

## SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 76

### SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### GHAZNI

- Service providers are registering to participate in a Service Providers Fair to be held in Ghazni City on June 17. So far, sixty service providers have registered to take part in the fair. Logistical arrangements for the event are going well. During the past week, the list of invitees was finalized and invitations were printed, service provider booklets were designed, and security measures are being arranged with line departments.
- On May 26, the Program Management Unit (PMU) gender officer met with Ms. Hamidah Gulistan, a member of the Ghazni provincial council, to discuss how to motivate women from the province to participate in the Service Providers Fair.
- During the week, the PMU communication and outreach officer distributed 200 copies of the revised radio play schedule to the District Development Assemblies (DDAs) for Andar, Dih Yak, and Khwaja Umari Districts. The main purpose was to inform the community about radio play broadcasting channels and exact times.
- Data collection has begun for the Jaghatu and Qarabagh district profiles.
- From May 26 to 29, the PMU grant procurement officer collected price analysis documents for Cycle 1 projects and submitted them to Kabul.

#### Andar District

- On May 27 and 28, men and women from communities in Andar District held separate meetings to discuss their concerns regarding the provision of services by public and private organizations operating in the district and to discuss the coordination and implementation of DPP non-grant projects to be channeled through service providers. The community members' requests and all issues discussed during the meetings have been recorded and will be shared during follow-on sub-coordination meetings with Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and the Departments of Education, Public Health, Irrigation, Agriculture, National Solidarity Program (NSP), and other service providers.
- During the week, the Andar DPP was signed by the DDA, Community Development Councils (CDCs), PRRD Director, PRRD social organizer, and PMU manager. A copy is being sent to Kabul.



**Andar men meet to discuss their concerns about service providers.**

#### Dih Yak District

- On May 27, the Dih Yak District Governor met with SIKA-East staff based in the district compound. He explained that he is very busy and that, in the interests of better coordination and efficiency, he was delegating responsibility for all the tasks he himself formerly handled in connection with SIKA-East to Mr. Shirkhan.

- The District Support Unit (DSU) grants team prepared final grant application documents for the Tsan Bala Village karez extension, the Ramak Village protection wall, and the Selezanzai Village bore wells for a Grants Review Committee (GRC) meeting held on May 30.
- On May 29, the DSU communication officer organized the ninth men's communication committee meeting, which was held in Ghazni City. The purpose of the meeting was to share the Dih Yak communication plan with committee members and the District Governor.
- As a practical example of the work of the communication committee, the village of Robat, with about 2,000 families, has had serious flooding issues. The committee coordinated with the District Governor, who arranged a meeting with the Ghazni High Peace Council representative. After several meetings, the Council approved a 200-meter wall and coordinated with the PRRD. A PRRD engineering team conducted a survey for the project, and construction is estimated to begin in the next couple of weeks. This is a very good example of the DDA+, District Governor, and other government entities working together to solve a problem raised at the community level, and it will likely have a positive impact on the perception of MRRD and the government of Afghanistan as a whole among the people of this village.



**Joint meeting with Dih Yak Director General, DRRD staff, and communication committee members**

### Jaghatau and Qarabagh Districts

- Recruitment for Jaghatu and Qarabagh DSUs continued during the week; of 24 positions to be filled, candidates have been hired for two, and recruitment is under way for the others.

### Khwaja Umari District

- On Monday, May 27, at 6:00 in the evening, anti-government elements attacked the Khwaja Umari District Governor's compound and maintained the attack, using mortars and small arms, for the next two hours. All of the mortars were fired from Qabaldal Village, which is on the border with Maydan Wardak Province. Some of the mortars hit buildings used by district and police staff. The head of NDS in the area said the attackers were Taliban from Maydan Wardak's Jaghatu District. Nobody was killed or injured during the incident. DSU staff were advised to stay home the next day.
- On May 26 and 27, the first two days of Stability Planning Process training was conducted for men from Khwaja Umari DDA, DCC, CDCs, and other influential community members. However, the session scheduled for May 28 had to be postponed because of the attack on the District Governor's compound the night before. The training resumed in Ghazni City on May 29 and is scheduled to continue through June 9. An average of 40 men took part in the training.



**Group work during the Stability Planning Process training for men from Khwaja Umari**

## **KHOST**

- On May 27, DSU staff visited the provincial Department of Economy to receive a list of all service providers operating in Khost.
- The next day, staff visited the office of Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA ) to collect a list of public and private service providers.
- PMU staff have begun collecting information for a new Khost Service Providers Catalogue.
- Stakeholder surveys are under way in all three districts where SIKA-East is being implemented.
- The recruitment of staff for the PMU and district offices continued during the week; of a total of 50 positions, 26 have been filled, and recruiting is in progress for the other 24.

## **Gurbuz District**

- During the week, the renovation of the Gurbuz DSU office was completed. The building will be ready for operation once the necessary furnishings and equipment have been received.
- On May 27, the DSU team leader and other district staff met with the District Governor, DDA members, and religious scholars and community elders. The main topic of discussion was the stakeholder analysis survey, and it was decided that key elders will nominate stakeholders to participate in the program and events. During the meeting, the District Governor and others proclaimed their full support for SIKA-East and promised to respect all the rules and regulation associated with implementing the program.

## **Jaji Maidan District**

- Office equipment has been procured for the Jaji Maidan DSU office and is expected to arrive next week.

## **Tani District**

- The renovation of the Tani DSU office by Spectrum Construction Company got under way on May 28.

## **LOGAR**

- On May 26, the PRRD Director held his weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by representatives of SIKA-East, NSP, and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP), as well as PRRD rank and file. The PRRD Director asked SIKA-East to provide his organization with social organizers when they are needed and to supply him with a list of all participants at program trainings.

## **Baraki Barak District**

- On May 26, the Baraki Barak District Governor and SIKA-East DSU manager met so that the District Governor could receive an update on program activities. He promised his support and assistance and suggested that SIKA-East activities should be closely coordinated with him.



**Meeting with Baraki Barak District Governor**

- On May 27, the district engineer conducted technical surveys for the surrounding walls of three schools and three deep wells in Chalozai Hawza.
- During the week, the PMU communication and outreach officer worked to verify the Baraki Barak district profile. The verification is approximately 70 percent complete.

### Khoshi District

- From May 26 to 28, Stability Planning Process training was conducted for an average of 55 male members of the Khoshi DDA and CDCs. As part of the training session, the men 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 26, Mr. Rahmatullah Sarwary, PRRD Director for Logar, accompanied by SIKA-East's PMU manager, visited the program's Khoshi district office, where the Director had a chance to visit the first day's session of the men's Stability Planning Process training. Mr. Sarwary talked about the importance of the SIKA-East program and encouraged the participants to support it. He encouraged them to select projects for the DPP that will benefit all communities and not just one tribe. Afterwards, Mr. Sarwary met Mr. Besmellah Khoshiwal, Governor of Khoshi District, and Mr. Ahmad Nabi Ahmadzai, security commander of the district. Both men welcomed the PRRD and SIKA-East team and promised to support the program.

Mr. Besmellah Khoshiwal attended the last day of the Stability Planning Process training and used the opportunity to introduce the new mayor to the participants. Unfortunately, during the discussion the Governor engaged in an open confrontation with a group of tribal elders and accused them of taking part in the training only to collect the transportation allowance. He also prevented the participants and SIKA-East team, as well as a catering company, from using his compound grounds to access the training site. Despite the brief incident, DDA leadership helped calm the tensions, and the session resumed after the Governor's departure and the DPP was successfully developed.

- The needed information for the Khoshi district profile was provided, and the document was sent to Kabul for further processing.

### Mohammad Agha District

- On May 26, the CDC that recently received a grant to build a school boundary wall in Pacha Qala held a groundbreaking ceremony and performed basic site preparation for construction work. An agreement was submitted on who would provide skilled and unskilled labor for the job, and a CDC official described how the project would proceed and also provided some technical information about it.
- Also on May 26, similar ceremonies and activities took place in connection with boundary wall projects for the Rasool Khill and Rahmadabad CDCs.
- From May 28 to 30, the PMU communication and outreach officer worked at verifying the Mohammad Agha District profile and incorporating updated information.



**Pacha Qala groundbreaking ceremony and site cleaning**

- The DSU engineering officer conducted technical surveys for a karez in Loi Qali Dashtak, and he also prepared proposals with bills of quantities and other technical documents for a karez in Sagi Gerga Qali and a boundary wall at Alozi Najaran in Kotoobkhil Hawza.
- On May 29, the men's communication committee for Mohammad Agha met in the District Governor's office to conduct their eleventh meeting. The District Governor also participated in the session to discuss how to promote the recently awarded SIKA-East grants as part of a larger effort by the government of Afghanistan to support stability in the district. This is notable, as the District Governor works under IDLG while the DDA works under MRRD, which occasionally leads to a lack of communication and coordination between the two bodies in certain districts throughout Afghanistan. The work of the DDA+ to engage the District Governor is an important step forward in coordination between the two local government entities.

### PAKTYA

- Preparations for the Paktya Service Providers Fair, to be held in Gardiz on June 3 and 4, are almost complete. Sixty-three service providers have registered to set up booths during the fair, and 75 booths have been 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. Booklets and other promotional materials are on hand, and signs and banners for the booths have been printed and set up. Service providers are making their individual preparations, including lining up product samples.
- On May 27, the Paktya gender officer attended the Provincial Policy Dialogue Conference sponsored by Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation. Established in 1992, AABRAR first set up a bicycle training program, the first in Afghanistan, to help people with disabilities enhance their mobility and ride bicycles to and from their work places. AABRAR is dedicated to the social, civic, and economic integration of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, as well as to the social and economic development of civil society in Afghanistan. The purpose of the Paktya conference was to discuss issues that women face in their communities, including security, health, education, and vocational training. The attendees discussed solutions for these problems, which they intend to share with various international agencies.

### Zadran District

- On May 27, the DSU team met with the DDA chairman and members to acquire updated information about their DPP and its endorsement by the Paktya PRRD Director. The DPP has already been forwarded to the Director, who said he would compare it with the Provincial and District Development Plans, after which he would provide the necessary endorsement if no changes were required. The DDA members promised that they would follow up with PRRD and deliver the endorsed DPP to SIKA-East's district office as soon as possible.

### Zurmat District

- Between May 26 and 28, Advocacy and Resource Dialogue training was conducted for men from the Zurmat DDA and CDCs, as well as other community stakeholders. The training was held in Gardiz. An average of 48 men participated.



**Advocacy training for Zurmat stakeholders**

## MAYDAN WARDAK

- On May 26, the PRRD Director held his weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by representatives of PRRD, SIKA-East, NABDP, NSP, and Swedish Committee for Afghanistan. One topic of discussion was the procedures for issuing grants for projects in Chaki Wardak, where no CDCs exist for some 11 hawzas. PRRD said that if the community were to elect the CDC head, deputy, and treasurer and the Director General approved, that would be acceptable and PRRD would endorse it.

### Chaki Wardak District

- On May 22, the men's communication committee for Chaki Wardak conducted its fourth meeting, which focused on developing cogent messages, selecting communication channels, and effectively conveying the messages to the community.
- Chaki Wardak district engineers completed the technical survey for a protection wall in Ibrahim Khail Village in Siwaka Hawza.
- The district grant team worked on filling out grant application forms for the rest of Cycle 1 CDCs, including two grant application forms for tailoring training courses in Siwaka Hawza.
- The Chaki Wardak DSU continued to update the Maydan Wardak Service Providers Catalogue.



**Meeting of the fourth men's communication committee meeting in Chaki Wardak**

### Jalriz District

- The Jalriz District Governor met with SIKA-East PMU staff to discuss program implementation in his district. The District Governor assigned office space for DSU staff in his compound. The building will need some renovation, and steps are being taken to accomplish this.

### Nirakh District

- On May 26, the men's communication committee for Nirakh conducted their ninth meeting. Like the previous meeting, the focus was on developing the district communication plan and selecting communication channels, materials, and activities to put the plan into effect.
- On May 27, the women's communication committee held its ninth meeting. The agenda focused on finalizing a strategic communications plan.
- On May 27, the Nirakh DSU team participated in a district coordination meeting with the Deputy District Governor and CDC heads, which focused on expediting the awarded SIKA-East projects and especially getting them started physically as soon as possible.
- The Nirakh resource development officer updated the Maydan Wardak Service Providers Catalogue to include Department of Agriculture services in Nirakh.



**Meeting of the Nirakh women's communication committee meeting**

**Saydabad District**

- On May 27, the Saydabad grants team coordinated the project inauguration and site preparation activities for a project to extend a karez and provide a walkway for the Sra Qala Markazi CDC.
- On May 28, the team helped inaugurate three more projects for karez repairs and extensions in Zara Khail, Aman Khail, and Baber Khail.
- On May 28, the Saydabad men's communication committee held its tenth meeting. The main focus was on finalizing a communication plan, including budgeting for it.
- In kind grant applications continue to be 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.

**SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES**

- SIKA-East reviewed the DPP from Zurmat District of Paktya Province and sent it back to the field to be endorsed by members of the DDA and DCC and then presented it for further endorsement by the District Governor, PRRD, and line departments.
- SIKA-East finalized the DPP policy that will guide and set proper procedures for changes in the DPP. This policy covers four main concerns that SIKA-East and PRRD face after the DPP is developed:
  - Replacing projects from Cycle 1 with other projects from the DPP;
  - Changing projects in the DPP;
  - Modifying projects (e.g., changing the location or the name of the project, or adding additional activities to the project); and
  - Adding a new project to the DPP.

In this policy, each of these four points is provided with an answer so that field staff can work better with members of DDAs and provide answers to hawza representatives.

- The six radio plays continued to be aired on a regular schedule in Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Ghazni Provinces. An M&E field survey form was developed during the week to better record citizens' reactions to the dramas.
- Communications staff began gathering data for Khoshi and Khwaja Umari district profiles in order to prepare initial drafts.
- Following a quarterly review, updated versions of the Zurmat, Zadran, Chaki Wardak, and Nirkh district profiles were approved by SIKA-East management and submitted to USAID.
- SIKA-East staff continued to collect and update basic data about the status of DDAs, DCCs, and CDCs in all the districts where the program is being implemented.
- The stakeholder lists for Chaki Wardak, Saydabad, Baraki Barak, and Mohammad Agha have been updated, corrected, and linked with related organizations in SIKA-East's online database.
- SIKA-East has developed a new tracker to follow progress on grant award projects. The new tracker will be included henceforth in SIKA-East monthly and quarterly reports.
- An additional grant award was made this week in Saydabad, bringing the total to 20 awards made out of the 25 approved for award. The remaining five will be awarded only after obtaining USAID vetting approval. Ten CDC grant recipients in Saydabad and ten recipients in Mohammad Agha have

begun grant activities. It is anticipated that SIKA-East will begin processing payment requests next week. Most of these CDCs have already met the tasks within their first milestone payment, including grants management training, opening ceremony, and site preparation.

- This week, an additional 19 grant approval requests were sent to USAID for concurrence. These include ten for Mohammad Agha, valued at \$535,822; eight in Nirkh, valued at \$430,500; and one in Saydabad, valued at \$64,154. Upon receiving USAID COR concurrence and USAID Vetting Unit approval, these awards will be made.
- A GRC was held this week to review and concur on the award of three grant applications for Dih Yak District, valued at a total of \$51,636.
- 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	18	3	111,036	2	0	0	0	0	0		
Mohammad Agha	21	23	1,110,264	7	13	23	22	12	490,052	10	424,786
Nerkh	20	12	667,991	4	10	9	8				
Saydabad	6	18	547,522	4	3	17	14	13	295,654	10	238,371
Chaki Wardak	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Baraki Barak	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2,436,813</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>785,706</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>663,157</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>									

- The following trainings were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
May 26-27	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy – Male	Zurmat	Training	48	
May 26-28	Stability Planning Process – Male	Khoshi	Training	55	
May 26-29	Stability Planning Process – Male	Khawaja Umari / Ghazni	Training	40	

- An outline for Construction Project Implementation Training has been drafted, which covers site surveys, site preparation, construction material specifications, concrete practices and testing, stonemasonry work, and other construction matters.
- Project design and development is under way for seven districts, with regular consultations and technical assistance between project management committees and DSU and engineering teams. The current status of engineering projects is as follows:

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	7	25	101,850	634,063
	B	Nirkh	3	14	277,194	760,310
	C	Chaki Wardak	3	0	135,480	0
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	23	257,024	1,261,461
	A	Baraki Barak	3	0	232,332	0
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	3	6	112,231	266,958
	C	Andar	1	0	97,831	0
Subtotals			26	68	1,213,943	2,922,791
<b>Grand Totals</b>			<b>94</b>		<b>4,136,735</b>	

- On Monday, May 27, at 6:00 in the evening, anti-government elements attacked the Khwaja Umari District Governor's compound and maintained the attack, using mortars and small arms, for the next two hours. During the incident, Security remained in close communication with the DSU manager, who ensured that SIKA-East staff left the compound safely. See a full account of the incident in the section on Khwaja Umari (Ghazni).
- Security Department conducted a Security Risk Assessment of Jalriz District of Maydan Wardak Province in order to provide an overview for staff members visiting the district.
- Security conducted first aid training 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 the Traffic Police Department is to be reviewed by the MoI Minister and sent back to Traffic Police Department to move the registration process forward. The letter is still under review with the MoI Minister.
- Human Resource Department filled 15 positions during the week: 12 positions for AECOM, 2 for IRD, and 1 for OSC.

## PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

### GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Continue to develop the Khwaja Umari DDP;
- Continue to prepare for the Ghazni Service Providers Fair;
- Continue to work on Deh Yak project proposals: girls school boundary wall in Mash Village, small bridge in Painday Village, and road graveling in Abdul Rahim Village;
- Work on Shakar Darah karez extension proposal; and
- Collect remaining information for the Jaghatu and Qarabagh district profiles.

### KHOST

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD Director;

- Receive and install office equipment for Gurbuz and Jaji Maidan offices; and
- Complete stakeholder surveys in all three districts.

#### **LOGAR**

- Participate in the regular PRRD coordination meeting;
- Attend a meeting with the provincial council;
- Send PMU and DSU staff to attend SIKA Induction and M&E training in Kabul;
- In Baraki Barak, arrange meeting between the District Governor and DSU manager; and
- Conduct Grant Management Training – Award in Mohammad Agha for Mazgin CDC from Surkhab Hawza.

#### **PAKTYA**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other involved organizations; and
- Continue to prepare for the Service Providers Fair.

#### **MAYDAN WARDAK**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director, District Governors, and other government officials;
- Continue to fill out grant applications in accordance with Grants and Sub-contracts Unit plans;
- Conduct project surveys in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad, coordinating with Engineering Group;
- Collect updated data for the Maydan Wardak Service Providers Catalogue.

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

- Review DPPs from Khwaja Umari and Khoshi districts of Ghazni and Logar;
- Work with members of DDAs to get the DPPs from Waza Zadran and Zurmat endorsed;
- Conduct a Service Provider Fair in Paktya and continue preparations for an SPF in Ghazni;
- Start preparations for a Resource Coordination Meeting in Maydan Wardak;
- Continue working on review and updating of Andar, Baraki Barak, Dih Yah, and Saydabad district profiles, and continue data collection for new district profiles;
- Continue conducting communication committee meetings;
- Continue airing of radio plays;
- Prepare and finalize Mohammad Agha and Sayabad Districts communication plans;
- Continue stakeholder mapping process in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal of Paktya Province and Tani, Jaji Maidan, and Gurbuz of Khost;
- Continue to update, correct, and link stakeholder data with related organizations' lists in database;
- Continue technical surveys and designs for DPP Cycle 1 projects in Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zurmat Districts;
- Conduct SIKA Induction for newly hired staff;
- Prepare for a workshop on gender mainstreaming in the field, which is to be held in Kabul in June;
- Continue to identify female stakeholders in SIKA-East provinces and districts;

- Finish processing and send to USAID an additional three to five grant award requests;
- As USAID vetting approval is received, award additional grants;
- Continue processing and preparing grant applications for GRC, including cost/price analysis;
- Enter grant data into the database and finalize activities to allow file merge functionality;
- Conduct new interviews for reannounced positions as field services officers for Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts of Khost Province;
- Conduct interviews for field services officer for Jalriz District of Maydan Wardak 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 85 positions:
  - 37 vacancies in process with AECOM;
  - 5 vacancies in process with OSC;
  - 43 vacancies in process with IRD.