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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

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Photo: Members of the local community clear debris from the terracing and canal on the Abass Kalai Village karez rehabilitation and extension project in Baraki Barak.

December 23, 2013

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Highlights of the Week:

- Seven projects were completed during the week: three in Mohammad Agha, two in Saydabad, and one each in Dih Yak and Nirkh Districts.
- SIKA-East conducted a basic Advocacy Training of Trainers (TOT) for field staff and government partners. This workshop will help the participants become trainers on advocacy strategy. This was the first training by SIKA-East for Kabul-based government partners. The trainees were provided with curriculums so that they can add it to their training lists.



Photo: Tasan Payeen protection wall in Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province, which was recently completed by the hard work of local CDC members.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Capacity Building:**
 - Ten training activities conducted in Khost, Paktya, and Maydan Wardak Provinces during the week were attended by 259 men and 228 women.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 16,785 individuals, of whom 12,319 are men and 4,466 women, have attended a total of 461 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Thirteen milestone payments, valued at over \$118,000, were made in Baraki Barak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Saydabad, Chaki Wardak, Andar, 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. Thirty-three projects have been completed.
 - Six new engineering designs were completed this week.

District Development Assembly (DDA+) Consultation Meeting in Paktya

On December 18, twenty-eight elders from six districts in Paktya Province met in Gardiz to coordinate preparations for a DDA+ conference to be held in the province at the end of December.



Elders meet in plenary session (above) and in individual work groups (below) to discuss their roles in the upcoming DDA+ conference.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization

- During the week, SIKA-East conducted a basic Advocacy Training of Trainers (TOT) for field staff and government partners. This course covers the basics of how to train people to develop an advocacy strategy. It was the first training to include Kabul-based government partners, including representatives from Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG) and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), who were given copies of the full curriculum to add to their training menus if so desired. The total number of participants for the workshop was 19.
- Following initial training for District Social Workers (DSWs), SIKA-East in close coordination with its government partners conducted the second round of SIKA-East Induction for prior and newly hired DSWs; the total number of participants was 13 and also included IDLG SIKA Coordinators. The training was designed in two parts. The first was to orient the DSWs on MRRD/CLD programs, policies and procedures, and their role and responsibilities within MRRD programs. The second part of the training was designed to orient them specifically on SIKA-East and its goals and objectives. During this workshop, both MRRD and SIKA-East facilitators focused on working as a team while helping the subnational entities, including members of District Development Assemblies (DDA), District Community Councils (DCC), and Community Development Councils (CDC). The last component of the workshop was designed for questions and answers, where both the CLDD Director and Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP) of SIKA-East responded to the questions and concerns of the DSWs.

Capacity Building

- Ten training activities were conducted during the week. These were attended by 259 men and 228 women. The training topics included: Unity Building, Fundraising, Negotiation Strategy, and Lobbying.
- Twenty-five DDA+ communication committee meetings for men and women took place in Khwaja Umari, Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Mando Zayi, Tani, Baraki Barak, Khoshi, Chaki Wardak, Jalrez, Nirkh, Saydabad, and Laja Ahmad Khail Districts.



Closing ceremony of Panama Nalab karez extension project in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province



Tagab boys' school boundary wall in Baraki Barak Districts of Logar Province is under progress and will be completed in the near future.



Saydabad women share their views with each other during a communication committee meeting.

Infrastructure Grants

- Milestone payments resumed this week: thirteen payments were made, distributing a total of \$118,813 to grant recipients in Andar, Baraki Barak, Chaki Wardak, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Nirkh, and Saydabad Districts.
- Six new engineering designs, valued at over \$403,000, were completed in the reporting period. These designs were for two projects each in Baraki Barak and Khoshi, and one project each in Saydabad and Laja Mangal.
- Seven grants projects were completed during the week, bringing the total number of completed projects to 33. Of the total 98 awarded grant projects, 65 are currently being implemented in eight districts of eastern Afghanistan.
- To date, 190 grant applications, valued at over \$8.9 million, have been received and 153 applications have received USAID approval.
- Three grants requests for three districts were submitted this week for USAID approval, two for infrastructure projects and one for a capacity building project.
- Eleven grants, valued at over \$733,000, were reviewed and approved by by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). These include three projects for Mando Zayi, two for Saydabad, three for Laja Ahmad Khail, two for Laja Mangal, and one each for Ahmad Abad, Garda Serai, Nirkh, and Zadran Districts.

Capacity Building Grants

- Three capacity building projects valued at \$167,000 were reviewed and approved during the week. The projects include tailoring, computer courses, and literacy classes in Mando Zayi District.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- SIKA-East has conducted 120 focus group sessions so far. All 120 surveys have been transcribed and translated into English. As of the end of this reporting period, data analysis has been completed for the districts of Jalrez, Khoshi, Mando Zayi, and Jaji Maydan.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- Two projects were completed in Dih Yak District during the week: construction of Tasan Paen protection wall and Aklai ditch and canal projects. With these the number of completed projects in Ghazni Province comes to four.
- So far, 25 grant applications for projects in Ghazni Province have been submitted to USAID; 18 have been approved, 13 awarded, and three completed.

KHOST

- Seven training sessions were conducted in Khost Province during the week: two separate sessions of Unity Building for 45 women from Jaji Maydan and 39 from Tani District, two sessions of Fundraising training for 69 men and 49 women from Mando Zayi District, two sessions of Lobbying training for

67 men and 50 women from Mando Zayi District, and one Negotiation Strategy training session for 45 women from Jaji Maydan District.

- One engineering design, worth \$74,242, for Gurbuz District was completed during this reporting period.

LOGAR

- During the week three projects in Mohammad Agha District were successfully completed: boundary walls for Rhamabad boys and girls schools and Panama Nalab karez extension. The cumulative cost of the projects is \$151,157.
- Five milestone payments were made for Logar Province: one for Baraki Barak and four for Mohammad Agha District.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- A Fundraising training session was conducted for 21 men from Saydabad District.
- Six payments were made for Wardak Province during the week: three for Saydabad, two for Nirkh and one for Chaki Wardak Districts. The cumulative value of these projects is over \$237,000.
- One engineering design, worth more than \$50,000, was completed for Saydabad District.

PAKTYA

- Two training sessions were held for men from Laja Ahmad Khail District during the reporting period: Unity Building for 53 participants and Lobbying for 49.
- Twenty-eight grant applications, valued at \$1.5 million, have been received so far for Paktya Province: ten for Zurmat District, four for Laja Ahmad Khail, six for Laja Mangal, seven for Zadran, and one for Ahmad Abad.
- SIKa-East received approval for eleven grant projects: six for Zurmat District, two for Laja Ahmad Khail, two for Laja Mangal, and one for Zadran District.

CHALLENGES

- The Zin Khan Khil project in Saydabad District was on hold due to security concerns for more than three months. During this period, SIKa-East held regular meetings with key members of the Zin Khan Khil CDC, the project's sponsor. Finally, the conclusion was reached that these key members were not competent to start and carry on project work. They were introduced to the District Governor, who requested that the CDC endorse new key members who will live in the village and be able to implement the project.
- Members of the Kako Khil CDC in Nirkh District received a threat letter from insurgents not to continue their road graveling project. The project is on hold while negotiations proceed with the insurgents.
- The Zurmat DDA was found ineligible by the USAID vetting unit to manage grants projects. This will prevent the award of around \$300,000 in grants to that district. SIKa-East will work with MRRD to explore alternative options.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct Service Providers Fairs (SPF) in Ghazni and Logar Provinces;
- Conduct GRC meetings for 5 projects in Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, and Baraki Barak Districts;
- Issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for capacity building grants;
- Conduct DDA+ conference in Ghazni Province; and
- Disburse \$164,018 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	6	6	\$324,849	4	\$297,977	0	\$0
	Dih Yak	1	15	\$622,468	3	8	15	15	12	\$475,123	6	\$360,269	3	\$75,569
	Jaghatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Khwaja Umari	28	5	\$226,820	4	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Qarabagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khost	Gurbuz	0	6	\$263,001	6	0	6	6	3	\$149,271	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Jaji Maydan	1	2	\$70,287	2	0	2	2	2	\$70,287	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Mando Zayi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tani	1	3	\$144,534	2	1	2	1	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	12	\$1,025,875	10	\$388,777
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	1	17	\$750,549	3	10	17	14	14	\$654,131	10	\$492,044	1	\$37,462
	Jalrez	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nirikh	0	23	\$1,205,258	3	17	21	18	18	\$986,100	7	\$749,241	8	\$404,236
	Saydabad	1	32	\$1,016,204	8	11	29	26	26	\$946,015	10	\$586,737	11	\$238,099
Paktya	Ahmad Abad	1	1	\$58,727	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	3	4	\$176,294	1	0	2	2	2	\$76,294	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Mangal	2	6	\$259,085	4	0	4	3	2	\$125,545	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Zadran	2	6	\$336,346	3	2	5	3	1	\$81,439	0	0	0	0
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	1	1	\$33,636	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Zurmat	2	10	\$651,610	8	2	11	9	6	\$379,838	2	\$140,513	0	\$0
Total		63	190	8,974,216	53	100	178	153	135	\$6,342,300	65	\$4,321,953	33	\$1,144,143