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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 103

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*Photo: Construction of the Qalai Sediq high school surrounding wall in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province is in progress.*

**December 16, 2013**

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### Highlights of the Week:

- USAID agreed with the design of the Woman-Owned Business Development Technical Assistance project, which is part of a suite of activities to improve women's access to livelihoods and employment opportunities in line with district demands raised during stability analysis sessions.
- SIKA-East met with the gender unit of Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) to explore opportunities for coordination and cooperation in order to maintain gender mainstreaming in target districts.



*Photo: Qalai Baboki karez construction project in Baraki Barak District is nearing completion.*

### SIKA-East Results:

- **Capacity Building:**
  - Two training activities conducted in Saydabad District during the week were attended by 36 women.
  - Since the beginning of the program, 16,298 individuals, of whom 12,060 are men and 4,238 women, have attended a total of 451 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
  - Nine milestone payments, valued at over \$93,000, were made in Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Chaki Wardak, and Nirkh.
  - Ninety-eight grants, with a value of over \$4 million, have been awarded in Andar, Dih Yak, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Nirkh, Saydabad, and Zurmat Districts. Twenty-four projects have been completed.
  - Four new engineering designs were completed this week.

### **District Development Assembly (DDA+) Provincial Conference**

Following the first round of the District Development Assembly (DDA+) Provincial Conference Training of Trainers (ToT) in Kabul, SIKA-East conducted the second round of DDA+ provincial conferences for SIKA-East and Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Social Organizers, mainly for districts of Paktya Province (Zadran, Zurmat, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, and Ahmad Abad).

The main purpose of this training was to prepare SIKA-East staff and PRRD Social Workers to implement the DDA+ provincial conference by bringing together members of DDAs, District Community Councils (DCC), and other influential people from the districts so they could discuss challenges they face internally, as well as overall management and leadership of the District Project Portfolio (DPP).

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### Assassination of Andar DDA Head

- Around midnight on December 13, a group of armed men broke into the house of Malawi Mohammad Zaher, head of the DDA for Andar District in Ghazni Province, and killed him. Besides heading the Andar DDA, Malawi Zaher was a mullah and an influential member of the Andar tribe. He also played a part in the Andar uprising and was well known among the people of the district. The Taliban claimed responsibility for his death.

Malawi Zaher worked closely with SIKA-East from the beginning and had been instrumental in the program's success in engaging the community, conducting workshops, and recently starting grant implementation in Andar. Apart from the immense loss for the district, Mr Zaher's death will have a serious impact on program implementation in Andar for the time being. This is the second such incident in Ghazni in recent months. On September 28, the Dih Yak DDA head was killed by a roadside IED while traveling between his home and the district center.

Once an appropriate amount of time has passed, SIKA-East will work with MRRD on the selection and appointment of a new head for the Andar DDA.

### Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- During the week, SIKA-East met with the IDLG Gender Unit in Kabul to explore opportunities for coordination and cooperation. IDLG representatives included the head of the gender unit, gender specialist, the capacity and institutional development director, and gender mainstreaming coordinator. Gender Unit management was eager to discuss technical assistance for provincial gender focal points, a concept under discussion that is expected to become operational in the near future. Under the aegis of Provincial Governors' offices, one focal point will be appointed in each province to promote and support implementation of gender mainstreaming and gender equity policies, including encouraging the recruitment of females in government jobs.
- USAID concurred with the design of the Woman-Owned Business Development Technical Assistance project, which is part of a suite of activities to improve women's access to livelihoods and employment opportunities, in line with district demands raised during stability analysis sessions. This project will complement vocational training courses for women, building their skills in self-employment and supporting expansion of promising home-based occupations into income-generating activities.



*Final measurements are taken of the Tasan protection wall in Ghazni Province.*



*The communication committee members of Laja Mangal District discuss issues during a meeting.*



*The Angoor Bagh karez extension and construction project in Chaki Wardak District is almost complete.*

### **Capacity Building**

- Two training activities were conducted during the week. These were attended by 36 women. The training topics included: Grant Process and Application Development and Negotiation Strategy. Additionally, a Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for SIKA-East provincial and district level managers, which was attended by 34 men. A similar ToT was conducted for the DDA+ provincial conference; 16 men and two women participated.
- Twenty-two DDA+ communication committee meetings for men and women took place in Dih Yak, Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Mando Zayi, Tani, Baraki Barak, Khoshi, Mohammad Agha, Jalrez, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Zadran Districts.

### **Infrastructure Grants**

- Milestone payments resumed this week: nine payments were made, distributing a sum total of \$272,716 to grant recipients in Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Chaki Wardak, and Nirkh Districts.
- Four new engineering designs, valued at over \$137,000, were completed in the reporting period. These designs were for one project in each of four districts: Gurbuz, Khwaja Umari, Laja Mangal, 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, 181 grant applications valuing over \$8.6 million have been received and 139 applications have been given USAID approval.
- Eight grants requests for seven districts were submitted this week for USAID approval, of which seven are infrastructure and one capacity building.
- One grant for Tani District worth \$60,000 was reviewed and approved by a joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committee (GRC).

### **Capacity Building Grants**

- Two Requests for Proposals (RFP) were issued for the districts of Khwaja Umari and Zurmat for training in tailoring.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- SIKA-East has conducted 120 focus group sessions so far. All 120 surveys have been transcribed and translated into English. The files are now ready for data analysis.

## **SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **GHAZNI**

- So far, 17 grant applications for projects in Ghazni Province have been submitted to USAID; 15 have been approved, 13 awarded, and two completed. Two other projects were completed this week and will be inaugurated next week: the construction of protection walls for Shetam and Tasan.

## **KHOST**

- A total number of ten applications, worth over \$477,000, have been received so far: six for Gurbuz, two for Jaji Maydan, and two for Tani.
- A joint SIKA-East and PRRD GRC reviewed and approved one new grant application for Tani District.

## **LOGAR**

- Three milestone payments, valued at \$39,868, were disbursed for Logar Province during the week: one for Mohammad Agha and two for Baraki Barak Districts.
- So far 51 applications, with a combined value \$ 2.6 million, have been received, and 14 are under development for Logar Province.

## **MAYDAN WARDAK**

- Two training sessions were conducted in Wardak Province: Grant Process and Application Development for 18 women from Jalrez, and Negotiation Strategy for 18 women from Nirkh District.
- Four milestone payments were made for Wardak Province during the week: two payments for Chaki Wardak District and two for Nirkh. The cumulative value for these projects is over \$43,000.

## **PAKTYA**

- Twenty-one grant applications, valued at \$1.2 million, have been received so far for Paktya Province: ten for Zurmat, two for Laja Ahmad Khail, four for Laja Mangal, and five for Zadran District.
- SIKA-East has received approval for nine grant projects: six for Zurmat District, one for Laja Ahmad Khail, and two for Laja Mangal.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The Paktya PRRD has issued a suspension letter for all infrastructure projects in the province due to cold weather.
- Two projects in Andar District have been placed on hold as the CDC members of one project were changed by the PRRD and the deputy head of the other CDC passed away.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Conduct the second round of SIKA-East Induction in close coordination with MRRD for the remaining District Social Workers (DSWs) of targeted provinces;
- Conduct DDA+ conference in Ghazni Province;
- Conduct closing ceremonies for several projects; and
- Disburse \$146,500 in milestone payments to 18 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/ Cumulative		Grants Completed	
		No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	5	8	\$519,081	3	7	8	5	5	\$324,849	4	\$297,977	0	\$0
	Dih Yak	1	15	\$622,468	3	8	15	12	10	\$419,669	7	\$360,269	2	\$35,313
	Khwaja Umari	28	5	\$226,820	4	0	5	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Khost	Tani	2	2	\$144,534	2	1	2	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
	Gurbuz	0	6	\$263,001	6	0	6	4	3	\$149,271	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Jaji Maydan	1	2	\$70,287	2	0	2	2	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Logar	Baraki Barak	9	22	\$1,139,224	3	15	22	20	19	\$906,005	14	\$669,297	0	\$0
	Khoshi	4	3	\$173,987	0	0	3	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
	Moh. Agha	1	26	\$1,327,105	0	27	26	24	24	\$1,167,403	15	\$1,025,875	7	\$263,825
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	1	17	\$750,379	3	10	17	14	14	\$654,131	10	\$492,044	1	\$37,462
	Nirakh	0	23	\$1,205,258	3	17	21	18	18	\$986,100	8	\$839,837	7	\$332,079
	Saydabad	0	31	\$1,016,204	8	11	29	26	26	\$946,015	12	\$639,405	9	\$191,490
Paktya	Zurmat	2	10	\$651,610	7	2	11	7	6	\$379,838	2	\$140,513	0	\$0
	Zadran	0	5	\$336,346	3	2	5	2	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	1	2	\$76,294	1	0	2	2	1	\$60,509	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Mangal	0	4	\$175,919	4	0	4	3	2	\$125,545	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>\$8,698,517</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>\$6,119,335</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>\$3,137,674</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$860,169</b>