



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 129

JUNE 7 – 12, 2014



Twenty-six men and thirteen women from NABDP, DoWA, and SIKA-East attended a three-day Training of Trainers workshop on District Strategic Planning Process in Kabul this week. Here they do group work on the final day.

June 17, 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:

- NABDP and SIKA-East conducted a three-day District Strategic Planning Process Training of Trainers for 26 men and 13 women, including representatives from NABDP, DoWA, provincial officers, DSWs from the new districts, and newly hired SIKA-East field staff.
- Five infrastructure projects were completed in four provinces: Tarakay protection wall in Laja Ahmad Khail District (Paktya); Eissa Khil intake structure in Tani and Abdul Khil protection wall in Mando Zayi (Khost); Dasht-e-Qala Nazir karez rehabilitation in Baraki Barak (Logar); and Zaimani reservoir in Jalrez (Maydan Wardak).

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - Eleven training sessions were held during the week for 264 men and 107 women in eight districts.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 24,212 individuals – 18,797 men and 5,615 women – have attended a total of 852 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Two grant awards, worth over \$114,000, were made for projects in Zurmat and Zadran Districts of Paktya Province.
 - To date, 477 grant applications – for 377 infrastructure, 81 non-infrastructure, and 19 transition initiative projects, all valued at over \$18.6 million – have been received, and 343 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - As of June 12, 246 projects, with a total value of over \$8.8 million, have been awarded to 21 districts.
 - So far, 125 grant projects have been completed in SIKA-East-targeted provinces. The cumulative value of these projects is over \$4.3 million.
 - Sixty-two projects, worth over \$2.5 million, have passed the warranty period of 90 days and are officially closed.

Paktya Opens 18 Schools through SIKA-East Advocacy and Coordination



The Paktya Education Director speaks at the June 10 conference.

The districts of Shewak and Zadran and the sub-district of Garda Serai in Paktya Province have long been deprived of educational opportunities. Security has been a problem in the area for years and contributed to the closing of 18 schools in the districts. But a bigger problem for the cause of education was the District Education Officer, who was often away from his office and when present showed little interest in his job.

In June 2013, SIKA-East arranged for a group of local elders to meet with the Deputy Director of the Paktya Education Department to air their grievances about the educational situation and to seek solutions. The Deputy Director was sympathetic and asked them to prepare to discuss the reopening of the 18 schools with local insurgents. At a series of further meetings coordinated by SIKA-East, the district elders presented documentation supporting the schools' rehabilitation and reopening. They confirmed that they had met with local insurgents and obtained their agreement to allow the schools to reopen. And they also succeeded in getting the District Education Officer replaced.

Finally, on June 10, the Paktya Education Department convened a conference to announce the imminent reopening of the 18 schools in Zadran, Shewak, and Garda Serai. The meeting was attended by almost 500 people plus a large media contingent. The participants included district elders, government officials, and members of the communities where the schools are located. The Director of the Paktya Education Department welcomed the participants, announced the schools' reopening, and thanked SIKA-East for its efforts in focusing public attention on the issue and in coordinating the drive to reopen the schools.

Leaders of the Zadran District Development Assembly thanked the education authorities for reopening the schools and promised to support them. The Education Department pledged to provide books, stationery, tents, and carpets for all the reopened schools and to obtain approval as soon as possible for the construction of buildings to house the open-air schools.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

USAID MEETING TO DISCUSS APPF TRANSITION

- On June 8, CoPs and Security Managers from USAID's principal implementing partners (IP), including AECOM, met with Larry Sampler, Assistant to the USAID Administrator, and other senior USAID officials at the U.S. embassy. The purpose of the meeting was to brief USAID on the challenges facing IPs during the ongoing APPF transition and actions taken to mitigate both security and legal risks resulting from it.

Most of the IPs flagged similar issues and challenges with the APPF transition. These include the risks resulting from expired contracts with APPF, delays in the payment of salaries for guards, a change in APPF leadership, and the registration of weapons. They also proposed similar solutions, such as paying the guards directly to avoid delays, constant engagement with MoI and APPF leadership, and attempts to extend existing contracts.

Mr. Sampler thanked the IPs for their patience and encouraged them to continue using creative solutions to facilitate the transition while avoiding unnecessary legal or security risks.

DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS TOT

- National Area Based Development Program (NABDP) and SIKA-East conducted a three-day District Strategic Planning Process Training of Trainers (ToT) for 26 men and 13 women. The participants included representatives from NABDP, Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), provincial officers, district social workers (DSW) from the new districts, and newly hired SIKA-East field staff. The training was facilitated by both NABDP and SIKA-East trainers. The leadership of MRRD's Local Institutions Development Department (LIDD) and Community Led Development Department addressed the participants and took an active part in the closing of the session.

The main objective of this ToT was to inform all staff and stakeholders about the revised District Strategic Planning Process and train the newly hired staff on District Project Portfolio (DPP) development. The ToT also educated the provincial staff on how to integrate gender into the DPP process and highlight women's problems on the Cycle I list. The gender officers, as gender focal points in the provinces, will have the leading role in this regard.

FAST-TRACK PROJECTS

- The fast-track projects that have been identified by DDAs in the new districts are having narratives developed. So far, ten scopes of work have been developed and shared with line departments for further processing. These projects will be implemented



Women from the Muqur DDA in Ghazni Province attend Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation training.



Members of the Eissa Khil CDC in Tani District of Khost Province celebrate completion of their reservoir project.



Workers clean the site of the flood protection wall project being constructed by the Lashkar Khil CDC in Mohammad Agha District of Logar.

immediately after SIKA-East is launched and will help the program and other government stakeholders to control people's expectations and build confidence until DPPs have been developed.

VOICE MESSAGING CONCEPT NOTE

- A concept note on voice messaging was prepared and shared with Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) for their feedback. The proposed system will be used for citizen feedback on issues and to gauge citizen satisfaction levels for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

WOMEN'S OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

- SIKA-East is coordinating women's engagement in activities in the new districts. An average of 46 women attended Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation training in Maydan Shahr District during the week. The purpose of the training was to outline the participants' roles and responsibilities as stakeholders, identify challenges, and propose solutions.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- In 11 training sessions during the week, 246 men and 107 women from eight districts received training in Stakeholder Orientation, Governance Foundation, Grants Management, and Infrastructure Project Implementation.

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- Two grant awards, valued at over \$114,000, were made this week for projects in Zurmat and Zadran Districts of Paktya Province.
- Seventeen milestone payments, valued at over \$187,000, were made to projects in ten districts.
- Two grant applications, worth more than \$157,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees. The approved projects are slated for two districts.
- Four engineering designs, worth nearly \$257,000, were completed for four districts.
- To date, 246 projects, with a total value of over \$8.8 million, have been awarded to 22 districts, including Garda Serai Sub-district of Zadran District in Paktya.
- Four hundred and seventy-seven grant applications – for 377 infrastructure, 81 non-infrastructure, and 19 transition initiative projects, valued at over \$18.6 million – have been received, and 359 applications have been approved by USAID.

GHAZNI

- A Grants and M&E team conducted site visits to two flood protection wall construction projects being implemented by the Deh Nihal CDC and the Tormay and Goduli Qandahari CDC in Khwaja Umari District. The team found that work was proceeding very slowly and instructed the project supervisors to accelerate the construction work to achieve the milestone plan.
- An Infrastructure Project Implementation training session was conducted for five men and two women from Khwaja Umari District.
- Sixty-six grant project applications, cumulatively worth more than \$2.4 million, have been received for Ghazni Province to date. Fifty-two projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 27 have been awarded and are under way, and eight have been pronounced physically complete.

KHOST

- The Abdul Khail protection wall project in Mando Zayi District and the Eissa Khail intake construction project in Tani District, together worth over \$49,000, were completed during the week. A total of 3,674 men and 3,823 women will benefit from these two projects. The projects were completed in four months and were monitored at each milestone.
- An Infrastructure Project Implementation training session was conducted for eight men from Jaji Maidan District.
- Six milestone payments, with a total value of over \$80,000, were made to projects in Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, and Tani Districts.
- To date, SIKA-East has received 72 grant applications, worth nearly \$2.4 million, in Khost Province. Sixty-two projects have received USAID approval, and 48 of them have been awarded: 14 for Gurbuz, ten for Jaji Maydan, 12 for Mando Zayi, and 12 for Tani. Twenty-eight projects, valued at nearly \$705,000, have been completed.

LOGAR

- The Dasht-e Qalai Nazir karez rehabilitation project, valued at over \$41,000, was completed during the week. This project started on February 9 and ended on June 10. A total of 4,200 men and women are its beneficiaries.
- One milestone payment, worth over \$4,000, was made for a project in Baraki Barak District.
- Two engineering designs, cumulatively worth over \$99,000, were completed for Mohammad Agha and Khoshi Districts.
- 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: a Grants Management session for 12 men from Saydabad, a Stakeholder Orientation session for 44 women and one man from Maydan Shahr, and a Governance Foundation session for 48 women and a man from the same district.
- Three milestone payments, worth nearly \$26,000, were made for Saydabad and Jalrez Districts.
- To date, 109 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 20 for Chaki Wardak, 32 for Jalrez, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad. Eighty-nine projects have received USAID approval, and 69, valued at over \$2.3 million, have been awarded; 41 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 18. Work is under way to refurbish the provincial office, and the recruitment of technical staff is also proceeding.

PAKTYA

- On June 10, the Paktya Education Department arranged a large conference to announce its intention to reopen 18 schools in the districts of Shewak and Zadran and the sub-district of Garda Serai which had been closed for over two years. Almost 500 people attended the meeting, including

district elders, government officials, and members of the communities where the schools are located. See more details on page 1.

- Six training sessions were held in Paktya Province during the week: these included two sessions on Stakeholder Orientation for 25 men from Ali Khail and 36 from Sayed Karam, two Governance Foundation sessions for 50 men each from the same districts, and two Grants Management sessions for 10 men from Zurmat and 22 men from Zadran District.
- Construction of the Tarakay flood protection wall in Laja Ahmad Khail District, valued at over \$22,000, was completed during the week. The project started in mid March and will benefit 726 men and women.
- Seven milestone payments, worth a total of over \$77,000, was made for Paktya Province: three for Zurmat, two for Laja Mangal, and one each for Mando Zayi and Zadran Districts.
- Two engineering designs, worth over \$157,000, were completed for Garda Serai and Zadran.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved two projects, worth over \$157,000, for Zadran and Gerda Serai.
- Two grants, worth over \$114,000, were awarded for Zadran and Zurmat Districts.
- 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 63 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 36 grants have been awarded.

CHALLENGES

- During the build-up to the runoff election and on election day, insurgents launched attacks on district centers and other government facilities in all six SIKA-East provinces. During this period, SIKA-East staff worked from home and followed other precautions prescribed by Security Department. As a result, no SIKA-East staff were affected directly by any of the recorded incidents.
- Seasonal rains and flooding affected projects less this week than heretofore. Work on the flood protection wall being built by the Alozai Najaran CDC in Mohammad Agha District in Logar Province will be resumed next week.
- A grant was awarded for the Hairad Khail karez extension project in Saydabad District of Maydan Wardak Province; however, the CDC is unable to start the project due to security concerns in the area. SIKA-East district staff are working to resolve the problem and get the project started.
- 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 are working with PRRD and provincial officials to find a solution. This week the Ghazni Provincial Governor tasked his executive manager to write an official letter to Qarabagh District to introduce someone from a related district as an acting DG to deal with district activities and SIKA-East program implementation.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Launch SIKA-East in Paktika Province;
- Make 20 milestone payments for twelve districts;
- Award one grant for Zurmat District; and
- Review and approve 13 grant projects for Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Jaghatu, Dih Yak, Mohammad Agha, Khoshi, Jalrez, Saydabad, and Chaki Wardak 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	16	13	\$556,180	3	\$178,244	1	\$17,887	2	\$132,748	6	\$328,879
Jaghathu	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	\$802,631	10	4	21	19	19	\$747,836	4	\$134,220	10	\$289,093	0	\$0	14	\$423,313
Jaji Maidan	7	12	\$410,751	0	4	13	8	10	\$356,287	5	\$236,321	5	\$119,966	0	\$0	10	\$356,287
Mando Zayi	10	18	\$551,623	5	0	18	17	17	\$519,480	6	\$146,940	6	\$143,089	0	\$0	12	\$290,029
Tani	12	21	\$672,079	3	4	19	16	16	\$556,812	5	\$229,321	7	\$152,708	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	19	\$804,105	8	\$343,642	2	\$20,455	5	\$212,475	15	\$576,572
Jalrez	0	32	\$838,003	4	0	24	20	19	\$365,975	14	\$246,740	0	\$0	0	\$0	14	\$246,740
Nirrh	4	23	\$1,146,278	2	21	22	20	20	\$997,485	2	\$74,833	2	\$124,058	12	\$576,762	16	\$775,653
Saydabad	3	34	\$1,021,025	3	18	33	31	31	\$1,126,167	4	\$158,929	2	\$100,208	18	\$525,894	24	\$785,032
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	13	12	\$659,663	1	\$75,676	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$75,676
Laja Ahmad Khail	4	19	\$607,944	5	3	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	15	14	\$536,802	7	\$271,261	3	\$62,475	0	\$0	10	\$333,737
Zadran	10	19	\$692,426	3	11	11	8	7	\$404,242	4	\$290,619	0	\$0	0	\$0	4	\$290,619
Zurmat	1	18	\$1,062,966	10	5	15	13	13	\$741,245	6	\$352,528	1	\$24,759	0	\$0	7	\$377,287
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	458	\$17,869,102	112	162	411	343	336	\$13,344,254	118	\$4,353,499	63	\$1,824,822	62	\$2,524,085	243	\$8,702,406
Infrastructure Grants	79	377	\$15,347,397	87	129	338	296	296	\$11,991,688	116	\$4,318,629	56	\$1,719,546	60	\$2,490,839	232	\$8,529,014
Non-Infrastructure Grants	23	81	\$2,521,706	25	35	73	47	40	\$1,352,566	2	\$34,8700	7	\$105,276	2	\$33,246	11	\$173,392
Transition Initiative Grants	16	19	\$748,598	22	5	19	16	15	\$616,575	3	\$128,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$128,720
Total	118	477	\$18,617,700	134	167	430	359	351	\$13,960,829	121	\$4,482,219	63	\$1,824,822	62	\$2,524,085	246	\$8,831,126