



BRAC AFGHANISTAN
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



“

When people ask me now what BRAC stands for, I like to think that we stand for an idea- an idea of a world where everyone has an equal opportunity to realise their potential.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG
1936-2019

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MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SHAMERAN ABED

Executive Director
BRAC International

Over the past year, we have seen new and complex challenges emerge that transcend borders. The impacts of the global pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and a visibly changing climate are all being felt in the places we work in. At a moment like this, the need for holistic, pragmatic and locally-led solutions are clearer than ever.

At BRAC International, we have been working to deliver impactful solutions through our integrated approach, combining social development with market-based solutions including microfinance and social enterprises. In 2021, our programmes reached 100 million people in nine countries in Asia and Africa, delivering services and creating opportunities in the midst of challenging conditions.

Our microfinance portfolio is growing stronger. The annual Lean Data impact surveys and the 60 Decibels Microfinance Index shows how our work is adding value to the lives of our clients and their families, and creating impact at scale. The establishment of a large debt facility, with support from Global Partnerships and Proparco, will help us reach over one million new clients in the next five years across Asia and Africa.

Our new social enterprises team has hit the ground running, supporting our enterprises in Africa to find the right balance between impact and viability, and exploring ways to unlock the potential that market-led solutions can have in changing people's lives for the better.

We are on our way towards delivering on our Audacious goal of helping 4.6 million households lift themselves out of extreme poverty by 2026, with plans in place for embedded teams in eight countries by the end of next year. This work could not be more urgent, given the millions of people who have been pushed into extreme poverty by the economic crisis caused by COVID-19.

In the coming years, we plan to significantly expand our efforts across our countries of operation, delivering high quality programming at the scale necessary for meaningful and lasting change. **As a Global South organisation, I strongly believe that we need to follow the example of the communities we work with, and in particular the women, who show amazing resilience and spirit in the face of incredible odds. The crises at hand requires us to think bigger and bolder, and we are firmly committed to rising to this challenge.** The people and the communities we serve deserve nothing less.

As long as we stay true to our values and develop innovative, scalable solutions grounded in local realities, I am certain we will find the resources and the space to continue our mission - of building a world where everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential.

On behalf of BRAC International, I thank our government counterparts, funding partners, affiliates, and other stakeholders for supporting us as we tackle the world's most urgent challenges. I would also like to thank our Supervisory Board for its guidance and support throughout the year. Finally, I take this opportunity to express heartfelt gratitude to our staff members, especially those on the frontline, whose insight and dedication drive us forward.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Mohammed Abdus Salam
Country Director
BRAC Afghanistan

*When I look at what we
have achieved together,
I feel motivated, hopeful,
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as well as to our global
BRAC Family to their
support of the people of
Afghanistan over the last
20 years.*

2021 was one of the most challenging years for Afghanistan as the world descended into multiple crises. The COVID -19 pandemic brought unprecedented upheaval — deepening inequalities, devastating lives, and diminishing economies, plunging millions into more poverty. Social unrest and conflict flared, but we also saw prolonged droughts, displacements, massive food insecurity, and a subsequent humanitarian catastrophe descended on the nation.

The past 12 months have tested BRAC Afghanistan's ability to respond in an arena buffeted by rapid change. BRAC Afghanistan managed to operate 78 health centres through our Health Programme to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat tuberculosis, malaria, and various diseases. In 2021, we afforded a significant number of capacity-building opportunities, especially in safeguarding and gender equality. We have also supported returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by creating conducive conditions for their sustainable reintegration through strengthened essential services and facilities in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul. In addition, we continued our partnerships with local and international NGOs and government bodies with the support of our gracious donors. I express my gratitude to the people we serve for their unrelenting support, the Government of Afghanistan, and the development partners for trusting us to bring positive changes to the country. Our colleagues across Head Office and Affiliate Offices have also been instrumental in designing initiatives supporting Afghanistan's people.

I am delighted to share my first message in Afghanistan through this annual report. This annual report provides a snapshot of the results we achieved together with countries and communities over the course of the last 12 months. It highlights our role in responding to some of the most intractable development problems of 2021. Behind each of these highlights remain the story of millions of people we have supported throughout our journey. BRAC International's long history and strong presence in Afghanistan have contributed to interventions in various sectors ranging from agriculture, girls' education, health, the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP), strengthening local government and capacity building, livelihoods, and Ultra-poor Graduation (UPG). We have built our reputation and credibility among government bodies, our generous donors, and the communities that we serve.

When I look at what we have achieved together, I feel motivated, hopeful, and grateful to our partners, donors, and government counterparts as well as to our global BRAC Family to their support of the people of Afghanistan over the last 20 years. Despite the challenges we faced in 2021, looking ahead, we will continue to do our part to support and deliver the appropriate interventions in a timely and qualitative manner tailored to the people of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's underprivileged, resource-poor, and marginalised people need us more than ever, and we must stand beside them. Unfortunately, 2022 could be another challenging year for us. But in these difficult times, we hope your compassion, generosity, and determination will continue to envision a world free from exploitation and discrimination, in which everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential.

ABOUT US

BRAC INTERNATIONAL

BRAC International is a leading nonprofit organisation with a mission to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease, and social injustice. Our approach is grounded in the conviction that people living in vulnerable situations can be agents of change if they are empowered with the tools, skills, and hope they need to change their lives. We design proven, scalable solutions that equip people with the support and confidence they need to achieve their potential. BRAC's institutional expertise on successfully implemented programmes is applied across 9 countries, touching the lives of over 100 million people, where our models are adapted according to the country's context.

BRAC INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS B.V.

BRAC International Holdings B.V. (BIHBV) was set up in 2010 as a private limited liability company and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Stichting BRAC International. BIHBV is a socially responsible for-profit organisation engaging people in sustainable economic and income-generating activities. The core focus of BIHBV is to provide microfinance services to people, particularly women, living in poverty and hard-to-reach areas to build their financial resilience and improve the quality of life for them and their families.



DIRECT REACH BY PROGRAMME

AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

19K

farmers received input support in
Sierra Leone, Liberia and Tanzania

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

7K

learners in 200 ECD centres with
223 playleaders in Tanzania and
Uganda

EDUCATION

174,130

students in Afghanistan,
Uganda, South Sudan &
Philippines

HEALTH

3,475,060

patients received treatment from
BRAC supported Health Facilities
in Afghanistan, Uganda, Sierra
Leone and Liberia

MICROFINANCE

685,200

borrowers in Rwanda,
Uganda, Myanmar, Sierra
Leone, Tanzania



ULTRA-POOR GRADUATION

5K

participants registered in
our Ultra-Poor graduation
programmes in Afghanistan,
Uganda and Liberia

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

54K

registered adolescent and youth
(77% Female) in 650 clubs in
Uganda, Tanzania, Liberia, Sierra
Leone and South Sudan.

OUR REACH BY COUNTRY



1,234,506

People reached in
Afghanistan

54,485

People reached in
Liberia

140,738

People reached in
Myanmar



12,758

People reached in
Philippines

18,861

People reached in
Rwanda

163,425

People reached in
Sierra Leone



4,835

People reached in
South Sudan

515,187

People reached in
Tanzania

2,534,504

People reached in
Uganda



SAFEGUARDING IN 2021



BRAC International (BI) launched **Safeguarding Audit Review** provided on safeguarding indicators to support management in understanding policy compliance and incorporated **Safeguarding clause** in the procurement manual and partnership agreements to ensure compliance of partners and service providers.



BI arranged training on **Safeguarding Case Management and Investigations** as a part of continuous capacity development and continued **awareness-building** of staff and programme participants on the **Safeguarding Policy and sub-set policies**, which are as follows:

- Child and Adolescent Protection Policy
- Sexual Harassment Elimination and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy
- Prevention of Workplace Bullying and Violence Policy
- Adults with Special Needs Policy
- Whistleblowing policy

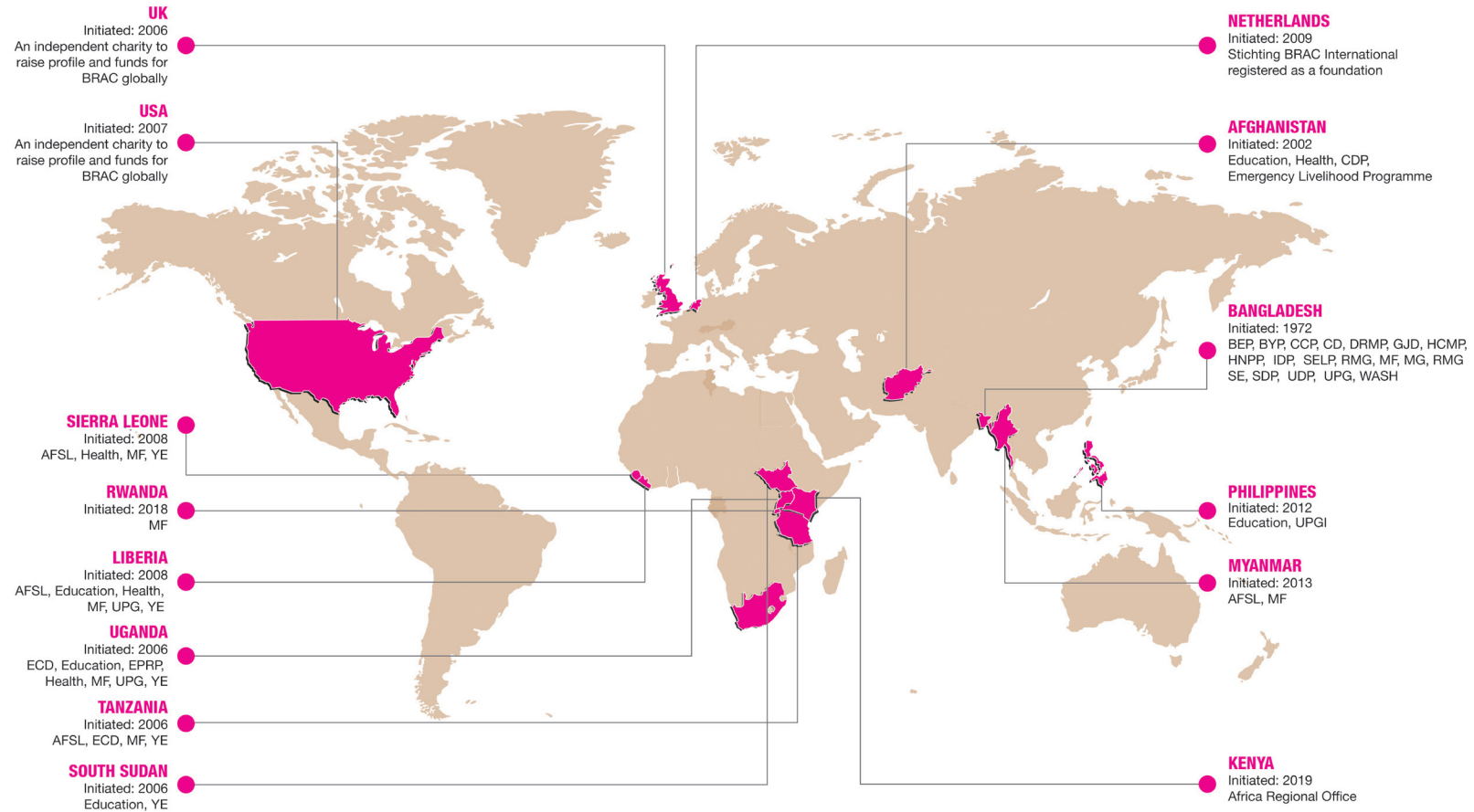


BI completed quarterly **safeguarding assessment checklist** to monitor safe organisational practices



BI formed **Inquiry Review Committee (IRC)** to review safeguarding cases to provide decisions and guidance on actions to be taken and developed an **online safeguarding register** to digitize the incident management process and to ensure confidential reporting

BRAC ACROSS THE WORLD



AFSL: Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood
BEP: BRAC Education Programme
BYP: BRAC Young Professionals
CCP: Climate Change Programme
CD: Communicable Disease
DRMP: Disaster and Risk Management Programme

ECD: Early Childhood Development
EPRP: Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme
GJD: Gender Justice and Diversity
HCMP: Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme
HNPP: Health, Nutrition and Population Programme
HRLS: Human Resources and Legal Aid Services

IDP: Integrated Development Programme
MF: Microfinance
MG: Migration
RMG: Readymade Garments
SE: Social Enterprises
SELP: Social Empowerment Legal Protection

SDP: Skills Development Programme
UDP: Urban Development Programme
UPG: Ultra Poor Graduation
UPGI: Ultra Poor Graduation Initiative
WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YE: Youth Empowerment

PROGRAMMES IN
BRAC AFGHANISTAN

Education

Health

Capacity Development
Programme

Emergency Livelihood
Programme

EDUCATION

Since 2002, BRAC Afghanistan has implemented programmes focusing on access to education, quality education, infrastructure development, and mobilising communities, with a particular emphasis on girls' education.

BRAC Afghanistan's Education Programme complements the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in promoting primary, secondary, and technical vocational education to children, especially those with no access to schools. We work with the Ministry of Education, our generous donors, and partner NGOs across 10 provinces in community-based and government schools.

BRAC Afghanistan applies a multifaceted approach in its education programming, which includes strategies to increase the attendance of girls in schools, improve the quality of education, improve school governance or management. This is done by applying new community school models, increasing marginalised girls' access to education, provision of stipend to students living in poverty, improving school infrastructure and a girls' friendly learning atmosphere by constructing school buildings and enhancing the capacity of local partner NGOs.



HIGHLIGHTS

73,462 participants reached directly through the GEC-T Project and AGE Project in the year 2021

25,800 learners (**90%** are girls) in Primary School in the AGE Project (where **165** are students living with disabilities) are provided with educational materials.

5,868 learners in **263** Secondary Schools under the GEC-T Project.

860 School Management Committees (SMCs) had a total of **6,020** participants under the AGE Project.

Alignment with SDG



HOLDING ON TO HOPE

Ayesha lives in the Khalauk Village in the Kosh-e-Koneh District. Due to the pandemic and social tension, insecure conditions, and poverty, seven-year-old Ayesha and her two elder brothers had to drop out of school, shattering her dreams of studying to become a doctor.

In 2018, when she was nine years old, Ayesha travelled to Herat with her family and helped her mother clean houses to earn a living.

Her dreams of receiving an education were still close to her heart. When she was not working, she tried to study a Grade 2 textbook with a relative. Ayesha said, “When I came to Herat, I saw girls my age going to school, and I told my mother that I would like to go as well. My mother agreed. However, when a few years passed and I still was not able to attend school, I finally realised that my family could not afford it.”

In 2021, when BRAC Afghanistan started establishing local schools in the villages in coordination with the Provincial Educational Department (PED) and related District Education Deaprtments (DEDs), Ayesha’s parents were immediately on board. An ecstatic Ayesha brimmed with hope at long last. “On my first day at Gulstan 1 school, I felt like the clock had turned back, and I was still seven years old,” she shared.



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HEALTH

Over the last two decades, BRAC Afghanistan has played a significant role in the country's development by delivering preventive, promotive, and curative basic health services, including family planning and reproductive health services, working with women and adolescents, and promoting gender equity. BRAC has built a strong reputation and a good track record and is a key partner of the Government of Afghanistan, with strong relationships across all levels of government (MoPH, MoE, MRRD) and community stakeholders.

We have trained community health workers, established health posts, and fixed health centres with various services at different tiers of service deliveries, i.e., sub-health centre, mobile health teams, basic and comprehensive health centre, and district hospital. All the health facilities are staffed with the required categories and numbers of health personnel as instructed in the national guidelines of the Ministry of Public Health to ensure the delivery of the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). It provides healthcare for the population of catchment areas of each health facility, ensuring services for hard-to-reach communities through outreach and mobile clinics. Core services cover healthcare at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. These services include child health and immunisation, public nutrition, communicable disease control such as Tuberculosis, Malaria, COVID-19, mental health, disability and rehabilitation, the supply of essential drugs, primary eye care, and fresh blood transfusion, and diagnostic (laboratory and imaging) services.

HIGHLIGHTS

690,514 participants were provided with health services, of whom **18,014** were provided by the CHP/CHW/UHPs.

269,770 children received treatment and follow-ups for malaria, diarrhoea, and acute respiratory infection (ARI). Children under five received growth monitoring checkups.

9,149 mothers received anti natal care (ANC) services from the CHPs, and **71,803** received ANC services from health facilities.

65,766 children received immunisations, of whom **33,544** had completed measles immunisation schedules, and **32,222** children completed (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus) DPT-3

OPENING NEW DOORS

Razia is a 45-year-old teacher who currently lives in the Doaib Khawak District of Panjshir Province and has five children of her own. She fell ill with myalgia, suffered from continuous infection, and could not work.

Razia decided to seek medical help at the Doaib Khawak Brac Health Clinic (BHC). “I am usually nervous about visiting doctors in my community. Doctors in this area have a reputation for misdiagnosing illnesses. However, I noticed that the doctor performed a detailed examination in this health centre,” she said. As a result, Razia tested positive for malaria through a Rapid Diagnosis Test. The doctor started her treatment, and she gradually began to feel better and was on her path to recovery.

“Private clinic services are expensive and difficult to access in our community. When my family members fall sick, I take them to the Doaib Khawak BHC for treatment. I am very thankful to the health facility doctors and the BRAC team for offering malaria treatment facilities within the most rural areas in my community,” Razia added.



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CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Since its inception, the Capacity Development Programme (CDP) has been providing support to foster the scope of the staff working in BRAC Afghanistan, government, non-government, and donor organisations. The programme includes a broad range techniques, and extended experiential learning from Bangladesh's large development laboratory field.

Since its inception in 2003, the CDP has become a well-equipped, non-residential training and resource centre in Kabul. It offers a diverse range of specialised training courses in health, education, gender, management, finance, and accounts. Moreover, it ensures that the training courses are designed to be participatory, result-oriented, and flexible, uses adult learning processes, and maintain the balance between theory and practice.



HIGHLIGHTS

860 BRAC school teachers under the AGE Project, all of whom are females, received basic training and **162** teachers received refresher training.

1,051 BRAC school teachers (**100%** female) in GEC-T Project received basic and refresher training.

Alignment with SDG



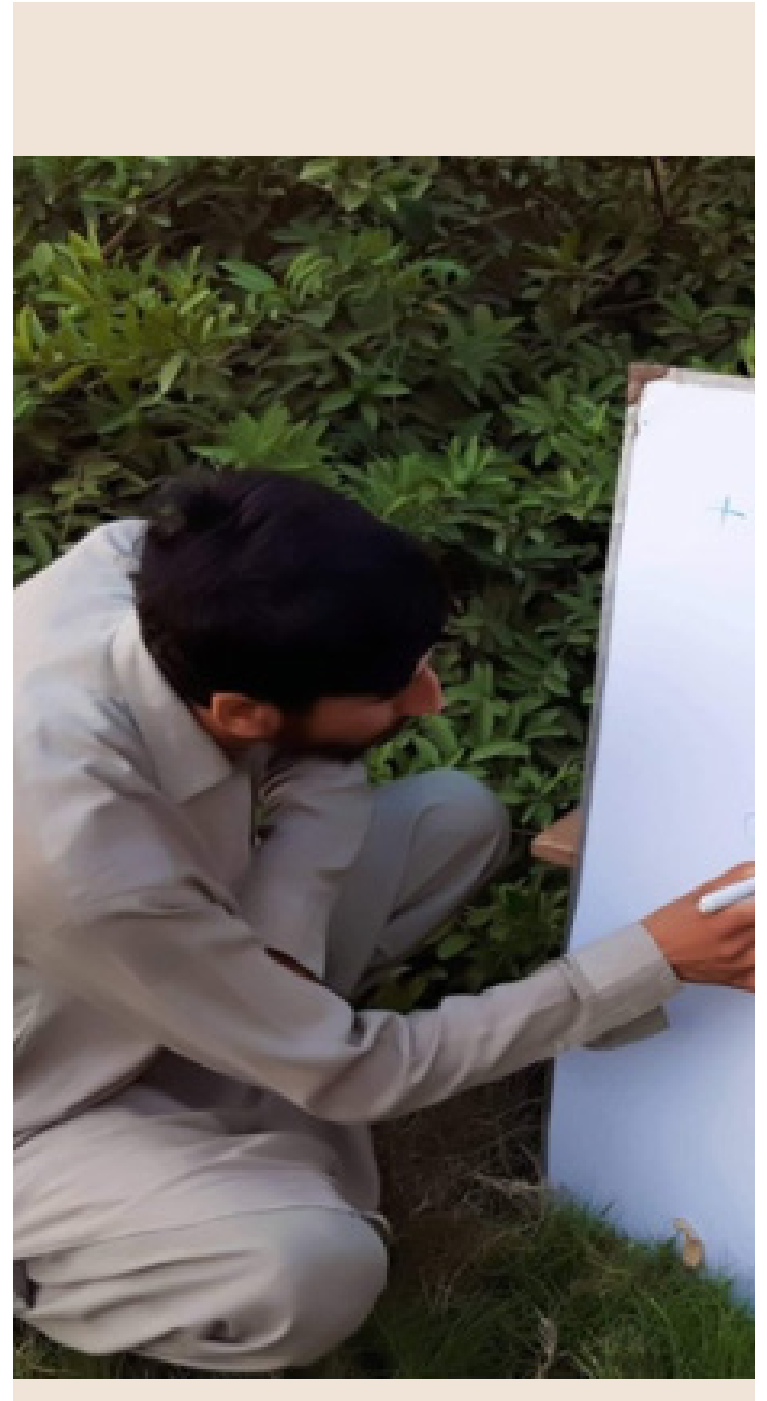
A MULTI-TALENTED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Darbakhilo Kusa Community Development Council (CDC) is located five kilometres west of the Kuz Kunar District of Nangarhar Province. The community's total population is 847, out of which 421 are female. In addition, 118 males and 77 females are educated.

Out of 161 households, only 89 (55%) have access to clean drinking water and struggle with extreme poverty.

Sayed Arif, a community member, had been engaged for an extended period but could not afford a wedding. In a striking example of the community's positive contributions, sub-committees were established and trained in their roles and responsibilities and started to collect donations to arrange Sayed's wedding. His house was also renovated with the raised funds.

Another example of the positive impact of the CDC was apparent when the education sub-committee members campaigned to encourage families to send their children to school. Concurrently an education centre was established at a community member's repurposed guest house where children can study after school. After multiple meetings, campaigns, and dialogue with the community, the people agreed to hire someone for the centre. Educated members volunteered as teachers, and several children regularly attended the classes.



EMERGENCY LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

The Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) approach, developed by BRAC, breaks the poverty trap by simultaneously addressing the multidimensional challenges that ultra-poor households face. It is a comprehensive, time-bound, integrated, and sequenced set of interventions that aim to enable extreme and ultra-poor households to achieve sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic resilience. In the standard UPG model, families “graduate” out of ultra-poverty in two years and then continue an upward trajectory. This means they increase their income, consumption, assets, and savings and improve their food security and physical and mental health.

BRAC Afghanistan implemented a project with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support returnees and Internally Displaced People (IDP). The project created conducive conditions for sustainable reintegration through strengthened essential services and facilities in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul. The project had started with an aim to support 90 UPG participants across two years in multiple phases upon receiving phased funding from UNHCR. The selected participants received enterprise training and were in line to obtain the rest of the ‘graduation’ specific support.



HIGHLIGHTS

A total of **284** participants, of whom 226 are males and 58 are females. The participants include 54 people with disabilities, of whom 43 are males and 11 are females.

A total of **90** male participants were involved in enterprise development.

All the participants received livelihood training, of whom **194** received need-based livelihood support.

AN ASPIRING TAILOR

Muhammad Gul is a member of a family of 10 and lives in Sapid Rawan Village of Panjwayi District in the Kandahar Province.

Life has been very challenging for Gul as he struggled to make enough money to provide for his family, causing him to ask his neighbours and relatives for food.

Gul heard about the UNHCR Livelihood Project and participated in the 5-day training course where he, along with 28 others were encouraged to learn the basics of sewing clothes with a machine. Because Gul was already familiar with tailoring, he received some startup cash and a sewing machine after completing the training sessions.

Soon after, he began to offer tailoring services at competitive rates to people in his community. His rates attracted many, and he now has an average of eight customers daily and earns more than AFN 300 (US\$ 3) daily.

“I will rent a shop for AFN 25,000 (US\$ 77). I believe I will earn beyond AFN 300 a day — perhaps even AFN 1,000 (US\$ 11) or more,” Gul expressed.

After all the challenges and difficulties that he has been through, he says, “I was worried about how I would feed my family. This business helped me generate income and maintain my dignity.”



I was worried about how I would feed my family. This business helped me generate income and maintain my dignity.



BRAC AFGHANISTAN MANAGMENT TEAM

Mohammed Abdus Salam Country Director

Madhavan Ati Head of Programme

Saifullah Saifi Head of Programme Operations

Sheikh Mahbubul Alam Head of Finance

Lailuma Kakar Head of CDP

Bismillah Stanikzai Head of HRD

Mohiuddin Ahmed Shuvo Senior Manager, Programme Development

Najmuddin Qeyami Deputy Manager, Procurement

Mena Gul Hemat M&E Specialist

Faisal Noori Manager Security and Government Liaison

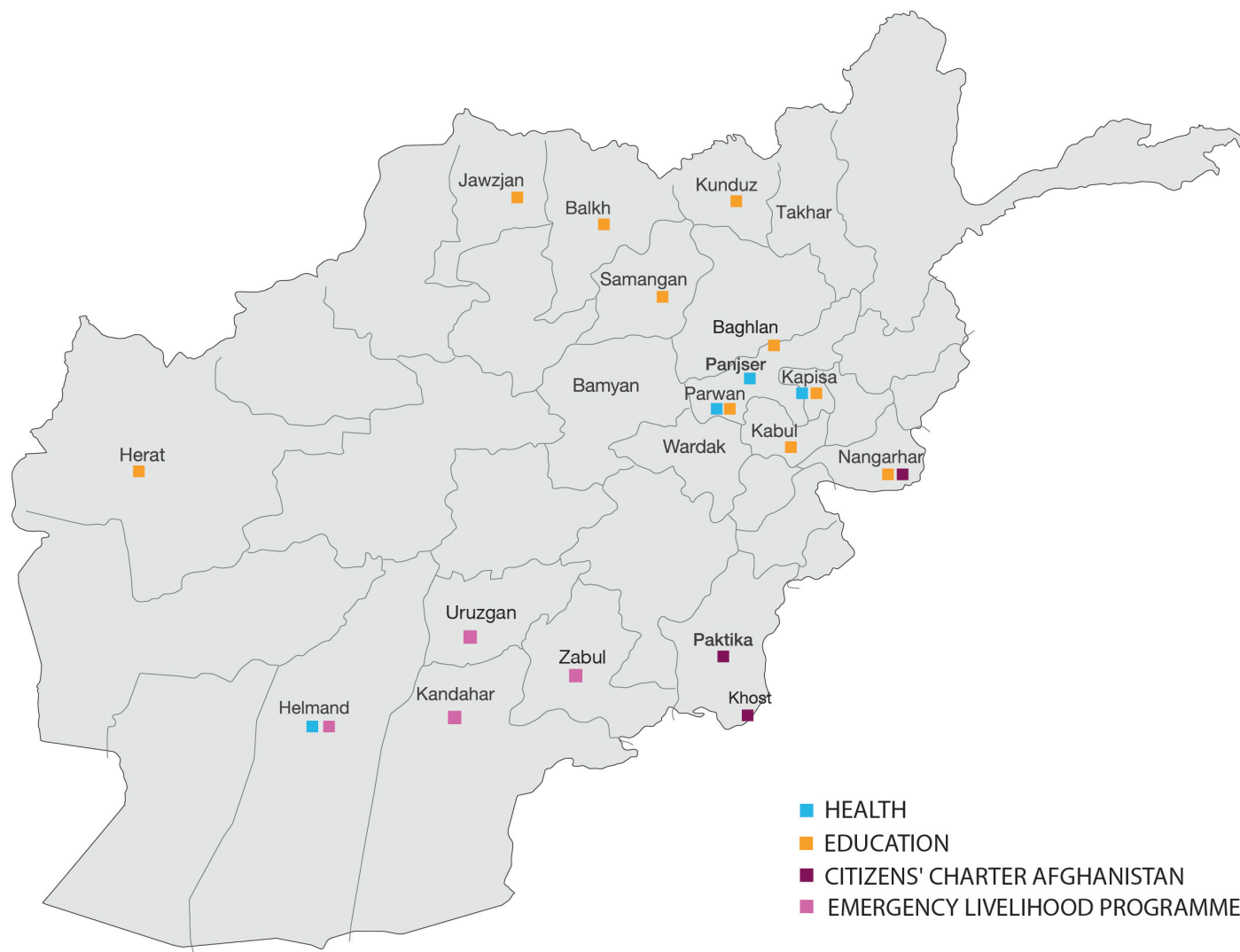
OUR PARTNERS



AFGHAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES



PROGRAMME LOCATIONS, BRAC AFGHANISTAN

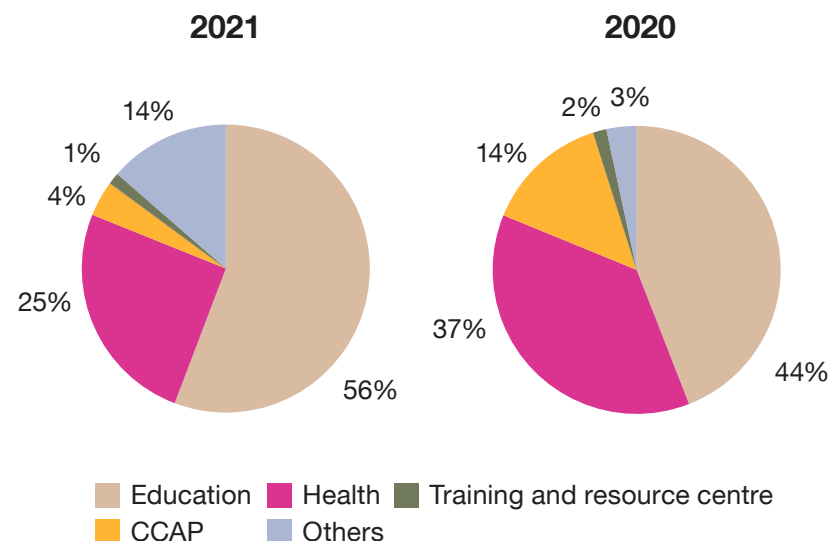


OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

BRAC Afghanistan received grants amounting to USD 8,001,619 in 2021 as against USD 14,655,627 in 2020. Total utilization for the year 2021 was USD 9,674,478 and USD 12,938,206 in 2020. Out of the total expenses in 2021 majority is expensed in Education sector with support from FCDO and Global Affairs Canada. Almost 85% of total expenditure is being used for programme service with only 15% as admin expenses.

PROGRAMME COST BY NATURE OF PROGRAMME

Programme	2021		2020	
	USD	%	USD	%
Education	5,396,523	56%	5,702,926	44%
Health	2,448,968	25%	4,801,375	37%
CCAP	387,998	4%	1,799,706	14%
Training and resource centre	125,363	1%	195,540	2%
Others	1,315,627	14%	438,660	3%
Total	9,674,478	100%	12,938,206	100%



PROGRAMME COST BY NATURE OF EXPENSES

Expenses	2021		2020	
	USD	%	USD	%
Programme expenses	8,194,577	85%	11,253,804	87%
Admin expenses	1,479,901	15%	1,684,402	13%
Total	9,674,478	100%	12,938,206	100%



PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Particulars	2021 USD	2020 USD	2019 USD	2018 USD	2017 USD
Income Statement					
Grant Income	9,010,360	12,097,778	12,046,806	13,644,156	8,276,121
BRAC Contribution (own)	-	-	-	-	50,561
Other Income	221,523	223,607	380,327	674,716	2,136,344
Programme expenses	8,194,577	11,253,804	11,297,240	13,309,066	8,265,716
Admin expenses	1,479,901	1,684,402	1,489,631	1,345,537	1,110,223
Financial Position					
Net equity	511,342	1,164,192	1,769,733	2,191,053	2,713,920
Cash at bank	782,307	2,404,178	4,167,470	1,997,958	5,826,931
Operational Statistics					
No. of Projects	17	15	11	10	11

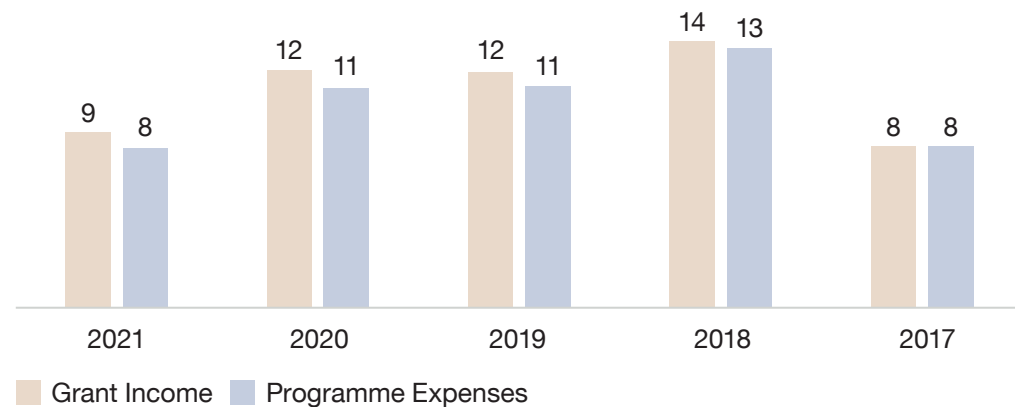


CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNMENT EXCHEQUER

Particulars	2021 USD	2020 USD	2019 USD	2018 USD	2017 USD
Income Taxes	-	-	-	-	-
Withholding tax	358,314	514,496	279,682	553,528	331,469
Social Security and pension	-	-	-	-	-

ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES

IN USD MILLION



Last 5 years Grant Income vs. Programme Expenses

CONTACT DETAILS

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