



STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 125

MAY 10 – 15, 2014



A mother and her daughter walk alongside a stonemasonry flood protection wall recently built by the Deh Safid Sang CDC in Logar Province's Mohammad Agha District with the help of a \$20,000 grant from USAID.

May 19, 2014

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Highlights of the Week:

- During the week, ten projects, worth nearly \$280,000, were completed: one in Gurbuz and two in Jaji Maydan Districts of Khost, three each in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts of Paktya, and one in Saydabad District of Maydan Wardak Province.
- Four tailoring courses were completed in Ghazni Province: one in Dih Yak and three in Khwaja Umari District. A total of 125 women benefited directly from the courses.



DDA members and other participants discuss the expansion of SIKA-East into Muqur District during a stakeholder planning meeting held in Ghazni City on May 12.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Five training sessions were held during the week for 52 men in Khost and Paktya Provinces.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 22,922 individuals – 17,545 men and 5,377 women – have attended a total of 763 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - One grant award, valued at over \$52,000, was made for a project in Khoshi District of Logar Province.
 - To date, 451 grant applications – including 366 infrastructure, 75 non-infrastructure, and ten transition initiative projects, all valued at over \$18.1 million – have been received, and 323 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - So far, 104 grants project have been completed in SIKA-East-targeted provinces. The cumulative value of these projects is over \$3.6 million.
 - Fifty-five projects, worth over \$2.2 million, have passed the warranty period of 90 days and are officially closed.

Muqur Stakeholder Planning Meeting

In March, USAID approved the expansion of SIKA-East into six new districts in the original five provinces, including Muqur District in Ghazni. On May 12, the PRRD Director and SIKA-East Manager for Ghazni held a Stakeholder Planning Meeting in Ghazni City to introduce SIKA-East to important figures from Muqur. These included the District Governor, members of the Muqur DCC and DDA, representatives of DoWA and local CDCs, and other influential men and women from the area. Nine men and six women were in attendance.

After outlining SIKA-East's goals and implementation plans, SIKA-East's Manager for Ghazni tried to impress on everyone that the program belongs to them and depends on their support. Other PRRD and SIKA-East staff explained the importance of enlisting stakeholders, including a significant number of influential women, for the program. Eighty leading men and women from Muqur, forty each, have already been nominated to identify potential stakeholders in the program, and interviews with them will be conducted shortly.

The DG and others also spoke at the meeting, and all promised to fully support SIKA-East during its implementation in Muqur District.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

- The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development's Community Led Development Department (MRRD/CLDD) and SIKA-East conducted a five-day Participatory Community Development (PCD) training for District Social Workers (DSW) in Kabul. The training was conducted by MRRD/CLDD facilitators. The participants – 41 men and one woman – included all the DSWs from SIKA-East's original 21 targeted districts. Some senior staff from MRRD and SIKA-East visited the training sessions from time to time.

The training covered such topics as community engagement and participatory planning and execution of development and governance projects. MRRD expects that this module, which is adopted 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 communities in a participatory planning process at the grassroots level.

The training concluded on May 15 with the distribution of certificates of completion to the participants by the MRRD/CLDD Director, Mr. Kashani.

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT OF DISTRICT OFFICIALS

- This week, there continued to be substantial participation by District Governors, members of DDAs, DSWs, and other district officials in the monitoring of SIKA-East projects in all five provinces. SIKA-East provides a monthly field visit plan for each province to PRRD Directors and works 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 the Provincial Development Council.

District officials also participated in several ribbon-cutting ceremonies marking the physical completion of projects.

RADIO PLAY

- SIKA-East reviewed the Scope of Work of the radio play contract for Paktya Province in the light of USAID's comments. The contract is expected to be signed soon.

ADVOCACY TOT

- A Training of Trainers (ToT) refresher in Advocacy was conducted in Kabul for the field communication officers on May 13 and 14. During the refresher, the communication officers also revised the curriculum.

Inauguration Ceremonies Conducted This Week



The Governor of Khwaja Umari District in Ghazni Province cuts a ribbon to mark completion of a flood protection wall built by Godul Qandary CDC.



The Hassan Khil CDC in Khost's Jaji Maidan District celebrates the completion of their canal rehabilitation project.



Also in Jaji Maidan, members of the Askandarh CDC line up along the wall of a canal they recently rehabilitated to inaugurate the project.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- An improved, gender-sensitive stakeholder engagement process was launched in new districts in SIKA-East's existing provinces, as agreed in the recent Training of Trainers workshop. In Ghazni, Maydan Wardak, and Khost, Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) representatives are now included in outreach, and female survey teams have been formed. In Khost's Nadir Shah Kot district, male DDA members and tribal elders participated in the first meeting to assess the cultural viability of women's participation. Once satisfied, they invited the female survey team to meet with women in the district. In Paktya, male reluctance continued to hamper practical outreach to DoWA and to women in the new districts. Senior Kabul and field managers agreed to rapidly reassign a female staff member as the engagement lead and to reach out to DoWA to invite close participation. As a result, SIKA-East expects outreach efforts to significantly expand during next week.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- In five training sessions during the week, 52 men were trained in four districts. The training sessions included Infrastructure Project Implementation, Grants Management, and Operation and Maintenance.
- In addition, as reported above, an Advocacy Training of Trainers (ToT) refresher was conducted in Kabul for the field communication officers on May 13 and 14.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- During the week, ten projects, worth nearly \$280,000, were completed: one in Gurbuz and two in Jaji Maydan Districts of Khost, three each in Laja Ahmad Khail and Laja Mangal Districts of Paktya, and one in Saydabad District of Maydan Wardak Province.
- One grant award, valued at over \$52,000, was made for a project in Khoshi District.
- Eighteen milestone payments, valued at over \$108,000, were made to projects in 12 districts.
- To date, 228 projects, with a total value of over \$8.1 million, have been awarded to 20 districts in five provinces.
- Four hundred and fifty-one grant applications – for 366 infrastructure, 75 non-infrastructure, and ten transition initiative projects, valued at over \$18.1 million – have been received, and 323 applications have been approved by USAID.
- Four grant applications, valued at over \$126,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees. The approved projects are slated for four districts.
- Two engineering designs, worth over \$51,000, were completed for Mando Zayi and Dih Yak Districts.

GHAZNI

- In March, USAID approved the expansion of SIKA-East into Muqur District in Ghazni. On May 12, the PRRD Director and SIKA-East Manager for Ghazni held a Stakeholder Planning Meeting in Ghazni City to introduce SIKA-East to important figures from Muqur. For more details, see p. 1.
- Three milestone payments, with a total value over \$18,000, were disbursed to Ghazni Province during the week: two for Khwaja Umari District and one for Qarabagh.
- One engineering design, worth nearly \$23,000, was finalized for Dih Yak District.
- A PRRD and SIKA-East joint Grant Review Committee (GRC) reviewed one infrastructure project for Dih Yak and one non-infrastructure project for Andar District.

- 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 11 have been pronounced physically complete.

KHOST

- Four training sessions were conducted during the week in Khost Province: two Infrastructure Project Implementation, one Grants Management, and one Operation and Maintenance session. A total of 34 men received training during these sessions.
- During the week, three projects, with a total value of over \$74,000, were completed in Khost Province: Shaheed Kali protection wall in Gurbuz and Askandarah and Hassan Khail canal rehabilitations in Jaji Maydan District.
- Two milestone payments, with a total value of nearly \$11,000, were made to projects in Gurbuz and Tani Districts.
- One engineering design, worth over \$24,000, was finalized for Mando Zayi District.
- To date, SIKA-East has received 67 grant applications, worth over \$2.2 million, in Khost Province. Fifty-eight 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

- PRRD engineers along with SIKA-East staff and CDC members visited Sultan Khail karez rehabilitation project in Mohammad Agha District. The PRRD engineers reviewed the technical documents and provided construction advice.
- One grant, worth over \$52,000, was awarded for Khoshi District.
- One milestone payment, worth over \$4,000, was made for Baraki Barak 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

- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East team visited two projects sites in Saydabad and Nirkh Districts.

Site Visits



On May 14, the acting DG for Zadran District in Paktya, accompanied by the DDA Chairman and SIKA-East staff visited the ongoing flood protection wall project being implemented by the Koza Waza Project Management Committee.



Also on May 14, the Zadran team visited the site of the Meindani Kasi protection wall project to monitor the laying out of the wall's course.



SIKA-East engineers measure the width of the foundation for a protection wall being built by the Sangar Khil CDC in Mohammad Agha District in Logar Province.

- The Tara Khail siphon construction project in Saydabad was completed during the week. So far, SIKA-East has handed over 16 projects to PRRD in Maydan Wardak Province.
- Three milestone payments, worth nearly \$16,000, were made to CDCs implementing projects in Chaki Wardak, Saydabad, and Jalrez Districts. That includes one non-infrastructure project.
- To date, 106 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 20 for Chaki Wardak, 29 for Jalrez, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad. Eighty-four projects have received USAID approval, and 63 projects, valued at over \$2.1 million, have been awarded; 33 of these have been completed.

PAKTIKA

- Procurement for the Paktika office renovation is under way.

PAKTYA

- The acting District Governor of Zadran paid a visit to the Koza Waza flood protection wall project and commented on the good quality of the work.
- The Ahmad Abad DSW accompanied SIKA-East engineers during a survey for the Gharak Mansoor Khel stream project.
- An Infrastructure Project Implementation training session was conducted for 18 men from Garda Serai Sub-district.
- Four milestone payments, worth nearly \$14,000, were made for projects under way in Laja Ahmad Khail District of Paktya Province.
- One engineering design, valued at nearly \$80,000, was finalized for Zurmat 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 60 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 33 grants have been awarded.

CHALLENGES

- The Tormay and Godol Qandahari CDCs in Khwaja Umari District had a conflict regarding ownership of a protection wall project. The Godol Qandahari CDC claimed that, based on the National Solidarity Program (NSP) manual, Tormay village was not eligible to form a CDC as it had only 17 families. The District Management Team, DG, DDA, and relevant CDCs worked hard to resolve the dispute, but it was decided to cancel the project and was so reported last week. However, the two CDCs continued to meet and agreed on May 12 to go ahead with the project. Two days later, the Khwaja Umari DG attended an opening ceremony and launched the project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- Seasonal rains and flooding in Logar Province have affected project progress in Mohammad Agha, Khoshi, and Baraki Barak Districts.
- In Andar District of Ghazni Province, the Abdul Rahim CDC received a night letter from the Taliban. As a result, the District Governor temporarily restricted all movements and put all ongoing projects on hold till further notice.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Make 20 milestone payments for 13 districts; and
- Review and approve four grant projects for Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Dih Yak, and Qarabagh 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	1	\$17,887	2	\$132,748	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	17	15	\$586,220	4	\$152,862	2	\$24,783	6	\$240,332	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	4	3	\$95,692	2	\$45,560	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$45,560
Gurbuz	2	18	\$732,934	7	3	18	17	17	\$632,934	5	\$173,917	8	\$224,316	0	\$0	13	\$398,233
Jaji Maidan	4	12	\$410,751	1	3	13	8	10	\$356,287	3	\$134,681	4	\$95,196	0	\$0	7	\$229,877
Mando Zayi	6	16	\$454,654	4	0	16	15	15	\$422,511	5	\$123,480	5	\$119,130	0	\$0	10	\$242,610
Tani	0	21	\$679,006	2	4	19	16	16	\$563,739	6	\$242,913	6	\$139,115	0	\$0	12	\$382,029
Baraki Barak	6	31	\$1,343,676	6	16	31	27	27	\$1,117,108	8	\$237,957	9	\$300,858	4	\$197,561	21	\$736,375
Khoshi	0	18	\$828,803	9	3	19	14	14	\$658,824	6	\$192,594	0	\$0	0	\$0	6	\$192,594
Moha.Agha	1	33	\$1,599,907	4	23	33	28	28	\$1,276,266	10	\$453,397	3	\$131,927	14	\$613,511	27	\$1,198,834
Chaki Wardak	5	20	\$835,903	5	9	19	18	18	\$740,465	9	\$292,260	1	\$10,946	3	\$144,072	13	\$447,277
Jalrez	0	29	\$820,941	5	0	23	15	15	\$355,078	12	\$281,302	0	\$0	0	\$0	12	\$281,302
Nirkh	4	23	\$1,149,330	0	21	22	20	20	\$1,000,537	4	\$166,465	1	\$65,983	10	\$499,641	15	\$732,088
Saydabad	3	34	\$1,037,197	4	18	33	31	31	\$1,148,010	5	\$157,801	2	\$100,208	16	\$447,720	23	\$705,730
Ahmad Abad	15	24	\$1,291,338	19	1	19	11	10	\$538,503	1	\$75,676	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$75,676
Laja Ahmad Khail	8	19	\$614,968	5	2	18	15	15	\$414,403	9	\$252,824	4	\$86,744	0	\$0	13	\$339,569
Laja Mangal	5	19	\$700,686	6	6	16	14	14	\$537,294	7	\$271,261	3	\$62,475	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	\$1,099,387	10	4	15	12	12	\$677,870	6	\$331,425	0	\$0	0	\$0	6	\$331,425
Zadran (Gerda Serai)	27	28	\$1,070,765	6	1	4	3	2	\$123,606	1	\$47,395	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$47,395
Total	109	441	\$17,262,542	120	140	390	325	319	\$12,734,651	121	\$4,336,984	49	\$1,379,569	55	\$2,275,585	225	\$7,992,137

Infrastructure Grants	77	366	\$14,921,555	85	119	321	284	283	\$11,516,821	116	\$4,255,282	44	\$1,296,322	52	\$2,220,376	212	\$7,771,981
Non-Infrastructure Grants	32	75	\$2,340,988	35	21	69	41	36	\$1,217,830	5	\$81,701	5	\$83,246	3	\$55,209	13	\$220,157
Transition Initiative Grants	10	10	\$880,403	7	3	10	7	4	\$171,544	3	\$128,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,720

Total	119	451	\$18,142,945	127	143	400	332	323	\$12,906,194	124	\$4,465,704	49	\$1,379,569	55	\$2,275,585	228	\$8,120,858
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