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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 111

FEBRUARY 1– 6, 2014



Participants in a Resource Dialogue and Advocacy workshop held in Pul-e Alam this week included the Governors of the three districts in Logar Province where SIKA-East is active – Baraki Barak, Khoshi, and Mohammad Agha.

February 10, 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by AECOM.

Highlights of the Week:

- Separate Lessons Learned sessions for men and women were conducted in Ghazni, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya Provinces.
- A two-day Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training was held in Pul-e Alam. It had 18 participants, including the Governors of the three districts where SIKA-East is being implemented, as well as PRRD representatives, the staff of PG and DG offices, and DoWA employees.
- SIKA-East is working on logistical arrangements for a Service Providers Fair (SPF) for Khost Province, which is scheduled to be held on February 25 and 26.



Eight women from the Khwaja Umari DDA+ in Ghazni Province attended a Lessons Learned workshop during the week. Here they write down their conclusions during a group work session.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Twenty-one training activities were conducted in 13 districts during the week and were attended by 168 participants.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 20,557 individuals, of whom 15,244 are men and 5,313 women, have attended a total of 574 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Six grants, with a cumulative value of nearly \$195,000, were awarded, one per district, in Jaji Maydan and Laja Ahmad Khail, and two per district in Gurbuz and Khwaja Umari.
 - To date, 332 grant applications, including 326 infrastructure and six capacity building projects, valued at nearly \$14.7 million, have been received, and 205 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - One hundred and twenty-seven grants, with a value of over \$5.2 million, have been awarded, while 52 projects have been completed.

Provincial Gender Officers Workshop

This week, all five SIKA-East Provincial Gender Officers participated in a three-day workshop in Kabul. During the workshop, SIKA-East facilitators focused on working as a team and expanding outreach to relevant MRRD and IDLG programs that are being implemented at local levels. Participants also explored innovative approaches to engage female role models, specifically female elders, as well as engaging male allies and religious leaders to support dialogue on issues such as improved service delivery in the education and health sectors, violence against women, and awareness of women's rights from an Islamic perspective.

The workshop also reviewed female perspectives on the recent DDA+ conferences held in each of the provinces. Since the program began, female DDA+ members have gained a significant amount of experience and are encouraged by their increasing participation in analyzing district problems and developing locally driven solutions. It was decided during the workshop to offer follow-up dialogues with female DDA+ members and other influential women in the form of a "Female DDA+ Provincial Action Summit." This concept will be discussed with IDLG and MRRD next week, with the proposal that the summits be held during March.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

Lessons Learned Sessions

- During the week, separate Lessons Learned sessions for men and women were conducted in Ghazni, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya Provinces. The participants discussed the accuracy of Sources of Instability and Root Causes in the Stability Planning Process (SPP), and the effectiveness and sustainability of the SSP process as a whole. They also talked about the completion of district project portfolios (DPP), the role of District Development Assemblies (DDA+) in the Stability Planning Process, the effectiveness of district communication plans and Service Provider Fairs (SPF), and the role and responsibilities of GIRoA stakeholders.

Gender Training

- This week, all five SIKA-East Provincial Gender Officers participated in a three-day workshop in Kabul, taking part in practical exercises focused on stakeholder engagement, increasing female participation, and collaboration. This workshop supported key steps in implementing the SIKA-East Gender Strategy. During the workshop, SIKA-East facilitators focused on working as a team and facilitating outreach to sub-national entities like MRRD and IDLG programs that work at the district and community level.
- SIKA-East will invite IDLG and MRRD representatives to discuss gender mainstreaming in Kabul on February 17. The gathering will focus on activities and projects that can expand women's participation and benefit, with discussion on findings from the district stability planning process; proposed trainings and project ideas; and identifying opportunities for collaboration. Invited participants will include gender and program representatives, as well as SIKA coordinators at MRRD and IDLG.

District Project Portfolio

- SIKA-East received USAID's approval for the revised Baraki Barak DPP. It has been sent back to the district for further action and implementation.

Service Providers Fair

- SIKA-East is working on logistical arrangements for a Service Providers Fair (SPF) for Khost Province, which is scheduled to be held on February 25 and 26. Preparations for the event include hiring a vendor to cover the logistical arrangements and deliver all the required services.



Continued wintry conditions in Ghazni, Logar, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya Provinces extended the halt to construction activities in those areas during the week.



Women attend a training on Resource Dialogue and Advocacy in Maidah Shahr in Maydan Wardak Province.



Men and women from Nirkh District in Maydan Wardak attend a meeting at which the district communication plan is presented and its implementation discussed.

TRAINING

- Twenty-one training activities were conducted in 13 districts during the week and were attended by 168 participants. The training topics were Resource Dialogue and Advocacy, Infrastructure Project Implementation, and Grants Management.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- During the week, six grants, with a cumulative value of nearly \$195,000, were awarded, one per district, in Jaji Maydan and Laja Ahmad Khail, and two per district in Gurbuz and Khwaja Umari.
- Six milestone payments, valued at nearly \$33,000, were disbursed to projects in Baraki Barak District.
- Since the beginning of the project, 127 grants, with a value of over \$5.2 million, have been awarded in 15 districts, while 52 projects have been completed.
- To date, 332 grant applications, including 326 infrastructure and six capacity building projects, valued at nearly \$14.7 million, have been received, and 205 have been approved by USAID.
- During the week, eight grant applications, valued at over \$324,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). The approved projects are slated for six districts.
- Thirteen new engineering designs, valued at over \$295,000 and covering projects in nine districts, were completed in the reporting period.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- A two-day training session on Infrastructure Project Implementation was conducted for nine men from Khwaja Umari District.
- Six engineering designs, worth \$118,000, were completed during the week for Andar, Dih Yak, Jaghatu, and Qarabagh Districts.
- Two non-infrastructure grant packages, one each for Qarabagh and Khwaja Umari Districts and together valued at approximately \$80,000, were completed.

KHOST

- Six training sessions were conducted for a total of 61 men from Khost: an Infrastructure Project Implementation training session for Tani, Gurbuz, and Jaji Maydan Districts, and Grant Management training for Jaji Maydan. In addition, a two-day Resource Dialogue and Advocacy ToT was conducted for 21 men from the province.
- Three new grants – two for Gurbuz and one for Jaji Maydan, cumulatively valued at over \$147,000 – were awarded this week.
- Four engineering designs, valued at approximately \$50,000, were completed during the week. These included two designs each for Mando Zayi and Jaji Maydan District.

LOGAR

- Two training sessions were conducted in Logar Province during the week. One was a two-day Resource Dialogue and Advocacy ToT for 18 participants in Pul-e Alam. It was attended by the

Governors of the three districts where SIKA-East is being implemented, as well as PRRD representatives, the staff of PG and DG offices, and DoWA employees. The other training was a two-day session in Infrastructure Project Implementation for 15 men from Mohammad Agha.

- One project engineering design, worth nearly \$15,000, was completed during the week.
- Three projects, cumulatively valued at approximately \$129,000, were reviewed and approved by a GRC: two for Mohammad Agha District and one for Baraki Barak.
- So far, USAID has approved 50 grants projects, worth \$2.3 million, for Logar Province: 19 for Baraki Barak, five for Khoshi and 26 for Mohammad Agha. Eighteen projects have been completed and the rest are being implemented.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training was conducted for 19 men and three women from Chaki Wardak, Jalrez, Nirkh, and Saydabad Districts. The participants included the Governors of those districts, their co-workers, and employees of other organizations.
- 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 65 grants from USAID, 49 of which have been awarded: 13 for Chaki Wardak, 15 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 27, and they have a cumulative value of over \$1 million.

PAKTYA

- Eight training sessions were conducted in Paktya Province during the week. They included six Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training sessions for a total number of 19 men from Laja Ahmad Khail, Ahmad Abad, Zurmat, Zadran and Gerda Serai; a two-day Infrastructure Project Implementation training for 17 men from Laja Ahmad Khail; and a four-day Grants Management training session for 10 men also from that district.
- One new engineering design, valued at nearly \$47,000, was completed for Laja Mangal District. Sixteen engineering designs are under development for Paktya Province.
- A PRRD and SIKA-East joint GRC reviewed and approved four projects, worth over \$2168,000: two for Ahmad Abad and one each for Laja Mangal and Laja Ahmad Khail District.
- One new grant, valued at nearly \$25,000, was awarded to Laja Ahmad Khail District this week, bringing to 11 the number of grants awarded to Paktya Province.

CHALLENGES

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

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2014

- Preparations for the April 3 presidential election continue in the provinces and districts where SIKA-East is operating. Local people continue to register to vote, and the Independent Election Commission continues to encourage them. The IEC has also started recruiting female workers in different areas for various tasks so as to fully involve them in the process. Campaigning has started in all five target provinces. 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 the presence of women is rarely seen.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Invite IDLG and MRRD representatives to discuss gender mainstreaming in Kabul on February 17;
- Conduct Service Providers Fair (SPF) in Khost Province;
- Conduct Lessons Learned session for Khost Province;
- Make 15 milestone payments, valued at nearly \$74,000, to projects in nine districts;
- Award \$69,307 in grants for infrastructure projects in four districts.

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	3	14	\$543,552	4	4	14	12	10	\$485,419	5	\$311,404	2	\$119,888
	Dih Yak	1	15	\$633,964	3	8	16	15	15	\$607,319	9	\$356,913	6	\$240,332
	Jaghatau	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Khwaja Umari	0	11	\$417,873	14	0	11	10	8	\$296,331	3	\$43,745	0	\$0
	Qarabagh	6	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Khost	Gurbuz	3	13	\$719,858	7	3	13	9	9	\$439,494	4	\$183,106	0	\$0
	Jaji Maydan	4	4	\$182,049	3	1	4	4	3	\$147,431	1	\$26,578	0	\$0
	Mando Zayi	4	7	\$272,536	3	0	7	6	5	\$198,536	1	\$78,182	0	\$0
	Tani	3	11	\$451,355	2	1	10	6	5	\$119,920	2	\$50,863	0	\$0
Logar	Baraki Barak	6	27	\$1,200,657	2	15	27	19	19	\$845,057	17	\$701,261	4	\$185,322
	Khoshi	0	11	\$577,415	2	0	12	5	5	\$281,460	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Moh. Agha	1	28	\$1,302,738	0	25	28	26	26	\$1,253,782	25	\$1,215,231	13	\$561,206
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	\$490,325	3	\$144,072
	Nirakh	0	23	\$1,149,330	3	17	22	20	20	\$1,000,537	15	\$813,524	10	\$499,641
	Saydabad	0	34	\$1,044,598	6	15	32	30	29	\$1,004,980	21	\$614,641	14	\$383,118
Paktya	Ahmad Abad	21	21	\$1,069,773	6	0	7	2	1	\$32,614	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	12	7	\$203,782	3	0	10	6	6	\$167,419	5	\$107,787	0	\$0
	Laja Mangal	10	18	\$364,257	10	0	11	9	8	\$160,466	2	\$42,953	0	\$0
	Zadran	8	13	\$520,119	5	2	8	5	5	\$329,045	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	11	12	\$479,588	1	0	3	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Zurmat	3	16	\$1,056,347	8	3	13	11	10	\$541,052	4	\$218,645	0	\$0
Total		98	326	\$14,235,887	88	104	266	213	201	\$8,588,068	127	\$5,255,158	52	\$2,133,579
Capacity Building Grants		6	6	\$442,225	1	3	5	4	4	\$171,296	0	\$0	0	\$0
Grand Total		104	332	\$14,678,112	89	107	271	217	205	\$8,759,364	127	\$5,255,158	52	\$2,133,579