

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

No. 35

This week, SIKA-East drafted the process map for the prioritization of the projects. Community elders, representatives from the Community Development Council (CDC), District Development Assembly (DDA) and other departments from the Government of Afghanistan Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) will prioritize the most important projects.

Narrative Description

At the field level in the Baraki Barak and Sayyidabad districts of Logar and Wardak provinces SIKA –East Teams, with the support of Kabul staff, finalized the stability analysis and concept development phase. The team supported community elders, CDC members from Chilozi and Shah Mazar in Logar province and Sheniz Sofla, Sheniz Olia in Sayyidabad district as they developed meaningful projects designed to address local Sources of Instability (SoI). The team also assisted the community elders and CDC members in filling out the *Hawza* Project portfolio (HPP) and Project Work Plan (PWP).

The first day of the stability and concept analysis session in Sheniz Olia of Sayyidabad some of the participants were threatened by the Taliban and instructed not to attend the MRRD meeting, but the majority of the community elders nevertheless showed up for the session. Even more striking, the number of participants increased the day after the threats were issued.

Two stability program officers from Ghazni and Paktya traveled to Logar to observe the next steps on completing the *Hawza* stability plan and starting the concept development process. The stability officers learned how to engage the participant in discussions on feasibility, sustainability, and resources among others.

This week, the Communications & Outreach department completed the monthly media analysis report and distributed it to SIKA-East department heads and the executive staff. The team also continued the CDC-level communication surveys, bringing the total number of surveys completed to approximately 200 by the end of the week.

Along with Provincial Rural Rehabilitation & Development (PRRD) Social Mobilizers, the Community Development/Service Delivery Team continued to facilitate Project Concept Development workshops in the final four *Hawzas* of Baraki Barak and Sayyidabad Districts. *Hawza* leaders discussed potential stability initiatives, prepared the first rough draft of project work plans, and compiled HPPs for their district. As with previous workshops, overall participation levels were high, with over 150 people taking part in activities over three days, including 80 CDC members, 14 DDA members, and 50 other influential local leaders. In addition, staff from the PRRD, Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG), Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL), and other government officials attended daily sessions, answering participants' questions and contributing information on activities and institutional support. Logar provincial authorities showed up in strength, with seven officials taking part in each workshop.

The first round of the HPP was translated into English and distributed for internal review. Stability Planning & Analysis and Community Development sections began close examination of the joint stability planning/project concept process and workshop results to identify strengths and areas needing attention to improve process and output quality.

Community Development/Service Delivery Management team held internal discussions on "Owning a Stake in Stability," the training concept developed to build staff and government partner skills in mapping and networking with key stakeholder groups. The team also met with two Afghan technical experts to explore feasibility, topics, timing, and costs. Both consultants

possess extensive experience leading dialogues on Afghanistan, Islam, gender, and culture and in engaging diverse stakeholder groups in development.

The Engineering Support Group (ESG) continued reviewing and compiling construction cost indices for Logar, Paktya, Ghazni, and Wardak provinces. The team also completed three typical construction document packages to inform Intermediate Result 4 (IR4) discussions on the community development and grant-making process.

The development of SIKA-East grants procurement procedures continued and will conclude with standard operating procedure for procurement of goods and services under In-kind grant activities. In addition development of data base of potentially qualified bidders is ongoing. This information will be useful in reviewing past performance of vendors and contractors.

The Grant Team is in the process of collecting information from the other implementing partners related to the potential CDC pre-qualification. In addition, initial security screening of potential grantees continues. This initial screen is being conducted on CDCs that were present at stability workshops and participated in the concept development workshop during the period from August 7th to 9th.

Program Support Unit (PSU) made several contributions to SIKA-East. A mission led by two Provincial Support Unit (PSU) members met with the PRRD Director of Maidan Wardak. They discussed and coordinated SIKA-East activities. PRRD asked for an extra guard to serve at the front gate in anticipation of significantly higher public access to the compound. They also discussed overall implementation of the project in Maidan Wardak.

The Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Unit started the design and development of the Communication and Outreach interim database and successfully finished the designing of the database structure and screen mock-ups. Besides the communication database development, the ICT unit conducted several brainstorming and requirement engineering sessions with the Grants Department, as result of which several forms were redesigned and new requirements were captured. They also verified software packages required for the soon to be developed web based database.

The PSU Translation sub-unit translated the SIKA-South Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) security services contract, the Sayyidabad *Hawza* project portfolio, and the grants sub-contracts compliance unit presentation.

The Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Department along with the Finance Department drafted the expenditures coding system to comply with USAID online database requirements. This coding system will provide accurate information on financial data to the TraiNet and Afghan Info portals.

A meeting was conducted with the focus group vendor, Rahman Safi Impact Consulting (RSI), on the project's status. Issues discussed included the start-up schedule, the focus group questionnaire and the focus group timeline and deliverables. RSI is prepared to begin immediately once both parties have signed the contract.

M&E developed an internal reporting tracker for SIKA-East to track weekly, monthly and quarterly (TraiNet and Afghan Info) reports. This tracker identifies the actors submitting the report and the review channels upon submission.

The Capacity Building Department facilitated orientation for 25 newly hired SIKA-E field and Kabul based staff from August 5 to 12. The evaluation report has been produced and shared with SIKA-E management. The department continued expanding its presence by hiring provincial capacity building officers in Logar and Wardak. Logar Capacity Building Officer will provide support to other teams facilitating upcoming workshops in Baraki Barak district.

The provincial capacity building officers in Ghazni met Andar District Governor (DG) to collect general information on District Entities (DE) and capacity building implemented and ongoing activities in the district.

The hiring process for Gender officer in Kabul is in process. The Gender Department conducted a series of meetings with the Directorate of Women Affairs (DoWA) of Ghazni and Pakyta to collect data and information of gender activities.

The Security Department conducted Security Risk Assessments (SRA) for the Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) and Andar District Support Unit (DSU) offices on August 6. The team also conducted security training for two newly hired staff on August 15th. They participated in the recruitment process for the Security & Operation officers for Deh Yak and Andar districts of Ghazni province.

The Human Resource (HR) Department filled three positions for AECOM and four positions for Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd (OSC) during the week.

PROGRAM NEXT WEEK KEY ACTIVITIES PROJECTION

In the upcoming week the Stability team along with Community Development team will finalize the process map for the prioritization of the projects. The teams will familiarize Baraki Barak and Sayyidabad staff with prioritization criteria. Additionally, they will review the HPPs from all the *Hawzas* of Baraki Barak and Sayyidabad

A workshop to link resource development with a communication and outreach plan for promoted HPPs will be conducted at the *Hawza* level in Logar and Wardak provinces. The feedback from participants gained from a joint rehearsal will help facilitators improve the quality of the presentations, discussions and group work in the workshops. Furthermore, a resource information session will be conducted as part of Pad Khwab resource dialogue. The Resource Development Department will complete the initial drafts for Nerkh, Wuza Jadran and Andar next week.

The Community Development Department will discuss *Hawza* project concept process and emerging project portfolios internally and with *Hawza* leaders.

The Engineering Support Group (ESG) will continue to compile unit cost data across districts and provinces and coordinate with the National Solidarity Program (NSP) Engineering Director. Community Development / Service Delivery and Grants Unit will open discussions with International Rescue Committee's (IRC) NSP team to learn more about how NSP is managed in Logar and Khost.

The Grants Team will finalize the interim grant database. This database is the footprint for the online version.

PSU's ICT subunit will finalize the Communication and Outreach database by the end of next week. PSU representatives will have a mission to Logar province and observe program implementation at field level.

The M&E Department will sign the team will collect indicator based data.

For the upcoming week, the Capacity Building Department will provide full support to the IR4/Grants Department in facilitating a three-day-grants training in Kabul.

Security Team will follow up on Security & Operations officer hiring process for Sayyidabad and Nerkh districts of Wardak Province.

HR Department will continue the recruitment of 55 staff. The details are below:

- Twenty-one vacancies under process with AECOM;
- One vacancy under process with Technologists, Inc;

- Ten vacancies under process with OSC; and
- Eighteen vacancies under process with International Relief and Development (IRD).

Security:

Total incidents for Logar – 11

Total incidents for Wardak – 9

Total incidents for Paktia – 5

Total incidents: 25

Total incidents directly impacting SIKA-East field staff: 2