

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 67

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) Manager participated in the regular coordination meeting with Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director on March 25, 2013. The PRRD Director received an update on program achievements and current and planned activities.
- A meeting is scheduled with Ghazni service providers regarding the implementation of the Dih Yak District Project Portfolio (DPP). PRRD has approved and finalized the agenda. The issue is already coordinated with the District Development Assembly (DDA) and Community Development Council (CDC) members.
- The Ghazni Gender Officer had a series of meetings with the Ghazni Central Statistic Organization (CSO) and women-led organizations to collect data about their activities. She prepared the list of women-led service providers and inflectional women. These women will be invited to the Dih Yak Resource Development Meeting.

Andar

- The Andar District Support Unit (DSU) completed their DPP and submitted the result to SIKA-East main office. The Andar Service Provider Catalogue (SPC) has also been updated.
- Grant team collected required documents from CDC members in order to start the grant process in Andar.

Dih Yak

- Dih Yak men communication committee conducted their second meeting. During the meeting the participants identified their goal to be achieved in the next six months. The committee members also explained their biweekly activities. The committee, for the first time, provided awareness to the community regarding development, services, and how to increase the trust among the DDA+, district/provincial line departments and local communities.

Khwaja Umari

- The Khwaja Umari DSU office received equipment and furniture from Kabul.

KHOST

- The Khost PMU Manger had a coordination meeting on March 26, 2013 with the PRRD Director. The PMU Manager Provided updates on program process and the PRRD Director promised to cooperate and support the program in the Province.
- Recruitment and staffing for the PMU continued during the week.

LOGAR

- The Logar PMU Manager had a coordination meeting with the Acting PRRD Director and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) partners on March 24, 2013. The agenda of this meeting was to move the Baraki Barak office to the district center. It was decided to call another meeting between DDA core members, the Provincial Governor (PG) and the District Governor (DG), so that all parties discuss the issue and find out the best solution.

- The Logar PMU Manager met Acting PRRD Director, Economy Director and Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) Director to inform them about the date and venue of the Service Provider Fair (SPF). The mentioned entities promised to participate in the event.
- A one-day Grant Review Committee (GRC) session was conducted in Puli Alam on March 27, 2013 with the grant team and engineers. The participants reviewed different project applications and share their ideas accordingly.



GRC Session in Puli Alam

Baraki Barak

- Program implementation in the Baraki Barak District is still a major challenge. The issue of moving the office to the district center is still unsolved. Negotiations are on-going with governmental authorities and community representatives to solve this issue.

Khoshi

- The Khoshi DSU office renovation has reached 90% completion. The work continues to fully repair and set up the office.

Mohammad Agha

- On March 24, 2013, a meeting was held with the DDA+ members of Abparan Hawza, Mohammad Agha District. The DDA+ members submitted a letter requesting a specific location for their project. The letter was shared with SIKA-East main office for further processing. During the week, surveys of four Karizes in the mentioned Hawza were completed.
- Mohammad Agha women and men communication committees held their fourth meetings. The committees decided to update the DG on DDA+ relevant activities. The participants of both men and women committees agreed to hold joint meetings in future. This will help them share lessons learnt, have a single agenda and a wide plan for the district. In order to clarify the tasks, it was decided to develop Term of Reference (ToR) for each member.
- Meeting participants filled out the worksheets for choosing the materials and activities as well as establishing and expanding the coalitions. Under this strategic communication worksheet, they identified the audience, and selected channels, activities, and materials. It is worth mentioning that between each meeting the members go back to their communities to brief the DDA members on the content of the meeting and obtain their agreement on steps taken.

PAKTYA

- The Paktya PMU Manager and Zurmat DSU Team Leader had a meeting with the National Solidarity Program (NSP) Provincial Manger on March 26, 2013. NSP provided SIKA-East with the required forms and promised to continue their support in future for the successful implementation of SIKA-East.



Discussing forms with NSP representative

Zadran

- On March 26, 2013, three influential community members visited the SIKA-East Zurmat DSU office. Their concern was program postponement in the district. The DSU Team Leader assured them that SIKA-East will resume its activities as soon as the situation in Zadran District becomes suitable for program implementation. The mentioned influential people promised to support SIKA-East in their area.



Meeting with NSP Manager

Zurmat

- The Zurmat DSU Manager had a meeting with NSP Manager on March 24, 2013. The meeting participants discussed existing challenges regarding CDCs and program implementation processes in the Zurmat District. It was decided to hire a local monitor to report the issues in the area from time to time.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On March 24, 2013, 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.

Chaki Wardak

- In order to better coordinate the implementation of the projects, SIKA-East supported and facilitated PRRD and District Entities (DE) to share the Chak DPP with services providers, seeking their input and plans for implementation of proposed projects considering their current resources.
- On March 24, 2013, Chak women DDA members received Project Design and Development Training. There were 22 participants in this training. The topics discussed during the training included grant application, grant criteria, endorsement letter, community contribution, and eligibility checklist. Identical training was conducted for 41 men DDA members on March 25, 2013.
- On March 24, 2013, the newly hired DG of Chak paid a visit to the DSU office. SIKA-East staff explained the program during this visit. The following day, SIKA-East staff provided a short presentation of the program. The DG promised to support the program.

Nirkh

- Nirkh DPP was shared with service providers through PRRD for better coordination. This is to seek the input and plans of service providers for implementation of the proposed projects considering their current resources.
- The Nirkh women communication committee conducted their third meeting. They filled out strategic communication worksheets on identifying the overall objective of the DDA.

Saydabad

- On March 27, 2013, one-day Lobbying Training was conducted for Saydabad women DDA+. The overall goal of this training was to enhance the capacity of DDA+ and social organizers on lobbying contact line departments and other decision makers. This will help to decrease gaps between people and provincial/district government entities and other decision makers. Additionally, this training provided a clue on the definition, history and importance of lobbying to the participants to make the list of lobbying decision makers and as well as develop a six month lobbying strategy for their target

area. It was planned to conduct the same training for men DDA+ members this week but had to be postponed due to the unavailability of a training hall.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- SIKA-East worked on the DPP Standard Operating Procedures (SoP). This SOP will be used as a guideline and policy for the DPP process.
- SIKA-East finalized the review of the Zadran DPP. The key Sources of Instability (SoI) were identified by members of the DDA, tribal shura and other influential people of the community in their area, which include the lack of trust in the government, illegal forest cutting, and land/tribal disputes. An analysis showed that the community attributes most of these problems to the scarce resources and lack of livelihood opportunities, as well as the symptomatic absence of the government services in the district. The prevailing sense of disenfranchisement and isolation is only exacerbated by the fact that Zadran does not have representation in the Paktya Provincial Council. The DPP identifies numerous activities that could mitigate the systemic causes. However, it prioritizes infrastructure projects potentially generating short term employment and providing a constructive platform for an improved cooperation between the district authorities and the local communities.
- A technical committee with members of various SIKA-East departments reviewed the technical proposals of companies applied for the provision of the SPF-Ghazni. The proposal were reviewed based on criteria such as delivery period, past performance and technical acceptability.
- SIKA-East revised the Project Action Plan template to help District Entities (DE) collect and record project data during the initial design stages. The template was submitted to Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, Saydabad, Andar, Dih Yak and Zadran Districts.
- SIKA-East representatives had a meeting with Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim, Member of Parliament from Paktya Province. The meeting participants discussed SIKA-East implementation in Paktya Province as well as the Zurmat and Zadran issue. Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim promised that he will meet the relevant community leaders of both districts and provide complete support in this regard.
- Human Resources filled five positions this week: four for AECOM and one for IRD.
- Security Department finalized security risk assessments (SRAs) of PMU accommodations in Matun District of Khost Province and Tani DSU. The SRA is completed to have an overview of the security situation of the district and to ensure staff security while traveling to the district. The SRA for Gurbuz and Jaji Maidan was delayed as the security team had to finalize the Matun and Tani SRA.
- Several units facilitated the following trainings, project-wide, during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
March 24	Project Design And Development	Chak	Training	0	22
March 2	Project Design &Development	Chak	Training	41	0
March 27	Lobbying	Saydabad	Training	0	17

- 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		No. of App. under USAID Vetting	Appl. Approved by GRC	No. of Appl. Sent to USAID for Approval
	M	F	Nr.	\$			
Saydabad	5	0	16	506,732	2	8	2
Nirkh	27	5	1	105,493	1	0	0
Mohammad Agha	28	2	13	666,678	9	5	5
Dih Yak	17	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total	66	13	30	1,278,905	12	13	7

- The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Province	District	Designs		Project Completion Status	
		Total Design in Progress	Design Completed 100%	In Progress (\$)	Completed (\$)
Wardak	Saydabad	10	18	144,861.50	506,732.70
	Nirkh	7	2	267,918.36	105,493.96
Logar	Mohammad Agha	6	13	353,781.62	666,678.42
Ghazni	Dih Yak	4	0	112,452.68	-
	Sub-total	27	33	879,014.16	1,278,905.08
Grand total		60		2,184,452.28	

- The status of vetting for procurement purchases and grants is shown in the following tables:

Procurement Vetting Tracker

Vetted Company	Document Requested from Vendor	Complete Document Package Received from Vendor	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending	Remarks
Tal Wadan Group	January 1	February 03,2013	February 03,2013	March 10	35	Approved
Soofi INN	January 1	January 31,2013	January 31,2013	March 10	35	Approved
Jubaili Bros	January 1	February 03,2013	February 03,2013		51	
Tal Wadan Group	February 11	February 11,2013	February 11,2013	March 10	35	Approved
Mohammad Ashraf Rasooli	February 17	February 17,2013	February 17,2013	March 14	25	Approved
Mohammad Nadim Amin.	February 13	Februray 16,2013	February 18,2013	February 19	1	US Citizen, No vetting Need
Mansoor Haroon Logistics Services Co.	February 21	Februray 21,2013	Februray 21,2013		33	Return, because of license is expired.
Telecom Development Company Afghanistan Limited, T/A ROSHAN	March 11	Mar-13-2013	March-14-2013		12	
Easy Connect ISP	March 17	Mar-20-2013	Mar-20-2013		4	
Afghan Crystal Amu Ltd	March 24	Mar-25-2013			0	

Grants Vetting Tracker

Vetted Organization	Documents Received from Grants Department	Initial Submission to USAID	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending
Mohammad Shapoor Head of Hassan Khel Community Development Council (CDC),	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		27
Mohammad Jan, Head of Rahmabad Community Development Council (CDC)	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		27
Mohammad Jan, Head of Rahmabad Community Development Council (CDC)	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		27
Shah Wali, Head of Kamal Khill Community Development Council (CDC)	26 Feb 13	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		27
Abdul Hamed, Head of Sra Kala Markazi Community Development Council (CDC)	26 Feb 13	27 Feb 13	27 Feb 13		27
Abdul Hameed, Head of Sra Kala Markazi Community Development Council (CDC)	7 Mar 13	7 Mar 13	10 Mar 13		15
Saleh Mohammad, Head of Bazi Khil Community Development Council (CDC),	12-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			
Dawa Jan, Head of Panami Nalab Community Development Council (CDC), Karez Extension (Panami Nalab)	14-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			
Momin Khan, Head of Chinarai Mira Jan Community Development Council (CDC), Karez Extension (Chinarai Mira Jan) Project	14-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			
Sayed Rahman, Head of Dagg Qala Community Development Council (CDC), Karez Extension (Dagg Qala) Project	14-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			
Habibullah, Head of Pacha Qala Community Development Council (CDC), School Boundary Wall Construction (Pacha Qala) Project	14-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			
Sami-ul-Haq, Head of Rasool Khel Community Development Council (CDC), Protection Wall Construction Project	14-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			
Aqa Jan, Head of Mazgin Community Development Council (CDC), School Boundary Wall Construction	14-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			
Saleh Mohammad, Head of Bazi Khil Community Development Council (CDC),	12-Mar-13	17-Mar-13			

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct Resource Coordination Meeting;
- Follow up on coordination of DPP; and
- Conduct Dih Yak men and women communication committee meetings.

KHOST

- Meet PG and DGs of three targeted districts; and
- Continue to recruit staff.

LOGAR

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Conduct Mohammad Agha men communication committee meetings;
- Collect data for Khoshi District Profile; and
- Collect data for Khoshi District SPC.

PAKTYA

- Conduct coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and other concerned organizations; and
- Conduct coordination meeting with influential community members of Zadrán and Zurmat Districts.

WARDAK

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD, DG, and other stakeholders;
- Conduct Resource Coordination Meeting;
- Follow up on coordination of DPP;
- Conduct Nirkh men communication committee meetings;
- Conduct Saydabad men communication committee meetings;
- Conduct women Lobbying Training; and
- Submit grant applications to main office;

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct training sessions for staff starting with the SIKA Induction for Batch D Districts (Khoshi and Khwaja Umari);
- Finalize the DPP for Andar District;
- Finalize the DPP SoP;
- Prepare and schedule activities required of the vendor in arrangement for the Logar SPF;
- Conduct SRA for Gurbuz and Jaji Maidan Districts;
- Conduct SRA for Ahmad Khill, Laja Mangal and Khost for pre-rollout;
- Recruitment by the HR Unit of 133 staff continues:
 - 67 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Twenty (20) vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - 46 vacancies in process with IRD.