.

District Support Unit (DSU) staff had a coordination meeting with Nurkh District Governor (DG) to introduce the team and prepare for the SIKA roll out in the district. CDC and DDA list prepared by SIKA staff were shared with the DG and district social organizers, who will be integral part of the SIKA-East field team, once the program implementation in this district official starts. During the meeting, the DG committed to provide one more room for SIKA staff.

Provincial Management Unit (PMU) had a coordination meeting with PRRD director. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss conducting capacity gap assessment for Nurkh and Sayed Abad PRRD, DDA, and social organizers. The assessment will be conducted by SIKA Capacity Building Department in the coming week.

GHAZNI

Ghazni provincial staff has made significant progress in the data collection and entry into the database for the Ghazni SPC. In addition, the team also conducted a meeting with acting PRRD Director Eng. Shirzad and updated him on the ongoing activities, met with NSP Facilitating Partners (FP) Future Generations of Afghanistan (FGA) and Care International and received their recent monthly reports, in order to prepare for the program rollout and PRRD capacity gap assessment. Finally, the PMU met with Gender Department of Women Affairs to assess the gender mainstreaming opportunities in Ghazni and women involvement in SIKA stability programming in general.



*Meeting with representative of Women Affairs
Department in Ghazni province*

PAKTYA

Paktya provincial staff worked on gathering the required information for the Paktya SPC from both non-governmental organisations and governmental departments based in the Paktya province.

LOGAR

Logar PMU conducted a meeting with PRRD Director to confirm space for the installation of SIKA-East VSAT antenna, after the initial miscommunication over the location. PMU Manager and the PRRD Director also discussed the schedule and the invitations for the upcoming round of *Hawza* stability analysis sessions. Subsequently, the team also had a meeting with Haji Muhibullah, the DDA head, to agree on coordinating invitations for the sessions and to make all the necessary arrangement for the workshops.

PROGRAM NEXT WEEK KEY ACTIVITIES PROJECTION

During the upcoming week, SIKA-East district team will conduct the second phase *Hawza* Stability Analysis Sessions for Baraki Barak and Sayedabad to ensure that all project ideas are in line with the agreed stability criteria and that they address the identified sources of instability. During the sessions, the team will assist community leaders with the design of projects, while paying special attention to the issues of accountability, feasibility, resources, as well as benefit and harm. These *Hawza* sessions will mark a transition between planning and execution phases at the district level process and bring *Hawza* leaders and District Entities one step closer to developing the District Project Portfolio (DPP)

To contribute to the process and specifically focus on the resources and funding, IR2 is preparing SPC information sharing session in Logar province. The aim of the session is to let the DDA, CDC and *Hawza* members better understand the available resources and a mandate of each governmental and non-governmental agency in their area. In addition, IR2 is drafting a document on coordination mechanism to help maintain effective coordination among Service Providers and DEs.

PSU Team will finalize IR4 database entry screen and conduct a presentation regarding IR4 database to M&E and IR4 units. They will also work on IR4 database report. Additionally they will conduct a meeting with PRRD Logar and interview DSI manager in Dehyak district of Ghazni province

Capacity Building staffs will travel to Logar and Wardak to conduct a three day Training Needs Assessment (TNA)/Gap Assessment in Logar and Wardak provinces. It is planned to recruit a gender officer for Kabul and provincial gender officers for Logar, Wardak and Ghazni

Security Department is planning to conduct SRA for Ghazni city and Deh Yak district of Ghazni. They will continue training for Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) guards and staff on procedures for SIKA East

HR Department will continue recruitment of 59 staff. The details are below:

- Vacancies under process with AECOM 28
- Vacancies under process with Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd.(OSC) 13
- Vacancies under process with International Relief and Development (IRD) 18

FIELD ACTIVITIES

WARDAK

- Coordinate and facilitate 2nd phased of stability analysis work sessions for Sayedabad
- Assist Capacity Building Department in conducting Training Needs Assessment (TNA)/Gap Assessment
- Follow up PMU staff recruitment issues

GHAZNI

- Prepare for SIKA-E rollout in Ghazni
- Start- up DehYak DSU office

PAKTYA

- Activate and organize DSU office in Waza Zadran district
- Compile remaining parts of information linked with SPC and submit it to IR2

LOGAR

- Follow up of the recruitment with HR
- Setup Barak Barak temporary office in Puli Alam
- Install VSAT
- Confirm space for *Howza* session trainings