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# STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – EAST

WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE NO. 130

JUNE 14 – 19, 2014



*Members of the Sangar Khil CDC and their neighbors celebrate the inauguration of a flood protection wall (left) that they built in Logar's Mohammad Agha District with a \$17,700 grant from USAID.*

**June 23, 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:

- SIKA-East prepared six district profiles for the newly targeted districts of Ali Khel, Mirzaka, and Sayed Karam (Paktya); Maydan Shahr (Maydan Wardak); Muqur (Ghazni); and Nadir Shah Kot (Khost). The district profiles are ready to be shared with USAID.
- SIKA-East drafted a concept note for resource coordination meetings as transition initiatives. To enhance and transfer the leadership of resource coordination meetings to DDA+, SIKA-East outlined a clear vision of the roles and responsibilities of DDA+ members in the concept note, which is expected to be reviewed and finalized next week.



*Mr. Atta Ullah Fazly, Deputy Provincial Governor for Paktika, welcomed SIKA-East to the province and said he hoped the program can be extended to all of its districts.*

### SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
  - Nine training sessions were held during the week for 150 men and 95 women in seven districts.
  - Since the beginning of the program, 24,457 individuals – 18,947 men and 5,710 women – have attended a total of 861 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
  - One grant award, worth over \$31,000, was made this week for a project in Ahmad Abad District of Paktya Province.
  - To date, 484 grant applications – for 383 infrastructure, 82 non-infrastructure, and 19 transition initiative projects, all valued at over \$19 million – have been received, and 354 applications have been approved by USAID.
  - As of June 19, 247 projects, with a total value of over \$8.8 million, have been awarded to 21 districts.
  - So far, 133 grant projects have been completed in SIKA-East-targeted provinces. The cumulative value of these projects is over \$4.5 million.
  - Sixty-one projects, worth over \$2.4 million, have passed the warranty period of 90 days and are officially closed.

### SIKA-East Launched in Paktika Province

This week SIKA-East was launched in Paktika, the sixth province in southeastern Afghanistan to see the program introduced. SIKA-East will be implemented initially in two districts: Sharana, home of the provincial capital, and Yosuf Khel.

The SIKA-East launch meeting took place on Wednesday, June 18, in the Provincial Governor's conference hall in Sharana. The event was attended by 170 men and 17 women, including top government officials and members of District Development Assemblies (DDA+) and Community Development Councils (CDC), as well as religious scholars, tribal elders, other community leaders, and ordinary citizens.

Following the recitation of a few verses from the Holy Quran, the PRRD Director for Paktika welcomed everyone to the launch meeting and briefly explained the goals and importance of the SIKA-East program. SIKA-East's manager for Paktika then described the program and its implementation strategy in more detail. He was followed by the Yosuf Khail District Governor, who said it was a great pleasure to have SIKA-East in the province and encouraged everyone to support the program to make it as successful as possible. The Deputy Provincial Governor for Paktika echoed his words and hoped that SIKA-East augured peace, success, and a path toward a bright future for the province.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### MEETING ON IDLG PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

- On June 17, senior officials from Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) visited SIKA-East to present their current Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP) so that SIKA-East staff can understand its steps and procedures. The main goal of the PSP is to ensure comprehensive, orderly, and measurable progress towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as well as Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and National Priority Program (NPP) goals at the provincial level. The PSP is the basis for all governance, development, and security activities across the province.

In implementing the PSP, IDLG plays a leading role both centrally and at the sub-national level through its Provincial Governors. The PGs coordinate with national and international partners and their programs, and any organization that wants to operate at the provincial or district level should align its plans with the PSP's targets and indicators.

Following the presentation, IDLG requested that SIKA-East support the PSP financially and technically in the six provinces where SIKA-East is being implemented. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that IDLG will provide a list of activities and budget items where they need SIKA-East's support.

### ENGAGEMENT OFFICERS

- This week, interviews were conducted for Engagement Officers to serve in Provincial and District Governors' Offices. Afterward, eleven Governance and Development Officers were selected for DGOs, as well as eight Engagement Officers for PGO Sectoral Departments and Departments of Economy. The hiring of the selected candidates is expected to be complete by July 15. The rest of the positions are being reannounced, and interviews for them will be held in late June.

### FEMALE DDA+ LEADERS VISIT KABUL

- Five female DDA+ leaders from each original province, along with the five SIKA-East gender officers, visited Kabul to learn from economic activities established for women who have little or no mobility. The purpose of their trip was to visit the two community-based centers of Zardozi in Kabul.

The women also met with representatives of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development's (MRRD) Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP), which orients women leaders towards economic empowerment. AREDP/MRRD presented the ways they assist women in groups, establishing centers and managing them into associations for further economic growth. The main finding of the two-day site visit was



*The Governor of Ghazni's Khwaja Umari District accompanies DSWs and a SIKA-East engineering team on a site visit to a flood protection wall project in Noh Borja Village.*



*Women from the Nadir Shah Kot DDA+ in Khost Province do group work during Stakeholder Orientation and Governance Foundation training. A total of 95 women took part in the workshop, the first time in the history of SIKA-East that more women attended a training than men.*



*Construction proceeds on a flood protection wall being constructed by the Deh Safid Sang CDC in Mohammad Agha District in Logar Province.*

that female DDA+ leaders were keen on developing advocacy initiatives via communication committee meetings in their provinces.

### **DISTRICT PROFILES**

- SIKA-East prepared six district profiles for the new targeted districts: Ali Khail, Mirzaka, and Sayed Karam (Paktya); Maydan Shahr (Maydan Wardak); Muqur (Ghazni); and Nadir Shah Kot (Khost). The District Profile are ready to be shared with USAID.

### **CONCEPT NOTE FOR RESOURCE COORDINATION MEETINGS**

- SIKA-East drafted a concept note for resource coordination meetings as transition initiatives. To enhance and transfer the leadership of resource coordination meetings to DDA+s, SIKA-East outlined a clear vision of the roles and responsibilities of DDA+ members in the concept note, which is expected to be reviewed and finalized next week.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

- In nine training sessions during the week, 150 men and 95 women from seven districts received training in Stakeholder Orientation, District Strategic Planning Process, Infrastructure Project Implementation, and Grants Management.

### **GRANTS AND ENGINEERING**

- During the week, six small infrastructure projects were completed successfully in three provinces: three in Logar, two in Paktya, and one in Maydan Wardak.
- One grant award, worth over \$31,000, was made this week for a project in Ahmad Abad District of Paktya Province.
- Twenty-seven milestone payments, valued at over \$297,000, were made to projects in seventeen districts.
- Fourteen grant applications, worth more than \$397,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees. The approved projects are slated for nine districts.
- Three engineering designs, worth nearly \$44,000, were completed for three districts.
- To date, 247 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 eighty-four grant applications – for 383 infrastructure, 82 non-infrastructure, and 19 transition initiative projects, valued at over \$19 million – have been received, and 354 applications have been approved by USAID.

### **GHAZNI**

- On June 17, women from the Dih Yak Communication Committee visited the Health Development Organization for Afghanistan (HDOA) to discuss the need for midwifery courses in the district. HDOA informed them that they were willing to train three midwives for the district and would select three candidates from Dih Yak who had also graduated from high school and could pass an examination to be held on June 19. The three women who do best in the examination will then receive midwifery training for 18 months.
- During the week, nine milestone payments, worth a total of nearly \$79,000, were made for Ghazni Province: six for Khwaja Umari, two for Jaghatu, and one for Qarabagh District.

- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committee (GRC) reviewed and approved two projects, one each for Khwaja Umari and Jaghatu Districts.
- Seventy grant project applications, cumulatively worth more than \$2.7 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**

- Three training sessions were conducted for Nadir Shah Kot District during the week. These included Stakeholder Orientation, Governance Foundation, and District Strategic Planning Process. A total number of 70 men and 95 women participated in these training sessions. This is the first time in SIKA-East history that the number of women is higher than men in a session.
- Four milestone payments, worth all together over \$68,000, were made to projects in Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Mando Zayi, and Tani.
- One engineering design, valued at nearly \$44,000, was completed for Gurbuz District.
- 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. Thirty projects, valued at nearly \$753,000, have been completed.

## **LOGAR**

- An Operation and Maintenance training session was conducted for 20 men from Baraki Barak District.
- Three projects were completed in Logar Province during the week. These included Safed Sang and Sangar Khail protection walls in Mohammad Agha District. The cumulative cost of these two projects was over \$37,000, and 4,720 men and women will benefit from them. The third completed project was Naw Abad Khan karez extension in Baraki Barak, valued at over \$22,000. Three thousand individuals, including 1,300 men and 1,700 women, will benefit from this project.
- Four milestone payments, worth over \$12,000, were made for projects in Baraki Barak, Mohammad Agha, and Khoshi Districts.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved two projects, valued at over \$99,000, one each for Mohammad Agha and Khoshi.
- 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-three projects have been completed, including 19 that are officially closed.

## **MAYDAN WARDAK**

- Two Infrastructure Project Implementation training sessions were conducted for 12 men from Chaki Wardak and seven men from Saydabad District.
- The Qalai Zyarat protection wall project in Jalrez District was completed this week. The project, valued at nearly \$25,000, started in the last week of February and will benefit 2,814 people.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved seven projects, valued at over \$205,000: four for Jalrez and one each for Saydabad, Chaki Wardak, and Maydan Shahr 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 was launched in Sharana and Yosuf Khel Districts of Paktika Province on June 18. This is the sixth province covered by SIKA-East. Work is under way to refurbish the provincial office, and the recruitment of technical staff is also proceeding. (For more details on the launch meeting, see p. 1.)

## **PAKTYA**

- Two projects, the Nasiri and Bara Waza flood protection walls, were completed in Paktya Province during the week. The Nasiri flood protection wall, with a value over \$22,000, was constructed in Laja Ahmad Khail. It provided 945 person-days of employment for local residents and will ultimately benefit a total of 2,800 men and women. The other completed project, the Bara Waza flood protection wall in Zadran District, cost over \$80,000 and provided 1,332 person-days of employment.
- Three training sessions were held in Paktya Province during the week: two sessions on Infrastructure Project Implementation for nine men from Zurmat and 22 from Zadran, and a Grants Management session for ten men from Ahmad Abad District.
- Nine milestone payments, worth a total of over \$113,000, were made for Paktya Province: two each for Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, and Ahmad Abad, and one each for Zurmat, Zadran, and Gerda Serai.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved one project for Laja Mangal District.
- One grant, worth nearly \$31,000, was awarded for Ahmad Abad District.
- To date, 130 grant applications have been received for Paktya Province: 25 for Ahmad Abad; 21 each for Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal, and Zadran; 18 for Zurmat; and 28 for Garda Serai. SIKA-East has received 66 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, and 37 grants have been awarded.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Seasonal rains and flooding are still affecting projects in Paktya.
- Security concerns have jeopardized or delayed projects in Zurmat District in Paktya Province, in Baraki Barak in Logar, and in Chaki Wardak and Saydabad in Maydan Wardak. SIKA-East provincial and district staff are working with Security Department, local officials, and tribal elders to resolve the problems and get the projects moving.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

- Finalize the concept note for resource coordination meetings;
- Make 29 milestone payments for 14 districts; and
- Review and approve five grant projects for Jaghatu, Khwaja Umari, 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	4	20	\$757,525	6	4	20	16	13	\$481,794	3	\$178,244	1	\$17,887	2	\$132,748	6	\$328,879
Jaghathu	0	8	\$324,199	2	0	8	2	2	\$95,666	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Dih Yak	1	17	\$854,392	4	9	21	18	17	\$640,422	4	\$152,257	3	\$46,826	6	\$240,332	13	\$439,414
Khwaja Umari	0	21	\$666,727	3	13	21	17	16	\$514,698	10	\$351,542	4	\$58,791	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	5	\$122,054	7	\$167,975	0	\$0	12	\$290,029
Tani	12	21	\$672,079	3	4	19	16	16	\$556,812	4	\$205,093	8	\$176,936	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	28	27	\$1,110,349	6	\$144,145	10	\$369,868	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	34	\$1,469,201	4	23	34	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	13	\$229,706	1	\$17,035	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	5	\$222,658	2	\$100,208	17	\$462,165	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	14	13	\$677,517	2	\$107,351	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$107,351
Laja Ahmad Khail	2	21	\$710,493	5	3	19	17	15	\$414,403	6	\$148,777	7	\$190,792	0	\$0	13	\$339,569
Laja Mangal	4	19	\$697,438	3	9	17	15	15	\$561,773	6	\$248,920	4	\$84,817	0	\$0	10	\$333,737
Zadran	10	19	\$689,489	3	11	11	8	8	\$420,684	3	\$210,487	1	\$80,132	0	\$0	4	\$290,619
Zurmat	1	18	\$1,062,966	9	6	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
	<b>100</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>\$18,253,122</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>\$13,329,136</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>\$4,177,682</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>\$2,096,042</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>\$2,460,356</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>\$8,734,081</b>
Infrastructure Grants	77	383	\$15,682,899	87	130	342	300	296	\$11,914,575	109	\$4,142,812	65	\$1,990,767	60	\$2,427,110	234	\$8,560,689
Non-Infrastructure Grants	23	82	\$2,570,224	25	35	75	47	43	\$1,414,56	2	\$34,870	7	\$105,276	2	\$33,246	11	\$173,392
Transition Initiative Grants	16	19	\$748,598	22	5	19	16	15	\$616,575	2	\$85,648	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$85,648
	<b>116</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>\$19,001,720</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>\$13,945,711</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>\$4,263,330</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>\$2,096,042</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>\$2,460,356</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>\$8,819,729</b>