

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 56

This edition of the SIKa-East weekly report has been reformatted to respond to USAID’s request to present activities on a geographic basis. Comments and other feedback on the formatting changes and any other elements of the report are welcome so that it may continue to improve and better serve the needs of both USAID and the SIKa-East program.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Training of Trainers on Stakeholders Engagement:** From January 6 to 10, SIKa-East conducted a Stakeholder Engagement Training of Trainers (ToT) for field staff and PRRD Social Organizers from Zurmat, Andar, and Chak Districts in Paktya, Ghazni, and Wardak Provinces, respectively. A total of 23 trainees participated. This ToT will help prepare the joint SIKa-East and PRRD teams to conduct the stakeholder survey and orientation with influential people of their district.
- **Training of Trainers on Project Design and Development/ Grant Process:** SIKa-East conducted the Project Design and Development | Grant Process ToT for 13 field staff and PRRD Social Organizers from Mohammad Agha from January 6 to 10. During the training participants learnt about different types of grants and how to assist communities and district entities to fill out grant applications.
- **All Trainings:** All trainings held during the week, projectwide, are listed below:

No.	Training /Workshop	Province	District	Type	Date	No. of Participants
1	Project Design and Development Grant Process	Kabul	Kabul	ToT	Jan 6-10	13
2	Stakeholder Engagement	Paktya, Ghazni, Wardak	Zurmat, Andar, Chak	ToT	January 6-10	23
3	Project Design and Development Grant Process (female)	Wardak	Nerkh	Training	January 6-10	27
4	Stakeholder Orientation/ Governance (female)	Ghazni	Deh Yak	Training	January 6-8	25
5	Stakeholder Orientation/ Governance	Ghazni	Deh Yak	Training	January 9-10	42
6	Stability Planning Process (female)	Ghazni	Deh Yak	Training	January 9-10	20
7	Stability Planning Process	Ghazni	Deh Yak	Training	January 9-10	35

Other Significant Kabul-Based Activities:

- Communication and Outreach Unit finalized a Resiliencies and Grievances Questionnaire, an informal survey that aims to discern and evaluate the current key resiliencies and grievances and propose a constructive set of recommendations for changing a negative situation into a positive one.

- Grants and Sub-contracts Unit is reviewing translated general grants criteria. The unit is also reviewing advance drafts of translated grant applications from Saydabad District of Wardak Province in the new grant application format, as potential CDC grantees await PRRD certifications.
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Unit received the final data files for baseline values of the impact indicators from the MISTI polling survey in SPSS and ASCII formats, along with the code book. The unit also received the final focus group report. The report has been reviewed and the findings will be presented to SIKA-East management next week.
- Management Information Systems completed the design and development of a web-based integrated system for SIKA-East program units.
- This week, Human Resources filled two positions for AECOM, two for OCS, and one for Ti.
- Security Unit attended the district elders meeting in Maydan Shahr District of Wardak to discuss the general threat letter by an armed opposition group announcing that no one should be participating in NGO activities in Saydabad. District elders showed support for SIKA-East activities in Saydabad and assured the safety of the program throughout the district.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- **Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Training:** Between January 6 and 8, joint SIKA-East and Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Directorate (PRRD), in close coordination with the Directorate of Women Affairs (DoWA), invited 25 influential women of Deh Yak District to the provincial capital to attend “Stakeholder Orientation” and “Governance Foundation” training. The purpose of the training was to understand who are the local stakeholders and how the existing women’s associations are structured, while informing influential women in the district about SIKA-East and how it differs from other programs. This training is one of the early activities in the SIKA-East implementation that involves women and prepares them to meaningfully participate in the stabilization process.

The same training was conducted for male members of the District Development Assembly (DDA), District Community Council (DCC), Community Development Councils (CDCs), and other influential elders from Deh Yak District of Ghazni Province on January 9; it was attended by 42 individuals. The outcome of the session was to identify stakeholders and understand the structure of DDA, DCC, CDC, shuras, and other entities that are currently functioning in the district.



A SIKA-East stability program officer explains the objectives of the meeting to the 42 attendees from Deh Yak at the January 9th “Stakeholder Orientation.”

- **Training on “Stability Planning Process”:** The training in Ghazni was followed by the first part of the five-day Stability Planning Process workshop on January 9. Twenty women participated in this training, during which stability program officers and PRRD social organizers introduced the program, explained the Stability Analysis Methodology, and then assisted the participants in identifying local resiliencies and community strengths, as well as the key sources of instability and concrete ways to address them. This session will result in the development of a draft District Project Portfolio (DPP) from female perspective, which will be incorporated into a consolidated district-level DPP.

- The Ghazni Program Management Unit Manager met with the PRRD Director to update him on SIKA-East implementation and to coordinate planned activities.

LOGAR

- As mentioned above, 13 Mohammad Agha field staff and PRRD Social Organizers attended a ToT in Kabul from January 6 to 10 on “Project Design and Development | Grant Process.”
- The Logar PMU Manager participated in a PRRD meeting on January 7. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the PRRD Director on SIKA-East activities and plans in Logar Province. The SIKA-East manager also met with Baraki Barak DDAs to discuss and coordinate the Service Providers Coordination meeting that is planned for Baraki Barak on January 10.



Stability Planning Process training for women in Deh Yak

PAKTYA

- On January 6, the Zadrán District Support Unit participated in a coordination meeting with the PRRD representative and Conflict Resolution Committee. The participants focused on proper collaboration and coordination with the SIKA-East team in Zadrán District.
- On January 7, the PMU Manager held his regular weekly coordination meeting with the PRRD Director to coordinate the expected program rollout in Zadrán and Zurmat Districts. He also updated the PRRD Director on SIKA-East achievements to date.

WARDAK

- **Service Providers Coordination Meeting:** On January 9, SIKA-East, working closely with the Wardak PRRD, conducted a Service Providers Coordination Meeting in Maydan Shahr. The purpose of this meeting was to improve coordination and working relationships among the service providers and provide them an opportunity to share information about their activities and challenges. Approximately 80 people participated in the meeting, which included governmental and non-governmental service providers, high ranking officials of the province, and male and female members of the DDA and CDCs from Saydabad, Chak, and Nerkh. Speakers at the meeting described existing resources that are available for implementation of DPP projects, and also showed the participants how to find them in the Service Providers Catalogue that was distributed at the meeting.



Service Providers Coordination Meeting in progress

- The design documents for the Hakim Khar karez extension and rehabilitation project were reviewed by Kabul-based SIKA-East engineers and forwarded to provincial district staff for Project Management Committee review and approval.
- On January 6, the Wardak PMU Manager participated in a coordination meeting with the PRRD Director and other stakeholders. Also, the Saydabad grants team met with the PRRD Director and

discussed the preparation of an endorsement and support letter for Saydabad District projects. The Director sought to have CDCs use existing NSP bank accounts for the transfer of project funds.

- On January 8, an advisory meeting was conducted in Maydan Wardak with CDC and DDA members. The SIKA-East Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP) provided information regarding SIKA-East implementation and asked participants to track and monitor the project.



Meeting in Progress, Dr Mojeeb Stanikzai, SIKA-East DCOP, talking to DDAs and CDCs

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue the Stability Planning process with Influential women of Deh Yak;
- Start Stability Planning Process for members of DDA, DCC, CDC, and influential people of Deh Yak;
- Conduct Advocacy Training ToT for some districts;
- Follow up on Saydabad and Baraki Barak DPPs with regard to non-SIKA-East resources;
- Draft initial Logar and Paktya provincial profiles,
- Conduct semi-structured, informal survey of resiliencies and grievances;
- Provide project design and development support for Saydabad Project Management Committees;
- Prepare a presentation on findings of the baseline survey;
- Conduct a presentation on designed web-based databases for units;
- Review training modules;
- Facilitate Stability Planning Process training for women in Ghazni;
- Collect data for AfghanInfo and TraiNet to prepare QI FY 2013;
- Finalize the standard operating procedure for travel policy;
- Continue training for SIKA-East Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) guards;
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 66 staff:
 - Thirty-two vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Two vacancies in process with OSC;
 - Thirty vacancies in process with IRD; and
 - Two vacancies in process with Ti.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Complete the Deh Yak “Stakeholder Orientation” and “Governance Foundation” training for males;
- Complete the Deh Yak “Stability Planning Process” training for women;
- Participate in the regular coordination meeting with the Ghazni PRRD Director.

LOGAR

- Conduct a coordination meeting with Baraki Barak community elders;
- Participate in the regular PRRD coordination meeting;
- Update the Service Providers Catalogue.

PAKTYA

- Participate in the regular coordination meeting with PRRD and involved stakeholders;
- Conduct meetings with different service providers to update the Service Providers Catalogue; and
- Meet with district authorities and local representatives to discuss the stakeholder identification survey.

WARDAK

- Work on grants applications for Sayedabad district; and
- Participate in the regular coordination meeting with the PRRD Director.