

## DCA Staff celebrated March 8 colourfully

It has become a common practice to celebrate "March 8 - International Women's Day" within DCA in Afghanistan. All staff (male and female) gathered in their respective regional offices in Kabul, Herat and Mazar to mark the day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Ms. Sultana Akbari, DCA's HR officer and organizer of the event, appreciated the commitment of all staff to make the event very successful and vivid through active participation and handing over of gifts to the female staff.



*Celebration of the event in Kabul office*

Dr. Raymond Briscoe (Country Program Director), Eng. Haroon Nessar (Projects Manager), Dr. Faridoon Qaumi (Field Coordinator), and Mr. Qudratullah Haiderzai (Operations Manager) gave speeches on the occasion. In their speeches they emphasized the role of women as mothers, and their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country to making the society complete, and they deserve huge respect and recognition.

Eng. Haroon says; "in 50 years of my life, I have lost many things but have forgotten them all! The only thing that I never forget is my MOM!"

This year's celebration was special because DCA's board delegate Dr. Bram Schreuder participated in the event. Dr. Bram in his speech said that "Ladies in a team are like flowers in a room, they enhance harmony and inspire us men to perform (and behave) even better.

Just hope that also in the future this harmony will continue to be allowed and be possible". He underlined that the number of women staff in our team is increasing from time to time as well as their contribution to our programme performance.

DCA strives to increase gender balance both at organizational level and program implementation levels regardless of the socio-cultural limitations in Afghanistan. Currently, 25% of our staff is women including senior positions, and in nearly 50% of our program implementations women participate.

It was noted that the theme of this year's international women's day around the world is "CONNECTING GIRLS, INSPIRING FUTURES". The theme selected by the UN is "Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty" which is in line with DCA's programme strategy.

Kabul, 12 March 2012