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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 117

MARCH 15 – 20, 2014



*Work on water well project in Shaheed Zlamai school Khwaja Umari District of Ghazni Province is in progress*

**March 24, 2014**

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### Highlights of the Week:

- Two projects were completed this week in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province: Tagab Payan school boundary wall and Naw Abad Zargaran karez rehabilitation projects.
- Six grant projects started during the week: Qala Faizo and Qala Baghar protection walls in Mayda Wardak, Zero Zabar and Bara Waza protection wall projects in Paktya, Shayan karez rehabilitation and Sangar Khail protection wall projects in Logar Province.



*Mr. Fazel Karim District Governor of Saydabad delivering a speech during DDA+ conference*

### SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
  - Twelve training activities were conducted in nine districts during the week and were attended by 148 participants.
  - Since the beginning of the program, 21,478 individuals, of whom 16,155 are men and 5,323 women, have attended a total of 638 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
  - Eleven grants, with a cumulative value of over \$373,000 were awarded in seven districts.
  - To date, 417 grant applications – including 339 infrastructure, 72 non-infrastructure, and six capacity building projects, all valued at nearly \$17 million – have been received, and 282 applications have been approved by USAID.
  - One hundred and eighty-nine grants, with a value of nearly \$6.6 million, have been awarded, while 61 projects have been completed.

### Female DDA+ Conference

- The Maydan Wardak Women's DDA+ Jalsa was held on March 18 and 19, providing female leaders with a dedicated forum to exercise leadership, explore district interests and concerns, and exchange viewpoints with government representatives. The participants included 40 female District Development Assembly (DDA+) leaders representing Chaki-Wardak, Jalrez, Nirkh, and Saydabad districts; a representative from the Provincial Governor; District Governors, District Social Workers (DSWs); district sector manager of Jalrez villages; and two women police officers. The representatives from the Directorate of Women Affairs (DoWA) were invited, but unable to join. The participants shared cross-district analysis of issues, evaluated progress addressing priority issues, and discussed common obstacles and solutions. Maydan Wardak was the pilot province for the first DDA+ elders' consultation and Jalsa. Other similar events will be rolled out in the other four provinces following an event debriefing in Kabul at the end of March. The target is to generate female representation from all districts. SIKA-East will work closely with government partners including DoWA to widen the circle of engagement.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### RADIO CALL-IN SHOW

SIKA-East facilitated a two-day Radio Call-in Show Training of Trainers (ToT) for the field staff to enable them to train panelists on an upcoming series of radio call-in shows anticipated to begin this spring. The target panelist audience is a mix of government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) leaders in the districts who have been identified as potential participants when the programs begin airing.

### GENDER ACTIVITIES

- SIKA-East reached out to several GIRoA and organizational representatives to initiate a conversation on issues pertaining to women and economic development in the geographic zone covered by SIKA-East. The initial response to establishing a working group was strong, with positive answers from Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG), Zardozi, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit, as each has departments, programs, and research contributing to women's economic development. SIKA-East is obtaining updated contact information for the USAID-funded Assisting Businesses in Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE), as ABADE has the potential to be a valuable member of the working group. Creating a forum as described above will provide an opportunity to share information about ongoing initiatives, including the upcoming Woman-Owned Business Technical Assistance project, as well as learn about other resources that can heighten women's employment potential and access to assets along with strengthening entrepreneurial networks. SIKA-East plans to convene the first session in the next two weeks.
- A briefing paper was drafted on female perspectives on district planning and is currently under internal review. Shedding light on women's contributions, the analysis will cover the cooperation between male and female DDA+ members, prioritization of problems and solutions, and how local resiliencies and advocacy efforts have helped address these concerns. Finally, the paper will offer recommendations on how female perspectives can be further integrated in district planning, and what steps can be taken to encourage dialogue between male and female DDA+ members throughout the entire process. The paper will be the first in a series of SIKA-East reports that will illuminate gender perspectives in the governance cycle such as; DDA+ membership selection and district planning, resourcing, and service delivery. The briefings will examine



*Closing ceremony of Zargaran karez rehabilitation project in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province*



*Mayda Wardak women during DDA+ conference*



*Koli Ghulam Khan kariz extension project in Ghazni Province*

five overarching dimensions of female and male contributions, as incorporated in SIKA-East's gender mainstreaming approach: Voice, representation and leadership, influence and decision-making, participation, access to information, and benefit from services delivered.

## **TRAINING**

- Twelve training activities were conducted in nine districts during the week and were attended by 148 men and five women. These trainings included sessions in Grants Management, Infrastructure Project Implementation, Negotiation Strategy and Fundraising in districts of Khwaja Umari, Gurbuz, Mando Zayi, Tani, Baraki Barak, Khoshi, Jalrez and Zadran.

## **GRANTS AND ENGINEERING**

- During the week, 11 grants, with a cumulative value of over \$373,000, were awarded in seven districts.
- To date, 417 grant applications – for 339 infrastructure, 72 non-infrastructure, and six transition initiative projects, valued at nearly \$17 million – have been received, and 282 applications have been approved by USAID.
- Three grant applications, valued at nearly \$864,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). The approved projects are slated for two districts.
- Seven new engineering designs, valued at nearly \$258,000 and covering projects in seven districts, were completed in the reporting period.

## **SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **GHAZNI**

- A Grants Management training session was conducted for five men and one woman in Khwaja Umari District.
- Fifty-six grant project applications, cumulatively valued at over \$1.8 million, have been received for Ghazni Province. 41 projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 15 have been awarded and are under way and seven have been pronounced physically complete.

### **KHOST**

- Four 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 32 men from Mando Zayi, Tani and Gurbuz Districts.
- Three grants, valued at over \$83,000, were awarded for a project in Tani and Grubuz Districts this week. To date, 31 grant projects have been awarded to Khost Province: eleven for Gurbuz, five for Jaji Maydan, eight for Mando Zayi, and seven for Tani.
- One project worth nearly \$25,000 was reviewed and approved by SIKA-East and PRRD joint GRC.

### **LOGAR**

- Four training sessions for a total number of 83 men and three women were conducted for Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha and Khoshi District. These sessions included Grants Management, Infrastructure Project Implementation, Negotiation Strategy and Fundraising.

- Two projects were completed in Baraki Barak District during the week: Tagab Payan school boundary wall and Naw Abad Zargaran karez rehabilitation. The total cost of the two projects was over \$81,000 and were started respectively on September 5 and October 29, 2013. Additionally, implementation of two infrastructure projects started during the week: Shayan Karez rehabilitation in Baraki Barak and Sangar Khel protection wall construction in Mohammad Agha District.
- Three engineering designs worth nearly \$94,000 were completed for Khoshi and Baraki Barak Districts.
- One project valued at over \$ 22,000 was awarded for Baraki Barak District during the week.
- To date, USAID has approved 67 grants projects, worth nearly \$3 million, for Logar Province: 27 for Baraki Barak, 12 for Khoshi, and 28 for Mohammad Agha. Twenty-one projects have been completed, including three that are officially closed.

### **MAYDAN WARDAK**

- Two Grants Management training sessions were conducted in Mayda Wardak Province during the week: Grants Management training session for five men and one woman from Jalrez and Infrastructure Project Implementation for 20 men from the same district.
- Implementation of two projects started in Mayda Wardak Province during the week: Qala Faizo and Qala Baghar protection walls in Jalrez District.
- Two grants valued at nearly \$37,000, were 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.

### **PAKTYA**

- A Grants Management training session was conducted for three men from Zadran District of Paktya Province.
- Zero Zabar protection wall construction project in Laja Ahmad Khail and Bara Waza protection wall project in Zadran District started during the week.
- Two new engineering designs, worth nearly \$114,000, were completed for Ahmad Abad and Zurmat Districts.
- To date, 122 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 25 for Garda Serai.
- Five grants valued at over \$231,000 were awarded for Paktya Province: one for Zadran and two each for Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts.
- SIK-East has received 44 grant application approvals from USAID, and 23 grants have been awarded. However, due to cold weather and security instability in the area, some projects are on hold.

### **CHALLENGES**

- During the week SIK-East received letters from CDCs of Zurmat District stating that it is not possible for them to implement three projects before election: Bazak karez rehabilitation and construction of protection wall, Kot Khail ditch construction, and Wara canal construction. CDC members have allegedly received threats regarding their participation in elections; as a result,

movement within the area is limited to impossible. Additionally, a local ban on motorbikes makes visiting sites difficult.

## **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2014**

Campaigning is under way in all five provinces where SIKA-East is operating. One of the presidential candidates visited Logar and Khost Provinces during the week, which encouraged the local people toward registration for election cards. However, there have been complaints about the slow process of registration. Polling centers have been established in capital cities and provincial governments have put security measures in place. The provincial council candidates have also started campaigning in capital cities.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Conduct lessons learnt session for SIKA-East staff of Logar, Paktya and Maydan Wardak Provinces;
- Award over \$47,000 in grants for three infrastructure projects in Jalrez district; and
- Make 29 milestone payments, in the amount of nearly \$191,000, to projects in 11 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	508,051	6	3	16	14	12	\$474,858	4	\$196,131	2	132,748	0	0	6	\$328,880
	Bahrami Shahid (Jaghatau)	0	4	95,666	2	0	4	2	2	\$95,666	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	6	\$93,883	0	0	0	0	6	\$93,883
	Qarabagh	6	2	71,233	0	0	2	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
Khost	Gurbuz	2	16	678,556	5	4	16	15	15	\$578,556	11	\$343,854	0	0	0	\$0	11	\$343,854
	Jaji Maidan	4	9	293,124	2	1	10	5	6	\$213,720	5	\$119,966	0	0	0	\$0	5	\$119,966
	Mando Zayi	5	13	382,030	4	0	13	12	12	\$349,887	8	\$192,962	0	0	0	\$0	8	\$192,962
	Tani	0	19	\$632,709	5	1	17	14	14	\$517,442	7	\$152,708	0	0	0	\$0	7	\$152,708
Logar	Baraki Barak	4	30	1,335,037	4	16	30	26	27	\$1,127,468	10	\$396,890	9	294,941	0	0	19	\$691,831
	Khoshi	0	14	\$705,737	7	0	15	12	12	\$564,968	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	12	\$549,452	12	543,619	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	5	0	13	11	11	\$220,325	9	\$172,966	0	0	0	\$0	9	\$172,966
	Nirkh	0	23	\$1,149,330	0	21	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	5	\$133,008	8	277,802	8	185,860	21	\$596,669
Paktya	Ahmad Abad	20	24	\$1,236,542	12	0	12	5	5	\$266,164	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	13	17	\$546,221	4	1	14	10	10	\$255,063	10	\$255,063	0	0	0	0	10	\$255,063
	Laja Mangal	7	19	\$731,562	7	4	14	12	12	\$450,297	7	\$255,676	0	0	0	0	7	\$255,676
	Zadran	14	19	\$675,314	9	3	10	5	5	\$319,429	1	\$80,132	0	0	0	0	1	\$80,132
	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)	25	25	\$915,961	6	0	3	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>108</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>\$16,531,921.93</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>\$11,175,784.67</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>\$4,047,691.87</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$1,936,033</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$ 488,743.94</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>\$ 6,472,468.69</b>

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	339	\$14,331,646.27	76	99	276	243	242	\$9,957,954.73	117	\$3,924,695.14	45	\$1,974,213.89	12	\$ 433,534.94	174	\$6,332,443.97
Non-infrastructure Grants	32	72	\$2,200,276.03	40	15	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	-	3	\$128,472.00

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>\$16,974,147.22</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>\$ 11,347,080.67</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>\$4,176,163.87</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$1,936,032.87</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$488,743.94</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>\$6,600,941</b>
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