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AFGHANISTAN

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

MONTHLY REPORT: OCTOBER 2013



Photo: A view of the Service Providers Fair organized by the Khost Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and SIKA-East and held in Khost City on October 23 and 24, 2013.

November 15, 2013

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MONTHLY REPORT: OCTOBER 2013

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DISCLAIMER:

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ACRONYMS

ANA	Afghan National Army
AWEC	Afghan Women's Education Center
CDC	Community Development Council
CY	Calendar Year
DCC	District Community Council
DDA	District Development Assembly
DGO	District Governor Office
DIC	District Information Center
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DoWA	Department of Women Affairs
DE	District Entities
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DSW	District Social Worker
FY	Fiscal Year
GIRoA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GRC	Grant Review Committee
HR	Human Resource
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IOC	Intermediate Outcome
IR	Intermediate Result
LM	Logic Model / Logical Model
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NABDP	National Area Based Development Program
NDS	National Directorate of Security
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSP	National Solidarity Program
OC	Outcome
ODG	Office of Democracy and Governance
OP	Output
PDSP	Provincial Department Service Profile
PGO	Provincial Governor Office
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Department
RF	Results Framework
RFP	Request for Proposals
SIKA-East	Stability in Key Areas-East
SAM	Stability Analysis Methodology
SO	Strategic Objective
SPC	Service Providers Catalogue
SPF	Service Providers Fair
SPP	Stability Planning Process
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



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SIKA-East Districts

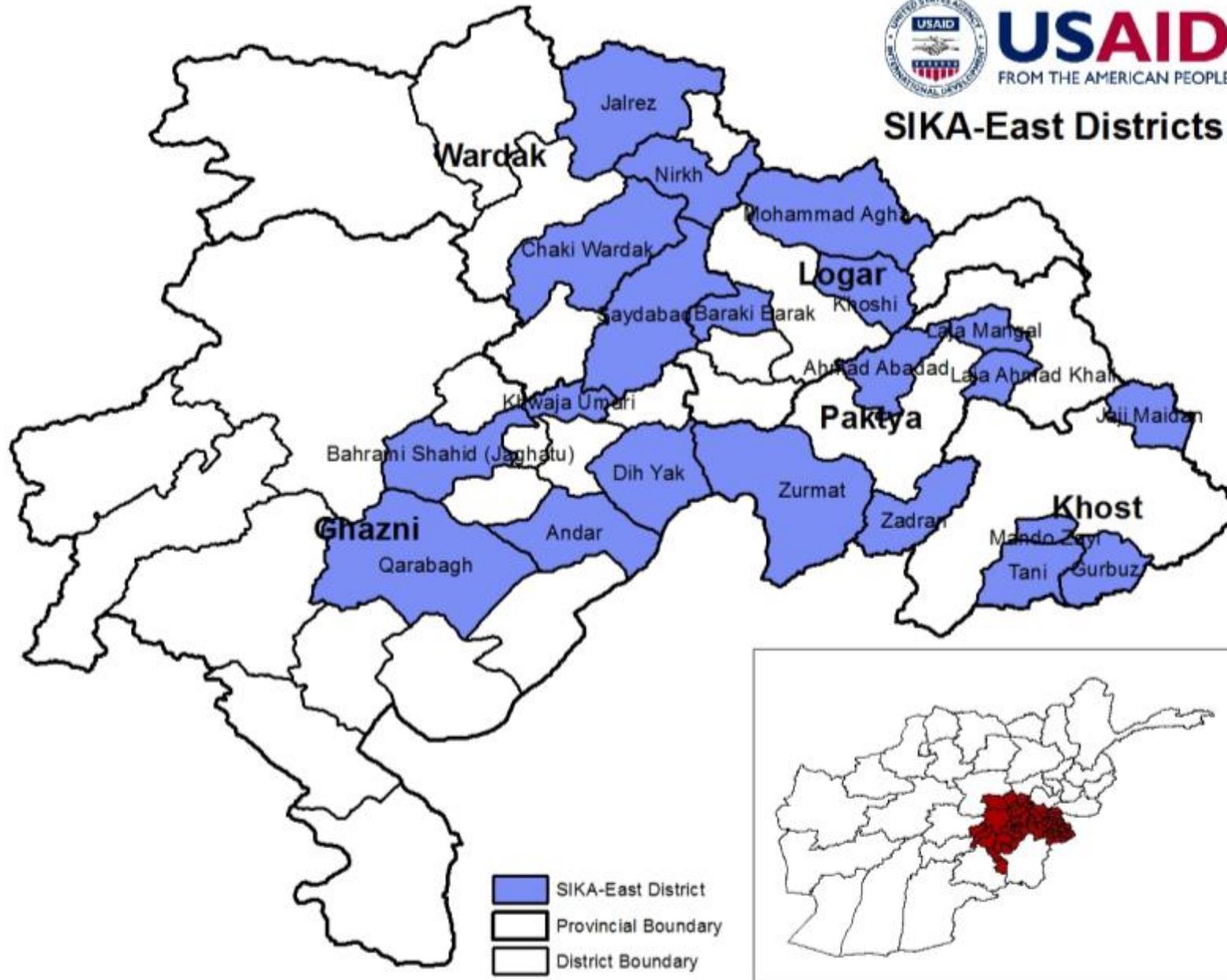




Photo. A record number of female participants was achieved on the second SIKA-East Service Providers Fair held in Maydan Shahr, the provincial capital of Maydan Wardak, on October 29 and 30.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) - East Monthly Report provides an overview of achievements made during October 2013, the first month of the third fiscal year (FY) of program implementation.

PROGRAM PROFILE SIKA-East, together with the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), is working on strengthening governance and service delivery to improve stability in conflict-affected districts of eastern Afghanistan.

SIKA-East, originally envisioned as an 18-month program with a \$88,680,279 budget, started in December 2011. A no-cost extension was obtained in April 2013, extending the program until March 6, 2014, with a possibility of an additional 18-month option period.

As of October 31, the program was active in all 21 districts in five provinces in eastern Afghanistan: Ghazni, Khost, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya, as per the SIKA-East Work Plan.

Afghan Leadership SIKA-East is currently implemented by 571 staff members in total, of whom 97% are Afghan nationals. Sixty-nine percent of the Afghan nationals are based in the five provinces and 21 districts where SIKA-East operates, embedded within Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and District Government offices at provincial and district levels, respectively. Five percent of the Afghan nationals occupy senior management positions (grades 10-12), while women make up 7% of the total staff.

OBJECTIVES The primary objective of the SIKA-East program is to promote good governance and service delivery in targeted districts with the intended effects of promoting stability and reducing the impact of the insurgency through capacity building with MRRD and IDLG in the areas of intervention.

To reach this objective, the program is conducting a wide-ranging stability-focused capacity building program for expanded District Development Assemblies (DDAs), or so-called DDA Plus (DDA+) – informal, voluntary, highly

October Achievements

- SIKA-East launched in its 21st and final district: Mandy Zayi in Khost Province
- Stability Planning Process completed in remaining five districts, each resulting with a District Project Portfolio – locally produced plans of activities that address root causes of instability - for Ghazni's Jaghatu and Qarabagh districts, Paktya's Ahmad Abad, Wardak's Jalrez, and Khost's Mando Zayi District
- Seven new DPPs approved for Andar, Khwaja Umari, Khoshi, Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, and Laja Ahmad Khail
- Nine new grants in line with the DPPs awarded, in total value of \$492,137;
- Six grants completed in October, addressing local sources of instability and strengthening community resiliencies
- 75 capacity building sessions conducted across the districts, with 1,985 men and 851 women trained in stability, outreach and technical skills.
- Two Service Providers Fairs (SFPs) successfully conducted in Khost and Maydan Wardak

Cumulative Results

- Program active in all 21 planned districts of Eastern Afghanistan
- All 21 stakeholder registers completed, resulting with formation of 21 expanded District Development Assemblies (DDAs+)
- 15 approved DPPs guiding the SIKA-East grants and capacity building programs
- Some 375 stability-focused trainings conducted for more than 10,000 men and 3,300 women since the beginning of the program
- 15 infrastructure grants in total completed
- Four Provincial Service Catalogues produced
- Six SFPs in total held across the provinces

representative district bodies. SIKA-East enables DDAs+ to:

- (i) Identify, analyze and monitor root causes of local instability;
- (ii) Develop and execute strategic plans to address these causes; and,
- (iii) Forge alliances and generate public activism to raise awareness about, and advocate for district stability.

Complementing capacity building effort to enable effective local governance, SIKA-East offers grants to district entities to enhance service delivery and assist implementation of stability-focused initiatives, predominantly small-scale infrastructure projects intended to mitigate the identified root causes of instability. The result is a sound, local-level analysis of district instability dynamics, coupled with a ground-up plan of interventions to remedy it, local capacity to implement and manage it, and governmental ability to effectively communicate the challenges and the results to their constituents.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN In agreement with USAID, SIKA-East revised its Performance Management Plan (PMP) in line with the recent changes of the Logic Model (LM) of the USAID Stabilization Unit and the Office of Democracy and Governance (ODG). The PMP revision will also enable SIKA-East to better capture the actual results of program activities. The new PMP is effective as of October 1, 2013 - this is the first SIKA-East report to measure programmatic results against the new LM and three Immediate Outcome (OC) Statements. The program is currently revising its performance data and data management systems: some cumulative numbers, as well as comprehensive analysis of progress measured against OCs, will be provided in the SIKA-East Monthly Report for November 2013. Due to ongoing data revision, reported quantitative results may show minor fluctuations.

RESULTS In October, SIKA-East attained a number of benchmarks and results:

Area of Operation With the official rollout of operations in Mando Zayi District in Khost Province in early October, the program completed its expansion to all 21 designated districts in eastern Afghanistan. The following are the SIKA-East districts of operation:

- Andar, Barhrami Shahid (Jaghathu), Dih Yak, Khwaja Umari, and Qarabagh in Ghazni Province;
- Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan, Mando Zayi, and Tani in Khost Province;
- Baraki Barak, Khoshi, and Mohammad Agha in Logar Province;
- Chaki Wardak, Jalrez, Nirkh, and Saydabad in Maydan Wardak Province; and,
- Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, Zadran, and Zurmat in Paktya Province.

DDA+ Leadership and District Level Planning Members of the 21st DDA+ in Mando Zayi district held their first session in early October under the SIKA-East institutional strengthening program. In Ghazni's Jaghatu and Qarabagh districts, Paktya's Ahmad Abad, Wardak's Jalrez, and Khost's Mando Zayi District, DDA+ members completed the program core training in Stability Planning Process (SPP), resulting with the final five District Project Portfolios (DPPs) for their respective areas. The DPPs outline solutions to identified systemic causes of local instability and serve as a platform for DDAs+ to strategically plan and manage interventions that enhance local stability. With a total of 21 DPPs produced by DDAs+ since the beginning of the program, SIKA-East completed this activity segment envisioned under its work plan.

The DPPs are subsequently endorsed by PRRD Directors and DGs and submitted to USAID for final approval. In October, seven previously produced DPPs were approved by USAID - for Andar, Khwaja Umari, Khoshi, Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, and Laja Ahmad Khail districts. This brings the total to 15 finalized and approved DPPs under the program. One DPP was pending USAID approval

at the end of the month. The remaining five DPPs were in process of translation and are expected to be submitted to USAID in the month of November.

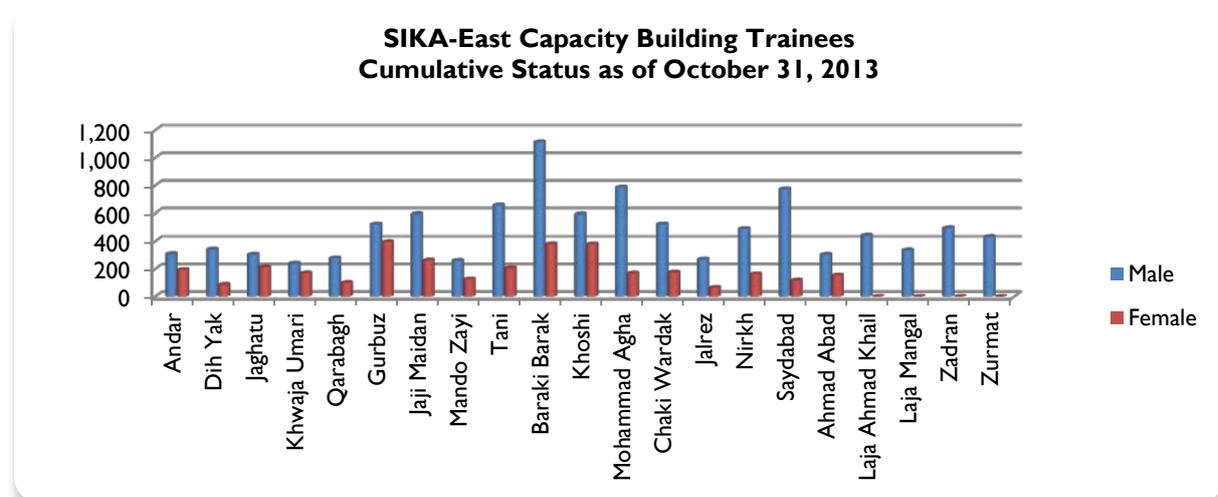
Service Provider Fairs In October, SIKA-East organized two Service Providers Fairs (SPFs), bringing the total to six successfully conducted Fairs in the five provinces. Both October Fairs brought together local governmental, non-governmental and private sector providers of goods and services to establish and strengthen links between them and the community. The Khost Fair, held on October 22 and 23, was visited by an average of 650 people per day and showcased 70 service provider booths. The Maydan Wardak Fair, held on October 29 and 30, was the second SPF held in the province. The fair was attended by an average of 600 visitors per day, interested in the presentations of 60 exhibitors at the event. Ten of the exhibitors were women’s organizations, while an average of 222 women per day registered as visitors. With SIKA-East’s gender mainstreaming strategy being currently operationalized, the second Wardak SPF succeeded in attracting record 30 percent female participation in comparison to the previous provincial SPF when only eight percent of the participants were women.

Capacity Building The SIKA-East capacity building program consists of trainings in three areas:

- **Stability:** Stability Planning Process, Verification of Sources of Instability, Root Causes and Solutions, Stakeholder Orientation, and Governance Foundation;
- **Outreach:** Fundraising, Lobbying, Negotiation Strategy, Unity Building, and Resource Dialogue and Advocacy,
- **Technical Training:** Grant Process and Application Development, Grant Management, Infrastructure Project Planning, Infrastructure Project Implementation, and Operation and Maintenance.

During October, 75 training activities were conducted in 17 of the 21 districts. A total of 2,836 participants, 1,985 male and 851 female, were trained in stability analysis, strategic planning, resource mobilization, outreach, and technical skills. The participants were primarily DDA and Community Development Council (CDC) members, as well as influential local leaders both men and women.

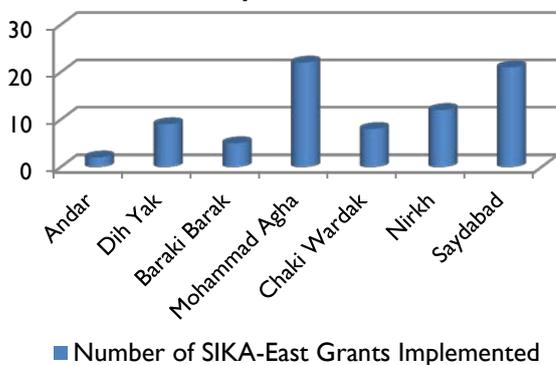
As of October 30, the program has conducted the cumulative total of 375 trainings for 13,405 individuals, of which 10,055 are men and 3,350 women. Please note that the SIKA-East’s ongoing data revision may imply fluctuations in the cumulative results of the capacity building program.



Transition Initiatives SIKA-East continued consultations with MRRD and IDLG to operationalize a series of new capacity building activities in support of the transition to stronger GIRoA-led participatory planning and service delivery.

In October, preparations were being made for the pilot DDA+ conference, planned to take place on November 5 in Maydan Shahr, the provincial capital of Maydan Wardak Province, as well as for the first District Governors (DG) Conference, scheduled for November 11 and 12 in Kabul. The pilot DDA+ Conference will bring together sister DDA+s and government authorities at the provincial level to share and broaden local analysis of instability and conflict, and to strengthen DPP ownership and management. Under the leadership of ILDG, the District Governors conference will assemble 21 DGs from the SIKA-East area of operation, to provide them with comprehensive information about the program achievements and plans, discuss the role of the governors within the SIKA-East program, enable exchange of experiences, challenges, and lessons learned among the governors, and elicit ideas and feedback on the SIKA's potential option period and transition to GIRoA entities.

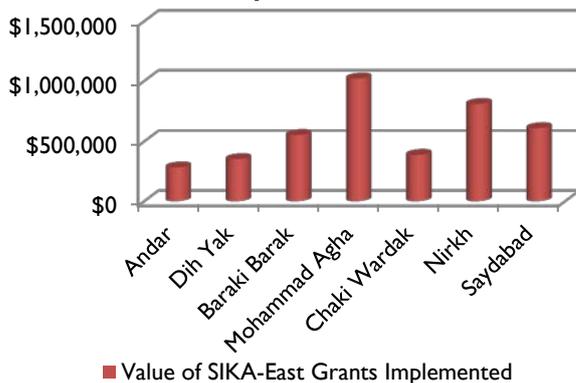
Number of SIKA-East Grants Implemented



Grants In the reporting period, SIKA-East awarded nine new grants with a total value of \$492,137 to district entities: one in Andar District of Ghazni Province, three in Nirkh in Maydan Wardak Province, and five in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province. Six grant activities were completed in the reporting period: one each in Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha and Nirkh, and three in Saydabad District. These grants have a total value of \$153,790.

Since the beginning of its operations, the program has awarded a total of 91 grants with a value of \$4,004,247, each addressing a local source of instability in its area of operation. Fifteen grants have been thus far completed and are in mandatory three-month monitoring phase. The 79 grants currently ongoing are implemented in the districts of Andar, Dih Yak, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad.

Value of SIKA-East Grants Implemented



In support of infrastructure grants, SIKA-East completed the engineering designs for six projects in three districts of Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya Provinces. As of the end of the month, SIKA-East has completed the designs of 130 projects, with a total value of \$6.6 million. In addition, 40 engineering designs are in various stages of field surveys and drafting. These are estimated to be more than \$2 million in value.

A total of 80 capacity building projects have been identified by DE and local communities targeting 14 districts of the five provinces. These include various vocational trainings, in particular a number of livelihoods trainings for women, as well as complementary activities to ensure viability of such initiatives and connect them with other ongoing government programs.



Photo: The Provincial Governor of Khost province inaugurated the SIKA-East launch in the Mando Zayi district.

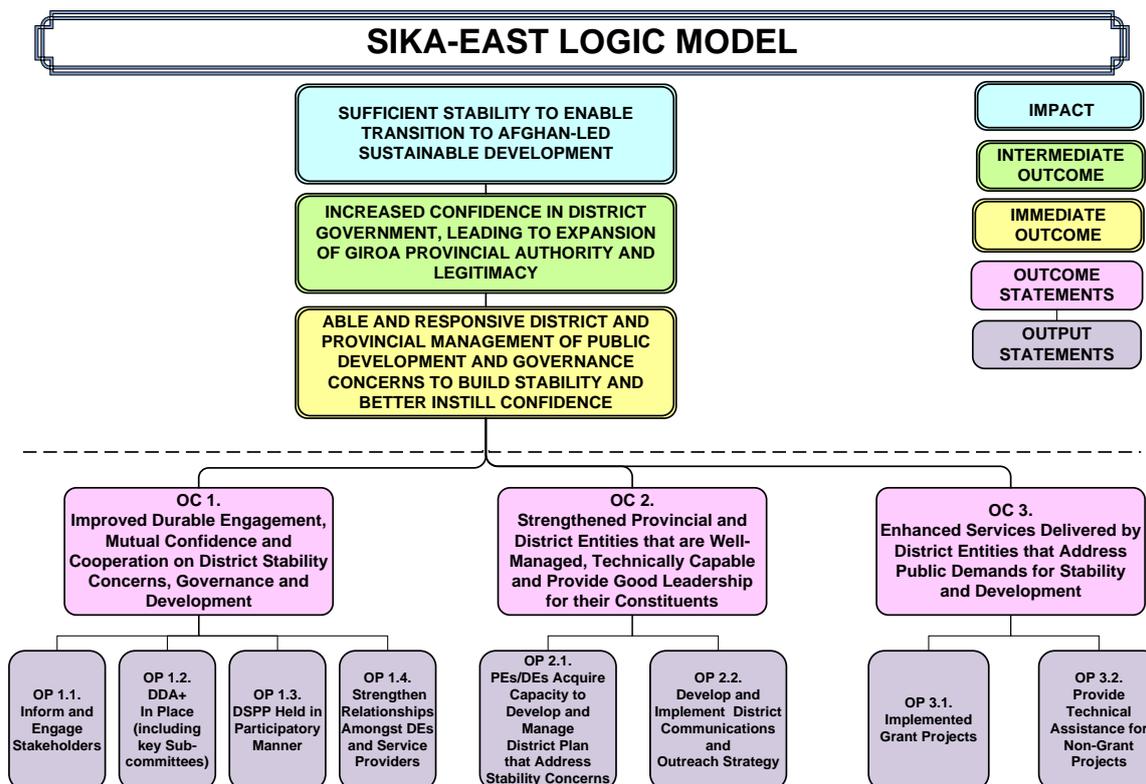
PROGRESS TOWARDS
IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

PROGRESS TOWARD IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

REVISED SIKA-EAST LOGIC MODEL AND RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The original SIKA-East contract positioned SIKA-East as a stabilization program under the USAID Stabilization Unit (Stab-U) of the Mission in Afghanistan. Due to the recent changes in the Stab-U Logic Model (LM) and Results Framework (RF), the contractual objectives and the Intermediate Results (IRs) of SIKA-East were revised, in agreement with USAID. The following is a summary of relevant changes, whereas for detailed overview, please refer to the SIKA-East’s most recent PMP as of September 21, 2013.

Revised LM/RF SIKA-East built its new LM and RF on the Stabilization Unit LM and RF. All the Stab-U and some Foreign Assistance Framework (FAF) indicators relevant to SIKA-East were adopted directly and incorporated into the SIKA-East RF. The direct outputs and aimed immediate outcomes of SIKA-East were utilized to determine other indicators specific to the SIKA-East program. The SIKA-East Logic Model and RF form a standalone system based on Results Based Management (RBM).



Revised SIKA-East Logic Model and Results Framework.

The revised SIKA-East RF consists of seven Intermediate Outcome (OC) Indicators; six Immediate OC Indicators; and 42 output (OP) indicators - a total of 55 indicators. Of the Stabilization Unit indicators that have been adopted into the SIKA-East RF, two OC indicators and four OP indicators

are new to the Stabilization Unit RF – this includes the FAF gender indicator, GNDR-2. Of the custom-made indicators, five Immediate OC indicators and 25 OP indicators are new.

Effective October 1, 2013, SIKA-East started reporting progress against the revised LM and RF, specifically against the three Immediate OC Statements. Each OC Statement has a varying number of relevant OP Statements which specify the expected results from the SIKA-East activities. As requested by USAID, only the Immediate OC Statements will be referred to in the SIKA-East progress reports.

MONTHLY PROGRESS TOWARD IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Starting in the reporting period and continuing throughout November, SIKA-East has begun implementing data management systems for all indicators in the revised RF. Please note that due to the ongoing data revision process, some cumulative results are not reported. The SIKA-East November Monthly Report will provide all indicator values, as well as analysis of achievements versus targets where applicable.

OC 1: Improved Durable Engagement, Mutual Confidence and Cooperation on District Stability Concerns, Governance and Development

The basis of this OC is the ‘building of relationships’ – bringing the various stakeholders in each district together to discuss their governance and stability concerns and jointly agree interventions that would contribute to an improved stability. SIKA-East, in close collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), identifies the key local stakeholders, including women, through a stakeholder mapping process in each district, which eventually results in the development of the DDA+, the core governance entity for SIKA-East. GIROA and SIKA-East jointly facilitate series of capacity building workshops to prepare the DDA+ to engage in a participatory planning process and develop DPPs, which serve as strategic plans of interventions for each district. In addition, SIKA-East facilitates coordination events between district entities and local service providers (SPs), as well as events amongst SPs, to increase awareness of various services and resources available in the district and/or province and enable DE access them.

	OCTOBER PROGRESS			CUMULATIVE PROGRESS		
1.3.1 Number of districts in which the DSPP was utilized to develop projects	2			21		
1.3.2 Number of DSPP sessions conducted for District Entities (DEs)	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	2	2	4	32	15	47
1.3.3 Number of DE members that participated in the DSPP sessions	108	100	208	1,067	431	1,498
1.4.1 Number of Coordination Events Held	18	8	26	76	41	117
Number of Participants in Coordination Events Held	193	71	264	1,062	416	1,478
1.4.2 Number of DE members with access to the SP Information Products	Month			Cumulative		
	1,000			TBD		
1.4.3 Number of organizations with access to the SP Information Products	0			TBD		
1.4.4 Number of SPFs held	2			6		
1.4.5 Number of SPs invited to the SPFs	137			TBD		
1.4.6 Number of SPs at the SPFs	110			TBD		
1.4.7 Number of visitors at the SPFs	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	2,046	463	2,509	TBD	TBD	TBD
1.4.8 Number of non-subsidized visitors at the SPFs	1,080	272	1,352	TBD	TBD	TBD

OC 2: Strengthened Provincial and District Entities that are Well-Managed, Technically Capable and Provide Good Leadership for their Constituents

The basis of this OC is ‘governance’ – SIKA-East provides training and strengthens the capacity of the provincial and district entities so that they may better manage delivery of basic services and provide competent and responsible governance. SIKA-East technically supports DDA+s to enable them to implement and manage their respective DPPs and learn from the process. In addition, the appointed DDA+ members develop and implement a District Communications and Outreach Strategy intended to improve the visibility of GIROA and provide concrete tools to assist DE more effectively engage constituents.

	OCTOBER PROGRESS			CUMULATIVE PROGRESS		
	Month			Cumulative		
2.1.2 Number of individuals trained	1,985	851	2,836	10,055	3,350	13,405
2.1.3 Number of person-days of training	4,163	1,913	6,076	26,520	7,826	34,346
2.1.4 Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services	# Female	# Participants	Percentage	# Female	# Participants	Percentage
	851	2,836	30%	3,350	13,405	25%

OC 3: Enhanced Services Delivered by District Entities that Address Public Demands for Stability and Development

The basis of this OC is ‘projects’ – SIKA-East implements grant and non-grant projects. Under non-grant projects, SIKA-East provides technical assistance to the DDA+ to find solutions to various root causes of instability not covered by program grants. The various trainings provided to the DDA+ and other stakeholders come to fruition in the management and monitoring of these projects.

	OCTOBER PROGRESS			CUMULATIVE PROGRESS		
	Month			Cumulative		
3.1.1 Number of grant projects	# Grants Approved			Cumulative Grants Approved		
	10			102		
3.1.2 Proportion: Number of grant projects approved : Number of proposed projects in the DPPs	# Grant Projects Approved	Total of Proposed Projects in DPP	Percentage	Cumulative Grants Approved	Cumulative Grants Projects in DPP	Percentage
	10	1,795	1%	102	1,795	6%
3.1.3 Proportion: Number of grants approved by USAID : Number of grants submitted to USAID	# Grants Approved	# Grants Submitted	Percentage	Cumulative Grants Approved	Cumulative Grants Submitted	Percentage
	10	114	9%	102	114	89%



Photo: SIKA-East hosted the first two-day coordination and training meeting for IDLG-SIKA provincial coordinators. Representatives from the four SIKA projects presented the SIKA East, West, South, and North programs in the presence of IDLG representatives and the Saydabad District Governor.

PROGRAMS & CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMS

Operational Setup SIKA-East has five provincial offices established in the provincial capitals of Ghazni, Khost, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya. Eighteen district offices are operational, with the three remaining already set up and in process of recruiting field staff: Jaghatu and Qarabagh in Ghazni province, and Mando Zayi in Khost Province. Twenty-one official program launches have been held in all program districts of operation, led by governmental officials and attended by line ministry representatives, local dignitaries, elders and influential women.

PROGRAM-WIDE ACTIVITIES

IDGL SIKA Provincial Coordinators Meeting IDLG and SIKA-East co-hosted the first Coordination Meeting for IDLG SIKA Provincial Coordinators for all four SIKA programs in Afghanistan, attended also by an IDLG Program Director and the Saydabad District Governor. The purpose of this meeting was to debrief all SIKA coordinators on the four programs as well as to establish a common communication platform.

Gender Mainstreaming As announced in the previous monthly report, SIKA-East continued efforts toward exploring options to enhance its gender mainstreaming approach. During this month SIKA-East met with representatives from MRRD, Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP), and the National Area Based Program for Development (NABDP) to discuss the design and viability of livelihood initiatives for women in the provinces. Meetings were also held with Zardozi, an Afghan organization working with female artisans to improve technical skills, develop market linkages, and increase incomes. In addition, SIKA-East met with representatives from the USAID/Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Informal Component to discuss compatible subject-matter areas and activities: during the stability planning process, several districts highlighted the need for educational activities focused on women's rights within the region's Islamic and cultural belief systems, such as women's consent to marriage (family law), state jurisdiction (constitutional and criminal law), property rights (property law), validity and importance of deeds, women's inheritance rights, and the relationship between statutory law and Sharia law.

IDLG and All SIKA Meeting Hosted by SIKA-East



SIKA-East hosted the first two-day coordination and training meeting for IDLG-SIKA provincial coordinators. Representatives from the four SIKA projects presented the SIKA East, West, South, and North programs in the presence of IDLG representatives and the Saydabad District Governor.



Group session work during Stability Planning Process training in Jaghatu District

SIKA-East continued working on different strategies to increase female participation, raise awareness amongst women of upcoming SPFs, further relationships between PRRD, the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), and IDLG, and finally, engage male allies strategically in the gender mainstreaming process.

These efforts proved effective at the Maydan Wardak SPF seeing a significant increase in female participation: ten of the exhibitors were women's organizations, while an average of 222 women per day registered as visitors. By reaching out to women through schools, associations, and other informal networks, the Wardak SPF succeeded in attracting record 30 percent female participation in comparison to the previous provincial SPF, when only eight percent of the participants were women.

In the next reporting period, the program will continue working on mapping key male allies and female role models in their respective provinces in order to identify members within the community with whom the program can collaborate.

District Profiles Throughout the reporting period, the program continued working on compiling and updating district profiles – these documents provide detailed, up to date information on the social, political, and economic situation in the targeted districts. Thus far, 11 profiles have been submitted to USAID. The remaining ten are in various stages of research and production. In the reporting period, initial drafts for Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan and Tani were developed. The district profiles for Jaghatu and Qarabagh will be submitted to USAID earlier in November, followed by profiles for Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan, Tani, Ahmad Abad, Laja Mangal, Laja Ahmad Khail, Jalrez, and Mando Zayi.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND STABILIZATION

Stakeholder Registers In October, the five final stakeholder registers were compiled for Ghazni's Jaghatu and Qarabagh district, Paktya's Ahmad Abad, Wardak's Jalrez, and Khost's Mando Zayi - completing this activity across the 21 districts. Informed by initial district stakeholder mapping, district profiles, MRRD, IDLG, and other information sources, and drawing on a mix of formal and traditional institutions with a role in stabilization, SIKA-East compiles these registers that define core groups of participants for program activities. The registers serve to nominate and select members of the DDA+, the primary district body that SIKA-East works with in its effort to enhance subnational governance and strengthen the relationship between the formal district-level government and its constituents.

District Project Portfolios SIKA-East, PRRDs and District Governors completed five SPP capacity building sessions in the reporting period. The main purpose of these trainings was to



Khwaja Umari communications committee members designing a joint male and female action plan.



Some of the 42 women who took part in Governance Foundation training in Mando Zayi



A three-day Stability Planning Process workshop in Mando Zayi District of Khost Province was attended by an average of 57 men and resulted in a DPP.

create an environment where the influential people from the community, members of DDAs, DCCs and CDCs could discuss their local grievances and resiliencies, and learn how to plan and act to contribute toward increased stability in their districts. The output of each SPP session was a DPP. In the reporting period, five new DPPs were produced in Ghazni's Jaghatu and Qarabagh districts, Paktya's Ahmad Abad, Wardak's Jalrez, and Khost's Mando Zayi District, completing the envisioned 21 DPPs under the program. Four of the new DPPs have been endorsed by correspondent DGs and PRRDs. Seven new DPPs were approved by USAID in October: Andar, Khwaja Umari, Khoshi, Gurbuz, Tani, Jaji Maidan, and Laja Ahmad Khail. This brings the total to 15 finalized DPPs under the program. With one DPP pending approval, the remaining five DPPs are in process of translation and will be submitted to USAID in November, together with an accompanying narrative.

Provincial Service Catalogues Four out of five planned Provincial Service Catalogues have been thus far produced under the program, with the final PSC for Khost Province pending completion in the next reporting period.

Service Provider Events In October, SIKA-East organized two SPFs, bringing the total of successfully conducted Fairs to six in the five provinces. Both October Fairs brought together local governmental, non-governmental and private sector providers of goods and services to establish and strengthen links between them and the community. The SPFs are part of SIKA-East's approach to enhancing the ability of the local government to effectively deliver services to its constituents in a sustainable manner.

On October 22-23, SIKA-East with close cooperation with PRRD and district and provincial governors, conducted the first SPF in Khost Province. During the two days, an average of 650 people per day visited the 70 booths held by various provincial services providers.

On October 29 and 30, the Maydan PRRD Department and SIKA-East hosted the second SPF held in the provincial capital Maydan Shahr. The fair was attended by an average of 600 visitors per day, interested in the exhibitions of 60 exhibitors at the event. Ten of the exhibitors were women's organizations, while an average of 222 women per day registered as visitors. By reaching out to women through schools, associations, and other informal networks, the Wardak SPF succeeded in attracting record 30 percent female participation in comparison to the previous provincial SPF when only eight percent of the participants were women.

Alongside the two Fairs, SIKA-East conducted four resource coordination meetings in October, bringing the total to ten such



Eng. Mahidi, Director of the Khost Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development, spoke at the SIKA-East launch in Mando Zayi District of Khost Province.



Some of the 70 booths set up to display goods and services at the Service Providers Fair organized by PRRD and SIKA-East in Khost. Over 1,200 people attended.



The Baraki Barak District Governor delivering a speech during the resource coordination meeting in Puli Alam, Logar Province.

meetings conducted under the program. Since the beginning of the program, two resource coordination meetings have been organized in Maydan Wardak, three in Logar, two in Ghazni, two in Paktya and one in Khost Province.

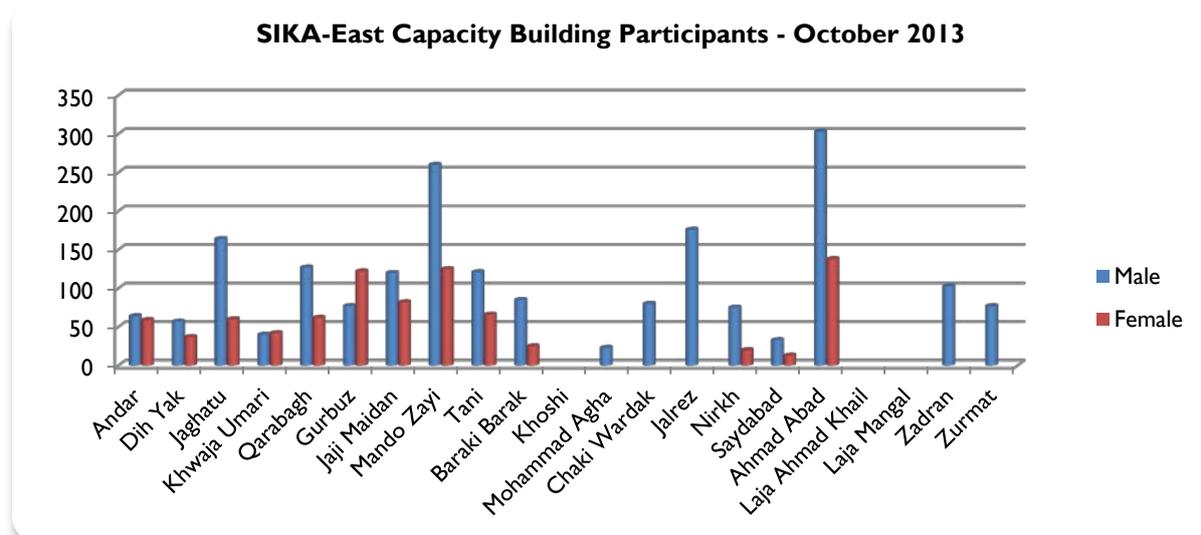
District Social Workers In October, SIKA-East and MRRD’s Community-Led Development Department (CLDD) continued working on the recruitment, induction and training of the District Social Workers (DSWs) in SIKA-East districts where these positions are vacant. By the end of the reporting period, 12 DSWs were recruited and the remaining nine will be identified in November. Training materials were being developed and translated for the Induction training, which will represent a joint exercise between CLDD and SIKA-East and will take place in Kabul. In total, 21 new DSWs, existent DSWs and five CLDD provincial officers will attend the training. The DSWs will perform shared PRRD and SIKA-East duties during the life of the program and are envisaged to be moved to the official government *tashkheel* following the end of the program.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The SIKA-East capacity building program consists of trainings in three areas:

- **Stability:** Stability Planning Process, Verification of Sources of Instability, Root Causes and Solutions, Stakeholder Orientation, and Governance Foundation;
- **Outreach:** Fundraising, Lobbying, Negotiation Strategy, Unity Building, and Resource Dialogue and Advocacy,
- **Technical Training:** Grant Process and Application Development, Grant Management, Infrastructure Project Planning, Infrastructure Project Implementation, and Operation and Maintenance.

During October, 75 training activities were conducted in 17 of the 21 districts, namely, Ahmad Abad, Andar, Baraki Barak, Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Gurbuz, Jaghatu, Jaji Maidan, Jalrez, Khwaja Umari, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, Qarabagh, Saydabad, Tani, Zadran and Zurmat districts. The chart below represents the number of male and female individuals participating in various SIKA-East sessions during the month of October.



A total of 2,836 participants, of which 1,985 were male and 851 were female, were trained in various skills. SIKA-East applies the 75% criterion for training, meaning that an individual who attained 75% participation of the session is counted as trained. Further details are given in the section on Significant Provincial Activities further below in this document.

NEW TRANSITION INITIATIVES

In support of the transition leading toward stronger GIRoA-led stabilization planning processes and thereby enhancing the sustainability of the program, in consultation with MRRD and IDLG, SIKA-East has initiated a series of additional institutional strengthening and capacity building activities.

Complementing the existent training and grant program, these activities are specifically targeting institutional strengthening needs of PRRD, IDLG, and district entities in the context of Afghanistan's Subnational Governance Policy, and specifically, to enable them to assume an increasingly more active role in SIKA-East and public administrative processes in general, but also prioritize activities to address underlying systemic deficiencies and root causes of instability. Specific activities will help develop the technical expertise of DDA+s to assume functional control over strategic planning and resourcing processes, but also contribute to the establishment and enhancement of communication, networking, and coordination channels, platforms, and processes. The general funding approach to these activities is two-phased: the initial pilot activity is funded and organized by SIKA-East, while subsequent activities under the same category will be funded through grants, with DDA+s and other eligible district entity grantees as applicants. These activities are all projected to start in the first quarter of FY2014, pending USAID approvals. Those activities which marked significant progress in the reporting period are as follows:

PRRD/IDLG SKILLS ENHANCEMENT

Government Capacity Assessments and Capacity Enhancement Plans In support of the program transitioning to the Afghan government, and focusing on PRRD/IDLG skills enhancement, a vendor for conducting government capacity assessment has been selected and submitted for USAID vetting in early October. The assessment of five PRRD and 21 District Governor Offices (DGOs) will start once the vendor is approved. Pending completion of at least one capacity development plan stemming from the assessments, in-kind capacity enhancement grants will be developed, tentatively scheduled for December 2013.

Embedded Advisors SIKA-East will embed short-term specialized staff in the five Provincial Departments of Economy (Department of Economy Advisor), five Provincial Governors' Offices (PGOs) (Sector Services Advisor), and 21 DGOs (District Governor Communication Advisor) to improve functional delivery of resourcing, coordination, and strategic communications services. In October, after obtaining feedback and concurrence from the governmental counterparts in the provinces, the program consulted with IDLG to finalize the Advisors' SoWs. On IDLG request, SIKA-East has changed the short-term positions to long-term ones for the 21 district level positions. Recruitment for the positions will take place in batches in November and December.

District Governors Conference In the reporting period, SIKA-East and IDLG leadership prepared for the District Governors Conference, scheduled to take place November 11 and 12 in Kabul. The conference will assemble all 21 districts governors from the program's area of operation. The purpose of the conference is to provide the DGs with comprehensive information about the program achievements and plans, discuss the role of the DGs within the SIKA-East program; enable exchange of experiences, challenges, and lessons learned among the governors; and, elicit ideas and feedback on the SIKA's potential option period and transition to GIRoA entities.

Water Management Training for Mirhabs and Conflict Management Workshops In October, SIKA-East was working on developing the SoWs for these two capacity building activities aimed at DDA+ members.

DDA+ INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DDA+ Provincial Conference In October, SIKA-East was working on organizing a pilot DDA+ Provincial Conference to bring together sister DDA+s and government authorities at the provincial level to share and broaden local analysis of instability and conflict, and to strengthen DPP ownership and management. The conference will take place in Maydan Wardak's provincial capital on November 5. Four more DDA+ conferences will be organized shortly after the Wardak pilot, one in each province.

GOVERNMENT-CITIZEN DIALOGUE AND COORDINATION

Radio Call-in Shows In October, SIKA-East continued to develop the technical aspects of the upcoming Radio Call-In Shows scheduled for November. Together with DDA+ and DGs, SIKA-East identified local sources of instability specific to each province that will be set as topics for the 26 radio shows. Panelists for each topic have been selected. The shows will be broadcasted in the span of 13 weeks in all five provinces, featuring a panel of community leaders and a representative of PRRD or another government office.

Bulk Text Messaging Technical details in support of this outreach capacity building activity for DDA+s were being finalized in the reporting period. SIKA-East aims to create a system that allows a joint message from the DG and the DDA+ to be sent to constituents once a week to promote specific programs, raise awareness, or mobilize the audience to, illustratively, participate in local gatherings or in the radio call-in show. This activity will launch once receiving USAID approval.

STABILIZATION COMMUNICATION AND MESSAGING

Radio Plays SIKA-East's recorded radio plays, initially aired last spring/summer in Maydan Wardak, Logar, and Ghazni, have been offered for re-airing to district entities across the five provinces under a special grants program. In October, an RFP for radio broadcasting in the provinces was publicized and a pre-bid conference was held in Kabul. The radio plays will begin broadcasting in November-December, pending USAID approval of the vendor.

Messaging and DDA+ Print Media In support of a comprehensive stabilization communications strategy on the district level, and only in the initial phase, SIKA-East is providing the design, text and production of six types of brochures for distribution in the field by local partners. The six topics cover: Education; Opportunities for Youth; Basic Government Services; Opportunities for Women; Water; and, Local Government Role. The brochures track directly with the topics of the radio plays, providing a complementary layer of media on the six stability-driven topics. The total print run is 21,000, or 1,000 per district. As the vendor was selected and approved in the reporting period, SIKA-East aims to print the brochures in November, pending USAID approval.

From an institutional strengthening point of view, the brochures are designed to show DDA and district governors that simple Word-based design and basic photography can be used to create message-driven pieces and is something they can do in-house and at low cost. Within a longer-term perspective, over the next several months DDA communication committee members and district governor staff will be trained and given the equipment to produce their own print media, with a focus on using more images and fewer words, especially in areas with lower literacy rates.

District Information Centers Throughout the month, SIKA-East continued working together with MRRD's National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) on developing a plan to establish or expand existing DICs in all 21 districts. This activity, pending USAID approval, will provide equipment, such as computers, printers, software, and supplies, technical support and capacity building in messaging, communication, and graphic design for DDA+ communications committees. The goal of the DIC activity is to assist DDA+s to implement more consistent

communication with local communities regarding the work the Afghan government is doing on their behalf.

SERVICE PROVIDER COMPETENCIES

Technical Training SIKA-East, together with PRRD, launched the Service Provider Competencies Technical Training component. Under this capacity building program, trainings were conducted for engineers and technicians on fundamentals of field engineering and construction management, including field measurement, reading/creating technical drawings, project feasibility, environmental compliance, quality assurance/ control, and operations and maintenance.

In the reporting period, 262 trainees attended nine training courses, with the following breakdown: 23 men from Logar's Mohammad Agha District were trained in Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance; 164 men were trained in Infrastructure Project Implementation in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad districts in Maydan Wardak Province, Zurmat and Ahmad Abad districts in Paktya Province. Additionally, 75 men from Jaghatu and Qarabagh districts of Ghazni Province were trained in Infrastructure Project Planning. These trainings will be reported under the standard curricula in the following SIKA-East progress reports.

Grant Management Courses The first such course started on September 29 and completed in the reporting period. The training of 21 representatives from PRRDs, DDAs and CDCs from Wardak, Logar and Paktya provinces met with positive feedback. This three-day pilot capacity building program was further developed and offered to all SIKA-East districts through grant funds. In the reporting period, five-day Grant Management trainings were conducted for Baraki Barak, Nirkh, Andar and Chaki Wardak and District with participation of 120 men. This capacity building activity aims enable DDA+ support to CDCs with instruction on donor research as well as typical expectations, responsibilities, and templates for budgeting, managing, monitoring, reporting, and similar grant-related tasks.

Woman-owned Business Technical Assistance The two components under this capacity building program were further developed in October: (i) business development and networking events were discussed with NABDP, AREDP, and the gender-focused NGO Zardozi; and, (ii) a SoW was drafted for training workshops on marketing skills.

GRANTS

Project Management Committees Approved The SIKA-East grants program targets CDCs as applicants. However, CDCs do not exist in some districts where SIKA-East operates, such as in areas of



Operation and maintenance training for CDC members in Mohammad Agha



Nirkh's Deh Muslim protection wall and Jaw Qul road graveling projects under construction

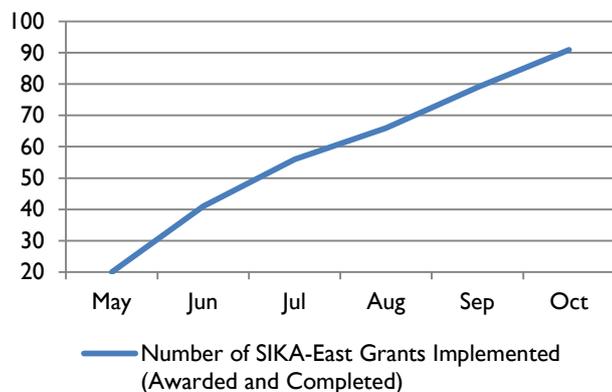


Ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the Tanfer stonemasonry canal, the first small infrastructure project to be completed in Ghazni Province

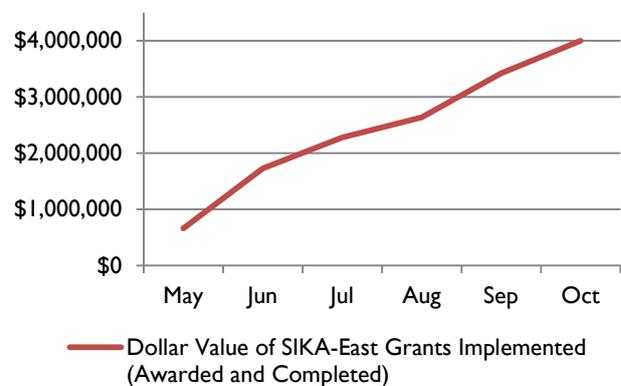
Chaki Wardak, Zadran and Zurmat. To ensure that the grants have equal geographic coverage and thus avoid becoming a source of conflict - as an interim solution until CDCs are established - SIKA-East and MRRD facilitated the formation of Project Management Committees (PMC) in areas where there are no CDCs. The PMCs are comprised of local tribal leaders and influential elders, and are endorsed by PRRD directors and district and provincial governors. This one-off endorsement of PMCs will end the delay in implementation and enable the program to roll out grants in some of the most unstable areas of the districts where CDCs have not yet been formed.

Grant Status In the reporting period, SIKA-East awarded nine new grants with a total value of \$492,137 to district entities: one in Andar District of Ghazni Province, three in Nirkh in Maydan Wardak Province, and five in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province. Six grant activities were completed in the reporting period: one each in Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha and Nirkh, and three in Saydabad District. These grants have a total value of \$153,790. Please refer to Appendix A for a quantitative grant status overview.

Number of SIKA-East Grants



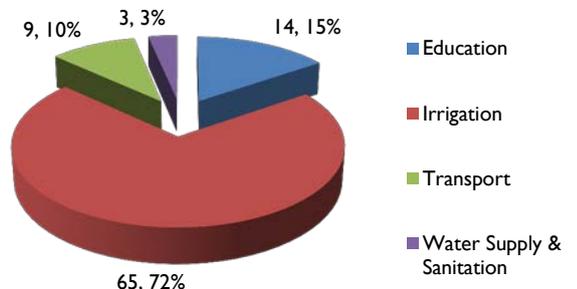
Value of SIKA-East Grants



Since the beginning of its operations, the program has awarded a total of 91 grants with a value of \$4,004,247, each addressing a local source of instability in its area of operation. Twelve grants have been thus far completed and are in mandatory three-month monitoring phase. The 79 grants currently ongoing are implemented in the districts of Andar, Dih Yak, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad.

Most of these grants fall under four infrastructure categories: irrigation, education, transport, and water supply and sanitation. Illustratively, the communities, who provide 10% of the total grant value in kind, advocate for karez rehabilitation and extension, school boundary wall construction, flood protection wall construction and rehabilitation, road gravelling and construction, canal and culvert construction and rehabilitation, well boring, hand pump installation, and similar projects. As of the end of the reporting period, the 91 completed grants and grants under implementation included: 65 irrigation projects, 14 in the education category, nine in transport, and three in water supply and sanitation. The pie chart to the right depicts the category ratio of all awarded grants since the beginning of the program.

Grant Category
 Cumulative, as of October 31, 2013



Milestone Payments In October, payments were executed for the completion of first, second, and third milestones in total value of \$372,190 for 34 CDCs from Nirkh, Saydabad, Chaki Wardak, Mohammad Agha, Baraki Barak, Andar, and Dih Yak.

Grant Management Training Representatives from five CDCs from Baraki Barak and six CDCs and PMCs from Nirkh and Chaki Wardak districts completed the Grant Management Award training in the reporting period. In total, 162 individuals completed their training in the reporting period.

A number of trainings started in the reporting period and will be completed in November: Application Development and Grants Process training for 35 women in Ghazni's Jaghatu District; Grants Management trainings in Ghazni City for 16 individuals and the same training in Paktya Province for two PMCs numbering some 20 individuals.

Grant Review Committees (GRCs) During the month, GRCs, joint PRRD – SIKA-East bodies, evaluated and approved six infrastructure projects in Baraki Barak, Nirkh, Gurbuz and Zurmat districts,

Non-infrastructure Projects As a part of the SPP, a total of 80 non-infrastructure projects have been identified by community stakeholders targeting 14 districts of the five provinces: Khwaja Umari (5); Andar (22); Dih Yak (6); Baraki Barak (4); Mohammad Agha (1); Chaki Wardak (3); Nirkh (5); Saydabad (7); Tani (10); Zadran (2); Zurmat (7); Gurbuz (6); and, Laja Ahmad Kheil (2). Of these, the SoWs for 25 projects have been finalized; eight SoWs are under development; and, four SoWs are in review process. Six RFPs have been issued; six RFPs are being negotiated for award; and five projects are pending USAID approval.

As announced in the previous monthly report, SIKA-East received and was in process of evaluating the bids received under the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) issues for Tailoring and Embroidery Vocational training for Baraki Barak and for Provision of tailoring vocational training in Saydabad District RFP. Negotiations with prospective vendors were well advanced at the end of October. Training is planned to start in the next reporting period. Additionally in October, an RFP was published for competitive bidding to provide poultry training in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province.

Engineering Design Packages In October, SIKA-East completed the designs for six projects in three districts of Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya Provinces. As of the end of the month, SIKA-East has completed the designs of 130 projects, with a total value of \$6.6 million. In addition, 40 engineering designs are in various stages of field surveys and drafting. These are estimated to be more than \$2 million in value. Please refer to Appendix A for a quantitative overview of engineering design status.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

In October, PRRD Directors and SIKA-East in all five target provinces met regularly to discuss stabilization progress, challenges, and plans and to coordinate upcoming activities with government entities. Program activities are summarized on a province-by-province basis below.

GHAZNI PROVINCE

SIKA-East operates in five districts of Ghazni Province: Andar, Dih Yak, Jaghatu, Khwaja Umari, and Qarabagh. In total, 23 training sessions took place across the districts, with 452 male and 260 female participants.

The grant program continued implementation in Dih Yak and Andar, with the first grant project completed in the reporting period in the prior district. At the end of October, 13 grants in total value of \$631,400 were under implementation in the province.

- Toward the end of the reporting period, SIKA-East conducted a successful introductory meeting with the new District Governor of Khwaja Umari District in Ghazni province. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the governor on SIKA-East activities and elicit support.
 - In Jaghatu and Qarabagh, Stability Planning Process (SPP) trainings were conducted for respectively 50 and 39 CDC, DDA and DCC representatives, as well as tribal elders and other influential individuals. The participants identified and verified the root causes of instability in their districts and produced the initial DPPs in result of the training.
- As part of the outreach training, a number of sessions were conducted in Ghazni districts. These included separate one-day Lobbying trainings for 28 men and 29 women from Andar District, for 26 women from Dih Yak, and for 42 women and 40 men from Khwaja Umari; separate Resource Dialogue and Advocacy trainings for 56 men and 32 women from Jaghatu, and or 45 men and 32 women from Qarabagh. Four courses in Unity Building drew 31 men and 20 women from Dih Yak, and 28 men and 30 women from Andar District.
- The program conducted Infrastructure Project Planning training for 33 men from Qarabagh and 42 men from Jaghatu. Project Design and Development training was conducted for 28 and 30 men from the same districts, respectively. Grant Management Training was conducted for eight men from Andar District;
- A joint meeting of the Khwaja Umari men's and women's communication committees resulted with a final communication plan for the district and prioritized projects they plan to advocate for, applying advocacy skills obtained at SIKA-East capacity building sessions.
- The construction of a 110-meter stonemasonry canal was completed by the Tanfer Community Development Council (CDC) in Dih Yak, the first SIKA-East grant project to be completed in Ghazni Province. The inauguration ceremony, held on October 23, was attended by a DRRD representative, key members of the Tanfer CDC, and people served by the canal.

KHOST PROVINCE

On October 1, SIKA-East was launched in Mando Zayi District of Khost Province, the 21st and last district where the program is designed to operate according to its work plan. SIKA-East activities are already under way in Khost's districts of Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan, and Tani.



A representative of the Khost Provincial Governor addresses participants at the opening of the Service Providers Fair



Women from Mando Zayi list sources of instability during a Stability Planning Process group session



The Pacha Qala school CDC obtained a \$56,500-worth grant from SIKA-East to build a 440m school boundary wall. The CDC employed primarily jobless villagers as labor.

During the month, 19 trainings in total took place across the province, with 578 men and 395 women attending. Grants will be awarded once the district DPPs and the grant applications are approved by USAID. The first grant application for Tani District is pending USAID approval.

- On October 23 and 24, PRRD and SIKA-East held a Service Providers Fair (SPF) in Khost City. Seventy service providers, including eight women's organizations, set up booths to display their goods and services, and more than 1,200 people attended the event.
- Separate trainings in Governance Foundation were conducted for 63 men and 42 women from the Mando Zayi DDA+ and CDCs. Stakeholder Orientation trainings were also conducted for 70 men and 45 women. These were followed by two SPP workshops for 63 men and 38 women from the district, resulting in DPP development and verification session.
- In Tani, 45 women went through the Grant Process and Application Training, followed by Project Design and Development training for 34 women. In Jaji Maidan, the same trainings were attended by 45 and 37 women, respectively.

LOGAR PROVINCE

In Logar province, SIKA-East operates in three districts: Baraki Barak, Khoshi, and Mohammad Agha. Five training sessions were conducted in the province in October, for 108 men and 25 women.

The SIKA-East grants program is operational in Baraki Barak and Mohammad Agha Districts. In the reporting period, one more grant was completed in Mohammad Agha, bringing the total of completed projects to three in the province. The total value of the completed projects is \$103,672. At the end of October, 30 grants in cumulative value of nearly \$1.5 million were under implementation in Logar.

- The Khoshi DDA+ communication plan was developed and was undergoing review at the end of the reporting period.
- On October 2, a resource coordination meeting was held in Puli Alam, the provincial capital of Logar. The participants included the Baraki Barak District Governor and representatives of PRRD, National Solidarity Program (NSP), the provincial council, and DDAs, as well as the Departments of Economy, Women's Affairs, Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Youth and Cultural Affairs, and Refugees and Returnees. The PRRD Director stated that such meetings enabled strong coordination among the service providers.
- Negotiations Strategy trainings were conducted separately for 34 male and 25 female members of the Baraki Barak DDA+ at the local PRRD Conference Hall and at the DoWA Conference Hall, respectively. Additionally, Grant Management training was conducted for ten men.
- Operation and Maintenance training was conducted for 23 members of seven CDCs from Mohammad Agha District that recently completed projects. The purpose of the training was to teach the participants how to maintain and sustain their new or rehabilitated facilities.
- Two Grants Management training were conducted for 51 men from five CDCs of Baraki Barak District.

MAYDAN WARDAK PROVINCE

SIKA-East operates in four districts in Maydan Wardak province: Chaki Wardak, Jalrez, Nirkh, and Saydabad.

The capacity building program continued with a total of 14 training sessions held for 364 male and 33 female participants. Four new grant projects were completed in the reporting period, bringing the total to eight infrastructure grant projects completed in the province. Of these, one is now completed in the district of Nirkk and seven in Saydabad. These have cumulative value of \$211,909.

At the end of October, 45 grants, with a combined value of \$1.8 million, were under implementation in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad Districts.

- On October 29 and 30, SIKA-East and PRRD hosted its second SPF in Maydan Wardak, noting significant increase in female participation. The total number of service providers was 60, ten of which were women organizations. The first day drew 580 visitors, of which 170 were women, whereas the second day recorded 620 visitors in total, with 275 women present at the Fair.
- Infrastructure Project Implementation training was conducted for 19 men from Saydabad, 28 men from Nirkh, and 17 men from the Chaki Wardak DDA+, as well as CDC members and teachers.
- Untiy Building training was conducted for 13 women and 14 men from Saydabad. The Negotiation Strategy training drew 34 CDC members, teachers, and tribal elders from Chaki Wardak. Fundraising training was attended by 15 men and 20 women from Nirkh,
- Sixty male DDA+ members underwent the Stability Planning Process training in Jalrez.
- Grant Management Training was conducted for 32 men from Nirkh and 29 from Chaki Wardak.

PAKTYA PROVINCE

SIKA-East operates in five districts of Paktya province: Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, Zadrán, and Zurmat. The province recorded a rapid increase in capacity building programs with fourteen capacity building sessions held in the reporting period and attended by 483 men and 138 women, mainly from Ahmad Abad District, where SIKA-East recently launched operations. Although the grants program is still not active in Paktya Province, the first three grant applications for Zurmat are pending USAID approval to roll out this program in the district.

- SIKA-East held an introductory meeting with the newly hired District Governor of Zurmat and reviewed the DPP with him. The District Governor promised to support SIKA-East.
- Stakeholder Orientation for 40 men from the Ahmad Abad DDA+ was followed by introduction to Governance Foundation attended by 15 women and 57 men from the district. The participants continued onto the Stability Planning Process training: four such trainings included 101 man and 62 women from the district, as well as 60 men from Zadrán District.
- Separate sessions for Resource Dialogue and Advocacy were conducted for 61 women and 52 men from Ahmad Abad, and

SIKA-East Activities across the Districts



Photo: The Jalrez Advocacy Training for men was attended by 54 men.



Photo: The Khanjan Khail road graveling and culvert construction project in Nirkh District, Maydan Wardak Province, will connect 12 villages in the area once it is completed.



The Karim Dad road in the same district has already been gravelled (photo below), benefiting 350 families in the seven villages that utilize the road.

43 men from Zadrán. Thirty men from Zurmat were trained in Unity Building skills.

- Three trainings in Infrastructure Project Planning drew altogether 47 men from Zurmat and 53 men from Ahmad Abad.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

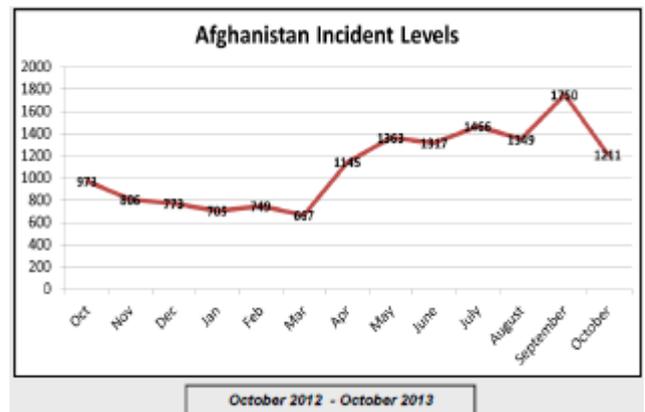
MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

M&E Field Activities In September, 60 site monitoring visits were conducted to ensure quality and compliance of grant projects: two in Andar, nine in Baraki Barak, one in Chaki Wardak, five in Dih Yak, fifteen in Mohammad Agha, sixteen in Nirkh and twelve in Saydabad. Additionally, 75 training activities were verified in Ahmad Abad, Andar, Baraki Barak, Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Gurbuz, Jaghatu, Jaji Maidan, Jalrez, Khwaja Umari, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, Qarabagh, Saydabad, Tani, Zadrán and Zurmat Districts. A total of 2,836 participants, 1,985 male and 851 female, were verified to have participated in 75 separate training sessions.

Focus Group Survey The final focus group survey was launched on October 1. This survey covers the 12 remaining districts, namely, Khwaja Umari, Khoshi, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Tani, Jaghatu, Qarabagh, Jalrez, Ahmad Abad, and Mando Zayi. By mid-October all field surveyors were deployed in their respective districts. By the end of the reporting period, 41 focus groups surveys were completed, 15 sessions have been transcribed and eight have been translated into English. The survey will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Security Situation After six months of steady increase in incident rates in Afghanistan, the chart to the right shows a remarkable drop in violence in October - most likely due to the Eid-al-Adha holidays and the increasingly cold weather. Regional comparison continues to indicate that the highest level of incidents is suffered in the southern and the eastern regions. In SIKA-East's area of operation, a high-to-extreme level of risk of threats, IEDs, small arms fire, and mortar fire continued without a change throughout the month. Abduction, crime, suicide attacks, and road traffic accidents remained at moderate-to-high levels.



SIKA-East Related Incidents A high profile incident affected SIKA-East's partners in the field: an improvised explosive device (IED), concealed within a microphone, killed the Governor of Logar Province, while he delivered an Eid-al-Adha speech at a mosque in central Puli-Alam District of Logar Province. At least 18 people were wounded in the explosion.

However, throughout the month, program implementation rarely slowed down due to security issues and then only locally, for short periods of time, mainly due to road side IEDs. Illustratively, at least three IEDs were cleared by local authorities from the roads leading to the villages of Ebad, Kohna Deh and Aklai in Dih Yak District, Ghazni Province, where SIKA-East grants are being implemented.

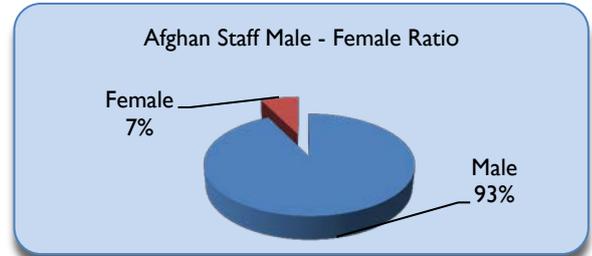
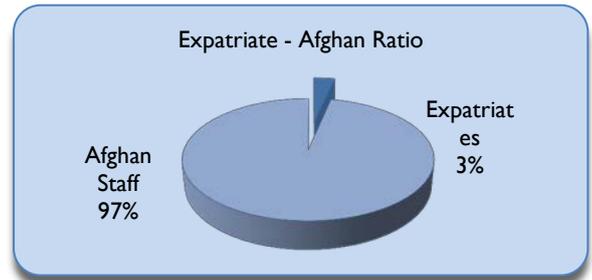
SIKA-East staff was included in only one incident in October: an officer from Jalrez District, Maydan Wardak Province, was stopped at an illegal checkpoint manned by four Talibs and inquired. A cover story sufficed to ensure him safe passage.

HUMAN RESOURCES

SIKA-East is currently implemented by 571 staff members in total, of whom 552, or 97%, are Afghan nationals. Sixty-nine percent of the Afghan nationals are based in the five provinces and 21 districts where SIKA-East operates. Five percent of the Afghan nationals occupy senior management positions (grades 10-12), while women make up 7% of the total staff.

In the reporting period, only two staff members left the program. No security-related resignations were noted.

Nine positions were filled during October. In the next reporting period, SIKA-East will continue recruitment of some 130 new staff members envisioned to implement the program in its area of operation.



CHALLENGES

Land Conflicts Local conflicts over land rights and ownership brought two grant projects in Logar Province to a temporary halt: in Baraki Barak District, the Tagab Payan CDC, and in Mohammad Agha District, the Nazir Qala Abbazak CDC. By the end of the reporting period both conflicts were resolved and the projects resumed.

Delays in Implementation The 17 milestone payments scheduled for payment at the end of the reporting period had to be postponed to early November due to temporarily closed offices.

Security Although violence has decreased in the reporting period, security incidents, mostly IEDs, prevent movement to project sites and offices. In other cases, beneficiaries are discouraged from working with the government and SIKA-East. Both factors do not bring to cessation of activities, but to mere delays in implementation pace.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize staffing of the remaining three district offices in Jaghatu, Qarabagh and Mando Zayi districts;
- Conduct a pilot DDA+ Conference in Maydan Wardak on November 5; organize an additional four DDA+ Conferences in the remaining provinces;
- Hold a District Governors Conference in Kabul on November 11 and 12;
- Finalize and obtain approval for the five remaining DPPs for Ghazni's Jaghatu and Qarabagh, Paktya's Ahmad Abad, Wardak's Jalrez, and Khost's Mando Zayi district;
- Continue and expand capacity building program, with focus on transition initiatives; and,
- Accelerate development of grant applications, working with DDAs+, CDCs, and PMCs in cooperation with PRRD and IDLG representatives in new SIKA-East active districts;



Photo. the Konah Deh karez extension project in Ghazni's Dih Yak District.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SIKA-EAST GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

SIKA-East Grants Pipeline, cumulative through October 31, 2013

PROVINCE	District	Under Development		Apps. Received		USAID Vetting Pending		USAID Vetting Approved		GRC Approved		USAID Approval Requested		USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded		Grants Completed	
		No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value		
Ghazni	Andar	19	5		\$340,801	1	6	5	5	5	5	\$340,801	4	\$281,110	0	\$0			
	Dih Yak	10	11		\$495,880	0	8	11	11	10	10	\$419,669	8	\$333,401	1	\$16,891			
Khost	Tani	0	1		\$42,824	1	0	1	1	1	1	\$42,824	0	0	0	\$0			
Logar	Baraki Barak	15	20		\$979,267	1	15	20	17	17	17	\$880,832	11	\$552,448	0	\$0			
	Khoshi	0	1		\$42,824	1	0	1	1	1	1	\$42,824	0	0	0	\$0			
	Moh. Agha	20	23		\$1,110,264	0	25	22	22	22	22	\$1,025,875	19	\$915,317	3	\$103,672			
Maidan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	7	15		\$727,569	4	9	15	13	13	13	\$608,632	9	\$385,843	0	\$0			
	Nirakh	13	20		\$1,087,603	0	17	18	18	18	18	\$986,100	14	\$751,154	1	\$55,195			
	Saydabad	0	29		\$990,919	5	11	27	23	23	23	\$692,444	14	\$452,504	7	\$156,715			
Paktya	Zurmat	16	5		\$318,979	6	0	6	3	3	3	\$125,607	0	0	0	\$0			
	Zadran	10	2		\$139,695	0	2	2	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0			
Total		110	132		\$6,276,625.04	19	93	128	114	113	113	\$5,165,607	79	\$3,671,776	12	\$332,472			

SIKA-East Engineering Design Packages, cumulative through October 31, 2013

PROVINCE	BATCH	DISTRICT	DESIGN STATUS		VALUE(USD)	
			in Progress	Completed	In Progress	Completed
Maydan Wardak	A	Saydabad	5	30	\$164,450.16	\$826,940.52
	B	Nirakh	0	19	\$0.00	\$1,115,264.06
	C	Chaki Wardak	2	15	\$134,968.38	\$808,256.32
Logar	B	Mohammad Agha	6	25	\$374,110.74	\$1,409,438.30
	A	Baraki Barak	5	20	\$160,063.26	\$1,132,728.49
	D	Khoshi	3	0	\$176,698.45	\$0.00
Ghazni	B	Deh Yak	1	12	\$0.00	\$602,433.64
	C	Andar	4	4	\$204,006.26	\$331,285.18
	D	Khwaja Umari	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Paktya	C	Zadran	3	1	\$449,603.50	\$85,591.91
	C	Zurmat	7	3	\$170,424.18	\$226,814.25
	E	Laja Ahmad Khail	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	E	Laja Mangal	1	0	\$96,354.49	\$0.00
Khost	E	Gurbuz	3	1	\$216,151.45	\$54,256.37
	E	Jaji Maidan	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	E	Tani	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub Totals			40	130	\$2,146,830.87	\$6,593,009.05
Grand Totals			170		\$8,739,839.92	

APPENDIX B: PROCUREMENT AND GRANTS VETTING

Procurement Vetting Tracker

(for unapproved purchases and purchases approved in October)

No	Vetted Company	Description	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Acknowledgment by USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending	Remarks
44	Afghan Diamond Logistics Company	Service Provider Fair in Ghazni	Sept-26-2013	Oct-7-2013		39	
46	Soft Net International	IT Equipment	Sept-29-2013	Oct-8-2013		36	
47	Joint Brother Services Co	Transportation of Sensitive IT Equipment	Oct-2-2013			33	
48	Blue Fine Global Logistic Service Co	Furniture for PMU/DSU	Oct-2-2013			33	
49	Tal Wadan Group (Logistic and Services co)	Service Provider for Logar & Paktya	Oct-2-2013	Oct-10-2013		33	
50	Dost Construction Co	Food for Khost PMU	Oct-6-2013	Oct-23-2013		29	
51	Nasib Hotal (Mohammad Taher)	Food for Wardak PMU	Oct-8-2013	Oct-23-2013		27	
52	Ernst & Young Ford Rhodes Sidat Haidar	Capacity assessment and building	Oct-9-2013	Oct-23-2013		26	
53	Suli Paigham Radio	Radio Call	Oct-9-2013	Oct-23-2013		26	
54	M.Osman Tariq	Radio Call	Oct-10-2013	Oct-24-2013		25	
55	Wide Action Logistic Services	Diesel fuel for office generator	Oct-13-2013	Oct-30-2013		22	

Grants Vetting Tracker

(for unapproved grant applications and applications approved in October)

SIKA-East Log No.	Vetted Organization / Project	Documents Received from Grants Department	Initial Submission to USAID	Final Submission of All Documents to USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	Days Pending	Approved
VAR #G074	Qala Sadeq CDC, Construction of Qala-e-Kohen School Surrounding Wall	30 Jul 13	30 Jul 13	7 Aug 13	8 Sep 13	32	Approved
VAR #G075	Lalak Khil CDC, Deep Wells Project	30 Jul 13	30 Jul 13	7 Aug 13	19 Sep 13	32	
VAR #G076	Abbas Qala CDC, Instalation of Top Ring and Apron for Karez	30 Jul 13	30 Jul 13	7 Aug 13		31	Approved
VAR #G077	Shetam CDC, Construction of Canal and Pool	6 Aug 13	6 Aug 13	7 Aug 13	21 Aug 13	14	Approved
VAR #G078	Baraki Barak DDA, Tailoring, Embroider, and Poultry Training	4 Aug 13	4 Aug 13	7 Aug 13	2 Sep 13	26	Approved
VAR #G079	Angorbagh PMC, Karez Extension and Rehabilitation of Reservoir and 12 Existing Wells	4 Aug 13	4 Aug 13	7 Aug 13	15 Sep 13	39	Approved
VAR #G080	Khan Jan Khail CDC, Construction of Dadil Road and Culverts	4 Aug 13	4 Aug 13	7 Aug 13	8 Sep 13	32	Approved
VAR #G081	Dasht-e-Qala Nazeer CDC, Installation of Top Rng and Apron for Karez Opening	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13	22 Sep 13	31	Approved
VAR #G082	Eidkhil CDC, Installation of Top Rng and Apron for Karez Opening	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13	22 Sep 13	31	Approved
VAR #G083	Qala Yousaf CDC, Installation of Top Rng and Apron for Karez Opening	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13	19 Sep 13	28	Approved
VAR #G084	Deh Pak CDC, Road Rehabilitation and Construction of Retaining Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13	19 Sep 13	28	Approved
VAR #G085	Mohammad Khil PMC, Construction of Super Passage	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13		15 Sep 13	18	Approved
VAR #G086	Ibrahim Khil PMC, Construction of Protection Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13	19 Sep 13	28	Approved
VAR #G087	Barghoson PMC, Construction of School Boundary Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		48	

VAR #G088	Sarposh PMC, Construction of Nek Paikot School Boundary Wall	12 Aug 13	13 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		48	Approved
VAR #G089	Goda PMC, Construction of Protection Wall	14 Aug 13	14 Aug 13	22 Aug 13		47	
VAR #G090	Kanesf CDC, Reconstruction of Mullah Mashki Alam High School Boundary Wall	27 Aug 13	27 Aug 13	3 Sep 13		34	
VAR #G091	Abdul Rahim CDC, Graveling of Abdul Rahim Village Road and Construction of Culverts	3 Sep 13	3 Sep 13	12 Sep 13		9	Approved
VAR #G092	Birana PMC, Construction of Birana Shahjoy Stream Intake	10 Sep 13	10 Sep 13	16 Sep 13		14	
VAR #G093	Noor Khil PMC, Protection Wall for Said Stream in Noor Khil Project	10 Sep 13	10 Sep 13	16 Sep 13		14	
VAR #G094	Mangar Khil PMC, Karez Extension, Reservoir Rehabilitation, and Existing Wells Rehabilitation	10 Sep 13	10 Sep 13	16 Sep 13		14	
VAR #G095	Guldan Allah Mohammad Khil CDC, Construction of Protection Wall	10 Sep 13	10 Sep 13	16 Sep 13		14	
VAR #G096	Goddano PMC, Bikh Gul Ghani Dad Chini Pipe Scheme Construction	10 Sep 13	10 Sep 13	16 Sep 13		14	
VAR #G097	Dowa Khola PMC, Dowa Khola Pipe Scheme	12 Sep 13	12 Sep 13	16 Sep 13		14	
VAR #G098	Zurmat DDA, Tailoring Training, University Entry Exam Preparation Course, & Radio Play Projects	12 Sep 13	12 Sep 13	16 Sep 13		14	
VAR #G099	Tani District Development Assembly (DDA), Radio Play Project	22 Sep 13	22 Sep 13	25 Sep 13		5	
VAR #G100	Khushi DDA, Radio Play Project	24 Sep 13	24 Sep 13			0	
VAR #G101	Babyan CDC, Construction of Haroon Karez Opening	29 Sep 13	29 Sep 13			0	
VAR #G102	Andar DDA, Radio Play Project	29 Sep 13	29 Sep 13			0	
VAR #G103	Gul Dadkhil Project Management Committee (PMC), Construction of Gul Dadkhil High School Surrounding Wall Project	Oct-2-2013	Oct-2-2013	Oct-9-2013			
VAR #G104	Bigwal Project Management Committee (PMC), Loi Karez Rehabilitation and Construction of Protection Wall Project	Oct-2-2013	Oct-2-2013	Oct-9-2013			
VAR #G105	Sayed Khil Project Management Committee (PMC), Construction of Garden Khwahi Ditch and Intake Project	Oct-8-2013	Oct-8-2013	Oct-23-2013			
VAR #G106	Patulan Community Development Council (CDC), Construction of Eida Gul Protection Wall Project	Oct-27-2013	Oct-27-2013				
VAR #G106	Patulan Community Development Council (CDC), Construction of Eida Gul Protection Wall Project	Oct-27-2013	Oct-27-2013				
VAR #G107	Sayedabad District Development Assembly (DDA), Embroidery Training Project	Oct-29-2013	Oct-29-2013				
VAR #G108	Sayedabad District Development Assembly (DDA), Tailoring Training Project	Oct-29-2013	Oct-29-2013				
VAR #G109	for Sayedabad District Development Assembly (DDA), Poultry Training Project	Oct-29-2013	Oct-29-2013				
VAR #G110	Sayedabad District Development Assembly (DDA), Orchards and Vineyards Management and Establishment Training Project	Oct-29-2013	Oct-29-2013				
VAR #G111	Sayedabad District Development Assembly (DDA), Radio Play Project	Oct-29-2013	Oct-29-2013				
VAR #G112	Bazak Project Management Committee (PMC), Construction of Protection Wall Project	Oct-29-2013	Oct-29-2013				
VAR #G113	Laliga Community Development Council (CDC), Construction of Laliga Canal Project	Nov-3-2013	Nov-3-2013				
VAR #G114	Zurmat District Development Assembly (DDA), Batoor High School Surrounding Wall Project	Nov-3-2013					

APPENDIX D: SIKA-EAST DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

- Please note that the SIKA-East Phase III – Execute is fully accounted for in Appendix E. No progress has been planned until the final months of the program under Phase IV – Evaluate and Learn.

S/N	Province	District	PREPARATION					I - ORIENT				II - PLAN				
			#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
CUMULATIVE					18	215	11	21	21	21	4	21	19	15		
DISTRICTS																
Batch A																
1	Logar	Baraki Barak			1	12	1									
2	Maydan Wardak	Saydabad			1	15	1									
Batch B																
3	Ghazni	Dih Yak			1	13	1									
4	Logar	Mohammad Agha			1	13	1									
5	Maydan Wardak	Nirikh			1	8	1									
Batch C																
6	Ghazni	Andar			1	11	1									
7	Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak			1	13	1									
8	Paktya	Zadran			1	12	1									
9	Paktya	Zurmat			1	12	1									
Batch D																
10	Ghazni	Khwaja Umari			1	10	1									
11	Logar	Khoshi			1	11	1									
Batch E																
12	Khost	Gurbuz			1	10	1									
13	Khost	Tani			1	10	1									
14	Khost	Jaji Maidan			1	10	1									
15	Paktya	Laja Ahmad Khail			1	11	1									
16	Paktya	Laja Mangal			1	9	1									
Batch F																
17	Ghazni	Jaghatu				10										
18	Ghazni	Qarabagh				10										
19	Paktya	Ahmad Abad			1	6										
20	Maydan Wardak	Jalrez			1	8										
21	Khost	Mando Zayi				1										
PROVINCES																
1	Maydan Wardak		1	20						1				2	2	
2	Logar		1	19						1				3	1	
3	Ghazni		1	19						1				2	1	
4	Paktya		1	20						1				2	1	
5	Khost		1	18										1	1	
CUMULATIVE (to date)			5	96			11		0	4				10	6	

APPENDIX E: GRANTS PIPELINE SUMMARY

DISTRICT	Grant Applications In Process						USAID Vetting Process						GRC Process			USAID Approval to Award					
	Under Development		Applications Received		Total	Pending with USAID		Approved by USAID		Applications not Requiring USAID Vetting		Schedule for GRC	Approved by GRC		App. On-hold or Rejected By GRC	Approval Requested	Approval Received				
Saydabad	0	\$0	29	\$990,919	29	\$990,919	5	\$341,299	11	\$464,326	11	\$182,636	0	\$0	27	\$990,919	1	23	\$692,444	23	\$692,444
Mohammad Agha	20	\$1,059,440	23	\$1,110,264	43	\$2,169,704	0	\$0	25	\$1,325,066	7	\$151,955	0	\$0	22	\$1,025,875	1	22	\$1,025,875	22	\$1,025,875
Nirkh	13	\$421,629	20	\$1,087,603	33	\$1,509,233	0	\$0	17	\$105,919	6	\$167,892	0	\$0	18	\$986,100	2	18	\$986,100	18	\$986,100
Dih Yak	10	\$224,556	11	\$495,880	21	\$720,436	0	\$0	8	\$442,177	13	\$278,259	0	\$0	11	\$495,880	0	11	\$495,880	10	\$419,669
Chaki Wardak	7	\$170,000	15	\$727,569	22	\$897,569	4	\$206,428	9	\$486,253	7	\$124,888	0	\$0	15	\$727,569	0	13	\$608,632	13	\$608,632
Andar	19	\$379,719	5	\$340,801	24	\$720,519	1	\$42,824	6	\$377,601	17	\$300,095	0	\$0	5	\$340,801	0	5	\$340,801	5	\$340,801
Baraki Barak	15	\$376,980	20	\$979,267	35	\$1,356,247	1	\$58,530	15	\$870,082	13	\$210,635	0	\$0	20	\$979,267	0	17	\$880,832	17	\$880,832
Zurmat	16	\$1,139,218	5	\$318,979	21	\$1,458,197	6	\$367,015	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	6	\$383,938	0	3	\$191,797	3	\$125,607
Zadran	10	\$161,000	2	\$139,695	12	\$300,695	0	\$0	2	\$139,695	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$139,695	0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Tani	0	\$0	1	\$42,824	1	\$42,824	1	\$42,824	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$42,824	0	1	\$42,824	1	\$42,824
Khoshi	0	\$0	1	\$42,824	1	\$42,824	1	\$42,824	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$42,824	0	1	\$42,824	1	\$42,824
Grand Total	110	\$3,932,541	132	\$6,276,625	242	\$10,209,166	19	\$1,101,743	93	\$4,211,119	74	\$1,416,361	0	\$0	128	\$6,155,692	4	114	\$5,308,008	113	\$5,165,607

DISTRICT	Award and Implementation							Grant Agreement Types				Activity Type				
	Award/Ongoing		Completed		Closed	Total		FOG		In-Kind	Infrastructure		Non-Infrastructure			
Mohammad Agha	19	\$915,317	3	\$105,247	0	\$0	22	\$1,020,564	22	\$1,020,564	0	\$0	22	\$1,020,564	0	\$0
Saydabad	14	\$452,504	7	\$166,054	0	\$0	21	\$618,557	21	\$618,557	0	\$0	21	\$618,557	0	\$0
Nirkh	14	\$751,154	1	\$62,370	0	\$0	15	\$813,524	15	\$813,524	0	\$0	15	\$813,524	0	\$0
Dih Yak	8	\$333,401	1	\$19,087	0	\$0	9	\$352,487	9	\$352,487	0	\$0	9	\$352,487	0	\$0
Chaki Wardak	9	\$385,843	0	\$0	0	\$0	9	\$385,843	9	\$385,843	0	\$0	9	\$385,843	0	\$0
Andar	4	\$281,110	0	\$0	0	\$0	4	\$281,110	4	\$281,110	0	\$0	4	\$281,110	0	\$0
Baraki Barak	11	\$552,448	0	\$0	0	\$0	11	\$552,448	11	\$552,448	0	\$0	11	\$552,448	0	\$0
Grand Total	79	\$3,671,776	12	\$352,757	0	\$0	91	\$4,024,533	91	\$4,024,533	0	\$0	91	\$4,024,533	0	\$0

DISTRICT	Payments AFN								Total	
	1st Milestone		2nd Milestone		3rd Milestone		4th Milestone			
Mohammad Agha	22	12013173	22	15827169	12	7984489	4	1341002	60	37165834
Saydabad	21	6794018	15	7139994	9	3577909	7	1443009	52	18954929
Nirkh	13	7020469	12	11895475	9	8582753	1	311849	35	27810546
Dih Yak	8	2820865	6	3350855	1	286298	1	190865	16	6648883
Chaki Wardak	7	3660800	1	740818	1	740818	0	0	9	5142437
Andar	2	1354738	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1354738
Baraki Barak	10	5707972	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5707972
Grand Total	83	39,372,036	56	38,954,311	32	21,172,266	13	3,286,726	184	102,785,339

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