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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

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Three of the 18 men who received training in Grants Management this week in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province

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Highlights of the Week:

- The Aslam Khil karez extension project in Saydabad District of Maydan Wardak Province was successfully completed.
- On February 18, a resource coordination meeting was held in Gardez in Paktya Province. About 100 people attended, including many service providers, local officials, and representatives from the DDAs, DCCs, and CDCs from the five districts where SIKA-East is active.
- USAID approved the Scope of Work (SoW) for voice messaging. The voice messaging will help district entities to communicate with local communities more easily and effectively.



Ms. Arifa Samadi, Head of Gender Unit from MRRD's National Rural Access Program (NRAP), makes a point at the Gender Coordination Roundtable.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Fourteen training activities were conducted in eleven districts during the week and were attended by 237 participants.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 20,893 individuals, of whom 15,577 are men and 5,316 women, have attended a total of 598 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Eleven grants, with a cumulative value of nearly \$232,000, were awarded in six districts.
 - To date, 376 grant applications, including 370 infrastructure and six capacity building projects, valued at more than \$16 million, have been received, and 221 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - One hundred and forty-seven grants, with a value of nearly \$5.6 million, have been awarded, while 54 projects have been completed.

First Gender Coordination Roundtable

On February 17, SIKA-East, MRRD, and IDLG gender representatives participated in the first Gender Coordination Roundtable, which was hosted by SIKA-East in Kabul. Attending the roundtable were representatives from the Afghan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP), the National Rural Access Program (NRAP), National Area Based Development Program (NABDP), and the IDLG Gender Unit.

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate dialogue with SIKA-East's partners to identify strategies where SIKA-East and the respective programs implemented through each institution can share best practices, tools, and ideas to increase female outreach and inclusion.

Topics discussed at the meeting included existing policies and tools, challenges that each program faces when it comes to gender, strategies for leadership engagement, and a more focused discussion on current and upcoming opportunities that SIKA-East is looking to implement. Overall, the partners around the table were enthusiastic about this opportunity for collaboration and look forward to further participation and inclusion.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT PROJECT PORTFOLIO REVIEW

- SIKA-East is working with District Development Assemblies (DDA), District Development Councils (DCC), Community Development Councils (CDC), and other stakeholders to review the District Project Portfolios (DPPs) and check the status of all the projects in them. This will help give the communities a sense of ownership over the DPPs, and they will be able to report back to the citizens of their districts on the progress of both the infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects since development of the original DPPs.

VOICE MESSAGING SCOPE OF WORK

- During the week, USAID approved the SoW for voice messaging, which will give district entities the capacity to communicate in an interactive way with local communities. The Request for Applications will be out next week, and SIKA-East will work with its government partners to implement this activity in all five provinces.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- On February 17, SIKA-East, MRRD, and IDLG gender representatives participated in the first Gender Coordination Roundtable, initiated and hosted by SIKA-East in Kabul. (See story on page 1.)
- SIKA-East gender officers in all five provinces met with the provincial heads of DoWA to discuss the upcoming International Women's Day on March 8. In preparation for the occasion, SIKA-East is working with female DDA+ members on presentations that highlight the participation of women from the beginning of SIKA-East till now. Women's contributions to the program include DPP initiatives, communication committee meetings and communication plans, lessons learned workshops, and numerous sub-coordination meetings with service providers on behalf of women.

SERVICE PROVIDER FAIRS

- SIKA-East continued to work on logistical arrangements for a Service Providers Fair (SPF) for Khost Province, which is scheduled to be held on February 25 and 26.
- SIKA-East has finished gathering post-evaluation data for all the Service Provider Fairs (SPF) that have been held to date in the five target provinces. The objective for this post-evaluation is to assess the results and impacts of SPF events from both the providers' and the participants' perspective in order to make recommendations for improvements in upcoming SPFs. Following the analysis, SIKA-East will develop a comprehensive report to help SIKA-East senior



Some of the 16 participants who attended the February 17 Gender Coordination Roundtable



Men from the Zurmat DDA+ in Paktya Province attend Infrastructure Project Implementation training.



February 18 meeting between Dih Yak District Governor, DDA+, and CDCs to discuss changes in Cycle 1 DPP projects

management and government partners plan and take actions for the future.

TRAINING

- Fourteen training activities were conducted in 11 districts during the week and were attended by 236 men and one woman. These trainings included four sessions of Grants Management in Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, Zurmat, and Tani; eight sessions of Infrastructure Project Implementation for Khwaja Umari, Mohammad Agha, Khoshi, Baraki Barak, Tani, Mando Zayi, Jaji Maydan, and Gurbuz Districts; and two sessions of Grant Management Award for the districts of Khoshi and Baraki Barak.

LESSONS LEARNED SESSIONS

- During the week, a total number of 16 Lessons Learned workshops were conducted in eight target districts of SIKA-East: Ahmad Abad, Jaghatu, Qarabagh, Jalrez, Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Mando Zayi, and Tani. A total of 361 participants, including 277 men and 84 women, attended the sessions, sharing their ideas and experiences and learning from each other. These sessions also provided a chance for SIKA-East to identify the challenges and achievements of the program.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- The Aslam Khil karez extension project in Saydabad District of Wardak Province was completed on February 20.
- During the week, 11 grants, with a cumulative value of over \$232,000, were awarded in six districts.
- Since the beginning of the project, 376 grant applications, including 370 infrastructure and six capacity building projects, valued at more than \$16 million, have been received, and 221 applications have been approved by USAID.
- During the week, 13 grant applications, valued at over \$165,000, 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 \$156,000 and covering projects in seven districts, were completed in the reporting period.
- M&E officers conducted 15 visits to project sites in eight districts. All these visits were in connection with milestone payments.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- One Infrastructure Project Implementation training session was conducted for 11 men and one woman from Khwaja Umari District.
- One non-infrastructure package, worth \$24,000, for Andar District was received during the week.
- So far 50 grant project applications, cumulatively valued at nearly \$1.7 million, have been received for Ghazni Province. Thirty-four projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 12 have been awarded and are under way, seven have been pronounced physically complete, and one is closed, having been physically completed more than 90 days ago.

KHOST

- Five training sessions were conducted in Khost Province during the week. These included four separate Infrastructure Project Implementation sessions for 55 men from Tani, Mando Zayi, Jaji Maydan, and Gurbuz Districts, and one Grants Management training session for 16 men from Tani .
- Five grants, worth over \$118,000, were awarded for Khost Province this week. Four were for Tani, and one for Jaji Maydan District. So far, 13 grants projects have been awarded to Khost Province: five for Gurbuz, one for Jaji Maydan, three for Mando Zayi, and four for Tani.
- One engineering design, worth nearly \$25,000, was completed for Mando Zayi District.
- Three projects for Mando Zayi, valued at over \$47,000, were reviewed and approved by a SIKA-East and PRRD joint Grant Review Committee (GRC).

LOGAR

- SIKA-East's engineer for Mohammad Agha District made site visits this week to two karez extension projects being implemented by the Koli CDC.
- Five training sessions were conducted in Logar Province during this reporting period: three separate Infrastructure Project Implementation sessions for 51 men from Mohammad Agha, Khoshi, and Baraki Barak; and two Grants Management Award sessions, also for 51 men, from Khoshi and Baraki Barak.
- Three grants, worth over \$44,000, were made for Logar Province this week: one for Baraki Barak and two for Khoshi.
- Two engineering designs, worth over \$47,000, were finalized for projects in Mohammad Agha District.
- Three projects, worth over \$47,000, were reviewed and approved by a GRC for Mohammad Agha District.
- So far, USAID has approved 56 grants projects, worth nearly \$2.6 million, for Logar Province: 22 for Baraki Barak, eight for Khoshi, and 26 for Mohammad Agha. Eighteen projects have been completed, and the rest are being implemented.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Four new engineering designs, valued at over \$83,000, were completed for Jalrez District of Maydan Wardak Province.
- 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. From among the 28 projects, 11 are closed.

PAKTYA

- On February 17, the Zurmat district engineer visited the DMT office to closely monitor the ongoing renovation work and to provide instructions to the contractor. The project is about 10% complete. The engineer will continue to visit the site twice a week to closely monitor construction activities and to keep management updated on progress.
- During three separate sessions on Grants Management in Paktya Province 21 men from Laja Ahmad Khail, 20 from Laja Mangal, and 11 from Zurmat District were trained.
- Five new engineering designs, were completed for Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, and Zurmat Districts.
- Three new grants, valued at nearly \$69,000, were awarded to Khost Province during the week: two for Laja Ahmad Khail and one for Laja Mangal.
- The PRRD and SIKA-East joint GRCs reviewed and approved seven grant applications: three for Laja Ahmad Khail, two for Ahmad Abad, and one each for Laja Mangal and Zurmat.

CHALLENGES

- In several areas, some projects have been put on hold due to cold weather.
- All roads to Ghazni City from the districts will be closed from February 20 to 25 due to the celebration of Ghazni as the Cultural Capital of Islamic Civilization. This will have a certain impact on SIKA-East activities in the province.

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 Khost, the major candidates have opened offices in the province and begun campaigning. Word is slowly spreading about the location of polling places. Due to lack of awareness and cultural sensitivities in remote parts of the province, very few women are expected to vote. All security forces are committed to implement security measures during the election. As most SIKA-East counterparts are government employees or otherwise influential people, who are expected to be involved in

Paktya Resource Coordination Meeting



On February 18, a resource coordination meeting was held in Gardez in Paktya Province. Besides many service providers, the gathering was attended by the PRRD Director, line department directors, and representatives from the DDAs, DCCs, and CDCs from the five districts in Paktya where SIKA-East is active. About 100 people attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to improve coordination and working relationships among the service providers and give them an opportunity to share information about their activities and challenges. The meeting was also designed to help them avoid duplicated effort and wasted resources.

Eng. Nazir, the PRRD representative for Paktya, welcomed the participants and outlined SIKA-East's goals and activities. He briefly explained that the program's main objective is to address sources of instability and to bring peace and development to unstable parts of the province. Several service providers also spoke.

Towards the end of the meeting, group sessions were held, during which each of the district delegations made a presentation and conducted a group discussion. Many productive comments and recommendations resulted from these sessions.

the election campaign, program activities will probably slow down on both provincial and district levels.

- 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. Based on election department information, they are trying to hire women for election day. Also, DoWA has sponsored several public awareness meetings regarding the election for women, and they have also met with religious elders to encourage women to participate in the election. Photos of candidates have been posted in public places, but no formal campaigning is being conducted. 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 \$340,000 in grants for infrastructure projects in nine districts;
- Make 42 milestone payments, valued at over \$204,000, to projects in 14 districts;
- Continue move of Zurmat DMT office from Gardez to Zurmat;
- Conduct Resource Coordination Meeting in Logar Province;
- Hold Service Providers Fair in Khost on February 25 and 26; and
- Facilitate and support DoWA in each province for International Women's Day on March 8.

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 (Ongoing)		Grants Completed		Grants Closed (Past Retention Period)		Total Grants Awarded	
			No.	\$ Value					No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	3	16	\$498,892	5	4	16	14	11	\$498,892	4	\$186,972	2	\$132,748	0	\$0	6	\$319,721
	Bahrami Shahid (Jaghatau)	1	2	\$0	0	0	2	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		\$0
	Dih Yak	0	16	\$627,828	3	8	17	15	15	\$601,183	4	\$126,830	5	\$221,245	1	\$19,087	10	\$367,162
	Khwaja Umari	0	14	\$469,501	15	0	14	10	8	\$371,538	4	\$58,651	0	\$0	0	\$0	4	\$58,651
	Qarabagh	6	2	\$71,233	0	0	2	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Khost	Gurbuz	2	15	\$675,139	5	3	15	11	10	\$524,782	5	\$195,310	0	\$0	0	\$0	5	\$195,310
	Jaji Maidan	4	8	\$282,077	2	1	9	5	3	\$204,213	1	\$26,578	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$26,578
	Mando Zayi	4	9	\$386,737	4	0	9	8	6	\$354,594	3	\$126,241	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$126,241
	Tani	0	18	\$611,173	5	1	16	10	7	\$387,993	4	\$95,432	0	\$0	0	\$0	4	\$95,432
Logar	Baraki Barak	6	28	\$1,272,075	3	16	28	22	22	\$937,880	15	\$499,537	4	\$197,561	0	\$0	19	\$697,098
	Khoshi	0	13	\$629,126	5	0	14	9	8	\$434,086	3	\$52,958	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$52,958
	Mohammad.Agha	1	31	\$1,499,713	1	24	31	27	26	\$1,273,236	11	\$553,548	11	\$507,748	3	\$105,763	25	\$1,167,059
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	2	17	\$702,388	3	10	17	16	16	\$628,950	10	\$322,792	3	\$144,072	0	\$0	13	\$466,863
	Jalrez	0	24	\$1,343,708	3		1	1	0	\$17,345	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Nirakh	0	23	\$1,149,330	3	17	22	20	20	\$1,000,537	6	\$301,124	7	\$321,606	3	\$178,035	16	\$800,765
	Saydabad	0	34	\$1,044,598	6	15	32	30	30	\$1,084,281	6	\$197,282	7	\$213,528	8	\$185,860	21	\$596,669
Paktya	Ahmad Abad	21	23	\$1,176,818	9	0	9	4	2	\$195,374	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	11	11	\$315,275	5	0	11	8	8	\$216,045	7	\$155,536	0	\$0	0	\$0	7	\$155,536
	Laja Mangal	10	19	\$741,076	7	2	13	10	9	\$342,212	5	\$185,779	0	\$0	0	\$0	5	\$185,779
	Zadran	9	14	\$526,119	9	2	8	5	5	\$329,045	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	17	18	\$636,272	6	0	3	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Zurmat	3	15	\$988,727	7	4	13	11	10	\$680,184	5	\$279,020	0	\$0	0	\$0	5	\$279,020
Total		100	370	\$15,647,805	106	107	302	237	217	\$10,130,626	93	\$3,363,590	39	1,738,508	15	\$488,744	147	\$5,590,842

CATEGORY SUMMARY	Under Development	Apps. Received	Apps. Received	Vetting Pending with USAID	Vetting Approved by USAID	GRC Approved	USAID Approval Requested	USAID Approval Received		Grants Awarded(Ongoing)		Grants Completed		Closed Grants(Past Retention Period)		Total Grants Awarded	
								No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	Amount USD	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
INFRASTRUCTURE	70	301	\$13,473,284	62	97	238	199	184	\$8,190,643	84	\$3,211,103	39	\$1,738,508	12	\$433,535	135	\$5,383,146
NON-INFRASTRUCTURE	30	69	\$2,174,523	44	10	64	38	33	\$1,170,639	9	\$152,485	0	\$0	3	\$55,209	33	\$207,694
Transition Initiatives Grants	6	6	\$442,225	2	3	5	4	4	\$171,296	3	\$128,472	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$128,472

Grand Total	106	376	\$16,090,033	108	110	307	241	221	\$10,301,922	96	\$3,492,060	39	\$1,738,508	15	\$488,744	147	\$5,590,842
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