

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 52

MAJOR EVENTS

Workshop on “Stability Planning Process”

From December 9 to 11, joint SIKA-East and Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Directorate (PRRD) teams conducted the first part of the eight-day district “Stability Planning Process” workshop for members of District Development Assembly (DDA), Community Development Councils (CDC), District Community Council (DCC), and other influential elders from Nerkh in Maidan Wardak. During the sessions, stability program officers and PRRD social organizers introduced the program, explained the Stability Analysis Methodology (SAM), and facilitated discussion on the concepts of social responsibilities and social cohesion. They also assisted the participants in identifying local resiliencies and community strengths, as well as the key sources of instability. Based on this information, the participants proceeded with proposing solutions and projects to mitigate the sources of instability. The outcome of the first part of the Stability Planning Process is a partially filled out District Project Portfolio (DPP).



During a group session at the “Stability Planning Process” workshop, participants analyze sources of instability in their area.

Following discussion on stability dynamics, the participants spent two days, December 12 and 13, learning about potential resources from government and non-government sources that might be available for funding some of the identified projects, and they learned how to access such resources. In the coming week, the SIKA-East team and PRRD social organizers will continue the “Stability Planning Process” in Nerkh by engaging the participants in a discussion on project concept development and management systems and will train them how to effectively advocate for priorities articulated in their DPPs.

Workshops on “Women’s Advocacy”

On December 9 and 10, SIKA-East conducted two separate advocacy trainings for women. One, for 27 women from Mohammad Agha District, took place in Pul-e-Alam in Logar Province; the other, for 18 women from Nerkh District, was held in Maidan Shahr, Wardak. During the trainings, the women used DPPs to identify specific advocacy projects that would directly address Sources of Instability (Sol). Several of the participants expressed their support for the trainings. One said: “We have taken part in many different trainings, but so far no one has offered advocacy training. If this was conducted for men, too, it would lead to the development of the country and our own community.”



SIKA-East’s district support manager for Mohammad Agha makes a point during “Women’s Advocacy” training in Pul-e-Alam.

PRINCIPAL UNIT ACTIVITIES

SAPU: Stability Analysis and Planning Unit conducted a “Stability Analysis Methodology (SAM)” module as part of the “Stability Planning Process” workshop for DDA and CDC members of Nerkh. SAPU also received and started reviewing the mini-DPPs developed by influential women from Mohammad Agha and Nerkh during last week’s “Stability Planning Process” workshop. These DPPs will become an integral

part of the comprehensive district-level DPPs produced by members of DDA, CDCs, and DCC, as well as other elders during their respective sessions.

RDU: Resource Development Unit conducted the “Resource Dialogue” module as part of the “Stability Planning Process” workshop for DDA and CDC members of Nerkh, as mentioned above.

GSU: As part of the pre-qualification process of CDCs as grantees, Grants and Sub-contracts Unit identified the following issue: Many of the elected CDC officials (CDC Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer) are no longer present in the area, or their period of performance as an officer has long since expired. Further, the CDCs did not conduct new elections as required under their own by-laws. Without the officers in place who have the authority to obligate and enter into grant agreements, an alternative must be developed. The issue has been communicated to SIKA-East management, and GSU has developed a possible solution. A document has been drafted that will serve as temporary and limited “delegation-of- authority” to be endorsed by the PRRD. It will contain the names of nominated members of the CDCs who will act on behalf of the CDC for the purposes of the SIKA-East grant. The nominated members must have the authority to sign the grant agreement, open a bank account, and act on behalf of the CDC for all other matters related to the SIKA-East grant execution and management.

GSU conducted a meeting with Kabul Bank in order to learn about document requirements for CDC representatives related to the opening of a separate bank account for SIKA-East grant funds. It was determined that CDC representatives can open a bank account at any of the Kabul Bank provincial branches, but they must provide certain specified documentation.

GSU procurement officers began a price/cost analysis for the grant application budgets being proposed by the CDCs. This due diligence will expedite the grant making process and has thus far shown proposed costs to be reasonable and within market range.

ESG: In keeping with good engineering standards, Engineering Support Group reviewed the Bill of Quantity (BOQ), work plans, drawings, and engineering technical documents for the proposed grant projects for four hawzas in Saydabad.

MELU: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Unit met with Rahman Safi Impact Consultancy (RSI) to discuss the data analysis process and deliverables. RSI has completed the questionnaire / quantitative coding for four districts, and the preliminary qualitative analysis for eight districts is under way.

MELU is working with TraiNet to add SIKA-East to the portal. Trainings data for FY 2012 Q3 and FY 2012 Q4 is ready to be uploaded into the portal. At the moment, MELU is working with the TraiNet team to address some MELU questions and comments on the portal.

Management Information System Group (MISG) conducted training on the grants database. During the training minor changes were requested and duplications were noticed. MISG Manager will conduct a meeting with GSU to discuss the changes required and the duplications that need to be fixed.

MISG is working on the web-based database. The first versions of CBGU, SAPU, and RDU databases are the priority for development of the web-based database.

CBGU: Capacity Building and Gender (CBGU) finalized “Stability Analysis and Planning” ToT post-training evaluation report and shared it with SIKA-East Management.

HR: During the week, HR filled seven positions for AECOM and one for Ti.

Security: Security Unit conducted a threat and security assessment of a guest house for Ghazni. The unit also conducted security orientation for four new staff members.

FIELD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Ghazni:

- The Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager held his regular weekly coordination meeting with the PRRD Director, updating him on SIKA-East achievements and plans and coordinating the expected program rollout in Deh Yak District.
- The PMU grants procurement officer is working on a list of commercial vendors to be used as a reference document for the grants procurement process.

Logar:

- On December 10, the PMU Manager had his regular coordination meeting with the Logar PRRD Director. Topics discussed included improving office securities systems, improving communications among the partners and government offices, and related issues.
- SIKA-East's Mohammad Agha district office was established inside the district governor office compound.

Paktya:

- The Paktya PMU manager had an exploratory visit on December 6 with the head of Paktya Ghag Radio to see if SIKA-East might be able to use their resource to advertise for procurement services on SIKA-related projects.
- The PMU Manager also visited UN Habitat, MDC, IOM, GPFA, and UNHCR in order to gather information and update the Service Provider Catalogue (SPC).

Wardak:

- Chak District Support Unit (DSU) held a meeting with Siab hawza tribal elders to introduce SIKA-East to them. The unit also facilitated the process of CDC and DDA members' selections in the mentioned district.
- The Wardak provincial engineer and Saydabad district engineer delivered the first five sets of proposed infrastructure project documents from Saydabad hawzas to the Kabul design engineers for review, comments, and modification.

KEY ACTIVITIES PROJECTION FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue facilitating the second part (i.e., DPP formulation session) of the Stability Planning Process for DEs and influential leaders from Nerkh;
- Start the Stability Planning Process for DEs and influential leaders from Mohammad Agha;
- Follow up on Baraki Barak DPP with PRRD on feedback of provincial departments;
- Finalize and distribute the monthly media analysis for November;
- Conduct advocacy training for the male DDA+ members of Saydabad;
- Deliver the Construction Project Feasibility modules as part of "Project Concept Development" training program in Nerkh within "Stability Planning Process";
- Present and discuss revisions of the first four proposed Saydabad infrastructure projects with the applicable CDC representatives for review, approval, and submittal in future grant applications;
- Continue project design and development efforts of other Saydabad CDC PMC's proposed projects;
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement workshop;
- Finalize the justification letter for RSI for the mid-term review of SIKA-East program;
- Follow up with focus group implementer regarding district reports;

- Receive and distribute winter uniforms for APPF guards; and
- Update security risk assessments for Muhammad Agha, Pul-e-Alam, and Ghazni;
- HR Department will continue recruitment of 49 staff:
 - Thirty vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Five vacancies in process with OSC;
 - Thirteen vacancies in process with IRD; and
 - One vacancy with Ti.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

Ghazni:

- Prepare the list of invitees for provincial launch;
- Prepare list of participants for “Strengthening the Governance Foundation” workshop;
- Prepare list of female participants for “Women Governance and Stability Planning Process” and “Women’s Advocacy” trainings;
- Prepare list of male participants for Deh Yak “Stability Planning Process” workshop; and
- Conduct the regular coordination meeting with Ghazni PRRD director.

Logar:

- Share Baraki Barak DPP with service providers;
- Update SPC; and
- Participate in PRRD coordination meeting.

Paktya:

- Participate in coordination meeting with PRRD and involved stakeholders; and
- Conduct meetings with different service providers to update the SPC.

Wardak:

- Conduct “Project Concept Development,” “District Project Portfolio,” “Project Advocacy and Infrastructure Project Planning” training for Nerkh district DDAs and CDCs; and
- Conduct PMU coordination meeting with PRRD.