



# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 121

APRIL 12-17, 2014



*Work proceeds on a project to reconstruct the Payelo Kaly Canal in Jaji Maidan District in Khost Province.*

**April 21, 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:

- During the week, USAID approved SIKA-East's 300th grant application submission. The 200th approval occurred in the first week of February. This means that in just two and a half months SIKA-East has produced 100 packages for submission to USAID for approval.
- Four projects were completed and closed during the week: Digan protection wall in Mando Zayi and Dakhi Nawi Kali intake project in Tani, both districts in Khost Province; and Qala Nazar and Qala Yousif karez rehabilitations in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province.



*Girls studying at one of the new schools set up in Saydabad's Tangi Valley due to the influence of the Access to Peace and Justice Advocacy Team.*

### SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
  - Seventeen training sessions were held during the week for 219 men and six women in all SIKA-East provinces except Logar.
  - Since the beginning of the program, 22,048 individuals, of whom 16,689 are men and 5,359 women, have attended a total of 690 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
  - To date, 433 grant applications – including 354 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and six capacity building projects, all valued at over \$17.2 million – have been received, and 303 applications have been approved by USAID.
  - This week 14 grants, valued at nearly \$598,000, were awarded for five districts: one each for Laja Ahmad Khail, Zadrán, Khwaja Umari, Dih Yak, Gurbuz, and Jaji Maydan; two each for Saydabad and Tani; and three for Jalrez District.
  - Three hundred and three grants have been approved to date by USAID.

### New Girls Schools in Tangi Valley

Although recent years have seen a marked increase in opportunities for girls to receive education, many of those chances do not reach into some of the more unstable parts of Afghanistan, such as Saydabad District in Maydan Wardak Province. Girls schools in Tangi Valley have been closed since 2007 and in the villages of Baghak, Bahdurkhail, Larkhan Khail, and Gurbat since 2008 by order of the Taliban.

In July 2013, after participating in a SIKA-East-sponsored training on Advocacy and Resource Development, a group of women created an unofficial advocacy group called Access to Peace and Justice Advocacy Team. The group worked closely with the head of the District Development Assembly, met with village elders, and worked with male leaders to negotiate with the Taliban to allow girls to attend school in Tangi Valley – specifically Shekhabad village. After a series of meetings and conversations, three home-based schools are now open.

As a result of the expanded advocacy team's efforts, approximately 18 new schools in the previously mentioned four additional villages are up and running and registered with the Ministry of Education. Looking forward, the residents hope to expand the schools beyond primary education and build stand-alone classrooms for the girls.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### POST-EVALUATION OF ACTION SUMMIT

- SIKA-East held a post-evaluation meeting on the Maydan Wardak women's District Development Assembly (DDA+) action summit (jalsa), which was implemented as a pilot before rolling out in the other four provinces. Two leading women DDA+ members actively participated along with SIKA-East district and provincial staff. The debriefing assessed what worked and what could be improved in the next round. The participants agreed that the timeframe needed to be extended from two to three days to provide DDA+ members with adequate time to share experiences, analyze their DPPs, assess obstacles to implementation of women's Cycle I priorities, and re-assess capacity building needs. The two DDA+ representatives emphasized that Maydan Wardak women DDA+ members were eager to participate in jalsas in other provinces, such as nearby Ghazni and Logar. SIKA-East will work with the DDA+s in the three provinces to facilitate this opportunity for women leaders to join forces to voice and address priorities and strengthen institutionalization of the DDA+ cross-provincial network.

### LESSONS LEARNED

- SIKA-East conducted a lessons learned workshop to discuss the best practices, experiences, and challenges of the program's resources development activities during the base period in order to develop recommendations for the future. The total number of participants was 30 and included 26 field staff and four Kabul-based employees. As a result of one suggestion, a Standard Operating Procedure for sub-coordination meetings was developed during the week. The purpose of this document is to assist the Institutional Strengthening and Stabilization unit and provincial and district management team to understand their roles and responsibilities in order to conduct sub-coordination meetings and services effectively and efficiently.

### MEETING WITH IDLG

- Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and SIKA-East continued meeting to discuss the training of provincial government spokespersons in detail. A draft agenda for the training was prepared by IDLG in close consultation with SIKA-East. The training, once fully designed, will be conducted jointly by IDLG and four SIKA program (SIKA-East, SIKA-West, SIKA-South and SIKA-North) and will include spokespersons from all districts where SIKA program is operating. This will be the first such training event shared among the four projects.



*The acting PRRD Director for Logar (left) and SIKA-East's PMU manager (right) discuss plans for the Raysan siphon project with the project supervisor on a site visit to Khoshi District.*



*The Digan protection wall closeout ceremony in Khost Province*



*Work under way on the Nawabad Khan karez project in Logar Province*

## **TRAINING MODULE**

- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) / Community Led Development Department (CLDD) and SIKA-East finalized the English version of Participatory Community Development training. A five-day training on this module will be conducted for National Area Based Development Program staff and MRRD District Social Workers, and it will include topics such as community engagement, participatory planning, design, implementation, and monitoring of development and governance projects. MRRD expects that this module, which is adapted from a similar workshop that select MRRD managers recently attended in Indonesia, will provide their provincial and district mobilizers with solid skills and innovative ways to engage community in a participatory planning process at the grassroots level.

## **INCREASING GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT IN MONITORING**

- In order to improve the level of government participation in monitoring of SIKA-East projects, SIKA-East and MRRD management agreed to redouble their efforts to ensure that government partners at the provincial and district levels accompany program staff on trips to project sites. SIKA-East has agreed to regularly provide a monthly field visit plan for each province to PRRD directors and will work with PRRD offices on establishing GIROA-led monitoring committees consisting of representatives of Provincial Governor's Office, PRRD, District Governor's Office, and possibly Provincial Development Council.

## **GRANTS AND ENGINEERING**

- Milestone payments resumed during the week, with over \$238,000 being disbursed for 37 grants projects in 14 districts. This number includes one non-infrastructure and 36 infrastructure projects.
- To date 137 projects, with a total value of nearly \$4.5 million, have been awarded to 18 districts of five provinces.
- Four hundred and thirty-three grant applications – for 354 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and six transition initiative projects, valued at nearly \$17.3 million – have been received.
- During the week, USAID approved the 300th grant application submission. The 200th approval occurred in the first week of February. This means that in just two and a half months SIKA-East has produced 100 packages for submission to USAID for approval.
- Seven grant applications, valued at nearly \$273,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). The approved projects are slated for four districts.
- Eight new engineering designs, valued at over \$227,000, were completed for the districts of Laja Ahmad Khail and Ahmad Abad in Paktya Province, Dih Yak in Ghazni, and Khoshi in Logar.

## **SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **GHAZNI**

- Five training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province during the week: three separate Grants Management sessions for 44 men and two women from Khwaja Umari and Dih Yak, and two Operation and Maintenance training sessions for 30 men from Dih Yak and Andar Districts.
- Five milestone payments, with a total value of nearly \$35,000, were made for two districts in Ghazni Province during the week: four for Khwaja Umari and one for Dih Yak.

- Two engineering designs, worth over \$37,000, were finalized for Dih Yak District.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved three projects, worth over \$79,000, for Dih Yak and Qarabagh Districts.
- Two small infrastructure grant projects, valued at nearly \$105,000, were awarded for Khwaja Umari and Dih Yak Districts.
- Work on the Laghabad canal construction project started on April 14. The opening ceremony was held in the presence of DDA+ members and community elders.
- Fifty-eight grant project applications, cumulatively valued at nearly \$1.9 million, have been received for Ghazni Province to date. Forty-five projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 20 have been awarded and are under way, and ten have been pronounced physically complete.

### KHOST

- Seven training sessions were held in Khost Province. These included five separate sessions on Grants Management for 40 men from Tani, Gurbuz, and Jaji Maydan, and two sessions on Infrastructure Project Implementation for 16 men from Tani and Gurbuz Districts.
- Four grants were awarded, with a cumulative value of over \$425,000: two for Tani and one each for Gurbuz and Jaji Maydan Districts.
- In addition, two projects were completed during the week: the Digan flood protection wall in Mando Zayi District and the Dakhi Nawi Kali intake in Tani. The closing ceremonies were held in the presence of representatives from PRRD, DDA+ members, and DSWs.
- Thirteen milestone payments, valued at over \$100,000, were made for Khost Province during the week: three each for Tani and Jaji Maydan, six for Gurbuz, and one for Mando Zayi.
- So far, SIKA-East has received 62 grants applications, worth over \$2 million, in Khost Province. Fifty-two projects have received USAID approval, and 33 of them have been awarded: 12 for Gurbuz, six for Jaji Maydan, seven for Mando Zayi, and eight for Tani.

### LOGAR

- On April 16, the acting PRRD Director for Logar and SIKA-East's PMU Manager for the district traveled to Khoshi District to visit several ongoing infrastructure projects. During the visit, the men shared comments and advice on technical points and project sustainability with the contracting Community Development Committees (CDC), project supervisors, and the district engineer.



*Closing ceremony for the Qala Nazar karez rehabilitation project in Baraki Barak District in Logar Province*



*Stonemasons work on the Deh Nihal flood protection wall in Khwaja Umari District of Ghazni Province.*



*Women attend an April 15 sub-coordination meeting held in the Directorate of Women's Affairs department in Khost City.*

- Five milestone payments, valued at over \$27,000, were made for Logar Province during the week. These include two payments for Mohammad Agha District and three for Baraki Barak.
- The Qala Nazar and Qala Yousif karez rehabilitation projects in Baraki Barak District were recently completed, and their closing ceremonies took place on April 15 in the presence of DDA and CDC members and religious elders.
- Two engineering designs, valued at over \$58,000, were completed for Khoshi District.
- To date, USAID has approved 68 grants projects, worth over \$3 million, for Logar Province: 27 for Baraki Barak, 13 for Khoshi, and 28 for Mohammad Agha. Twenty-five projects have been completed, including three that are officially closed.

### **MAYDAN WARDAK**

- Three training sessions were held in Maydan Wardak Province this week: two sessions on Grants Management for 50 men and two women from Saydabad and Jalrez Districts, and one Infrastructure Project Implementation session for 17 men and two women from Jalrez.
- Seven milestone payments, valued at over \$36,000, were made: three for Jalrez, and two each for Chaki Wardak and Saydabad Districts. One of these projects in Chaki Wardak is non-infrastructure, and the rest are of the small-infrastructure type.
- Six small-infrastructure grants, with a total value of over \$170,000, were awarded for Maydan Wardak Province during the week: one for Chaki Wardak, two for Saydabad, and three for Jalrez.
- To date, 102 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 19 for Chaki Wardak, 26 for Jalrez, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad. Eighty-two projects have received USAID approval and 48 projects have been awarded, of which 18 have been completed.

### **PAKTYA**

- SIK-East's PMT manager, in the presence of the Paktya PRRD Director, met with the DSWs of Ahmad Abad, Jaji Aryoub, Zadran, Zurmat, and Shwak Districts. The PRRD Director instructed the DSWs on monitoring grant projects, directing them to conduct technical surveys and monitor construction, prepare and submit timely reports to PRRD, and attend the regular monthly meetings.
- On April 16, SIK-East's PMT manager met with the head of the Paktya Department of Economy to discuss the program's progress in the province. SIK-East also officially handed over to that department the list of Cycle I projects for all the DPPs produced by the districts in Paktya where SIK-East is operating in order to facilitate implementation of the projects.
- Two separate Grants Management training sessions were conducted for 22 men from Laja Ahmad Khail and Zadran Districts.
- Two grants were awarded this week, one each for Laja Ahmad Khail and Zadran, with a total value of nearly \$97,000.
- Two grants projects started in Paktya Province during the week: the Koza Waza flood protection wall in Zadran District and the Mokhiy flood protection wall in Laja Ahmad Khail. The opening ceremonies took place on April 14.
- Five milestone payments, worth over \$39,000, were made for small infrastructure projects in Laja Ahmad Khail, Zadran, and Laja Mangal Districts.

- Four engineering designs, worth over \$131,000, were completed for the districts of Laja Ahmad Khail and Ahmad Abad.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed three projects, with a combined value of nearly \$168,000, for Ahmad Abad District.
- 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 52 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 25 grants have been awarded.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The Tomray and Godol Qandahari CDCs in Khwaja Umari district have a conflict regarding ownership of a protection wall project. The Godol Qandahari CDC claims that, based on the National Solidarity Program (NSP) manual, Tormay village is not eligible to form a CDC as it contains only 17 families. The Khwaja Umari DMT held three meetings with both parties; however, they could not come to a conclusion. The DMT will continue its efforts to resolve the issue.
- A number of projects have come to a halt for various reasons. In Khost Province, flooding has damaged a protection wall. In Paktya, five projects are on hold due to technical issues, and one project in Zurmat District was stopped due to interference from insurgents. Three projects are on hold in Maydan Wardak Province, two for security reasons and one due to the resignation of Project Management Committee (PMC) members. SIKA-East's field staffs are working with the involved parties to get the projects under way again as soon as possible.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Award over \$19,000 in grants for one infrastructure project in Laja Ahmad Khail District; and
- Make 20 milestone payments, in the amount of over \$202,000, 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	6	3	16	14	12	\$465,699	3	\$169,085	3	150,636	0	\$0	6	\$319,721
	Jaghata	0	4	95,666	2	0	4	2	2	\$95,666	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Dih Yak	1	16	612,865	2	9	17	15	15	\$586,220	5	\$165,183	6	233,708	1	\$19,087	12	\$417,978
	Khwaja Umari	0	19	572,046	13	3	19	17	14	\$426,395	12	\$331,917	0	0	0	\$0	12	\$331,917
	Qarabagh	5	3	96,098	1	0	3	2	2	\$71,233	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Khost	Gurbuz	2	18	723,906	5	4	18	17	17	\$623,906	12	\$346,772	1	43,467	0	\$0	13	\$390,239
	Jaji Maidan	4	9	284,341	1	3	10	5	6	\$204,937	6	\$165,036	0	0	0	\$0	6	\$165,036
	Mando Zayi	6	14	406,689	4	0	14	13	13	\$374,546	7	\$170,931	1	22,031	0	\$0	8	\$192,962
	Tani	0	21	\$679,006	2	4	19	16	16	\$563,739	8	\$259,791	2	49,955	0	\$0	10	\$309,746
Logar	Baraki Barak	6	31	1,343,676	5	16	31	27	27	\$1,117,108	9	\$293,798	12	442,576	0	\$0	21	\$736,375
	Khoshi	1	16	\$744,807	8	1	17	12	13	\$609,173	4	\$72,845	0	0	0	\$0	4	\$72,845
	Mohammad.Agha	1	32	\$1,505,695	3	22	32	28	28	\$1,276,266	11	\$502,146	13	590,925	3	105,763	27	\$1,198,834
Maydan Wardak	Chaki Wardak	1	19	\$777,649	3	11	18	18	18	\$740,465	9	\$292,260	4	155,017	0	0	13	\$447,277
	Jalrez	1	26	\$976,696	5	0	16	13	13	\$308,755	12	\$281,302	0	0	0	\$0	12	\$281,302
	Nirrh	0	23	\$1,149,330	0	21	22	20	20	\$1,000,537	4	\$166,465	8	387,589	3	178,035	15	\$732,088
	Saydabad	0	34	\$1,037,197	4	18	32	31	31	\$1,148,010	7	\$242,068	8	277,802	8	185,860	23	\$705,730
Paktya	Ahmad Abad	18	24	\$1,266,794	17	0	14	7	7	\$381,662	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	10	18	\$567,681	6	1	17	13	12	\$306,808	11	\$279,261	0	0	0	\$0	11	\$279,261
	Laja Mangal	6	19	\$698,219	6	5	15	13	13	\$474,408	7	\$255,676	0	0	0	\$0	7	\$255,676
	Zadran	12	19	\$649,501	4	9	10	7	7	\$418,427	2	\$152,845	0	0	0	\$0	2	\$152,845
	Zurmat	2	18	\$1,108,914	10	4	15	13	12	\$677,870	5	\$268,948	0	0	0	\$0	5	\$268,948
	Zadran (Garda Serai)	28	28	\$1,052,562	7	0	4	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>\$16,848,230</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>\$11,920,086</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>\$4,416,329</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$2,353,707</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$488,743.94</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>\$7,258,780</b>

Category Summary	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		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	354	\$14,623,089	79	114	296	266	263	\$10,702,256	129	\$4,334,628	53	\$2,270,461	12	\$433,535	194	\$7,038,623
Non-infrastructure Grants	31	73	\$2,225,141	35	20	67	38	36	\$1,217,830	5	\$81,701	5	\$83,246	3	\$55,209	13	\$220,157
Transition Initiatives Grants	6	6	\$442,473	3	3	5	4	4	\$171,544	3	\$128,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,720

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>\$17,290,703</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>\$12,091,630</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>\$4,545,049</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$2,353,707</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$488,744</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>\$7,387,500</b>
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