

## SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

NO. 64

### SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### GHAZNI

- The Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Department (PRRD) Director and his staff met several times with the SIKA-East manager for Ghazni to discuss completed and planned workshops and to share a completed package of grant applications and the Dih Yak District Project Portfolio (DPP). PRRD made some practical recommendations on the documents that SIKA-East will follow.

#### Andar

- PRRD and SIKA-East continued the Stability Planning Process training for men from Andar District that began last week. During this session, the SIKA-East team and PRRD social organizer discussed project feasibility, accountability, location, and related subjects. The workshop will continue until next week and will result in a DPP and list of Cycle 1 projects.
- On March 3 and 4, training in Resource Dialogue was conducted for female District Development Assembly (DDA+) members from Andar District. During the training, the participants learned what services and resources are available in their geographical areas and how to access those services using the Service Providers Catalogue developed for Ghazni Province.
- On March 5, training began in Project Design and Development / Grant Process and Application Development for women. The session will continue through March 11. During the first three days, it was attended by an average of 35 participants.



**Project Design and Development training for women from Andar District**

#### Dih Yak

- Grant applications for Dih Yak Cycle 1 projects have been developed; however, the CDCs that originated three projects could not be reached so that grant applications can be developed. SIKA-East's Ghazni staff, in close coordination with PRRD and their social mobilizers, are working to get in touch with the CDCs.
- The Ghazni engineering team has begun to conduct surveys for Dih Yak Cycle 1 projects. By the end of the week, they had completed surveys and developed proposals for 30 wells in the Sulaimanzai area of the district.

#### Khwaja Umari

- During the week, the office for the Khwaja Umari District Support Unit was under renovation and by the end of the week was ready for occupancy.

#### KHOST

- SIKA-East has initiated procurement of a new connex office building, furnishings, and other equipment for the Khost Provincial Management Unit.

## LOGAR

- On March 3, the SIKA-East manager for Logar Province attended a meeting in the provincial council compound. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Logar-based USAID partners and their relevant activities to a UNAMA representative. The provincial council members, government officials, and the Baraki Barak District Governor seriously insisted that the Baraki Barak District Support Unit office be moved to the district center as soon as possible for better implementation of the program.
- Also on March 3, six members of the Logar men's communication committee met to discuss how to develop their message and select communication channels. The next day, five members of the women's communication committee got together for the same purpose.
- The Logar PMU prepared proposals and Bills of Quantity (BoQ) for 17 wells in Gurg Hawaza. They also worked on a grant application of the Loy Qalai Deshatak hawza.
- During the week, SIKA-East staff visited 13 service providers to explain the planned Service Providers Fair and seek their commitment to attend.



**The Logar women's communication committee met to discuss how to get their message out.**

## Baraki Barak

- Between March 3 and 5, Project Design and Development training was conducted in Puli Alam for an average of 41 men from the Baraki Barak DDA and DDA+.
- On March 5, a training in Grant Process and Application Development began for female members of the Baraki Barak DDA and DDA+. Over the three days of training, an average of 30 participants from different hawzas of Baraki Barak attended the sessions and at the end were competent to fill out grant applications.
- SIKA-East's Provincial Management team was scheduled to hold a meeting with the Baraki Barak District Governor and DDA in the presence of PRRD and USAID in the Governor's Office on March 5. However, the meeting was postponed indefinitely by the District Governor. SIKA-East will continue to try to meet with him.

## Khoshi

- Renovation of the Khoshi District Support Unit office has started and continued throughout the week.

## Mohammad Agha

- The women's and men's communication committees for Mohammad Agha held their fourth meetings during the week. The purpose of the meetings was to identify resources and coalition partners for previously identified projects.

## PAKTYA

- SIKA-East’s capacity building officer and communication officer for Paktya met with a provincial council member in her office to coordinate program activities and women’s involvement in them. The provincial council member suggested conducting awareness training for women of Gardiz and maintained that the women of this area are mentally prepared to participate in such trainings.
- During this reporting period, Stability Planning Process training was delayed in both Zurmat and Zadran for a couple of days due to scheduled exercises by the Afghan Local Police (ALP) in those districts. The field team proposed a short suspension of the training program to prevent rumors of a SIKA-East association with ALP.

## Zadran

- In spite of the abovementioned delays, PRRD and SIKA-East trainers completed the second part of the Stability Planning Process in Zadran on March 3. This session, which was attended by 59 men focused on project feasibility, accountability, and other topics that prepared them to complete a District Project Portfolio and list of Cycle 1 projects.

## Zurmat

- On March 3, SIKA-East and PRRD started the second part of the Stability Planning Process in Zurmat District. This session will continue until next week, and will cover the same topics as the Zadran training. An average of 47 men took an active part in the training.
- On March 3 and 4, Resourcing Dialogue training was conducted for female members of the Zurmat DDA+. This training provided the participants with knowledge of service, service delivery, resources, and present service providers in their area. They also learned how to access service providers using the Paktya Service Providers Catalogue.



**Participants in Stability Planning Process training in Zurmat work on developing their District Project Portfolio.**

## MAYDAN WARDAK

- On March 3, the PRRD Director hosted a coordination meeting with representatives of organizations implementing MRRD projects in Maydan Wardak Province. All the project implementers were requested to present their annual plan to PRRD. SIKA-East, in particular, was asked to submit the grant forms in advance.
- A SIKA-East team with Grants and Sub-contract Unit representatives met with the Wardak PRRD Director in order to clarify the issue of qualified and unqualified CDCs on the list received by NSP Facilitating Partners (FP). According to the PRRD, this list is the only FP internal document and SIKA-EAST can proceed to work with those CDCs if the activity is not redundant or already planned by some other donor. In addition, the PRRD Director endorsed the minutes of the recent Grant Review Committee meeting and further processing of the grant applications from Khar CDC and Srakala Markazi CDCs.

### Chaki Wardak

- On March 3, SIKA-East and PRRD trainers completed the second part of the Stability Planning Process workshop in Chaki Wardak District.
- Following this session, they spent the next two days training 44 men from the Chaki Wardak DDA+ in Resource Dialogue and Advocacy. The participants used the recently developed District Project Portfolio to guide them in identifying specific advocacy projects that would directly address sources of instability they had identified the previous week. The participants all noted their support to continue these trainings, indicating they find them helpful for mobilizing local resources and advocating for them.

### Nirkh

- The District Governor received SIKA-East's District Support Unit Manager and gave his approval of the recently developed radio drama scripts.
- The District Support Unit engineer completed a survey for road repair in Taitamor Village.
- On March 6 and 7, Nirkh and Saydabad communication and outreach officers held separate Fundraising trainings for 24 male and 18 female members of the district's DDA and CDCs. The overall goal of these sessions is to train the DDA+ and social organizers on common methods of identifying donors and asking for fundraising at both district and provincial levels. This training is specifically targeted towards assisting individuals at the community level in implementing projects outside the scope of SIKA-East grants, and special attention is paid to Cycle 1 projects as examples during the workshop.



**Nerkh Fundraising training in progress**

### Saydabad

- SIKA-East's communication and outreach staff conducted communication committee sessions for male and female members of the Saydabad DDA+ and CDCs. The participants came to the conclusion that people are still not clear about the DDA's activities and responsibilities, mainly due to a lack of proper communication channels. To address this issue, the DDA+ members agreed to work to improve communications and communication channels among district entities, local people, influential members of the community, and governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- The Saydabad engineering team completed estimates and drawings for the Hakim Khil and Noori CDC projects, which the team surveyed last week.
- Missing grant application documents for Arab Khil and Sara Qala CDCs were completed and are ready for further processing.

**SIGNIFICANT KABUL-BASED ACTIVITIES**

- Several units facilitated the following trainings, project-wide, during the week:

Date	Title	Location	Type	Men	Women
March 3	Stability Planning Process -- Male	Chak	Training	42	0
March 3	Stability Planning Process	Zadran	Training	59	0
March 3-4	Stability Planning Process -- Male	Zurmat	Training	47	0
March 3-5	Project Design and Development	Baraki Barak	Training	41	0
March 3-4	Resource Dialogue and Advocacy	Andar	Training	0	31
March 4-5	Advocacy	Chak	Training	44	0
March 5-7	Grant Process and Application Development	Baraki Barak	Training	0	30
March 5-7	Project Design and Development / Grant Process and Application Development	Andar	Training	0	35
March 6	Fund Raising	Nirkh	Training	24	0
March 7	Fund Raising	Nirkh	Training	0	18

- SIKA-East started reviewing the DPPs from Batch C districts (Andar, Chak, Zadran, and Zurmat). Once they have been revised, the DPPs will be endorsed by the corresponding DDA, PRRD Director, and District Governor.
- SIKA-East worked on drafting the first phase of the DPP Standard Operating Procedures.
- The PRRD Director of Paktya raised the issue of accent for radio plays, stating that Kabul-produced radio plays would sound “foreign” to constituents in Paktya and he would prefer to use local Paktya performance groups. SIKA-East shared this issue with the contractor that is producing the radio plays. The company proposed increasing the number of spots and producing three more plays in the local dialect of Paktya Province. It is worth mentioning that this will require amending the contract upwards for the cost of producing three extra spots. The production cost is around \$2,200 per spot, so the increase would be approximately \$6,600.
- The current status of grant applications is summarized in the following table:

District	Applications under Development at Any Stage		Application Packages Submitted to SIKA-East		No. of App. under USAID Vetting	Appl. Approved by GRC	No. of Appl. Sent to USAID for Approval
	M	F	Nr.	\$			
Saydabad	18	0	8	242,183	1	8	2
Nirkh	30	6	1	\$91,292	0	0	0
Mohammad Agha	28	4	6	307,346	4	0	0
DihYak	17	9	0	0	0	0	0
Total	93	19	14	\$640,821	5	13	2

- Two grant packages from Saydabad District in Wardak Province were completed and submitted to USAID for approval. These are the first two grant packages to be submitted to USAID.
- SIKA-East met with Da Afghanistan Bank representatives to discuss the use of pre-existing bank accounts for grant payments to CDCs. Several issues with using pre-existing accounts were identified, and it was agreed to schedule a meeting with NSP to discuss options and the way forward. A meeting with the NSP Finance Director is expected next week. Furthermore, SIKA-East met with representatives of two commercial banks with offices located at the provincial level in order to explore available methods and mechanisms for payment transfers to grantees. Commercial banks have a good network and can provide fast and reliable services in a variety of ways. Options will be discussed with USAID and MRRD.
- SIKA-East's Gender group reviewed the work plan for inclusion of gender mainstreaming matter. Preparations are under way to conduct a gender mainstreaming workshop from March 12 to 14.
- Human Resources filled five positions this week: three for AECOM, one for OSC, and one for Ti.
- Security Department finalized the Security Risk Assessment of the Khost Provincial Management Unit office. The SRA is in accordance with the current security situation in the province and will give staff members a pre-rollout awareness of the area.
- Security Department conducted security orientation for three newly hired staff. The staff members were briefed on security procedures while in the office and traveling to the field. Additionally, the unit conducted refresher training for Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) and access control guards. The APPF guards trained on weapons handling and access control.

## **PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

### **GHAZNI**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with Ghazni PRRD officials;
- Complete Andar Stability Planning Process Male session;
- Complete Andar Project Design and Development/Grant Process and Application Development Female;
- Conduct Andar Advocacy Male session; and
- Conduct Andar Infrastructure Project Planning session.

### **LOGAR**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director;
- Continue to prepare for the Service Providers Fair in Puli Alam; and
- Conduct Grant Process and Application Development Male training for Baraki Barak.

### **PAKTYA**

- Conduct regular coordination meetings with the PRRD Director and other concerned organizations;
- Continue Stability Planning Process Male for Zurmat; and
- Conduct Advocacy Male training for Zadran.

## **WARDAK**

- Hold regular coordination meetings with PRRD and other stakeholders;
- Conduct communication meeting with Nirkh DDAs and CDCs;
- Conduct project surveys according to the Engineering group plan; and
- Continue to fill grant applications.

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

- Translate Logar Service Providers Catalogue into Pashto and Dari;
- Update Paktya and Ghazni Service Provider Catalogues so they can be translated and printed as booklets for upcoming fairs and coordination meetings;
- Continue to prepare for the Logar Service Providers Fair;
- Review SIKA-East activity plan;
- Continue infrastructure design efforts for Cycle 1 projects in Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, and Nirkh;
- Conduct SRA of accommodations in Khost for staff visiting Khost Province and Gurbuz District office;
- Work to complete a grant package, for DCOP/COP concurrence and USAID approval, for five applications from Mohammad Agha District;
- Continue to support CDCs in developing applications and collecting required documents;
- Develop newly defined modules of the web-based database;
- Conduct a workshop on Strengthening the Integration of Men and Women in Stability Analysis and Planning;
- Conduct SRA in Chaki Wardak District Support Unit office;
- Continue recruitment by HR Department of 92 staff:
  - Fifty-two vacancies in process with AECOM;
  - Five vacancies in process with OSC;
  - Thirty-four vacancies in process with IRD; and
  - One vacancies in process with Ti.