



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 123

APRIL 26 – MAY 1, 2014



The Deputy PRRD Director for Ghazni Province addresses participants at the Female DDA+ Action Summit that was held in Ghazni City on April 29. Ninety-nine people attended the event, including 67 men and women from DDAs in the districts where SIKA-East is active.

May 5, 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by AECOM.

In Memoriam:

During the week, Mr. Abdul Rahman Rahmani, PRRD Director for Paktya, died in an automobile accident while traveling from his home in Pul-e Alam (Logar) to his office in Gardez (Paktya).



Mr. Rahmani had been a great asset to SIKA-East from the beginning, when he served as PRRD Director for Logar. Mr. Rahmani's death is a big loss for MRRD and SIKA-East in Paktya Province. His steady leadership and strong support for the program will be sorely missed.



In a group session at the Female DDA+ Action Summit in Khost, women discuss projects they listed earlier for implementation in their districts. Fifty-one of the 79 participants were DDA members.

SIKA-East Results:

• Training:

- Twenty-five training sessions were held during the week for 261 men and five women in all SIKA-East provinces.
- Since the beginning of the program, 22,695 individuals, of whom 17,318 are men and 5,377 women, have attended a total of 738 training sessions.

• Grants:

- This week three grants, valued at \$169,813, were awarded for projects: one each for Ahmad Abad and Laja Ahmad Khail in Paktya Province and one for Khoshi District in Logar.
- Seven grants projects, with a cumulative value of nearly \$144,000, were completed during the week: six in Khost and one in Ghazni.
- To date, 441 grant applications – including 361 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and seven capacity building projects, all valued at over \$17.7 million – have been received, and 311 applications have been approved by USAID.

Female DDA+ Action Summits Held in Four Provinces

Female DDA+ Action Summits (Jalsas) were held from April 29 to May 1 in Ghazni, Khost, Logar, and Paktya Provinces. Initial reports indicate that 291 women and men attended the events, including 208 DDA+ members. Also participating were 70 government officials: Provincial Governors, PRRD Directors, DRRD Directors, representatives from line departments, District Social Workers (DSW), and others.

The Summits aimed to strengthen coordination between the DDA+s of the districts where SIKA-East is active. The participants shared their opinions on district issues, analyzed priorities, and assessed progress in addressing constituent demands. They also discussed the importance of women's involvement in government and community programs and how influential women can reflect the needs of communities and attract government attention toward them.

Female DDA+ members in the four provinces developed the agendas and lists of participants for the jalsas, and several of them led specific sessions at the events. In taking the organizational lead, they exemplified one of SIKA-East's key strategic priorities, namely helping women increase their voice, participation, and access to resources.

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 recently 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 are being prepared and will be finalized in the coming weeks.

GRADUATION AND EXPANSION PLANS

- As agreed between SIKA-East, MRRD and IDLG, SIKA-East is preparing to start a gradual phase out in several districts that have reached key governance milestones. However, even without full-time district presence, SIKA-East will continue implementing the already approved DPP projects and Transition Initiatives activities in those districts with the support of provincial capital-based staff. The interventions may include capacity development activities for PRRD and DGO, DDA+ capacity strengthening, and limited support to the district municipalities to implement small-scale projects at the district center within the SIKA-Light option and in agreement with MRRD, IDLG, and USAID.
- Meanwhile, SIKA-East continues to mobilize for expansion into eight new districts in the provinces of Ghazni, Khost, Maydan Wardak, and Paktya, as well as into the new province of Paktika. A work plan for this effort has been drafted, reviewed, and analyzed. It takes into account 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 planned activities to strengthen the transition process. Grants will be processed through the DDA+s when feasible to create an ownership sense among them.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- Female DDA+ Action Summits (jalsas) were held from April 29 to May 1 in Ghazni, Khost, Logar, and Paktya Provinces. See highlight on p. 1 and photos in sidebar at right.
- In preparation for the jalsas, leadership consultations were held in each of the four provinces earlier in the week. These resulted in DDA+ and GIRoA ownership of the events. In total, representing 15 districts (only three Paktya districts did not participate), 103 DDA+,

More Female DDA+ Action Summit Photographs



SIKA-East's Gender Mainstreaming Manager welcomes Logar participants to the Female DDA+ Action Summit. Of the 79 participants, 51 were DDA+ members.



One of the participants at the Action Summit in Ghazni stands to make a point. Ninety-nine people, including 67 DDA+ members, attended the event.



In Paktya, the Female DDA+ Action Summit was attended by 42 women, a considerable turnout for this very conservative province.

GIRoA, and civil society leaders took part in the consultations. These included 63 female DDA+ members, 18 female activists and organizational representatives, and 23 GIRoA officials.

- SIKA-East facilitated a second gender coordination roundtable on April 27, focused on cooperation to strengthen outreach to women and exploration of available gender training resources. Participants represented the IDLG Gender Unit, MRRD's NABDP and National Rural Access Program (NRAP) Gender Units, Ministry of Women's Affairs' (MoWA) Gender and Capacity Building section, and UNDP's Economic Empowerment Unit and Gender Equality Project. Decisions reached included reconvening in the immediate future to discuss outreach approaches in more depth, IDLG consultation with Paktika staff about outreach to women in the province, and increased MoWA involvement in SIKA-East.

DISTRICT PROFILES

- District profiles were recently completed for Ahmad Abad (Paktya), Jaghatu (Ghazni), and Mando Zayi (Khost). 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 better understand Afghanistan's complex regional dynamics.

DISTRICT INFORMATION CENTERS

- SIKA-East and MRRD revised the Scope of Work (SoW) for district information centers after failing to receive bids for the project in Maydan Wardak, Logar and Khost that were technically acceptable. The streamlined SoW will be re-published next week.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- In 25 training sessions during the week, 261 men and five women were trained in 12 districts. The training sessions included Infrastructure Project Implementation, Grants Management, Fundraising, and Lobbying.
- Preparations for a Stakeholder Engagement Training of Trainers (ToT) have been completed, and the TOT will be conducted next week in Kabul. This will prepare DSWs and SIKA-East staff to facilitate the Stakeholder Engagement process in the new districts.
- MRRD's CLDD Unit and SIKA-East completed preparations for a Participatory Community Development training, which will be conducted on May 11 in Kabul.

INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

- Following the instructions of the Khost Provincial Governor to all concerned departments, a large contingent of provincial and district officials, accompanied by Khost media representatives, visited the sites of two protection wall projects in Chandar Khail and Tarakhil Villages in Mando Zayi District in order to officially close the projects. This marks the third week of dramatically increased engagement of provincial authorities in the implementation of SIKA-East activities as a part of program's effort to encourage greater involvement of government partners in site visits and monitoring of projects.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- Three grants, with a total value of nearly \$170,000, were awarded for small infrastructure projects for Ahmad Abad and Laja Ahmad Khail Districts in Paktya Province and for Khoshi District in Logar.

- Seven grants projects, with a cumulative value of nearly \$144,000, were completed during the week: six in Khost and one in Ghazni Province.
- To date, 223 projects, with a total value of nearly \$7.9 million, have been awarded to 18 districts in five provinces.
- Four hundred and forty-one grant applications – for 361 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and six transition initiative projects, valued at over \$17.7 million – have been received, and 311 applications have been approved by USAID.
- Three grant applications, valued at nearly \$66,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees. The approved projects are slated for three districts.
- Four new engineering designs, valued at over \$170,000, were completed: three for Ahmad Abad in Paktya and one for Dih Yak in Ghazni.

SIGNIFICANT PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

GHAZNI

- On May 1, a closing ceremony was conducted for the Shakar Dara karez rehabilitation project in Dih Yak. It was the seventh project to be implemented and completed by SIKA-East in that district.
- The Ghazni Provincial Management Team distributed radio play program schedules to the Qarabagh DDA+ during the week. The radio play is being aired through Keleen and Ghaznavian radio channels.
- The Ghazni Service Provider Catalog has been updated, and staff have begun collecting data for a district profile for Muqur District, which was recently targeted for expansion.
- Four training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province during the week: two separate Grants Management trainings for a total number of 20 men and one woman from Dih Yak and Khwaja Umari Districts, and two Infrastructure Project Implementation training sessions for 40 men from Khwaja Umari District.
- 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.

KHOST

- Following the instructions of the Khost Provincial Governor to all concerned departments, a large contingent of provincial and district officials, accompanied by Khost media representatives, visited the sites of two protection wall projects in Chandar Khail and Tarakhil Villages in Mando Zayi District in order to officially close the projects. The ceremonies were also attended by police officials, religious scholars, and civil society members.
- Six training sessions were held in Khost Province during the week. These included four separate sessions on Infrastructure Project Implementation for 32 men from Mando Zayi, Tani, Jaji Maydan, and Gurbuz district; one session on Fundraising for 14 men and 2 women; and one Lobbying training session for 16 men and two women.

- No grants were awarded to Khost this week. However, to date, 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 May 1, a ceremony was held to inaugurate the start of construction on the Bagh Yarak school boundary wall project in Khoshi District. Those attending included students, teachers, the district education officer, Bagh Yarak CDC members, and community elders.
- An Infrastructure Project Implementation training session was conducted for 12 men from Khoshi District.
- One grant, worth over \$74,000, was awarded for Khoshi.
- To date, USAID has approved 69 grant projects, worth over \$3 million, for Logar Province: 27 for Baraki Barak, 14 for Khoshi, and 28 for Mohammad Agha. Twenty-eight projects have been completed, including three that are officially closed.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- To date, 104 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 20 for Chaki Wardak, 27 for Jalrez, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad. Eighty-three projects have received USAID approval, and 61 projects, valued at over \$2.1 million, have been awarded; 31 of these have been completed.

PAKTIKA

- This week, SIKA-East continued efforts to establish and staff offices in Sharana and Yosuf Khel Districts.
- Following last week's trip to Paktika and meetings with security focal points there, SIKA East's Security Department worked on the draft of a Security Risk Assessment report on Paktika Province and Sharana and Yosuf Khel Districts.

PAKTYA

- During the week, Mr. Abdul Rahman Rahmani, PRRD Director for Paktya, died in an automobile accident while traveling from his home in Pul-e Alam (Logar) to his office in Gardez (Paktya). Mr. Rahmani has been an asset to SIKA-East from the beginning, when he served as PRRD Director for Logar. The SIKA-East Team was shocked at his sudden demise. His death was a big blow for MRRD and SIKA-East in Paktya Province.



At the site of the Chandar Khail protection wall closing ceremony in Mando Zayi, representatives of several media organizations interview the Khost Provincial Governor's spokesman and the Mando Zayi District Governor. During the interviews, they provided information about SIKA-East completed projects and other achievements in Mando Zayi.



The District Governor of Khwaja Umari District in Ghazni Province breaks ground at the opening ceremony for the Qala-e-Naw canal project.



May 1 ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the start of construction of a boundary wall around Bagh Yarak school in Khoshi District of Logar Province.

- The Security Department conducted a Security Risk Assessment of Jaji Aryoub and Mirzaka Districts, and they also conducted meetings with security focal points of the province, including the Provincial Governor. Security Department is focusing on the findings of the security situation province-wide, which is helpful when the program expands into the new districts.
- Fourteen training sessions were conducted in Paktya Province during the week: five separate sessions on Lobbying for a total of 21 men from Laja Ahmad Khail, Ahmad Abad, Laja Mangal, Zadran, and Zurmat; five separate Grants Management training sessions for 54 men from Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, and Zurmat; and four Infrastructure Project Implementation training sessions for 52 men from the same districts.
- Four grants projects started in Paktya Province during the week: Mirazy protection wall in Laja Ahmad Khail; Sharkay protection wall in Laja Mangal; and Adin Khail canal and Zundi Khail common stream construction, both in Ahmad Abad.
- Two grants, with a total value of over \$95,000, were awarded this week: one each to Ahmad Abad and Laja Ahmad Khail Districts.
- The joint PRRD and SIKA-East Grants Review Committee reviewed two projects, with a value of over \$125,000: one each for Ahmad Abad and Laja Mangal Districts.
- Three engineering designs, worth nearly \$149,000, were completed 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. Last 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 meet at the earliest opportunity with the DG and DSWs to try to resolve the issue.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct the Participatory Community Development training in coordination with MRRD/CLDD;
- Conduct Stakeholder Engagement ToT;
- Make 48 milestone payments for 16 Districts;
- Finalize Security Risk Assessments of Paktika Province and its Sharana and Yosuf Khel Districts, and also of Jaji Aryoub and Mirzaka Districts in Paktya Province; and
- Review and approve five grant projects, worth over \$22,000, for Mando Zayi, Dih Yak, Qarabagh, and Jalrez 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)

District	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
Andar	3	16	\$498,892	5	4	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	\$657,381	2	9	19	15	15	\$586,220	5	\$165,183	6	\$233,708	1	\$19,087	12	\$417,978
Khwaja 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	\$120,575	1	0	4	2	2	\$71,233	1	\$21,101	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$21,101
Gurbuz	2	18	\$723,906	5	4	18	17	17	\$623,906	10	\$277,517	4	\$133,116	0	\$0	14	\$410,633
Jaji Maidan	4	11	\$385,756	1	3	12	7	7	\$281,358	6	\$203,299	1	\$26,578	0	\$0	7	\$229,877
Mando Zayi	6	14	\$406,689	4	0	14	13	13	\$374,546	6	\$145,691	3	\$71,930	0	\$0	9	\$217,621
Tani	0	21	\$679,006	2	4	19	16	16	\$563,739	9	\$311,548	3	\$70,481	0	\$0	12	\$382,029
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	0	17	\$807,185	8	2	18	13	14	\$658,824	4	\$72,845	0	\$0	0	\$0	4	\$72,845
Moha.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
Chaki Wardak	1	20	\$835,903	3	11	19	18	18	\$740,465	9	\$292,260	4	\$155,017	0	\$0	13	\$447,277
Jalrez	0	27	\$1,031,241	5	0	19	14	14	\$346,696	12	\$281,302	0	\$0	0	\$0	12	\$281,302
Nirkh	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	6	\$193,735	8	\$277,802	8	\$185,860	22	\$657,397
Ahmad Abad	17	24	\$1,291,338	18	1	18	8	7	\$380,286	1	\$75,676	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$75,676
Laja Ahmad Khail	8	19	\$614,968	5	2	17	15	15	\$414,403	13	\$339,569	0	\$0	0	\$0	13	\$339,569
Laja Mangal	6	19	\$700,686	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 (Gerda Serai)	28	28	\$1,052,562	7	0	4	1	1	\$48,256	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	102	434	\$17,267,216	110	141	377	311	307	\$12,270,506	140	\$4,710,511	65	\$2,540,358	15	\$488,744	220	\$7,739,613

Infrastructure Grants	71	361	\$15,042,057	75	121	310	273	271	\$11,052,676	135	\$4,628,809	60	\$2,457,112	12	\$433,535	207	\$7,519,456
Non-Infrastructure Grants	31	73	\$2,225,159	35	20	67	38	36	\$1,217,830	5	\$81,701	5	\$83,246	3	\$55,209	13	\$220,157
Transition Initiative Grants	7	7	\$480,087	4	3	6	4	4	\$171,544	3	\$128,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,720

	109	441	\$17,747,303	114	144	383	315	311	\$12,442,050	143	\$4,839,230	65	\$2,540,358	15	\$488,744	223	\$7,868,333
--	------------	------------	---------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	---------------------	------------	--------------------	-----------	--------------------	-----------	------------------	------------	--------------------