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AFGHANISTAN

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'Nation-Building is Woman's Work too'

With USAID's support, women are carving out a niche for themselves in areas dominated by men



'The internship program encourages the students to pursue their intended career goals'

— Sweeta, Engineering Student

'I think all components of the internship were valuable. I found the overall experience very beneficial for my personal growth'

— Saher, Engineering Student

Sweeta and Saher might stand out anywhere in the world but in Afghanistan, they are decidedly unusual. They are studying engineering at Kabul University, both are currently working as interns with USAID support and both passionately want to build careers in structural design. The two young women are undeterred by the gender gap in Afghanistan and believe that nation-building is woman's work too.

Sweeta says the internship program helps people like her achieve a modicum of success early enough to be exceedingly motivational. "It encourages the students to pursue their intended career goals. The program encouraged me to work on my skills."

"I think all components of the internship were valuable," says Saher, agreeing that the program is professionally rewarding. She adds that says she grew as a person as well.

Like other young women anywhere, Sweeta and Saher dream about being successful and happy and professionally and personally secure. USAID has been helping to make their dreams – and thousands of other Afghan women – a reality with programs that enable women to serve in key visible roles. The internship program is one such.

Telling Our Story

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