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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 095

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*Work proceeds on the Konah Deh karez extension project in Ghazni's Dih Yak District.*

**October 14, 2013**

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### Highlights of the Week:

- SIKA-East held a two-day workshop this week, attended by five provincial gender officers and five female district communication officers, to develop concrete actions to implement the program's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.
- Two new District Project Portfolios (DPPs) were submitted to USAID this week, and three were approved, enabling future stability-focused initiatives in Gurbuz and Tani Districts in Khost Province and Khwaja Umari in Ghazni.

### Results to Date:

- **Capacity Building:**
  - 9 capacity building sessions conducted in 6 districts during the week, attended by 344 participants, one-fourth of whom were women
  - 11,234 individuals in total trained in 309 sessions in various stability-focused skills
  - 2,656 women trained to date
  - 516 Afghan governmental officials from various line ministries at provincial and district levels trained
- **Grants:**
  - Eleven payments, totaling \$139,341, were made this week to 11 CDCs and PMCs in 4 districts for completion of first, second, third, and fourth milestones.
  - Since the beginning of the program, 129 grant applications worth some \$6 million were submitted with SIKA-East assistance as part of the DPP implementation process.
  - Of the 106 USAID-approved grant applications, 79, with a cumulative value of \$3,546,083, have been awarded in the districts of Andar, Baraki Barak, Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, and Saydabad.



*A two-day Gender Mainstreaming Workshop in Kabul engaged in participatory learning strategies on the importance of gender mainstreaming. Participants were actively engaged to provide feedback to facilitators.*

### Implementing SIKA-East's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

*"I feel very confident now in my role. I understand the SIKA-East program much more, and I feel this training has enhanced my skills," said Hamida Nasiri, provincial gender officer from Ghazni, about the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop held this past week. A two-day workshop brought all five of the provincial gender officers and five female district communications officers to Kabul for a chance to discuss strategies for increasing women's participation in SIKA-East.*

*During the workshop, the participants all agreed that one of the biggest factors inhibiting women's participation in SIKA-East is the insecure environment in the districts where they live and the program operates. While many successful initiatives have already been achieved, overall the team wanted to know how they could be doing more.*

*Baryalai Talash, provincial gender officer from Paktya said that "he was very impressed with the workshop and the opportunities that each gender officer had to provide their feedback." Fatima Wardak, provincial gender officer for Maydan Wardak, added, "Now we just need our Gender Action Plan to be able to truly move forward."*

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- This week, SIKA- East submitted District Project Portfolios (DPPs) for Gurbuz and Tani Districts of Khost Province to USAID for approval. Both DPPs were quickly approved, as was the DPP for Ghazni's Khwaja Umari District, which was submitted last week. SIKA-East immediately began accelerating engineering design and grant development activities for Cycle I projects that are designed to address sources of instability in those districts.
- After last week's launch of SIKA-East in Mando Zayi District of Khost Province, the district support team (DST) and Kabul staff began collecting information for both the Mando Zayi district profile and the Khost Service Providers Catalog (SPC).
- Following USAID vetting approval of the vendor nominated to handle logistics for two planned Service Provider Fairs (SPF) in Khost and Maydan Wardak, the Kabul team met with the vendor to discuss arrangements for the fairs. The first SPF is planned to be held in Khost City on October 22 and 23, and the second in Maydan Shahr on October 29 and 30.

### Gender Mainstreaming

- On October 9 and 10, SIKA-East brought five provincial gender officers and five female district communication officers to Kabul to develop concrete actions to implement the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. Participants discussed key messages to include in the strategy synopsis to promote endorsement and productive local engagement. They also discussed the status of female participation in SIKA-East and next steps in each province, including the upcoming DDA+ provincial conferences, as well as exploring gender-sensitive stability planning and DPP development. Many of the women expressed strong interest in strengthening livelihoods and income-generating projects. The meetings' discussions and work product will contribute to development of the Gender Action Plan, which will serve as a roadmap for implementation of gender mainstreaming in the remaining months of the base period.
- In line with building SIKA-East's gender team and advancing gender mainstreaming, a candidate was selected for the team's permanent senior management position. In addition, USAID approved consultant services for a remote-based update of the "Outreach to Afghan Women Guide."

### Capacity Building

- During the reporting period, nine capacity building workshops were held in six districts, dealing with the Stability Planning Process, Grant Management, Stakeholder Orientation, Governance



*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.*



*Provincial gender officers and district communications officers listen to one of the facilitators from SIKA East, describing how non-infrastructure grants are designed and implemented, and what is required for follow-up. Discussion surrounded how provincial gender officers could be more involved in the design of non-infrastructure projects.*

Foundation, and Operation and Maintenance. Of the 344 individual participants, 257 were men and 87 were women.

- Since the beginning of the program, 11,234 individuals, including 2,656 women, have been trained in 309 sessions in various stability-focused skills.

### Grants

- SIKA-East processed payments for 11 CDCs and PMCs of Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, Saydabad, and Mohammad Agha Districts for completion of first, second, third, and fourth milestones. The total value of the payments was \$139,341.
- SIKA-East conducted Grants Management training for five CDCs of Baraki Barak and five CDCs and PMCs of Chaki Wardak and Nirkh Districts.
- Thirty-eight engineering designs, valued at more than \$2 million, are being developed for infrastructure grant applications. To date, the program has completed 126 designs worth over \$6.3 million.
- Of the 106 USAID-approved grant applications, 79, with a cumulative value of \$3,546,083, have been awarded in the districts of Andar, Baraki Barak, Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, and Saydabad.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Rahman Safi Impact Consulting Inc. (RSI) shared the focus group facilitator guidelines, field manual, and work plan for 12 baseline districts – namely, Khwaja Umari, Khoshi, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Tani, Jaghatu, Qarabagh, Jalrez, Ahmad Abad, and Mando Zayi – where SIKA-East has been introduced since the original focus groups were held. SIKA-East reviewed the documents and provided feedback to RSI. Guidelines are being finalized for field supervisors and focus group facilitators. Focus group implementation will start in the second half of October after the Eid al-Adha holidays, and the survey will be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- Eleven site visits were conducted during the week: four in Mohammad Agha, three in Nirkh, and four in Saydabad.

## SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

### GHAZNI

- The Andar women's communication committee met on October 9 to discuss a proposal to request that the Ghazni Department of Education provide literacy courses to women from the district who are unable to read and write.
- During the week, provincial and Dih Yak grant officers visited the Kohna Deh and Zagone karez extension and Tanfer protection wall projects and found that work was proceeding smoothly. The Tanfer project is expected to be completed next week.
- On October 6, Stability Planning Process Part II training was conducted for 50 men from Jaghatu District. The same training was conducted for 40 men from Qarabagh District.
- From October 3 to 8, engineering surveys were conducted for four infrastructure projects in Khwaja Umari District.



**Group session work during Stability Planning Process training in Jaghatu District**

- A joint meeting of the Khwaja Umari men's and women's communication committees was held on October 8. The eight committee members, four men and four women, finalized their communication plan for Khwaja Umari and prioritized the projects they plan to advocate for. The communication plan was submitted to Kabul for final review and approval.

## KHOST

- On October 10, Fundraising trainings were conducted for 47 men from Gurbuz and 73 men from Tani.
- The Gurbuz men's and women's communication committees held their fourth meetings on October 8 and 9, respectively, during which they filled out worksheets listing planned activities and goals.
- The men's communication committees of Jaji Maydan and Tani Districts met on October 7 and 8, respectively, to discuss ways of developing and presenting messages to various audiences. The women's communication committees from those districts met on October 8 to discuss how to motivate local authorities to support decisions made by the community.
- On October 6, separate trainings in Governance Foundation were conducted for 64 men and 42 women from the Mando Zayi DDA+ and CDCs. These were followed between October 7 and 9 by a workshop on the Stability Planning Process for an average of 57 men from the district; this resulted in a DPP.

## LOGAR

- From October 3 to 8, Grants Management training was conducted for 38 men from five CDCs of Baraki Barak District.
- The Baraki Barak men's and women's communication committees met on October 3 to discuss their communication plan's implementation phase and identify everyone's responsibility.
- During the week, the SIKA-East engineering team for Khoshi District surveyed two projects. In a meeting with the District Management Team (DMT) manager, it was decided to conduct an engineering survey in each hawza of the district in order to achieve a proper balance between them and avoid accusations of favoritism.
- Operation and maintenance training was conducted this week for key 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.
- Men from the Mohammad Agha DDA+ held a sub-coordination meeting on October 6 with the Director of the Logar Department of Agriculture to discuss the lack of adequate irrigation and cold-



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



*Operation and maintenance training for CDC members in Mohammad Agha*

storage facilities, as well as access to improved seeds and chemical fertilizers, in their district. The Director promised to provide them with improved wheat seeds and fertilizers.

### MAYDAN WARDAK

- The Chaki Wardak communication team conducted Negotiation Strategy training for 34 members of CDCs, teachers, and tribal elders from the district.
- During the week, the Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad DMTs collaborated to update the Maydan Wardak SPC in preparation for the SPF planned for Maydan Shahr on October 29 and 30.
- On October 6, the Nirkh DMT's district engineer, M&E specialist, and grants officer visited the sites of the Deh Muslim protection wall and Jaw Qul road construction projects. They found that work was proceeding normally and around 80 percent of project activities had been completed.
- On October 7, the Saydabad DMT conducted the first survey in Tangi Hawza, where SIKA-East had been unable to operate earlier due to security problems. The engineering and grants team surveyed a karez extension project in Lachi Khil Village.

### PAKYA

- From October 4 to 6, Stability Planning Process Part I training was conducted for an average of 53 men from the Ahmad Abad DDA+ and CDCs. The same training was conducted separately for 62 women from the district.
- On October 8, the Laja Mangal communications officer facilitated the third meeting of the men's communication committee, during which the participants discussed ways to develop messages and select communication channels. They also got instructions on how to fill out the worksheets.
- From October 2 to 6, Stability Planning Process Part II training was conducted for an average of 60 men from Zadran's Gerda Serai Sub-district. On October 7, the Zadran DMT manager and key members of the Gerda Serai DDA+ presented their DPP to the Paktya PRRD Director.
- The Zurmat men's communication committee met on October 8. The head of the committee stated that they had interceded with AGE to permit a SIKA-East engineering team to survey the site of a proposed infrastructure project. The committee members also introduced six women members, one from each of six hawzas, to form a women's communication committee.



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



*Women's and men's Stability Planning Process trainings in Paktya's Ahmad Abad District*

## ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct communication committee meetings in various districts;
- Pay the second and third milestone payments for projects in Ghazni Province;
- Conduct Stability Planning Process training for women in Mando Zayi, and Fundraising and Lobbying training for men in Gurbuz and Tani Districts, of Khost Province; and
- Conduct GRC for projects in Logar Province.

### SIKA-East Grants Pipeline

Province	District	Under Development		Applications Received		Vetting Pending	Vetting Approved	GRC Approved	Approval Requested	Approval Received		Grants Awarded		Grants Completed	
		No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	19	5	340,801	2	5	5	5	5	340,801	2	127,806	0	0	
	Dih Yak	10	11	495,880	0	8	11	11	10	419,669	9	352,487	0	0	
Khost	Tani	0	1	42,824	1	0	1	1	1	42,824	0	0	0	0	
Logar	Baraki Barak	17	18	954,095	1	15	18	17	14	743,211	10	538,488	0	0	
	Khoshi	0	1	42,824	1	0	1	1	1	42,824	0	0	0	0	
	Moh. Agha	20	23	1,110,264	1	24	22	22	22	1,025,875	20	940,780	2	79,817	
Maidan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	7	15	727,569	6	7	15	13	13	608,632	9	385,843	0	0	
	Nirakh	14	20	1,078,875	0	20	18	16	16	902,921	12	666,999	0	0	
	Saydabad	0	29	945,703	0	11	26	23	23	690,432	17	533,680	4	84,877	
Paktya	Zadran	10	2	82,015	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Zurmat	16	4	171,284	5	0	4	1	1	51,284	0	0	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>5,992,134</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>4,868,473</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3,546,083</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>164,694</b>	