

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE**NO. 53****MAJOR EVENTS**

The various trainings held during the week are listed below:

No.	Training /Workshop	Province	District	Date	No. of Participants
1	Stakeholders Engagement ToT	Kabul	Kabul	December 17-20	22
2	Advocacy	Wardak	Saydabad	December 16-17	20
3	Advocacy	Wardak	Nerkh	December 19-20	39
4	Stability Planning Process	Wardak	Nerkh	December 08-18	32

“Stakeholder Engagement” Training of Trainers

SIKA-East develops staff and government partner awareness and practical skills to construct a robust platform for district stabilization efforts, strengthening ability to reach out to and build relationships with and between a broad spectrum of actors holding a stake in stability.

During the week, staff and PRRD social organizers from Deh Yak District in Ghazni Province and Zadran District in Paktya Province participated in a four-day session in Kabul covering situational awareness and stakeholder mapping. They also jointly agreed on a survey methodology and practical steps to engage key stakeholder groups in stabilization activities.

“District Stability Planning Process” Training

SIKA-East and government partners guide district entities (DEs) and influential leaders through the stabilization planning process, from analyzing instability and resiliencies to assessing available resources and drafting a District Project Portfolio (DPP) mapping the path from issue to action through projects.

During the week, DEs and influential leaders from Nerkh District gathered in Maidan Shahr to complete the second part of the workshop, “Resource Dialogue and Communication.” The event resulted in the development and endorsement of the DPP, identification of potential grantees for Cycle I priority projects, and provisional identification of project management committee members. In addition, copies of the Service Providers Catalogue for Wardak were distributed and were well received by the participants.



Group meetings during the Nerkh “Resourcing Dialogue and Communication” workshop

In Mohammad Agha District in Logar Province, the District Stability Planning Process was launched, with participants including members of district development assembly (DDA), district community council (DCC), community development councils (CDC), and other influential elders. 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 and solutions for diminishing them. The session resulted in a draft of the first section of the DPP.

“Advocacy” Training

On December 16 and 17, SIKA-East conducted a two-day “Advocacy” training for DDA+ members from Saydabad District. The same training was conducted in Nerkh District on December 19 and 20. The number of participants in each district was 20 and 39, respectively.

Preparation for “Resource Coordination Meeting”

SIKA-East is planning to organize a coordination meeting among service providers and DEs of Maidan Shahr. The purpose of this meeting is to improve coordination and working relationships among the service providers and give them an opportunity to share information about their activities and challenges. It is also designed to help them avoid duplicated effort and wasted resources, while strengthening their partnerships and working relationships with district and provincial entities.

PRINCIPAL UNIT ACTIVITIES

SAPU: Stability Analysis and Planning Unit received and started reviewing the DPP developed by DEs and influential leaders of Nerkh District. Following review, the DPP will be sent to Translation.

RDU: Resource Development Unit, with help from the deputy PMU head and DSU manager, is following up on the Baraki Barak DPP to establish ways for further implementation. The unit also updated the Wardak Service Providers Catalogue (SPC).

GSU: Grants and Subcontracts Unit is preparing packages for the Wardak Grant Review Committee (GRC) to evaluate the grant applications of Saydabad District. In addition, GSU is drafting the award packages, including milestone payment plans, for each draft grant application. Once the grant applications are finalized and submitted by the CDCs, GSU will be well poised for an expedited award process. Any grant awards of \$25,000 or above are subject to the new USAID vetting requirements, and this must be built into the overall expected timeframe.

Based on feedback from the district and provincial teams and with the aim to make the Grant Application template and process even more streamlined and understandable for applicants, GSU has introduced changes in the application template and training materials. The revised templates will be rolled out for the start of the grant processes in Nerkh and Mohammad Agha Districts. In addition, future applications in Saydabad and Baraki Barak will be completed utilizing the templates.

GSU’s procurement team conducted local market surveys to collect cost information for various goods and services comprised in the grant application draft Bills of Quantity (BoQ). This will expedite the award process for karez extension projects located in the Saydabad villages of Hamzakhel, Badikhel, and Zarakhel. In addition, the team conducted local market surveys to collect information about available vendors at the district and sub-district levels.

SDU: In cooperation with other program units, SDU’s CDG shaped and launched the first “Stakeholder Engagement” ToT. Along with the GSU, SDU’s CDG and ESG facilitated completion of the first group of Saydabad grant applications. During the week, the Wardak provincial engineer and Saydabad district engineer met with PMC representatives from four Saydabad *hawzas* to review and discuss suggested revisions to proposed infrastructure project technical documents. They also discussed and completed both the NSP and SIKA-East environmental assessment forms for the projects. All engineering-related technical documents for these first four Cycle I projects have now been completed and are with the CDCs for inclusion in grant application packages.

MELU: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Unit received the baseline database from MISTI in SPSS format for eight districts of SIKA-East. MELU is reviewing, analyzing, and designing graphs and charts for the districts’ data.

Rahman Safi Impact Consulting (RSI) completed the quantitative coding for Saydabad, Baraki Barak, Nerkh, and Mohammad Agha. MELU is reviewing the various documents for these four districts to provide necessary feedback. Data analysis for another five districts is continuing.

Operations: During the week, furniture and other equipment was shipped to guesthouses in Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chak, Saydabad, and Paktya. In addition, generators and external power cabling were installed in the Logar guesthouse and Mohammad Agha district office. Another generator was shipped to Zurmat in Paktya and awaits installation.

HR: This week, HR filled two positions for AECOM and two for International Relief and Development.

Security: Security Unit conducted security orientation for three newly hired staff. The unit also applied for registration books and license plates for three armored vehicles supplied by USAID.

FIELD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Ghazni:

- The acting PMU manager for Ghazni met with the PRRD director to discuss SIKa-East program implementation in Andar District. The director mentioned that the Andar NSP program is running well.
- The Ghazni grants procurement officer continued to collect information on commercial vendors and to enter it in the grant procurement database. Information on 200 vendors has recently been entered into the database.
- The Ghazni capacity building officer met with a PRRD engineer and discussed the “Women’s Governance” workshop in Deh Yak District. The PRRD Engineer suggested inviting representatives from the departments of Health, Education, and Women’s Affairs.

Logar:

- On December 16, the PMU manager had his regular coordination meeting with the Logar PRRD director. The main topic discussed was implementation of SIKa-East in Logar Province.

Paktya:

- Paktya PMU representatives met with the Department of Women’s Affairs director (DoWA) on December 17. During the meeting, the director provided information on her organization and its activities.
- On December 18, the Zadran team visited the Director of Baryalai Habibi Construction Company (BHCC), which is currently constructing the district headquarters of the Afghan National Police (ANP). The information provided by BHCC will be used as a reference and resource in future, linked with SIKa-East upcoming field activities.

Wardak :

- On December 16, the Wardak PMU manager met with PRRD and other stakeholders to discuss issues, including the SPP and DPP as well as CDC status and grantee eligibility.
- Saydabad grant team worked closely with CDCs and DDAs on a grant application for Khaar.

KEY ACTIVITIES PROJECTION FOR NEXT WEEK

- Start the Stability Planning Process (SPP) for the second group of *hawzas* of Mohammad Agha District with DEs and influential leaders;
- Continue the second part of the DPP formulation session of the SPP;
- Launch Deh Yak provincial office;

- Conduct a “Strengthening the Governance Foundation” workshop jointly with PRRD for DEs and influential people of Deh Yak District;
- Follow up on Service Providers Coordination Meeting arrangements in Maidan Shahr;
- Conduct “Women’s Advocacy” training for women of Saydabad who participated in the SPP;
- Develop ESG departmental training for field engineers to support CDC project development and design, as well as the grant application process;
- Deliver Infrastructure Project Planning (IPP) technical training to the Nerkh District PMC;
- Continue project design and development support for proposed projects in Saydabad;
- Hold an internal training for team members in Wardak and Logar with the purpose of introducing the streamlined grant application templates;
- Continue proofreading grant manuals and documents translated from English to Pashtu;
- Prepare all necessary documents for the upcoming GRC meeting, which will take place after final grant applications and supporting documents are received;
- Finalize the justification letter for RSI for the mid-term review of SIKA-East;
- Continue to follow up with the focus group implementer regarding district reports;
- Upload data into the TraiNet portal;
- Create main findings of both focus groups and poll by district;
- Finalize the grants reports, including the customized reports from GSU, and officially hand over the database to the GSU team;
- Continue training for Afghanistan Public Protection Force guards;
- Continue supporting the program with generators, furniture, VSATs, and other equipment for guesthouses and offices in Wardak, Ghazni, and Paktya;
- HR Department will continue recruitment of 64 staff:
 - Twenty-eight vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Four vacancies in process with OSC;
 - Thirty-one vacancies in process with IRD; and
 - One vacancy with Ti.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

Ghazni:

- Prepare for provincial launch;
- Develop list of “Strengthening the Governance Foundation” workshop participants;
- Finalize list of participants for “Women’s Governance” and “Women’s Advocacy” trainings;
- Conduct the regular coordination meeting with Ghazni PRRD director; and
- Conduct meetings with the Ghazni culture and information director in order to collect information about media for COU’s provincial profile.

Logar:

- Share Baraki Barak DPP with service providers; and
- Update SPC.

Paktya:

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

Wardak:

- Meet with CDC, DDA, and NGOs of Chak District;
- Update list of program stakeholders; and
- Conduct PMU coordination meeting with PRRD.