



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 124

MAY 3 – 8, 2014



A great amount of stonemasonry work has gone into the Aziz Khil Village flood protection wall in Mando Zayi District of Khost Province, which is almost complete.

May 12, 2014

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Highlights of the Week:

- SIKA-East drafted a Facilitator guideline for the implementation of the new District Strategic Planning Methodology. This guideline will be applicable for events to be conducted in the new districts.
- Five grants projects, with a cumulative value of nearly \$86,000, were completed during the week. These include one infrastructure project in Paktya Province and two in Khost, as well as two non-infrastructure projects in Maydan Wardak.



Women attending a tailoring course in Khwaja Umari District are visited by government officials.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Twenty training sessions were held during the week for 175 men and five women in all SIKA-East provinces.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 22,870 individuals – 17,493 men and 5,377 women – have attended a total of 758 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Five grant awards, valued at nearly \$147,000, were made to projects in four districts: two for Jaji Maydan and one each for Mando Zayi, Qarabagh, and Garda Serai.
 - To date, 444 grant applications – including 363 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and eight transition initiative projects, all valued at over \$17.8 million – have been received, and 316 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - So far 84 grants project have been completed in SIKA-East–targeted Provinces. The cumulative value of these projects is over \$7.4 million.
 - Seventeen projects, worth over \$587,000, have passed the warranty period of 90 days and are officially closed.

Khost Resource Coordination Meeting

On May 6, PRRD and SIKA-East held a Resource Coordination Meeting in Khost City that was attended by District Development Assembly (DDA+) members from Jaji Maydan, Tani, Gurbuz, and Mando Zayi, as well as service providers, media, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government officials. The meeting aimed to strengthen partnerships, working relationships, and coordination among service providers.

Representing the Provincial Governor, Mr. Mubariz Mohammad Zadran welcomed the participants and thanked SIKA-East for bringing people and service providers together in this fashion. He observed that since SIKA-East has started operating in Khost, positive changes have occurred in the province. These include better communication and coordination between districts entities, unity between tribes and villages, and improved stability throughout the province. He also announced that Nadir Shah Kot District has been selected for the expansion of SIKA-East.

Other speakers outlined their organizations' activities and highlighted the importance of collaboration and cooperation in order to avoid wasted resources and the duplication of projects.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP

- On May 4 and 5, SIKA-East conducted a two-day Lessons Learned workshop on Stability Planning Process and Stakeholder Engagement. The participants included 32 men and five women working as Stability Program Officers, District Social Workers (DSW), Gender Officers, and Stability Planning Officers in the SIKA-East–targeted provinces. This workshop aimed to share challenges that the participants faced while conducting Stakeholder Engagement and Stability Planning Process training in the last few months. The participants proposed feasible solutions for the challenges.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TOT

- During the week, SIKA-East conducted a refresher Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Stakeholder Engagement. The training was attended by 32 men and 17 women from Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD), Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), and National Area Based Development Program (NABDP), as well as SIKA-East staff. Improving outreach to district women was an integral part of this training. For the first time, participants included a significant proportion of women (35%), as well as a female trainer.

MEETING WITH NABDP

- During a May 5 meeting between SIKA-East and MRRD's NABDP, the parties discussed the conversion of communication committee support into in-kind grants. MRRD-NABDP agreed to the scope developed by SIKA-East's Communication Unit. They had some concerns about the sustainability and the future of the District Development Assembly (DDA), including communication committees. If the DDAs are converted into District Community Councils (DCC) in the future, they want SIKA-East to ensure their sustainability.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- Improved engagement with Paktya Province male elders and enhancing outreach to female stakeholders are beginning to show results. Women from three districts – Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, and Laja Mangal – rather than just Ahmad Abad, participated in the recent jalsa. SIKA-East is now expanding efforts to engage women in Zadran, Garda Serai, and Zurmat Districts. During the week, SIKA-East met on the sidelines of the Stakeholder Engagement ToT with three Khost and Paktya male staff with particularly high standing and influence in the Greater Paktya region. The



The Jalrez District Governor lays the foundation stone of the Kahrwalang water reservoir.



Women receive sewing machines after completing a vocational training course in tailoring in Chaki Wardak District.



Mr. Mubariz Mohammad Zadran, representative of the Khost Provincial Governor, speaks about SIKA-East activities during the closing ceremony for a new reservoir project in Tani District.

Deputy PMU Manager from Khost shared Gurbuz District experience, which resulted in the successful formation of a female DDA+ contingent. As a result of the discussion, the Zadran District M&E Officer will reach out to Zadran and Garda Serai elders to discuss female participation and assure them that SIKA-East will observe cultural norms, such as assigning female trainers and maintaining separation of females and males. The Zadran tribal leader, currently living in Khost, will also be briefed and engaged in the effort, along with two additional well-regarded Paktya staff. If successful, SIKA-East will organize an introductory meeting for the proposed female participants. The group will report back about progress and obstacles. Given different obstacles to women's participation in Zurmat District, different approaches will be tried following the first steps in the other two districts.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- In 20 training sessions during the week, 175 men and five women were trained in 13 districts. The training sessions included Unity Building, Negotiation Strategy, Grants Management, Infrastructure Project Implementation, and Operation and Maintenance.
- As reported above, a three-day ToT on Stakeholder Engagement was also conducted in Kabul, during which 32 men and 17 women were trained.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- Five grants projects, with a cumulative value of nearly \$86,000, were completed during the week. These include one infrastructure project in Paktya Province and two in Khost, as well as two non-infrastructure projects in Maydan Wardak.
- Five grant awards, valued at nearly \$147,000, were made to projects in four districts: two for Jaji Maydan and one each for Mando Zayi, Qarabagh, and Garda Serai.
- Twenty-six milestone payments, valued at nearly \$369,000, were made to projects in 18 districts.
- To date, 229 projects, with a total value of nearly \$8.1 million, have been awarded to 20 districts in five provinces.
- Four hundred and forty-four grant applications – for 363 infrastructure, 73 non-infrastructure, and eight transition initiative projects, valued at over \$17.8 million – have been received, and 316 applications have been approved by USAID.
- Eight grant applications, valued at nearly \$168,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees. The approved projects are slated for four districts.
- Three engineering designs, worth over \$84,000, were completed for Mando Zayi, Dih Yak, and Laja Ahmad Khail Districts.

GHAZNI

- During the week, the District Governor (DG) of Khwaja Umari, along with DSWs and the district police chief, conducted four site visits to grants project in the district. In addition, a joint IDLG and SIKA-East team visited three tailoring centers. The District Governor suggested including a transportation fee in the budgets of future projects for the women who attend vocational trainings courses.
- A Grants Management training session was conducted for nine men from Qarabagh District.
- Seven milestone payments, with a total value over \$38,000, were disbursed to Ghazni Province during the week: four for Khwaja Umari District and one each for Qarabagh, Dih Yak, and Andar.

- One engineering design, worth over \$21,000, was finalized for Dih Yak District.
- One grant, valued at over 24,000, was awarded to Qarabagh District during the week.
- Fifty-nine grant project applications, cumulatively worth more than \$1.9 million, have been received for Ghazni Province to date. Forty-eight projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 23 have been awarded and are under way, and ten have been pronounced physically complete.

KHOST

- On May 7, a joint team – including representatives of the Provincial Governor (PG), PRRD, Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, National Solidarity Program (NSP), Tani District police, DDA+, and SIKA-East – visited the Dargi Esa Khail Village water reservoir project to officially close it.
- Another site visit was conducted by Jaji Maydan District Governor to the Speen Sali Canal rehabilitation project, which also ended with a closing ceremony.
- Two training sessions were held in Khost Province during the week: one Infrastructure Project Implementation session for eight men from Tani District, and one Grants Management session for 16 men from Jaji Maydan District.
- Twenty-four milestone payments, with a total value of nearly \$142,000, were made to Khost Province: five each for Tani and Jaji Maydan, eight for Gurbuz, and six for Mando Zayi District.
- One engineering design, worth nearly \$23,000, was finalized for Mando Zayi District.
- Three grants were awarded to Khost this week: two for Jaji Maydan and one for Mando Zayi District. The commutative value of these awards is nearly \$74,000.
- To date, SIKA-East has received 66 grants applications, worth over \$2.2 million, in Khost Province. Fifty-six projects have received USAID approval, and 42 of them have been awarded: 14 for Gurbuz, seven for Jaji Maydan, ten for Mando Zayi, and 12 for Tani. Eleven projects, valued at over \$203,000, have been completed.

LOGAR

- On May 7, representatives of PRRD, the PG, and SIKA-East visited grants projects in Khoshi District. The team shared their ideas with the contracting Community Development Committees (CDC) for better implementation of the projects.
- Three training sessions were conducted in Logar Province during the week: a Grants Management training session and an Infrastructure Project Implementation session, respectively, for 14 and 11 men from Khoshi District, and an Operation and Maintenance training session for 15 men from Baraki Barak District.
- Four milestone payments, worth nearly \$36,000, were made for three districts of Logar Province: two for Khoshi and one each for Baraki Barak and Mohammad Agha District.
- 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. Thirty projects have been completed, including three that are officially closed.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Two Infrastructure Project Implementation training sessions were conducted for 10 and 13 men for Chaki Wardak and Saydabad Districts, respectively.

- On May 5, the Jalrez DG, along with other district officials, and SIKA-East staff, visited the Qala Ziarat protection wall project. They also laid the foundation stone of Kahrwalang water reservoir.
- Two non-infrastructure projects, valued at over \$20,000, were completed in Chaki Wardak District: Ebrahim Khail tailoring course and Mali Khail embroidery course. The total number of direct beneficiaries of these two projects is 10 men and 35 women. At the end, the trainees received sewing machines and other equipment that they can use to produce clothes for their families or for sale.
- Three milestone payments, worth nearly \$15,000, were made for Chaki Wardak and Jalrez Districts.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committee (GRC) reviewed and approved six projects, with a combined value of almost \$105,000: five for Jalrez District and one for Saydabad.
- 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 64 projects, valued at over \$2.2 million, have been awarded; 33 of these have been completed.

PAKTIKA

- This week, SIKA-East hired a Program Management Team (PMT) manager for Paktika Province. In addition, candidates for the position of deputy PMT manager have been shortlisted and will be hired soon.
- Procurement for the Paktika office renovation is under way.

PAKTYA

- On May 5 and 6, a joint SIKA-East and DSW team visited two project sites in Ahmad Abad District. They also conducted a survey for a new project in the district.
- The opening ceremony for the Meindani Kasi flood protection wall project, worth over \$47,000, was held in Zadran District this week.
- The Manz CDC canal construction project in Laja Ahmad Khail District was completed, and a dedication ceremony held, during the week. This project cost over \$22,000 and will benefit 1,100 families in six villages.
- Twelve training sessions were conducted in Paktya Province during the week: five Negotiation Strategy sessions for a total of 23 men from all five SIKA-East districts, five separate sessions in Coalition Building for 24 men from the same districts, one Infrastructure Project Implementation session for 14 men from Laja Mangal, and one Grants Management training session for 18 men from Garda Serai sub-district.
- Seventeen milestone payments, worth over \$138,000, were made for Paktya Province during the week: seven each for Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal, and one each for Ahmad Abad, Zadran, and Zurmat.
- One engineering design, valued at over \$40,000, was finalized for Laja Ahmad Khail District.
- One grant of \$47,000 was awarded for Garda Serai sub-district, the first awarded to that 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 56 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 32 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 jointly worked to resolve this dispute. However, after several meetings with both parties and the Khwaja Umari District Governor, the issue remained unresolved, and it was decided to cancel the project.
- Due to seasonal rains and flooding in Khost Province, two protection walls constructed by SIKA-East grant recipients have been damaged, and another project has been put on hold. Three projects in Paktya Province are also on hold due to heavy flooding.
- The Beco Niaz Gul karez extension project in Mohammad Agha District has been stopped due to a land ownership conflict. Provincial and district staff are working to resolve the issue.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct the Participatory Community Development training in coordination with MRRD/CLDD;
- Make 22 milestone payments for 13 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 six grant projects, worth over \$44,000, for Mando Zayi, Dih Yak, Qarabagh, Ahmad Abad, and Laja Ahmad Khail 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	3	9	19	16	15	\$586,220	5	\$165,183	6	\$233,708	1	\$19,087	12	\$417,978
Khwaja Umari	0	19	\$570,283	12	4	19	17	16	\$509,512	13	\$381,284	0	\$0	0	\$0	13	\$381,284
Qarabagh	5	4	\$120,575	1	0	4	3	3	\$95,692	2	\$45,560	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$45,560
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	12	\$410,751	1	3	13	8	9	\$331,347	6	\$203,299	1	\$26,578	0	\$0	7	\$229,877
Mando Zayi	6	15	\$431,677	4	0	15	14	14	\$399,535	7	\$170,679	3	\$71,930	0	\$0	10	\$242,610
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	8	\$237,957	13	\$498,418	0	\$0	21	\$736,375
Khoshi	0	17	\$807,185	9	2	18	13	14	\$658,824	6	\$192,594	0	\$0	0	\$0	6	\$192,594
Moha.Agha	1	32	\$1,505,695	3	22	32	28	28	\$1,276,266	10	\$453,397	14	\$639,675	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	1	\$50,471	14	\$497,748
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	9	\$234,193	23	\$705,730
Ahmad Abad	17	24	\$1,291,338	19	1	19	9	8	\$417,236	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	6	6	16	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)	27	28	\$1,051,700	6	1	4	1	1	\$47,395	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
	101	436	\$17,315,472	113	142	381	316	312	\$12,405,166	142	\$4,775,116	67	\$2,644,950	17	\$587,548	226	\$8,007,614

Infrastructure Grants	70	363	\$15,090,313	78	122	314	278	276	\$11,187,336	137	\$4,693,415	62	\$2,561,703	12	\$532,339	211	\$7,787,457
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	8	\$506,744	4	3	7	4	4	\$171,544	3	\$128,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,720

	108	444	\$17,822,216.19	117	145	388	320	316	\$12,576,709.36	145	\$4,903,836.14	67	\$2,644,949.64	17	\$587,547.75	229	\$8,136,334
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