

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

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Strengthening the experience and knowledge of Afghan students in rural development across the country through internship programs.

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The National Area-Based Development Program (NABDP/MRRD) and American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) are taking steps forward to strengthen the experience and knowledge of Afghan students in the country.

For this purpose today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP)/ Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) in Ministry of MRRD on 12th of October. The MoU is signed by H.E. Jahrullah Mansoori, Minister of MRRD and Dr. Michael Smith, President of AUAF.

This is the first time that NABDP is taking part in an internship program within a formal academic framework with a recognized, international university in Afghanistan.

This MoU aims at strengthening the bilateral cooperation between NABDP/MRRD and AUAF and will benefit the students by means of orienting them to the work of rural development across the country. The internship program will provide hands-on experience for 4 bright students each semester. While the position is unpaid, it will give students practical experience to solidify the theoretical knowledge they gain in the classroom.

Another positive outcome of this partnership will be the relationship NABDP/ MRRD/ builds with AUAF and opportunities to recruit fresh, young talent to the Government of Afghanistan in the future. Students, on the other hand, will have the opportunity to work in one of 13 various NABDP departments related to their interests, such as local governance, rural energy or infrastructure, monitoring and evaluation, finance, or administration.

Minister Mansoori expressed his hope in the program, as “Youth add new ideas, energy, and vitality to our workplace. MRRD is committed to encouraging Afghan-led sustainable development now and in the future and this program will surely contribute to that goal.”

NABDP’s broader focus is an area-based development, with 2,304 projects completed to date across the country with a total budget of \$ 115,608,267 USD. NABDP commenced as a joint initiative of MRRD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2002, with the goal of contributing to a sustainable reduction of poverty and an improvement of livelihoods.