



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 119

MARCH 29-APRIL 3, 2014



Audience listening to a speech delivered by one of the key speakers at a March 30 coordination meeting with IDLG

April 08, 2014

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Highlights of the Week:

- The presidential election took place on April 6, and SIKA-East's activities were curtailed during the week. Field office staff was working from home almost half of the week, and no grants were awarded. However, milestone payments were made for eight districts.
- Two small infrastructure grant projects, cumulatively worth approximately \$102,000, were started in Ghazni Province during the week.



Mr. Abdul Wali, Deputy Governor of Paktya Province, delivering a speech during the IDLG coordination meeting on March 30.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Two training activities were conducted in two districts during the week and were attended by 38 participants.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 21,823 individuals, of whom 16,470 are men and 5,353 women, have attended a total of 673 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - 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.
 - Due to the presidential election, no grants were awarded during the week.
 - So far 191 grants, with a value of nearly \$6.6 million, have been awarded, while 64 projects have been completed.
 - Two hundred and eighty-six grants have been approved by USAID.

IDLG Coordination Meeting

- On March 30, the Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) in Paktya Province, with SIKA-East assistance, conducted a coordination meeting to bring together provincial authorities and the leadership of eight districts in Paktya.
- The meeting was designed as an opportunity to enhance coordination between local government and the community and discuss government's plans for the future of the province. Participants included Paktya Deputy Governor, PRRD and other line department directors, District Governors, and influential people from the districts of Sayd Karam, Zadran, Showak, Chamkany, Jaji Aryoub, Ahmad Abad, Laja Mangal, and Laja Ahmad Khail.
- During the meeting, the Deputy Governor announced that SIKA-East is going to cover three more districts of Paktya Province: Sayd Karam, Jaji Aryoub, and Mir Zaka. He mentioned his appreciation of SIKA-East for bringing the community and government closer and paving a path for the community to share its problems with related government bodies to find solutions.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

MEETING WITH MRRD/CLDD

- SIKa-East continued meeting with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) / Community Led Development Program (CLDD) to discuss the development of the curriculum for the upcoming Participatory Community Development workshop. The training, aimed at further capacity strengthening of District Social Workers (DSWs) and Community Mobilizers, is planned to take place on the second week of May.

PROVINCIAL STAFF TRAINING

- The initial draft of a post-evaluation report on Service Provider Fairs (SPF) conducted in the five SIKa-East provinces to date was prepared during the week. The post-evaluation aims to assess the results and impacts of SPF events from the participants' and service providers' perspective. It also provides information on achievements and challenges regarding the past SPF events.

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

- With an eye towards handing over the ownership of some of the processes to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, SIKa-East is closely working with MRRD and IDLG on modifying the Stability Analysis Methodology (SAM), the backbone of current SIKa-East engagement processes. The newly designed SAM is intended to assist SIKa-East government partners to effectively engage with community stakeholders, listen to their grievances and jointly agree on solutions.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- SIKa-East hosted an introductory meeting of organizations working on women's economic development to discuss different programs and explore coordination and collaboration. The participants included representatives from Zardozi, IDLG, ABADE, and SIKa-East. Several interested groups from United Nation Development Program (UNDP), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), and MRRD were unable to participate due to election-related security constraints. Opening the meeting, SIKa-East's gender adviser said that the program is looking for the opportunity to expand cooperation with the various organizations and exchange experiences on economic development, income-generating activities, and vocational and small-business trainings for women. The participants agreed that there are valuable opportunities for coordination and cooperation, including sharing training methods and organizing exchanges between women entrepreneurs working



Opening ceremony of the Nuh Burja protection wall located in Khwaja Umari District of Ghazni Province



meeting in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province



Participants from ABADE and Zardozi at the gender introductory meeting

in different areas. It is important to understand the various models and approaches and where these services are available for women as well as to benefit from lessons learned on best practices. During the discussions, the participants identified several opportunities to strengthen their linkages, such as program visits, training cooperation, and leadership exchange.

TRAINING

- Two training activities were conducted in two districts during the week and were attended by 37 men and one woman. These trainings included sessions in Grants Management and Infrastructure Project Implementation in the districts of Khwaja Umari and Laja Ahmad Khail.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- Milestone payments resumed during the week. A total amount of nearly \$114,000 was disbursed for 18 grants projects in eight districts: five for Tani, three each for Mando Zayi and Baraki Barak, two each for Khwaja Umari and Dih Yak, and one each for Laja Ahmad Khail, Andar, and Chaki Wardak.
- To date, 425 grant applications – for 346 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and six transition initiative projects, valued at over \$17 million – have been received, and 286 applications have been approved by USAID.
- One hundred and twenty-seven projects, with a total value of over \$4.1 million, have been awarded to 18 districts in five provinces.
- Eighteen grant applications, valued at nearly \$300,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). The approved projects are slated for six districts.
- Six new engineering designs, the value of nearly \$127,000 and covering projects in five districts, were completed in the reporting period.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- A Grants Management training session was conducted for 18 men and one woman from Khwaja Umari District.
- Four milestone payments were made for Ghazni Province. They included one project each for Khwaja Umari and Dih Yak, and two for Andar District.
- One engineering design, worth over \$24,000, was completed for Qarabagh District.
- Fifty-eight grant project applications, cumulatively valued at nearly \$1.9 million, have been received for Ghazni Province. Forty-two projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 17 have been awarded and are under way and eight have been pronounced physically complete.
- Two grants projects started in Ghazni Province during the week: Karez village and Nuh Burja protection walls. The cumulative cost of these projects is nearly \$102,000.

KHOST

- Four milestone payments, valued at over \$32,000, were made for Khost Province during the week: three for Mando Zayi and one for Tani District.

- Three engineering designs worth over \$78,000 were completed during the week: two for Jaji Maydan and one for Gurbuz District.
- So far, SIKA-East has received 59 grants applications worth over \$2 million, in Khost Province. 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 milestone payments, worth over \$15,000, were made 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

- 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

- A two-day Infrastructure Project Implementation training session was conducted for 19 men from Laja Ahmad Khail District.
- One new engineering design, worth over \$24,000, was completed for Laja Ahmad Khail District.
- Three milestone payments, worth over \$21,000, were made for small infrastructure projects in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts.
- To date, 126 grant applications have been received for Paktya Province: 24 for Ahmad Abad, 18 for Laja Ahmad Khail, 19 for Laja Mangal, 19 for Zadran, 18 for Zurmat, and 28 for Garda Serai.
- SIKA-East has received 46 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 23 grants have been awarded. However, due to security instability in the area and the presidential election, the awarded projects are on hold.

CHALLENGES

- During the week, around 43 projects were on hold in all five targeted provinces due to the presidential election.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2014

- The presidential election took place on April 5. The five SIKA-East provinces took an active part in casting their votes. Anecdotal reports indicate that women in the provincial centers were more likely to vote than those in districts.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Award over \$76,000 in grants for three infrastructure projects in Khwaja Umari District; and
- Make 18 milestone payments, in the amount of nearly \$114,000, to projects in eight 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	19	573,945	13	2	19	16	13	\$409,058	8	\$189,202	0	0	0	0	8	\$189,202
	Qarabagh	5	3	96,098	0	0	3	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
Khost	Gurbuz	2	17	703,512	5	4	17	16	15	\$578,556	11	\$343,854	0	0	0	\$0	11	\$343,854
	Jaji Maidan	4	9	293,124	3	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	7	\$170,931	1	22,031	0	\$0	8	\$192,962
	Tani	0	20	\$656,938	5	1	18	15	14	\$517,442	6	\$127,748	1	24,960	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	\$644,238	6	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	3	11	18	17	17	\$670,733	10	\$322,792	3	144,072	0	0	13	\$466,863
	Jalrez	0	25	\$968,507	5	0	14	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	\$1,235,570	12	0	13	5	5	\$266,164	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	13	18	\$567,681	5	1	16	11	10	\$255,063	10	\$255,063	0	0	0	0	10	\$255,063
	Laja Mangal	7	19	\$695,456	7	4	15	12	12	\$450,297	7	\$255,676	0	0	0	0	7	\$255,676
	Zadran	12	19	\$658,227	10	3	10	7	6	\$395,381	1	\$80,132	0	0	0	0	1	\$80,132
	Zurmat	2	18	\$1,132,660	9	4	15	13	12	\$677,870	5	\$268,948	0	0	0	0	5	\$268,948
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	28	28	\$1,052,562	6	0	3	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
Total		108	419	\$16,654,601.00	115	119	351	291	282	\$11,402,805.00	124	\$4,012,158.00	51	2,111,430	15	\$488,745.00	190	\$6,612,332.00

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	77	346	\$14,429,460.14	77	104	284	253	246	\$10,184,975.44	116	\$3,889,160.54	50	\$2,127,580.59	12	\$433,534.94	178	\$6,450,276.08
Non-infrastructure Grants	31	73	\$2,225,141.10	40	15	67	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	\$442,473.15	3	3	5	4	4	\$171,543.86	3	\$128,719.86	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,719.86

Grand Total	114	425	\$17,097,074.03	118	122	356	295	286	\$11,574,349.25	127	\$4,140,877.14	51	\$2,111,430.90	15	\$488,743.94	193	\$6,741,052
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