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## **Eighteen Women Graduate from the USAID Women in Government Internship Program in Jalalabad**

**JALALABAD, AFGHANISTAN | MAY 29, 2013** – Eighteen women celebrated their graduation from the USAID Women in Government Internship Program in Jalalabad on Wednesday. These women completed six-month internships at either Nangarhar University, the Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the Directorate of Education, the Directorate Public Health, or the Nangarhar High Court. These 18 women are the first group to graduate from Nangarhar province since the Jalalabad program launch in October 2012.

The USAID Women in Government Internship Program supports the Afghan Government's National Development Strategy goal to increase women's leadership in the government. Their goal is to have at least 30 percent female participation in the government. Of the over 330,000 Afghan Government employees, currently less than 20 percent are female.

The Civil Service Commission and other government entities joined the graduating interns to celebrate this milestone.

"We are committed to give priority to the shortlisted interns, and I personally encourage other interns to apply to the vacant positions at the Civil Service Commission in Jalalabad," stated Nafisa Munsif, Regional Director of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission.

Since initiation in 2010, the Women in Government Internship Program has placed over 446 women in internships with Afghan government institutions and other private and public entities in Kabul, Balkh, Herat, and Nangarhar and developed successful partnerships with a number of Afghan government ministries. To date, the program has achieved an overall 66% full-time job placement rate for graduates of the program.

"I strongly think the internship program is a success, and I hope the program extends in the future," said Qaribullah Hijrat, Director of Administration for the Nangarhar Governor's Office.

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