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JULY 5 – JULY 10, 2014



View of the Nazeer Qala Abbazak karez extension and reservoir construction project in Mohammad Agha District of Logar Province during a routine joint monitoring site visit

July 14, 2014

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Highlights of the Week:

- This week, SIKA-East witnessed the completion of three small infrastructure projects, together worth over \$59,000, in two provinces: one in Laja Mangal district, Paktya Province, and two in Khwaja Umari District, Ghazni Province.
- Following recent District Development Assembly (DDA+) exchange visits for female leaders with a leading Kabul based NGO (Zardozi), gender officers in Logar Province shared their experience with Department of Women's Affairs and Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) officials, and discussed ways to replicate Zardozi's successful economic empowerment initiatives for women in Logar's districts.

SIKA-East Results:

- **Training:**
 - 12 training sessions were held during the week for 123 men and 155 women in nine districts.
 - Since the beginning of the program, 26,342 individuals – 20,120 men and 6,222 women – have attended a total of 932 training sessions.
- **Grants:**
 - Six grant awards, valued at over \$226,000 were made this week for projects in Mohammad Agha, Laja Mangal, Mando Zayi, and Baraki Barak Districts.
 - To date, 503 grant applications – for 397 infrastructure, 86 non-infrastructure, and 20 transition initiative projects, valued at over \$20.2 million – have been received, and 382 applications have been approved by USAID.
 - As of July 10, 259 projects, with a total value of over \$9.2 million, have been awarded to 22 districts, including Garda Serai Sub-district of Zadran in Paktya.
 - To date, 151 grant projects have been completed in SIKA-East targeted provinces. The cumulative value of these projects is over \$4 million.

Site Visits Prepare District and Provincial Authorities for Transfer of Responsibilities

SIKA-East relies on district entities to play a leading role in the planning, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of grant projects, as they have the best understanding of local community and governance dynamics. The capacity building of these leaders is fundamental to the program. Every week, SIKA-East invites members of Community Development Councils (CDC), District Social Workers (DSW), DDA+ officials, and other stakeholders to jointly visit ongoing grant projects, gradually transferring ownership of M&E tasks to provincial and district authorities. This week, SIKA-East facilitated 10 joint site visits with program stakeholders in eight districts.



View of the Wazeeri Seyabeni Kariz Project in Mohammad Agha District of Logar Province during a routine joint monitoring site visit



The Paktya District Governor, Mr. Keftan Ikhlas (center), District Social Worker Mr. Baz Gul (right), and SIKA-East District Manager Mr. Ajab Khan (left) inspect ongoing work of the Matwarkh canal construction project in Zurmat District, Paktya Province.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

- District Strategic Planning Process (DSPP) training continued this week in Patkya Province. The four-day DSPP training session brought together 56 female DDA+ members from Sayed Karam District. During the training, the DDA+ members received a policy introduction on strategic planning, discussed roles and responsibilities, acknowledged positive cultural practices that can induce measurable change, and identified eight projects for Cycle I development.

DISTRICT PROJECT PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

- This week, progress was made in the development of the District Project Portfolios (DPP) of new and original SIKA-East districts. In coordination with field staff, a DPP narrative draft was issued for Paktika Province and is expected to be finalized next week. Additionally, SIKA-East provided technical assistance to finalize Cycle I project lists for the new districts of Nadir Shah Kot, Maydan Shahr, and Muqur, and also finalized Cycle 2 project lists for Laja Ahmad Khail, Laja Mangal & Gurbuz Districts.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SOW

- The Environmental Protection Scope of Work (SoW) initial draft was developed this week by SIKA-East and MRRD. The objective of the SoW is to raise awareness of local communities, Community Development Councils (CDC), DDAs+, District Community Council (DCC) and other local government entities about environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. The SoW will also enhance district and provincial level capacities to mitigate deforestation, a major driver of flash floods and landslides in Afghanistan's Eastern provinces.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- In 12 training sessions during the week, 123 men and 155 women from nine districts received training in DSPP, Governance Foundation, Grants Management, Infrastructure Project Planning, Operations and Maintenance, and Stakeholder Orientation.



A women leader of the Sayed Karem DDA+ addresses participants during a four-day DSPP training event



The Khwaja Umari District Governor cuts a ceremonial ribbon to mark the completion of a protection wall in Ghazni Province



CDC and other community and government representatives participate in Operation and Maintenance training in Tani District, Khost Province

GRANTS AND ENGINEERING

- Three projects, cumulatively worth over \$59,000 were completed during the week: the Mila ditch construction project in Laja Mangal, Paktya Province, as well as the Tormay and Godul Qandary and Karez protection wall projects in Khwaja Umari District of Ghazni Province.
- Six grant awards, valued at over \$226,000, were made this week for projects in Mohammad Agha, Laja Mangal, Mando Zayi, and Baraki Barak Districts.
- Eight milestone payments, valued at over \$44,000, were made to projects in six districts.
- Nine grant applications, worth more than \$465,000, were reviewed and approved by joint MRRD and SIKA-East Grant Review Committees (GRC). The approved projects are slated for six districts with the first project in Mirzaka District, Paktya Province.
- Five engineering designs, valued at nearly \$413,000, were completed for five districts.
- To date, 259 projects with a total value of over \$9.2 million, have been awarded to 22 districts, including Garda Serai Sub-district of Zadran District in Paktya.

GHAZNI

- This week two small infrastructure projects in Khwaja Umari District were completed: Tormay and Godul Qandary Protection Wall Construction and Kariz protection wall projects. These two projects, valued at over \$37,000 will benefit 2,890 individuals.
- Two milestone payment, worth more than \$3,000, were made for Khwaja Umari District.
- Two engineering designs worth over \$175,000 were completed and finalized for Khwaja Umari and Dih Yak Districts.
- A Joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved four projects: three for Qarabagh and one for Dih Yak District, cumulatively valued at over \$175,000.
- Eighty grant project applications, worth more than \$3.3 million in total, have been received for Ghazni Province to date. Fifty-eight projects have been approved by USAID; of these, 35 have been awarded and are in progress, eight of which have been physically completed.

KHOST

- During the week, two separate Operation and Maintenance training sessions were conducted for 32 men (16 for each session) from Mando Zayi and Tani Districts.
- One engineering design, valued at over \$94,000, was completed for Mando Zayi District.
- A Joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved three projects worth over \$159,000: one for Gurbuz and two for Jaji Maydan District.
- One grant worth nearly \$73,000 was awarded for Mando Zayi District this week.
- To date, SIKA-East has received 75 grant applications, worth nearly \$2.5 million for Khost Province. Sixty-four projects have received USAID approval, while 49 have been awarded: 14 for Gurbuz, 10 for Jaji Maydan, 13 for Mando Zayi, and 12 for Tani. In total, 38 projects valued at nearly \$1.1 million have been completed.

LOGAR

- A Grants Management training session was held on July 6 for 16 men from Mohammad Agha District.
- Two milestone payments worth at more than \$20,000 was made for Khoshi and Mohammad Agha District.

- Two awards valued at nearly \$48,000 were made for Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak Districts
- To date, USAID has approved 76 grant projects worth over \$3.2 million for Logar Province: 29 for Baraki Barak, 16 for Khoshi, and 31 for Mohammad Agha. Thirty-eight projects have been completed, including 19 that are officially closed.
- During a meeting in Logar Province, representatives from Departments of Economy and Urban Development, PRRD and Provincial Governor (PG) office staff were encouraged by the PG to play a larger role in monitoring SIKA-East grant projects. During the week, the team of officials conducted multiple site visits in Mohammad Agha District, and will conduct future M&E activities in the remaining districts. They will report on progress made and challenges encountered directly to the PG.

MAYDAN WARDAK

- An Operation and Maintenance training session was conducted for 14 men from Nirkh District.
- One milestone payment worth over \$3,000 was made for Chaki Wardak District.
- To date, 111 grant applications have been received for Maydan Wardak Province: 21 for Chaki Wardak, 33 for Jalrez, 23 for Nirkh, and 34 for Saydabad. A total of 94 projects have received USAID approval; 69, worth nearly \$2.4 million, have been awarded, 45 of which are complete.

PAKTYA

- In eight training sessions conducted in Paktya Province during the week, 61 men and 155 women from five districts learned new skills in Grants Management, Operation and Maintenance, Infrastructure Project Implementation, Governance Foundation and DSPP.
- On July 7, a coordination meeting was held with Zurmat District governor (DG) and DSWs in order to provide information and updates about SIKA-East activities. The participants were briefed about ongoing activities, after which the DG reviewed and approved the July action plan for Zurmat District.
- The implementation of five projects began in of Paktya Province during the reporting period: Begwal protection wall construction, Garadid Khwahi canal and intake construction and Marzak ditch and intake construction in Zurmat District; and water supply network rehabilitation with extension-spring box construction and Shah Khail protection wall in Laja Ahmad Khail District. Of note, the Begwal protection wall was awarded ten months ago to the local CDC, but endured significant delays because of insecurity in the area.
- Three milestone payments worth nearly \$17,000 were made for Paktya Province: two for Laja Mangal and one for Ahmad Abad District.
- One engineering design worth nearly \$62,000 was finalized for Laja Mangal District.
- A joint PRRD and SIKA-East GRC reviewed and approved two projects worth over \$131,000 for Laja Mangal and Mirzaka Districts.
- Three grants, worth over \$105,000, were awarded in Ahmad Abad and Laja Mangal Districts.
- To date, 133 grant applications have been received for Paktya Province: 27 for Ahmad Abad, 21 for Laja Ahmad Khail, 20 each for Laja Mangal and Zadrán, 18 for Zurmat, and 28 for Garda Serai. SIKA-East has received 74 grant application approvals from USAID for projects in Paktya Province, 43 of which have been awarded.

CHALLENGES

- Market prices for cement have risen substantially in Khost Province, causing delays for grant projects in Jaji Maidan and Mando Zayi Districts. The fluctuating costs are linked to recent operations by Pakistan military forces in North Waziristan, which have blocked supply routes into the region. Until the situation calms and prices fall to normal levels, construction activities will be temporarily halted for three projects in Jaji Maidan, and five in Mando Zayi.
- Seasonal flooding continues to negatively impact projects in Paktya Province and Mando Zayi District in Khost.
- Security concerns continue to jeopardize or delay projects in Zurmat and Laja Mangal Districts in Paktya Province, Baraki Barak in Logar; and Chaki Wardak and Saydabad Districts in Maydan Wardak. Laja Mangal District in particular has seen an increased level of insecurity in recent weeks, with the district center frequently targeted by small-arms and indirect fire. SIKA-East provincial and district staff are working with Security Departments, local officials, and tribal elders to resolve the problems and reduce further delays.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Finalize DPPs for Muqur, Nadir Shah Kot and Maydan Shahr districts;
- Make 16 milestone payments for 13 districts;
- Finalize two engineering designs for Jaghatu District; and
- Review and approve 12 grant projects for Ahmad Abad, Laja Ahmad Khail, Jaghatu, Khwaja Umari, Chaki Wardak, Maydan Shahr, Saydabad and Mohammad Agha 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	\$755,201	3	8	20	17	14	\$500,469	2	\$154,250	2	\$41,880	2	\$132,748	6	\$328,879
Dih Yak	1	17	\$956,374	4	9	23	18	17	\$640,422	4	\$152,257	3	\$46,826	6	\$240,332	13	\$439,414
Jaghatau	0	11	\$508,187	7	0	11	6	2	\$95,666	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Khwaja Umari	0	25	\$833,938	5	13	25	20	17	\$529,216	9	\$330,902	5	\$79,430	0	\$0	14	\$410,333
Muqur	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Qarabagh	4	7	\$264,099	1	0	7	4	4	\$120,575	2	\$45,560	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$45,560
Gurbuz	11	22	\$846,538	11	4	22	22	21	\$820,442	2	\$46,602	12	\$376,712	0	\$0	14	\$423,313
Jaji Maidan	7	12	\$410,751	1	4	13	8	10	\$356,287	3	\$126,410	7	\$229,877	0	\$0	10	\$356,287
Mando Zayi	9	19	\$617,029	6	1	19	18	17	\$519,480	6	\$188,801	7	\$167,975	0	\$0	13	\$356,775
Nadir Shah Kot	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Tani	12	22	\$720,445	4	4	20	16	16	\$556,812	0	\$0	12	\$382,029	0	\$0	12	\$382,029
Baraki Barak	5	32	\$1,388,231	6	16	32	29	28	\$1,136,935	6	\$148,470	11	\$392,129	5	\$222,362	22	\$762,961
Khoshi	0	18	\$785,231	12	3	19	14	16	\$705,961	5	\$210,116	2	\$33,609	0	\$0	7	\$243,725
Mohammad Agha	1	34	\$1,468,782	3	23	34	31	31	\$1,348,047	10	\$413,206	6	\$243,899	14	\$613,511	30	\$1,270,615
Chaki Wardak	5	21	\$853,459	7	9	21	21	21	\$853,459	8	\$343,642	2	\$20,455	5	\$212,475	15	\$576,572
Jalrez	0	33	\$923,604	7	2	28	23	22	\$491,201	9	\$152,517	5	\$94,224	0	\$0	14	\$246,740
Maydan Shahr	4	23	\$1,146,278	2	21	22	20	20	\$997,485	2	\$74,833	2	\$124,058	12	\$576,762	16	\$775,653
Nirkh	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
Ahmad Abad	3	27	\$1,514,157	16	7	24	17	15	\$771,322	5	\$209,914	0	\$0	0	\$0	5	\$209,914
Jaji Ayoub	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Laja Ahmad Khail	2	21	\$710,493	5	3	19	18	18	\$541,922	6	\$165,210	8	\$214,543	0	\$0	14	\$379,753
Laja Mangal	3	20	\$780,552	4	9	18	16	16	\$582,426	5	\$196,019	6	\$158,370	0	\$0	11	\$354,390
Mirzaka	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Zadran	10	19	\$689,489	3	11	11	9	8	\$420,684	3	\$210,487	1	\$80,132	0	\$0	4	\$290,619
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
Zurmat	1	18	\$1,062,966	9	6	15	14	14	\$820,641	7	\$409,476	1	\$24,759	0	\$0	8	\$434,236
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	95	483	\$19,327,595	125	172	440	375	360	\$14,059,226	100	\$3,848,725	94	\$2,811,114	61	\$2,460,356	255	\$9,120,195
Infrastructure Grants	73	397	\$16,652,082	102	133	360	323	313	\$12,556,210	98	\$3,813,855	87	\$2,705,838	59	\$2,427,110	244	\$8,946,803
Non-Infrastructure Grants	22	86	\$2,675,512	23	39	80	52	47	\$1,503,016	2	\$34,870	7	\$105,276	2	\$33,246	11	\$173,392
Transition Initiative Grants	16	20	\$889,397	22	6	20	17	15	\$727,242	3	\$136,059	1	\$43,072	0	\$0	4	\$179,131
Total	73	397	\$16,652,082	102	133	360	323	313	\$12,556,210	98	\$3,813,855	87	\$2,705,838	59	\$2,427,110	244	\$8,946,803