



PRESS RELEASE

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\$92 Million USAID Project to Help Higher Education

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A new \$92 million project to improve Afghan higher-education administration and academic standards launched on Aug. 13, officials in Kabul said on Tuesday.

Representatives from the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), the Ministry of Economy and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contractor FHI 360 signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the University Support and Workforce Development Program (USWDP) project, during an August 13 signing ceremony in the Afghan capital.

“This represents a milestone in improving the higher education system in Afghanistan,” Minister of Higher Education Obaidullah Obaid said.

USWDP will improve administration and academic quality in Afghan universities by training faculty members and students to international standards, improving the quality and relevance of academic programs, and enhancing the accreditation system within the Ministry of Higher Education. The project will also support international university partnerships and exchange initiatives to help Afghanistan create a higher education system matching international standards.

The contracting company, FHI 360, will execute the five-year USWDP project.

Improving Afghanistan’s educational system is an important and long-term priority for the United States.

From 2002-2013, USAID committed more than \$1.1 billion dollars to all levels of education in Afghanistan. In higher education, USAID assisted 12 public and 11 private universities, trained 1410 faculty members (29% female) and helped 145 faculty members (46% female) receive master degrees in education.

For more information about USAID’s programs and interview requests, please contact: Senior Development, Outreach and communications Officer Stefan Korshak (0702-626255) KabulAIDdoc@usaid.gov, <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.”



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