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Project completion ceremony at Abkamary District in Badghis Province.

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Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Md. Aminul Alam visited BRAC Afghanistan

The Deputy Executive Director (DED) of BRAC, Mr. Md. Aminul Alam visited BRAC Afghanistan from 13th to 16th August 2007. During his stay, he conducted several meetings with the Program Managers of BRAC Afghanistan Development Programs; the officials of Health Program, ISDP (Infrastructure and Social Development Program) and BRAC Afghanistan Bank. He also called upon a meeting for the Regional Managers of BRAC Afghanistan Microfinance Program and discussed different issues, and provided instruction and direction to implement Microfinance Program in different provinces in Afghanistan efficiently.

Inauguration of newly constructed schools

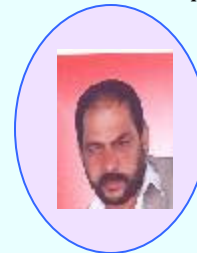


Inauguration ceremony for three newly constructed School building was held in Kapisa Province on 5th August 2007. Office furniture and education materials were also provided to the schools. Minister's Advisor, Deputy Governor, Program Coordinator of ISDP (Infrastructure and Social Development Program), BRAC attended the ceremony.

Tribute to our two staff on their last journey...

We express our deep sorrow on the death of two of our staff, Dr. Aminul Haque, Medical Officer of Balkh District Hospital and Haji Mohammad Eshaque, Program Organizer of Koshak Basic Health Centre of BRAC Afghanistan. Both of them were working with BRAC Afghanistan for three years very sincerely and devotedly. They passed away due to a road accident on 19th August 2007, the National Holiday in Afghanistan, at around 4 pm while returning from Khulm District to Balkh District. It was assumed that the accident took place due to the mechanical problem of the car they were traveling by.

The funeral took place at Balkh and our staffs of district and provincial level were present there to pay tribute on their last journey. We pray that their departed souls may rest in peace and may Almighty grant His strength and courage to the bereaved families to bear the pain of loss.



Dr. Aminul Haque



Haji Md. Eshaque

Community Midwifery Education program was inaugurated

18 months residential training program 'Community Midwifery Education Program' accredited by Accreditation Board of MoPH was inaugurated in Badghis province on 1st August 2007. The graduated mid-wives will join with BRAC health facilities. Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) financially supported to implement the project through PPA (Performance based Partnership Agreement), Badghis.

The mission of BRAC Afghanistan is to work towards a just, enlightened, healthy and democratic human society free from hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and all forms of exploitation based on age, sex, religion and ethnicity.

Portfolio Audit of BRAC Afghanistan Micro Finance Program

MISFA Auditor Team incorporated with Mr. Bhagirath Iyer, Senior Analyst and Mr. Shachin, Analyst from Micro-Credit Rating International Limited has been conducting Portfolio Audit of BRAC Afghanistan Micro Finance Program since mid-August.

For this purpose, they have visited 20 branch offices of BRAC Microfinance Program and checked the necessary documents, procedures, implementation of the methodologies etc.

National Solidarity Program in newly awarded seven districts

The newly awarded seven districts' contract has been signed between MRRD (Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development) and BRAC Afghanistan on 15th August 2007 for running National Solidarity Program (NSP). Activities of the contract officially started on 30th August 2007 in these districts, which are Muhmendara and Pachir Wagam of Nangarhar; Nika, Gayan and Ziruk of Paktika; and Khawaja Bhauddin and Chab Ab of Takhar Provinces. NSP promotes a new development paradigm where communities are empowered to make decisions and manage resources to establish the foundation for improved local governance, rural reconstruction and poverty alleviation.

Information for MIX-MISFA MBB Questionnaire

BRAC Afghanistan submitted general and financial information to MIX-MISFA MBB Questionnaire for updating their publication *Micro Banking Bulletin* which is one of the principal publications of MIX (Micro-finance Information eXchange, Inc.). MIX is a non-profit company that works to support the growth and development of a healthy microfinance sector.

Meeting with MISFA Officials

A meeting with the high officials of MISFA and the Program Coordinator of BRAC Afghanistan was held at MISFA premises on 27th August 2007. The agenda of the meeting was Microfinance Program Activities, Security related incidents, the provinces where BRAC has faced security related problem, update on operations in Kandahar and Helmand, Operational Self-Sufficiency (OSS) of BRAC Afghanistan and the expansion of the program in Six Provinces i.e. Ghor, Badghees, Farah, Uruzgan, Daikundi and Nimroz

Meeting with OXFAM NOVIB and BRAC Afghanistan Health Program



A meeting with Ms. Brigitte Obertop, Program Officer of OXFAM NOVIB (Afghanistan and Pakistan) was held on 20th August 2007. BRAC Afghanistan provided an up to date report on its Community Based Health Care project financed by OXFAM NOVIB in six districts of Nangahar and Parwan Provinces. Ms. Obertop appreciated the work of BRAC Afghanistan and expressed the interest for extending their support for three more years. An external evaluation of the project will be done prior to the formal extension of the support.

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BRAC Afghanistan Education Program started a study on ABC

Taking into consideration of the quality education and with the objectives to find out the gaps in quality education of the Community Base Schools run by BRAC to ensure the quality education through effective and child-conducive teaching-learning methods and techniques BRAC Afghanistan Education Program has started a study on the Assessment of Basic Competency (ABC) of the students of Parwan and Balkh Provinces through a research team comprising of expatriates and national staff since 3rd August, 2007. A total of 1260 girl students from 90 schools of the stated provinces have been involved in this study.

BRAC University offered MPH course for Afghan candidates

BRAC University offered MPH course for Afghan candidates. Eight applicants appeared in a written and viva test arranged at BRAC Training and Resource Centre (BTRC) in Kabul on 25th August 2007. Three applicants were from BRAC Afghanistan, four from Ministry of Public Health and one was from World Health Organization. Dharendra Kumar, Ph.D. from John Hopkins University was one of the members of interview panel as an external evaluator. The selected candidates will be offered scholarship for MPH Course at James P. Grant (JPG) School of BRAC University in Bangladesh.

Project Completion Ceremony in Badghis Province

On 1st August 2007, 24 CDC (Community Development Council) organized a project completion ceremony at Abkamary District under Badghis Province. Director RRD, Member of Parliament, Provincial Attorney General, Head of Provincial Council and Influential people of the Community of Badghis Province were present there. The respective CDC received their project completion certificates from the honorable guests.