

## SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 71

### SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### GHAZNI

- On April 24, the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department (PRRD) Director for Ghazni hosted a coordination meeting, which was attended by SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU) manager and a program representative from Kabul. The purpose of the meeting was to update the Director on the program's current and planned activities. The PRRD Director said he appreciated the coordination between SIKA-East and PRRD and offered program staff an office within his compound.



**SIKA-East representatives discuss program activities with the PRRD Director for Ghazni.**

#### Andar

- From April 21 to 24, Grant Process / Application Development Training was conducted for an average of 42 men from Andar District. During the training, valuable information was collected for use in developing non-infrastructure grants.
- Andar PMU staff visited Agriculture and Health Department offices to collect new information on their services in order to update the Andar District profile.
- The men's and women's communication committees conducted their first meetings, respectively, on April 23 and 24. The committees will provide awareness to the community regarding development activities and services, as well as ways to increase trust among the District Development Assembly (DDA+), district/provincial line departments, and local communities.

#### Dih Yak

- The men's and women's communication committees for Dih Yak held their fifth meeting on April 17 and 18, respectively. As a result of these meetings, the participants understand how to advocate on behalf of their District Project Portfolio (DPP) and know about the mandates of every line ministry and their responsibilities to the community. They also know how to develop a comprehensive message and select their audience and communication channel in order to successfully achieve their goals.

#### Khwaja Umari

- This week, the Khwaja Umari District Support Unit (DSU) moved from the provincial capital to their new office in the district. On April 21, they had an introductory meeting with the District Governor and DDA head.

#### KHOST

- The Khost PMU continued recruitment of staff during the week. The unit hired a district engineer, a communication and outreach officer, and a resource development officer for the target districts. The

newly hired staff then participated in SIKA Induction and Stability Planning Process workshops in Kabul.

- The installation of a connex to serve as the PMU office continued during the week. The installation was monitored by the PMU manager.

## LOGAR

- On April 23 and 24, a Service Providers Fair was held in Puli Alam in Logar Province. A total of 64 service providers set up 76 booths at the fair to demonstrate their products and services. Following the recitation of a few verses from the Quran, the Deputy Governor of Logar, Director of Economy, Director of Agriculture, and PRRD representatives spoke about the importance of the fair, as well as the service delivery process in the province. More than 900 people visited the fair over the two days.
- On April 21, the Logar PRRD Director held a coordination meeting with PRRD implementing partners. SIKA-East's PMU manager attended and was able to update the participants on program activities to date. A National Solidarity Program (NSP) representative agreed to provide some documents and forms to SIKA-East; however, SIKA-East needs to follow this up with a formal request from PRRD to NSP.



**Female service providers displaying their products to visitors**

## Baraki Barak

- From April 21 to 25, the Logar PMU conducted two rounds of Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for an average of 41 men and 30 women from Baraki Barak District. The Advocacy training, using the DPP as a base, provides a basis for participants to create an argument, identify decision makers, and begin the process of advocating for specific projects for their district and/or villages. Over the course of the training, participants learn how to draft a persuasive message and identify who the target of that message should be and what methods of dissemination are best.
- From April 21 to 23, Grant Process and Application Development training was conducted for an average of 45 women from the Baraki Barak DDA+. During the training, the participants bundled the projects and completed five applications for 13 projects.
- The Baraki Barak District Governor refuses to endorse project documents for this district. He insists that the DSU office be moved back to the district.



**Women participating in Grant Process and Application Development training**

### **Khoshi**

- From April 21 to 25, newly hired employees for Khoshi District participated in a five-day Training of Trainers workshop on Stability Planning Process in Kabul. Meanwhile, the recruitment of other staff for the district continued during the week.

### **Mohammad Agha**

- On April 21, Mohammad Agha DSU staff met with the District Governor to brief him on the upcoming Service Providers Fair and to invite him to the event.
- The Mohammad Agha DSU worked on grants applications during the week. They also prepared bills of quantities (BoQs) for several projects in different parts of the district.

### **PAKTYA**

- Kabul technical unit staff traveled to Paktya this week to lay the groundwork for the expedited launch of implementation activities in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts during staff recruitment. In each district, basic information was collected about Community Development Council (CDC), DDA, and District Community Council (DCC) structure, status, and membership, as well as key influential figures who could spread the stability message and contribute in each stage of stabilization efforts and programming.
- During the series of meetings with DDA, DCC, and CDC members and leaders of the main tribes in the subject districts (Zazi tribe in Laja Ahmad Khail, and Mangal tribe in Laja Mangal), traditional tribal structures were determined to be strong. Although the districts are not secure, this resilience and the support of the tribes' recognized leaders will help ensure active engagement in SIKA-facilitated stabilization.
- The Paktya PMU started preparations for a Service Providers Coordination Meeting at the provincial level. This meeting, which is planned for April 30 in Gardiz, will pave the way for local service providers to coordinate with each other on their existing resources and to use them to implement DPPs produced by districts in the province. Community members from SIKA-East-targeted districts will also be invited to the meeting as observers. The PRRD Director has already approved the list of participants and signed the invitation letters.
- On April 18, a Paktya PMU representative visited the Afghan Central Statistics Office (ACSO) to get information that can be used to complete the Zadran standardization form.
- On April 21, the Paktya gender officer met with the Manager of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) at the Independent Human Rights Commission (IHRC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss methodologies that can help both entities access women in the districts. The gender offices identified seven women service providers.
- On April 22, the Paktya PMU manager and Deputy PMU manager visited the PRRD Director in his office to update him on the planned Service Providers Coordination Meeting and its advantages for the community. The PRRD Director said he appreciated this effort and suggested that the meeting be held in the municipality conference hall.

### **Zadran**

- On April 23, the Zadran District Governor met with the SIKA-East's DSU manager for Zadran, along with DDA members and community elders. The Governor endorsed the Zadran DPP and Cycle 1 projects in agreement with the DDA and community elders. He also suggested giving the

responsibility of project implementation to a project management committee (PMC) rather than a DDA member. He guaranteed the transparency and accountability of PMC members in following and executing this task. However, he proposed to increase the number of PMC members from five to ten.

### Zurmat

- After extensive consultations with key stakeholders in Zurmat district, the DDA+ expressed strong interest in continuing SIKA-East implementation and attended the first two days of the Stability Planning Process session. The session started on April 23 and continued to April 25 and was attended by an average of 30 men from the DDA. The objective of the session was to review the identified sources of instability (SoIs) and proposed solutions agreed during an earlier session, this time with full representation from all district hawzas, including two that were previously absent due to security reasons. The outcome of this session will be a complete DPP, which will show a prioritized list of SoIs, root causes, and solutions. Following the development of the DPP, community representatives will take the DPP back to their villages and consult with other local influential people in order to secure their support for the projects.

### WARDAK

- On April 21, the PRRD Director held a coordination meeting, at which the Wardak PMU manager updated the Director and other participants on the SIKA-East implementation process in Wardak Province.

### Chaki Wardak

- The men's and women's communication committees for Chaki Wardak conducted their second meeting this week. A SIKA-East communications officer provided a short explanation about the purpose of the meeting and the responsibilities of the communication committee. He also briefed the participants on the benefits of their activities to society, the importance of development, and communications protocols.
- The Chaki Wardak DSU developed grant applications forms for four projects in four different villages.

### Nirkh

- The Nirkh DSU completed 26 grant applications during the week. The necessary accompanying documents for 20 of the projects have been assembled and submitted to Kabul. The remaining six are still being worked on.
- The men's communication committee for Nirkh conducted its fifth meeting on April 22, while the women's committee met the next day. Representatives of several government entities also attended. The participants reviewed the four previous meetings, and committee members briefed the government participants on their communication plans.



**SIKA-East's DSU engineer during the survey of the Badam Timani kariz repair project.**

- On April 23, the Nirkh engineering team successfully completed a survey of Badam Timani kariz repair project.

### Saydabad

- On April 21, the Saydabad District Governor convened a coordination meeting, at which SIKA-East's DSU manager provided an update on program activities. While the Governor promised his support for the program, he mentioned that he thought SIKA-East should implement it in communities with larger populations rather than those with small populations. For instance, he mentioned that Hakim Khill Village has a very small population and SIKA-East should consider Shah Joy Village instead.
- Also on April 21, the Saydabad communication committee conducted its fifth meeting. The participants discussed the benefits of the committee's meetings and its importance in the development of society.
- The Saydabad PRRD Director signed 11 endorsement letters allowing additional grants to be vetted and processed for approval.

### SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- From April 21 to 25, the SIKA-East team conducted a Stability Planning Process Training of Trainers (ToT) in Kabul. It was attended by 26 men and 6 women.
- As part of the ongoing effort to strengthen the DDA+ from an institutional perspective, SIKA-East continues to support the formation of communication committees. The committees, made up of 6-8 members, take on responsibility for developing a broader communication plan for the DDA+ and working to communicate the work the DDA+ is doing for the community, as well as developing a plan for advocacy of issues/projects to the provincial and national level.
- Sub-coordination meetings are planned for each SIKA-East district that is in the process of implementing its DPP. The main purpose of these meetings is to provide community members with an opportunity to identify gaps in service delivery and share their concerns with service providers. These meetings also give community members an opportunity to lobby for the implementation of projects that address sources of instability.
- The following trainings, which were facilitated by several units, were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
April 21 – 22	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Puli Alam/Logar	Training	41	
April 21 – 23	Grant Process and Application Development	Puli Alam/Logar	Training		45
April 21 – 24	Grant Process and Application Development	Ghazni/Andar	Training	42	
April 21 – 25	Stability Planning Process	Park Star Hotel	ToT	26	4
April 23 – 25	Stability Planning Process	Paktya/Zurmat	Training	30	
April 24 – 25	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Pul-e-Alam/Logar	Training		30

- 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		Appl. under USAID Vetting	Appl. Vetted and Approval	Appl. Approved by GRC	Appl. Sent to USAID for Approval
	M	F	Nr.	\$	No.	No.	No.	No.
Saydabad	5	0	16	529,989	0	2	14	2
Nirkh	23	5	5	275,642	5	2	1	0
Mohammad Agha	26	2	12	519,456	2	8	7	12
Dih Yak	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chak	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baraki Barak	26	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,325,087</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>

- The USAID CO has agreed that the SIKA-East Grants Manual does not restrict activities under Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs) and that it addresses the SIKA-E small grants requirement for small community projects of short duration
- The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Province / District			Designs		Design Completion Status	
S/N	Province	District	Total Designs in Progress	Designs Completed 100%	In Progress \$	Completed \$
<b>Batch A</b>						
1	Logar	Baraki Barak	0	0	0	0
2	Maydan Wardak	Saydabad	6	24	89,989	611,776
<b>Batch B</b>						
3	Ghazni	Dih Yak	8		376,346	
4	Logar	Mohammad Agha	12	14	623,551	764,510
5	Maydan Wardak	Nirkh	4	10	207,288	600,949
<b>Batch C</b>						
6	Ghazni	Andar	0	0	0	0
7	Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	0	0	0	0
8	Paktya	Zadran	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub Totals</b>			<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>297,175</b>	<b>1,977,235</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>			<b>78</b>		<b>3,274,409</b>	

- Security Department finalized the Security Risk Assessments (SRAs) for Jaghatu and Qarabagh, which will give an overall security overview of the districts for upcoming rollouts.
- Human Resource Department filled 7 positions during the week: six positions for AECOM and one positions for IRD.

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

### **GHAZNI**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Prepare for SIKA-East launch in Khwaja Umari; and
- Complete stakeholder mapping process in Khwaja Umari.

### **KHOST**

- Continue to recruit staff.

### **LOGAR**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Conduct sub-coordination meeting in Mohammad Agha;
- Start post-evaluation of Service Providers Fair;
- Speed up the stakeholders survey for Khoshi District;
- Participate in Advocacy TOT;
- Help to complete grant application forms; and
- Conduct survey of five karizes in Dashtak hawza.

### **PAKTYA**

- Hold regular coordination meetings with PRRD and involved organizations;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process training for Zadran men; and
- Conduct Service Providers Coordination Meeting in Gardiz City.

### **MAYDAN WARDAK**

- Conduct coordination meetings with PRRD, DRRD, and program stakeholders;
- Fill out grant applications according to Grants and Sub-contracts Unit plan;
- Conduct project surveys in Chak, Nirkh, and Saydabad according to the Engineering Department plan;
- Conduct sub-coordination meeting in Chaki Wardak; and
- Conduct strategic communication committee meetings for Saydabad DDA and CDC members.

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

- Conduct Advocacy TOT for Batch D districts;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in several districts;
- Conduct Grant Management ToT;
- Conduct Advocacy ToT;
- Continue gender stakeholders' identification and engagement in all provinces;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning ToT for Khoshi and Khwaja Umari Districts;
- Complete stakeholder mapping in Khoshi and Khwaja Umari Districts;

- Work on standardization of the SoIs and root causes, and start writing narratives for the DPP;
- Get the DPPs endorsed by District Governors, PRRD, line departments, and USAID;
- Continue training newly hired staff on the Stability Analysis Methodology;
- Finalize preparation of required documents for Grant Review Committee (GRC) for the evaluation of six grant applications in Mohammad Agha District and five applications in Nirkh District;
- Continue working on USAID vetting documents for CDCs;
- Complete market surveys in preparation for cost/price analysis of grantee BoQ budgets;
- Conduct SRAs of Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts of Paktya Province;
- Follow up on office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Follow up on shipments of equipment to newly approved districts; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 128 positions:
  - 66 vacancies in process with AECOM;
  - 14 vacancies in process with OSC; and
  - 48 vacancies in process with IRD.