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**AFGHANISTAN**

Date: December 2012  
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# FACT SHEET

## Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP)

### OVERVIEW

The Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP) addresses the twin problems of high unemployment and the scarcity of technically skilled Afghan labor and trained business managers. By improving the quality and access to training in market-driven skills, AWDP complements the workforce development goals of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and the US Government while supporting key growth opportunities in the construction, ICT, mining, auto mechanics, business management, and service industries. The goal of the AWDP is to increase job placements and salaries/wages for 25,000 Afghans, 25% of whom will be women, through increased access to quality technical and business education and training, job placement support services, and facilitating access to credit and business development opportunities.

The program provides grants and technical assistance to grantees developing and strengthening skills of the labor supply in the six major cities of Afghanistan: Kabul, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Kunduz. The increase of highly qualified, demand-driven labor supply will contribute to the growth of the key economic sectors throughout Afghanistan. The AWDP is implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MoE).

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Training technical and vocational education teachers
- Training those who teach finance, business administration and management skills
- Adapting technical and vocational education curriculum, as well as finance, business administration and management courses to the labor demands of the private and public sectors
- Providing training programs that meet private and public sector demands
- Capacity building of private and public sector training providers
- Establishing a management support unit in the Ministry of Education to coordinate 'on-budget' activities
- Assisting the Ministry of Education build management capacity to implement monitor, evaluate and report on training programs,
- Supporting labor market information networks and employment placement services
- Facilitating linkages to credit and business development services

### OBJECTIVES

- Train 25,000 people, a quarter of whom are women, and help them find jobs
- Improve teaching standards and assisting the professional development of trainers
- Improve technical, vocational and business management courses
- Establish linkages between training providers and employers
- Expand access to technical, vocational and business management training programs
- Provide job placement services for mid-level job seekers