

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 72

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On April 30, the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department (PRRD) Director for Ghazni held two coordination meetings, which were attended by the head of SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU). The meetings were called to discuss SIKA-East progress, plans, and coordination with PRRD and the Provincial Governor, District Governors, and District Development Authority - Plus (DDA+). The meetings also touched on the role of PRRD social organizers in SIKA-East and challenges in grants applications development, as well as problematic and black-listed Community Development Councils (CDCs). The PRRD Director said he appreciated the way SIKA-East was coordinating with everyone and promised to work with the National Solidarity Program (NSP) PMU to solve problems in the development of grant applications.
- On May 1, SIKA-East's PMU manager attended a coordination meeting hosted by NSP, which was also attended by the PRRD Director and staff, by SIKA-East's regional coordinator at MRRD, and by representatives of several other organizations involved with development in Ghazni. The participants again discussed the issue of SIKA-East grant applications because of problematic CDCs, and NSP was tasked with finding solutions.

Andar

- On April 30, the PRRD Director and PMU manager met with the Andar District Governor to discuss security for SIKA-East engineering teams that are conducting surveys for infrastructure projects. The District Governor pledged his full support for the team and their security.
- During the week, the Andar District DSU formally shared the list of Cycle 1 projects for Andar with the Provincial Governor, PRRD, and various line departments and non-governmental organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Data was collected this week from different departments in order to update the Andar district profile.

Dih Yak

- On April 30, SIKA-East's communications officer for Dih Yak met with the District Governor to discuss CDCs that have projects in Cycle 1 and are not paying attention to the projects' application development, paperwork, and project surveys. The District Governor promised to support SIKA-East in the process and asked the district field office to provide him with the list of members in those CDCs.
- The men's and women's communication committees for Dih Yak conducted their sixth meeting during the week.
- The Deh Yak district profile has been updated and submitted to Kabul.
- Surveying for the Tenfer canal protection wall is completed, along with a site plan, design drawings, cost estimate, bill of quantities, and schedule.

Jaghatu and Qarabagh

- An engineering team from Kabul conducted a survey of the proposed DSU offices in the two districts to assess the extent of work that may be required to rehabilitate the proposed offices. The team also developed cost estimates and bills of quantities to complete the office rehabilitations.

Khwaja Umari

- Last week, the Khwaja Umari District Support Unit (DSU) moved from the provincial capital to their new office in the district. On April 28, the DSU manager met with the District Governor to discuss office space, a hall for holding workshops trainings, and staff accommodations.
- A stakeholder survey for Khwaja Umari District was completed this week, and the team are working to analyze the list based on the data collected.
- The Khwaja Umari district profile was completed and submitted to Kabul for further action.
- The Ghazni gender officer produced a list of 149 women who are involved in governmental or social activities in Kwaja Umari District, as well as a list of NGOs conducting female literacy courses in the district.

KHOST

- The Khost PMU continued recruitment of staff during the week. The unit hired a district engineer, a field service officer, and three M&E officers, one for each district.
- The installation of a connex to serve as an office building continued during the week. The installation is expected to be complete next week, after which it will be fitted out with office furnishings and equipment.

LOGAR

- On April 30, the Deputy Provincial Governor met with SIKA-East's acting PMU manager to discuss the radio drama scripts that SIKA-East has prepared and to receive his comments on them. The Deputy Governor also promised to share them with the District Governors for Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak.
- On May 1, the PRRD Director held his weekly coordination meeting, at which SIKA-East's acting PMU manager informed everyone that the program will be launched in Khoshi District on May 9. A discussion followed on how the event can be well managed and who will be invited to attend.
- The resource development officers for Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak have been instructed to share the Cycle 1 projects on their DPPs with the line departments in those districts in order to prevent duplication of effort during the implementation phase.
- The post-evaluation of the Service Providers Fair held in Puli Alam on April 23 and 24 was initiated to identify its immediate impact and get feedback from the service providers who participated.

Baraki Barak

- SIKA-East's grants officer for Baraki Barak was assigned to liaise with NSP to obtain a set of the forms that NSP uses for processing grants, along with information on their grants process.

Khoshi

- SIKA-East's DSU manager met with the District Governor to officially inform him about plans to launch the program in Khoshi. The Governor proposed that it should be held in the district center.
- A stakeholder mapping process for Khoshi was launched by the core planning team, which includes representatives from the DDA, District Community Council (DCC), District Governor, and others. The team has identified 40 influential people to be interviewed in order to nominate yet more people from the district who also have a share in stability programming. So far, 12 of the first 40 nominees have been interviewed.

Mohammad Agha

- On April 29 and 30, SIKA-East’s resource development officer conducted sub-coordination meetings, which were attended by men and women from the DDA+ and representatives of government line departments. 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. The meetings also give community members an opportunity to lobby for the implementation of projects that address sources of instability. Seven men and five women from the Mohammad Agha DDA+ were present at the meetings.
- On April 29, the men’s communication committee for Mohammad Agha held its seventh meeting, during which the participants discussed their recent activities since the last meeting. They also reported on a recent meeting with the District Governor, at which they updated him on their purpose and strategy. However, the District Governor was unimpressed and was deemed as non-cooperative by the committee members who met with him.



Five women from the Mohammad Agha DDA+ attended the sub-coordination meeting.

PAKTYA

- On April 30, a Service Providers Coordination Meeting was held in Gardiz. The meeting was intended to 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. Service providers from different governmental and non-governmental agencies were present, as well as DDA members from Zadran and Zurmat Districts. Approximately 120 people attended the meeting.

The PRRD Director for Paktya began the meeting by briefly outlining the goals and objectives of SIKA-East and reporting on progress to date in Zadran and Zurmat. The Deputy Provincial Governor, Dr. Abdul Wali Sehi, spoke about the importance of working together to implement projects most effectively and to avoid duplication of effort, and he urged everyone to support SIKA-East.

During the interactive part of the meeting, three groups of men and one of women among the participants each received a set of questions to be answered. Afterward, one person from the group explained their answers using a flip chart.



Dr. Abdul Wali Sehi, Deputy Provincial Governor, speaks on the importance of service provider coordination.



A member of the women’s group explains the answers to their set of questions.

Zadran

- On May 1, Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training was conducted for 47 men from the Zadran DDA+. The participants paid close attention and took an active part in the discussions.

Zurmat

- A second Stability Planning Process workshop was conducted for an average of 42 men from the Zurmat DDA+. The objective of the second session was to review the identified sources of instability (SoIs) and proposed solutions agreed earlier, but this time with full representation from all district hawzas, including two that were previously absent due to security reasons. The outcome of this session was a complete DPP, showing a prioritized list of SoIs, root causes, and solutions.



Members of the Zurmat DDA+ attend a Stability Planning Process workshop.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On April 28, the PRRD Director held a coordination meeting, at which the Maydan Wardak PMU manager updated the Director and other participants on the SIKA-East implementation process in the province.

Chaki Wardak

- SIKA-East reviewed the DPP from Chaki Wardak and is ready to submit it to USAID. At the field level, members of the DDA, CDC, and DCC plan to submit the DPP to the PRRD Director, the District Governor, and other line departments for their endorsement. This will allow line departments to cross-check the proposed projects with current development plans, and by doing so will allow all the service providers to be aware of other service providers' plans.
- On April 29 and 30, sub-coordination meetings were conducted between Chaki Wardak District DDA+ members and a number of service providers in Maydan Wardak. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the projects in the DPP and seek support from the service providers for some of the non-grant projects in the DPP.

Nirkh

- On April 30, the Deputy District Governor for Nirkh met with SIKA-East's DSU manager to discuss program progress and the current security situation in the district. The DSU manager also took the opportunity to introduce SIKA-East's resource development officer for Nirkh to the Deputy Governor.
- SIKA-East's engineer for Nirkh completed technical documents for the Timani Badam karez project and prepared drawings, designs, and related documents.
- The security situation in Nirkh has deteriorated lately. This is having a negative impact on small infrastructure projects, as field staff are unable to visit project sites.

Saydabad

- The DSU's field engineer conducted an engineering survey for the Yousof Khel CDC culverts projects and prepared the related cost estimates and drawings.
- On April 30, the men's and women's communication committees conducted their seventh meetings. After discussing the results of the previous sessions, they learned about proposal writing and fundraising. They then shared this knowledge with other members of their CDCs.



The Saydabad women's communication committee meeting on April 30

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- SIKA-East reviewed the DPP from Chaki Wardak and is ready to submit it to USAID. At the field level, members of the DDA, CDC, and DCC will be submitting the DPP to the PRRD Director, the District Governor, and other line departments for their endorsement. This will allow line departments to cross check all the projects with current development plans, and by doing so will allow all the service providers to be on the same page and be aware of other service providers' plans.
- SIKA-East is working on standardizing the Sources of Instability (SoI) and their root causes, which will make it possible to observe patterns of SoIs and root causes across the districts and provinces where SIKA-East is being implemented.
- Sub-coordination meetings are planned, and in some cases already under way, 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 SoIs.
- On May 1 and 2, a Training of Trainers (ToT) session on Advocacy was conducted in Kabul for newly hired field staff, as well as new staff from MRRD. A broad mix of new communication officers, field staff from other departments, and MRRD social organizers participated in the training. The training will be replicated for field staff as part of SIKA-East implementation plans. The training was led jointly by the male communication officer from Zurmat in Paktya province and the female communication officer from Chaki Wardak in Maydan Wardak, allowing the participants access to a wide range of experience in advocacy work already conducted by SIKA-East.



April 30 sub-coordination meeting with representatives of line departments in Chaki Wardak



SIKA-East's communications officer for Chaki Wardak conducts a session of Advocacy training.

- SIKA-East received the sixth and final production of the radio plays and obtained approval of USAID and the Deputy Chief of Party. The schedule for broadcasting the radio plays with Sezma Production was finalized as well.
- The following trainings, which were facilitated by several units, were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
April 29 - May 1	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Kabul	ToT	12	3
April 29 - May 2	Grants Management	Kabul	ToT	17	
May 1-2	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Zadran	Training	50	

- On April 29, the MIS group trained provincial staff of the Capacity Building and Gender Unit for Paktya, Logar, and Wardak how to use their online database module.
- This week, USAID approved 11 grant applications. Grant award documents are now being prepared. Meanwhile, SIKA-East provincial staff continued to work with DDAs and CDCs to assist in grant application development and required documentation collection.
- SIKA-East developed questionnaires for different types of non-infrastructure grants and sent these to the districts teams in order to collect required information for development of statements of work, budgets, and procurement strategies.
- The current status of grant applications is summarized in the following table:

District	Applications Under Development		Application Packages Submitted to SIKA-East		Appls. in USAID Vetting Process	Appls. with Vetting Approval	Appls. Approved by GRC	Appls. Sent to USAID for Approval	Applications with USAID Approval	
	M	F	No.	Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Value \$
Saydabad	5	0	16	\$529,989		2	18	8	8	\$ 180,139
Nirkh	23	5	5	\$275,642		6	1	0	0	
Mohammad Agha	26	2	12	\$519,456	2	8	12	12	12	\$ 486,296
DihYak	5	3	0							
Chak	4	1	0							
Baraki Barak	26	6	0							
Andar	23	0								
TOTAL	112	22	33	\$1,325,087	2	16	31	20	20	\$ 666,435

- The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Designs in Progress	Designs Completed 100%	In Progress \$	Completed \$
Wardak	A	Saydabad	6	24	65,159.98	611,776.42
	B	Nirkh	5	10	243,719.74	600,948.65
	C	Chaki Wardak	0	0	-	-
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	8	18	410,837.75	977,136.95
	A	Baraki Barak	0	0	-	-
Ghazni	B	Deh Yak	8	0	376,346.33	-
	C	Andar	0	0	-	-
Subtotals			27	52	1,096,063.79	2,189,862.02
Grand Totals			79		3,285,925.81	

- Security made the required payments to the Kabul Traffic Department for registration of the eight armored vehicles supplied by USAID. The Traffic Department is now preparing the green plates and registration books.
- Security followed up on the May 1 IED threat report on Mohammad Agha district center. When the threat was received, SIKA-East district staff were evacuated, and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) were deployed as a precaution. Security's field services officer discussed the matter with the security officials of Mohammad Agha District and was assured that the situation was under control by ANSF. After the security of the district center was established, the staff were advised to resume duty in the Mohammad Agha DSU.
- Human Resource Department filled six positions during the week: four positions for AECOM, one for OSC, and one for IRD.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Make final preparations and launch SIKA-East in Khwaja Umari; and
- Conduct the seventh communication committee meeting for Dih Yak men and women.

KHOST

- Continue to recruit remaining staff; and
- Complete office setup.

LOGAR

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Conduct engineering surveys for small infrastructure projects in Baraki Barak;
- Conduct the seventh communication committee for men and women from Mohammad Agha;

- Complete engineering surveys and grant applications for projects in Mohammad Agha.
- Complete stakeholder mapping in Khoshi District;
- Launch SIKA-East in Khoshi District; and
- Collect data for updating the Khoshi Service Providers Catalogue.

PAKTYA

- Hold regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other involved organizations; and
- Conduct training in Stability Planning Process, Resource Dialogue and Advocacy, Project Design and Development, and Infrastructure Project Planning for Zadran men.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD, DRRD, District Governors, and program stakeholders;
- Conduct the eighth communication committee meetings for men and women from Saydabad;
- Conduct project surveys in Chak, Nirkh, and Saydabad according to the Engineering Department plan;
- Fill out grant applications according to the Grants and Sub-contracts Unit's plan; and
- Work on remaining grant applications and follow up on CDC endorsement letters and government support letters.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue working to standardize the SoIs and root causes, and write narratives for all three DPPs -- Andar, Chaki Wardak, and Waza Zadran -- currently under review;
- Get the DPPs endorsed by District Governors, PRRD, line departments, and USAID;
- Prepare a schedule for updating Service Providers Catalogues for better transition to PRRD;
- Start broadcasting the radio plays;
- Work with Sezma Production on the M&E form to be used to conduct radio plays surveys in the field;
- Finalize gender mainstreaming strategy;
- Continue identifying female stakeholders and supporting women's events;
- Continue supporting training sessions as well as the quality assurance of training modules;
- Manage engineering surveys for several Cycle 1 projects in Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Nirkh, Dih Yak, and Chak-e-Wardak;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Planning ToT for field staff from Zadran and Zurmat;
- Translate Andar District DPP;
- Conduct security risk assessments of Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts of Paktya Province;
- Continue security training for APPF guards on access control and first aid;
- Follow up on office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Follow up on shipments of equipment to newly approved districts;

- Organize award meeting and signing of the grant agreements with recipients of the 11 grants in Saydabad and Nirkh;
- Conduct Grant Review Committee meetings in Maydan Wardak and Logar for evaluation of six grant applications from Nirkh District and six applications from Mohammad Agha District;
- Collect information required for development of non-infrastructure grants; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 128 positions:
 - 69 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - 11 vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - 48 vacancies in process with IRD.