



Welcome to AWDP's e-newsletter!

The AWDP's e-newsletter highlights project activities and our training partners' achievements. The AWDP team and our grantees are excited by the opportunity to leverage partnerships among private sector enterprises to increase employment and catalyze economic growth. Please share this with colleagues and friends who are interested in developing Afghanistan.

Who are we and what do we do?

The Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP) is working to increase the number of Afghans with the skills employers want and to increase the numbers of Afghans with jobs. AWDP is working to increase job placements and salaries for 35,000 Afghans, 25% of whom will be women. Through grants to private sector training providers, AWDP is catalyzing the development of demand-driven technical and business training, and employment support services. To learn more, please visit: www.crea-awdp.com.



Afghan women gain skill employers require: AWDP grantees ensure that women have safe access to quality training so that they can either earn salary increases, promotions, or secure jobs. Some training activities are for women and men, while others are for women only. In Mazar-e-Sharif, for example, MEHR, an Afghan NGO, is preparing a group of young women to join the city's growing construction sector as accountants. To ensure success, the MEHR team has involved parents and husbands and has agreements with firms to hire the young women.

Market-driven training leads to jobs: All AWDP grantees establish partnerships with employers operating in high growth sectors to ensure that training meets their needs. These partners must also approve all curricula before training starts. The grantees also create employment placement units to identify jobs, help place graduates and ensure that already employed trainees gain better jobs or increased salaries. These market-driven activities features will ensure that at least 70% of all trainees either gain better employment or secure jobs.



Sustaining demand-driven training: AWDP grantees explain that USAID's investments are both enabling them to create innovative demand driven training activities and to help them grow their businesses. For example, AFS, an Afghan private training firm, reported that they are talking with several of their partners about creating customized training programs for their employees. If successful, these firms will stop sending their workers out of Afghanistan for training, and contract with AFS to provide these essential services.