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STRENGTHENING EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN II

May 2014 – September 2020
\$45 million

The Strengthening Education in Afghanistan II (SEA II) project provides a broad range of support to institutions and civil society organizations working in Afghanistan’s education sector. Currently, SEA II partners with organizations that contribute to the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) strategic goals and objectives for education, including the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University and the National Science Center (currently named the General Directorate of Science and Educational Technology) and the Canadian Women for Women of Afghanistan. A flexible grants component provides assistance to Afghan organizations to address emerging and strategic education needs.

ACTIVITIES

- The Afghanistan Center at Kabul University promotes reading by providing books and other materials to rural communities as part of its Afghanistan Boxed Library Extension program, which encourages a culture of reading by making reading materials available through small lending libraries. It also trains students in research skills and digitizes resources to make them accessible online.

- The General Directorate of Science and Educational Technology provides science and math training and equipment to public high schools in Khost, Kandahar, and Badakshan provinces.
- The Promote Scholarship Program provides scholarships to women pursue higher education in Afghanistan and in neighboring counties and increases women’s access to higher education through a high quality Konkor university test preparation program.
- The Flexible Grants Program enables USAID to respond quickly to proposals that address emerging and strategic education needs and present innovative approaches in youth development, basic education, and higher education.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established seven libraries and distributed more than 30,000 textbooks to 266 libraries in 20 provinces through the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University. A total of 19,826 library books and audio materials are accessible online and have attracted more than 34,367 visits from students and researchers.
- Printed 6,000 textbooks in partnership with the General Directorate of Science and Educational Technology, furnished 60 schools with laboratory equipment and trained over 750 math and science teachers and laboratory technicians. More than 1,300 students in Khost and Kandahar received preparation for taking the Kankor university entrance exam, providing disadvantaged youth a better chance for higher education.
- Helped 530 women improve their reading skills through literacy classes and mobile libraries established and operated by the Canadian Women for Women of Afghanistan. Eight literacy classes and libraries have since been successfully transferred to public schools.

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