



# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 122

APRIL 19-24, 2014



*Mr. M. Akbar Zadran, Governor of Gurbuz District in Paktya Province, cuts the ribbon to celebrate completion of a flood protection wall in Chinar Village. Also present (left to right) are Mr. Said Karim Khaksar, Deputy Head of Khost Provincial Council, Mr. M. Usman Mehdi, PRRD Director, and Mr. Wahid Jan, SIKA-East Manager for Khost.*

**April 28, 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, six projects, with a cumulative value of nearly \$162,000, were completed in Khost Province. All of the projects were completed in less than four months.
- On April 23, the Baraki Barak District Governor and DDA+, with support from SIKA-East, held a major meeting to introduce their recently developed communications plan.
- The Qarabagh Communications Committee in Ghazni Province reported that after numerous meetings with provincial and district authorities they succeeded in getting the Qarabagh District Court moved from its temporary location in Ghazni City back to the district.

### SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
  - Twenty-six training sessions were held during the week for 368 men and 13 women in all SIKA-East provinces.
  - Since the beginning of the program, 22,429 individuals, of whom 17,057 are men and 5,372 women, have attended a total of 716 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
  - To date, 436 grant applications – including 357 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and six capacity building projects, all valued at over \$17.4 million – have been received, and 306 applications have been approved by USAID.
  - This week ten grants, valued at \$327,172, were awarded for projects in seven districts in three provinces: three in Laja Mangal and one each in Laja Ahmad Khail and Zurmat in Paktya; two in Tani and one in Gurbuz in Khost; and one each in Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh in Ghazni. The Qarabagh project was that district's first.

### Major Resource Coordination Meeting in Maydan Wardak



*Mr. Ghazni Gul Zazai, Deputy Governor of Maydan Wardak, told the 130 participants that real development works have been carried out in Maydan Wardak Province this year and said that much of the credit goes to SIKA-East for having such an effective plan.*

On April 22, the Maydan Wardak Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) and SIKA-East conducted a major resource coordination meeting in Maydan Shahr. Its goal was to improve coordination between people and service providers, and among service providers themselves, in the four districts in Maydan Wardak where SIKA-East is active. This was the first chance for the head of the provincial Economic Department to meet 27 service providers outside of the Provincial Development Committee and establish a working relationship.

The participants included the Deputy Provincial Governor, District Governors, heads of provincial line departments, and members of NGOs, District Development Assemblies (DDA), and Community Development Councils (CDC).

Mr. Jan Mohammad Hekmatjo, PRRD Director for Maydan Wardak, called stability the basis for security. "If we end up having quality products, a good economy, and healthy development, that's what we call stability. SIKA-East has proved to be the basis for security in Maydan Wardak because the program has managed to carry out rehabilitation works, supported by people, in challenging areas."

To date, SIKA-East has completed or is implementing 63 projects, worth over \$2 million, in Maydan Wardak, and other projects are in the pipeline. The program is scheduled to roll out soon in the provincial capital of Maydan Shahr.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### INTEGRATION WITH MRRD AND IDLG

- Following several meetings with Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP), an agreement was reached to integrate SIKA-East's stability planning process with the strategic planning process of NABDP. This will streamline program engagement in the districts and allow a faster transition to government ownership. A facilitator's guide and other supporting documents will be finalized in the coming weeks.

### LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP

- Preparations for a two-day lessons learned workshop for Stability Program Officers (SPO) and Community Development Officers (CDO) were completed this week. The agenda, list of participants, and financial and operational activities to better organize the workshop were finalized. Forty-one participants have been registered, including District Social Workers (DSW) and Gender Officers, as well as SPOs and CDOs. The training will take place May 4 and 5.

### GENDER ACTIVITIES

- The contribution of working women and strengthening the voice of women in general are the main focus of the Female DDA+ Action Summits that SIKA-East is organizing in the five provinces. The first summit was held in Maydan Wardak last month, and the other four summits will be held next week. This week, Provincial Gender Officers and other SIKA-East support staff hosted female DDA+ consultation meetings in Paktya, Khost, Logar, and Ghazni. The meetings covered various topics, including enabling female DDA+ members to understand their ownership of the Action Summits, sharing the summits' agenda, and finalizing the list of invitees from provincial and district levels. A total of 65 female DDA+ members, 20 women from provincial and district governmental organizations, and 16 other influential women participated in the Elder's Consultation meeting in the four provinces.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

- In 26 training sessions during the week, 368 men and 13 women were trained in 16 districts. The training sessions included Infrastructure Project Implementation, Grants Management, Fund-raising, Resource Dialogue and Advocacy, and Operation and Maintenance. They also included two Unity Building sessions and one in Lobbying for a total of 64 men and 12 women from PRRD,

### Provincial Coordination Meeting in Khost



A section of the audience at the coordination meeting

On April 24, SIKA-East facilitated a provincial coordination meeting to provide the opportunity for key sectors and the Provincial Governor's Office to share information on recent activities and challenges. Those attending included the Provincial Governor, Mr. Abdul Jabar Naeemi, key line directors, District Governors and DDA+ members from the four districts where SIKA-East is active, tribal elders, and members of the media.

Mr. Naeemi observed that Khost has been heading in the right direction in terms of development and said that SIKA-East has been an incredible addition to the province's progress and stability. He added that SIKA-East is fully coordinated with the provincial administration and has been very successful in terms of transparency, construction quality, and project prioritization.

PRRD Director, Mr. Muhammad Usmand Mehdi, presented a list of past, ongoing, and planned PRRD projects in Khost. He said that hundreds of development projects have been completed and many more are planned for implementation by SIKA-East.

SIKA-East's Manager for Khost, Mr. Wahid Jan, explained that the meeting was intended to increase coordination among the relevant governmental departments, DGs, and local development shuras. He also announced that SIKA-East will soon be extended to cover Nadir Shah Kot District.

provincial line departments, DoWA, and the offices of the Provincial and District Governors in Logar and Ghazni Provinces.

- A new kind of technical training was introduced this week, when SIKA-East staff conducted training in photojournalism and video editing for DSWs and the staff of Provincial and District Governors' offices in Maydan Wardak Province on April 20 and 21. The photojournalism training focused on the importance, rules, and styles of photojournalism, as well as types of cameras and lenses. The training in video editing covered types of film-making, storyboards, editing techniques, and the filming of events. Both trainings were intended to enhance the capacity of the governmental staff and entities in these technical areas.

### **EXPANSION PLANS FOR NEW DISTRICTS**

- A work plan for the expansion of SIKA-East into eight new districts in the provinces of Ghazni, Khost, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya, as well as into the new province of Paktika, has been drafted, reviewed, and analyzed. It takes into consideration the available budget and transition mechanisms projected for the option period. It also covers activities whose operational cost will be addressed through program grants. Those activities include service provider fairs, sub-coordination meetings, communication committee meetings, and other activities planned for strengthening the transition process. Grants will be processed through the DDA+s when feasible to create an ownership sense among them.

### **INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT IN MONITORING**

- This week, there was a marked increase in the level of participation by DSWs, members of DDAs, and other government officials in the monitoring of SIKA-East projects in all five provinces. SIKA-East provided a monthly field visit plan for each province to PRRD directors and worked with PRRD offices on establishing GIRoA-led monitoring committees consisting of representatives of the Provincial Governor's Office, PRRD, the District Governor's Office, and possibly the Provincial Development Council.
- In addition, the Khost Provincial Governor, in a meeting with SIKA-East's manager for the province, promised that officials invited to monitor SIKA-East grant projects would accompany SIKA-East staff. Moreover, the Khost PRRD Director accepted SIKA-East's site visit plan and promised to appoint an experienced engineer to monitor projects under implementation. Also during the week, the PRRD Director, along with the District Governor and DDA+ members from Gurbuz, visited Chinar Village to dedicate the recently completed flood protection wall. See cover photo.

### **DISTRICT PROFILE**

- This week, SIKA-East finalized the district profile for Jalrez District in Maydan Wardak Province. District profiles provide relevant information on a district's resources, population, and other particulars and serve as a reference tool to help project staff and other development practitioners to better understand Afghanistan's complex regional dynamics.

### **GRANTS AND ENGINEERING**

- During the week, six grant projects, with a cumulative value of nearly \$162,000, were completed in Khost Province. All the projects took less than four months from start to finish.
- Ten grants, valued at \$327,172, were awarded for projects in seven districts in three provinces: three in Laja Mangal District and one each in Laja Ahmad Khail and Zurmat in Paktya; two in Tani District

and one in Gurbuz in Khost; and one each in Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh in Ghazni. The Qarabagh project was that district's first.

- Milestone payments, valued at over \$125,800, were disbursed this week for 20 grants projects in 10 districts. This number includes one non-infrastructure and 36 infrastructure projects.
- To date 147 projects, with a total value of nearly \$4.9 million, have been awarded to 19 districts in five provinces.
- Four hundred and thirty-six grant applications – for 357 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and six transition initiative projects, valued at over \$17.4 million – have been received.
- Nine grant applications, valued at nearly \$265,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). The approved projects are slated for five districts.
- Two new engineering designs, valued at over \$46,000, were completed for the districts of Mando Zayi in Khost Province and Dih Yak in Ghazni.

## **SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **GHAZNI**

- The Qarabagh Communication Committee reported this week that, after numerous meetings with provincial and district authorities, they succeeded in persuading the officials to move the Qarabagh District Court from its temporary location in Ghazni City back to the district. This will spare local residents with legal problems the need to travel to the provincial capital and incur the associated costs for transportation and possible overnight accommodation.
- Eight training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province during the week: six sessions on Unity Building for a total number of 57 men and four women from Dih Yak, Andar, Qarabagh, Jaghatu, and Khwaja Umari; and two Infrastructure Project Implementation training sessions for 31 men from Khwaja Umari and Dih Yak Districts.
- Five milestone payments, with a total value of nearly \$34,000, were made for two districts in Ghazni Province during the week: four for Khwaja Umari and one for Dih Yak.
- Two small infrastructure grant projects, valued at over \$70,000, were awarded for Khwaja Umari and Qarabagh Districts. This was the first grant awarded in Qarabagh.
- One engineering design, worth over \$21,000, was finalized for Dih Yak District.
- Fifty-nine grant project applications, cumulatively valued at over \$1.9 million, have been received for Ghazni Province to date. Forty-seven projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 22 have been awarded and are under way, and ten have been pronounced physically complete.
- Two projects in Dih Yak District – Shetam Village's canal and pool construction and Eabad Village's Shakar Dara karez rehabilitation – have been halted for the time being due to Taliban threats. Security Department is investigating the matter.

### **KHOST**

- A major Provincial Coordination Meeting was held in Khost on April 24. For more information, see sidebar on page 2.
- Nine training sessions were held in Khost Province during the week. These included five separate sessions on Grants Management for 148 men from Tani, Gurbuz, Mando Zayi, and Jaji Maydan; two

sessions on Infrastructure Project Implementation for 24 men from Tani and Jaji Maydan; one session on Fundraising for 42 men from Jaji Maydan; and one Resource Dialogue and Advocacy training session for 42 men from the same district.

- During the week, six projects, with a cumulative value of nearly \$162,000, were completed in Khost Province. All of the projects were completed in less than four months.
- Four grants were awarded, with a cumulative value of over \$117,000: two for Tani and one each for Gurbuz and Mando Zayi Districts.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved a project, valued at nearly \$25,000, for Mando Zayi District. Also, one engineering design, worth over \$21,000, was finalized for that district.
- So far, SIKA-East has received 62 grants applications, worth over \$2 million, in Khost Province. Fifty-two projects have received USAID approval, and 36 of them have been awarded: 13 for Gurbuz, six for Jaji Maydan, seven for Mando Zayi, and 11 for Tani. Five projects, valued at over \$140,000, have been completed.

## LOGAR

- On April 23, the Baraki Barak District Governor (DG) and DDA+, with support from SIKA-East, held a major meeting to introduce their recently developed communications plan. The gathering was attended by provincial and district officials, DDA+ members, tribal and religious elders, and local residents. More than 160 invitees attended. During the meeting, both government officials and community representatives exchanged clear messages and agreed to continue to support one another in the future.
- On April 20, a team made up of SIKA-East's Mohammad Agha engineering and grants officers, along with a DRRD DSW, visited the Lashkari Khil flood protection wall project, where stonemasonry and pointing work was under way. The team found the project proceeding well, without problems or challenges and with enough skilled and unskilled laborers to do the job.
- On April 21, the Najaran CDC in Khoshi District held a ceremony to launch a project to build a protection wall and rehabilitate the Najaran stream. Community elders were happy to see the project get under way, as it will create short-term employment for many men in the community, including youths.
- On April 23, a closing ceremony was held for the Eido Khil karez extension project in Baraki Barak. It was attended by CDC



*Women from DDA+s in Khost Province meet to plan for the Female DDA+ Action Summit they will conduct next week.*



*The District Governor of Baraki Barak District speaks during the Communication Plan Implementation meeting held in Logar on April 23.*



*A Mohammad Agha DSW and SIKA-East staff inspect the Lashkari Khil protection wall project during a site visit.*

members, village elders, religious leaders, and people from the community.

- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC approved a project, valued at nearly \$25,000, for Khoshi District.
- To date, USAID has approved 68 grant projects, worth over \$3 million, for Logar Province: 27 for Baraki Barak, 13 for Khoshi, and 28 for Mohammad Agha. Twenty-eight projects have been completed, including three that are officially closed.

## **MAYDAN WARDAK**

- Two training sessions were held in Maydan Wardak Province this week: one Infrastructure Project Implementation session for 19 men and one woman from Jalrez, and one Grants Management session for six men from Chaki Wardak District.
- On April 20 and 21, SIKA-East staff conducted training in photojournalism and video editing for DSWs and the staff of Provincial and District Governors' offices. The photojournalism training focused on the importance, rules, and styles of photojournalism, as well as types of cameras and lenses. The training in video editing covered types of film-making, storyboards, editing techniques, and the filming of events. Both trainings were intended to enhance the capacity of the governmental staff and entities in these technical areas.
- Five milestone payments, valued at over \$30,000, were made during the week: three for Jalrez and two for Saydabad.
- Also this week, an embroidery course was completed for women from the Deh Muslim CDC in Nirkh District.
- A joint GRC approved two projects, valued at nearly \$116,000, for Chaki Wardak and Jalrez Districts.
- 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 63 projects, valued at over \$2.1 million, have been awarded; 31 of these have been completed.

## **PAKTIKA**

- This week, a SIKA-East team from headquarters in Kabul traveled to Sharana City in Paktika Province to meet with the Provincial Governor and other officials to discuss the imminent expansion of the program into the districts of Sharana and Yosuf Khel.
- Also, the Security Department conducted a Security Risk Assessment of the province and held meetings with security focal points there, including the Provincial Governor. Security is focusing on the findings of the security situation provincewide in order to guide expansion activities at provincial and district levels.

## **PAKTYA**

- Three training sessions were conducted in Paktya Province during the week: two separate sessions on Infrastructure Project Implementation for a total of 37 men from Laja Ahmad Khail and Zadran, and one Grants Management session for 20 men from Laja Mangal.
- Five grants, with a total value of \$157,595, were awarded this week: three for Laja Mangal and one each for Laja Ahmad Khail and Zurmat.

- Eight milestone payments, worth over \$67,000, were made for small infrastructure projects in Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, and Zadran.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed a project, with a value of over \$65,000, for Ahmad Abad District.
- To date, 127 grant applications have been received for Paktya Province: 24 for Ahmad Abad; 19 each for Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, and Zadran; 18 for Zurmat; and 28 for Garda Serai. SIKA-East has received 53 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 30 grants have been awarded.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The Tormay 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 District Management Team, DG, DDA, and relevant CDCs are jointly working to resolve this dispute. This week the DG, DSWs, and DDA processed and sent a petition to Tormay villagers in order to convince them to accept Godol Qandahari as the owner of the project, but it has not yet been concurred with. SIKA-East plans to raise the issue again in next week's Female DDA+ Action Summit, which the DG and DSWs will be attending.
- A number of projects in Khost and Paktya have been delayed due to seasonal flooding. Also, in Zurmat District in Paktya, one project has been halted due to interference from insurgents, while another has been delayed due to the need to appoint a new Project Management Committee (PMC). Two projects in Dih Yak District in Ghazni have also been halted due to Taliban threats. SIKA-East's Security Department and field personnel are working with the involved parties to get the projects under way again as soon as possible.
- During the week, security deteriorated in Chaki Wardak and Saydabad Districts of Maydan Wardak due to incidents of fighting between Afghan National Security Forces and anti-government elements.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Conduct Female DDA+ Action Summits / Jalsas in four provinces on April 29 and 30 and on May 1;
- Award over \$74,000 in grants for one infrastructure project in Khoshi District; and
- Review and approve one grant project, worth over \$15,000, for Mohammad Agha District.

**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.	\$ Value					No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Ghazni	Andar	3	16	\$498,892	5	4	16	14	12	\$465,699	3	\$169,085	3	\$150,636	0	\$0	6	\$319,721
	Jaghatau	0	4	\$95,666	2	0	4	2	2	\$95,666	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Dih Yak	1	16	\$657,381	2	9	19	15	15	\$586,220	5	\$165,183	6	\$233,708	1	\$19,087	12	\$417,978
	Khawaja Umari	0	19	\$571,149	12	4	19	17	16	\$510,377	13	\$381,284	0	\$0	0	\$0	13	\$381,284
	Qarabagh	5	4	\$120,557	1	0	4	2	2	\$71,233	1	\$21,101	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$21,101
Khost	Gurbuz	2	18	\$723,906	5	4	18	17	17	\$623,906	13	\$367,166	1	\$43,467	0	\$0	14	\$410,633
	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	\$170,669	2	\$46,952	0	\$0	9	\$217,621
	Tani	0	21	\$679,006	2	4	19	16	16	\$563,739	10	\$332,073	2	\$49,955	0	\$0	12	\$382,029
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	17	\$807,185	8	2	18	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	0	26	\$976,696	5	0	16	14	13	\$308,755	12	\$281,302	0	\$0	0	\$0	12	\$281,302
	Nirxh	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	\$1,250,459	17	1	18	7	7	\$380,286	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Laja Ahmad Khail	8	19	\$614,968	5	2	17	15	13	\$330,559	12	\$303,012	0	\$0	0	\$0	12	\$303,012
	Laja Mangal	6	19	\$694,425	5	6	15	13	13	\$470,615	10	\$333,737	0	\$0	0	\$0	10	\$333,737
	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	9	5	15	13	12	\$677,870	6	\$331,425	0	\$0	0	\$0	6	\$331,425
	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>104</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>\$17,005,843</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>\$12,022,650</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>\$4,743,501</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$2,378,628</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$488,744</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>\$7,610,873</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( On-going)		Grants Completed		Closed Grants( Past Retention Period)		Total Grants Awarded	
		No.	\$ Value					No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value	No.	Amount USD	No.	\$ Value	No.	\$ Value
Infrastructure Grants	73	357	\$14,780,702	74	121	304	269	266	\$10,804,820	139	\$4,661,800	55	\$2,295,381	12	\$433,535	206	\$7,390,716
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	7	6	\$442,473	3	3	6	4	4	\$171,544	3	\$128,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,720

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>\$17,448,316</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>\$12,194,193.92</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$4,872,221</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$2,378,628</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$488,744</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>\$ 7,739,593</b>
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