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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 118

MARCH 22 – 27, 2014



Work on VarekhmeenTangay flood Protection wall in Laja Ahmad Khail Districts of Paktya Province is in progress

March 31, 2014

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Highlights of the Week:

- This week witnessed completion of four grants projects with a cumulative value of over \$150,000: Ghulam Khan karez extension in Mohammad Agha District, Tagab Payan school boundary wall construction and Naw Abad Zargaran karez rehabilitation projects in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province and Khairuddin protection wall construction project in Mando Zayi District of Khost Province.
- Animal husbandry training course in Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province was completed during the week. The trainees received tool kits.



SIKA-East staff sharing their ideas during a group work in lessons learnt session

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Thirty-three training activities were conducted in eighteen districts during the week and were attended by 307 participants.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 21,785 individuals, of whom 16,433 are men and 5,352 women, have attended a total of 671 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Two grants, with a cumulative value of nearly \$77,000 were awarded for Chaki Wardak District of Wardak Province.
 - To date, 420 grant applications – including 342 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 ninety-one grants, with a value of nearly \$6.6 million, have been awarded, while 64 projects have been completed.

Continued MRRD/CLDD-SIKA-East Cooperation on Capacity Strengthening of DSWs

- During the week, SIK-East and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)/Community Led Development Department (CLDD) senior staff met to discuss the upcoming training, which will focus on role of facilitators - District Social Workers (DSW) - in the community development.
- The training will be based on a workshop on community facilitation that select CLDD members recently attended in Indonesia during a study trip. CLDD and SIK-East are currently adapting the training materials to the context of Afghanistan and preparing the delivery to DSWs and National Area Based Program (NABDP) community mobilizers in SIK-East districts.
- This will be the third in the series of workshops jointly designed and delivered by CLDD and SIK-East as a part of the effort to encourage MRRD partners to assume greater role in SIK-East and governance processes in general.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

LESSONS LEARNT

- During the week SIKA-East conducted a three-day lessons learnt session in Kabul for the field staff from Logar, Paktya and Maydan Wardak Provinces. Seventy-five participants including six women shared their achievement and challenges.

PROVINCIAL STAFF TRAINING

- On March 23 and 24, SIKA-East conducted a two-day training workshop for SIKA-East provincial and district managers and Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) regional coordinators to improve field coordination. The workshop was designed to provide program updates from field staff, discuss challenges and recommendations for an improved implementation and cooperation with government partners. The total number of participants was 31, including representatives from IDLG.

TRAINING CONCEPT NOTE

- SIKA-East and MRRD/CLDD jointly developed a concept note for the design and implementation of the Management Information System (MIS) for CLDD to facilitate better information flow between villages, district and provincial MRRD offices and the Kabul office. The concept note is submitted for USAID review.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- As the focal point for gender-related issues, gender officers are now attending each Grant Review Committee (GRC) meeting at the provincial level to make sure that women's interests and benefits are protected during delivery of services. An immediate impact was seen when the Maidan Wardak gender officer successfully challenged GRC members' perception that young women would not be interested in Konkor – university preparatory exam - courses.

TRAINING

- Thirty-three training activities were conducted in eighteen districts during the week and were attended by 278 men and 29 women. These trainings included sessions in Negotiation Strategy, Lobbying, Grants Management, and Infrastructure Project Implementation in districts of Andar, Bahrami Shahid (Jaghathu), Dih Yak, Khwaja Umari, Qarabagh, Gurbuz, Mando Zayi, Tani, Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, Chaki Wardak, Jalrez, Nirkh, Saydabad, Ahmad Abad, Laja Mangal, Zurmat and Zadran.



Beginning of Lashkari Khair protection wall construction project in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province



Animal Husbandry tool kits ready to be distributed to trainees



Mula Mohammad Gudul culvert construction in Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- During the week, two grants, with a cumulative value of nearly \$77,000, were awarded in Chaki Wardak District.
- To date, 420 grant applications – for 342 infrastructure, 72 non-infrastructure, and six transition initiative projects, valued at over \$17 million – have been received, and 285 applications have been approved by USAID.
- Twelve grant applications, valued at nearly \$377,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East GRCs. The approved projects are slated for ten districts.
- Ten new engineering designs, valued at over \$272,000 and covering projects in seven districts, were completed in the reporting period.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- Ten training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province during the week. These included five sessions of Negotiation Strategy, and five session of Lobbying. A total number of 77 men and 18 women from Andar, Bahrami Shahid (Jaghatu), Dih Yak, Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh were trained during these sessions.
- Four milestone payments were made for Ghazni Province. They included two projects each in Dih Yak and Andar Districts. All the four projects are non-infrastructure.
- Two engineering designs worth over \$52,000 were completed for Khwaja Umari District.
- Fifty-six grant project applications, cumulatively valued at over \$1.8 million, have been received for Ghazni Province. Forty-two projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 15 have been awarded and are under way and eight have been pronounced physically complete.
- Animal husbandry training project in Dih Yak District was completed on March 23. During this project 45 men from five villages were trained.

KHOST

- Four training sessions were conducted in Khost Province during the week. These included three separate sessions on Infrastructure Project Implementation and one session on Grants Management for a total number of 37 men from Gurbuz, Tani and Mando Zayi Districts.
- Nine milestone payments totally valued at over \$70,000 were made for Khost Province during the week: four for Gurbuz, three for Tani and one each for Jaji Maydan and Mando Zayi.
- Five engineering designs worth over \$164,000 were completed: two for Tani, and one each for Jaji Maydan, Gurbuz and Mando Zayi Districts.
- Khairuddin protection wall construction project located in Tani District was completed during the week. This project worth over \$22,000, started on February 5, and was completed on March 24.
- So far, SIKA-East has received 57 grants applications worth nearly \$2 million. Forty-seven projects have received USAID approval of which 31 have been awarded: 11 for Gurbuz, five for Jaji Maydan, eight for Mando Zayi and seven for Tani.

LOGAR

- Two separate Infrastructure Project Planning training sessions for a total number of 38 men from Baraki Barak and Mohammad Agha were held during the week.
- One milestone payment worth over \$9,000 was made for Mohammad Agha District.
- Three projects were completed in Logar Province during the week: Ghulam Khan karez extension in Mohammad Agha District, Tagab Payan school boundary wall construction and Naw Abad Zargaran karez rehabilitation projects in Baraki Barak District. The total value of the mentioned three projects is over \$128,000. Additionally, Lashkari Khail protection wall construction project started in Mohammad Agha District.
- One engineering design worth over \$4,000 was completed for Baraki Barak District.
- 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-four projects have been completed, including three that are officially closed.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Four training sessions on Negotiation Strategy and four sessions on Fundraising were conducted for a cumulative number of 16 men and six women from the districts of Chaki Wardak, Jalrez, Nirkh and Saydabad.
- Two grants with a total value of nearly \$77,000 were awarded for Chaki Wardak 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. Eighty projects received USAID approval and 30 projects have been awarded, of which 18 have been completed.

PAKTYA

- Ten separate training sessions on topics including Grants Management, Infrastructure Project Implementation, and Fundraising were conducted for 94 men from districts of Ahmad Abad, Laja Mangal, Zadran and Zurmat.
- Two new engineering designs, worth nearly \$52,000, were completed for Laja Ahmad Khail District.
- To date, 125 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 28 for Garda Serai.
- SIK-East has received 47 grant application approvals from USAID, and 23 grants have been awarded. However, due to volatile security in the area and upcoming presidential elections, projects are on hold.

CHALLENGES

- Due to the unstable security situation, the District Governor of Laja Ahmad Khail advised SIK-East to put grants projects on hold and resume with implementation after the presidential elections. Projects in Zurmat were postponed for the same reason.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2014

Presidential campaigning continued throughout the week in all five provinces where SIKAEast is operating. One of the presidential candidates visited Khost Province during the week, which encouraged the local people to register for election cards. At the provincial level, the women seem to be interested in voting for their favorite candidates. They attend the gatherings held by presidential and provincial council candidates. However, at the district level, women are less involved. 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

- Evaluate completed vocational trainings courses by SIKAEast;
- Award nearly \$239,000 in grants for eight infrastructure projects in Jalrez, Khwaja Umari, Saydabad, and Chaki Wardak districts; and
- Make 18 milestone payments, in the amount of over \$144,000, to projects in seven 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	\$539,330	13	2	18	16	13	\$409,058	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	\$1,324,676	5	16	30	26	27	\$1,117,108	10	\$360,334	11	\$376,041	0	\$0	21	\$736,375
	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	11	\$502,146	13	\$590,925	3	\$105,763	27	\$1,198,834
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	1	19	\$781,355	2	11	18	17	17	\$670,733	10	\$322,792	3	\$144,072	0	\$0	13	\$466,863
	Jalrez	0	25	\$968,507	5	0	13	13	12	\$302,143	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	4	17	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	\$543,736	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	13	19	\$658,227	10	3	10	6	6	\$395,381	1	\$80,132	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$80,132
	Zurmat	2	18	\$1,132,660	9	4	15	13	11	\$607,184	5	\$268,948	0	\$0	0	\$0	5	\$268,948
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	28	28	\$1,040,506	6	0	3	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Total		110	414	\$16,608,512.00	113	119	342	287	281	\$11,332,119.00	124	\$3,963,830.00	49	\$2,064,439.00	15	\$488,745.00	188	\$6,517,013.00

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(On-going)		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	78	342	\$14,408,235.82	74	104	276	249	245	\$10,114,289.44	116	\$3,840,832.47	48	\$2,102,620.93	12	\$433,534.94	176	\$6,376,988.35
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	0	\$0	3	\$128,472.00
Grand Total	116	420	\$17,050,736.78	115	122	347	291	285	\$11,503,415.38	127	\$4,092,301.21	49	\$2,064,439.91	15	\$488,743.94	191	\$6,645,485