

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 60

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- The Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) head conducted his regular weekly coordination meeting with the PRRD director and coordinated Dih Yak training plans with him.

Dih Yak

- On February 3 and 4, a training in Infrastructure Project Planning was conducted for 25 influential men from the district, including members of the District Development Assembly (DDA) and Community Development Councils (CDC).
- Twenty-six Dih Yak women attended a training in Project Design and Development between February 5 and 7.



Training session in Project Design and Development for Dih Yak women

KHOST

- In Khost, a SIKA-East team met with the deputy governor, PRRD director, sector and technical directors, and NSP representatives, and briefed them on SIKA's stabilization aims and approach, implementation process, and district selection standards. Following these discussions, the deputy governor developed a short list of five districts closely aligned with the criteria that SIKA-East could expand into.

LOGAR

- The Service Providers Catalogue for Logar Province was updated to include more than ten new service providers registered with the Economy Directorate. The updated catalogue will be printed in the form of a booklet to be distributed among service providers at the Service Providers Fair to be held in Pul-e-Alam next month.
- The Logar Provincial Management Unit and District Support Unit engineering team prepared a revised proposal for the Moghel Khel retaining wall project; produced drawings, bill of quantities, and a work plan for the Badadur Khell karez project; and conducted surveys for several karez repair and reservoir construction projects.
- The Logar grant staff processed nine grant application forms for different hawzas.

Mohammad Agha

- On February 4 and 5, SIKA-East trainers conducted Advocacy training for 54 men from the DDA and DDA+, using the District Project Portfolios to guide them in identifying specific advocacy projects aimed at addressing the sources of instability they had identified the week before.
- The Mohammad Agha District Support Unit updated the Service Providers Catalogue at the district level. The updated catalogue was shared with service providers and stakeholders.
- The unit continued to work with CDC representatives to develop grant applications and collect required supporting documents. Twenty-nine applications are under development.

PAKTYA

- On February 7, SIKA-East conducted a program rollout for Zadran and Zurmat Districts. The rollout was officially launched in Gardiz in the presence of prominent government officials, DCC/CDC members, and other influential people from the area. The SIKA-East team met beforehand with DRRD social organizers to coordinate the event.

Zadran

- On February 4, a SIKA-East team visited different parts of the district to conduct a stakeholder survey. The team met 39 people and obtained the required information. The survey will continue next week.

Zurmat

- On February 3, Zurmat staff had an initial meeting with the acting district governor and other influential people at the *hawza* level in order to recruit 40 people to conduct a survey to identify stakeholders in the district. The survey began later in the week.



Meeting with Zurmat DG and influential people

WARDAK

- On January 3, the head of SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit participated in a PRRD coordination meeting and updated the director on program progress and discussed various issues, including the SIKA-East launch in Chak on February 7.

Chak

- On February 7, a launch meeting was held in Maydan Shahr to roll out SIKA-East in Chak District. During this meeting the SIKA-East team and PRRD director introduced the program to government officials, as well as members of the DDA, CDCs, District Community Council, and other influential people from the district.
- During the week, the District Support Unit completed a survey for stakeholder selection. They also distributed invitation letters to sector directorates for the Chak launch meeting.

Nirkh

- On February 6, the Nirkh District Support Unit met with the Nirkh executive director to discuss progress on a road projects survey, conducted by a SIKA-East engineering team, that was performed in Dadal and Kanizat Villages. The team also discussed endorsement and support letters. As a result, the executive director was updated on program progress and promised to support SIKA-East implementation in the district.
- The Nirkh DDA+ reviewed respective Cycle 1 project lists to refine priorities at the district level (rather than within each *hawza*), clarifying the desired order for projects to enter the engineering design pipeline.
- The team continued to work with CDC representatives on grant application development and collection of required supporting documents. Thirty-six applications, for six female and thirty male projects, are under development.

Saydabad

- Further processing of eight grant applications from Saydabad has been delayed due to the lack of PRRD endorsement of CDC officials. This is also causing a holdup in the required USAID vetting process. With the recent confirmation of CDC validity by Siam Abedi, MRRD Senior Program Officer, SIKA-East will proceed with the grant award process, including holding Grant Review Committees, obtaining USAID COR approval to award, USAID vetting (when required), and actual grant award. In cases where one or more CDC officers are not available to administer the grant award, the CDC must appoint other CDC current members (potentially requiring additional vetting). In this case, SIKA-East will ask for an endorsement memo from the PRRD to facilitate necessary changes in the CDC bank account signatories and other official duties normally carried out by a CDC officer.
- During the week, the Saydabad grants team worked on grant application forms for the Sisay CDC. They collected some missing documents and revised endorsement letters and grant applications according to SIKA-East's grants policy. Eight applications were recently submitted, and seven more are under way.
- Saydabad District Support Unit engineers surveyed projects for Shikh Azam, Arabkhel, and Zarsanga, and completed drawings and bills of quantities for them.
- The Saydabad DDA+ reviewed Cycle 1 project lists to refine priorities at the district level, clarifying the desired order for projects to enter the engineering design pipeline.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- During the week, five trainings, including one ToT, were held. The trainings were as follows:

Date	Title	Location	Description
February 3-4	Infrastructure Project Planning	Dih Yak	This was a session conducted for male members of the community
February 3-5	Advocacy ToT	Kabul	This training was conducted for seven Communication and Outreach provincial staff to prepare them to conduct training in an adult learning environment and familiarize them with the advocacy curriculum.
February 4-5	Advocacy	Mohammad Agha	This training was held for DDA and DDA+ members of Mohammad Agha.
February 5-7	Project Design and Development	Dih Yak	This session was conducted for female members of the community.
February 7-11	Grant Process	Dih Yak	Conducted for 15 female community members.

- SIKA-East worked to finalize the District Project Portfolio from Mohammad Agha District in Logar Province and Nerkh District in Wardak Province. These portfolios will be submitted to Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Directorates (PRRDs) and district governors by members of DDAs, CDCs, and other influential people /stakeholders in the community so they can better advocate for their district priorities.
- SIKA-East field staff were tasked to finalize the coordination of Cycle 1 proposed projects with service providers, using the Service Providers Catalogue as a tracking tool. This activity will identify resources provided by service providers that can be dedicated to SIKA-East stabilization projects.
- Following a review by the SIKA-East Gender Specialist, the relevant documents for Resources Dialogue training were revised to take into account gender sensitivity so that facilitators can focus on gender-related issues while delivering their trainings.

- SIKA-East held a DDA+ Communications Planning meeting in Kabul to talk about developing district-centered communication plans.
- Three stakeholder rosters – for Zadran, Zurmat, and Chak Districts – were developed through extensive local consultations, identifying a broad array of participants for stabilization activities. In each district, a group of government authorities, local leaders, and SIKA-East district teams collaborated on planning, interviewing, analyzing, and finalizing the selection of stakeholders. In Baraki Barak, PRRD and other government representatives, senior influential leaders, and SIKA-East reviewed and supplemented the original roster of stakeholders to expand representation, voice, and participation.
- Saydabad, Nirkh, and Mohammad Agha Cycle 1 project lists were standardized, aligning each entry with MRRD's NSP codes for CDCs and project sectors, cleaning data, and providing a consistent platform for tracking services needed and progress. A list of Dih Yak Cycle 1 projects is now being prepared.
- The Stability Planning Process ToT was strengthened to ensure district priorities were adequately noted, CDCs and village locations were clearly identified and correlated, and projects were aligned with technical sectors. In addition, the workshop's existing project screening process will be enhanced to help participants flag projects on the District Development Plan and Community Development Plans.
- Grants and Sub-contracts Unit conducted a short training on grant applications for a SIKA-East translating team to help them better understand grant terminology and improve the quality of the application translation.
- CDC members from Mohammad Agha District requested the replacement of the Cycle 1 prioritized projects. This issue has been communicated to the relevant departments for further discussion and development of recommended solutions.
- This week, Human Resources filled three positions, one each for AECOM, OSC, and IRD.
- Security Unit conducted a Security Risk Assessment of the Khost PRRD compound and performed a vulnerability assessment of the PRRD space proposed for the SIKA-East office. The program will soon roll out to Khost province, and the risk assessment was conducted to ensure the safety of the SIKA-East office mobilization in the provincial center.
- Security conducted orientation training for the Security and Operations Officer of Saydabad District. The orientation covered Security SOPs, office procedures, and travel management.
- Security was in the last stage of registering the USAID-supplied armored vehicles when the Traffic Police headquarters was targeted by suicide bombers, which has further delayed the registration process.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD director;
- Conduct Grant Process session for Dih Yak females; and
- Conduct Grant Review Committee ToT.

LOGAR

- Participate in regular PRRD weekly meeting.

PAKTYA

- Conduct coordination meeting with PRRD and other stakeholders; and
- Conduct Stakeholder Engagement Training of Trainers (ToT) for Zadran women.

WARDAK

- Conduct coordination meetings with PRRD stakeholders and district governors;
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation training for Chak women; and
- Conduct coordination meeting with district governor and DRRD.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue ToT on Project Design and Development / Grant Process for field staff from Andar and Zurmat;
- Train Dih Yak women on Project Design and Development / Grant Process;
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation / Strengthening the Governance Foundation training for women from Zadran and Chak;
- Finalize Cycle 1 projects of the Nirkh and Saydabad District Project Portfolios from the perspective of existing resources;
- Complete the evaluation of the Wardak Service Provider Fair and communication with service providers who participated in the fair;
- Print Service Providers Catalogue for Paktya and Ghazni;
- Conduct two one-day fundraising trainings, one for men from the Saydabad DDA+ and one for the women.
- Conduct Saydabad DDA+ Communication and Outreach team meeting;
- Conduct engineering survey for five projects of Mohammad Agha District and one project of Nirkh;
- Design four projects of the Saydabad District Project Portfolio;
- Finalize the formatting of the Cycle1 projects list for Dih Yak;
- Conduct Security Risk Assessments of Khwaja Umari District in Ghazni Province and Khoshi in Logar ; and
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 108 staff:
 - Sixty vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Seven vacancies in process with OSC;
 - Thirty-eight vacancies in process with IRD; and
 - Three vacancies in process with Ti.