



# BRAC Afghanistan Newsletter



## Country Program Head meets with the Deputy Education Minister

The Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan met with the Honorable Deputy Minister, the Afghan Ministry of Education to discuss on BRAC's interest to contribute in higher education for Afghan girls on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. The Minister explained the present plight of the girls' education scenario especially the lack of higher education for girls. The Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan expressed that BRAC is interested to make contribution in higher education for Afghan girls through arranging scholarship in Asian Women University in Bangladesh. The Minister appreciates BRAC for its benevolent interventions in the development of war ravaged Afghanistan.

## Director of BRAC (Tea Estate) visits BRAC Afghanistan

Mr. Saiced Bakht Mazumder, Director of BRAC (Tea Estate) visited Kunar province of Afghanistan from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 to find the possibilities of tea plantation in this province. During his visit period, he met with Mr. Ehsan Zia, the Honorable Minister of the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Mr. Selim Kunduzi, the Honorable Deputy Minister of the Agriculture Ministry. He had also meeting the Member of the Parliament of Kunar province.

## Partnership with French PRT

A meeting was held between Captain V. Gilly, Aid Coordinator of French PRT and the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan at BRAC central office in Kabul on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. Captain V. Gilly shows interest on behalf of French PRT to work in the education sector, agriculture sector, and Watsan in Kapisa and Kabul provinces as a potential partnership with the BRAC Afghanistan. BRAC Afghanistan shows positive interest to work in the PRT supported provinces. Mr. Taufiqur Rahman, Program Coordinator of BRAC Afghanistan Health Program also attended in this meeting.

## New Chairman & CEO of AISA

The Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan met with Mr. Nurullah Delwari, newly appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chairman of AISA (Afghan Investment Support Agency) at AISA office in Kabul on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. The Country Program Head briefly presented the BRAC activities in Afghanistan. The Chairman and CEO of AISA expressed his profound satisfaction of BRAC initiatives in Afghanistan for taking part of the development process.

## Meeting with CIDA

A meeting was held between Ms. Sue Wiebe, Program

Development Officer of CIDA and the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan at CIDA Project office in Kabul on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. Among issues discussed in the meeting were



coverage of new 11 provinces, proposal for Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescent, additional teachers for grade IV and V, salary enhancement of teachers, government teachers training in Kandahar province and capacity development of the officials of the Ministry of Education. Mr. Shahbuddin Ahmed, Program Manager of BRAC Afghanistan education program also attended in this meeting.

## UNEP's Billion Tree Campaign

BRAC Afghanistan has been highly appreciated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the Mazar Nursery project and its production and plantation of more than 3.2 million trees in Afghanistan that had responded the UNEP's Billion Tree Campaign throughout the world. The data of the country wise planted trees of this project has been published in the UNEP website [www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign](http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign)



The Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan met with the Honorable Deputy Minister.

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### Inside this issue:

Country Program Head met with the Deputy Minister of MoE	1
Partnership with French PRT	1
New Chairman & CEO of AISA	1
Meeting with CIDA	1
Handover CDC in Nangarhar province	2

*BRAC firmly believes and is actively involved in promoting human rights, dignity and gender equity through poor people's social, economic, political and human capacity building.*



Education Department Team visits BRAC Schools

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#### BRAC and GTZ talks on possible partnership

Mr. Stefan Oehrlein, Senior official of the GTZ, Germany had meeting with the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan at BRAC Afghanistan office on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 to discuss the common interests and possible partnership to work jointly in the field of Agriculture linking with the existing Microfinance program of BRAC Afghanistan.

#### Education Program monitored by CIDA

A monitoring team of CIDA had monitored the BRAC Afghanistan Education Program in Laghman province from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. They observed the teacher's teaching method in classroom, performance of the students, talked with the Program Organizers and the local education department. They expressed their satisfaction for the successful implementation of the girls' education program.

#### Education Department team visits BRAC School

A high official team of the Afghan Ministry of Education and the Provincial Education Director, Parwan province visits BRAC run Community Based Schools (CBS) in Parwan province on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. During their visit, they observed the intervention by the teacher and assessed the learning progress of the students. The team also discussed about the community participation in CBS program. They expressed their profound satisfaction to BRAC Education Program for its tremendous educational interventions

#### Global Fund Round 9

BRAC Afghanistan Health Program has been primarily selected as Principal Recipient (PR) for HIV/AIDS component for the upcoming GFATM R9 (Global Fund to fight Aids, HIV/AIDS Round 9) in the month of May 2009. A proposal has been submitted for the approval of the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

#### Meeting with MSH and NTP

BRAC Afghanistan Health Program had a meeting with the officials of MSH (Management Science for Health) and NTP (National Tuberculosis Program) on "Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program and Community Based Community Based DOT project" on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. BRAC Afghanistan is implementing TB-CAP and Community Based DOT project in Afghanistan.

#### Trainings on Family Planning and Drug Management

BRAC Afghanistan Health Program arranged trainings on "Family Planning" and "Drug Management" for the health workers of Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) implementers through In-service training project. The training courses held in Badakshan and Balkh provinces.

#### Extend period of PPA project

During the month of May, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) extended PPA (Performance Based Partnership Agreement) projects in Balkh, Badghis and Nimroz provinces upto the end of September 2009. The program covers delivery of health care services and is financially supported by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the World Bank.

#### Meeting with Oxfam Novib

The Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan had a meeting with the officials of Oxfam Novib, Netherlands at BRAC Central office in Kabul on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. BRAC Afghanistan updated the Community Based Health Program (CBHP) which is implementing in two provinces i.e Nangarhar and Parwan Provinces. CBHP project is financially supported by the Oxfam Novib.

Oxfam Novib extended the period of the Community Based Risk Reduction Project and discussed the project end report

under the BRAC Training and Resource Center (BTRC).

#### BTRC organized different training course

In May 2009, BRAC Afghanistan Training and Resource Center (BTRC) facilitated 15 different courses for the staff of government, NGOs, international organizations and BRAC Afghanistan. A total of 278 participants attended the courses in which 32 were female.

#### Handover CDC in Nangarhar province

BRAC NSP has received an appreciation letter from the Director of RRD (Rural Rehabilitation Director) and the Governor for successfully



handover the completed 76 CDC (Community Development Councils) sub projects from cycle IV in Nangarhar province on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. RRD also gave one appreciation letter to Provincial Manager.

#### Project completed under NSP

One Hundred Twenty Eight public utility projects that are expected to benefit a growing number of residences in Nangarhar, Paktika, Samangan, Badghis and Takhor provinces have been completed under BRAC Afghanistan National Solidarity Program (NSP). The projects were completed by the support of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) including 10% community contribution.