



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 096

OCTOBER 11 - 24, 2013



A view of the Service Providers Fair organized by PRRD and SIKA-East and held in Khost City on October 23 and 24.

October 28, 2013

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by AECOM.

Highlights of the Week:

- A 110-meter stonemasonry canal was completed by the Tanfer Community Development Council in Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province, the first SIKA-East grant project to be completed in that province.
- On October 24, the Gender Action Plan was presented to SIKA East staff in Kabul. This provided a forum for senior managers to further understand the principles and core themes of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

Results to Date:

- **Capacity Building:**
 - A record 28 capacity building sessions conducted in 13 districts during the week, attended by 1,057 participants, nearly half of whom were women
 - 12,291 individuals in total trained in 337 sessions in various stability-focused skills
 - 3,091 women trained to date
 - Over 500 Afghan governmental officials from various line ministries at provincial and district levels trained
- **Grants:**
 - 23 payments, totaling \$265,934, were made this week to CDCs and PMCs in five 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 109 USAID-approved grant applications, 76, with a cumulative value of \$3,514,448, have been awarded and are under way in seven districts. Twelve grant projects have been completed.



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

Khost Service Providers Fair

On October 23 and 24, PRRD and SIKA-East conducted a Service Providers Fair in Khost Province. The main purpose of the fair was to bring local providers of goods and services together with the community to allow the service providers to understand people's needs and to inform the general public about services available to them.

Following the opening ceremonies on the 23rd, the attendees fanned out among the booths that had been set up by the service providers, including eight that were reserved for women. Seventy service providers exhibited their products and resources during the two-day event, which was attended by over 1,200 people.

The Service Providers Fair was well received by those attending. A 75-year-old retired general and community elder from Mando Zayi District said, "There has never been such an event in the history of Khost. I hope SIKA-East will conduct many more activities like this to help persuade people to move away from fighting and instability and toward development and productivity."

An editorial in a local newspaper commented on the presence of booths run by women. "I feel that women can play an important role in the development of our culture, because I saw it practically in this fair."

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- During the week, SIKA-East met with a team from the Community Led Development Department (CLDD) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to discuss SIKA-East capacity building for newly hired and existing district social workers. Trainings will take place in several stages, leading from induction through the standard CLDD and SIKA-East trainings. During each week of training, there will be a break, during which the social workers will go to the field to practice what they have learned.
- SIKA-East Kabul staff reviewed and finalized the stakeholder registers for Qarabagh and Jaghatu Districts in Ghazni and Jalrez District in Maydan Wardak. The lists were developed during a two-week extensive survey in which people from the community, PRRD social organizers, and members of the District Development Assemblies (DDA) all played an active role.
- After completing the Stability Planning Process training for the Gerda Serai Sub-district of Zadran in Pakatya and Mando Zayi District of Khost, DPPs for both areas have been developed and are in the process of being endorsed by the DDAs, District Governors, and PRRD. Following endorsement, the DPPs and their accompanying narratives will be submitted for USAID approval.

Gender Mainstreaming

- On October 24, SIKA-East's Gender Specialist presented the Gender Action Plan to program staff in Kabul. This provided a forum for senior managers to further understand the principles and core themes of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. The presentation outlined proposed activities, targets, and benchmarks that make up the Gender Action Plan and explained the roles and responsibilities of the gender team. The presentation highlighted key accomplishments already achieved within SIKA-East with respect to mainstreaming gender across program activities. It also recommended measures to ensure that PMT and DMT managers receive an orientation on the Gender Action Plan and the importance of mainstreaming gender into SIKA-East activities.

Capacity Building

- During the reporting period, a record 28 capacity building workshops were held in 13 districts, dealing with the Stability Planning Process, Grant Management, Lobbying, and Resource Dialogue and Advocacy, as well as Fundraising, Coalition Building, and Governance Foundation. Of the 1,057 individual participants, 622 were men and 435 were women.



SIKA-East is committed to raising awareness of women's participation in stability planning and implementation, a critical component of the Gender Action Plan.

- Since the beginning of the program, 12,291 individuals, including 3,091 women, have been trained in 337 sessions in various stability-focused skills.

Grants

- SIKA-East processed 23 payments for CDCs and PMCs of Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Nirkh, Mohammad Agha, and Saydabad Districts for completion of first, second, third, and fourth milestones. The total value of the payments was \$265,934. The total milestone payments made to date is \$1,854,803.
- Forty engineering designs, valued at more than \$2 million, are being developed for infrastructure grant applications. To date, the program has completed 130 designs worth over \$6.5 million.
- Of the 109 USAID-approved grant applications, 76, with a cumulative value of \$3,514,448, have been awarded and are under way in the districts of Andar, Baraki Barak, Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, and Saydabad. Twelve grant projects, worth \$352,757, have been completed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Rahman Safi Impact Consulting Inc. (RSI) conducted a three-day training for 16 employees on details of focus group implementation in 12 districts. RSI has deployed all field teams in the target districts. To date, a total of 18 focus groups have been conducted in eight districts.
- Twenty-nine site visits were conducted during the week: three in Andar, five in Baraki Barak, three in Dih Yak, five in Mohammad Agha, nine in Nirkh, and four in Saydabad.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- This week, 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, which was held on October 23, was attended by a DRRD representative, the project supervisor, key members of the Tanfer CDC, and people served by the canal.
- During the week, a communication committee member for Khwaja Umari District organized a work party to replaster the roofs of a comprehensive health center in Qala-e-Naw Village. Three teachers and 20 twelfth graders of Zubir Shahid High School took part in the project, along with four farmers and two community elders. The communication committee member and Haji Bismila community elders collected the straw for the plastering mud from local farmers, and they also provided 2,000 Afs from their own pockets to provide lunch for everyone during the two-day project.
- Many trainings were conducted in Ghazni districts during the reporting period. These included separate one-day Lobbying training for 28 men and 29 women from Andar District, for 17 women from Dih Yak, and for 44 women and 42 men from Khwaja



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

Umari; Grant Management Training for 11 men from Andar District; and separate Resource Dialogue and Advocacy trainings for 57 men and 35 women from Jaghatu, and 44 men and 32 women from Qarabagh.

- On October 20, meetings were held to endorse the Jaghatu and Qarabagh DPPs.

KHOST

- 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. See page 1 for more details and people's reaction to the fair.
- Besides the SPF, the focus of SIKA-East activity during the week in all four districts was on capacity building. Stability Planning Process training was conducted for 50 women in Mando Zayi District, which resulted in a preliminary DPP listing projects designed to eliminate or mitigate sources of instability in their area.
- In Gurbuz, Fundraising training was conducted for 63 women, and Lobbying training for the same 63 women plus 47 men. Seventy-three men received Lobbying training in Tani District.
- From October 20 to 22, Project Design and Development training was conducted for 49 women from Tani District and 45 from Jaji Maydan. The same participants went through Grant Process and Application Development training from October 23 to 27.

LOGAR

- On October 24, a Grant Review Committee (GRC) meeting was conducted to review two projects of Baraki Barak District. The committee approved the projects and shared them with the CDC for approval.
- The PMT manager and provincial gender officer met with the Director of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), along with six female DDA members from Baraki Barak. They discussed the importance of livelihoods programs for women in Logar, and how women are eager to begin programs that link them to vocational training. They also talked about raising awareness of women's participation in community development programs.
- On October 22, a ceremony was held to inaugurate the karez extension recently completed by Waziri Siyah Bini CDC in Mohammad Agha District.
- The men's and women's communication committees for Baraki Barak, Khoshi, and Mohammad Agha met to assign tasks for the



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



Inauguration of the karez extension completed by Mohammad Agha's Waziri Siyah Bini CDC

committee members and to discuss SIKA-East projects and challenges and solutions in implementing them.

- During the week, the Mohammad Agha DDA approved two non-infrastructure projects, which were then added to the DPP Cycle I list.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- On October 21 and 24, separate Coalition Building trainings were conducted for 14 men and 13 women from Saydabad District.
- On October 22, a joint men's and women's communication committee meeting was held in Saydabad to discuss implementation of their communication plan. The Nirkh communication committee also met that day to discuss the same subject, as well as the SPF scheduled for October 29 and 30 in Maydan Wardak. The Chaki Wardak communication committees got together on October 23 to discuss radio plays and their communication plan's implementation.
- On October 21, a ceremony was held by the Aman Khil CDC to officially close their small culverts project.
- On October 13, Grant Management Training was conducted for 30 men from three CDCs of Chaki Wardak District. Stability Planning Process training Part II was held for men in Jalrez District from October 21 to 24.

PAKTYA

- On October 22, the provincial gender officer met with the head of the Paktya branch of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) to discuss ways that SIKA-East can connect men and women from the region for workshops that AIHRC holds on human rights, as it relates directly to community stabilization. This connection was made due to AIHRC-Paktya's participation in the recent Service Providers Fair.
- On October 20, the Laja Ahmad Khail communication committee met to discuss message development and various channels of communication. The Zadran men's communication committee met the next day to discuss their communication plan.
- In Zurmat, SIKA-East's engineer and grants officer completed the necessary documentation for several proposed small infrastructure projects.
- On October 23, SIKA-East's manager for Zurmat met with the newly hired District Governor and reviewed the Zurmat DPP with him. The District Governor promised to support SIKA-East.



Closing ceremony at Aman Khil



October 22 meeting with the head of AIHRC



Meeting of Zadran men's communication committee

ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct communication committee meetings in various districts;
- Disburse second and third milestone payments for projects in Ghazni Province;
- In Ghazni, conduct Infrastructure Project Planning and Project Design and Development trainings in Jaghatu District, as well as Lobbying and Coalition Building trainings in Dih Yak;
- In Khost, conduct Stability Planning Process training for women in Mando Zayi, Fundraising and Lobbying training for men in Gurbuz and Tani Districts, and Lobbying training for men in Jaji Maydan District;
- In Paktya, conduct Grants Management training for Zadran, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Laja Mangal Districts; Project Design and Development for Zadran District; and Resource Dialogue and Advocacy and Infrastructure Project Planning trainings for Ahmad Abad District;
- Conduct Negotiation Strategy training for Logar Province; and
- Conduct a GRC for projects in Logar.

SIKA-East Grants Pipeline

Province	District	Under Development	Applications Received		Vetting Pending	Vetting Approved	GRC Approved	Approval Requested	Approval Received		Grants Awarded, Ongoing		Grants Awarded, Completed	
			No.	\$ Value					No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	19	5	340,801	1	6	5	5	5	340,801	3	199,104	0	0
	Dih Yak	10	11	495,880	0	8	11	11	10	419,669	8	333,401	1	19,087
Khost	Tani	0	1	42,824	1	0	1	1	1	42,824	0	0	0	0
Logar	Baraki Barak	15	20	979,267	1	15	18	17	16	816,539	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	19	915,317	3	105,247
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	17	17	967,966	13	689,792	1	62,370
	Saydabad	0	29	945,703	0	11	26	23	23	690,432	14	452,504	7	166,054
Paktya	Zadran	10	2	82,015	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Zurmat	16	5	209,542	5	0	6	3	1	51,284	0	0	0	0
Totals		111	132	6,055,564	18	91	125	114	109	5,006,846	76	3,514,449	12	352,758