

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 77

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- The Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director held his weekly coordination meeting, which was attended by the manager of SIKA-East's Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) and other implementing partners. The participants discussed certain problematic Community Development Councils (CDCs) in Dih Yak and the PRRD endorsement process. Following the meeting, PRRD issued an official letter to the Dih Yak District Governor about the problematic CDCs and requested advice on resolving problems with them.
- During the week, the Ghazni PMU conducted several meetings with various service providers regarding the upcoming Service Providers Fair, which is scheduled for June 17 and 18.

Andar District

- On June 2, a Grant Review Committee (GRC) Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for Andar District GRC members. The ToT covered grants evaluation criteria and the roles and responsibilities of GRC members. The session included an active question and answer period.
- During the week, the Andar District Project Portfolio (DPP) was endorsed by all the involved parties, and a copy was submitted to the Andar District Development Assembly (DDA).
- The Andar District Support Unit (DSU) developed and completed the required grants documents for 12 projects of Andar District.
- The Ghazni gender officer, while facilitating training sessions for Andar women, proposed establishing a women's society in Andar District. The aim of the society would be to discuss issues related to women and advocate on them to concerned governmental or non-governmental organizations. The Ghazni gender officer had a follow-up meeting on June 2 with women from the district. They agreed with the idea of establishing a women's society and nominated 15 women to be founding members. They also promised to increase the number of women in future and asked for SIKA- East technical support for running the organization.

Dih Yak District

- The Dih Yak strategic communication plan was developed by the DDA+ for overall communication activities. The plan was submitted to the Kabul office for further processing.

Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts

- During the week, work continued on the Jaghatu district profile, which is now 90 percent complete. The profile will be submitted to the Kabul office after being reviewed by the Ghazni PMU.

Khwaja Umari District

- After completing the first phase of Stability Planning Process training and developing the first draft of their DPP, members of the Khwaja Umari DDA, CDCs, and other influential members of the community returned to their villages to consult with other key stakeholders about the DPP.
- The Khwaja Umari DSU reviewed the draft DPP and made preparation for the second part of the Stability Planning Process.

KHOST

- During the week, the recruitment of staff to serve at both provincial and district levels continued. The process will continue till the units are fully staffed.
- The Khost PMU established an email connection with the Provincial Governor. This has made sharing important files and communicating across the board easier for both sides.
- The Khost PMU reviewed the district profiles for all three target districts.

Gurbuz District

- During the week, the establishment of the Gurbuz DSU office was completed. The building is now furnished and ready for operation.

Jaji Maidan District

- Office equipment for the Jaji Maidan DSU office was purchased and delivered. The office is now fully functional.

Tani District

- The renovation of the Tani DSU office is 70 percent complete and is expected to be fully complete next week.

LOGAR

- In preparation for the resource coordination meeting to be held in Puli Alam on June 23, SIKA-East drafted an agenda and consulted with the PRRD Director regarding the event. The meeting will allow the DAAs of Khoshi and Mohammad Agha Districts to confer with a wide range of service providers operating in the province.
- On June 2, the PRRD Director met with SIKA-East's PMU manager to discuss the possible participation of various representatives of PRRD and DRRD, as well as District Governors and other governmental officials, in a ToT on Monitoring and Evaluation. The PRRD Director requested that SIKA-East send an official letter to PRRD so that they can inform the District Governors and line departments accordingly. The PMU manager followed up on the matter and contacted the PRRD. The District Governors have agreed that their staff may participate in the event.
- On June 3, the PMU manager had two separate coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and the head of the Department of Economy. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the upcoming service providers coordination meeting. The PMU manager shared the agenda of the meeting and provided information about the event.
- On June 5 and 6, Grant Management Training was held for an average of 14 men from Logar Province.



June 2 meeting between the Logar PRRD Director and SIKA-East's PMU manager

Baraki Barak District

- On June 2, the Baraki Barak DSU completed the verification of the district profile and submitted the document to the Kabul office for further processing.
- Also on June 2, DSU staff finished updating the Service Providers Catalog (SPC). Earlier, they visited the Department of Economy and received a list of organizations that are currently active in Baraki Barak. Those organizations that are no longer active were eliminated from the SPC.
- On June 3, DSU staff met with DDA members from the Baraki Rajan Hawza to discuss implementation of the retaining walls project in Tap-e-Sakhi in the hawza.
- On June 4, a coordination meeting was conducted with key members of the Baraki Barak DDA and representative of each hawza in the district. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss project surveys in the villages and DPP challenges. After a long discussion about the challenges, the DDA members accepted that the existing DPP responds to community needs.

Khoshi District

- After developing the first draft of their DPP, members of the Khoshi DDA, CDCs, and other influential members of the community went back to their villages to consult with other key stakeholders and discuss the DPP with them.
- On June 2, SIKA-East's DSU manager met with the Khoshi District Governor and executive manager to discuss the proposed M&E ToT and invite them to participate. Both men agreed to take part in the training.
- The stakeholder mapping process was completed, and a final stakeholder register produced.

Mohammad Agha District

- On June 2, technical staff from the Mohammad Agha DSU visited the sites of six projects and provided necessary information and advice for better project implementation.
- Also on June 2, the Mohammad Agha women's communication committee met at SIKA-East's DSU office. The overall purpose of the meeting was to discuss the district communication plan drafted by the committee and to incorporate the views of the DDA+ in it. They also discussed the issue of recently awarded grants, which offers a good opportunity for the district government leadership to take ownership of the projects and to promote them in their target areas.

PAKTYA

- A Service Providers Fair (SPF) was conducted on June 3 and 4 in Gardiz Municipality Hall. The PRRD Director, Mr. Abdul Rahman Rahmani, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the fair. He spoke about PRRD activities in Paktya and stated that SIKA-East is a key program for the stability of the province. He went on to briefly outline SIKA-East's goals and objectives and to point out that this kind of stabilization program supports both the district and its communities and connects the communities with the government. The PRRD Director



The Paktya PRRD Director welcomes visitors to the Service Providers Fair.

expressed his satisfaction with the program and its close coordination and collaboration with PRRD. The Deputy Governor of Paktya, Mr. Abdul Wali Sehi, also spoke and thanked PRRD and SIKA-East for organizing the fair, where all kinds of service providers can meet and exhibit their services to each other and the public. Sixty-three service providers exhibited their products and resources during the two-day event, which was attended by over 1,000 people.

- From June 2 to 6, Infrastructure Project Planning training was conducted for an average of 45 men from the Paktya DDA and CDCs.



The booth of the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock displayed several local products.

Zadran District

- On June 6, the men's communication committee of Zadran District held their first meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the importance of DDA+ activities in communicating with the community and government authorities. During the meeting, the men also developed communication protocols.

Zurmat District

- The stakeholder list for Zurmat was updated, corrected, and linked with related organizations in the SIKA-East database.
- On June 4, Zurmat DSU staff conducted Infrastructure Project Planning (IPP) training for members of the Zurmat DDA+, CDCs, and other local stakeholders. Forty-five men took part in the training and learned about project feasibility, field measurements, bills of quantities, cost estimating, and environmental assessment.



Zurmat stakeholders receiving IPP training

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On June 2, the Maydan Wardak PRRD Director held his regular coordination meeting, which was attended by SIKA-East's PMU manager and other stakeholders. The participants discussed their activities and plans, as well as challenges and possible solutions.

Chaki Wardak District

- In the first week of June, a group of technical staff from the Chaki Wardak DSU completed a five-day visit to the sites of ten Cycle 1 projects that are under way in five hawzas. The SIKA-East staff were satisfied with the progress of the projects.
- The women's communication committee conducted their fifth meeting in the DoWA meeting hall. The participants discussed the broadcasting of the six recently produced radio plays, the development of an activity plan, and ways to convey key messages to the community.

Nirkh District

- During the week, the Nirkh DSU finished updating the Service Providers Catalogue. Telecommunication networks were added to the document.
- On June 3, DSU staff met with the head of the Nirkh DDA chairperson to discuss problems and ways to solve them.
- Also during the week, the community development officer compiled and completed Nirkh District data sheets.

Saydabad District

- During the week, the Saydabad DSU paid site visits to grant award projects being implemented at Aman Khill, Markazi Srakala, Sisay, Zara Khill, Shek Azam, Hakim Khill, and Baber Khill. The projects are all making good progress and are being carried out according to plans.
- The Saydabad grants team processed three grant applications for Aman Khill, Yousof Khill, and Tara Khill projects. They also worked on the first milestone package for the awarded grants.



Kariz cleaning activity at Hakim Khill

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- On June 2 and 3, the core training team conducted a SIKA Induction for newly hired staff. The purpose of the training was to orient the new hires on the goals and objectives of the program and the function of its various units. During the training, SIKA-East facilitators also explained how the program functions within the structure of the Afghan government and how it works to enhance better communication and cooperation with line departments at the district and provincial levels. Nineteen people attended.
- SIKA-East prepared a district rollout tracker for all 19 districts, where the program is being implemented. The tracker was submitted to management for review and further action.
- During the week, the Khoshi and Khwaja Umari DPPs were reviewed and finalized, and are ready for endorsement at the district level.
- The grants unit met with USAID's acting COR to review 19 grant approval requests submitted last week and to provide clarifications and explanation on some points in order to accelerate the approval process. The meeting was productive, and the acting COR was very satisfied with the grant files and collected documentation. Nine grants were approved the same day after the acting COR's visit. The grants unit expects an additional ten requests to be approved by the end of the week.
- SIKA-East awarded two grants in Mohammad Agha District this week, bringing the total to 22 awards valued at \$740,027. Additional awards are expected next week depending upon receipt of USAID Vetting Unit approval.
- SIKA-East provided a grant pipeline report at MRRD's request using the template provided.
- 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	0	0
Dih Yak	18	3	111,036	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Mohammad Agha	21	23	1,110,264	2	18	22	22	21	972,892	12	501,656
Nerkh	20	12	692,125	0	14	9	8	0			
Saydabad	6	21	624,447	4	4	17	14	13	295,654	10	238,371
Chaki Wardak	5	3	119,177	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baraki Barak	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	125	62	2,657,049	8	34	51	44	34	1,268,546	22	740,027
	Total	124									

- The following trainings were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
June 2	GRC ToT	Ghazni	Training	10	
June 2-6	Infrastructure Project Planning	Paktya/Gardez	Training	45	
June 2-3	SIKA Induction	Kabul/ Gulf 5	Workshop	19	
June 3-5	M&E training	Kabul/ Park Star	Training	34	1
June 5-6	Grant Management	Logar /Mohd Agha	Training	14	

- During the week, SIKA-East completed a Construction Project Implementation training, which is ready to be delivered to CDCs.
- Project design and development are under way for seven districts (Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Andar), with regular consultations and technical assistance between project management committees and engineering teams. The current status of engineering projects is as follows:

Province	Districts		Designs		Projects Completion Status	
	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	6	27	98,845.90	710,306.81
	B	Nirkh	3	14	277,193.54	760,309.52
	C	Chaki Wardak	3	1	119,915.68	47,236.06
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	7	23	356,110.61	1,261,461.19
	A	Baraki Barak	6	0	462,126.04	0
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	3	7	50,862.94	351,636.32
	C	Andar	1	0	97,831.44	0
		Subtotals	29	72	1,462,886.15	3,130,949.9
		Grand Totals	101		6,261,899.8	

- Because of security concerns in Baraki Barak District, Kabul-based engineers have only been able to process seven infrastructure projects for one hawza of Baraki Barak. The other projects are on hold.
- SIKA-East conducted the first batch of M&E training from June 3 to 5. A total of 46 participants attended the trainings, including 22 M&E officers, field program management, and grant and project management team leaders from SIKA-East; 10 staff of PRRD/DRRD; and 14 employees of IDLG. The topics focused on basic M&E concepts, structure, roles and responsibilities, tools, and standard operating procedures for the provincial and district M&E officers.
- Security Department finalized the Security Risk Assessment for Jalriz District, which provides a full security assessment of the district and DSU office.
- Human Resource Department filled 14 positions during the week: 7 positions for AECOM, 6 for IRD, and 1 for OSC.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD;
- Continue preparations for Service Providers Fair;
- Review Khwaja Umari DPP and obtain endorsement of DDA+, District Governor, and PRRD;
- Organize tenth communication committee meetings for Dih Yak men and women; and
- Conduct survey of Dih Yak village karez extension project.

KHOST

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD Director and Provincial Governor.

LOGAR

- Conduct first communication committee meeting for Baraki Barak men and women;
- Participate in the regular PRRD coordination meeting;
- Share the resource coordination meeting agenda with service providers; and
- Conduct the second round of Grant Management – Award training for ten CDCs of Mohammad Agha.

PAKTYA

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other involved organizations;
- Conduct Grants Process and Application Development Training for Zadran men; and
- Complete Infrastructure Planning Process training for Zurmat.

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 with Engineering Group;
- Conduct engineering surveys of projects in Chaki Wardak and Nirkh; and
- Collect updated data for the Service Providers Catalogue.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct the Stability Planning Process ToT session for districts of Khost and Paktya;
- Work on the language review of the two DPPs from Khwaja Umari and Khoshi;
- Start preparation for a resource coordination meeting for Maydan Wardak;
- Compile sub-coordination meeting results to cover topics in lesson learned meeting;
- Continue surveys and designs for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Zurmat, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects.
- Continue to support DDAs/CDCs in Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, and Andar Districts in developing grant applications and collecting the required information;
- Organize and conduct Grants Management and Implementation Training for Nirkh, Saydabad, and Mohammad Agha grantees;
- Conduct GRC meeting for evaluation of five grant applications in Maydan Wardak Province;
- Enter grant data into the database and finalize activities to allow file merge functionality;
- Continue stakeholder surveys in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal, Tani, Jaji Maidan, and Gurbuz ;
- Conduct the Annual Security Training for field services officers;
- Continue reviewing the Dih Yak and Mohammad Agha district profiles;
- Continue data collection for new district profiles;
- Continue conducting communication committee meetings;
- Continue airing of radio plays;
- Finalize May Monthly Media Analysis Report;
- Follow up on office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Follow up on shipments of equipment to newly approved districts; and
- Continue recruiting to fill 77 positions:
 - 35 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - 5 vacancies in process with OSC;
 - 37 vacancies in process with IRD.