

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

NO. 79

GHAZNI

- Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and SIKA-East conducted the Service Provider Fair (SPF) in Ghazni Province on June 16 and 17, 2013. The main purpose of this fair was to bring service providers and the community together to allow the service providers to understand needs and for the community to become aware of services available. The fair was inaugurated by the Ghazni Provincial Governor in presence of hundreds of people including provincial council members, line directors, District Governors, donors, Community Development Council (CDC) /District Development Assembly (DDA)/ District Community Council members, tribal elders, representatives of the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), and others. Seventy booths were booked by service providers and 20 booths were reserved by women NGOs, and women associations. PRRD and other governmental institutions expressed their appreciation for the women's participation in fair. The representatives of media were invited to the fair to cover the event and interviewed many participants.
- On June 19, 2013 the Provincial Management Team (PMT) Manager held a coordination meeting with the PRRD Director, and other provincial government authorities including the Provincial Governor, Deputy Provincial Governor and Provincial Council members. The matters of discussion were problematic CDCs and endorsement letters. As a result, the PRRD suggested slight changes to the endorsement letters. The PRRD Director committed to process all the endorsement letters for problematic CDCs in Dih Yak within two weeks.



Ghazni Provincial Governor delivering a speech in inauguration of the SPF

Andar District

- Andar District Management Team (DMT) conducted a meeting with DDA members on June 16, 2013. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss projects of Cycle 1 and the process to implement these projects.
- During the week, the Andar DMT arranged documents for two projects of Kunsaf village. The documents are ready for the next step in the process.

Dih Yak District

- Dih Yak DMT prepared four projects from Cycle 1 for Grant Committee Review (GRC) which will take place next week.

Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts

- Recruitment of staff continued for both DMTs, while two newly hired staff began work in Qarabagh DMT this week.

Khwaja Umari District

- On June 18, 2013 Khwaja Umari DMT conducted a Stability Planning Process Session for male members of DDA. Fifty five members participated.
- On June 19, 2013 SIKA-East conducted Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training for 52 women.

KHOST

- On June 16, 2013 the Khost PMT Manager had a coordination meeting with the PRRD Director. The participants discussed the agenda for the program launches in Jaji Maidan, Tani and Gurbuz Districts. The PRRD Director finalized and approved the agenda.
- The Khost PMT Manager had a meeting with the Public Relation Officer of the Provincial Governor Office on June 17, 2013. The participants discussed the SIKA-East launch agenda and the participant list. They also discussed the ways to measure security during the launch and agreed to deploy police to reduce any risk.
- Most of the data collection on service providers of Khost is complete. The data will be shared with the SIKA-East Kabul office once the data is analyzed.

Gurbuz District

- The Gurbuz District office set-up was completed on June 19, 2013 and the office will be fully functioning once the power and internet are connected.
- Staff recruitment for the Gurbuz District continued this week.

Tani District

- The Khost PMT Manager had a coordination meeting with Tani District Governor (DG) on June 17, 2013. The PMT Manager shared the list of participants for the SIKA-East launch. The DG approved the list of participants.

LOGAR

- On June 20, 2013 the Logar PMT Manager had a meeting with the Mohammad Agha DG to discuss the concerns of the DDA+ members regarding Cycle 1 project selection. It was decided to hold a joint meeting with DDA+ members, the Mohammad Agha DMT and the DG to address the problems.
- On June 18, 2013 the PMT Manager and PRRD Director had a meeting with the Provincial Governor. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the service provider coordination meeting. The Provincial Governor strongly supported the idea and mentioned that this event strengthens the links between the different sectors and the community. SIKA-East planned to conduct this meeting on June 23, 2013. However, the Provincial Governor changed the date as he had other responsibilities on the day.
- The Grant Procurement Officer updated the market survey price list and sent it to the Kabul office for review and final decision. The vendors' registration list is also underway and will be finalized next week.

- On June 18, 2013 the PMT Manager had a meeting with the Baraki Barak DG. The PMT Manager briefed the DG on the procedure of implementing projects at the field level. The DG emphasized the need for a quick start of the projects as the community is eagerly anticipating this. He assured early endorsement of the grant documents.

Baraki Barak District

- During the week, the Baraki Barak DMT worked on grant applications and completed seven applications that were endorsed by the DG.
- The Baraki Barak Service Providers Catalogue (SPC) was updated and shared with the Kabul office on June 17, 2013 for further processing.
- The male communication committee conducted their first meeting on June 16, 2013. The participants discussed the aims of the committee and responsibilities of the committee members.

Khoshi District

- Stability Planning Process Training was conducted for Khoshi CDC and DDA members from June 16 to 20, 2013. Fifty males participated.
- Resource Dialogue Advocacy Training was conducted for Khoshi CDC and DDA female members on June 18 and 19, 2013. Forty five females participated.
- The Khoshi DMT Manager had a meeting with the Executive Manager of the DG. The PMT Manager provided an update on SIKA-East activities. The Executive Manager was satisfied and expressed appreciation for SIKA-East's efforts in the stabilization process in the Khoshi District.

Mohammad Agha District

- The male communication committee conducted their eleventh meeting on June 17, 2013. The participants discussed and developed a communication plan. The plan will be finalized in the next meeting.
- On June 15, 2013 the Mohammad Agha DMT Manager had a meeting with the DG and representatives of the PRRD. The DMT Manager explained Cycle 1 projects and the procedure of project selection. The DG said that he was convinced that the projects are for the benefit of communities in the Baraki Barak District.

PAKTYA

- Paktya PMT representatives visited the DG in his office on June 17, 2013. The DG welcomed the SIKA-East team and promised to support the program implementation. He mentioned that he will allocate three rooms for SIKA-East staff in the DG compound.
- On June 18, 2013 the Paktya Gender Officer had a meeting with the PRRD Director. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the unavailability of women in SIKA-East targeted districts in Paktya. The PRRD Director mentioned that, due to cultural restrictions, women cannot take an active part in projects. He stated that the issue requires more advocacy, awareness and extra time and effort to involve women in the program.

Zadran District

- From June 16 to 20, 2013 Grants Process and Application Development Training was conducted in Zadran District. 36 CDC and DDA members of Zadran District participated in this training. The participants were guided through the applicant profile and pre-qualification, Fixed Obligation Grant

(FOG) checklist, application cover page and application narrative. The participants also completed the applicant profile; the pre-qualification form; and drafted Grant Applications based on the Cycle 1 priority projects.

Grants Process and Application Development Training for Zadran CDC and DDA members



Zurmat District

- Zurmat male communication committee conducted their first meeting on June 17, 2013. The participants discussed the purpose and benefits of meetings and the importance of the DPP. The committee also developed a communication protocol.
- From June 16 to 18, 2013 Zurmat DMT conducted Project Design and Development Training for Zurmat District stakeholders. The training included project management, project work plan, problem and solutions, stakeholders and beneficiaries and technical activities. Fifty males participated.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On June 16, 2013 Wardak PMT had a coordination meeting with PRRD and other stakeholders in the PRRD meeting hall. The PMT Manager provided an update on SIKA-East activities in Maydan Wardak. The PRRD Director expressed satisfaction of the program's progress.

Chaki Wardak District

- The Chaki Wardak engineering team completed drawings and prepared technical documents for two projects during the week. The grant team completed grant applications for three projects.

Jalrez District

- The MaydanWardak PMT continued recruitment for the Jalrez DMT.

Nirakh District

- Nirakh DMT conducted a coordination meeting with the Deputy DG on June 17, 2013. The participants discussed the status of Nirakh District activities and the commencement of grant projects at the district level. The Deputy DG promised to support the project implementation. Seven projects started during the week.



Nirakh DMT inaugurating one of the projects

Saydabad District

- The Saydabad DMT updated the SPC during the week. The SPC will be used for the service provider coordination meeting which will take place next week.
- The Saydabad DMT conducted a Grant Review Committee (GRC) session on June 13, 2013. During the session, the committee technically reviewed five grant packages.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- New Chief of Party of SIKA-East Martijn Hekman arrived in Kabul on June 20 to replace John Lister, who completed his 18 month tenure with the project and departed Afghanistan on 19 June.
- The leadership of four SIKAs met earlier this week with the MRRD and IDLG senior officials for the Nine Month SIKA Review session. The two-day conference, which included representation from the government, USAID and Implementing Partners (IP), was an opportunity for IPs to update the government counterparts on the progress in implementation, identify challenges and successes and propose ways to further strengthen cooperation in the upcoming period. IDLG Director of Programs Dr Sibghatullah and Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Weiss Barmak noted that all four SIKAs have made significant progress and outlined their vision for the program moving forward.
- Jointly, SIKA-East and PRRD continued their stabilization efforts with consultation with the community. District Project Portfolio (DPP) from Khwaja Umari and Khoshi Districts were shared with DDA members and the community. Both DPPs were endorsed by members of DDA, influential people of the community, DG and PRRD Director after the language of the DPPs were reviewed and agreed.
- Following endorsement of the DPP, PRRD Social Organizers and SIKA-East staff jointly conducted the Stability Planning Process Part II. This training brought all the members of DDA, DCC and influential people from each *hawza* together so that they could learn about other service providers in the area and ways to better communicate with governmental and non-governmental departments. Lastly they all had a chance to learn about the concept development process in which they take their solutions and turn them into actual projects. During this session, they also discussed other concepts such as accountability, transparency, feasibility and more importantly the focus on stabilization.
- SIKA-East achieved its first milestone by organizing payment for the first 10 grantees from Saydabad District and 10 grantees from Muhammad Agha District with a total value of \$ 164,868. Grantees confirmed receipt of the funds and will begin grant implementations according to the plan with close monitoring and support from SIKA-East.
- During the week, SIKA-East requested USAID approval for four grantees from Saydabad District and one from Chaki Wardak District with a combined value of \$ 148,164.

Non-Infrastructure Grants. SIKA-East received four proposals for organizing band delivery of poultry training for Baraki Barak District. The bid evaluation committee will evaluate the proposals and select one for implementation.

Current Status of Grant Pipeline:

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	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dih Yak	18	3	111,036	2	0	3	2	1	25,380	0	0
Mohammad Agha	21	23	1,110,264	4	20	22	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nerkh	20	12	692,125	2	13	9	8	8	454,634	7	417,051
Saydabad	5	22	678,580	6	4	22	18	14	359,808	11	266,191
Chaki Wardak	5	3	119,177	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0

Baraki Barak	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	135	63	2,711,182	18	37	59	51	45	1,865,697	40	1,709,117

- SIKA-East worked together with PRRD, Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG), DDA, DCC and other key actors to complete the stakeholder mapping process. They produced stakeholders registered in five districts including Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts of Paktya Province; Gurbuz, Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts of Khost Province.
- The following trainings were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
June 16-17	Advocacy	Kabul	ToT	7	1
June 16-18	Project Design and Development	Paktya	Training	50	0
June 16-20	Stability Planning Process	Khoshi/Logar	Training	50	0
June 16-20	Grants Process and Application Development	Zadran/Paktya	Training	40	0
June 17	Stability Planning Process	Khawaja Umari/Logar	Training	51	0
June 18-19	Resource Dialogue & Advocacy	Khoshi/Logar	Training	0	45

- SIKA-East continued project design and development for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak and Andar Districts, with regular consultations and technical assistance between project management committees and SIKA-East engineering team. The following is the project progress:

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	3	30	15,655.92	826,940.52
	B	Nirkh	4	15	320,240.22	838,199.95
	C	Chaki Wardak	3	3	142,386.14	132,161.10
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	8	23	514,634.03	1,266,321.60
	A	Baraki Barak	5	2	379,119.99	183,348.30
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	2	8	119,088.05	372,843.58
	C	Andar	5	0	247,119.20	0
	C	Zadran	0	0	0	0
		Sub-totals	30	81	1,738,243.55	3,619,815.05
		Grand Totals		111		5,358,058.60

- The Security Unit conducted Quarterly Security Training for the Field Services Officers of 10 Districts of SIKA-East operations. The participants were briefed on the security problems in the districts of their operation and received a refresher of their responsibilities towards the safety of SIKA-East staff.

- The Security Unit conducted the security assessment of the Jaghatu DMT office building where the allocated office in the district did not meet the security requirements for staff to operate. A building was identified to be rented which meets the security requirements.
- The Security Unit finalized and acquired the USAID supplied armored vehicle license plates and registration books which was halted due to government processes.
- The Human Resource Unit filled six positions during the week: one position for AECOM, four for IRD and one for OSC.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Hold regular coordination meetings with the PRRD;
- Hold eleventh communication committee meeting for males and females in Dih Yak;
- GRC for Cycle 1 projects;
- Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Workshop for Khwaja Umari males;
- Infrastructure Project planning Workshop for Khwaja Umari District; and
- Complete a survey according to the engineering support group.

KHOST

- Hold regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Finalize the SPC analysis;
- Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation sessions for women in Gurbuz District; and
- Launch SIKA-East in the three target districts.

LOGAR

- Hold coordination meetings with PRRD and Provincial Governor;
- Hold a service provider coordination meeting;
- Resource Dialogue and Advocacy Training for Khoshi CDC and DDA male members;
- Hold male communication committee meeting for Baraki Barak; and
- Project Implementation Training for Mohammad Agha.

PAKTYA

- Prepare for stakeholder survey in Garda Serai;
- Hold sub-coordination meeting in Zadran;
- Hold coordination meetings with PRRD and involved organizations;
- Grant Process and Application Development Training for community representatives in Zurmat District;
- Complete the stakeholder survey in both Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts;
- Set up the Ahmad Khail DMT office; and
- Hold communication committee meeting for Zadran District males.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Hold regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director, DGs and other government officials;

- Hold a resource coordination meeting for Maydan Wardak;
- Fill out grant applications according to the plan;
- Complete project surveys according to the engineering group plan;
- Draft community problem letters and the grant applications development;
- Hold service provider coordination meetings;
- Collect data for SPC; and
- Grant Management Workshops.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Finalize reviewing Andar and Baraki Barak District Profiles;
- Finalize Khoshi and Khwaja Umari District Profiles;
- Continue data collection for new District Profiles;
- Receive and distribute final analysis report of radio plays;
- Distribute Paktya accent radio plays CDs to the field for broadcasting purpose;
- Organize the foundation session for Stakeholder Orientation and Governance for male and female groups in four new districts of Paktya and Khost provinces;
- SIKA Induction for newly hired staff;
- Gender Workshop;
- Support CDCs/DDAs in further grant applications development in SIKA-East active districts;
- Support grantees for grant implementation and completion of milestones;
- Translate the Khoshi and Khwaja Umari DPPs;
- Submit the Chak DPP to USAID for approval;
- Continue survey and design for Saydabad, Nirkh, Chaki Wardak Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak and Zurmat Districts based on the Cycle 1 projects;
- Project Implementation Training for Mohammad Agha District CDCs;
- Meet International Rescue Committee (IRC), Health Net and DDAs to discuss ways to involve women in SIKA-East approved districts;
- Complete a post evaluation of the Ghazni SPF;
- Conduct security assessments of the Ahmad Abad, Jaghatu and Zadran DMT offices;
- Process armored vehicles through Anti-Terrorism Department of Ministry of Interior for acquiring armored licenses;
- Continue recruiting to fill 91 positions:
 - 47 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 3 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 41 vacancies in process for IRD.