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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 128

MAY 31 – JUNE 5, 2014



Workers pour concrete for a siphon project being implemented by the Raisan CDC in Logar's Khoshi District.

June 9, 2014

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Highlights of the Week:

- Ghazni Province witnessed the completion of the Shahed Zulmai high school repair project and the start of construction on the Godul Qandahari culvert project, both in Khwaja Umari District.
- The district profile of Muqur in Ghazni Province was drafted, reviewed, and finalized before being shared with USAID. District profiles provide extensive information about the demographic and socio-political landscape of a district and are used to better inform SIKA-East activities and analysis.



Students at the Khoshi District girls high school work at the new computers provided by Roshan in response to advocacy efforts by the Khoshi DDA's Women's Communication Committee.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Thirty training sessions were held during the week for 615 men and 107 women in 17 districts.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 24,041 individuals – 18,533 men and 5,508 women – have attended a total of 841 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - One grant award, valued at over \$76,000, was made for a project in Jaji Maydan District of Paktya Province.
 - To date, 476 grant applications – for 376 infrastructure, 81 non-infrastructure, and 19 transition initiative projects, all valued at over \$18.5 million – have been received, and 343 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - As of June 5, 242 projects, with a total value of over \$8.5 million, have been awarded to 21 districts.
 - So far, 121 grant projects have been completed in SIKA-East-targeted provinces. The cumulative value of these projects is over \$4.2 million.
 - Sixty projects, worth over \$2.4 million, have passed the warranty period of 90 days and are officially closed.

Communication Committee Advocates for Computer Lab for Khoshi Girls High School

Khoshi District in Logar Province has a large girls high school. Like students everywhere, the girls are keen to learn about computers and related technology. However, because of a lack of computers at their school and the electricity to run them, their wishes were frustrated.

Fortunately, Khoshi District has an active women's communication committee within its District Development Assembly (DDA) that has the girls' interests at heart. The women on the committee also have some knowledge and experience of making things happen, having been trained in advocacy and resource development with SIKA-East. Working with the Education Directorate and other institutions in their district and province, they succeeded in persuading Roshan Telecom Afghanistan to pay for five personal computers, a printer, and other ancillary equipment, as well as a connexe to house everything and a self-contained solar energy system to power the entire facility.

Naturally, the girls are delighted with their new computer lab. "This lab will help us learn about new technology and enable us to work alongside men," said one girl. "We may not be able to go to the city to continue our education like our brothers, but we can learn some of the same things right here at home."

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

SCOPES OF WORK FOR NEW PROJECTS

- SIKa-East and MRRD started technical assessments for ten identified projects in the new SIKa-East districts of Muqur in Ghazni Province and Maydan Shahr in Maydan Wardak. These projects were identified by the DDAs from the two districts and in consultations with provincial and district line departments. The quick implementation of these projects through SIKa-East – even before SIKa-East’s usual District Strategic Planning Process, culminating in District Project Portfolios – will help establish trust in PRRD and SIKa-East as community-focused organizations and raise expectations for the further implementation of the program.

NADIR SHAH KOT STAKEHOLDER REGISTER

- After four days of stakeholder mapping and engagement surveys, the stakeholder register of Nadir Shah Kot District was finalized and shared with line departments. The stakeholder register has been developed for men and women, and each list will have members from the DDA, District Community Council (DCC), Community Development Councils (CDC), and other governmental and non-governmental entities, based on the survey and their influence over the area.

DOCUMENTS FOR FACILITATION OF DSPP TOT

- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) and SIKa-East have developed a training curriculum, facilitator’s guide, and other supporting documents for a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on a revised District Strategic Planning Process (DSPP). The ToT will be facilitated by SIKa-East and NABDP facilitators jointly, with each party covering their own area of specialization. Representatives from the Department of Women’s Affairs (DoWA) and provincial NABDP representatives have been invited to attend the ToT. The heads of two key MRRD departments – Community Led Development Department (CLDD) and Local Institutions Development Department (LIDD) will also attend the ToT and address the participants.

WOMEN’S OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

- SIKa-East’s Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is making sure that women are part of each activity at each level. During the recent expansion of SIKa-East, women’s participation has grown in the stakeholder survey lists and at SIKa-East launches in comparison with the original round of activities. Almost 40 to 64 women have been involved in initial activities in each of the six new districts. In addition, women’s participation in the Muqur Stake-



Members of the Qala-e Naw CDC cut a ribbon to celebrate completion of the Shahed Zulmai school repair project in Ghazni’s Khwaja Umari District.



The stonemasonry flood protection wall being built by the Qala-e Baghar CDC in Jalrez District of Maydan Wardak is close to completion.



Female members of the Ahmad Abad DDA+ perform group work during a resource coordination meeting organized by PRRD and SIKa-East and held in Gardez, Paktya, on June 1.

holder and Governance Foundation workshop shows that they have high enthusiasm towards their families, communities, and society. Almost 20 women were invited to participate in the workshop, but that number gradually grew to 43. This outcome in such a conservative district as Muqur could not have been imagined at SIKA-East's original rollout in Ghazni province.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- The SIKA-East gender team held a series of meetings with Zardozi representatives to discuss possible cooperation and collaboration on site visits to their Community Based Centers (CBC) in Kabul. This will help women members of provincial DDA+s learn new ways to assist their communities' women and build small businesses. During the site visits, ten women at a time from the female DDA+s of each province will come to the capital for two days in order to visit Zardozi's two CBCs in the city. Besides the site visits, the visitors from the provinces will meet with Zardozi women to hold question-and-answer sessions to find out about their methods.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- In 30 training sessions during the week, 615 men and 107 women were trained in 17 districts. The training sessions included Governance Foundation, Operation and Maintenance, Infrastructure Project Implementation, Grants Management, Unity Building, and Stakeholder Orientation.
- On June 3 and 4, SIKA-East conducted a two-day training course in photojournalism and video editing for the staff of PRRD, the Provincial Governor's Office, and DoWA in Paktya Province, as well as staff from the various District Governor's Offices. Both trainings were intended to enhance the capacity of the governmental staff and entities in these technical areas and proved to be some of the most popular activities thus far organized by SIKA-East.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- One grant award, valued at over \$86,000, was made this week for a project in Jaji Maydan District of Paktya Province. In addition, eight grants received vetting approval from USAID.
- Fourteen milestone payments, valued at over \$115,000, were made to projects in eight districts during the week.
- Twelve grant applications, worth more than \$264,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees. The approved projects are slated for four districts.
- Five engineering designs, worth nearly \$105,000, were completed for seven districts.
- To date, 242 projects, with a total value of over \$8.5 million, have been awarded to 22 districts, including Garda Serai Sub-district of Zadran District in Paktya.
- Four hundred and seventy-six grant applications – for 376 infrastructure, 81 non-infrastructure, and 19 transition initiative projects, valued at over \$18.5 million – have been received, and 343 applications have been approved by USAID.

GHAZNI

- The district profile of Muqur District in Ghazni Province was drafted, reviewed, and finalized before being shared with USAID.
- The Shahed Zulmai school repair project in Khwaja Umari District of Ghazni Province was completed during the week.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held to kick off the Godul Qandahari culvert construction project. The event was attended by the Khwaja Umari District Governor, District Social Workers

(DSW), and DDA+ members. This project will cost over \$10,000 and benefit more than a thousand men and women in the area.

- Ten training sessions were conducted in Ghazni Province during the week. These included four Unity Building sessions for a total number of 77 men and 61 women from Qarabagh and Jaghatu Districts; three Grants Management training sessions for 67 men and two women from Dih Yak, Khwaja Umari, and Muqur Districts; a Governance Foundation session for 47 men from Muqur; Stakeholder Orientation training for 42 men from the same district; and an Infrastructure Project Implementation training session for seven men from Dih Yak.
- Five milestone payments, worth nearly \$27,000 in all, were made for Ghazni Province: three for Khwaja Umari and two for Dih Yak.
- Two engineering designs, with a value of over \$164,000, were finalized for Jaghatu District.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East Grants Review Committee (GRC) reviewed and approved seven projects for Ghazni Province: four for Andar, two for Khwaja Umari, and one for Qarabagh.
- Sixty-six grant project applications, cumulatively worth more than \$2.4 million, have been received for Ghazni Province to date. Fifty-one projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 27 have been awarded and are under way, and eight have been pronounced physically complete.

KHOST

- Five training sessions were conducted during the week in Khost Province. These included a two-day Stakeholder Orientation for 59 men from Nadir Shah Kot, a Governance Foundation session for 63 men from the same district, Operation and Maintenance training for nine men from Tani, an Infrastructure Project Implementation workshop for eight men from Gurbuz, and a three-day Grants Management session for eight men from Jaji Maydan.
- Six milestone payments, with a total value of over \$54,000, were made to projects in Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Mando Zayi, and Tani Districts.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East Grants Review Committee (GRC) reviewed and approved two projects, valued at over \$54,000, for Gurbuz District.
- To date, SIKA-East has received 72 grant applications, worth nearly \$2.4 million, in Khost Province. Sixty projects have received USAID approval, and 47 of them have been awarded: 14 for Gurbuz, nine for Jaji Maydan, 12 for Mando Zayi, and 12 for Tani. Twenty-seven projects, valued at nearly \$680,000, have been completed.

LOGAR

- One milestone payment, worth nearly \$7,000, was made for a project in Khoshi District.
- To date, USAID has approved 70 grant projects, worth over \$3 million, for Logar Province: 27 for Baraki Barak, 15 for Khoshi, and 28 for Mohammad Agha. Thirty-two projects have been completed, including 19 that are officially closed.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- Three training sessions were conducted in Maydan Wardak Province during the week: an Infrastructure Project Implementation session for eight men and two women from Jalrez, Stakeholder Orientation training for 45 men from Maydan Shahr, and a Governance Foundation session for 54 men from the same district.
- One milestone payment, worth nearly \$6,000, was made to the Gerraw CDC implementing a culvert construction project in Jalrez District.

- To date, 108 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 20 for Chaki Wardak, 31 for Jalrez, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad. Eighty-six projects have received USAID approval, and 68, valued at over \$2.3 million, have been awarded; 39 of these have been completed.

PAKTIKA

- SIKA-East is preparing for the program launch in Sharana and Yosuf Khail Districts of Paktika Province on June 17. Work is under way to refurbish the provincial office, and the recruitment of technical staff is also proceeding.

PAKTYA

- Twelve training sessions were held in Paktya Province: Stakeholder Orientation for 62 men from Mirzaka, Governance Foundation for 56 men from the same district, and ten separate photojournalism and video editing sessions for a total number of 45 male employees of District Governors' Offices for Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, Zadran, and Zurmat.
- Two engineering designs, worth over \$142,000, were completed for Garda Serai and Ahmad Abad Districts.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved three projects, worth over \$209,000, for Ahmad Abad, Zadran, and Garda Serai Sub-district of Zadran.
- One grant, worth over \$76,000, was awarded for Jaji Maydan District.
- To date, 128 grant applications have been received for Paktya Province: 25 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 61 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 34 grants have been awarded.

CHALLENGES

- Seasonal rains and flooding in Paktya Province continue to affect project progress. The Waam Hassan Khaill intake construction project in Laja Ahmad Khail has been stopped and will resume as soon as the area has dried out.
- Five projects in Logar Province, including four in Mohammad Agha and one in Baraki Barak District, have been problematic due to the uncooperative attitude of the CDCs. Over the past several months, SIKA-East has worked closely with relevant District Governors and PRRD Directors to resolve the problems, however, four of the projects remain afflicted with challenges. SIKA-East and MRRD's National Solidarity Program (NSP) office in Kabul have a meeting next week to re-assess the capacity of the CDCs in question and find ways to proceed with the implementation of the projects.
- The District Governor of Qarabagh District has been terminated by IDLG. This has caused delays in the processing of project documents in the district. SIKA-East district and provincial staff have worked with PRRD and provincial officials to find a solution and have received assurances that the Provincial Governor would be signing off on all project documentation until the time IDLG appoints the new District Governor.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Conduct District Strategic Planning Process Training of Trainers (ToT);
- Make 21 milestone payments for seven districts;
- Award one grant for Zurmat District; and

- Review and approve II grant projects for Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Jaghatu, Gurbuz, Jalrez, Saydabad, Chaki Wardak, and Laja Mangal 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	4	20	\$666,373	5	4	20	15	12	\$461,213	3	\$178,244	1	\$17,887	2	\$132,748	6	\$328,879
Jaghatau	0	5	\$173,945	2	0	5	2	2	\$95,666	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Dih Yak	1	16	\$800,831	4	9	20	18	17	\$640,422	4	\$152,257	3	\$46,826	6	\$240,332	13	\$439,414
Khwaja Umari	0	21	\$666,725	3	13	21	17	16	\$514,698	12	\$389,930	2	\$20,403	0	\$0	14	\$410,333
Qarabagh	5	4	\$120,575	1	0	4	4	4	\$120,575	2	\$45,560	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$45,560
Muqur	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Gurbuz	11	21	\$784,119	10	3	21	18	18	\$652,791	5	\$159,177	9	\$264,136	0	\$0	14	\$423,313
Jaji Maidan	7	12	\$410,751	0	4	13	8	10	\$356,287	4	\$159,900	5	\$119,966	0	\$0	9	\$279,866
Mando Zayi	10	18	\$551,623	5	0	18	17	16	\$469,061	6	\$146,940	6	\$143,089	0	\$0	12	\$290,029
Tani	12	21	\$672,079	3	4	19	16	16	\$556,812	6	\$242,913	6	\$139,115	0	\$0	12	\$382,029
Nadir Shah Kot	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Baraki Barak	5	32	\$1,388,231	7	16	32	27	27	\$1,110,349	7	\$185,698	9	\$328,315	5	\$222,362	21	\$736,375
Khoshi	0	18	\$785,231	9	3	19	14	15	\$676,640	7	\$243,725	0	\$0	0	\$0	7	\$243,725
Mohammad Agha	1	33	\$1,469,201	4	23	33	28	28	\$1,275,615	9	\$378,225	4	\$206,447	14	\$613,511	27	\$1,198,183
Chaki Wardak	5	20	\$841,289	6	9	19	19	18	\$745,850	8	\$343,642	2	\$20,455	5	\$212,475	15	\$576,572
Jalrez	0	31	\$784,884	4	0	24	20	17	\$336,523	14	\$246,740	0	\$0	0	\$0	14	\$246,740
Nirkh	4	23	\$1,146,278	2	21	22	20	20	\$997,485	3	\$108,389	2	\$124,058	11	\$568,318	16	\$800,765
Saydabad	3	34	\$1,021,025	3	19	33	31	31	\$1,126,167	4	\$143,357	2	\$100,208	17	\$462,165	23	\$705,730
Maydan Shahr	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ahmad Abad	5	25	\$1,372,210	17	5	23	11	10	\$537,920	1	\$75,676	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$75,676
Laja Ahmad Khail	4	19	\$607,944	6	2	19	15	15	\$414,403	7	\$171,433	6	\$168,135	0	\$0	13	\$339,569
Laja Mangal	4	19	\$707,998	3	9	16	14	14	\$536,802	7	\$271,261	3	\$62,475	0	\$0	10	\$333,737
Zadran	10	19	\$692,426	2	11	11	7	7	\$404,242	3	\$228,797	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$228,797
Zurmat	1	18	\$1,062,966	10	5	15	13	13	\$741,245	5	\$299,972	1	\$24,759	0	\$0	6	\$324,731
Zadran (Gerda Serai)	10	28	\$1,070,765	6	1	4	3	2	\$123,606	1	\$47,395	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$47,395
Jaji Ayoub	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Sayed Karem	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mirzaka	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Sharana	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Yosuf Khail	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Total	102	457	\$17,797,470	112	161	411	337	328	\$12,894,375	118	\$4,219,2348	61	\$1,786,273	60	\$2,451,912	239	\$8,457,419
Infrastructure Grants	79	376	\$15,294,278	87	128	338	294	289	\$11,636,855	116	\$4,184,364	54	\$1,680,997	59	\$2,427,110	229	\$8,292,471
Non-Infrastructure Grants	23	81	\$2,503,193	25	35	73	43	39	\$1,257,520	2	\$34,870	7	\$105,276	1	\$24,802	10	\$164,948
Transition Initiative Grants	16	19	\$748,598	23	4	19	16	15	\$616,575	3	\$128,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,720
Total	118	476	\$18,546,068	135	165	430	353	343	\$13,510,949	121	\$4,347,953	61	\$1,786,273	60	\$2,451,912	242	\$8,586,139