



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 099

NOVEMBER 9 - 14, 2013



Photo: District Governors, their representatives, as well as representatives from the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and USAID attended the first SIKA-East District Governors Conference held in Kabul on November 11 and 12, 2013.

November 18, 2013

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Highlights of the Week:

- The District Project Portfolios (DPPs) for Jalrez District of Maydan Wardak Province and Ahmad Abad District of Paktya Province were endorsed by the respective District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and influential community members. The DPPs are scheduled for submission to USAID in the next reporting period.
- The SIKA-East grants program launched in Zurmat District, Paktya Province, with the first two grants awarded to Project Management Committees (PMCs).



Photo: Dr. Sibghatullah Khan, Director of Local Programs and Coordination of IDLG, and Mr. Fareed Mohmandzai, Deputy Minister of IDLG for Policy and Strategy, opened the first SIKA-East District Governors Conference in Kabul.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Capacity Building:**
 - Ten training activities conducted in seven districts across the SIKA-East provinces during the week attended by 326 men and 65 women
 - Since the beginning of the program, 14,412 individuals, of which 10,804 men and 3,608 women, have attended 401 training sessions
- **Grants:**
 - 82 grants in value of nearly \$3.8 million have been awarded in Andar, Dih Yak, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad districts
 - Fifteen of these grants, in value of \$486,654, have been completed in Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh and Saydabad districts
 - In total, 112 grant applications in cumulative value of over \$5.2 received USAID approval
 - 142 engineering designs worth some \$6.8 million produced, with an additional 43 designs in progress

The First District Governors Conference Takes Place in Kabul

On November 11 and 12, IDLG and SIKA-East successfully organized the first District Governors (DGs) Conference in Kabul. The event assembled DGs and their representatives from 21 districts where the program operates, as well as officials from IDLG, MRRD and USAID.

Each district representative provided a short presentation on activities, achievements and issues in their respective districts. The participants focused on sharing experiences and ideas to overcome common challenges, as well as to clarify and strengthen the role of governmental officials in the program, on district and provincial level.

Most governors expressed full satisfaction with the program information and coordination practices in their districts, while a few requested better communication. Work group discussions proved to be particularly useful to the participants. Illustratively, the issue of District Social Workers (DSW) in districts where they have not been hired was raised, whereas SIKA-East was able to update the participants on the DSW recruitment process and their upcoming induction training. Also, the respective roles of IDLG and MRRD in program leadership were discussed.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- The Ashura holiday rendered the work week a day shorter for governmental and SIKA-East offices, while the preparations for the Loya Jirga made the coordination with governmental officials in Kabul challenging. Nevertheless, most program activities continued without major delays, with the exception of grant milestone payments postponed for the following week.
- On November 11 and 12, SIKA-East and IDLG successfully organized the first District Governors Conference (see previous page for details). An event report will be produced in the coming week.
- The DPPs for Jalrez District of Maydan Wardak Province and Ahmad Abad of Paktya Province were prepared for submission to USAID in the coming week. SIKA-East is working on the remaining three DPPs, to be submitted to USAID by the end of the month. Obtaining USAID approval is a prerequisite for launching the grants program in the respective districts.

Capacity Building

- The ten training activities conducted across the SIKA-East provinces during the week were attended by 326 men and 65 women. The training topics included: Unity Building, Infrastructure Project Planning, Project Design and Development, Grant Management, Resource Dialogue & Advocacy, and Negotiation Strategy. Trainings took place in the districts of Andar, Dih Yak, Gurbuz, Mando Zayi, Tani, Jalrez, and Zurmat.
- Twelve DDA+ communication committee meetings for men and women took place in Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan, Tani, Baraki Barak, Khoshi, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, and Saydabad districts during the week.
- Since the beginning of the program, 10,804 men and 3,608 women have attended 401 SIKA-East capacity building sessions. An additional number of meetings and sub-coordination meetings have been held across the provinces.

Infrastructure Grants

- Due to the Ashura holiday, milestone payments were postponed for the next reporting period.
- Five new engineering designs with approximate value of \$335,000 were completed during the week in support of grant applications from Chaki Wardak, Zurmat, Khwaja Umari and Tani.

Works Completed under Two Grant Projects



Seasonal floods used to destroy the local Joi Muqam riverbed in the Deh Hayat village, Nirkh District of Maydan Wardak Province, leaving large swaths of arable land to either floods or to draughts. The newly constructed 140 meters long Deh Hayat flood protection wall will benefit some 450 families in the area and prevent conflicts over water sources.



The Deh Hayat Usopzai CDC led the inauguration ceremony for the protection wall visible in the background.



The new Deh Muslim flood protection wall is 170 meters long structure on both sides of the river nourishing the fields of the Deh Muslim Village. Some 300 families' crops and livelihoods will be protected and water scarcity issue resolved.

- The joint SIKA-East and PRRD Grant Review Committees (GRCs) reviewed and approved eight new grant applications for Andar, Dih Yak and Gurbuz districts. These have cumulative value of \$370,000.
- The grants program rolled out in Zurmat District of Paktya Province.

Capacity Building Grants

- SIKA-East completed the design of a new capacity building program - the Women-Owned Business Development Technical Assistance. This suite of activities, coordinated with gender units of Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP), will complement vocational training for women to holistically address local sources of instability, such as chronic unemployment and poverty. The program aims to equip female participants with technical know-how to generate income from traditional vocational skills; to provide them with skills in business strategizing, planning, marketing and networking; and to enable them to create a basic business plan. Participants will include women who have taken part in SIKA-East's vocational training for tailoring, embroidery, food processing, animal husbandry, and similar sectors.,
- An additional number of Scopes of Work (SoWs) was developed for other capacity building programs, such as Water Management, Conflict Management, Hygiene Awareness Training, and DDA Capacity Assessments. These activities are aimed at assisting DDAs, Community Development Councils (CDCs) and District Community Councils (DCCs) to independently address systematic problems and respond to community grievances. In the coming week, SIKA-East will seek input from the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), IDLG and other relevant ministries into design of these activities.
- SIKA-East is working on developing SoWs and Requests for Proposals for several trainings planned for Saydabad District: Poultry, Raising, Tailoring, Embroidery, University Entrance Exam Preparatory Courses, Literacy Courses, and Orchard and Vineyard Establishment.
- Several bids are currently in evaluation process: Public Well Boring for Ghazni, Poultry Raising training, and Vegetable and Fruit Processing training for Logar Province.
- The award of the contract for radio broadcasting for all five provinces is pending USAID vetting.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- SIKA-East continues with focus group surveys in the remaining 12 districts where the program operates. During the week, 21 focus groups were conducted, bringing the total to 92 focus groups sessions conducted under this survey. Sixty-one surveys thus far have been transcribed and 35 translated into English before further processing.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- Three Negotiation Strategy training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province for 32 men from Andar, and 25 men and 20 women from Dih Yak District.

- Thirteen grant projects are currently implemented in Andar and Dih Yak districts, in cumulative value of nearly \$650,000. One Dih Yak grant project has been completed in the province since the beginning of the program.

KHOST

- During the week, the GRC approved three new grant projects. The first grant application for Tani District has been approved by USAID and is now pending award.
- Five training sessions were conducted in Khost Province: Unity Building for 31 men from Gurbuz and 62 from Tani, Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training for 45 women, Infrastructure Project Planning for 61 men from Mando Zayi, Project Design and Development training for 63 men from the same district.

LOGAR

- Thirty infrastructure grant projects, worth \$1.5 million in total, are currently being implemented in Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak districts of Logar Province. The first grant application for Khoshi District has received USAID approval and is now pending award.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Three-day Project Design and Development training was conducted for 39 men from Jalrez District.
- The construction of Deh Hayat and the Deh Muslim flood protection walls was completed and both communities inaugurated the projects at small ribbon-cutting ceremonies. The grant projects will be reported as completed once the final milestones are paid in the following week.
- Twenty-three infrastructure grant projects are ongoing in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad districts, worth \$1 million. Eleven projects have been thus far completed.

PAKTYA

- The first two grants were awarded in Zurmat District, with cumulative value of approximately \$140,000. One grant was awarded to the Begwal Provincial Management Committee (PMC) for the construction of a flood protection wall. Another grant was awarded to the Guldad Khail PMC for the construction of a school boundary wall. The applicants estimate that some 1,300 and 1,400 people respectively will benefit from these infrastructure projects.
- Four-day Grant Management training session was conducted for 13 Zurmat men, in follow-up of the grant awards.

CHALLENGES

- Saydabad's Tangi CDC members reportedly received a letter from Taliban threatening them and the community in general that if any SIKA-East projects were implemented, harsh repercussions would follow. SIKA-East is investigating the matter.
- Unconfirmed reports from local CDCs speak of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted alongside roads leading to several project sites in Dih Yak District.
- A SIKA-East engineer from Chaki Wardak District resigned due to threats from the Taliban.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- With MRRD/Community-Led Development Department (CLDD), SIKA-East will facilitate the Induction training for the newly hired DSWs. This training will take place in Kabul from November 17-21, 2013. The purpose of this training is to familiarize DSWs with their roles and responsibilities, to define their role in helping DDAs, DCCs and CDCs to facilitate SIKA-East and government interventions at the village, district, and provincial level, and finally, to obtain training in MRRD and SIKA-East policies and procedures.
- SIKA-East will plan to provide organizational and operational support in the marking of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in the five provincial capitals. DDA+ members, Department of Women's Affairs officials, other line departments, religious leaders and local organization expressed strong interest to participate in such events and anticipated inviting over 1,100 participants to the panel discussions and other forums. The objective of the events is to create and raise awareness of the issue of violence against women and encourage coordination to address it effectively. SIKA-East anticipates the events not only to highlight the issue but also create entry points to expand women's involvement in stabilization initiatives in line with SIKA-East's gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan.
- Submit the Jalrez and Ahmad Abad DPPs to USAID for approval, and prepare the Jaghatu DPP for submission to USAID.
- Disburse milestone payments in value of \$357,780 to 27 grant recipients.

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	6	6	\$367,679	1	6	5	5	5	\$340,801	4	\$281,110	0	0
	Dih Yak	5	14	\$555,688	0	8	11	11	10	\$419,669	9	\$360,269	1	\$19,087
Khost	Tani	2	1	\$42,824	1	0	1	1	1	\$42,824	0	0	0	0
Logar	Baraki Barak	10	22	\$1,139,224	1	15	20	17	17	\$880,832	11	\$585,595	0	0
	Khoshi	5	1	\$42,824	1	0	1	1	1	\$42,824	0	0	0	0
	Moh. Agha	1	26	\$1,327,105	0	25	26	22	22	\$1,025,875	22	\$1,025,875	3	\$103,672
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	3	15	\$727,569	3	10	15	13	13	\$608,632	9	\$385,843	0	0
	Nirikh	3	20	\$1,088,731	0	17	18	18	18	\$987,227	12	\$635,489	3	\$178,035
	Saydabad	3	29	\$990,919	5	11	27	27	23	\$692,444	13	\$432,698	8	\$185,860
Paktya	Zurmat	5	6	\$455,695	4	2	5	3	2	\$229,437	2	\$74,323	0	0
	Zadran	0	2	\$139,695	0	2	2	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0
Total		43	142	\$6,877,953	16	96	131	118	112	\$5,270,565	82	\$3,781,202	15	\$486,654