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BRAC Afghanistan Newsletter



Mr. Jalaluddin former Country Head, Mr. Gunendu K. Roy Country Program Coordinator and Dr. Sher Shah at a Press Conference for the release of Mr. Noor Islam who was abducted on 15.09.07

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Abdul Alim offered his life in Afghanistan...

A terrible incident took place on 12th September 2007 at Badakhshan Province. One of our beloved colleague was shot dead by an unknown gunman. Late Abdul Alim started his career with BRAC Bangladesh in 1997 and was transferred to BRAC Afghanistan in 2005. He was involved with Micro-finance program as an Area Manager at Badakhshan Province. He was very sincere, devoted and had very strong commitment for the development of Afghanistan and finally offered his life here. The incident was very heart-rending. He left behind his wife, two children, his old parents, siblings and many friends. His dead body was sent to Bangladesh and the funeral took place at his village home in Tangail. May his soul rest in peace and may Allah grant the mourners strength and courage to overcome the tragedy.



BRAC Staff was abducted

Another sad incident took place soon after the brutal killing of Abdul Alim. Mr. Noor Islam, an Area Manager of Micro Finance Program of Logar Province was abducted by few unknown criminals on 15th September 2007 around 11:30 am from Polialam BRAC Office of the same Province. He has been working with BRAC since 1997 and was transferred to BRAC Afghanistan in 2005. He hails from Jessore, Bangladesh.



Deputy Executive Director and the former Country Head were on visit

Deputy Executive Director Mr. Aminul Alam and the former Country Head Mr. Jalaluddin were on visit to Afghanistan to expedite the rescue mission of Mr. Noor Islam. They along with the Country Program Coordinator Mr. Gunendu K. Roy had meetings and discussions with different concerned authorities for his quick and safe release.

Press release for an appeal to release Mr. Noor Islam

The Press conference was held on 24th September 2007 in respect of an appeal to release Mr. Noor Islam immediately. Country Program Coordinator of BRAC Afghanistan Mr. Gunendu Kumar Roy, Former Country Head Mr. Jalaluddin and other officials were present there and the press release was published in different newspapers on the following day. The press-release was broadcast through the local TV channels as well.

The concern of the Founder and Chairperson of BRAC for the victims of BRAC

Mr. F.H. Abed, the Founder and Chairperson of BRAC was very concerned about the killing of Mr. Abdul Alim and soon after the abduction of Mr. Noor Islam and sent a message for the immediate release of Mr. Noor Islam. His message was sent to all concerned authorities such as Different Ministries, Donor organizations, different Embassies in Afghanistan and to the Medias.

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.

Impact Study for Microfinance Sector was presented at MISFA

A meeting was held on 5th September 2007 at MISFA premises regarding the impact study for Microfinance sector in Afghanistan through an external source. Dr. Martin Greeley and his colleague Mr. Mohit Chaturvedi from Institute of Development Studies Sussex who conducted the study, presented their findings of the study with MISFA and MISFA partners. The Country Program Coordinator of BRAC Afghanistan and The Program Manager of Microfinance Program also attended the meeting.

National Solidarity Program in two newly awarded districts

BRAC Afghanistan started National Solidarity Program (NSP) in newly awarded two new districts namely Nad Ali and Washer in Helmand Province. NSP has been established by MRRD (Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development) to develop the ability of Afghan Communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their reconstruction activities.

BRAC Afghanistan Education Program arranged a presentation on the module of Education Management



On 20th September 2007 BRAC Afghanistan Education Program arranged a presentation on the module of Education Management for Head Teachers and Principals at BRAC Training and Resource Centre (BTRC) in Khoshal Khan Mina, Kabul. A total of 18 participants took part in the workshop and made significant contribution on the Module. Among the participants Mr. Siddiq Weera, Policy Advisor of Ministry of Education and representatives from MoE, TEP, UNICEF, PACE-A, Save the Children US, AKF, SCA, SCS-N, IRC and some Principals/ Head teachers from Government schools were present.

Inaugural Ceremony of WatSan Project at Kalakan district

An inaugural ceremony of WatSan activities was held on September 8, 2007 at Kalakan district in Kabul Province. The Country Program Coordinator of BRAC Afghanistan, Project Manager of WatSan Kabul, RRD Director of Kabul, Chief Adviser WatSan ARTF were present at the ceremony. WatSan project is helping the people improving water supply and sanitation system.



Inauguration Ceremony of WATSAN Project at Kalakan District of Kabul

Human Resource Management Course was offered at BTRC

A six day long course on Human Resource Management was organized for the officials of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) from 1st September to 6th September 2007 at BTRC (BRAC Training and Resource Centre). 27 participants attended the course. Some of them opined that the learning from the course would help them to manage human resource effectively in MoPH. They expressed their satisfaction over the course and hoped that the cooperation between BRAC and MoPH would continue. Dr. Habib, Chief adviser of MoPH inaugurated the course as a Chief Guest.

BRAC Afghanistan

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Major Events of Health

Congratulations!!

We congratulate Dr. Abdul Basir from BRAC Afghanistan and Dr. Tawab Hashimi from Ministry of Public Health who were selected for MPH Course at The School of Public Health, BRAC University for the year 2008-2009. We wish them success.

Workshops:

1. Dr. Sher Shah, the Medical Program Coordinator attended an International Public Health Workshop in Safi Landmark, on 8th September 2007 organized by Ibn Sina Afghanistan and Ministry of Public Health.
2. Three days workshop was held at Institute of Health Science (IHS) in Kabul from 17th to 19th September 2007. The theme was Community Midwifery Education Accreditation Board Workshop.
3. Since BRAC Afghanistan received the Accreditation certificate for its Community Midwifery Education (CME) for Badghis Province, so this program has got the formal legitimacy from National Midwifery Education Accreditation Board and Ministry of Public Health to provide training in Badghis Province.

Seminar:

On 12th September 2007 there was a PRT (Provincial reconstruction Team) base seminar on Infectious diseases in Bagram. Dr. Sher Shah made a presentation on BRAC activities in Afghanistan. He highlighted mostly on the activities of Parwan Province. The PRT was impressed and expressed to extend their support to BRAC Health Program.

Meeting:

There was a meeting between BRAC Afghanistan Health Program and a team from UNICEF led by Mr. David Newlands at main office of BRAC Afghanistan on 30th September 2007. The team was assigned to review the maternal and neonatal mortality reduction programs in South Asia. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan were selected for this review.