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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

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A Lessons Learned workshop held this week in Ahmad Abad District of Paktya Province was attended by 20 men.

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Highlights of the Week:

- Two karez extension projects were successfully completed in Logar and Maydan Wardak Provinces.
- SIKA-East and PRRD staff conducted separate Lessons Learned workshops for men and women in Ahmad Abad, Gurbuz, Jalrez, and Qarabagh Districts. The 154 participants included 108 men and 46 women.
- Provincial Gender Officers met with Directorate of Women’s Affairs representatives to discuss ways in which the program could support DoWA’s sponsorship of International Women’s Day on March 8.



This week, SIKA-East invited Mr. Sayed Shah Safid Kashani, the head of MRRD’s Community Led Development Department (third from right), and two members of his training team (right) to receive Letters of Appreciation from SIKA-East’s Chief of Party, Mr. Martijn Hekman (left), for their cooperation with and support for SIKA-East.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Ten training activities were conducted in eight districts during the week and were attended by 99 participants.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 20,656 individuals, of whom 15,341 are men and 5,315 women, have attended a total of 584 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Thirteen grants, with a cumulative value of nearly \$390,000, were awarded in ten districts, most of them in Khost and Paktya.
 - To date, 345 grant applications, including 339 infrastructure and six capacity building projects, valued at over \$15.2 million, have been received, and 213 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - One hundred and thirty-nine grants, with a value of over \$5.4 million, have been awarded, while 54 projects have been completed.

Letters of Appreciation for CLDD

In the last three months, MRRD’s Community Led Development Department and SIKA-East have jointly conducted three trainings for District Social Workers: two Induction Trainings and one Community Mobilization and Stakeholder Engagement training. The CLDD and SIKA-East training team combined their respective training materials and developed a single joint module for each of these trainings. This was made possible due to the hard work and excellent communication, coordination, and working relationship of everyone on the CLDD and SIKA-East training team.

In recognition of CLDD’s contribution to the joint training effort, this week Mr. Martijn Hekman, SIKA-East Chief of Party, presented Letters of Appreciation to Mr. Sayed Shah Safid Kashani, the head of CLDD, and the two CLDD trainers who conducted the recent Community Mobilization and Stakeholder Engagement training. He also commented on the excellent relationship that SIKA-East enjoys with CLDD and expressed his appreciation for their friendly and generous support for the program.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

Conflict Management Training

- Within the framework of Capacity Building Grants / Transition Initiatives, SIKA-East has developed a Scope of Work for an advanced capacity development program in conflict management that it proposes to offer to key DDA+ members, District Governors' office staff, and provincial councilors through specialized NGOs. The program is designed to equip select members of district entities and provincial councils with critical skills to address the specific types of conflict identified as major Sources of Instability in the District Project Portfolios (DPPs). The program will include a five-day training session and a three-day workshop in each district. The key deliverables will be (1) a conflict analysis report providing a detailed analysis of the conflict types, root causes, and triggering factors in the 21 districts and (2) an action plan proposing a detailed roadmap to conflict resolution in the districts. The Scope of Work has been agreed with MRRD and will be discussed with IDLG in the following week.

Training for District Social Workers

- In a meeting this week between SIKA-East and MRRD/Community Led Development Department (CLDD), both parties agreed to move on with the next set of trainings for District Social Workers (DSW), the first of which – the training on good governance - is scheduled for March. SIKA-East is working to combine the two curriculums so that SIKA-East and CLDD can present a joint training for previously and newly hired DSWs.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- This week, Provincial Gender Officers met with Directorate of Women's Affairs representatives to discuss ways in which the program could support DoWA's sponsorship of International Women's Day on March 8. At the provincial level, SIKA-East will encourage two leading DDA+ members to speak during the event to highlight progress addressing female priorities identified during planning processes facilitated across the 22 districts where the program is being implemented.
- The Gender Team in Kabul met all five Provincial Management Team Managers to advocate action to improve the female-friendliness of SIKA-East workplaces, as well as to assist the DDA+s and government authorities to respond to locally identified sources of instability and solutions that particularly impact and benefit females.



Villagers and members of the Aslam Khil CDC in Saydabad District of Maydan Wardak Province celebrate the completion of their karez extension and well rehabilitation project.



Members of the Jalrez women's communication committee in Maydan Wardak Province discuss implementation of their district communication plan.



A SIKA-East engineer conducts a site survey for a flood protection project proposed for Mali Khel Village in Ahmad Abad District of Paktya Province.

SERVICE PROVIDER FAIRS

- SIKA-East continues to work on logistical arrangements for a Service Provider Fair (SPF) for Khost Province, which is scheduled to be held on February 25 and 26.
- During the week, SIKA-East completed the post-evaluation of the recent Logar SPF. A detailed assessment report will be prepared and shared for further planning and action.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES

- A meeting was held between SIKA-East and MRRD to discuss the voice messaging proposal. MRRD approved the SOW without any changes. There was also a discussion regarding the District Information Centers (DICs), after which it was agreed that SIKA-East will continue with the RFA to hire a single vendor to handle training and equipment procurement for all 21 districts. SIKA-East will work on a proposal for the option period that includes a menu of ideas that DDAs can choose from to create additional support for the DICs, and those add-ons will be implemented using in-kind grants whenever possible.

TRAINING

- SIKA-East and PRRD staff conducted separate Lessons Learned workshops for men and women in Ahmad Abad, Gurbuz, Jalrez, and Qarabagh Districts. The 154 participants included 108 men and 46 women. The purpose of these workshops was to enable SIKA-East to identify the challenges and successes of the program, suggest solutions, and take actions to improve SIKA-East interventions.
- Ten training activities were conducted in eight districts during the week and were attended by 97 men and two women. Nine of the training sessions were in Grants Management, and the other one was in Resource Dialogue and Advocacy.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- During the week, 13 grants, with a cumulative value of nearly \$390,000, were awarded in 10 districts.
- Nineteen milestone payments, amounting to over \$167,000, were disbursed to projects in 12 districts.
- Since the beginning of the project, 345 grant applications, including 339 infrastructure and 6 capacity building projects, valued at more than \$15.2 million, have been received, and 229 applications have been approved by USAID.
- During the week, 26 grant applications, valued at over \$440,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). The approved projects are slated for 13 districts.
- Twelve new engineering designs, valued at over \$310,000 and covering projects in 7 districts, were completed in the reporting period.
- M&E officers conducted 11 visits to project sites in 10 districts. Eight of these were in connection with first milestone payments, and two were final inspections for completed projects.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- The Provincial Gender Officer helped to facilitate sub-coordination efforts by meeting with the head of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation office in Andar. The meeting was successful

in determining similar programs that could be implemented in conjunction with one another to avoid duplication.

- During the week, SIKA-East and PRRD trainers conducted four sessions of Grant Management training for members of the DDA+s in Andar, Dih Yak, and Khwaja Umari. A total of 23 men and two women attended. The Andar training was in connection with a fruit and vegetable processing project, and one of the two Khwaja Umari trainings was for a tailoring project, the first non-infrastructure projects to be awarded by SIKA-East in those districts.
- Three Lessons Learned workshops were conducted for 40 men and 15 women from the Qarabagh DDA+ and for 15 women from the Jaghatu DDA+.
- Two engineering designs, worth \$70,000, were completed during the week for Khwaja Umari District.

KHOST

- The Provincial Gender Officer met with DoWA to discuss outreach strategies to increase female participation in the Service Provider Fair that will be implemented at the end of the month, as well as to reach out to a larger number of female-oriented service providers.
- Two sessions of Grant Management training were conducted for a total of 16 men from Gurbuz, and one session for 17 men from Mando Zayi.
- Three new grants – one for Gurbuz and two for Mando Zayi, cumulatively valued at over \$60,000 – were awarded this week.
- Four engineering designs, valued at nearly \$135,000, were completed during the week. These included two designs for Tani and one each for Gurbuz and Jaji Maidan.

LOGAR

- In Baraki Barak, 30 female students started training in vegetable processing. Projects of this sort were prioritized by women to support more equitable access to economic opportunities and improved livelihoods, contributing to strengthening the social fabric of communities.
- Two four-day sessions of Grants Management training were conducted in Logar Province during the week. One was for 14 men from Baraki Barak, and the other for 23 men from Khoshi.
- In Mohammad Agha District, the Soor karez extension project, which was funded by a \$58,518 grant, was officially completed this week.
- Two engineering designs, worth nearly \$59,000, were finalized for projects in Mohammad Agha District.
- Five projects were reviewed and approved by a GRC: three for Khoshi and two for Mohammad Agha.
- So far, USAID has approved 55 grants projects, worth nearly \$2.6 million, for Logar Province: 21 for Baraki Barak, 8 for Khoshi, and 26 for Mohammad Agha. Eighteen projects have been completed, and the rest are being implemented.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- As part of a post-event assessment, SIKA-East Resource and Dialogue Officers in all four districts where SIKA-East is active interviewed service providers who attended the two SPFs held to date in Maydan Wardak to obtain feedback on their experience during and after the fairs.
- Separate Lessons Learned workshops were held during the week for 30 men and 13 women from Jalrez District.

- This week saw the completion of the Aslam Khil karez extension and well rehabilitation project in Saydabad.
- So far, 98 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 24 for Jalrez, 17 for Chaki Wardak, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad.
- SIKA-East has received approval for 66 grants from USAID, and 50 have been awarded, in Maydan Wardak: 13 for Chaki Wardak, 16 for Nirkh, and 21 for Saydabad. Due to cold weather, the implementation of construction projects has slowed down. The number of completed projects in Wardak Province is 28, and their cumulative value is over \$1 million.

PAKTYA

- Separate Lessons Learned workshops were held this week for 20 men and six women from Ahmad Abad District.
- A one-day Grants Management training was held in Zurmat for eight members of the Koti Khil Project Management Committee, who are constructing a canal, to explain the grants agreement.
- Two four-day Grants Management trainings were conducted in Paktya during the week. One was for 20 men from the Gosnai Shinkai and Koza Doda CDCs in Laja Mangal District – who are implementing a karez extension and a flood protection wall project, respectively – to show them how to manage their projects. The other was for the Sheekho CDC, which is building a flood protection wall, and the Wam Hasan Khail CDC, which is extending a karez; both are located in Laja Ahmad Khail District. Twenty-two men attended the second training.
- Two new engineering designs, valued at over \$55,000, were completed for Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts. Sixteen engineering designs are under development for Paktya Province.
- Three PRRD and SIKA-East joint GRCs reviewed and approved three projects, worth over \$60,000, for Ahmad Abad, Laja Mangal, and Laja Ahmad Khail District.
- Two new grants, valued at over \$122,000, were awarded to Laja Mangal District this week, and one, worth \$60,000, was awarded to Zurmat, bringing to 14 the number of grants awarded to Paktya Province to date.

CHALLENGES

- In several areas, some projects have been put on hold due to cold weather.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2014

- Campaigning is under way in all five provinces where SIKA-East is operating. Candidates' photos have been mounted on billboards, and candidates and their representatives regularly attend large gatherings to deliver speeches. People continue to register for election cards. However, very few women seem to be participating in these activities.
 - In Logar, there are currently two registration centers, one male and one female, in Pul-e Alam, that are open full time and are registering people for voting cards. Mobile teams are also operating in each district to register people to vote. According to the Ministry of Interior, Logar will have 88 polling places, many of which have already been established. Security officials in the province have conducted several operations in different districts to help ensure a safe environment on election day, and it is hoped that the recent uprising against the Taliban in Baraki Barak may also improve security there.

- A large number of people in Maydan Wardak have registered to vote. Polling places have been set up in district centers, but fewer in remote areas. The participation of women in the election process is low, mainly due to security concerns. Campaigning is under way, and candidates pictures are posted in the streets and bazaars. There has been an increase in the number of military operations taking place in Saydabad District, but it is felt that tougher security measures are required to conduct a fraud-free and sound election in the area.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Award nearly \$550,000 in grants for infrastructure projects in 8 districts;
- Make 14 milestone payments, valued at nearly \$78,000, to projects in 9 districts; and
- Invite IDLG and MRRD representatives to discuss gender mainstreaming in Kabul on February 17.

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.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	3	14	\$498,892	5	4	14	14	10	\$445,960	6	\$319,721	2	\$132,748	
	Dih Yak	1	15	\$627,828	3	8	16	15	15	\$601,183	10	\$367,162	6	\$240,332	
	Jaghatau	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	
	Khwaja Umari	0	11	\$413,238	14	0	11	10	8	\$291,696	4	\$58,651	0	\$0	
	Qarabagh	6	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	
Khost	Gurbuz	3	15	\$644,267	6	3	15	10	9	\$432,808	5	\$195,310	0	\$0	
	Jaji Maydan	4	6	\$224,637	3	1	7	4	3	\$145,272	1	\$26,578	0	\$0	
	Mando Zayi	4	8	\$299,812	3	0	8	6	5	\$194,991	3	\$126,241	0	\$0	
	Tani	3	14	\$482,193	2	1	12	9	6	\$164,147	2	\$49,955	0	\$0	
Logar	Baraki Barak	6	28	\$1,280,318	3	16	28	21	21	\$937,880	18	\$683,935	4	\$197,561	
	Khoshi	0	11	\$577,415	4	0	12	8	8	\$389,077	1	\$19,390	0	\$0	
	Moh. Agha	1	28	\$1,302,738	1	24	28	26	26	\$1,253,782	25	\$1,167,059	14	\$613,511	
Maydan Wardak	Jalrez	0	24	\$1,343,708	3	0	1	1	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	
	Chaki Wardak	2	17	\$702,388	3	10	17	16	16	\$628,950	13	\$466,863	3	\$144,072	
	Nirakh	0	23	\$1,149,330	3	17	22	20	20	\$1,000,537	16	\$800,765	10	\$499,641	
	Saydabad	0	34	\$1,044,598	6	15	32	30	30	\$1,084,281	21	\$596,669	15	\$399,387	
Paktya	Ahmad Abad	22	22	\$1,121,959	7	0	8	3	2	\$88,548	0	\$0	0	\$0	
	Laja Ahmad Khail	12	7	\$203,782	3	0	10	6	6	\$167,419	5	\$106,910	0	\$0	
	Laja Mangal	11	19	\$784,441	7	2	12	9	8	\$273,501	4	\$165,489	0	\$0	
	Zadran	8	13	\$520,119	5	2	8	5	5	\$329,045	0	\$0	0	\$0	
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	14	15	\$560,438	1	0	3	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	\$0	
	Zurmat	3	15	\$988,727	7	4	13	11	10	\$526,973	5	\$279,020	0	\$0	
Total		103	339	\$14,770,828	89	107	277	225	209	\$9,004,306	139	\$5,429,718	54	\$2,227,252	
Capacity Building Grants		6	6	\$442,225	2	3	5	4	4	\$171,296	0	\$0	0	\$0	
Grand Total		109	345	\$15,213,053	91	110	282	229	213	\$9,175,602	139	\$5,429,718	54	\$2,227,252	