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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO.101

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Photo: Tassan Payan protection wall project in Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province which had started on May 20, 2013 is in progress

December 2, 2013

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Highlights of the Week:

- The District Project Portfolios (DPPs) for Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts of Ghazni Province and Mando Zayi District of Khost Province were submitted to and approved by USAID. This enables SIKA-East to launch its grants program and further capacity building activities in these districts.
- Together with its governmental counterparts, SIKA-East will facilitate two major events in the coming week: the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Wardak and Paktya Province and the second Service Providers Fair (SPF) in Paktya.



Photo: The International Day of Elimination of Violence against women celebrated in Khost Province.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Capacity Building:**
 - 22 training activities conducted in 10 districts across the SIKA-East provinces during the week attended by 623 men and 206 women
 - Since the beginning of the program, 15,990 individuals, of which 11,883 men and 4,127 women, have attended 442 training sessions in total
- **Grants:**
 - one new grant awarded in Baraki Barak District, Logar Province.
 - 98 grants in value of over \$4 million awarded in Andar, Dih Yak, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, Saydabad and Zurmat districts
 - Twenty-four grants, in value of \$814,452, completed in Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad Districts
 - Eight new engineering designs completed this week, bringing the total number of designs to 150, worth approximately \$7 million

Celebration of the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women

The International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women was celebrated during the week in three provinces of SIKA-East: Ghazni, Khost and Logar, with more events planned for the following week in Wardak and Paktya provinces. These events were held in conjunction with the Department of Women Affairs (DoWA), with technical and financial support from SIKA-East. Over 800 men and women participated, including District Development Assembly Plus (DDA+) members, Islamic scholars, community elders, school teachers, and youth. Governmental representatives included District and Provincial Governors, Deputy Governors, representatives of multiple line departments, provincial council members, and police commanders. The participants delivered speeches and discussed concerns about the impact conflict and instability have on women at the community level. They also discussed harmful traditions practiced by families; restrictions on access to education and healthcare services; and limited livelihood and employment opportunities.

In line with local demands highlighted during stability planning sessions, these events are designed to lay the foundation to help educate leaders about violence against women and discrimination in the family and society, to expand leadership consensus on changing harmful traditional ideas and practices, and to enable leaders to develop and advocate for positive alternatives.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- During the week, the five-day Stability Planning Process Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for 53 SIKA-East staff and Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Social Organizers, primarily from the Mando Zayi district of Khost and Ahmad Abad district of Paktya province with additional participation of SIKA-East employees from other districts and provinces. The main purpose of this training was to build the capacity of SIKA-East staff and PRRD Social Organizers to work with DDA, Community Development Councils (CDCs), and District Community Council (DCC) to improve strategic planning and service delivery at the district level.
- DPPs for Jaghatu and Qarabagh Districts of Ghazni Province and Mando Zayi District of Khost Province were submitted to and approved by USAID in the reporting period. With all 21 DPPs approved and under implementation, SIKA-East concluded the planning phase in all districts of operation during the base period.
- Following the USAID vetting approval for SPF, SIKA-East took the necessary preparation both at the field and Kabul level to conduct the SPF in Paktya province on December 3 and 4. At the field level, the PRRD and SIKA-East invited service providers to participate in the event. So far 58 service providers have registered for the SPF.

Capacity Building

- Twenty-two training activities were conducted across the SIKA-East districts during the week. These were attended by 623 men and 206 women. The training topics included: Unity Building, Fundraising, Lobbying, Grant Process and Application Development, Communication Plan implementation, Grant Management, Infrastructure Project Implementation and Negotiation Strategy. Trainings took place in the districts of Laja Mangal, Jaghatu, Khwaja Umari, Mando Zayi, Baraki Barak, Nirkh, Ahmad Abad, Jalrez, Zadran and Zurmat.
- Twenty-six DDA+ communication committee meetings for men and women took place in Khoshi, Nirkh, Zadran, Jaghatu, Qarabagh, Jaji Maydan, Chaki Wardak, Saydabad, Mando Zayi, Tani, Baraki Barak, Laja Mangal and Zurmat District.
- Since the beginning of the program, 15,990 men and 3,921 women have attended 442 SIKA-East capacity building sessions. An additional number of communication committee meetings and sub-coordination meetings have been held across the provinces.



The Ahmad Abad CDC members are practicing application development during Grant Application Development training

The Alasang Ganda Chashma Karez extension and rehabilitation project was completed and let for use



The Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) manager is delivering a speech during the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women celebration in Logar Province

Infrastructure Grants

- During the week, one new grant was awarded in the Baraki Barak district of Logar province, with \$14,918 value.
- Milestone payments resumed this week: 42 payments were made, distributing a sum total of \$509,221 to grant recipients in Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Andar, Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Zurmat, Chaki Wardak and Nirkh Districts.
- Eight new engineering designs valued over \$387,000 were completed in the reporting period. These designs refer to different project in the districts of Khwaja Umari, Gurbuz, Khoshi, Zadran, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal Tani, Jaji Maydan and Zurmat.
- Of the total 98 awarded grant projects to date, 24 have been completed and 74 are currently being implemented in eight districts of eastern Afghanistan.
- To date, 152 grant applications valuing \$7 million have been received and 119 applications worth \$5.5 million have been given USAID approval.

Capacity Building Grants

- Four Requests for Proposals (RFP) were issued for the districts of Saydabad, Andar and Mohammad Agha for training in orchard and vineyard keeping, vegetable and fruit processing, computer classes, embroidery and tailoring. An additional three RFPs for tailoring and computer classes are being developed for Tani, Gurbuz and Nirkh District.
- Twelve capacity building grant packages have been submitted to USAID for vetting, for the provinces of Wardak, Paktya, and Ghazni.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- SIKA-East continues with focus group surveys. During the week, 28 focus groups were conducted, bringing the total to 120 focus groups sessions conducted under this survey. All 120 surveys have been transcribed and 81 translated into English before further processing.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- Five training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province: Grant Process and Application Development training for 48 men from Jaghatu District; Unity Building for 33 men and 45 women from Khwaja Umari District; and Negotiation Strategy Training for 37 men and 46 women also in Khwaja Umari.
- The Kohna Dih karez extension project in Dih Yak was completed and the karez was inaugurated on November 28 in presence of a representative from Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD), CDC key members and SIKA-East. This is the second project completed by SIKA-East in Dih Yak.

KHOST

- A three-day training session was conducted on Grant Process and Application Development for 45 women from Mando Zayi District.

- The joint SIKA-East and PRRD Grant Review Committees (GRCs) reviewed and approved one capacity building grant applications for Tani District with value \$96,700.

LOGAR

- Two training sessions were conducted in Logar Province: Infrastructure Project Implementation for 32 men and Grant Management training for 17 men from Baraki Barak District.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Six training sessions were conducted in Wardak Province: Lobbying training for 19 men from Nirkh, and 35 women from Jalrez; Fundraising training for 60 men and 35 women from Jalrez; Unity Building for 60 men also in Jalrez; and Infrastructure Project Implementation for 24 men from Nirkh District.
- The Alasang Ganda Chashma karez extension and rehabilitation project, which started on June 5 in Chaki Wardak, was completed on November 25.
- Currently, 31 infrastructure grants are being implemented in Chaki Wardak, Nirkh and Saydabad districts. These have cumulative value of \$1.3 million.

PAKTYA

- Eight training sessions were conducted in Paktya Province during the week: fundraising for 40 men from Laja Mangal and 28 men from Zurmat,; Negotiation Strategy for 41 men from Laja Mangal and 28 men from Zurmat; Grant Process and Application Development for 50 men from Ahmad Abad; Infrastructure Project Implementation for 28 men from Zadran; Infrastructure Project Planning for 28 men from Zadran; and Unity Building for 50 men, also in Zadran.
- The first two grants are being implemented in Zurmat District, with cumulative value of approximately \$140,000.
- The joint SIKA-East and PRRD Grant Review Committees (GRCs) reviewed and approved seven new grant applications for Zurmat, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal and Zadran Districts. These have cumulative value of \$451,435.

CHALLENGES

- Several grant projects in Maydan Wardak Province have been placed on hold by the applicants due to repeated Taliban threats: the Goda PMC, Salil Khail CDC, Khatotee CDC and Zinkhan Khail CDC projects. However, the grant recipients of the mentioned projects continue to seek ways to implement SIKA-East grants despite insurgents' threats.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Organize the second Service Provider Fair (SPF) in Paktya Province on December 3 and 4;
- Recognize the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women in Wardak and Paktya Provinces.
- Disburse milestone payments in value of \$281,529 to 21 grant recipients.

(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/ Cumulative		Grants Completed	
		No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	6	6	\$373,321	2	6	6	5	5	\$324,849	4	\$281,110	0	0
	Dih Yak	2	14	\$579,512	2	8	14	11	10	\$419,669	8	\$333,401	1	\$16,891
Khost	Tani	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$42,824	0	0	0	0
Logar	Baraki Barak	9	22	\$1,139,224	3	15	21	19	19	\$968,957	14	\$631,412	0	0
	Khoshi	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Moh. Agha	1	26	\$1,327,105	1	26	26	22	22	\$1,025,875	15	\$744,588	7	\$263,825
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	1	17	\$750,379	3	10	17	14	14	\$654,131	10	\$425,526	1	\$37,462
	Nirakh	0	23	\$1,205,258	0	17	21	18	18	\$986,100	9	\$475,499	6	\$304,784
	Saydabad	0	32	\$1,115,397	5	11	30	27	27	\$988,839	12	\$411,376	9	\$191,490
Paktya	Zurmat	7	9	\$558,041	6	2	10	5	4	\$163,865	2	\$132,559	0	0
	Zadran	2	3	\$165,159	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		37	152	\$7,213,396	25	97	150	121	119	\$5,575,109	74	\$3,435,471	24	814,452