



USAID
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AFGHANISTAN

Date: June 2011

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FACT SHEET

Afghanistan Small and Medium Enterprise Development (ASMED) - Global Development Alliances

OVERVIEW

ASMED increases opportunities for trade, employment, and investment by improving private-sector productivity. Global development alliances (GDA) are public-private partnerships that allow USAID to leverage its own resources against private-sector investment. GDA partners are expected to bring significant new resources, expertise, technology, and networks to develop the private sector in Afghanistan. Partners include domestically owned private businesses and multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, business and trade associations, universities, donor agencies, philanthropic leaders, venture capitalists, and think tanks.

GDA partners also gain from alliances with Afghan small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Partners are provided access to a new or increased market share and network, in addition to risk mitigation, and social and environmental responsibility. Promoting public-private partnerships to encourage investment, expand provincial and regional economies, and create sustainable livelihoods. These activities include financial and technical assistance contributions from USAID for negotiating and contracting partner contributions, organizing implementation, and monitoring and evaluating project progress. These partnerships have been used in targeted sectors such as carpets, marble, and gemstones to attract significant investment. Effective alliances marry common interests, mobilize resources for development assistance programs, and promote program effectiveness. Ultimately, GDAs address the problems of poverty, disease, inadequate education, depletion of natural resources, and limited economic opportunities throughout Afghanistan.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Expand existing SMEs and their incomes
- Create new enterprises, products, services, and employment opportunities
- Improve access to information and products
- Transfer technology transfer and develop skills
- Develop solutions and products tailored to local needs

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented 52 GDAs, leveraging more than \$103 million (\$88 million from private partners), in sectors such as insurance, apparel, natural resource extraction, communications/media, information technology, and food processing
 - Paiman Atlas Carpet Cut and Wash Facility: The complex is the largest such facility in Afghanistan, providing top-quality carpet cut and wash, finishing and repairing services for Afghanistan produced carpets to be exported directly labeled as made-in Afghanistan
 - Pamir Salt Refinery: Procurement of modern equipment for the company, improving efficiency and quality of production to successfully meet international standards of salt production. Technical guidance and support for a national marketing strategy advertised the new and improved salt products
 - Chesht Marble factory: Chesht Marble Processing Plant is owned and operated by Equity Capital Mining, specializing in marble mining with more than 30 years of mining experience. A complete processing line has been installed to produce high quality finished marble products that meet international standards and build the brand name for Afghan Marble