



December 2006
Volume 08

Chairperson of BRAC visits Afghanistan

Day 1:

Mr. Fazole Hasan Abed, the Chairperson, BRAC and Mr. Aminul Alam, Deputy Executive Director (DED) of BRAC, reached on 8 November 2006 in the morning in a visit to Afghanistan.

At first the Chairperson attended in a meeting with International Finance Corporation (IFC) at Kabul Serena Hotel. IFC engaged with the BRAC Afghanistan Bank as one of the shareholder and signed an agreement on this in the meeting.

In the afternoon, Chairperson had a meeting with HE Mr. Ehsan Zia, the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), at the Minister's office. The Minister expressed his

gratitude for his visit to Afghanistan on behalf of the Ministry colleagues and the people of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The DED, BRAC, the Country Head of BRAC Afghanistan and Program Manager, NSP were present in the meeting. They discussed about possible cooperation and support of BRAC in establishing a handicraft shop in Kabul and setting up a nursery in Logar province.

In addition, the Minister requested to implement more Integrated Development Programs and Livelihood Programs in Helmand province for the poor people to develop irrigation system, crop diversification system, etc.

The Chairperson also shared his idea of establishing a Training Center and the BRAC Head Quarter in Kabul. The Minister assured to help BRAC in this matter and try to allocate land in Logar Road in Kabul for the BRAC complex.

In the evening, senior BRAC Afghanistan staff met with the Chairperson at the Mohona Staff House. He was briefed about the current activities of BRAC in Afghanistan. The Chairperson talked each program manager/coordinator individually about the relevant program activities and provided valuable suggestions for the improvement of the programs. The meeting was followed by a dinner.



Inauguration of BRAC Afghanistan Bank by BRAC Chairperson

Special points in this page:

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Day 2:

On 9 November, the Chairperson met with the Canadian Ambassador in Afghanistan and Diana Youdell, the Head of Development of CIDA, at the Hotel Serena in the morning. They discussed about the bilateral issues of the upcoming Girls Education Programs to be supported by CIDA and the future needs of education especially for Girls Education in Afghanistan, which need to be addressed immediately. The DED, BRAC and the Country Head, BRAC Afghanistan also attended the meeting.

At 11:00 am, the Chairperson inaugurated BRAC Afghanistan Bank (BAB) in Kabul. Senior Cabinet Ministers, Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, senior BAB officials, BRAC Afghanistan and government officials, and representatives of donor agencies were present in the inaugural ceremony.

BRAC Afghanistan Bank organized a reception at Kabul Serena Hotel on the same day where the Chairperson and Governor spoke. The Chairperson shared his experience of rehabilitation and development work in post-war Bangladesh, and highlighted BRAC contribution in Afghanistan in the areas of health, primary education and poverty alleviation. Senior Cabinet Ministers and representatives of donor agencies were present in the occasion.

In the afternoon, the Afghan colleagues of BRAC in Kabul met with the Chairperson at the central office of BRAC Afghanistan. The DED, BRAC and the Country Head, BRAC Afghanistan also attended in the meeting. They briefed Chairperson about BRAC activities in Afghanistan. The Chairperson provided necessary instructions and informed about current global activities of BRAC to them.

At night, HE Mr. Haneef Atmar, the Minister of Education invited the Chairperson at dinner in Kabul Serena Hotel. The DED BRAC, Managing Director BRAC Afghanistan Bank, Country Head and Program Coordinator, Microfinance of BRAC Afghanistan also attended the dinner.

Day 3:

In the morning of 10th November 2006, the Chairperson visited BRAC Afghanistan Bank (BAB) and presided a meeting at its main office in Kabul. The DED BRAC, the Managing Director and senior officials of BAB attended the meeting.

At 12:30 pm, the Chairperson met with HE Mr. Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan at the President House in Kabul. He briefed the President about current BRAC programs in Afghanistan. These included community-based school program for children, microfinance

program for poverty reduction and basic package of health services. The President took interest to know how BRAC involved and achieved all these development activities in such a short period. The Chairperson shared the post-war development experience of BRAC in Bangladesh with him. The President expressed his satisfaction for BRAC's effort in health and poverty reduction programs in Afghanistan. The President took interest to know what motivated him to involve in the development sectors. The Chairperson responded by sharing his personal feelings, the need of the poor and the country context of 1972. Later on, the Chairperson handed over a token of gift a piece of Nakshi Katha of Aarong to the President on behalf of BRAC.

In the lunch time, The Chairperson met with the Program Coordinator and Program Managers of the different programs of BRAC Afghanistan. The DED and the Country Head also attended the meeting. The Chairperson provided valuable instructions and directions to implement new and expand the existing programs in a broader way in different places in Afghanistan to help the poor of this great nation.

In the evening the Chairperson left Kabul towards Canada to attend the Microcredit Summit in Halifax, Canada.



Chairperson meeting with National staff of BRAC Afghanistan Main Office

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Inaugural Ceremony on start of construction works of Girls' Primary School under EQUIP in Kapisa Province



The counselor Rolf Eriksson and The Second Secretary Sofia Orrebrink of SIDA visits BRAC Education Program

Special points in this page:

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- Sida representatives visit BRAC School
- Implementing of BPHS and review...
- UK Prime Minister met with the...
- Innauguration of infrastrution...
- Meeting with MISFA officials...

DED meets with Microfinance Officials

Deputy Executive Director of BRAC met with the Senior Regional Managers of Microfinance program, SEP and ALDCSP program on 10th November 2006. The Country Head, BRAC Afghanistan, the Program Coordinator, Microfinance, BRAC Afghanistan also attended the meeting. The DED discussed different issues and provided instructions and directions to implement microfinance program in different provinces in Afghanistan.

Sida representatives visit BRAC School

Mr. Rolf Eriksson, the counselor and the Second Secretary of Ms. Sofia Orrebrink of Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) visited schools of BRAC Afghanistan Education Program supported by Sida in Herat. During their visit, they talked with the students and observed their subject-based performance, group activities co-curricular activities and other disciplines. The visitors also attended parents meetings, staff meetings and refreshers courses. They talked with parents, staff and teachers about their views on education and BRAC education program. They expressed their satisfaction on the performance of the students, parents and staff and the overall performance of education program in Herat. They were accompanied by

Program Manager of Education Program.

BRAC becomes member of the Review of National TB Program Committee

The Ministry of Public Health included BRAC representative to review the national TB program of Afghanistan in recognition of expanding quality DOTS services in Afghanistan.

UK Prime Minister meets with the microfinance clients

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair met with microfinance clients' team in Afghanistan in the President Palace during his visit in Afghanistan on 20th November 2006. Five clients of BRAC microfinance program included in this team. HE the President of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai was also present in the meeting. Mr. Blair asked BRAC borrowers about their life, credit facilities from BRAC, income and earnings, etc.

Inauguration of Infrastructure Development and Quality Enhancement Building

The construction of Harooky girls' primary school building and Quality Enhancement initiative of Mohammed Roqy girls' primary school were inaugurated in Kapisa on 15th November under EQUIP project. Mr. Salim Qayum, senior Advisor to the Minister for Education and Coordinator of

EQUIP of the MoE inaugurated these programs. The Provincial Governor, Provincial Education Director, Program Manager of BRAC Education Program, Project Coordinator of EQUIP, School Management Committee (SMC), members of PTA and the community people of Kapisa attended the inauguration program.

BRAC submits Expression of Interest for Water and Sanitation (WATSAN)

BRAC submitted Expression of Interest for implementing the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Badghis, Kabul and Jawzjan provinces. This program will be implemented for the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

Meeting with MISFA officials

A scheduled meeting was held in MISFA premise. The meeting presided by Mr. Amit Brar, Technical Advisor, MISFA on 12th November 2006. The Program Coordinator, Microfinance and Finance Manager, BRAC Afghanistan attended the meeting. Mr. Steve Rasmussen, Senior Private Sector Development Specialist of the World Bank was also present in the meeting. The agenda of the meeting included the registration activities of BRAC microfinance program, program performance and fund release





Mr. Taufiqur Rahman receives Award from H.E. Dr. Faizullah Kakar, Deputy Minister of Public Health

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- Senior Microfinance Specialist from...
- BRAC stands besides the flood affected...
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procedure and policy. The participants were briefed with different functions of BRAC Microfinance program and its positive effects in this country. They also discussed the present scenario of microfinance program in Afghanistan.

BRAC signs MoU sign with partner NGOs

One of the objectives of BRAC Education Program is to involve in the National NGO's in implementation program and develop their capacity to enable them to run the BRAC CBS model schools and sustaining education of children in Afghanistan. To achieve this objective BRAC has entered into partnership with three national NGOs through signing of an MoU. The NGOs will begin their work in the Paghman district of Kabul, Khanabad district of Kunduz and Nahare Shahi district of Balkh provinces.

Senior Microfinance Specialist from World Bank meets with BRAC MF officials

Mr. Syed Hashemi, Senior Microfinance Specialist from the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), met with the BRAC Microfinance officials. Mr. Martin Greeley, Institute of

Development Studies, Sussex and Mr. Steve Rasmussen, Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, World Bank were also present in the meeting. They discussed about the social performance, effects and changes of Microfinance program activities.

BRAC stands besides the flood affected people

During the month of November, Murghab and Ghormach districts of Badghis province were seriously affected by flood and about 64 people lost their lives, and many others became homeless and lost their livestock. BRAC provided emergency medical services for the flood affected people through its 7 mobile medical teams.

BRAC Submits Expression of Interest for NSP Extension

BRAC submitted expression of interest to implement NSP in Herat, Takhar, Badghis, Nangarhar and Paktika provinces. BRAC proposed a total of 13 new districts in the aforesaid provinces. Currently, BRAC is implementing NSP in 1,883 communities in 29 districts of Nangarhar, Helmand, Paktika, Badghis and Samangan provinces.

BRAC receives award for TB Program from MoPH

BRAC received an award from MoPH as best performing NGO in implementing TB DOT program. The award was given to Mr. Taufiqur Rahman Program Manager, Health by H. E. Dr. Faizullah Kakar Deputy Minister of Public Health in a gathering in the Ministry of Public Health.

BRAC submits Expression of Interest for NABDP

National Area Based Development Program is one of the programmatic approach of the government to development. This will be implemented under the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. BRAC submitted the Expression of Interest for implementing the NABDP program in all 21 districts of the Nangarhar province.

FULCRUM consultant visits BRAC

Mr. Dale Posgate, Director, FULCRUM Consultants Inc and currently working with CIDA met with BRAC officials in the central office to know about the microfinance program activities of BRAC.

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