

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 73

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On May 6, the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Deputy Director for Ghazni held his weekly coordination meeting, which the manager of SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU) attended. The aim of the meeting was to share information on the planned launch of SIKA-East in Khwaja Umari District on May 9. After reviewing the event's agenda and list of invitees, the PRRD Deputy signed off on the documents, and they were sent to Kabul for further action.
- On May 6, the invitation letters for the Khwaja Umari District launch meeting were distributed to the Provincial Governor, District Governor, line department heads, and other invitees. The District Development Council (DDA) and Community Development Council (CDC) members were also informed about the date and venue of the launch.
- On May 7, the PRRD Director and SIKA-East manager met with the newly assigned Governor's Executive Director to brief him on the program. The Executive Director said he appreciated SIKA-East and promised to support it throughout the implementation process.

Andar

- The Andar women's communication committee conducted its sixth meeting on May 6. The participants followed the previous meeting points.

Dih Yak

- The men's and women's communication committees for Dih Yak conducted their seventh meetings on May 7 and discussed action points from previous sessions. In order to implement the district communication plan smoothly, they shared the development and health portions of the plan with the Directorates of Education and Health.
- On May 6 and 7, the District Governor met with CDC and DDA members. On the subject of CDC documents required for SIKA-East grant purposes, the Governor suggested that PRRD re-elect members for those CDCs that do not regularly participate in meetings and do not prepare their documents.



The Dih Yak District Governor, communication committee members, and SIKA-East staff discuss the problematic CDCs.

Jaghathu and Qarabagh

- The Ghazni PMU shortlisted candidates for the Jaghatu and Qarabagh District Support Units (DSUs). Interviews have been scheduled with the candidates.

Khawaja Umari

- This morning, SIKA-East was officially launched in Khawaja Umari District. Presided over by Mohammad Mosa Khan Akbarzada, Provincial Governor, the launch meeting was held in Ghazni City and was attended by approximately 80 government officials, tribal and community leaders, donor representatives, DDA+ members, and people from the community. Ghulam Sanayee Mayel, PRRD Director for Ghazni, opened the launch meeting and gave a brief explanation of SIKA-East. Following remarks by the Provincial Governor and a representative of DoWA, the District Governor for Khawaja Umari, Ali Dost Shams, spoke about his hopes for SIKA-East in the district and encouraged everyone to support the program. The launch meeting concluded with a question and answer session led by the Provincial Governor.



At the Khawaja Umari launch meeting, the goals and objectives of SIKA-East are outlined for the participants. Women were well represented at the event.

KHOST

- On May 7, the Khost PMU manager met with the manager of National Solidarity Program (NSP). The participants discussed SIKA-East and data compiled by NSP on CDCs and DDAs that could be useful to SIKA-East. The NSP manager promised to provide the data and support SIKA-East in program implementation.
- The Khost PMU continued to recruit staff for the new districts of Jaji Maidan, Tani, and Gurbuz. During the week, they interviewed candidates for 12 positions.
- The installation of a connex to serve as an office building was completed successfully this week. The office is now ready for set up and use.

LOGAR

- On May 6, the acting PRRD Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting with SIKA-East's acting PMU Manager. During the meeting, they discussed the upcoming Khoshi District launch and shared the agenda and list of participants, which the PRRD Director approved. They met again the next day for further discussion about the launch.
- On May 7, a PMU representative participated in the provincial council meeting along with other organizations implementing MRRD projects. During the meeting, provincial council members again insisted on moving the program's Baraki Barak office to the district center and requested that SIKA-East find the best solution to the problem. In addition, the District Governor of Azra District requested that SIKA-East be implemented in his district.

Baraki Barak

- On May 7, the Baraki Barak DSU manager met with DDA members to discuss the refusal of the District Governor to endorse SIKA-East documents. The DDA members appreciated the efforts of SIKA-East to resolve the impasse. Negotiations on the matter continue.
- During the week, the Barak Barak DSU prepared for the sub-coordination meeting to be held next week.

Khoshi

- Earlier today, while SIKA-East was being launched in Khwaja Umari, a second launch meeting was taking place in Khoshi to roll out SIKA-East in that district. The Khoshi launch was attended by approximately 110 men and women. The District Governor of Khoshi, Bismillah Khan Khoshiwal, welcomed the participants. Eng. Mohammad Daud Shirzad, representing PRRD, explained the program to the participants, who included government officials, members of the DDA, CDCs, and District Community Council, and other people from the district. The PRRD Director for Logar and SIKA-East's Program Support Manager outlined their stabilization planning in more detail, emphasizing that SIKA-East's primary goal is to improve the lives of rural people in the district through better service delivery by district authorities.
- During the week, a stakeholder engagement survey of men and women in the district was completed. Lists of the identified stakeholders were prepared and approved by the Khoshi District Governor.



At the Khoshi launch, Eng. Abdullah Stanikzai of SIKA-East outlines the program's goals and objectives.

Mohammad Agha

- On May 5, SIKA-East facilitated a meeting between community members and Directors of the Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Health to discuss their issues and concerns, primarily the delivery of basic services at the community level. Among the concerns they shared with the service providers were the lack of qualified female doctors and medicines, the increase in agricultural diseases and absence of products to prevent them, the need for cold storage, problems in the water supply, and the lack of school teachers. The community members welcomed this initiative by SIKA-East and said they intended to meet other service providers, using the Service Providers Catalogue developed by SIKA-East, to try to solve their problems.
- On May 5 and 6, the men's and women's communication committees for Mohammad Agha met separately, but with the same intention of discussing how to best share their communication plan with the District Governor and DDA.



May 5 meeting of Mohammad Agha men's communication committee

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On May 7, the Provincial Governor's Executive Director held a coordination meeting at which SIKA-East's PMU manager discussed the radio dramas and obtained government approval to air them.

Chaki Wardak

- The district engineering team completed a survey for a dam and karez at Alasang.
- The women’s communication committee of Chaki Wardak conducted its second meeting on May 6 at the PRRD conference hall. The objective of the meeting was to propose an overall goal to the DDA+ for the next six to twelve months. The participants presented their previous week’s activities to the committee members, then built on the last meeting to complete worksheets on objectives and audiences.



SIKA-East engineer (in leather jacket) with DDA and CDC members during survey of Alasang dam

Nirakh

- At the request of various community members, SIKA-East scheduled sub-coordination meetings where they could meet service providers to discuss service delivery in the district. The men and women who had requested the meetings then met individually with the Directors of Agriculture, Public Works, and Disaster Management in their offices, respectively, on May 5 and 6. In the meetings, the community members shared their concerns and suggestions with each service provider, who in turn explained their services, projects, and plans and in most cases provided satisfactory answers to the community members.



May 5 sub-coordination meeting with Director of Department of Public Works for Nirakh

Saydabad

- The Saydabad grants team worked with CDCs that still have not completed their documents for grant applications.

PAKYA

- PRRD and SIKA-East are planning to hold a Service Providers Fair in Gardiz on May 28 and 29. In preparation for the event, the PMU identified the service providers to be invited to set up booths and discussed plans for the fair with the PRRD Director.
- On May 4, the Paktya gender officer met with the Deputy Director of Afghan Women’s Social and Cultural Association (AWSCA) in her office. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the SIKA-East program, and especially its benefits for women. They also discussed the role of civil



Paktya gender officer meeting with AWSCA Director

society in the development of gender equality. The AWSCA Deputy Director promised to work with SIKA-East to bring some positive changes to the lives of women in the province.

- On May 5 and 6, the Paktya PMU interviewed 20 candidates for the Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail DSUs. They selected eight candidates for various positions.

Zadran

- On May 5 and 6, the Zadran training team conducted Infrastructure Project Planning training for an average of 59 participants. The training focused on project feasibility, field measurements, bills of quantities, cost estimating, and environmental assessments.

Zurmat

- On May 7, the Zurmat DSU conducted a District Project Portfolio (DPP) verification session with DDA members of six hawzas. The SIKA-East staff shared the DPP list with DDA members for review and verification. At the end, the DDA members certified the document.



DPP verification session with Zurmat DDA

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- SIKA-East continued reviewing the DPPs from Chaki Wardak and Zadran. At the field level, members of the DDA, CDC, and DCC have submitted the DPPs to the PRRD Directors, District Governors, 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 make other service providers aware of each others' plans.
- During the week, SIKA-East worked on standardizing the sources of instability (SoIs) and root causes and on writing narratives for DPPs. So far, some of the common SoIs – such as land disputes, physical security, and disputes over water resources – are showing a clear pattern across SIKA-East districts where ordinary people face these types of issues, which clearly disrupt their daily lives.
- SIKA-East is planning to conduct a Service Providers Fair in Ghazni Province. The relevant documents for the fair were shared with the Ghazni PMU and field staffs to enable them to start preparing for the event.
- SIKA-East conducted a Grant Review Committee (GRC) meeting for the evaluation of ten grant applications from Nirkh District.
- SIKA-East has sent a letter of inquiry to the Rulings and Tax Exemption Revenue Department in the Ministry of Finance (MoF), asking for clarification on the tax status of CDCs. A written response was obtained from MoF on May 8, stating that CDCs are tax exempt. Therefore, SIKA-East will not withhold tax from these entities.
- The current status of the SIKA-East grants pipeline is as follows:

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	526,430	0	1	16	13	8	176,149
Nirkh	14	5	11	558,749	5	6	1	0	0	
Mohammad Agha	23	2	19	874,954	5	9	13	12	12	490,052
Dih Yak	5	3	0							
Chak	4	1	0							
Baraki Barak	26	6	0							
Andar	23	0								
TOTAL	100	17	46	1,960,133	10	16	30	25	20	666,201

- SIKA-East units updated SIKA-East's standard roster of implementation activities, ten-month activity schedule, and associated training/event participant lists across districts, provinces, and Kabul. The consolidated data will inform unit work planning and budget projections from June 2013 to March 2014.
- The following training was held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
May 5-6	Infrastructure Project Planning	Zadran	Training	59	

- SIKA-East in Kabul shipped equipment and furniture to the Khost PMU, and furniture to the newly hired staff of Logar and Wardak provinces.
- The status of engineering design packages is as follows:

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Wardak	A	Saydabad	6	24	65,518	611,566
	B	Nirkh	3	13	215,583	723,282
	C	Chaki Wardak	0	0	0	0
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	3	23	126,358	1,261,461
	A	Baraki Barak	0	0	0	0
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	8	0	368,931	0
	C	Andar	0	0	0	0
Subtotals			20	60	776,389	2,596,309
Grand Totals			80		3,372,699	

- Security Department conducted Security Risk Assessments (SRAs) for DSU premises in Laja Mangal, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Zurmat. The SRAs were conducted to identify security risk areas where the SIKA-East DSU will be located.
- Human Resource Department filled 12 positions during the week: eight positions for AECOM, and four for IRD.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in Dih Yak;
- Support application development and collection of the required supporting documentation for Baraki Barak; and
- Conduct surveys for several Cycle 1 projects.

KHOST

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD Director;
- Conduct a coordination meeting with Provincial Governor; and
- Introduce newly hired staff for SIKA Induction.

LOGAR

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in Mohammad Agha;
- Organize GRC for evaluation and project approval concurrence in Mohammad Agha;
- Fill grant application forms; and
- Conduct sub-coordination meeting in Baraki Barak.

PAKTYA

- Hold regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other involved organizations; and
- Prepare for Service Providers Fair.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD, DRRD, District Governors, and program stakeholders;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad; and
- Support application development and collection of the required supporting documentation for Saydabad, Nirkh, and Chaki Wardak.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Facilitate SIKA-East Induction for newly hired staff;
- Continue working to standardize SoIs and root causes, and write narratives for all three DPPs;
- Perform language review for Zurmat DPP;
- Initiate the broadcasting of radio plays;

- Continue working on district profiles review;
- Finalize April Monthly Media Analysis Report and share to the interested parties;
- Finalize gender mainstreaming strategy document;
- Continue female stakeholder identification in the field;
- Continue to prepare approval request packages for completed applications concurred by GRC and submit to USAID;
- Continue working on vetting documents and the cost/price analysis for grant projects;
- Organize Grant Management Training for grant recipients in Saydabad and Mohammad Agha;
- Continue collecting data from Cycle 1 project action plans;
- Continue entering data into database in association with DPP and Cycle 1 projects;
- Provide technical engineering and project management guidance to the first round of grant-track projects to receive USAID concurrence as these enter the implementation pipeline;
- Prepare Service Provider Catalogue update schedule for better transition to PRRD;
- Review Stability Planning Process Training Module;
- Finalize post-evaluation of Logar Service Providers Fair;
- Start preparations for Maydan Wardak Resource Coordination Meeting;
- Follow up on office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Follow up on shipments of equipment to newly approved districts; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 111 positions:
 - 59 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - 8 vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - 44 vacancies in process with IRD.