



# Small Grants Program

Issue 1

Joint Electoral Management Body Secretariat

April 2005

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## SGP Begins Activities

The SGP started its activities by funding a project titled "Celebration of International Women's Day". This event was conducted on the 8th of March 2005 at the Green Palace Hotel (Kote-Sangi) by the women's group Greenway Organization.

Three hundred women, most of them returnees, participated in this event. Ms Najla Ayubi, a member of the JEMB Commission, participated and gave an excellent speech, motivating Afghan women to participate in the 2005 elections and get engaged in the civil society.

Taking the opportunity of the Afghan New Year's traditional gatherings, the SGP funded another event aimed at celebrating Farmer's Day (Nawroz). This project was conducted on 21st of March 2005 at the Sarasiab girl's school in the Darulaman area. More than 400 people -including women and children - participated in a festive

atmosphere despite the rain. Important speeches were conveyed regarding the 2005 elections by the JEMB Commissioner, Ms Najla Ayubi, and other intellectuals from the community previously trained by the SGP staff about the forthcoming Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections.

During this event, 15 saplings were planted by the participants in the school yard. Thirty five more saplings were planted in three mosques where people gathered beforehand for briefings on the elections.

"Plant a tree for the next generation, cast a vote for your children" was a powerful and symbolic message. The people of Darulaman expressed their appreciation of the project and asked for such events to be conducted in other areas in order for people to get the necessary information about the 2005 elections.

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