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USAID AFGHANISTAN UNIVERSITY SUPPORT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

December 2013 – December 2018
\$91.9 million

The USAID Afghanistan University Support and Workforce Development Program (USWDP) supports the Ministry of Higher Education and eleven selected public universities to support the establishment of higher education programs that are relevant to the job market for Afghan students.

The project links universities and potential employers in the public and private sectors, helps Afghan higher education institutions create and tailor curricula to market needs, and strengthens the management of eleven public universities. Partnering universities include Kabul University, Kabul Polytechnic University, Kabul Medical University, Shaheed Rabbani Education University, Nangarhar University, Herat University, Balkh University, Kandahar University, Kunduz University, Khost University, and Jowzjan University.

ACTIVITIES

- Training and preparing staff and providing resources to the Ministry of Higher Education. These resources strengthen employees management skills, including procurement and finance, curricula development, and accreditation.
- Improves the academic programs of selected universities, and links universities to public and private sector employers, so that new academic degrees fit the demand for skilled workers.
- Establishes partnerships between selected university partners and U.S. universities as well as regional universities to start new associate, bachelor and master degree programs.
- Provides scholarships for faculty members at public universities to upgrade their qualifications
- Develops quality assurance and accreditation policies, provides guidance and conducts capacity building programs in the Ministry of Higher Education to facilitate the accreditation process of both public and private universities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched the first associate degree in Bio-Medical Equipment Technology (BMET) at Kabul Medical University in May 2016 with 40 students.
- Launched a new master's degree of Educational Leadership and Management at Shaheed Rabbani Educational University in October 2015 with 24 students, half of which are women.
- Launched an Information Technology Associate degree program at Kabul Polytechnic University in February 2015. The first class enrolled 29 students, including eight women. The second class enrolled 25 students with four women.
- Enrolled 24 students in the second class of Masters of Public Policy and Administration at Kabul University in March 2014, including six women. They will graduate in March 2016. The third class enrolled 25 students with seven women in March 2015.
- Established, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health, an internship program for students attending Kabul University studying for a degree in counseling.
- Established a Bachelor's Degree program in food technology at Herat University and Agribusiness at Nangarhar, Khost, Khost, Juzjan, Kunduz and Balk University.
- Established and installed the e-Attendance system in the Ministry of Higher Education to improve the accountability and transparency of the payroll system.
- Reconditioned and re-invigorated eight Career Centers at Kabul Polytechnic University, Kabul Medical University, Herat University, Balkh University, Kandahar University, Nangarhar University, Kabul University, and Shaheed Rabbani Education University.

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