



## Enterprising Young Minds

# Global Entrepreneurship

On November 24, 2011, Building Markets held the first ever Afghan Entrepreneurship and Business Matchmaking Forum to coincide with events taking place across the world for Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW). 85 students from Kabul University's Faculty of Economics, four partner organizations, and four professors from Kabul University attended the one-day event, which took place at the Serena Hotel in Kabul. The event gave students and Afghan entrepreneurs the opportunity to brainstorm and share their business ideas and goals. The event featured a keynote address, round table discussions and gave students the opportunity to formulate and present a business plan to fellow attendees for critique and discussion.

98% of all respondents indicated that they had learned useful concepts at the event.

Attendees were surveyed, in an effort to gain insight into students' perceptions about entrepreneurship in Afghanistan. Of the 85 students that attended, 62 responded to this survey for a response rate of 73%.

### Doing Business in Afghanistan Student Perspectives

- **Ease of doing business:** 63% responded that it is difficult to start a business in Afghanistan.
- **Employment prospects:** 57% of participants stated that it is difficult to find a job, while 29% maintain that it is very difficult to find a job in Afghanistan.

### Challenges for Afghan Businesses

- **Security:** 36% of students responded that security presents the most formidable challenge to Afghan entrepreneurs.
- **Government:** 22% believe that the lack of government support is an impediment to successful entrepreneurship. 70% of respondents believe that the Government is unsupportive or very unsupportive to doing businesses.
- **Regulation:** 22% indicated that the lack of governmental market regulation and/or corruption is a challenge.



### Starting a Business in Afghanistan

- 63% of the students indicated that they plan to start a business within the next 5 years.
- 35% were still unsure, but would consider starting a business.
- 6 students indicated that they had already started a business. These businesses represented a mix of sectors including Logistics, Business and Consultancy Services, Construction and Retail Services.

