



**“School in a Box” - Advancing Girls’ Education in Afghanistan
Smiling Children Foundation (SCF), Geneva, July 2011**

Summary of the “School in a Box” program

“School in a Box” is a 3-year program that aims to prepare 12 schools for girls in Afghanistan to become models for girls’ public education in the country. Over 3 years, it will be deployed in schools based in different geographical areas and social contexts in selected provinces to demonstrate how the model can be replicated throughout the country.

Smiling Children will implement the program in partnership with Afghanistan Libre and through implementing partners contracted for each of the program areas.

Schools will be offered a range of services designed on the basis of SCF’s successful experience at Al Fatah School for Girls (Kabul), which is widely hailed as a model in the country.

The "School in a Box" supports quality education for girls up to the end of secondary school, and includes training for teachers in innovative teaching methods; the use of scientific labs; English language, computer and physical education methods. The project also offers office management training for school staff; in-kind donation to equip the chemistry, biology, mathematics, physics labs and the library; and the playground or gymnasium. The package includes a yearly allowance to cover maintenance expenses for schools. In addition, the program will offer tuition classes for the National Entry Exam to University and few scholarships to enroll to University. Finally, over three years, a health and hygiene education program will be implemented in the selected schools.



The “School in a Box”:

Training for teachers:

- ✓ A workshop on the use of scientific labs & methods;
- ✓ A workshop on innovative teaching methods;
- ✓ A regular English course held during the academic year, two levels;
- ✓ A regular computer literacy class held during the academic year, two levels;
- ✓ An intensive English class held during the 3-months winter break, two levels;
- ✓ An intensive computer class held during the 3-months winter break, two levels;
- ✓ A workshop on physical education.

Training for school staff:

- ✓ A workshop on school management practices.

School equipment:

- ✓ Each school receives an in-kind donation to equip chemistry, biology physics and mathematics laboratories, to enrich or create a library and to equip at the minimum their gymnasium or playground in order to implement the teaching on these fields.

Community involvement:

- ✓ Organize regular meeting with the Parents & Teachers Associations (at least 3 per year);
- ✓ Visits to families in the communities to promote girls’ education;

Additions to school curriculum:

- ✓ Add to the curricula of levels 10 to 12 at least 1 hour per week per subject to be spent in science laboratories and 2 hours per week of physical education;
- ✓ Health and hygiene education to all levels of school during the academic year;
- ✓ Preparation classes to the National Entry Exam to University for students of level 12.

School infrastructure:

- ✓ A yearly allowance to cover basic maintenance and repairs in each school. The work to be carried out will be based on an assessment of the schools’ needs, approved by the program steering committee and supervised by Smiling Children and Afghanistan Libre field's staff.

University scholarships:

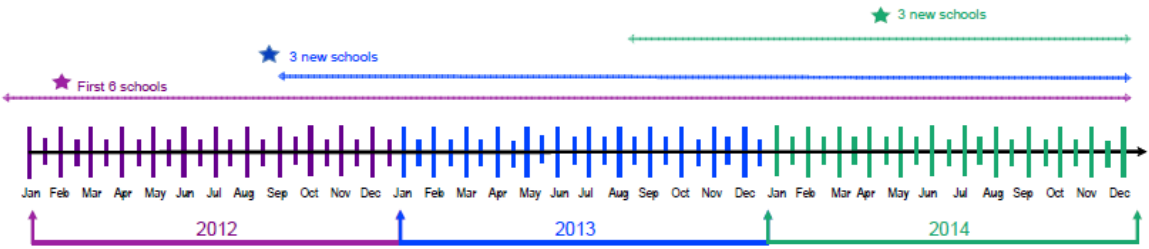
- ✓ Offer to a few of the best female students from Kabul province (Paghman) a grant to enroll to University and a transportation service to University.

Notes: workshops address a number of participants between 15 and 20; courses address a max. of 30 participants. Management, headmasters and administration staff are encouraged to participate to regular and intensive English and computer classes organized in the school.

Survey

In order to conduct a schools’ assessment and to establish impact indicators, a baseline survey will be conducted in each school enrolled in the program. The same survey will be then conducted at the end of each year to measure improvements, discuss challenges and, if necessary, re-align the strategy.

Timeline



The 3-year program will be implemented over 40 months plus 2 months to draft the final report, For sake of clarity year 1 is considered to start in August 2011 and end November 2012 when the activities in the first group of schools will end. Similarly the second and the third year start in August 2012 and 2013, when new schools are identified and approved by the Ministry of Education, and end in November 2013 and 2014, when the activities in the second and third group of schools will be concluded.

From 2012, each year in December, the main findings of the survey conducted in the schools will be released and discussed in a public conference with key stakeholders in the sector of education in Afghanistan with the final goal to learn from the experience made and to promote the most efficient and effective solutions that can be replicated throughout the country so as to make a long lasting impact on the education of girls in Afghanistan.

A more detailed timeline:

Activity	Year 1 (6 schools)	Year 2 (9 schools)	Year 3 (12 schools)
Select and approve the schools to enroll (6 in year 1; add 3 new ones in year 2 and 3 in year 3)	Aug '11	Aug '12	Aug '13
Baseline survey	Oct/Nov '11	Oct/Nov '12	Oct/Nov '13
Preparatory class to the National Entry Exam	Sep-Nov '11	Sep-Nov '12	Sep-Nov '13
Intensive English and Computer classes for teachers and schools' staff	Dec '11-Feb '12	Dec '12-Feb '13	Dec '13-Feb '14
Equip science labs, sport facilities and libraries	Feb. '12	Feb. '13	Feb. '14
Add to schools' curriculum 1h/week/subject to be spent in labs (level 10 to 12); 2h of physical education (level 10 to 12); and health & hygiene education in all levels	From Mar.'12	From Mar.'13	From Mar.'14
Regular English and computer classes for teachers and schools staff	Mar.-Nov. '12	Mar.-Nov. '13	Mar.-Nov. '14
Workshop in the use of scientific labs	Mar. '12	Mar. '13	Mar. '14
Workshop in physical education	Mar. '12	Mar. '13	Mar. '14
Workshop in innovative teaching methods for teachers	Apr. '12	Apr. '13	Apr. '14
Workshop in management for schools' staff	Jun. '12	Jun. '13	Jun. '14
Scholarships to enroll to University for the best student from Paghman (6 scholarships y1; 10 in y2; 15 in y3) and transportation service	Mar./Nov. '12	Mar./Nov. '13	Mar./Nov. '14
Awareness activities in the communities to promote girls' education	Sept.'11/Aug.'12	Sept.'12/Aug.'13	Sept.'13/Aug.'14
End of the year survey	Nov.'12	Nov.'13	Nov.'14
Release the main findings and public conference	Dec.'12	Dec.'13	Dec.'14
Intermediary report	Feb.'12 /Feb.'13	Feb'14	
Final report			Feb15'

Schools' selection criteria

1. Public school; validated by the MoE;
2. Geographical diversity, but easy access and reasonable level of security;
3. Levels 1 to 12 or at least the plan to implement higher level in the next 2 years;
4. At least 50% of students are girls;
5. At least 30% of students in the levels 10 to 12 or the higher levels are girls;
6. The school has minimum facilities and no needs of infrastructure development;
7. Will to contribute to the program at the local level (school's headmaster; teachers; staff; PTA – Parents Teachers Association; local representative of the MoE) and at the national level (MoE).