

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 81

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- The Ghazni Provincial Management Team (PMT) manager met with Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) director on July 2, 2013. During the meeting the PMT manager updated the PRRD director on SIKA-East achievements and the next month plans. He also discussed SIKA-East launch in Qarabagh and Jaghatu District and sought the director's guidance and suggestions for the event. The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East efforts toward stability in Ghazni Province and committed to fully support the implementation of the program.
- On July, 1 2013 the Ghazni gender officer had several meetings with different women service providers in order to obtain their opinion about the Service Provider Fair (SPF) recently held in Ghazni. All the service providers expressed their thanks for the SPF and requested holding similar events in future.

Andar District

- Following a series of planning meetings Andar, male and female communication committees prepared their strategic communication plan and submitted them to the District Governor. The strategic communication plan will be revised once the District Governor provides his comments and suggestions.

Dih Yak District

- This week the grant officer conducted Grant Management Training for one grantee in Dih Yak District and implementation officially started. This is the first grant awarded in this district.
- During the week the grants team processed six endorsement letters for Dih Yak Community Development Council (CDC). The endorsement letters are signed by the key members CDC, District Governor, District Development Assembly (DDA) and representative of National Solidarity Program (NSP) and were submitted to PRRD for final approval.

Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts

- The district profile of Qarabagh is being prepared. Jaghatu district profile is completed and submitted to Kabul office for review.

Khwaja Umari District

- Infrastructure Project Planning Training was organized and supported by the Ghazni capacity building officer in Khwaja Umari District on June 30, 2013 with participation of 50 trainees.

KHOST

- The Khost PMT Manager met with the PRRD Director on July 1, 2013. The Manager shared information on ongoing sessions in different districts. Through an official letter the Khost PMT requested the PRRD to select and send a representative to SIKA-East trainings and the PRRD Director agreed to do so.

Gurbuz District

- From June 30 to July 4, 2013 Stability Planning Process Training was conducted with participation of 42 female CDC and DDA members. The training addressed the stability concept, social responsibility, a range of local resiliencies from women's perspective, grievances, local Sources of Instability (SoI), and the importance of women participation in stabilization programming. The women produced a District Project Portfolio (DPP) reflecting their views and priorities. Following this session SIKA-East and the PRRD Directorate plan to conduct a similar workshop for influential men from community and members of the DDA, to develop a DPP and then to combine both documents into one.



Female CDC and DDA members in a group work in Stability Planning Process Training

- As part of Stability Planning Process Training a one-day Resources Dialogue Workshop was conducted for Gurbuz female CDC and DDA members on July 1, 2013. The purpose of this workshop was to enable the women to identify existing government and non-government resources and to use them to address their priorities. Despite significant security challenges in Gurbuz District, influential women from the all *hamzas* attended.

Jaji Maydan

- Jaji Maydan CDC and DDA members received Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation Training on July 2 and 3, 2013. The participants were 50 men including representatives of PRRD and the Independent Directorate for Local Governnace (IDLG).

Tani District

- The Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation Training was conducted from June 30 to July 2, 2013 for CDC and DDA members of Tani District with an average participation of 76 men. The participants included representatives of PRRD, IDLG, DDA, District Community Council (DCC) and key influential leaders.

LOGAR

- On July 1, 2013 the PMT manager participated in the weekly coordination meeting with PRRD and other stakeholders. The PRRD Director asked for clarification on Mohammad Agha DPP Cycle 1 and community concern about distribution of projects. He mentioned that the Provincial Governor is concerned about the issue and asked for a PRRD response to community. The PRRD assigned a team to visit Mohammad Agha District to clairify and provide analysis and a report.

Baraki Barak District

- Three grant applications for women were signed by female DDA members. The grants, originally identified through Stability Planning Process, would provide embroidery training, poultry training and support vegetable and fruits processing projects. Additionally, four grant applications and related documents are ready for submission to the SIKA-East office in Kabul to complete processing and four projects are ready to be submitted to the Grant Review Committee (GRC) next week.

Khoshi District

- After a series of meetings Andar male and female communication committees prepared a strategic communication plan and submitted it to the District Governor. The strategic communication plan will be revised once the District Governor provides his comments and suggestions, and the final version will be shared with SIKA-East directors and managers.

Mohammad Agha

- The District Management Team (DMT) arranged a meeting between District Governor and DDA members primarily to discuss the complaints of the community regarding the balance of Cycle 1 projects among the *hawzas*. The DDA+ decided that the Cycle 1 plan is acceptable, but that it would be better to consider *Hawza* balance during Grant award. It was decided to hold a meeting with the PRRD Director next week to resolve this issue.
- On July 2, 2013 the PMT manager met with the PRRD Director and updated the Director on program progress in the SIKA-East target districts. The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East activities and promised to support the program throughout the implementation process.
- Male and female communication committees conducted separate meetings on June 30 and July 1, 2013 respectively. The participants discussed message delivery and selected the members who would be best to communicate with the service providers.

PAKTYA

- On June 30, 2013 the Paktya gender officer met the provincial manager of Afghan Women Education Center (AWEC) to discuss the unavailability of women in Zurmat and Zadran Districts. The manager mentioned that AWEC had established some women's councils in different districts of Paktya Province, but that they are not now active. She mentioned that SIKA-East would be a good vehicle through which to activate the councils and bring the women's councils into programming. She also promised to provide SIKA-East with a list of Zurmat and Zadran women endorsed by the District Governor. The gender officer also met with the chief of Paktya provincial council on July 1, 2013 with the same intention. The chief of provincial council promised to discuss the issue with the District Governor and to meet again to discuss.



Paktya gender officer meeting with AWEC provincial manager

- On July 2, 2013 the PMU manager and gender officer met with District Governors of Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khill to discuss participation of women in these districts. The District Governors stated that this is a cultural matter and they will share it with the tribal elders and influential people to find a solution.
- On July 2, 2013 the Paktya Deputy PMT manager attended the regular weekly coordination meeting with PRRD and representatives of other MRRD related projects. The PMT manager updated the

PRRD Director on SIKA-East activities and trainings in target districts. The PRRD Director expressed appreciation for SIKA-East and its impacts on community.

Laja Ahmad Khill

- Stability Project Planning Training started on July 4, 2013 for Laja Ahmad Khill with participation of 60 male CDC and DDA members. The training will continue till July 8.

Laja Mangal

- On July 4, 2013 SIKA-East started the Stability Project Planning Training for Laja Mangal with participation of 57 CDC and DDA members. This five-day training will continue next week.



Paktya gender office meeting with AWEC provincial manager

Zadran District

- On July 1, 2013 Zadran District engineer conducted site survey for the pipe scheme project. With the help of influential community members the 4900m pipe scheme survey will be completed in one week.

Zurmat District

- The five-day Grant Process and Application Development Training started last week and ended on June 27, 2013. The training was attended by 55 men from Zurmat District.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On July 2, 2013 the Wardak PMT attended the regular coordination meeting with PRRD and representative of MRRD projects' implementers. The participants discussed 16 incomplete¹ and black listed CDCs. The mentioned CDCs haven't had their financial clearance with PRRD for their National Solidarity Program (NSP) funded projects. In order to formally process their dismissal, it was decided to coordinate with the Provincial Governor and announce their dismissal through local radio. As soon as these CDCs are dismissed the selection of new CDCs will start.

¹ Many CDC's had full membership and officers when formed, but now contain much fewer members and not all officers are still active.

Chaki Wardak District

- In order to update the Service Providers Catalogue (SPC), the Chak DMT met several different governmental and no governmental service providers. They collected the required data and updated the SPC.
- Chak Grant teams completed grant packages for six projects.

Jalriz District

- The Maydan Wardak PMT continued recruitment for the Jalriz DMT.

Nirakh District

- The Nirakh Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team visited projects sites on June 29, 2013. They monitored the quality of work and reported to the DMT.
- During the week the Nirakh DMT met different governmental and non-governmental service providers, obtained information about their current range of services, and updated the SPC.



Kharaz extension project, Zora khil CDC, Saydabad

Saydabad District

- On June 29, 2013 the Saydabad women's communication committee conducted their twelfth meeting and discussed their role in project implementation. They concluded that they have an important role in the project's success.
- On June 29, 2013 Saydabad M&E team visited projects sites to ensure that the implementation is proceeding according to the plan. They were able to assure the DMT about the projects' activities and quality of work.
- Saydabad DMT conducted meetings with various service providers to gather data to update the SPC and were able to do so.

SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES

- SIKA-East and MRRD's Community Led Development Department (CLDD) met to finalize the Scope of Work for 23 District Social Workers (DSW) who will be hired by SIKA-East for the duration of the program. DSW will be hired in line with Afghan Civil Service legislation and USAID/AECOM regulations to ensure that they could legally transfer to the government *taskhel* at the end of the program. The vacancy notice for the positions will be jointly advertised by SIKA-East and CLDD.
- SIKA-East has successfully completed the first round of Service Provider Fairs (SPF) in Maidan Wardak, Logar, Paktya and Ghazni. In order to assess their immediate impact, the team conducted an

overall post-fair evaluation. SIKA-East developed a questionnaire used to conduct a survey with the target group: service providers participating in the fairs for promotion of their products and the SPF's visitors. The final result of the SPF will be reported next week.

- From July 1 to 3, 2013 Project Design and Development Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for Khoshi and Khwaja Umari DMTs. Topics for discussion were project management, action plan, practical activity, project feasibility and developing Bill of Quantity (BoQ) and work plan.
- On June 30 and July 2, 2013 the second and third internal gender working group meetings were held in Kabul to discuss ways forward on the implementation of the recently developed Gender Strategy. The main goals of these meetings were to operationalize the gender strategy and ways to increase the participation of the women in SIKA-East.
- SIKA-East conducted a one-day gender workshop on July 4, 2013. This workshop was attended by 16 staff member of Khoshi and Khwaja Umari Districts.
- SIKA-East requested USAID approval for three grantees from Dih Yak District – grants total value of \$ 126,265. At the end of June SIKA-East had requested 57 grant approval from USAID and 54 grants have been approved: total value \$ 2,164,458.
- SIKA-East reviewed and prepared payment requests for completion of the first milestone for nine applications from Nirkh and Saydabad District and twelve from Mohammad Agha District - total value of \$ 220,000. The payment will be completed in next week.

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	15	6	237,302	1	3	6	5	2	51,636	1	25,380
Mohammad Agha	20	23	1,110,264	4	19	22	22	22	1,025,875	22	1,025,875
Nirkh	20	12	692,125	2	14	12	8	8	454,634	7	417,051
Saydabad	5	22	678,580	10	7	22	19	19	513,369	12	286,460
Chaki Wardak	19	3	118,944	2	0	3	3	3	118,944	0	0
Baraki Barak	40	3	238,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	142	69	3,075,815	23	43	65	57	54	2,164,458	42	1,754,766

- The following trainings were held during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
June 30	Infrastructure Project Planning	Khwaja Umari/ Ghazni	Training	50	
June 30- July 4	Stability Planning process	Gurbuz/Khost	Training		42
June 30- July 2	Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation	Tani /Khost	Training	76	
July 1-3	Project Design and Development	Kabul	ToT	14	
July 2 to 4	Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation	Jaji Maydan /Khost	Training	50	
July 4	Gender	Kabul	Workshop	14	2
July 4 ongoing	Stability Planning process	Laja Mangal/ Paktya	Training	57	
July 4 ongoing	Stability Planning process	Laja Ahmad Khill/ Paktya	Training	61	

- During the week, SIKA-East reviewed and finalized five projects in Baraki Barak, two projects in Nirkh, two project in Chaki Wardak and two projects in Andar Districts. Documents for these eleven projects have been sent for the respective CDCs for review and concurrence.
- 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 the SIKA-East engineering team. The following table outlines project progress:

Districts			Designs		Projects Completion Status	
Province	Batch	District	Total Design in Progress	Designs Completed	In Progress \$	Complete \$
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	4	30	89,700.24	826,940.52
	B	Nirkh	4	15	320,240.22	838,199.95
	C	Chaki Wardak	4	8	59,491.53	453,353.76
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	374,110.74	1,406,844.89
	A	Baraki Barak	13	3	838,167.63	264,269.72
Ghazni	B	Dih Yak	3	8	122,294.05	372,843.58
	C	Andar	4	2	112,933.70	193,811.64
	C	Zadran	0	0	0	0
Sub-totals			38	91	1,916,938.11	4,356,264.06
Grand Totals			129		6,273,202.17	

- The Human Resource Unit filled 11 positions during this period: six are from AECOM and five from IRD.

Security

- The Security Department conducted security assessment of DSU offices in Ahmad Aba and Zadran Districts. The department finalized a security assessment of Maidan Shar's PMU guest house.
- The Armored Vehicle licenses are delayed waiting action from the Anti-Terrorism Department of Minister of Interior's (MoI). The Anti-Terrorism Department currently does not have the stickers which formally establish the credibility of the Armored Vehicle licenses.

Security challenges in SIKA-East target districts

- June 23rd. Wardak. Around 1630 4 of SIKA-East Nirkh District Support Unit staff were stopped by insurgents in FOLAD KHAN village located on the main road between Maidan Shar and Nirkh District. The insurgents stopped the vehicle and kidnapped 2 of our DSU staff. SIKA-East Security Department initiated communications with local authorities and community elders which resulted on the release of the 2 staff around 2000 hrs. They traveled to Maidan Shar where the 2 staff members were debriefed by Maidan Shar police.
- June 29th. Paktia, Laja Mangal. Approximately 20 AGE attacked the district center of Laja Mangal with heavy weapon and small arms fire. Increasingly frequent incidents are causing concern for SIKA-East and DDA+ about their ability to proceed with program activities in the district center.

- June 29th. Wardak, Maidan Shar. An armed clash targeting Education department and ANCOP police which is close to our PMU office took place. Casualties were reported but the number has not confirmed.
- July 1st. Logar, Pul-E-alam. A rocket was fired from an unknown location toward the military base in Pul-E-alam. The rocket did not hit the target but exploded to the south of the SIKA-East office. The incident occurred around 1700hrs and no SIKA-East staff were injured.
- July 4th. Paktya, Waza Zadran. Waza Zadran District Center was under a sustained attack by insurgents. SIKA-East staffs were forced to take cover in an office in the District Governor compound. The newly established SIKA-East office and stock room were hit by mortar or rocket fire and damaged.

PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

GHAZNI

- Hold regular coordination meetings with the PRRD;
- Conduct sub coordination meeting in Dih Yak;
- Seek endorsement of the Khwaja Umari DPP by members of DDA, District Governor and PRRD Director;
- Conduct GRC for three projects of Dih Yak District;
- Conduct the GRC for 2 projects of Ander District ; and
- Collect data for Qarabagh district profile.

KHOST

- Hold regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Conduct Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation Workshop for Jaji Maydan women;
- Conduct the Stability Planning Process session in Tani;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process Training for Gurbuz men; and
- Participate in database training in Kabul.

LOGAR

- Hold coordination meetings with PRRD and Provincial Governor;
- Seek endorsement of the Khoshi DPP by members of DDA, District Governor and PRRD Director;
- Conduct communication committee meetings in Khoshi and Mohammad Agha; and
- Conduct GRC in Baraki Barak.

PAKTYA

- Participate in the PRRD regular meeting;
- Conduct the Stability Planning Process session in Laja Mangal;
- Conduct the Stability Planning Process session in Laja Ahmad Khill; and
- Follow up on women participation in Paktya Province with District Governor and provincial council.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Conduct coordination meetings with District Governors;
- Conduct coordination meeting with PRRD and all stakeholders;
- Monitor SIKA-East projects in Nirkh and Saydabad District;
- Complete Grant Applications;
- Conduct project engineering surveys;
- Consider and respond to community problem letters;
- Collect data to update the SPC;
- Conduct Infrastructure Project Implementation Training for Chaki-Wardak District Entities;
- Conduct Grant Award Management Workshop; and
- Conduct communication committee meetings.

PROJECTED KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Finalize evaluation report of service-provider fairs;
- Prepare the procurement plan for the second round of SPFs in target provinces;
- Share SPC Khost with Senior Management and USAID;
- Review and finalize Baraki Barak district profiles;
- Finalize the Khwaja Umari district profile;
- Continue conducting communication committee meetings;
- Continue data collection for new district profiles;
- Produce training materials, flyers and banners for Kabul and field use;
- Organize three-day meeting with provincial and district staff on message-driven brochure/flyer graphic design;
- Prepare for Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Foundation ToT in Jalriz, Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts;
- Update, review and edit Chak and Zadran Cycle 1 plans;
- Review and finalize the stakeholder register of Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, Laja Ahmad Khil and Laja Mangal Districts;
- Execute payment for 21 grants;
- Continue survey and project design for Saydabad, Nerkh, Chak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Dih Yak and Zadran Districts, based on DPP Cycle 1 projects;
- Support move to Wardak replacement guest house;
- Follow up and monitor delivery of equipment and office establishment in newly approved districts;
- Finalize the armored vehicles' licenses from Anti Terrorism Department MoI;
- Process airport passes for the armored vehicles;
- Continue recruiting to fill 75 positions:
 - 37 vacancies in process for AECOM;
 - 6 vacancies in process for OSC; and
 - 32 vacancies in process for IRD.