

**SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE**

No. 42

This week's finalization of the District Project Portfolios (DPPs) for Baraki Barak and Saydabad and their submission to USAID for review and concurrence marked a milestone in the SIKA-East implementation. The DPPs, developed by the members of the District Development Assemblies (DDA) and *hawza* leaders from both mentioned districts, create a strategic platform for transforming stability plans into action and will provide a sound programming tool for SIKA-East.

During the week, SIKA-East worked on revising the facilitator guides for the stability analysis and planning portion of the upcoming district stability process module in the new SIKA-East districts. The guides are being adapted to take into account lessons learnt and challenges encountered during the previous sessions and feedback of the participants. In addition, the joint Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and SIKA-East facilitation teams will place greater focus on identifying local resiliencies and community strengths in order to better inform the programming and strengthen positive dynamics, systems and persons in the target districts, as an important component of the stabilization effort. The stability analysis and planning session will be a part of the more comprehensive training module, including resource coordination, concept development and communications, which will provide the District Entities (DE) and *hawza* leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to develop their DPPs.

SIKA-East team developed a modified teaching curriculum for the fifth SIKA College to provide new staff an overview of the planned district stability process in the new districts. A total number of 35 newly hired staff went through training over the course of the week. SIKA-East plans to conduct a more comprehensive Training of Trainers (ToT) session for the field staff, who will be facilitating the future sessions in Mohammad Agha, Nerkh and Deh Yak Districts.

A resource dialog session was conducted for Saydabad female DDA members at the Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) Maydan Shahr, Wardak province. Female DDA members and representatives of main service providers including provincial Director of Women Affairs actively participated in the session. The participants learnt about the available resources, ways to access them, active service providers, planned ongoing and recently implemented projects, address Sources of Instability (Sol) and using the Service Provider Catalog (SPC). The participants received copies of the Wardak SPC at the end of the session. In addition to the resourcing, participants also learnt how to develop basic strategies for communication, in order to assist them in seeking support for initiatives they may develop in the future.

SIKA-East met USAID representatives for review and approval of the program environmental compliance plan. As a result, SIKA-East obtained clarification regarding use of National Solidarity Program (NSP) environmental checklists with DEs, use of narratives of environmental issues in the grants applications and format of Environmental Mitigation and Management Plans (EMMP).

SIKA-East obtained the approval from Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to get official Geographic Information System (GIS) layers from the Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO).

SIKA-East began developing a stakeholder engagement approach, steps and tools in preparation for training staff and rolling into new districts this week. Elements of the implementation module will be applied to refine and upgrade existing stakeholder lists.

SIKA-East finalized two additional district profiles, bringing the number of completed profiles to four. Profiles that have been completed include Baraki Barak, Nerkh, Deh Yak and Zadran. Profiles for Saydabad, Mohammad Agha, Andar, Zurmat and Chak will be completed soon. A baseline analysis was also developed and reported for three Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicators – 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4. The full report will be included in the September 2012 Monthly Report.

The SIKA-East team has several training modules in development for both SIKA-East staff and potential grantees including grant application training; grant rules and regulations, Grant Review Committee (GRC) orientation and procedures and procurement procedures for in-kind grants.

Procurement procedures in support of in-kind grants have been finalized and shared with the relevant internal departments for review and comment. A training presentation is in development and will be rolled out to staff to include the roles and responsibilities of grantees under this type of grant agreement.

The methodology for Focus Group (FG) mapping was developed by SIKA-East and reviewed by the Rahman Safi Impact Consultancy (RSI) field teams. The mapping for Saydabad, Baraki Barak and Deh-Yak districts has been completed.

A meeting was conducted with Measuring Impact of Stabilization Initiative (MISTI) on 30 September 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to go over the mutual cooperation and build a solid relationship to foster collaboration during the development of the baseline survey.

SIKA-East Security team conducted Security Risk Assessment (SRA) of the accommodation for staff visiting Pul-e-Alam provincial office. They provided security training for staff visiting field offices.

Human Resources (HR) filled two positions for AECOM and two positions for International Relief and Development (IRD) during the week.

## **FIELD ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

### Ghazni:

- The Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) Manager conducted the weekly regular coordination meeting with the PRRD Director. The objective of the meeting was to share the participants list of upcoming stability sessions in Deh Yak and obtain the PRRD's approval.
- The PMU Manager met the newly hired District Governor (DG) of Andar and introduced the SIKA-East program. As a result the DG committed his support and assistance in the program implementation in his district.
- The Ghazni team conducted meetings with different line department authorities such as department of Education, Public Health, Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, PRRD and Public Works. The purpose of these meetings was to get their recommendations and commitment to support SIKA-East for the program implementation.

### Logar:

- On 30 September 2012 the Logar PMU Manager had a coordination meeting with PRRD in which the PRRD Director insisted that any SIKA-East correspondence to other departments had to take place through the PRRD. The manager along with representatives of other organizations had another meeting with the Logar newly hired governor where he introduced the program to the

governor and sought his support. The governor set another meeting with SIKA-East to learn more about the program.

Wardak:

- This week the resource dialogue session for women of Saydabad started. This training is currently going on in the Wardak DoWA meeting hall.

Paktya:

- Paktya provincial team prepared the of list key people comprising of community leaders, influential community members, Community Development Council (CDC), DDA, religious scholars, District Community Council (DCC) and other well known people. The purpose for this effort is to be ready for upcoming rollout in the Zurmat District.

## **NEXT WEEK KEY ACTIVITIES PROJECTION**

- Finalize the facilitator guides for the new stability analysis and planning sessions;
- Organize a comprehensive ToT to provide the necessary skills to SIKA-East field staff and PRRD colleagues to conduct future sessions;
- Gather all results and related documents of the resource dialogue session and prepare a final report with specific indicators points;
- Continue Service Provider Fair (SPF) coordination with governmental entities in capital level;
- Finalize Provincial Department Service Profile (PDSP) and share it with SIKA-East management;
- Focus on developing the advocacy workshops for advocacy and communication-led projects resulting from the DPP developed in Baraki Barak and Saydabad;
- Continue collaborative meetings with International Rescue Committee (IRC) and NSP Engineering Department regarding capacity development, engineering and community development effort;
- Compare prioritized projects with existing district strategic plans;
- Continue DPP Analysis working towards strategic grant packaging and application process;
- Continue preparation of the new training modules with a focus on grant application completion and roll out to Ghazni and Paktya Provinces;
- Follow up FG implementation;
- Continue reviewing the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) training manual;
- Collaborate with MISTI for the SIKA M&E community of practice;
- Finalize the SRA's for the accommodation in Logar and Wardak Provinces;
- Conduct SRA for accommodation in Ghazni and Paktya Provinces;
- HR Department will continue recruitment of 55 staff;
  - 32 vacancies in process with AECOM;
  - Eight vacancies in process with OSC; and
  - Fifteen vacancies in process with IRD.

## **NEXT WEEK PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES**

### Ghazni:

- Prepare the participant list for the upcoming SIKA-East rollout in Deh Yak and Ghazni capital; and
- Arrange a meeting with the Ghazni provincial governor.

### Logar:

- Collect data for Mohammad Agha profile;
- Conduct coordination meeting with PRRD and Baraki Barak DDA.

### Wardak:

- Coordinate Nerkh rollout with PRRD; and
- Conduct coordination meeting with Chak district chief of police.

### Paktya:

- Conduct coordination meeting with PRRD and other stakeholders.