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Kabul Municipality Celebrates International Women's Day

Kabul Mayor Hosts Public Celebration at Babur's Garden in Kabul.



Photo: Courtesy of Zekria, KM Photographer

Afghan boys examine brochures on composting.



Courtesy of Zekria, KM Photographer

Composting Demonstration at the International Women's Day celebration

On March 10, 2011, USAID's Kabul City Initiative (KCI), in partnership with the Kabul Municipality, organized a public celebration for International Women's Day at Babur's Garden in Kabul. The theme and plan for the celebration were developed by the joint KCI-Kabul Municipality Public Participation Working Group. The celebration served as an opportunity to honor the contributions of the women of Kabul and build awareness about steps that individuals can take to protect and improve the environment. The celebration was attended by over 3,000 people.

The Mayor of Kabul, Mohammad Yunus Nowandish invited several of Afghanistan's most prominent female leaders, including the Minister of Women's Affairs, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, and the Acting Minister of Public Health, to join him in highlighting the contributions women can make to civic life. In addition to honoring these national leaders, the Mayor recognized the special contributions that the 205 female employees of Kabul Municipality make to the city as well as the contributions of dozens of community leaders from Kabul's 22 districts.

Municipal employees conducted various demonstrations on ways to promote a healthy environment in Kabul including demonstrations of how to compost organic waste in the household. Two practical uses of the organic waste were presented: drying the vegetable scraps for use as fuel in stoves and composting waste to fertilize kitchen gardens. Participants received a pair of gloves to take home for use in home composting. In addition, municipal employees distributed reusable cloth shopping bags to take to the market and use in place of plastic bags as well as bushes for each woman.

During the event the Mayor highlighted the important role that women play in protecting and improving the environment, "Small efforts on the part of each woman can contribute to a healthier environment in Kabul...As mothers, women also educate children to protect trees and greenery and respect the environment."

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