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**AFGHANISTAN**

## SNAPSHOT

# Afghan Women Breaking Barriers

### Women Complete Business Training and Mobile Money Agent Courses



FAIDA

Top 10 women graduates during the Graduation Ceremony at the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

The Business Development Training Course and mHawala Agent Training will run for the next ten months at the Kabul Women's Garden. The objective of this partnership is to train more than 5,000 women and provide them with loan assistance for starting their business ventures. Etisalat hopes to train more than 1,000 women so they can become mobile money agents for Etisalat's mHawala service.

The road to success just got shorter for 165 women participants of the Business Development Training (BDT) course at the Kabul Women's Garden Training Center who celebrated their successful completion of the course with diplomas in hand.

The Afghan women participated in a two-week course that teaches business fundamentals as part of a comprehensive gender program geared to improve business skills, provide job opportunities in the field of mobile money, and increase women's access to finance. This program is made possible through the partnership between Etisalat-Afghanistan, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), and Mutahid Development Finance Institution, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Of the 165 graduates, 115 women went on to successfully complete Etisalat's mHawala mobile money agent training, a two-day agent training prepares women to become mobile money agents of Etisalat and become small business entrepreneurs.

On August 25, 2013, the graduation ceremony, key stakeholders expressed their appreciation for and support of this women's development initiative.

*"This is an excellent initiative to train our Afghan women on basic business fundamentals in order for them to start a successful business venture."* - Deputy Minister Fawzia Habibi, MOWA

*"This business training prepares our Afghan women to know and understand the regular pitfalls of establishing a new business."* - Mr. Pranoto, Etisalat's Project Director

*"Mutahid will provide you the micro-loans as soon as you finish your training. This will give the women the opportunity to concentrate on their business ideas without worrying about where they can get the money."* - Yousef Hayat, CEO of Mutahid

Ms. Tedi Dell, Deputy Director, OEG/USAID, assured the Afghan women that USAID will continue to support such training programs and to advocate for initiatives that improve women's daily lives.