



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2012

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USAID Helps Afghan Women Find Full-Time Jobs with the Ministry of Finance

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | AUGUST 29, 2012 – Thirty young Afghan women graduated from the USAID Women in Government Internship Program today. They completed their internships at the Ministry of Finance and will now be hired as full-time employees of the Ministry.

In March 2012, USAID and the Ministry of Finance agreed to establish the total of one hundred internship positions for women. The interns celebrated at today's ceremony are the first thirty graduates to complete the four-month women's internship program.

"The Ministry of Finance is committed to providing more opportunities for women. We feel that this program has begun a new initiative which will help develop Afghanistan," said Minister Omar Zakhilwal.

The USAID Women in Government Internship program supports the Afghan Government's National Development Strategy goal to increase women leadership in the civic sector to at least 30 percent by 2013. Currently only 18 percent of the over 330,000 Afghan Government employees are female.

"These internships are a great example of an Afghan-led and Afghan-managed process which provides wonderful opportunities for young educated women to gain work experience, and for the Afghan government to find dedicated workers who have the necessary skills to build Afghanistan," said USAID Mission Director S. Ken Yamashita.

To date, the USAID Women in Government Internship Program has provided internship opportunities to 183 interns. The program strives to remove constraints on Afghan women's participation in the civic sector of Afghanistan by placing recent female university graduates in six-month internships with the Afghan Government institutions. Improving the participation of women in government is vital to the overall development of Afghanistan.

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