



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 116

MARCH 8 – 13, 2014



Tagab Payan boys' school surrounding wall construction project in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province is almost completed

March 17, 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:

- Three projects were completed this week in Baraki Barak and Mohammad Agha Districts of Logar Province: tailoring training for women in four hawzas of Baraki Barak, Chahashanbi karez extension project in Baraki Barak District and Suryak karez rehabilitation and cleaning project in Mohammad Agha District.
- Four-day Local Governance training was conducted jointly by Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and SIKA-East team. This training aimed to build the capacity of District Social Workers (DSWs) and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) community mobilizers.



Women in Logar Province registering to enter the hall where International Women's Day is being celebrated

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Three training activities were conducted in two districts during the week and were attended by 32 participants.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 21,325 individuals, of whom 16,007 are men and 5,318 women, have attended a total of 626 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Three grants, with a cumulative value of over \$60,000, were awarded in three districts.
 - To date, 415 grant applications – including 337 infrastructure, 72 non-infrastructure, and six capacity building projects, all valued at nearly \$17 million – have been received, and 275 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - One hundred and seventy-five grants, with a value of nearly \$6.1 million, have been awarded, while 58 projects have been completed.

Elders Consultation meeting

- In preparation for the Maydan Wardak Women's DDA+ Jalsa (forum) to be held on March 18-19, 22 influential women from the four SIKA-East districts gathered with district officials for a briefing on SIKA-East and consultations.
- Led by the Maidan Wardak PRRD Director along with District Governors from Chaki-Wardak, Nirkh, and Saydabad, and selected DDA+ members, the Elder Consultation covered MRRD/PRRD strategy and programs; SIKA-East objectives and key processes, such as district planning; DDA+ role and responsibilities; and *Jalsa* purpose, topics, session presenters, and invited participants.
- In addition to expanding women's understanding of SIKA-East-facilitated progress to date, the event resulted in GIRoA, DDA+, and local leadership consensus on the event. The consultation was preceded by a ToT for selected DDA+ members, DSWs, and SIKA-East staff.
- Maydan Wardak is the pilot province for the first *Jalsa*, after which it will be rolled out in the other four provinces. The two-day event will join DDA+ members with local government representatives, distinguished female members of Provincial Councils, and other influential women to assess government and leadership progress addressing women's priorities, discuss and problem-solve obstacles, and plot next steps.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED IN FIVE PROVINCES



Ms. Shima Zargar, head of the Directorate of Women's Affairs for Logar Province, addresses participants at the celebratory event in Pul-e Alam on March 8. Distinguished guests included (from left to right) Mr. Rahmatullah Sarwari, Logar PRRD Director, Mr. Abdul Wali Wakil, Head of Logar Provincial Council, and Mr. Niaz Amiri, Provincial Governor of Logar.

On March 8 and 9, SIKA-East supported Directorates of Women's Affairs (DoWA) in Ghazni, Logar, Khost, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya to host province-wide events in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8. Nearly 2,000 participants – 1,549 women and 409 men – attended the five events. Women made up an overwhelming 80% of the participants, a huge success for women's inclusion.

These events provided a rare forum for influential women from districts across each province to interact with senior GIRoA authorities and raise with them issues that were cited as some of the key sources of conflict during district planning sessions. These included the lack of livelihood opportunities for women, harmful traditional practices, and inadequate access to health and education services, among others.

For many local women, this was the first opportunity to directly engage provincial and district officials on their concerns and a rewarding complement to SIKA-East district planning sessions.

Additionally, the gatherings provided greater exposure for local DoWA offices that serve as the primary – and in some cases the only – trusted representative of women in these districts.

In Afghanistan, women remain hugely underrepresented in sub-national governance structures and institutions. The problem is not a lack of willingness to be involved; rather, women's leadership capacity is often unrecognized and unrewarded. Amplifying female voices, representation, and leadership were key themes emphasized in this year's International Women's Day events. The 'voice' end of the spectrum, must begin with creating the pre-conditions for voice, through awareness-raising and building the capacity to mobilize. These events that took place across the five provinces created a platform for building the capacity of women to mobilize around their needs and concerns, and increased access to important Line Directorates.

To ensure continued engagement of female leaders and their greater participation in key governance processes at the district and provincial levels, with support of MRRD and IDLG, SIKA-East will facilitate follow-on Action Summits in each province ("Jalsas") to review progress on government action concerning the issues raised, deepen the dialogue with key line departments, and improve cross-district networking.

Finally, the program will continue regular advocacy and lobbying training efforts for female DDA+ members to help them develop confidence and acquire concrete skills to effectively engage in the governance process, both as participants and decision-makers; advocate for their interests, concerns, and needs; and influence and benefit from public services.



Mr. Shah Mahammad, a Representative of the Directorate for Haj and Religious Affairs in Khost spoke about the role of Islam in preserving women's rights, particularly discussing issues regarding women's rights to inheritance and taking an active role in politics.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

LOCAL GOVERNANCE TRAINING

- SIKa-East and MRRD/Community Led Development Department (CLDD) jointly conducted a four-day Local Governance training from March 9 to 12 for DSWs and community mobilizers and managers from National Based Development Program (NABDP). The total number of the trainees was 40 including three females. The main objectives of this training were to integrate MRRD and SIKa-East curricula and strengthen the knowledge base of the DSWs and NABDP community mobilizers on key roles and functions of sub-national entities, including District Development Assembly (DDA), Community Development Council (CDC) and District Community Council (DCC).

CLDD SUPPORT

- This week SIKa-East met with CLDD Director to discuss the ways to support CLDD in terms of implementing an information system as outlined in an initial concept note written by CLDD. The two initiatives that SIKa-East is going to investigate working on in the short-term are: data collection and reporting on training for all levels (village to district to provincial to Kabul), and a local-based training on planning and implementation of series of community events.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- On March 8 and 9, SIKa-East supported Directorates of Women's Affairs (DoWA) in Ghazni, Logar, Khost, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya to host province-wide events in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8. Nearly 2,000 participants – 1,549 women and 409 men -- attended the five events. Women made up an overwhelming 80% of the participants, a huge success for women's inclusion. Please see highlight page for full report.

TRAINING

- Three training activities were conducted in two districts during the week and were attended by 32 men. These trainings included two sessions in Grants Management and one session on Infrastructure Project Implementation in districts of Mando Zayi and Laja Ahmad Khail.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- During the week, three grants, with a cumulative value of over \$60,000, were awarded in three districts.



Closing ceremony of Chahashanbi karez extension in Mohammad Agha District of Logar Province



Baraki Barak tailoring training participants receive their certificates of completion



Noor Khail protection wall project in Chaki Wardak District is on-going

- To date, 415 grant applications – for 337 infrastructure, 72 non-infrastructure, and six transition initiative projects, all together valued at nearly \$17 million – have been received, and 275 applications have been approved by USAID.
- Seven grant applications, valued at nearly \$292,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East GRC. The approved projects are slated for five districts.
- Five new engineering designs, valued at nearly \$158,000 and covering projects in ten districts, were completed in the reporting period.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- The ten-day animal husbandry training for Tasan, Ramak and Rabat villages of Dih Yak District started on March 9. Representatives of PRRD and DDA were present during the opening ceremony. The beneficiaries of the training are 30 CDC members.
- Three engineering designs worth nearly \$56,000 were completed and finalized for Khwaja Umari District. The three projects were reviewed and approved by joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC.
- So far, 56 grant project applications, cumulatively valued at nearly \$1.8 million, have been received for Ghazni Province. Thirty-nine projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 14 have been awarded and are under way, seven have been pronounced physically complete, and one is closed.

KHOST

- Two training sessions were conducted in Khost Province during the week. These included separate sessions on Grants Management and Infrastructure Project Implementation for a total number of 16 men from Mando Zayi District.
- One grant, valued at over \$24,000, was awarded for a project in Mando Zayi District this week. To date, 25 grant projects have been awarded to Khost Province: nine for Gurbuz, four for Jaji Maydan, six for Mando Zayi, and six for Tani.

LOGAR

- Two infrastructure projects were completed and closed during the week: Rehabilitation of exiting well covers and construction of protection wall of Chahashanbi karez in Baraki Barak District and Suryak Karez rehabilitation and cleaning project in Mohammad Agha District.
- Additionally, tailoring training project for four hawzas of Baraki Barak was completed and the closing ceremony took place on March 13. This project was for 36 days during which the trainees not only learned tailoring but also were provided with tailoring kits for their future use in income generation.
- Two projects totally worth nearly \$121,000 were reviewed by joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC for Baraki Barak District.
- So far, USAID has approved 66 grants projects, worth nearly \$3 million, for Logar Province: 26 for Baraki Barak, 12 for Khoshi, and 28 for Mohammad Agha. Nineteen projects have been completed, including three that are officially closed.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- One grant valued at over \$17,000, was awarded for Jalrez District.

- To date, 101 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 19 for Chaki Wardak, 25 for Jalrez, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad.
- SIKA-East has received approval for 77 grants from USAID, and 50 have been awarded, in Maydan Wardak Province: 13 for Chaki Wardak, 16 for Nirkh, and 21 for Saydabad. The number of completed projects in Wardak Province is 28, and their cumulative value is over \$1 million. Of these 28 projects, 11 are closed.

PAKTYA

- During the week, one Grants Management training session was conducted for 16 men from Laja Ahmad Khail District.
- Two new engineering designs, worth nearly \$102,000, were completed for Ahmad Abad District. One of the mentioned projects was reviewed and approved by PRRD and SIKA-East joint GRC.
- To date, 121 grant applications have been received for Paktya Province: 24 for Ahmad Abad, 17 for Laja Ahmad Khail, 19 for Laja Mangal, 19 for Zadran, 18 for Zurmat, and 24 for Garda Serai.
- SIKA-East has received 43 grant application approvals from USAID, and 18 grants have been awarded. However, due to cold weather in the area, some projects have not yet started.

CHALLENGES

- Implementation of two projects in Zurmat District of Paktya Province is on hold due to security issues in the area. According to CDC members, these projects can resume after 2014 election.
- Heavy snow fall in Ghazni Province caused delay in payment plan in Ghazni 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. Provincial council candidates started campaigning during the week.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct pilot female DDA+ action summit in Maydan Wardak Province;
- Award over \$148,000 in grants for infrastructure projects in four districts; and
- Make twelve milestone payments, in the amount of over \$157,000, to projects in nine 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 (Ongoing)		Grants Completed		Grants Closed (Past Retention Period)		Total Grants Awarded	
		No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	3	16	\$498,892	5	4	16	14	12	\$465,699	4	\$186,972	2	\$132,748	0	0	6	\$319,721
	Bahrami Shahid (Jaghatau)	0	4	\$95,666	2	0	4	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
	Dih Yak	1	16	\$617,468	3	8	17	15	15	\$590,822	5	\$139,292	5	\$221,245	1	\$19,087	11	\$379,624
	Khwaja Umari	0	18	\$540,727	15	0	18	14	12	\$391,989	5	\$79,430	0	\$0	0	0	5	\$79,430
	Qarabagh	6	2	\$71,233	0	0	2	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
Khost	Gurbuz	2	15	\$654,055	4	3	15	14	14	\$554,055	9	\$280,455	0	\$0	0	\$0	9	\$280,455
	Jaji Maidan	4	9	\$307,055	2	1	10	5	6	\$227,651	4	\$99,897	0	\$0	0	\$0	4	\$99,897
	Mando Zayi	5	13	\$359,632	4	0	13	12	12	\$327,489	6	\$143,089	0	\$0	0	\$0	6	\$143,089
	Tani	0	19	\$632,709	5	1	17	14	14	\$517,442	6	\$133,094	0	\$0	0	\$0	6	\$133,094
Logar	Baraki Barak	4	30	1,335,037	4	16	30	26	26	\$1,102,536	11	\$411,808	8	\$280,022	0	0	19	\$691,831
	Khoshi	0	14	\$708,809	5	0	15	12	12	\$566,927	4	\$72,845	0	\$0	0	0	4	\$72,845
	Mohammad.Agha	1	31	\$1,480,310	2	23	31	28	28	\$1,276,266	13	\$585,323	11	\$507,748	3	105,763	27	\$1,198,834
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	1	19	\$789,499	4	9	18	17	17	\$678,877	10	\$322,792	3	\$144,072	0	0	13	\$466,863
	Jalrez	0	25	\$968,507	4	0	13	9	9	\$172,966	7	\$136,227	0	\$0	0	\$0	7	\$136,227
	Nirkh	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	\$1,037,197	5	16	32	31	31	\$1,148,010	6	\$197,282	7	\$213,528	8	185,860	21	\$596,669
Paktya	Ahmad Abad	20	24	\$1,211,803	10	0	12	5	5	\$266,164	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	13	17	\$546,263	5	0	14	10	10	\$255,105	8	\$173,995	0	\$0	0	0	8	\$173,995
	Laja Mangal	8	19	\$732,832	9	2	14	12	11	\$403,147	5	\$185,779	0	\$0	0	0	5	\$185,779
	Zadran	14	19	\$714,964	9	2	10	5	5	\$329,045	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
	Zurmat	2	18	\$1,141,143	8	4	15	12	11	\$607,184	5	\$268,948	0	\$0	0	0	5	\$268,948
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	24	24	\$883,597	6	0	3	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
Total		108	409	\$16,476,728.00	114	106	341	276	271	\$10,930,167.00	114	\$3,718,352.00	43	1,820,969	15	\$488,745.00	172	\$6,028,066.00

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.	No.	\$ Value	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	Amount USD	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Infrastructure Grants	76	337	\$14,276,451.36	71	95	275	238	235	\$9,712,338.11	106	\$3,595,356.15	41	\$1,779,018.63	12	\$433,534.94	159	\$5,807,909.72
Non-infrastructure Grants	32	72	\$2,200,276.03	43	11	66	38	36	\$1,217,829.94	8	\$122,996.73	2	\$41,950.91	3	\$55,209.00	13	\$220,156.64
Transition Initiatives Grants	6	6	\$442,225.29	2	3	5	4	4	\$171,296.00	3	\$128,472.00	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,472.00

Grand Total	114	415	\$16,918,952.32	116	109	346	280	275	\$11,101,464.05	117	\$3,846,824.89	43	\$1,820,969.54	15	\$488,743.94	175	\$6,156,538
--------------------	------------	------------	------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------------------	------------	-----------------------	-----------	-----------------------	-----------	---------------------	------------	--------------------