

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 57

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Training of Trainers on Resource Dialogue and Advocacy:** On January 14 and 15, Communication and Outreach Unit conducted a two-day Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training of Trainers (ToT) for ten field staff and Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Directorate (PRRD) social organizers of Deh Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nerkh, and Zadran Districts. The purpose of this ToT was to update the agenda based on greater integration with Resource Development Unit and lessons learned from the trainings conducted during previous months. Prior to the ToT, Ghazni, Maydan Wardak, and Logar provincial communications officers were invited to Kabul with the purpose of reviewing the current advocacy curriculum in close cooperation and coordination with Resource Development Unit to adapt the advocacy training to include more integration with them.
- All Trainings:** All trainings held during the week, project-wide, are listed below:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Description	Men	Women
January 09-15	Stability Planning Process	Deh Yak		This session was conducted to develop the capacity of local women to effectively advocate for their priorities articulated in the DPP.	0	20
January 13-17	Project Design and Development / Grant Process	Mohammad Agha	Training	The goal of this training was to help implementing partners and grantees in filling in grant applications.	0	20
January 13-17	Project Design and Development / Grant Process	Nerkh	Training	Same as above	32	0
January 13-14	Resource Dialogue and Communication	Deh Yak	Training	Participants learned about active service providers and available resources in their district and province and how to address sources of instability through available resources.	0	23
January 14-15	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Kabul	ToT	The training was to update the agenda based on greater integration of Resource Development Unit.	10	0
January 14-23	Stability Planning Process	Deh Yak	Training	This training was conducted to help DDA, DCC, CDCs, and other influential elders of the district identify sources of instability, as well as local resiliencies and strengths.	To be reported next week	
January 16-17	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Deh Yak	Training	The participants used the DPPs to guide them in identifying specific advocacy projects that would directly address sources of instability identified the previous week.	0	20
January 16-17	Infrastructure Project Planning	Mohammad Agha	Training	This taught DDA+ members how to plan infrastructure projects.	45	0

Other Significant Kabul-Based Activities:

- Stability Analysis and Planning Unit drafted the overall activity schedule for Batch C and Batch D districts. The schedule will serve as a useful management tool for SIKA-East and PRRD and Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) partners and enable them to plan their resources effectively in the coming months.
- The unit also reviewed the District Project Portfolios (DPPs) of Nerkh and Mohammad Agha Districts. The original DPPs will be submitted to PRRD via their respective District Development Assemblies, while SIKA-East plans to submit the English versions for USAID approval in the coming week.
- In preparation for the upcoming Service Providers Fair in Logar Province, Resource Development Unit conducted a meeting with vendors to give them information on the fair and to discuss logistical requirements for it.
- The second version of the Paktya Service Providers Catalogue was finalized and translated. It will be printed and used for future SIKA-East events.
- Communication and Outreach Unit enriched the initial narrative for the Wardak provincial profile and collected data for Logar and Paktya profiles. The unit also prepared a timeline and memo on themes for radio plays to organize the various tasks with due dates according to the proposal and Request for Proposal (RFP). Additionally, the unit finalized the resiliencies and grievances questionnaire and circulated it through its field staff to get the views and opinions of 12 opinion leaders in each province.
- Service Delivery Unit conducted an initial staff meeting for preparation of an informal stakeholder engagement survey in Chak District. Per the stakeholder engagement strategy, they will invite representatives from PRRD and the district governor, along with officials from the District Development Assembly (DDA) and District Community Council (DCC), to plan the stakeholder survey, including identifying key actors in the district who will be asked to participate. Around 40 people will be surveyed from different categories, such as mullahs, scholars, former commanders, tribal elders, professionals, and governmental officials.
- Service Delivery Unit has four grant applications from Saydabad District that are ready for submission and are only awaiting a Community Development Council (CDC) approval letter from PRRD. Six grant applications are near completion, with completed project design packages and draft narratives. The combined estimated budget for the ten packages is \$273,640.
- Grants and Subcontracts Unit continued collecting the missing documents for the Saydabad District grant applications that have become a bottleneck. During the week, the unit received governmental support letters signed and stamped by the DRRD line department, along with other supporting documents for Saydabad District. So far, eight CDCs' applications have been completed and lack only endorsement letters from PRRD.
- Rahman Safi Impact Consulting (RSI) submitted all nine SIKA-East district reports, including the final report and deliverables. The reports were reviewed, and RSI presented the methodology and major findings to senior management on January 13.
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Unit made first drafts of maps for SIKA-East districts and the activities implemented there so far. Working with MISTI, the unit will incorporate new layers for roads, rivers, and boundaries, and proposes to share the maps with other program units next week.
- Management Information Systems started the design and development of a web-based database and its user interface for Grants and Sub-contracts Unit. The presentation and training session for the Capacity Building and Gender Unit took place on January 15.

- This week, Human Resources filled two positions for AECOM, two for OCS, and one for Ti.
- Security Unit conducted security orientation for four new staff members. The unit also created a database to track incidents in the provinces and districts where SIKA-East operates. This will allow Security to identify the frequency of incidents in those areas during the past year, identify risky areas, and better predict the risk to project personnel in the future.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- **Trainings:** From January 12 to 15, a joint SIKA-East and PRRD team, with support from the Directorate of Women's Affairs (DoWA), completed the remaining sessions of the Stability Planning Process training for 20 women from Deh Yak District in Ghazni Province. During this session, the SIKA-East team with PRRD social organizers discussed the specifics of the proposed stability projects, including the location, beneficiaries, estimated budget, and community contribution. The session was followed by a comprehensive two-day Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training. The latter is specifically designed to develop the capacity of local women to effectively communicate and advocate for their priorities articulated in the DPP. In addition, the participants were able to learn about available resources provided by government and non-government entities in Ghazni and how to access funds to support their projects.

Afterwards, SIKA-East and PRRD, working with the district governor, began the same training for members of the DDA, DCC, CDCs, and other influential elders from Deh Yak District of Ghazni Province. During this session, 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, and assisted the participants in identifying local resiliencies and community strengths, as well as the key sources of instability and solutions for diminishing them.

- The Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager conducted his regular coordination meeting with the PRRD director to update him on completed and planned SIKA-East trainings in Ghazni Province. Another meeting was conducted with the Deh Yak district governor with the same purpose.

LOGAR

- **Trainings:** From January 13 to 17, SIKA-East conducted Project Design and Development / Grant Process Training for 20 women from Mohammad Agha District. The training aimed to help implementing partners and grantees fill in grant applications.

On January 16 and 17, Infrastructure Project Planning training started for 54 men belonging to DDA, DCC, and CDCs in Mohammad Agha. The participants discussed project feasibility, field measurements, plans and specifications, estimating of bills of quantity, and environmental compliance. This training enables trainees to select their projects according to certain criteria and help SIKA-East with on-time documentation and implementation of the project.

PAKTYA

- On January 9, Paktya PMU staff met with PRRD and district representatives, DDA members, and other influential people to discuss the district stakeholders survey. Participants were requested to

identify well-known and influential individuals who could help SIKA-East by filling in the questionnaire linked with upcoming assessments of the program.

- During the reporting period, the deputy PMU manager conducted an extensive revision of the existing Service Providers Catalogue. The revised document has been finalized and sent for translation and printing.

WARDAK

- **Training:** From January 13 to 17, SIKA-East conducted Project Design and Development / Grant Process Training for 32 men from Nerkh District. The training aimed to help implementing partners and grantees to fill in grant applications.
- On January 13, Wardak PMU staff participated in a coordination meeting with PRRD and its key stakeholders. SIKA-East's representative updated the participants on program progress and plans.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct the SIKA-East induction for newly hired staff;
- Continue finalizing Mohammad Agha and Nerkh DPPs;
- Continue data collection to enrich Wardak, Logar, and Paktya provincial narrative profiles;
- Conduct semi-structured/informal survey of resiliencies and grievances;
- Conduct hawza-level baseline strategic communication surveys;
- Conduct Advocacy training for Nerkh men;
- Launch stakeholder engagement survey in Chak and Zurmat Districts;
- Conduct Project Design and Development and Grant Process Training for men from Mohammad Agha and Nerkh Districts;
- Continue market survey to develop lists of vendors and media organizations, as well as cost/price information on sub-district, district, and provincial levels;
- Conduct security risk assessments of Mohammad Agha and Chak District Support Unit offices;
- Follow up on finalizing the licensing of the eight USAID-supplied armored vehicles;
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 66 staff:
 - Thirty-one vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Three 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

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the Ghazni PRRD director and Deh Yak district governor;
- Complete Resourcing Dialogue and Advocacy sessions for women from Deh Yak District; and
- Complete Stability Planning Process, including Resourcing Dialogue and Advocacy, sessions for men from Deh Yak.

LOGAR

- Collect information for the Baraki Barak DDA and CDC profile;
- Participate in the regular PRRD coordination meeting; and
- Update the Service Providers Catalogue.

PAKTYA

- Participate in the regular coordination meeting with PRRD and involved stakeholders; and
- Conduct meeting with district authorities plus community representatives to discuss a stakeholder identification mechanism.

WARDAK

- Fill out grants applications for certain projects in Saydabad district;
- Participate in the regular coordination meeting with the PRRD Director; and
- Continue Grant Process and Project Design training for Nerkh District.