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# FACT SHEET

## Anaar Multimedia Centers (AMDEP)

### OVERVIEW

The Anaar Multimedia Centers in Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar provide free Internet facilities in order to improve the Afghan people's access to information and enhance their engagement with civil society through new media and web-based platforms. Each Center offers disabled access and is located at a leading civil society organization and provides training to men and women in courses ranging from computer use to new media tools. Male and female trainers are available at each Center every day to troubleshoot and mentor computer users. Established in the fall of 2011 as part of the USAID-funded Afghanistan Media Development and Empowerment Project, the Centers are empowering communities and address young Afghans' massive demand for computer and IT training.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- The Centers provide communities with fast and free Internet facilities. They are particularly suitable for women because they provide a safe and comfortable space for them to learn how to surf the Internet, access news and information and develop IT and multimedia skills. In Jalalabad and Kandahar, separate women-only facilities are available.
- Each Center has 15 laptop computers, as well as digital cameras, video cameras and audio recorders. Apart from the computer room, each Center has a conference space for community use.
- The Centers offer free computer and IT courses including short introductory training on how to use a computer, email, blog, use Facebook, Microsoft Word and Excel and take digital photographs, make videos and record audio.
- As part of their sustainability plan, the Centers also offer more advanced IT courses for a fee, including Adobe Photoshop and QuickBooks accounting software.
- Each Center employs a full-time manager, an IT officer and two trainers, a man and a woman.

### RESULTS TO DATE

- The staff are trained in business development and teaching methodology
- More than 25,000 people visited the Centers between September 2011 and July 2012
- 2,500 people have registered as members
- Community advisory committees have been established at each Center
- [www.anaar.net](http://www.anaar.net) links the Centers, serves as a multimedia platform for IT organizations in Afghanistan and enables registered members to collaborate and share ideas on technology matters.