



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2012

Contact: Aziz-ur-Rahman Gulbahari

Phone: +93 775570435

Email: azizq@crea-awdp.com

USAID Launches AWDP's "Off-Budget" Grant Fund

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | DECEMBER 16 – The Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP), funded by USAID, held a grants signing event for the recipients of AWDP's first five grants totaling to USD 865,035.00 at the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE). The event marked the launching date of the 'off-budget' grant fund under contract mechanism with Creative Associates International. This initial event will be followed in by a Memorandum of Understanding between USAID and the MoE to be signed in January 2013. The 'on-budget' program will be managed by the Management Support Unit formed in collaboration between USAID and the MoE.

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Minister for Technical Vocational Education and Training Mr. Asif Nang said: "This Ministry is committed to making 'on-budget' support successful and will invest in training technical and vocational teachers providing demand-driven training programs through a joint collaboration with USAID. In anticipation of this effort, the Ministry looks forward to opportunities of engaging with private sector to ensure successful job placement of training graduates. "

After a competitive application process, the first five grants were awarded to the following organizations: Organization of Human Welfare (OHW) and Kardan Institute of Higher Education for Employment Related Services, MEHR Educational and Human Rights (MEHR) for Construction, Kardan Institute of Higher Education for Information & Communication Technology (ICT), and SMART-Afghan International Training and Consultancy (SMART International) for Financial Management. AWDP expects to award at least twenty more 'off-budget' grants focused on Construction, Mining-related Technical and Business Management, Auto mechanics, ICT, Employment-related Services, Financial Management, Women in the Private Sector, Business Communication & Employability Skills, and Project Management.

"USAID is highly dedicated to increasing job placements for Afghans by improving the quality and quantity of technical skills and business management training programs in the shortest time possible" said Mr. Charles Drilling, Director of the USAID Office of Economic growth and Infrastructure (OEGI).

The goal of each grant is to offer short-term, demand-driven technical training programs, followed by pre-employment services, ultimately leading to a job placement. By September 2013, USAID AWDP training programs plan to increase job placements and salaries/wages for 5,000 Afghans, 25% of whom will be women. USAID AWDP will help close the gap between the limited number of Afghans with technical and business management skills and the labor market demand for technically skilled labor, business administrators and managers. The increase of a highly qualified, demand-driven labor supply will contribute to the growth of the key economic sectors throughout Afghanistan.

###

For more information about USAID's programs, please visit: <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 50 years."



USAID on Facebook



USAID on Twitter



USAID on YouTube



USAID on Flickr