

## SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 63

### SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### GHAZNI

- The PRRD Director and his staff met several times with the SIKA-East manager for Ghazni to share information on completed and planned workshops for men and women from Dih Yak and Andar Districts and to coordinate upcoming activities. Discussions included venue selection for upcoming Service Providers Fair, processing of grant applications, and stakeholders surveys.

#### Andar

- Between February 21 and 25, SIKA-East trainers conducted a three-day workshop on Stakeholder Orientation / Governance Foundation for members of the Andar DDA and CDCs and other influential men in the district. Out of 67 invitees, 45 participated in the workshop. The Andar community elders committed to active participation in stabilization activities in their district.
- On February 27 and 28, Stability Planning Process training began for Andar men.

#### Dih Yak

- Facilitating communication and coordination with the District Governor, DDA+, CDCs, and other local entities, the SIKA-East office in Dih Yak is now fully functional, with District Support Unit staff moved from Ghazni City to carry on operations there. During the week, SIKA-East recruiters interviewed for and filled 15 staff positions for the office.
- On February 24 and 25, Advocacy training was conducted for an average of 30 men from Dih Yak DDA+, DCC, and CDCs members, as well as other influential men in the district.



**Men from Dih Yak District attend a training session on Advocacy.**

#### Khwaja Umari

- Repair work has begun on the Khwaja Umari office in preparation for district activities.

#### KHOST

- SIKA-East has initiated procurement of a new connex office building, furnishings, and other equipment for set-up of the Khost Provincial Management Unit.

#### LOGAR

- On February 26, the Deputy Provincial Governor, Acting PRRD Director, and SIKA-East Provincial Management Unit head met to discuss various matters, including the Service Providers Fair planned for Puli Alam on March 10 and a proposed meeting with the Baraki Barak District Governor and DDA members scheduled for March 5. The March 5 meeting will be held in the Governor's office and will be attended by DDA members and USAID's Deputy Field Program Officer.
- SIKA-East staff held meetings this week with 55 service providers who are active in Logar Province. The main purpose was to introduce the Service Providers Fair and seek their interest and

commitment to participate. The fair is intended to help community members and service seekers understand what services are available and how they may be accessed.

### Baraki Barak

- On February 24 and 25, training in Infrastructure Project Planning was conducted for men from all five *hawzas*. The main topics covered in this training are project feasibility, field management, cost estimating, bills of quantities, and environmental compliance. The training was attended by 41 men on the first day, and 48 on the second.
- On February 26, SIKA-East and DOWA trainers began a three-day workshop in Project Design and Development for 40 female DDA members and other influential women from Baraki Barak. Topics covered included criteria for project selection, bundling, and management. The participants expressed enthusiasm about the training and grant opportunities.

### Khoshi

- A bill of quantities for repair of the Khoshi District Support Unit office has been prepared and sent to potential vendors. The bid closing date is February 28.

### Mohammad Agha

- On February 21, District Support and Provincial Management Units staff met in Puli Alam to discuss the problem of project selection in Mohammad Agha District. Some CDCs want to change the DPP to include new projects. SIKA-East will work with the DDA+ to address the issue. These discussions will inform SIKA-East's development of policy guidance for similar situations.
- As part of an ongoing effort to improve communication strategy for district entities, SIKA-East is working with the DDA+s to establish a communication committee in each district. The committee will coordinate communication with the local community on the work the DDA+ is doing, as well as to work with the larger group on advocating to the government at the provincial level to implement projects identified in the DPP but not likely to be covered by SIKA-East grants. On February 24 and 25, SIKA-East held a series of communication committee meetings for men and women from the Mohammad Agha DDA.
- The Mohammad Agha DPP was approved by the DDA+, District Governor, and PRRD Director. Cycle 1 projects included in the DPP were shared and received confirmation from related sectors.



**Members of the Mohammad Agha women's communication committee meet to discuss their DPP projects with SIKA-East.**

### PAKTYA

- Some training sessions for female participants in Paktya had to be postponed this week due to absence of participants. SIKA-East will continue outreach and dialogue efforts towards the goal of creating the conditions for female participants in those districts.

## Zadran

- From February 24 to 28, a Stability Planning Process training workshop was conducted in the Zadran DSU Office for 50 men from the district. By the end of the training, participants had developed a District Planning Portfolio and identified Cycle 1 projects for implementation.



**Participants in the Zadran Stability Planning Process workshop follow the training, some taking notes.**

## Zurmat

- Between February 21 and 25, SIKA-East trainers conducted a three-day Stakeholder Orientation / Governance Foundation workshop for men from the Zurmat DDA, CDCs, and other influential stakeholders in the district. On the first day, only 20 people participated, but this number rose to 35 for the last two days. The reason for the low turnout on the first day was the threat of violence against those attending. The head of the Zurmat DCC, Haji Mira Jan, said, “Even if we are threatened by insurgents to not participate in government activities, we are sure the SIKA program is a good community-based program working to find solutions to our sources of instability, and so we accept the threats and will participate in the sessions.”
- This initial training was followed on February 27 and 28 by the first two days of a Stability Planning Process workshop for the same group of men. The training, like the first one, was held in the Zurmat Education Department conference hall.

## MAYDAN WARDAK

- On February 26, the PRRD Director hosted a coordination meeting to talk about those CDCs in Sayadabad and other districts with absent, deceased, or displaced members. The meeting was attended by representatives of several programs, including the heads of NSP and NABDP and the SIKA-East manager for Wardak. The decision was reached that CDCs must follow four steps to authorize new officers: Obtain signatures of community members in favor of nominated replacements; obtain District Governor’s signature; obtain Provincial Council signatures; Obtain PRRD approval.
- SIKA-East developed a questionnaire and conducted interviews as part of the post-evaluation of the Service Providers Fair held in Maydan Wardak last November to assess the fair’s impact. Once questionnaires are analyzed, a final report will be produced.
- Saydabad DDA+ members were assisted to meet with ten service providers in Maydan Wardak in order to find out if any of the projects listed on their DPP are either planned or being implemented by any governmental or non-governmental services providers. To date, no overlap has been identified.

## Chaki Wardak

- In Chaki Wardak, 43 men from the DDA and CDCs, as well as community elders, began training in Stability Planning Process.

## Nirkh

- On February 25, the District Governor held a coordination meeting with Nirkh DSU staff. The purpose of the meeting was to improve communication between the DSU team and the District Governor, along with better coordination among all initiatives that are being or will be implemented in Nirkh District. The District Governor requested a copy of the Nirkh District Project Portfolio and subsequently approved it.
- SIKA-East guided completion of nine grant applications, along with all necessary documents. Additional applications and design documents are under production.



**Nirkh DSU staff visit the District Governor to hold a coordination meeting.**

## Saydabad

- The stakeholder register was updated to include additional influential elders slated to participate in Saydabad stabilization activities.
- Some missing grant application documents were obtained for applications already processed by the Grant Review Committee, including information on CDC bank accounts. Other applications in the pipeline were supported with development of engineering estimates and drawings.



**Eng. Abid, standing in front of the Nirkh office the morning after the big snowstorm.**

## SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Several units facilitated the following trainings, project-wide, during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
February 21	Stakeholder Orientation / Governance Foundation – Male	Zadran	Training	50	
February 21-25	Stakeholder Orientation / Governance Foundation – Male	Zurmat	Training	35	
February 21-25	Stakeholder Orientation / Governance Foundation – Male	Andar / Ghazni	Training	45	
February 24-25	Infrastructure Project Planning – Male	Baraki Barak / Puli Alam	Training	45	
February 24-25	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training – Male	Dih Yak / Ghazni	Training	32	
February 24-25	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training – Female	Chaki Wardak / Maydan Shahr	Training		16
February 24-28	Stability Planning Process – Male	Zadran	Training	50	
February 24-28	Stability Planning Process – Female	Andar / Ghazni	Training		31

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
February 24-28	Stability Planning Process – Male	Chaki Wardak / Maydan Shahr	Training	43	
February 26-28	Project Design and Development – Female	Baraki Barak / Puli Alam	Training		40
February 27-28	Stability Planning Process – Male	Zurmat	Training	NA	
February 27-28	Stability Planning Process – Male	Andar / Ghazni	Training	NA	

- The District Project Portfolio (DPP) Standard Operating Procedure is under draft to guide expanded DDA+ community and service provider consultations during development of the DPP. The suggested steps will be discussed at field level before approval and dissemination.
- Grant application development and processing continues. A number of endorsement letters for alternate CDC officials have been signed by Saydabad PRRD Deputy Director, although other letters are pending, slowing finalization of completed grant applications. Moreover, the weather and military operations in Wardak Province during the week caused problems with regular communication with the CDC representatives and delayed collection of required information.
- The current status of grant applications is summarized in the following table:

District	Applications under Development at Any Stage		Application Packages Submitted to SIKA-East		Nr. of App. under USAID Vetting	Appl. Approved by GRC	Nr. of Appl. Sent to USAID for Approval
	M	F	Nr.	\$			
Saydabad	18	0	8	242,183	1	8	
Nirkh	30	6					
Mohammad Agha	28	4	6	307,346	4		
DihYak	17	9					
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>549,529</b>			

- Project design and development are under way in three districts (Saydabad, Nirkh, and Mohammad Agha), with regular consultations and technical assistance between project management committees and District Support Units. The following is the project progress:

Province	District	Designs		Projects Completion Status	
		Total Designs in Progress	Designs Completed	Value of Designs In Progress	Value of Designs Completed
Wardak	Saydabad	9	18	\$ 122,582.96	\$ 506,732.70
	Nirakh	2	2	\$ 116,104.04	\$ 110,566.00
Logar	Mohammad Agha	8	7	\$ 326,987.72	\$ 388,277.84
Ghazni	Deh Yak	0	0	---	---
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$ 565,674.72</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,576.54</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>46</b>		<b>\$ 1,571,251.26</b>	

- SIKA-East received PRRD and District Governor approval for the radio play scripts that are to be used to promote stabilization.
- SIKA-East gender mainstreaming strategy is in process as well as the development of the gender workshop to strengthen integration of men and women in stability programming. The Work Plan is also under revision to integrate gender considerations throughout program phases.
- Human Resources filled four positions this week: three for AECOM and one for Ti.
- Security Risk Assessments were finalized for District Support Unit facilities in Khwaja Umari District of Ghazni Province, as well as the Provincial Management Unit's temporary District Office in Puli Alam in Logar Province.

## PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

### GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the Ghazni PRRD Director and Dih Yak and Andar District Governors.
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training for women from Andar DDA+;
- Conduct a SIKA-East induction ToT in Kabul for Khwaja Umari District;
- Jointly with PRRD and DoWA, complete Stability Planning Process training for women from Andar District;
- Begin Stability Planning Process training for Andar men;
- Complete endorsement of the Dih Yak DPP and submit it to Kabul; and
- Continue renovation of the District Support Unit office in Khwaja Umari.

### LOGAR

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Continue to prepare for the Service Providers Fair in Puli Alam;
- Continue to prepare grant applications for Cycle 1 DPP projects;
- Conduct training in Advocacy and Grant Process for female members of the Baraki Barak DDA;
- Conduct Project Design and Development for men from Baraki Barak DDA and DDA+;
- Conduct a SIKA-East induction ToT in Kabul for Khoshi District; and

- Continue renovation of the District Support Unit office in Khoshi.

#### **PAKTYA**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and other concerned organizations;
- Continue Stability Planning Process training for men in Zadran and Zurmat Districts; and
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for men from Zadran District.

#### **WARDAK**

- Hold regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other stakeholders;
- Complete the final report on post-evaluation of November Service Providers Fair;
- Conduct male and female Fundraising training for Nerkh DDA+;
- Continue Stability Planning Process training for men in Chaki Wardak;
- Continue to conduct engineering surveys in districts according to the engineering department plan;
- Continue working on grant applications for Saydabad and Nirkh Districts, including verifying eligibility checklists and male and female ID cards.

#### **PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Finalize DPP-related draft Standard Operating Procedures and consult with field;
- Continue preparations for Logar Service Providers Fair;
- Continue to assist CDCs in grant application development and collection of required information, including PRRD endorsement letters and the CDC representatives' ID cards for applications from Saydabad, Nirkh, Mohammad Agha, and Dih Yak;
- Conduct a SIKA-East induction ToT in Kabul for Khoshi District in Logar Province, and Khwaja Umari in Gazni;
- Conduct Grants training for SIKA-East grants personnel;
- Continue efforts on the gender mainstreaming strategy, the Work Plan, and the “gender workshop;”
- Continue renovation of two District Support Unit offices in Khoshi and Khwaja Umari;
- Continue infrastructure design efforts for Cycle 1 projects in Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, and Nirkh; and
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 102 staff:
  - Sixty vacancies in process with AECOM;
  - Six vacancies in process with OSC;
  - Thirty-four vacancies in process with IRD; and
  - Two vacancies in process with Ti.