

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 10:20 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: MCH Announcement

----- Original Message -----

From: Jennifer Klein [redacted]
To: Abedin, Huma
Cc: 'Megan Rooney' [redacted]; Vogelstein, Rachel; Verveer, Melanne S; Klein, Jennifer L
Sent: Sun Jul 18 10:00:10 2010
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The maternal and child health deliverables are listed below. This a significant announcement, and it is ready to go. I will also contact our USAID contact in Kabul, Randolphe Augustin, to make sure he is aware that you may need additional information. Rachel and I are also here if you need anything.

- 1) Double the number of midwives by supporting the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) Community Midwifery Education program and launch a new Community Nursing Education Program modeled on the midwifery initiative.
- 2) Support an advocacy campaign using religious leaders and other influentials to encourage women and their families to access MCH services.
- 3) Extend the Ambassador's Small Grants to Support Gender Equality in Afghanistan (ASGP) program nationwide and increase the ceiling amount to \$38 million in order to contribute to the social, economic, and political development of women throughout the country.

We understand that the Secretary also asked about USG efforts in Afghanistan to strengthen the health system more generally. The midwifery program is just one important piece of this. Our MCH program stresses the importance of building the capacity of the health system and to improve infrastructure.

Below is an excerpt from USAID's report to Congress on its MCH program that stresses this and we heard this repeatedly from the field.

"The USAID strategy to support the MOH in rebuilding the health sector has been a balanced approach to expand services through the BPHS, to strengthen human and systems capacities at central and provincial levels, and to improve infrastructure. The main component of this strategy has been the rollout of the BPHS, delivered primarily through a network of primary care facilities run by NGOs. USAID also supports improving quality of care; strengthening the engagement of the private sector; building human, institutional, and infrastructure capacities at all levels; and scaling up implementation of cutting-edge and proven clinical and community-based interventions. Additionally, USAID provides contraceptives and essential drugs for primary health care and supports a program of social marketing of contraceptives and health products linked with a BCC program. Ongoing infrastructure improvements include repair of existing facilities and construction of one 50-bed maternity hospital, two 100-bed hospitals, two comprehensive health clinics, and three midwife training centers for preservice and in-service training."