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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Higher Education Project (HEP)

OVERVIEW

The rapid expansion of university education since 2002 has placed extra demands on an education system much in need of development. Universities must have the facilities and skills to train future teachers. USAID established the Higher Education Project (HEP) to help address these needs by building sustainable capacity at the tertiary level to deliver high quality pre-service and in-service teacher education for secondary schools.

USAID designed HEP in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Academy for Educational Development, Indiana University, and the University of Massachusetts. The project works within the 18 institutions offering four-year teacher education programs in Afghanistan to strengthen planning and faculty skills through training, scholarships, and material support. The project also supports the MoHE in establishing standards in teacher education and promoting a coordinated national strategy for teacher education and certification.

ACTIVITIES

- Facilitating training for more than 750 education faculty members in curriculum and lesson planning, computer literacy, English, natural sciences, and mathematics
- Developing an expanded pool of faculty members who can undertake leadership responsibilities through their Institutional Development Teams
- Sponsoring study abroad programs in education management, English as a second language, and institutional leadership and planning
- Designing and offering an Afghan Master's of Education (M.Ed) to produce professional university and secondary school educators

RESULTS

- Established Professional Development Centers in 11 institutions
- Provided more than 4,000 training opportunities in the areas of pedagogy, English, computer literacy, institutional development, science, mathematics, leadership, and syllabus and course design
- Prepared and implemented Institutional Development Plans for the universities
- Sponsored 99 faculty members for short-term study abroad programs in order to enhance capacity at their institutions
- Sponsored 19 faculty members for Master's degrees in the United States
- Established Afghanistan's first M.Ed program that began in March 2008, with a gender-balanced admissions procedure