

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 75

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On May 20, the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director held his regular weekly coordination meeting with the manager of SIKA-East's Provincial Management Unit (PMU). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming Service Providers Fair (SPF), which is scheduled to be held in Ghazni City on June 18 and 19. Regarding the fair's venue, it was decided to meet with governmental organizations that have large halls and request the use of one of them for the fair. The gender office also had separate meetings with organizations providing services for women to inform them about the fair. So far, 30 service providers have registered to set up booths for the event.

Andar

- During the week, the Ghazni PMU collected information for the Andar district profile, updated it, and submitted it to Kabul.
- The district engineer completed the design drawings and cost estimate for a boundary wall for Mula Mushki Alam High School and submitted them to the provincial engineer.

Dih Yak

- On May 21 and 22, community men and women met separately to discuss the concerns they have regarding the coordination and implementation of non-grant projects on their District Project Portfolio (DPP), which are supposed to be channeled through service providers. The concerns and other issues discussed during the meetings have been recorded and will be shared with local service providers. Sub-coordination meetings between groups of community members and individual service providers will be conducted later.
- The Dih Yak District Support Unit (DSU) collected the documents of nine problematic Community Development Councils (CDCs). The documents were then submitted to CARE International, which is a facilitating partner of National Solidarity Program (NSP), for further processing.

Jaghatu and Qarabagh

- Recruitment for Jaghatu and Qarabagh DSU continued during the week.

Khwaja Umari

- From May 19 to 23, women from the Khwaja Umari District Development Assembly (DDA) and CDCs received Stability Planning Process Training. The average number of women participating was 49. The women identified a list of local resiliencies in the community that they will be able to draw on during project implementation.
- On May 20, the DSU Manager met with the District Governor (DG) and DDA head to prepare the list of participants for the upcoming SPF.



Women from Khwaja Umari receiving training on the Stability Planning Process

KHOST

- On May 19, the Khost PRRD Director invited SIKA-East's PMU manager to his office to share information about program progress and planned launches. He also received a copy of the Pashtu version of the program work plan. The PRRD Director promised to give SIKA-East full support.
- On May 21, the Khost PMU manager met with the Director of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA). The PMU manager introduced the program and sought DoWA's support in introducing women and motivating them to contribute in project implementation and to participate in meetings and other program events in their province. The DoWA Director promised to cooperate with SIKA-East in stakeholder analysis. She also agreed to provide a contact list of women's councils that are active in Khost.
- The recruitment of staff for the PMU continued during the week; 60% of the staff have been hired to date.



May 19 meeting between the Khost PRRD Director (right) and SIKA-East's PMU Manager

LOGAR

- During the week, the Logar PMU was busy copying NSP forms, which will be distributed to the SIKA-East districts and used for grant processing.
- On May 20, the PMU manager participated in the regular coordination meeting with the PRRD Director and provided updates on program activities, including the ongoing trainings in Khoshi District. The PRRD Director said he appreciated SIKA-East's efforts toward stability.
- On May 20, representatives of the Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) met with the manager of the PMU office to discuss existing challenges and problems in Logar Province, especially in Baraki Barak District. They then met separately with the PRRD Director, Baraki Barak DSU manager, and key members of the Baraki Barak DDA. During the meetings, they asked the various parties about SIKA-East activities and challenges, and received detailed information in reply. The Baraki Barak DDA+ shared their concerns about the District Governor and his support for program implementation. The IDLG representatives promised to support the program.
- On May 16, the PMU manager attended a provincial council meeting and provided detailed information on SIKA-East. He also sought support in solving local problems and challenges. The provincial council member promised to support and assist in successful implementation of the program.

Baraki Barak

- On May 19, the Logar PMU completed the update of the Baraki Barak district profile and then shared it with the concerned departments to verify its accuracy and completeness. The process will take at least two weeks to complete.
- On May 20, the district engineer completed a survey of 15 wells in the Chalozai hawza of Baraki Barak district.

Khoshi

- From May 19 to 23, Stability Planning Process training was conducted for an average of 40 women members of the Khoshi DDA and CDCs. As part of the training session, the women learned about resources available to them in their province and ways to access them. They were given copies of the Logar Service Providers Catalogue and shown how to use it to implement projects designed to address sources of instability listed in their DPP.
- On May 19, the DSU manager met with the Khoshi District Governor and updated him on ongoing plans and activities. The DG said he appreciated SIKA-East's efforts and promised to support the program.

Mohammad Agha

- On May 21, the men's communication committee for Mohammad Agha met in the DSU office to conduct their tenth meeting. During the meeting, the participants discussed monitoring and evaluation methods and developed a detailed M&E plan for future use.
- On May 22, the women's communication committee conducted their eighth meeting. The participants discussed ideas for a 12-month work plan and agreed to begin developing the work plan in their next sessions.
- On May 15 and 16, Grant Management Training was conducted for key members of nine CDCs. The first day of training was assigned for five CDCs members, and the second day for the four remaining CDC members. The training was officially opened by the District Governor, who said how much he appreciated SIKA-East's activities in Mohammad Agha and encouraged the participants to support this program.
- From May 21 to 23, a second session of Grant Management Training was held for members of nine CDCs. A total of 62 people attended, an average of nearly eight members from each CDC.



Some of the participants at Grant Management Training in Mohammad Agha this week

PAKTYA

- Preparations for a Service Providers Fair in Paktya are in the final stages. So far, 63 service providers have registered to set up booths during the fair, and 75 booths will be installed to accommodate those who could use more space. The venue for the event is the municipality hall, which is in a secure area. Invitations have been distributed to all service providers, CDC members, and other stakeholders. The event was planned to be conducted on May 28 and 29. However, the PRRD Director postponed it until June 3 and 4, as he and other stakeholders will be attending an event in Kabul at the end of May.
- On May 16, a Paktya PMU representative visited the head of the Afghan Central Statistics Office (ACSO) in his office. The purpose of the visit was to complete the Laja Mangal standardization form. The ACSO Manager provided all related information and data.

Zadran

- On May 21, the Paktya PMU manager visited the Zaqdran District Governor in his office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the longstanding litigation and antagonism between the Zadran and Garda Serai communities, as a result of which the people of Garda Serai community have appealed to be recognized as an independent district. Now the Garda Serai community wants SIKA-East intervention in their area. The PRRD Director has suggested implementing the program for Gerda Serai under Zadran coverage. The District Governor has approved this suggestion, and the approved proposal was submitted to SIKA-East's Kabul office.
- From May 20 to 22, Project Design and Development Training was conducted for an average of 44 men from the Zadran DDA and CDCs.



Paktya PMU Manager meeting with the Zadran District Governor



Zurmat CDC and DDA members receiving training in Stability Planning Process

Zurmat

- From May 19 to 22, Stability Planning Process Training was conducted for an average of 36 members of the Zurmat DDA and CDCs.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On May 19, SIKA-East's PMU manager attended a coordination meeting with PRRD and representatives of MRRD projects. The PMU manager discussed the community-based database with the NSP representative and offered him an electronic copy of the database for review.
- On May 21 and 22, Grant Management Implementation Training was conducted for an average of 76 men from the Wardak DDA and CDCs.

Chaki Wardak

- During the week, the Chaki Wardak DSU worked on completing grant applications for key members of the Salih Khill and Mulah Jan Khill CDCs. They also invited representatives of the Mulah Jan Khill and Kharoti CDCs to process their endorsement letters with the Chaki Wardak District Governor and Maydan Wardak provincial council.
- The Chaki Wardak DSU updated the Wardak Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) during the week.

Nirakh

- On May 20, the Nirakh District Governor and intelligence manager met with the DSU manager to discuss the work process, as well as successes and challenges faced during program implementation.
- On May 21, the men's communication committee conducted their eighth meeting. The main goal of the meeting was to discuss the district communication plan and the selection of communication

channels, materials, and activities to put the plan into practice. The communication committee members agreed to share the discussed topics with the larger DDA+ and seek their agreement.

- The Nirkh DSU completed and updated the SPC during the week.

Saydabad

- The Saydabad men's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting on May 20 at the PRRD conference hall. The objective of the session was to follow up on previous ones and make sure that the completed worksheets had been shared with the larger DDA+ and received its agreement. They also discussed tracking and monitoring the implementation of their communication strategy.
- The women's communication committee conducted their ninth meeting the next day, focusing on communication plan development and communication channels.
- On May 15, the Saydabad DSU met with members of the DDA and CDCs, as well as a provincial council member from Tangi hawza. The purpose of the meeting was to find out the issues behind the difficulties in implementing the Tangi projects. The provincial council member mentioned that she knows more influential people in Tangi hawza and will invite them to the PMU office, with the hope that after meeting with them, a positive solution can be found.
- The Saydabad Service Providers Catalogue was updated during the week.
- In kind grant applications are being processed in Saydabad for non-infrastructure activities identified in the DPP Cycle 1 project priority list. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are also in development to obtain qualified vendors. The RFPs will be issued after the requirements (scope, schedule, and budget) are defined with the grantees.



Men's communication committee conducting their ninth meeting



SIKA-East staff meeting with members of Tangi Hawza community

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- A critical review of the stakeholder engagement process was documented based on internal SIKAEast discussions in April 2013. The process, challenges, and recommendations on the way forward were provided in a brief report to senior management, including:
 - Improving Functionality and Sustainability: Stakeholder groups need to perform practical functions at district level, as established by local partners in conjunction with SIKAEast. Particularly for the DDA+, it would be useful to examine the current composition, size, committee structure, and membership skill sets as well as shape SIKAEast implementation to be sure these are optimized for strong performance. Both need to be aligned with more enduring governance processes and institutional systems.

- Increasing Representation and Participation: Local leaders and government officials are essential stabilization stakeholders. From the outset, partners and SIKA-East must agree on and promote inclusive representation and active involvement to successfully transfer ownership and institutionalize capacity.
- In preparation for technical unit/group restructuring, functions and scopes of work for new units were drafted, along with a comparative matrix aligned with the program implementation cycle. Newly identified leadership met with unit management and staff to map the transition process over the next several weeks.
- The first SIKA-East grant awards were completed this week. A total of 19 awards were made out of the 25 approved for award. The remaining six will be awarded only after obtaining USAID vetting approval and the completion of award documents. Nine CDC grant recipients in Saydabad and ten recipients in Mohammad Agha are now authorized to begin grant activities. It is anticipated that SIKA-East will begin processing payment requests late in May or early June.
- Grant Management Training was conducted for grant recipients located in Saydabad and Mohammad Agha Districts. This training is a condition of award under the first grant agreement milestone. The training covers grant management best practices in areas such as record retention, procurement, finance, budgeting, monitoring and indicator reporting, transparency and accountability, hiring, and other key areas. The MRRD NSP Procedures Manual and Forms are used as the basis for the best practices training.
- Eighteen additional grant award requests are being processed and will be sent to the USAID Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) as soon as possible, but no later than next week.
- The current status of the SIKA-East grants pipeline is as follows:

District	Under Development	Apps. Received	Apps. Received	Vetting Pending with USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	GRC Approved	USAID Approval Requested	USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded	
	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Andar	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dih Yak	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Mohammad Agha	21	23	1,110,264	12	8	23	12	12	490,052	10	424,786
Nerkh	20	12	667,991	7	6	9	0	0	0		
Saydabad	6	18	547,522	6	2	17	13	13	295,654	9	191,045
Chaki Wardak	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Baraki Barak	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	131	53	2,325,777	26	16	49	25	25	785,706	19	615,831
	Total	184									

- The following trainings were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
May 16-17	Grant Management Implementation	Mohammad Agha / Logar	Training		
May 19-22	Stability Planning Process	Zurmat / Paktya	Training	36	0
May 19-23	Stability Planning Process	Khwaja Umari / Ghazni	Training	0	49
May 19-23	Stability Planning Process	Khoshi Distract / Logar	Training	0	40
May 20-22	Project Design and Development (IPP)	Zadran / Paktya	Training	44	0
May 21-22	Grant Management Implementation	Maidan Shahr / Wardak	Training	67	0
May 21-23	Grant Management Implementation	Mohammad Agha / Logar	Training	62	
May 22	Resource Dialogue	Khoshi / Logar	Workshop		40

- Project survey, design and development are ongoing in several districts of Wardak, Logar, and Ghazni Provinces with regular consultations and technical assistance between project management committees and SIKA-East teams. The following is the project progress.

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Wardak	A	Saydabad	6	25	89,841	634,063
	B	Nirkh	2	14	180,691	760,310
	C	Chaki Wardak	2	0	108,390	0
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	23	257,024	1,261,461
	A	Baraki Barak	1	0	87,548	0
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	2	6	85,146.	266,958
	C	Andar	0	0	0	0
Subtotals			19	68	808,642	2,922,791
Grand Totals			87		3,731,433	

- On May 20, SIKA-East hosted the M&E Community of Practice for all SIKAs to share experiences amongst the four SIKA programs on key implementation issues. A total of 29 people, including 24 men and 5 women, participated in the event. Topics discussed included the process and resources for non-construction grants/ projects, engaging stability stakeholders, the design and implementation of projects in insecure areas, and gender mainstreaming in SIKAs.
- On May 21, SIKA-East participated in a Summit on Sources of Instability and Root Causes. The goal of this session was to produce one set of SoIs and RCs applicable to all four SIKAs. SIKA-East presented a list of standardized SoIs and RCs to representatives of all other SIKAs, MRRD, and IDLG. During this workshop, all SIKA representatives discussed the systematic causes that will allow us to see a clear pattern of problems that the government of Afghanistan faces across the SIKA-East districts and similarly in the other SIKA programs. Also discussed was the sustainability of the program and its partnership with government in finding systematic solutions to systematic problems.

- The following day, SIKA-East took part in the quarterly Stabilization M&E Summit, which was hosted by MISTI and held at the Checchi compound. The focus for this summit was the use of the data MISTI collected in the Wave 1 survey that ended in December 2012.
- Security Department finalized the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) for the Laja Mangal and Ahmad Khill DSUs of Paktya province. The SRAs covered the DSU compound security and staff vulnerability assessment when operating in the districts.
- Security Department conducted weapons handling training and tests for APPF guards located in SIKA-East compounds.
- SIKA East armored vehicle licensing is still being delayed by the head of Kabul Traffic Department. Inspectors were assigned by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to follow up on the matter with Kabul Traffic Department. The outcome of the inspection was that the letter sent by parliament for putting a stop to armored vehicle registration at Traffic Police Department shall be reviewed by the MoI Minister and sent back to Traffic Police Department to move the registration process forward.
- Human Resource Department filled 18 positions during the week: eight positions for AECOM, three for IRD, and seven for OSC.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Identify female stakeholders in target districts;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process workshop for Khwaja Umari men;
- Collect information for Qarabagh District profile; and
- Continue preparations for Service Providers Fair.

KHOST

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD Director; and
- Identify female stakeholders in target districts.

LOGAR

- Participate in the regular PRRD coordination meeting;
- Identify female stakeholders in target districts;
- Fill grant application forms for Mohammad Agha District;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process training for male members of Khoshi DDA and CDCs;
- Follow up meeting with DoWA Director; and
- Attend a meeting with the provincial council.

PAKTYA

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other involved organizations;
- Conduct Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training for Zurmat men;
- Identify female stakeholders in target districts; and
- Prepare for Service Providers Fair.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD, DRRD, District Governors, and program stakeholders;
- Identify female stakeholders in target districts;
- Fill out grant applications in accordance with Grants and Sub-contracts Unit plans;
- Conduct coordination meetings with District Governors;
- Conduct strategic communication committee meetings for Chaki Wardak;
- Conduct project surveys, coordinating with Engineering Group;
- Conduct Grant Management Training for Saydabad District;
- Update Service Providers Catalogue; and
- Sign grant award agreements with some Saydabad CDCs.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Review Khwaja Umari and Khoshi DPPs;
- Finalize Zurmat DPP and submit it for endorsement;
- Conduct engineering survey for several Cycle 1 projects of Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Saydabad, Nirkh, Dih Yak, and Chaki Wardak;
- Continue reviewing district profiles;
- Initiate data collection for new districts;
- Continue conducting communication committee meetings;
- Continue airing of radio plays;
- Prepare SPC update schedule for better transition to PRRD;
- Finalize post-evaluation of Logar Service Providers Fair;
- Start preparation of resource coordination meeting in Wardak;
- Conduct SIKA Induction on May 29 and 30 in Kabul;
- Finish processing and send to USAID an additional 18 - 20 grant award requests;
- If USAID vetting approval is received, award additional grants;
- Continue processing and preparing grant applications for GRC, including cost/price analysis;
- Finalize changes to grants database and enter data;
- Obtain airport passes for armored vehicles;
- Conduct SRA for Jalriz District;
- Follow up on office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Follow up on shipments of equipment to newly approved districts; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 98 positions:
 - 49 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - 7 vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - 42 vacancies in process with IRD.