

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 68

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) Manager had a coordination meeting with the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director and Program Manager on March 31, 2013. The meetings were aimed to discuss the grants documents, support letters signing, Ghazni Resource Coordination Meeting, Community Development Councils (CDC) and the key member endorsement by PRRD. The PRRD Director suggested discussing grants-related questions with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development of (MRRD) embedded SIKA-East Regional Coordinator.
- Ghazni PMU Manager participated in a regular provincial council meeting with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and International Organizations on April 01, 2013. The meeting aimed to brief the provincial council members regarding the achievements of the last year and future plans of the participating organizations. As a result, SIKA-East was introduced in detail to the participants and the provincial council members were briefed on the SIKA-East achievements and future plans.
- Ghazni Resource Coordination Meeting was conducted successfully on April 02, 2013, in the Ghazni Public Health Department Conference Hall. The main focus of the meeting was to improve coordination and working relationships among the service providers and provide them an opportunity to share information regarding their activities and challenges.



Resource Coordination Meeting in Ghazni

SIKA-East assisted the PRRD team with the logistical arrangements and some programmatic aspects. The total number of both men and women participants was 80+ individuals. The PRRD Director and some other high ranking officials of the provincial government entities with CDC and District Development Council (DDA) members were among the participants.

The participants were able to come up with and identify a number of important points and useful solutions that can prominently strengthen coordination among different service providers, including governmental and non-governmental agencies. There were also a number of suggestions that may help in better coordination and communication among the service providers.

Andar

- During the week, Andar District Support Unit (DSU) reviewed Cycle 1 projects and share these with the main office.

Dih Yak

- Dih Yak men communication committee conducted their third meeting on April 01, 2013. During the meeting, the participants filled out strategic communication worksheets on message and communication channels. Dih Yak women also conducted their third meeting on April 03, 2013 with the same aim.

Khwaja Umari

- The Khwaja Umari DSU attended the SIKA-East Induction and Stakeholder Orientation/ Governance ToT in Kabul.

KHOST

- The Khost PMU Manager had a meeting with the Deputy Provincial Governor on April 03, 2013. The Manager introduced SIKA-East and its policies. He clarified all the questions raised by the Deputy Provincial Governor. At the end of the meeting, the Deputy Provincial Governor promised cooperation and support to SIKA-East. He also mentioned that soon the Provincial Governor will provide an official letter for target districts so that SIKA-East may start program implementation.

LOGAR

- On April 02, 2013, the MRRD embedded SIKA-East Regional Coordinator and the Logar Acting PMU Manger had a meeting with the Logar Acting PRRD Director. The aim of this meeting was to introduce the MRRD Regional Coordinator to the PRRD Acting Director. The meeting participants discussed their roles and responsibility toward SIKA-East implementation. They also discussed challenges and solutions.
- On April 03, 2013, an orientation was conducted for newly hired PMU staff. All the newly hired staff received information on SIKA-East policies and their responsibilities.
- The Logar PMU shared the radio script with the PRRD and the District Governor (DG). The mentioned entities shared their comments back after reviewing the script.

Baraki Barak

- On April 03, 2013, a coordination meeting was held with the DDA members of Baraki Barak District. The meeting participants discussed existing issues, challenges, problems and solutions. The main focus of this meeting was for the DDA members to agree whether to shift the Barak Barak office to the district center or not. However, due to security threats, they agreed not to shift the office to Baraki Barak.
- In order to resume the remaining trainings for Barak Barak, a schedule was designed and approved by the main office. The trainings will resume for the Baraki Barak District from April 14, 2013 in the provincial center.



Meeting with Baraki Barak DDA members

Khoshi

- The Khoshi DSU attended SIKA-East Induction and Stakeholder Orientation/Governance ToT in Kabul.
- The Khoshi DSU office renovation has been completed. As soon as staff return back from Kabul, the office will start its operations.
- The Khoshi District Profile is complete and was sent to Kabul for further processing.



Men communication committee meeting

Mohammad Agha

- Mohammad Agha men communication committee held their fourth meeting. During the meeting, they discussed DG representative participation in communication committee meetings, joint meetings of women and men DDAs and developing a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the communication committee. According to the meeting agenda, the meeting participants completed

the worksheets for selection of the materials and activities as well as establishment and expansion of the coalitions. Under this strategic communication worksheet, they identified the audience, selected channels, activities and materials.

PAKTYA

- On March 31, 2013, the Paktya PMU Deputy Manager along with PRRD Director visited, Garda Serai, the newly established district in Paktya Province. They had a meeting with the 75 influential people of the district with the purpose to inform them about NSP and SIKA-East. People of Garda Serai welcomed the guests and mentioned that they hope that SIKA-East would implement in their district in the near future.

Zadran

- On April 01, 2013, the PRRD Director along with the Deputy PMU had a meeting with 80 DDA+ members and influential people of Zadran. The main purpose of this meeting was to replace previous DDA heads and their three key members as they were not actively participating in community development. At the end of the meeting, the PRRD asked the community members their opinion of the SIKA-East program. The community members mentioned that they were satisfied with SIKA-East as this program is design to solve their basic problems. People also promised to cooperate with SIKA-East and even guarantee the security of SIKA-East staff members during program implementation.



Meeting with Zadran DDA+ and influential people

Zurmat

- On Mar 31, 2013, the Paktya PMU and Zurmat DSU staff had a meeting with Zurmat influential elders to discuss previous workshop effectiveness and results. The meeting participants mentioned that the trainings have been useful and effective. They stated that in the beginning, only a few people participated in the training sessions, but gradually as they learnt about the benefits of the program in their area, the number increased.



Meeting with Zurmat elders

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On March 31, 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

- The Chak DSU Manager had a coordination meeting with PRRD and Nation Area Based Development Program (NABDP) on April 02, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was the re-election of the Chak DDA members. It was decided that NABDP will conduct re-election as soon as possible in the district.
- Following the letter delivered to all service providers from PRRD Wardak, some service providers replied verifying the projects, which are in their list of planning or ongoing projects. As a result,

some projects have been listed by the Departments of Education, Social Affairs, Religious Affairs/Hajj and Public Health.

Nirkh

- The Nirkh men communication committee held their third meeting. In the second meeting, the participants filled out strategic communication worksheets on identifying overall objectives of the DDA and audiences. During the third meeting, they filled out strategic communication worksheets on message and communication channels.
- On March 31, 2013, Nirkh DSU had a coordination meeting with the DG. The DG was updated on program progress and Cycle 1 projects. The DG committed that he will support SIKA-East staff for the successful implementation of the projects. He also agreed to provide an extra room for SIKA-East.



Meeting with Nirkh District Governor

Saydabad

- Saydabad men communication committee conducted their fourth meeting. As the committee is responsible for overseeing an overall communication plan, they continued to build on the previous meeting and completed two more worksheets on identified resources to implement the communication plan and identified potential partnerships.
- On March 04, 2013, SIKA-East conducted one-day men Lobbying Training for Saydabad DDA+ at the district level. The overall goal of this training was to enhance the capacity of the DDA+ and the social organizers on lobbying to persuade them to contact line departments and other decision makers. This will help decrease the gap between people, 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 a six months lobbying strategy for their target area.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- SIKA-East started training the newly hired Stability Program Officers for Paktya and Logar Provinces. This orientation was designed to prepare the staff in understanding the Stability Analysis Methodology (SAM) and goals and objectives of the program so they could be prepared to work with District Entities (DE) on facilitating Stability Planning Process sessions in the newly approved districts.
- On March 31 to April 01, 2013, SIKA-East conducted the SIKA Induction training for 25 newly hired staff for the Khwaja Umari and Khoshi Districts. After the introduction of the program, each SIKA-East Unit presented their roles and responsibilities and the way they are structured within the framework of SIKA-East. Following this training, the same participants will be trained on Stakeholder Engagement/Governance and Stability Planning Process.
- Capacity-building related projects of Cycle 1 were identified and Capacity Building and Gender Unit have taken the lead and responsibility of the vocational training projects in all seven districts.
- SIKA-East started five-day Stakeholder Engagement ToT for Khoshi and Khwaja Umari Districts on April 02, 2013. This training will end on April 08, 2013.
- As part of SIKA-East senior management technical roundtable series, Kabul Unit Directors and Managers participated in discussing 'Moving Forward' with Stakeholder Engagement, led by the

Community Development Group Afghan Manager. The discussion covered an overview of the stakeholder engagement process, local leadership roles, relationship building, and transition of responsibilities from SIKA-East to local stakeholders.

- USAID vetting requirement will significantly slow the ultimate award of grants with values above USD 25,000. The SIKA-East Chief of Party (CoP) initiated a meeting in which this issue was discussed. The SIKA-East main office will receive support through PSU/DSU in early collection of the required documents from CDCs so that the grant application development can start in an earlier phase of the district implementation.
- In preparation for the Logar Service Providers Fair (SPF), SIKA-East shared related material, information and list of requirements with the vendor to ensure that the vendor is well prepared for all logistical arrangements of the fair at least two days ahead of the event.
- Human Resources filled seventeen positions this week: ten for AECOM, two for IRD and five for OSC.
- Security Unit conducted Security Risk Assessment (SRA) in Gurbuz, Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts of Khost Province. The Unit also inspected the Logar PMU guesthouse to assure security measures and logbook functions.
- SIKA-East armored vehicle licensing is still being delayed by a letter sent to the Kabul Traffic Department from the office of the Member of Parliament Mir Dad. The letter instructed the Kabul Traffic Department not to issue new green license plates to foreign companies. Other implementing partners being impacted by the delay are Chemonics and DAI. A total of 26 armored vehicles are currently being denied green license plates.
- Baraki Barak staff are currently unable to conduct activities in the district and are working from Puli Alam PMU office. Since two SIKA-East staff members, a DDA member and an NGO worker were held hostage and threatened at gunpoint for two hours by the Taliban, the risk to SIKA-East staff is graded as extreme. Unless a formal guarantee can be obtained between all *hawzas* in Baraki Barak ensuring staff safety, SIKA-East staff will not be able to continue working in the Baraki Barak District.
- Several units facilitated the following trainings, program-wide, in the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
March 31	SIKA Induction	Kabul	Training	22	3
April 2-8	Stakeholder Engagement	Kabul	ToT	21	3
April 3	Lobbying	Saydabad	Training	20	0

- 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	16	2
Nirkh	25	5	2	\$132,027	1	1	0
Mohammad Agha	26	2	13	\$666,678	9	12	5
Dih Yak	5	3	0	\$0	0	0	0
Total	61	10	31	\$1,305,437	12	29	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	7	22	86,937	586,777
	Nirkh	8	2	542,442	132,027
Logar	Mohammad Agha	5	14	260,235	\$764,510
Ghazni	Dih Yak	4	-	235,577	-
	Sub-total	24	38	1,125,192	1,483,313
Grand total		62		2,608,506	

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meeting with PRRD;
- Conduct Andar Grant Process and Applications Development – men session;
- Conduct Dih Yak men and women communication committee meetings; and
- Begin stakeholder identification and engagement process in Khwaja Umari.

KHOST

- Meet Provincial Governor and DGs of three target districts and ask for office space; and
- Continue to recruit staff.

LOGAR

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Share Mohammad Agha Cycle 1 projects with line sectors to avoid duplication;
- Update Mohammad Agha Profile;
- Share Mohammad Agha DPP with Service Providers;

- Begin stakeholder identification and engagement process in Khoshi;
- Update the Logar Service Provider Catalogue (SPC);
- Fill grant applications for Mohammad Agha; and
- Conduct project survey for different *hawzas*.

PAKTYA

- Conduct coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and other concerned organizations; and
- Identify women-led organizations in Paktya.

WARDAK

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD, DGs and other stakeholders;
- Fill out grant applications for Saydabad CDC;
- Follow up Saydabad and Nirkh CDCs endorsement and support letters;
- Conduct projects survey in Saydabad and Nirkh Districts;
- Participate in upcoming Chak CDC grant process training;
- Conduct Saydabad men and women communication committee meetings; and
- Conduct Nirkh women communication committee meeting.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue training new staff;
- Review the translated version of the Zadran District Project Portfolio (DPP);
- Submit Zadran DPP to USAID;
- Standardize the Lobbying Training module;
- Prepare the first draft of the March Monthly Media Analysis Report;
- Met representatives of New Kabul Bank in order to clarify procedures and required documents for payment to the CDCs;
- Receive the feedback of SIKA-East field staff, PRRD and DG on the radio plays;
- Arrange a meeting with the DGs of newly approved Districts (Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, Laja Ahmad khail and Laja Managal) regarding office space for SIKA-East;
- Prepare USAID approval packages for the Mohammad Agha, Saydabad and Nirkh applications that have received concurrence by the Grant Review Committee (GRC);
- Conduct SRA in the Zadran District;
- Recruitment by the HR Unit of 121 staff continues:
 - 67 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Ten vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - 44 vacancies in process with IRD.