

Country Program Head met with H.E. Deputy Education Minister

BRAC Afghanistan 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.

Inside this issue:

Executive Director of BRAC Intl. Program visited Afghanistan	1
Executive Director had meeting with USAID	1
Meeting with the Canadian Development Minister	1
Meeting with the Deputy Finance Ministers	1
Meeting with the Deputy Education Minister on Capacity development	2

Executive Director of BRAC Intl. Program visited Afghanistan

KABUL 08.12.2009- The Executive Director of BRAC International Program has paid his schedule visit to Afghanistan from 8th to 15th December, 2009. During his stay, he conducted several meetings with the Country Program Head and Program Managers of BRAC Afghanistan Programs.

He called upon a meeting for the Regional and Area Managers of BRAC Afghanistan Microfinance program and discussed different issues and target of 2010. He also visited Balkh province on 11.01.2009 and reviewed all current BRAC programs over there and had meeting with key officials. The Country Program Head, Program Manager of Microfinance Program and Manager-Small Enterprise Project also visited with him. He provided valuable suggestions for the expansion and improvement of programs and direction for the future.

ED had meeting with USAID

KABUL 10.12.2009- The Executive Director of BRAC Intl. Program and the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan had meeting with Mr. Thomas M.Olson, Agriculture Advisor of USAID at USAID office in Kabul on 10th December, 2009. The discussion was held on exploring the possibilities in potential development of agriculture sector in Afghanistan. Executive Director of BRAC shared his experience that can be supported for the development of Agriculture sector. BRAC Afghanistan has submitted a project proposal on Agriculture sector development to USAID for 7 provinces in Afghanistan.

Country Program Head meets with the Deputy Finance Ministers

KABUL 30.12.2009-The Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan met with Mr. Mostofa Mostori, the Honorable Deputy Minister, the Afghan Ministry of Finance on 30th December, 2009. The Country Program Head briefed the BRAC Afghanistan program activities and performances and requested to expedite the fund disbursement process. The Minister appreciates BRAC for its benevolent interventions in the development of Afghanistan.

Besides, the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan also met with Mr.Gul Maqsod Sabit, the Honorable Deputy Finance Minister (Tax & Revenue) on 31st December to discuss the tax related issues. BRAC Afghanistan is paying withholding tax on all the programs as well as other government taxes.

Meeting with Canadian Development Minister

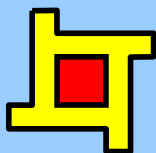
KABUL 03.12.2009- A meeting was held between the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan and the H.E Heather Cruden, Minister (Development), Canada at the Canadian Embassy in Kabul. BRAC Afghanistan Education Program is highlighted in detail focusing its all sorts of components, implementing procedures, success stories and challenges. The Minister expressed his profound satisfaction for the BRAC Afghanistan's significant contribution in education sector of Afghanistan especially girls' education. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Program Manager-BRAC Afghanistan Education program also took part in the meeting and Ms. Lara Nathle, First secretary of Canadian Embassy also attended the meeting.

BRAC and World Bank talks on possible partnership

KABUL 23.12.2009- Mr.Sunil Khosla, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank-Kabul visited BRAC office in Kabul and had meeting with the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan on 23rd December, 2009.He discussed the possible partnership with BRAC in sustainable development energy in Bamyán and Daykundi Provinces. A part of this, BRAC Afghanistan submitted a project proposal to World Bank on adopting solar energy at the central highlands of Bamyán and Daykundi provinces in Afghanistan.

Meeting with French Embassy

KABUL 16.12.2009- A meeting was held between Mr. Amaury De Feligonde, Project Chief, French Embassy and the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan at BRAC office in Kabul. The discussion was held on the issue of supporting health facilities in Sourobi district of Kabul. Deputy Program Manager of BRAC Afghanistan Health Program also attended in the meeting.



Presentation on Pre-primary education

KABUL 12.12.2009- As the part of continuous coordination and cooperation between the BRAC Afghanistan and the Ministry of Education (MoE), BRAC Afghanistan Education Program arranged a presentation on its Pre-primary educational interventions in presence of senior officials of MoE



on December 12, 2009. Following a power point presentation, a detail discussion is held on the program details including its necessary materials. Program Manager, Senior Manager, ECD Specialist and Manager MDU of BRAC Afghanistan Education Program and Program Manager, BTRC were attended in this presentation program.

Long term cooperation on ECD implementation

KABUL 15.12.2009- In order to develop the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Education in Afghanistan through operating pre-primary schools under the joint efforts of BRAC and the Ministry of Education, a meeting was held at MoE on December 15, 2009. The meeting emphasized to sign a MoU between the BRAC Afghanistan and the Ministry of Education on establishing long term collaboration in regard of ECD program development and implementation in Afghanistan. Mr. Seedique Patman, H.E Deputy Education Minister, Country Program Head, Program Manager, Manager-MDU of BRAC Afghanistan Education Program attended the meeting.

Meeting with the Deputy Education Minister on Capacity development

KABUL 27.12.2009- Taking into consideration about the capacity development of the Officials of MoE, BRAC Afghanistan arranges to provide a 5 month long training to 20 MoE Officials on Education Management and Development. This training will be facilitated by BRAC Bangladesh in Bangladesh. As part of arrangement, a meeting was held with Mr. Suleiman Kakar, Deputy Education Minister and the Country Program Head of BRAC Afghanistan. A detail discussion was held on the training package including Terms of References of the training implementation. Program Manager and Manager MDU- BRAC Afghanistan Education program also attended in the meeting.

NSP Contract Amendment:

NSP cycle II/II+ on 279 CDCs for Helmand province has been signed between BRAC and MRRD on December 2009. The contract duration is one year with budget of USD 4,30,800.

Besides, a total 75 CDCs under cycle IV communities in Samangan and 54 CDCs under cycle II/II+ communities in Badghis have already been utilized their Block Grants. BRAC Afghanistan will hand over all these CDCs to Project Management Unit of MRRD.

ED visits BTRC

KABUL 14.12.2009- The Executive Director, BRAC International visited BRAC Afghanistan Training & Resource Center (BTRC) on 14th December 2009. He had meeting with the officials of training center. Several development, and planning issues and upcoming challenges of BTRC were discussed in the meeting.

BRAC and MRRD/NSP joint field visit:

BRAC and MRRD/NSP jointly paid field visit to Helmand on December 2009. The team



monitored the progress of NSP and identified new accessible community to resume the NSP. On behalf of BRAC, Mr. Mujibur Rahman, Project Manager, NSP accompanied the team.

BRAC signed with Oxfam Novib

BRAC Afghanistan and Oxfam Novib has signed a contract for implementing Winterization project in Samangan and Takhar provinces of Afghanistan on December 2009. The duration of the project is 9 months.

Successfully completed WATSAN

BRAC has successfully completed all activities of Water Supply and Sanitation Project (WATSAN) in Kabul and Badghis and handed over the project to the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) on Dec.09. The project was commenced from Feb.07 and ended Dec.09.

Capacity Development of Staff

BTRC has submitted a project proposal to MISFA (Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan) on 'Comprehensive Capacity Development' for the Staff of BRAC Microfinance Afghanistan.

Editing Panel

Coordinated by:
Md.Fazlul Hoque
Country Program Head

Edited and designed by:
Amanul Haque

BRAC Head Office

BRAC Center
75 Mohakhali, Dhaka
1212
Bangladesh
Tel: (88-02)-882-4180
Email: brac@brac.net
Website: www.brac.net

BRAC Afghanistan

House No: 45 Lane: 4
Baharistan, Karete Parwan
Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 700 288 300
Email: fazlul.h@brac.net,
fazlul1957@yahoo.com
Website: www.bracafg.org