

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 61

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- The Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager and acting Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) director discussed SIKA-East achievements and current and planned activities, along with coordination of the program rollout in Andar District. The acting director expressed PRRD's support for the program in all target districts.
- The PMU manager, provincial governor, director of administration and finance, and executive director met to discuss Andar District launch activities. In addition, the PMU manager and Andar district governor reviewed and agreed on launch meeting participants and coordinated other aspects of the event in conjunction with the Andar District Development Assembly (DDA).



Meeting with Andar district governor

Dih Yak

- From February 7 to 11, Grant Process training was held for 17 women from various district entities in Dih Yak District. During the training nine grant applications were filled out.
- Project Design and Development training was conducted from February 12 to 17 for 23 men from the Dih Yak DDA+.
- The Ghazni PMU held coordination meetings with notable people from Dih Yak to find out about concerns they might have concerning implementing and advocating for the projects in their District Project Portfolio (DPP).
- The Dih Yak Cycle 1 project list developed and prioritized by the DDA+ was put in a standardized format and aligned with MRRD's NSP codes for Community Development Councils (CDCs) and project sectors to aid DDA+ coordination and project management.

LOGAR

- The Logar PMU manager and PRRD director met to discuss the planned date and other arrangements for the upcoming Service Providers Fair. Together, they selected a venue for the event – namely, an enclosed garden for women which has ample space. The aim of this event is to bring all service providers together to present their types of services.
- The PMU began updating the Logar Service Providers Catalogue at district and provincial levels. During the week the unit was able to add more than 25 organizations to the catalogue.
- On February 12, a coordination meeting was held with the PRRD head, USAID Deputy Field Program Officer (DFPO), and NSP representative. SIKA-East's representative updated the participants on program progress.

Baraki Barak

- As part of Baraki Barak re-launch activities, PRRD and DDA representatives met with a SIKA-East team to review and analyze the existing stakeholder list with the intention of ensuring broad representation across *hawzas* and interest groups. In consultation with selected elders, around 30 new stakeholders were added, bringing the total number to 147, including 20 women. Shah Mazar *hawza* stakeholders were increased by 30 percent (to 31 representatives) and expressed a strong interest in participating in stabilization activities.

Mohammad Agha

- SIKA-East continued to assist potential grantees with project design and development. Two engineering design packages were completed and approved by potential grantees, with seven additional designs in progress.

Khoshi

- The SIKA-East manager for Logar introduced the governor of Khoshi District to a delegation from the Kabul office responsible for performing a security risk assessment of the proposed DSU office.

PAKTYA

- In Zadran and Zurmat, joint survey teams representing the DDA, PRRD, district governor's office, and SIKA-East interviewed 79 senior figures to obtain opinions on respected and influential stabilization actors. The recommendations were analyzed by representatives of PRRD, the district governor, and DDA along with SIKA-East, resulting in the nomination of 416 key stakeholders to participate in core stabilization activities.
- The district team, PRRD, the district governor's office, and the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) are preparing a similar stakeholder survey to identify influential women in the district, as no females were nominated during the first survey. On February 7, the Paktya capacity building officer met with a female community mobilizer from CARE International to discuss gender-related activities and identify women activists from DDAs and other district entities. The community mobilizer noted there were female CDC members, a promising source of activist women for stabilization efforts.
- On February 7, SIKA-East stabilization programming rolled out in Zadran and Zurmat Districts. This event was briefly reported on in the last SIKA-East weekly report, but more details are now available. Presided over by the deputy provincial governor, the rollout was officially launched in Gardiz with the participation of line directors, tribal and community leaders, donor representatives, and others, including over 100 DDA+ members. The SIKA-East manager for Paktya opened the meeting and gave a brief explanation of the program. He was followed by the PRRD director, who welcomed the participants and provided more information about SIKA-East. The head of the provincial council spoke next and thanked USAID for funding the program and for working in the relatively insecure districts of Zadran and Zurmat. He and other speakers urged



Haji Abdul Wali, governor of Zadran District, says a few words at the SIKA-East launch in Gardiz.

people in district communities to support the program and try to get the maximum benefit from it. Military commanders promised their support and pledged to ensure proper security for the people of Paktya Province. The deputy provincial governor had the final word, again thanking USAID for initiating stabilization programming and calling on the people of Zadran and Zurmat to support an initiative that will help them stabilize their communities.

- On February 11, PRRD and the Paktya deputy manager held their regular weekly coordination meeting. The director commented favorably on last week's launch in Gardiz and invited SIKA-East to an annual planning workshop to be held in Gardiz from February 13 to 15.
- The procurement officer met with the director of the Paktya Chambers of Commerce and Industries to collect information regarding vendors and suppliers existing in the province, obtaining a useful list for procuring material for projects.
- A Stakeholder Orientation as well as Governance Foundation workshop for Zadran women was planned for February 10 but will be rescheduled following the female stakeholder survey and outreach with organizations active in the area.

WARDAK

- On February 10, SIKA-East PMU staff, PRRD, and stakeholders discussed how to improve implementation of programs and coordination among all stakeholders. SIKA-East shared the latest version of the Chak District activity plan in Pashto.
- The Wardak PMU conducted interviews with individual CDC members in order to evaluate the impact of the Service Providers Fair (SPF) held in Maydan Wardak in November. The questionnaire was developed in Kabul and has two parts. One is focused on the opinions of participating CDC members interested in obtaining services, and the other one is focused on service providers who had booths and other display areas during the event. The post-impact evaluation will be completed early next week, and its results will be used as lessons learned for coming events.

Chak

- Representatives of PRRD, the district governor, and the DDA along with SIKA-East analyzed stakeholder survey recommendations of 35 influential leaders, resulting in the nomination of 30 women and 116 men to participate in core stabilization activities.

- As was briefly reported last week, a launch meeting was held in Maydan Shahr on Thursday, February 7, to roll out SIKA-East in Chak District. The meeting was attended by approximately 80 people from all over the district. They included government officials, members of the DDA, CDCs, District Community Council, and other influential people from Chak. The PRRD director spoke first, welcoming the participants and briefly introducing them to the SIKA-East program. Next, the SIKA-East team from Wardak and Kabul described the program in detail and answered questions from participants. The launch meeting concluded with a speech by a representative of the district governor, who asked district constituents to support stabilization programming and pledged his own support.



Eng. Jan Mohammad Hekmatjo, PRRD director for Wardak, explains SIKA-East at the Chak launch meeting.

- From February 10 to 12, 30 women from various organization in Chak District participated in the Stakeholder Orientation, followed by Governance Foundation training.

Nirkh

- The Nirkh District support unit manager and district executive manager met to discuss SIKA-East progress. For safety reasons, the executive manager advised SIKA-East to contact community elders and CDC members before conducting project design surveys in various *hawzas*. He also promised that he and the district governor would support program implementation in Nirkh.
- Potential grantees are working with SIKA-East to finalize engineering design packages for four projects in the district. Six applications are in the final stages of completion for non-infrastructure priority projects for women.

Saydabad

- The district governor and SIKA-East met to discuss progress on CDC grant applications. The district governor signed 40 project support letters of various CDCs.
- During the week, 12 DDA+ members as well as social organizers took part in a two-day training on fundraising. Among other things, the training focused on common methods of identifying donors and asking for fundraising at both district and provincial levels. Targeted towards assisting community members in implementing projects outside the scope of SIKA-East grants, the workshop paid special attention to DDA+ priority (Cycle 1) projects as examples. The same training was conducted separately for 20 women from DDA+.
- To date, in Saydabad 14 engineering design packages were completed and approved by potential grantees, with seven additional designs in progress.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- From February 9 to 13, field staff from Paktya and Ghazni attended a Project Design and Development / Grant Process ToT in Kabul; 19 men and one woman participated.
- During the week, seven trainings were held, as follows:

Date	Title	Location	Description
Feb 10-12	Stakeholder Orientation & Governance foundation	Chak / Maidan Shahr	This training session was conducted for women from the community.
Feb 12	Fundraising	Saidabad / Maidan Shahr	This training was conducted for 12 DDA+ men.
Feb 12	Fundraising	Saidabad / Maidan Shahr	Twenty women from the DDA+ attended this training.
Feb 12-17	Project Design and Development	Dih Yak	This session was held for 23 members of the Dih Yak DDA+.
Feb 7-11	Grant Process	Dih Yak / Ghazni	Seventeen women from Dih Yak district entities participated in this training.
Feb 9-13	Project Design and Development / Grant Process ToT	Kabul	This ToT was conducted for 19 field staff from Paktya and Ghazi.
Feb 13	Grant Review Committee ToT	Baraki Barak	A trainer from Kabul conducted this ToT in the Baraki Barak office.

- SIKA-East produced electronic Pashto versions of the DDPs for Batch B districts (Nirkh, Mohammad Agha, and Dih Yak), reviewed for clarity, and forwarded to DDA+s for cross-check

against the originals. After review and approval, DDA+s will submit to PRRDs and district governors for their respective endorsement. English versions of the DPPs will be submitted for USAID approval following their endorsement by PRRD and the district governor.

- SIKA-East developed a tool to help DDA+s coordinate DPP project implementation, lobby service providers, and access existing resources. It also flags initiatives that may need more DDA+ discussion to meet government standards.
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Unit participated in the quarterly Stabilization Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Summit on February 11. The following day, the unit hosted a SIKA M&E community-of-practice work session for all SIKAs to boost mutual coordination. A total of 30 people – 19 men and 11 women – participated and discussed the updates, challenges, and suggested recommendations for the effective implementation of the various SIKA programs.
- The SIKA-East results framework is pending and is causing a bottleneck, as many of the systems within the program depend on this results framework. The draft Stabilization Analysis and Planning Unit results framework was presented at the February 11 M&E summit and should be near finalization so that the final SIKA-East results framework can be drafted and enter the intensive approval process.
- Gender unit conducted a significant meeting with gender officers from Ghazni and Paktya about gender mainstreaming in SIKA-East activities in those provinces.
- Human Resources filled six positions this week for AECOM and one each for OSC and IRD.
- Security finalized the security risk assessment for the Khoshi DSU office and Khwaja Umari District. The unit also renewed the Embassy Air parking pass for two of the armored vehicles, which will permit the safe pick-up and drop-off of expat staff at Embassy Air.
- Security unit conducted a security orientation for four new staff members and briefed them on security situations and procedures.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD director;
- Conduct a SIKA-East launch meeting in Andar District;
- Conduct a Stakeholder Orientation, followed by Governance Foundation training, for women in Andar District; and
- Conduct Grant Process and Application Development training for men in Dih Yak.

LOGAR

- Continue program implementation in Baraki Barak District;
- Conduct Stability Planning Review session for Baraki Barak men and women;
- Conduct a communication strategy meeting in Baraki Barak;
- Follow up on plans for the Service Providers Fair; and
- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD director.

PAKTYA

- Conduct coordination meetings with PRRD and other stakeholders;
- Conduct a Stakeholder Orientation, followed by Governance Foundation workshop for men from Zadran and Zurmat Districts, and a separate similar training for women in Zurmat District; and
- Conduct a Stability Planning Process training for men from Zadran District, and another for women.

WARDAK

- Conduct coordination meetings with PRRD stakeholders and district governors;
- Conduct communication strategy meeting in Saydabad;
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation training for men in Chak District;
- Conduct separate Stability Planning Process trainings for men and women from Chak District;
- Conduct a project survey in Saydabad and Nirkh districts according to the engineering department plan; and
- Continue to fill grant applications for remaining projects in Saydabad District.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue preparations to launch the program in Andar District;
- Provide a work plan and timeline for vendors in order to provide logistics services for the Logar Service Providers Fair;
- Finalize Cycle 1 projects of the Nirkh, Saydabad, and Mohammad Agha DPPs from the perspective of existing resources;
- Finish evaluating the impact of the Wardak Service Providers Fair;
- Submit radio play scripts to field offices for PRRD and district governor approval in targeted districts;
- Continue infrastructure design efforts for 18 projects in Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, and Nirkh;
- Continue *TraiNet* data collection for FY Q1;
- Follow up on Khost PMU office establishment; and
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 98 staff:
 - Fifty-four vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Seven vacancies in process with OSC;
 - Thirty-four vacancies in process with IRD; and
 - Three vacancies in process with Ti.