

## SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 69

### SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### GHAZNI

- On April 7, the PRRD Director for Ghazni and SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager attended a coordination meeting with the Provincial Governor. They discussed the selection of two new districts in which to implement SIKA-East. It was decided that Qarabagh and Jaghatu Districts would be suitable candidates. This was followed up by an official letter, signed by the PRRD director and Provincial Governor, requesting MRRD approval of the district selection.
- Two days later, the PRRD Director and Head of Programs held a coordination meeting with the Ghazni PMU manager to discuss the new district selection process and the role of the Provincial Governor and PRRD in it. The PRRD Director agreed to have an individual meeting with the Provincial Governor and obtain his recommendations in this regard.
- The Ghazni PMU Manager had another coordination meeting with the PRRD Director and other partners on April 10 to update them on program progress. The PMU manager requested forms used by National Solidarity Program (NSP) to communicate with Community Development Councils (CDCs), and the NSP representative promised to share them.



**Coordination meeting with PRRD and partners**

#### Andar

- On April 7, a training session in Grants Process and Application Development – Male began. However, it was stopped the next day due to security measures taken in the province in connection with Ghazni's selection as World Capital for Islamic Civilization and Culture in 2013 and a large conference that is expected to be conducted there. The training will resume on April 15.

#### Dih Yak

- The men's communication committee for Dih Yak conducted its fourth meeting on April 8 in the presence of the district's Haji Shah Mohammad representative. They presented their one-week activity report to everyone at the meeting. They continued to build on the previous meeting and completed two more worksheets on identified resources to implement the communication plan and identify potential partnerships.
- That same day, the corresponding women's committee held its fourth meeting in the DoWA office in Ghazni city. Besides presenting their one-week activity report, the women also discussed with a representative of the Ghazni Education Department a request for school supplies for Ramak Primary School. The Education Department promised that after an assessment they would support the school.
- The women's advocacy group held a follow-up meeting with the Deputy Director of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyred, and Disabled. He mentioned that as soon as they get World Food Program

projects, they will establish the tailoring course that the advocacy group had requested for the women of Tasan village.

- The Dih Yak District Support Unit (DSU) continued to work with CDCs and community representatives, helping develop grant application packages and collect required documents.
- Surveys continued for Dih Yak Cycle 1 projects. During the reporting period, proposals for three projects were completed, along with technical surveys for two projects.

#### **Khwaja Umari**

- The Khwaja Umari DSU collected basic data on district entities in order to expedite coordination with them.
- DSU staff from Khwaja Umari attended a ToT on Stakeholder Engagement in Kabul.

#### **KHOST**

- On April 7 and 8, the Khost PMU manager made site visits to Tani and Gurbuz, respectively, to select sites for DSU offices. Suitable buildings for office use were identified and approved by the District Governors for both districts. The estimated cost to rehabilitate the buildings was prepared and shared with the Kabul office for further processing.

#### **LOGAR**

- The Logar Service Providers Fair has been rescheduled for April 23 and 24. Sixty-four service providers have registered their organizations to participate in the event and will set up booths to demonstrate their capabilities. All logistical arrangements – including booth installation, printing of banners and other materials, refreshments, and venue setup – will be handled by SIKA-East. All other program and management-related issues – including finalizing participants lists, inauguration ceremony agenda, speakers selection, and invitations – will be covered by PRRD.
- During the week, the acting PMU manager met with the vendor that will be responsible for managing logistical issues, and explained his responsibilities. He also attentively double-checked and updated the Logar Service Providers Catalogue, which is to be printed and ready for distribution among and by service providers during the fair.
- Also this week, the PMU procurement representative worked on a media cost list for Logar province, at both provincial and district levels, to find out the per-minute cost of broadcasting. The process is not finalized and will continue next week.
- On April 8, the radio play script was reviewed and approved by PRRD, as well as by Mohammad Agha DDA and DRR members. They all agreed that there is nothing offensive in the script content.
- On April 10, the PMU started reviewing the Cycle 1 projects of the Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak DPPs.

#### **Baraki Barak**

- The issue of the Baraki Barak DSU office is still unresolved. In the meantime, Baraki Barak business continues to be performed out of the PMU office in Puli Alam.
- On April 7, the Baraki Barak PMU prepared project application forms for future process.
- On April 8, Baraki Barak DSU staff met with the DoWA head to confirm and reserve the Bagh Zanana Hall for trainings.

### Khoshi

- The Khoshi DSU collected basic data regarding DEs in order to improve mutual working relationships.

### Mohammad Agha

- Cycle 1 projects of the Mohammad Agha DPP were shared with key service providers in Logar province in order to confirm their ability to implement the projects using existing resources or to find out if they already have them on their lists of planned project. Responses from service providers are expected to be received in the coming weeks.
- In a follow-up to previous meetings, the Surkhabad CDCs met DDA members and developed an advocacy plan to receive the support of the Agriculture Department for the development of new fruit orchards.
- The Mohammad Agha DSU developed technical and financial milestones for three projects during the week. They also continued to work with CDCs and community representatives providing support on the development of grant application packages and the collection of required documents.
- On April 4, DSU staff met with male members of the Lashkarkhill, Abparan Bala, and Abparan Payan CDCs regarding their projects. During the meeting, the CDC heads signed grant application forms for further processing.
- On April 4, the DSU manager met with the District Governor and submitted the CD of radio dramas for approval. The DG listened to and approved them for further processing. The CD was also shared with Mohammad Agha DDA members on April 8. They listened and thought they would be useful for strengthening the stability process across the province.

### PAKTYA

- On April 4, the Paktya gender officer met with the DoWA Director in her office. The purpose of the meeting was to define the SIKA-East program and its involvement in gender issues. The DoWA Director promised to support the program and asked for trainings to upgrade women's capacity.



Meeting with DoWA Director

### Zurmat

- On April 4, the District Governor met with SIKA-East's communication officer for Zurmat to discuss the radio scripts. The District Governor approved them and allowed them to be broadcast through local radio channels.

### Zadran

- On April 8, the Zadran M&E officer met with the acting District Governor and the Afghan National Protection (ANP) commander for Zadran. They discussed the effectiveness and credibility of radio plays in promoting stability programming. They reviewed the scripts and approved them for broadcasting.

- On April 8, DSU staff met with Lara/Bara Wuza Zadran elders and district authorities to help find a way to reopen the community school after a long hiatus. The school was closed due to a lack of teachers and the unwillingness of teachers from other districts to fill in because of the prevailing low salary scale. It was decided to meet with the Department of Education to try to find a solution to the problem.



**Meeting with Lara/Bara Wuza Zadran elders**

#### **WARDAK**

- On April 7, PRRD hosted a coordination meeting with stakeholders. The Wardak PMU was assigned to prepare a comprehensive list of all CDC members who are absent and the new introduced members. The list will then be approved by PRRD and sent to the Culture Information Directorate for announcement in local media. The Wardak PMU prepared the list and submitted it to PRRD.

#### **Chaki Wardak**

- On April 4, the Chaki Wardak District Governor met with SIKA-East's DSU manager to get updated on the program in the district. The District Governor promised to support and cooperate in program implementation.
- Between April 7 and 11, PRRD and SIKA-East trainers conducted a workshop on Grant Process and Application Training for 48 male members of the Chaki Wardak DDA+.

#### **Nirkh**

- On April 8, the Nirkh DSU had a coordination meeting with the District Governor, during which he outlined SIKA-East. The District Governor promised to support the program. He also approved 21 CDC endorsement letters.



**April 8 meeting with Nirkh DG**

#### **SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES**

- SIKA-East continued training the newly hired stability program officers from Paktya and Khost Provinces. The goal of this training is to prepare them to facilitate the Stability Analysis Methodology (SAM) and review DPPs as a practical work. The training also allowed SIKA-East to discuss lessons learned from others target districts, which will help the stability program officers to better work with PRRD and interact with other government entities and key stakeholder in their districts while conducting the stability analysis sessions.
- SIKA-East uploaded the Service Providers Catalogues of Ghazni, Wardak and Paktya Provinces into the new online database.
- A member of the Afghan Senate from Paktya was briefed on stabilization programming during a recent non-SIKA social event. He strongly endorsed the concept and implementation process, pledged his full support, and committed to motivating Paktya residents to participate actively in stabilization activities.

- Based on a USAID request, SIKA-East resubmitted seven applications previously submitted for approval. USAID requested individual packages for each application.
- Only the following training, which was facilitated by several units, was held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
April 7-11	Grant Process and Application Development	Chak	Training	48	

- 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	0	2	16
Nirkh	25	5	2	132,027	4	1	1
Mohammad Agha	13	2	13	666,678	1	8	12
Dih Yak	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,305,437</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>

- 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	5	24	62,381	611,333
	Nirkh	10	3	547,881	230,746
Logar	Mohammad Agha	8	14	434,424	764,510
Ghazni	Dih Yak	6	0	235,577	0
	Sub-total	29	41	1,280,263	1,606,589
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>70</b>		<b>2,886,852</b>	

- Security Department finalized the security risk assessment of the proposed Gurbuz and Jaji Maidan DSU premises. The assessment was conducted to give a clear security overview of the districts to SIKA-East staff prior to deployment.

## **PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

### **GHAZNI**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Conduct male and female communication committee meetings for Dih Yak and Andar; and
- Conduct Grant Process and Application Development Training for DDAs, CDCs, and community representatives of Andar District.

### **KHOST**

- Continue to recruit staff.

### **LOGAR**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Conduct Mohammad Agha male and female communication committee meetings;
- Restart activities in Baraki Barak District, including resuming remaining trainings;
- Fill grant application forms for Mohammad Agha;
- Conduct survey of protection wall in Kutoobkhil hawza;
- Conduct survey for repair and graveling of Safid Sang hawza road;
- Collect data for Khoshi Service Providers Catalogue;
- Conduct coordination meeting with PRRD and economy heads concerning scheduled Logar Service Providers Fair; and
- Distribute invitation letters for Service Providers Fair.

### **PAKTYA**

- Hold regular coordination meetings with PRRD and involved organizations; and
- Review Stability Planning Process in Zadran.

### **WARDAK**

- Conduct coordination meetings with PRRD, DRRD, and program stakeholders;
- Conduct coordination meetings with Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak District Governors;
- Fill out grant applications for Nirkh and Saydabad CDCs according to the Grants Unit plan;
- Conduct project surveys in Nirkh and Saydabad according to the Engineering Unit plan;
- Follow up on CDC endorsement letters and government support letters;
- Conduct fourth meetings of Nirkh male and female communication committees; and
- Call members of CDCs and PMC committees for all Cycle 1 projects to encourage them to work with their respective villagers.

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

- Conduct SIKA Induction for newly hired staff;
- Prepare for Stability Planning Process ToT for Khoshi and Khwaja Umari;

- Translate Andar District DPP and hold discussions with PMU managers about some of the challenges and ways forward;
- Share Zadran, Andar, and Baraki Barak DPPs with service providers;
- Arrange sub-coordination meeting of Service Providers and Chaki Wardak DEs;
- Start arrangements for Paktya Service Providers Coordination Meeting;
- Follow up on logistical arrangements for Logar Service Providers Fair;
- Receive feedback from SIKA-East field staff, PRRD, and District Governors on radio plays;
- Conduct informal stakeholder identification surveys in Khoshi and Khwaja Umari Districts;
- Collect basic information and build relationships with key actors in Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khil Districts of Paktya Province;
- Conduct engineering surveys for several projects in Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Nirkh, and Dih Yak Districts based on their DPPs' Cycle 1 projects;
- Prepare grant applications package for Chief of Party and USAID approval;
- Continue supporting CDCs in application development;
- Continue submission of vetting requests to USAID vetting unit;
- Ship equipment to Khoshi DSU; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 115 positions:
  - 65 vacancies in process with AECOM;
  - 10 vacancies in process with OSC; and
  - 40 vacancies in process with IRD.