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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

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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.

November 4, 2013

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Highlights of the Week:

- Four District Project Portfolios (DPPs) were endorsed by the DDA+, PRRD and District Governors in Qarabagh, Jaghatu, Jalrez and Ahmad Abad districts, following development of the documents by Stability Planning Process (SPP) training participants in the respective districts.
- The 440 meter-long Pacha Qala school boundary wall in Mohammad Agha District of Logar Province was successfully completed and inaugurated with a public ceremony. This activity, funded under a SIKA-East grant, benefits 650 area school children.



Photo: The Maydan Wardak Provincial Sector Development Director Ghazni Gul Zazai was one of the speakers at the opening ceremony of the SIKA-East's second Service Providers Fair in Maydan Shahr

Results to Date:

- **Capacity Building:**
 - A total of 1,038 participants, 729 men and 309 women, trained in various stability, outreach and technical skills in the reporting period
 - 26 training activities conducted in 14 districts across the SIKA-East provinces during the week
- **Grants:**
 - Two new grants awarded in the reporting period in Ghazni and Maydan Wardak provinces, with a total value of \$157,327.
 - Total milestone payments of \$1,854,803 made to date under the SIKA-East's grants program
 - 79 awarded grants, with a cumulative value of \$3,671,776, currently under way in seven districts
 - 12 grants in cumulative value of \$352,757 completed since the beginning of the program

Second Service Providers Fair Held in Maydan Wardak Province

On October 29 and 30, the Maydan Wardak Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Department and Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) - East hosted the second Service Provider Fair (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.

Similar to previous SPFs, this fair 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.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- During the week SIKA-East and PRRD completed the Stability Planning Process (SPP) training for four districts where the program recently started operations, namely, Qarabagh, Jaghatu, Jalrez and Ahmad Abad districts. The participants included members from the District Development Assemblies (DDAs), District Community Councils (DCCs), Community Development Councils (CDCs) and influential members of the community. The training also enabled the participants to actively interact with government officials, specifically with the PRRD and other line departments, the District Governor offices, and line ministry representatives. As a result of this training, four District Project Portfolios (DPPs) were developed and endorsed by the DDA+, PRRD and District Governors.

Gender Mainstreaming

- SIKA-East continues to work on mapping key male allies and female role models in the five provinces to identify and mobilize potential supporters and advocates of enhanced women engagement in program activities.

Capacity Building

- A total of 825 participants, 622 male and 203 female, were trained during the week in various skills to enhance leadership, management, and technical capacity. The 26 training sessions included: Infrastructure Project Planning, Unity Building (former Capacity Building training), Project Design and Development, Grant Process and Application Development, Fundraising, Lobbying, SPP, Resource Dialogue & Advocacy, and Negotiation Strategy. Training activities took place in 13 of the 21 districts in which SIKA-East operates.
- SIKA-East continued to develop the technical aspects of the upcoming Radio Call-In Shows scheduled for November. The shows will be broadcasted over a span of 13 weeks in all five provinces, featuring a panel of community leaders and a representative of PRRD or another government office. SIKA-East identified local sources of instability specific to each province that will be set as topics for the 26 radio shows. Also, panelists for each topics have been selected.

Grants

- Two new infrastructure grants were awarded in the reporting period: one in Ghazni's Andar District in value of \$77,612, and one in Maydan Wardak's Nirkh District in value of \$58,072.

Pacha Qala School Boundary Wall Completed in Logar Province

The Pacha Qala Village in the Surkh Ab Hawza, Mohammad Agha District, numbers about 350 families, with some 650 children attending the local school.



Photo: The Pacha Qala school yard before the building of the boundary wall.



Photo: The local 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.



Photo: Pupils inspect the new brick wall, painted in sky blue in contrast to the surrounding desert. The wall will provide them with a safe study environment.

- The previously scheduled milestone payments for October 31 were prevented due to the temporary closure of the local *hawala* system, to reopen within the next reporting period. The delayed milestone payments in the amount of \$226,000 were rescheduled for November 5.
- In an effort to ensure continuation of infrastructure activities during winter, SIKA-East has verified that current projects can be completed from an engineering perspective regardless of the climatic conditions. The winter cold may require minor, low-cost technical adjustment, such as special additives to concrete mix for heat retention and fast curing. Access to project sites may be an issue, and SIKA-East will work with grantees and DDA+s to take accessibility into consideration as a criterion for project prioritization.
- Forty-one engineering designs, valued at more than \$2 million, are being developed for infrastructure grant applications. To date, the program has completed 135 designs worth approximately \$7 million.
- Of the 113 USAID-approved grant applications, 79, with a cumulative value of \$3,671,776, have been awarded thus far and are under way in the districts of Andar, Baraki Barak, Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, and Saydabad.
- Twelve infrastructure grant projects, worth \$352,757, have been completed since the beginning of the program: one in Dih Yaj District, Ghazni Province; three in Mohammad Agha District of Logar Province, one in Nirkh and seven in Saydabad District of Maydan Wardak Province.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- SIKA-East has started with data quality assessment and revision to comply with its revised Performance Management Plan. Due to the scope of the effort, it is expected that quantitative results may be revised to conform to the new indicator definitions.
- SIKA-East continues with focus group surveys in the remaining 12 districts where the program operates. During the week, 23 focus groups were conducted, bringing the total to 41 focus groups sessions conducted under this survey. These sessions are transcribed and translated into English before processing. Eight so far have been translated.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- SIKA-East conducted a successful introductory meeting with the new District Governor of Khwaja Umari District in Ghazni

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 graveled (photo below), benefiting 350 families in the seven villages that utilize the road.



province. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the governor on SIKA-East activities and elicit support.

- 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 respective districts. Four courses in Unity Building drew 31 men and 20 women from Dih Yak, and 28 men and 30 women from Andar District. In total, 134 men and 108 women attended eight trainings in Ghazni Province in the reporting period.

KHOST

- The six training sessions conducted over the reporting period in the province were attended by 184 men and 115 women. These trainings included Grant Process and Application in Tani and Jaji Maidan Districts, SPP, and Sources of Instability Verification in the district of Mando Zayi.

LOGAR

- With finished construction of the school boundary wall, the Pacha Qala grant activity is ready to be completed upon the fourth milestone payment in the next reporting period.
- The Khoshi District Governor endorsed the grant support documents for five new projects.
- SIKA-East is working with the District Governor of Mohammad Agha to resolve a land dispute affecting the implementation of the Nazeer Qala karez extension project. The Syabini community, neighboring the Nazeer Qala, claims that they own the land the karez runs through. The Governor has made a commitment to resolve this dispute by dealing directly with both communities in the coming week.
- 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.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- 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. A full event report will be provided later in the month.
- Two separate sessions were held in Jalrez District: Stability Planning Process training for 59 men from the Jalrez DDA+, and Advocacy Training for 54 men. Sixty men from the same DDA+ jointly verified the Jalrez DPP. In Nirkh, ten grant recipients underwent training in Grant Management.

PAKTYA

- Five training sessions with 245 participants in total took place in Paktya Province during the week. Separate sessions for Resource Dialogue and Advocacy were conducted for 52 men and 61 women. One training each took place in the districts of Ahmad Abad, Zadran and Zurmat on Infrastructure Project Planning, Lobbying, and Infrastructure Project Implementation, respectively.

ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Grant Review Committee meetings, consisting of PRRD and SIKA-East representatives, are planned for next week, to review and potentially approve five grant applications in Logar, three applications in Khost, and three applications in Maydan Wardak and Paktya provinces. These applications are cumulatively valued at half a million US dollars.
- Delayed and current milestone payments will be disbursed to grantees.
- Capacity building and grants activities will continue across the districts.

SIKA-East Grants Pipeline

(Please note that the US dollar value of the grants may fluctuate in accordance with the fluctuating conversion rates between the US dollar and the Afghan national currency)

PROVINCE	District	Under Development	Applications Received		Vetting Pending with USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	GRC Approved	USAID Approval Requested	USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded / On going		Grants Completed	
		No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	19	5	\$340,801	1	6	5	5	5	\$340,801	4	\$281,110	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	20	17	17	\$880,832	11	\$552,448	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	0	25	22	22	22	\$1,025,875	19	\$915,317	3	\$105,247
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	7	15	\$727,569	4	9	15	13	13	\$608,632	9	\$385,843	0	0
	Nirakh	13	20	\$1,083,232	0	17	18	18	18	\$981,728	14	\$751,154	1	\$62,370
	Saydabad	0	29	\$990,919	5	11	26	23	23	\$692,444	14	\$452,504	7	\$166,054
Paktya	Zurmat	16	5	\$318,979	5	0	6	3	3	\$125,607	0	0	0	0
	Zadran	10	2	\$139,695	0	2	2	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0
Total		110	130	\$6,272,253	18	93	127	114	113	\$5,161,236	79	\$3,671,776	12	\$352,757