

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 66

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On March 17, the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director held a coordination meeting with SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU) Manager. The meeting was called to discuss various aspects of SIKA-East implementation in Ghazni, including grant documents, support letters to be signed, Community Development Councils (CDC) and the endorsement of their key members by PRRD, and other issues. The PRRD Director provided some comments which will be followed up by the Ghazni PMU.

Andar

- On March 13 and 14, SIKA-East trainers conducted a workshop on Infrastructure Project Planning for 40 men from Andar District.
- From March 17 to 19, a Project Design and Development session was conducted in which 35 CDC and DDA members actively participated.
- A Project Design and Development workshop was conducted for Andar DDA+. At the end of workshop the participants were asked to complete the project action plan in the field with actual data.

Dih Yak

- The Dih Yak male communication committee conducted their second meeting. In the first meeting, they developed an initial protocol for communicating back to community and to larger DDA so everyone is on the same page. During the second meeting, they filled out strategic communication worksheets on identifying overall objectives for DDA and audiences.
- The grant team participated in a meeting conducted by Dih Yak District Governor with the PRRD Director, PRRD Program Manager and PRRD Social Organizer to discuss the CDC problems in Dih Yak. They agreed on the following points:



SIKA-East trainer facilitating Fund Raising Training for Dih Yak women

- The community can make changes to any of the CDC key members, e.g. in cases of corruption; moved to a different town; unacceptable or death.
- According to the National Solidarity Program (NSP) Manager, only three of the four key members may be changed. At least one of the key members must be an original member in order to process the clearances for new members. In order to make changes in the CDC key members, an application must be written and signed by all CDC members stating their intent to make changes to their Shura.
- On March 18, one-day Fund Raising Training was conducted for Dih Yak DDA+ males. The overall goal of this training is to train DDA+ and social organizers on common methods of identifying donors and asking for fundraising both at the district and provincial level. This training is specifically targeted towards assisting individuals at the community level in implementing projects

outside the scope of SIKA-East grants, and special attention was paid to Cycle 1 projects as examples during the workshop. The same training was conducted for DDA+ female on March 19.

Khwaja Umari

- Hiring of staff to fill the positions for the Khwaja Umari DSU started this week.

KHOST

- The Khost PMU Mänge met PRRD Director and sought his recommendation regarding the PMU office location in the province.
- Staffing procedure for Khost PMU started and is 90% complete.

LOGAR

- During this week Logar PMU completed the grants procurement price list and sent it to Kabul Grants and Sub-contract Unit.

Baraki Barak

- On March 17, Baraki Barak staff were invited to Kabul to have a meeting with Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP) and discuss the security situation of Baraki Barak office transfer to the district center. It was decided to meet DDA members and seek their recommendation regarding the issue. The Baraki Barak team planned the meeting with DDA member for the following day. However, the meeting did not take place due to the security situation. For safety, it was decided to hold this meeting in Mohammad Agha or Puli Alam next week.
- Due to the security situation, Advocacy Training which was planned to be conducted this week, was postponed for the future.

Khoshi

- Khoshi District newly hired Communication Officer and Community Development Officer started their jobs this week. Logar PMU provided them an orientation regarding the program and their responsibilities. Recruitment of all other positions continues.

Mohammad Agha

- Mohammad Agha female and male communication committees held their fifth meeting. During the fourth meeting they continued working to build on the previous meeting and completed two more worksheets on identified resources to implement the communication plan and identified potential partners. In this stage, the group starts to think hard and get specific about what provincial and national government individuals/groups it needs to focus on and how to build a smarter and longer-lasting relationship with the provincial and/or national government. During the fifth meeting, they worked to bring the previous four meetings together and finalize a draft communications plan that allows the DDA+ and DG to speak with one voice regarding what the local government does to bring stability to the district. The members will identify benchmarks for evaluating their process and review the previously completed worksheets to create a 6-12 month calendar of activities, designed to promote the work of the district government and advocate to higher levels of government for defined activities in the district.

PAKTYA

- On March 14, the PRRD Director for Paktya hosted a meeting with SIKA-East PMU Deputy Manager and other partner organizations to receive an update on their activities. The deputy PMU Manager mentioned that hiring staff for Zurmat and Zadran District is almost complete. He

additionally stated that SIKA-East has announced positions for two new districts (Ahamad Khan and Laja Mangal). The mentioned districts were approved recently by Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) for SIKA-East implementation.

- Paktya Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) was updated and translated into Pashto. It will be widely distributed during the Service Providers Fair (SPF) in Paktya.



PMU Deputy Manager representing SIKA-East in PRRD and partners' meeting

Zadran

- On March 17, the Deputy PMU Manager attended the meeting with Garda Seri and Zadran District people, held in PRRD office. The PRRD Directors stated that Paktya Governor has approved Garda Seri to be a district of Paktya and will benefit from all privileges. He further mentioned that SIKA-East implementation in Garda Seri District is under the approval process by the Governor as well.
- Planned trainings could not be conducted in Zadran District. However the DSU continued recruiting new staff to complete the unit.

Zurmat

- Stability Planning Process workshop which was conducted for Zurmat male at the beginning of March was evaluated during the week. The DSU approached the participants in order to know their opinion about the training. As a result it was determined that the trainees are satisfied with the training contents and, what they learnt. The participants mentioned that apart from security, there is no other concern for SIKA-East implementation in the Zurmat District.
- The planned trainings for Zurmat District were further delayed due to Afghan Local Police (ALP) intervention in the District. To avoid further delays and confusion, Zurmat DSU spread the SIKA-East message to the key elders to let them know the difference between SIKA-East and ALP programs.



Zurmat staff discussing SPP training with participants

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On March 17, the PRRD Director hosted a coordination meeting with representatives of organizations implementing MRRD projects in Maydan Wardak Province. SIKA-East updated the participants on program implementation and plans. PRRD Director requested all programs to submit list of all CDCs of Wardak to find out which CDCs are not active and why. The director also requested SIKA-East to submit Saydabad Cycle 1 projects with communities' approval and endorsement letters so that he can sign and approve them all at once.

CHAKI WARDAK

- Project Design and Development/Grant Process training for female started on March 18 and ended on March 19 in the Wardak DoWA meeting hall.

- The Chak Community Development Officer completed Chak Cycle 1 DPP, list of PMC and list of lead CDC.
- Infrastructure Project Planning Session was conducted on March 17 and 18 for Chak male CDC members. 37 participants attended this session.

Nirxh

- Nirxh male and female communication committees held their second and third meetings, respectively. In the first meeting, they developed an initial protocol for communicating back to community and to larger DDA so everyone is on the same page. In the second meeting, they filled out strategic communication worksheets on identifying overall objective of DDA+ and district governor's office, what they hope to achieve for their districts over the next 6-12 months. During the third meeting, previous meeting decisions were followed up and shared with the larger DDA+ for their comments, suggestions and buy-in and it is in agreement. At the end of the third meeting, worksheets on message and communication channels were completed. It is worth mentioning that between each meeting the members return back to their communities and the larger DDA, brief them on the content of the meeting and obtain their agreement on steps taken to date.



Male communication committee meeting in Nirxh District

- On March 17, Nirxh DSU Manger had a meeting with Nirxh District Deputy Governor to update him on program implementation in the district.
- The Nirxh Grant team worked on 32 grant applications. Four of the mentioned applications are on hold following PRRD notification and one application (Bazi Khill) was officially submitted to Grant and Sub-contract Unit Kabul, and USAID vetting unit.
- Nirxh Engineer completed the De-Muslim village canal protection wall survey, Shakabul Kalan New Karez repair survey.

Saydabad

- In Saydabad, male and female communication committee's fourth meeting was held. After the third meeting, the members followed up and shared completed worksheets with the larger DDA+ and it is in agreement. During this meeting, the group took the larger objective and framed a message, focusing on the activities the DDA+/DG is taking to bring stability to the district. At the end of the third meeting, they filled out the worksheets on message and communication channels. During the fourth meeting, they continued working to build on the previous meeting and completed two more worksheets on identified resources to implement the communication plan and identified potential partners.
- Saydabad and Chak staff are comparing District Project Portfolio (DPP) with provincial entities which was already shared with the Wardak provincial service providers to compare it with their own plans in order to prevent duplication of projects.
- Eight applications were approved by the Grant Review Committee (GRC):
 - Two (Sra Kala Markaze and Khar) submitted to USAID for approval;
 - Two rejected by PRRD (Kwaja Kotgai and Aman Khil); and

- Four waiting for endorsement letters.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- As the initial advocacy trainings have occurred in several districts, SIKA-East initiated a general tracking system to ensure field staff are regularly supporting local advocacy efforts when the need arises and to track their successes and challenges. In the first week of March, SIKA was notified of advocacy efforts, directly related to the initial advocacy workshops, occurring in one district.
- During this week, SIKA-East reviewed the DPP of Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha and Nirkh Districts. After the revision all these DPPs, they will be submitted to Directors, District Governors, and line departments for further processing.
- SIKA-East units held several meeting regarding finalization of the DPP process map. The DPP process map has been divided into three phases namely before DPP, during DPP and aafter DPP. Throughout all the phases, DDA and influential people of the community will be on the lead of this process so they can lobby and advocate for their district priorities.
- The mandate of Resource Development was presented to Senior Governance Officer and Regional Coordinator in different meetings. The mentioned post holders are the point of contact for SIKA-East within its stakeholders and facilitate SIKA-East activities to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Develpement (MRRD) and IDLG.
- DPP Cycle 1 projects was shared with service providers of various sectors by PRRD Wardak for further review and cross check with their current and/or previous plan of the organization. However, some of the service providers have not responded to this activity as yet. SIKA-East will further discuss this with PRRD Director to form a solution for this. SIKA-East can address this matter following the Resource Coordination meeting which is between District Entities (DE) and service providers next week.
- Zurmat and Zadran District activities have been postponed for the following reasons:
 - Weak and poor relationship of community elders with Zurmat District Governor;
 - Simultaneously conducting the SIKA-East Stakeholders Engagement Training and establishment of Afghan Local Police (ALP) has created misperceptions about the SIKA-East program in the targeted area; and
 - Absence of real stakeholders and the replacement of their villagers and relatives, has made the program implementation in Zurmat and Zadran Districts difficult.
- In order to solve the above mentioned problems, SIKA-East management in close cooperation of Zurmat and Zadran DSUs discussed the issues in more detail and proposed the following solutions:
 - During the trainings in the area, it has been understood that there are some powerful and influential stakeholders who have strong connections with the government entities, local communities and even with opponents. That is why the meeting panel decided to organize a meeting with them through the technical and advisory support of SIKA-East Kabul team and PMU team members by DSUs Team Leaders in the targeted districts respectively;
 - Provide them detailed information about SIKA-East;
 - If some tribal heads are considered powerful stakeholders and are missing in the stakeholder list, they should be added; and

- A team consisting of Kabul HQ, PMU and DSU have to meet with them and tell them about the DPP implementations in the respective districts.
- A technical committee consisting of member of various units of SIKA-East reviewed the technical proposals of companies applied for provision of Service Providers Fair (SPF) in Ghazni. The proposal review was based on criteria such as delivery period, past performance and technical acceptability.
- USAID Vetting requirement will significantly slow the ultimate award of grants. SIKA-East is working to establish the completion of vetting as early in the process as possible, including during the DPP and Cycle 1 processes.
- Several units facilitated the following trainings, project-wide, during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
March 17-19	Project Design and Development/Grant Process	Andar	Training	33	0
March 17-19	Infrastructure Project Planning	Chak	Training	32	0
March 18	Fundraising	Dih Yak	Training	19	0
March 18-19	Project Design and Development/Grant Process	Chak	Training	0	22
March 19	Fundraising	Dih Yak	Training	0	15

The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Province	District	Design in Progress 30%	Design in Progress 50%	Design in Progress 70%	Design in Progress 90%	Designs		Project Completion Status	
						Total Design in Progress	Design Completed 100%	In Progress (\$)	Completed (\$)
Wardak	Saydabad	2	0	0	7	9	18	120,256.80	506,732.70
	Nirakh	3	0	2	2	7	1	220,101.40	105,493.96
Logar	Mohammad Agha	1	0	2	2	5	13	294,897.84	666,678.42
Ghazni	Dih Yak	1	1	2	0	4	0	112,452.68	-
Subtotals						25	32	747,708.72	1,278,905.08
Grand Totals						57		\$ 2,026,613.80	

- Human Resources filled eight positions this week: four for AECOM, three for IRD and one for OSC.
- Security Department finalized the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) of Khost PMU and Chak DSU.
- Security Department followed up with the illegal checkpoint incident involving two of SIKA-East staff members and applied extra measures for all DSU.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct Dih Yak male and female communication committee meetings;
- Finalization of Andar Cycle1 Projects;
- Conduct engineering survey for several projects of Dih Yak based on DPP Cycle 1 Projects;
- Conduct regular coordination meetings with Ghazni PRRD officials; and
- Prepare for Resource Coordination Meeting planned to be conducted on April 02.

KHOST

- Conduct a meeting with District Governor.

LOGAR

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Collect data to prepare Khoshi District profile;
- Finalization of Baraki Barak Cycle1 Projects;
- Conduct engineering survey for several projects of Mohammad Agha based on DPP Cycle 1 Projects;
- Conduct Mohammad Agha communication committee meetings; and
- Work with Baraki Barak DDA to find a solution(s) for existing challenges in the district.

PAKTYA

- Finalization of the Zurmat Cycle1 Projects;
- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and other concerned organizations; and
- Conduct a meeting with influential people of Zurmat and Zadran Districts.

WARDAK

- Hold regular coordination meetings with PRRD, District Governor, and other stakeholders;
- Conduct Saydabad male and female Lobbying Trainings;
- Conduct Nirkh male and female communication committee meetings;
- Conduct Project Design and Development Training in Chaki Wardak;
- Finalization of the Chak Cycle 1 Projects;
- Conduct engineering survey for several projects of Saydabad and Nirkh and Dih Yak based on DPP Cycle 1 Projects;
- Conduct Project Design and Grant Process training for Chak males; and
- Conduct the second Grant Review Committee (GRC).

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue reviewing the DPP of Andar District;
- Hold an After Action Review (AAR) meeting for Gender workshop;
- Follow up for arrangement of Resource Coordination Meeting in Ghazni and Wardak;
- Prepare and brief timeline and schedule of activities for vendor in arrangement of SPF Logar;
- Finalization of Chak, Andar, Zadran and Baraki Barak Cycle1 Projects;
- Develop application and collect required information including endorsement letters and the CDC representatives ID cards for Saydabad, Nerkh, Mohammad Agha, Dih Yak applications;
- Prepare application packages of Mohammad Agha, Logar and Saydabad Districts of Wardak Province for the GRC;
- Continue working on vetting documents and the cost price analysis for projects;
- Conduct engineering survey for several projects of Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Nirkh and Dih Yak are continuing based on DPP Cycle 1 Projects;
- Conduct SRA of Gurbuz and Jaji Maidan Districts of Khost Province for pre-rollout;
- Finalizing the SRA documents of Khost PMU accommodation and Tani District.
- Continue recruitment of 139 staff:
 - 72 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - 20 vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - 47 vacancies in process with IRD.