



USAID | AFGHANISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Afghan Women and Children



Photo: www.corbis.com

Ratha Loganathan, Senior Afghanistan Health Officer, USAID



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Health Situation - Post-Taliban 2002

- **Health Indicators:**
 - **Under-five child mortality rate: 172 deaths per 1,000 live births per year**
 - **Maternal mortality ratio estimated at 1600 per 100,000 live births per year**
- **Health System Infrastructure:**
 - **Inequitable distribution of health services**
 - **Insufficient number of health workers**
 - **Poorly trained workforce**
 - **Shattered Infrastructure**





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Health Sector Progress Over the Past Decade

Indicators	2002-2004	2010
Maternal Mortality Ratio	1600 deaths per 100,000 births (1)	327 deaths per 100,000 births (2)
Under 5 Mortality Ratio	172 death per 1,000 live births (3)	97 deaths per 1,000 live births (4)
Infant Mortality Ratio	165 deaths per 1,000 live births (5)	77 deaths per 1,000 live births (6)
Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Modern Method)	10% (7)	20% (8)
Total Fertility Rate	6.3 (9)	5.1 (10)
Antenatal Care Coverage	16% (11)	60% (12)
Skilled Birth Attendance (% Delivery)	14% (13)	34% (14)
Adult Life Expectancy	42 years (15)	64 years (16)

Previous Afghan national health surveys were limited in data collection and analysis compared to AMS.

■¹ Reproductive Age Mortality Survey, 2002; ² Afghanistan Mortality Survey (AMS), 2010; ³ Statistics & Monitoring Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2003; ⁴ AMS, 2010; ⁵ World Health Organization (WHO), 2002; ⁶ AMS, 2010; ⁷ MICS, 2003; ⁸ AMS, 2010; ⁹ MICS, 2003; ¹⁰ AMS, 2010; ¹¹ MICS, 2003; ¹² AMS, 2010; ¹³ MICS, 2003; ¹⁴ AMS, 2010; ¹⁵ WHO, 2004; ¹⁶ AMS, 2010



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

USAID Objective: A Healthier Population

USAID has adopted a four-pronged approach to improving the health of Afghan people, especially women and children.

- 1. Meet the immediate healthcare needs of the population by supporting the provision of primary healthcare services;**
- 2. Increase demand for and access to quality health products and services through the private sector; and**
- 3. Address the long-term sustainability of the healthcare system by strengthening the capacity of the Afghan Ministry of Public Health at the Central and Provincial levels.**
- 4. Improve the health-related behaviors of individuals, families, and communities;**



USAID Photo



Key Success Factors - Improvements in Maternal Health

- Expanding access to basic, life-saving primary care
- Increasing human resources, especially skilled midwives
- Scaling –Up Emergency Obstetrical Care
- Introducing Key Community-based Interventions
- Improving Quality





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Expanding Access to Basic, Life Saving Primary Care

Standardized Basic Package of HealthCare Services

- Specific services offered
- Type and number of staff
- Facility features
- Equipment and supplies required
- Essential drugs and dosage offered



USAID Photo



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Increasing Human Resources, especially Skilled Midwives





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Scaling –Up Emergency Obstetrical Care

- **PPH accounts for almost 56% of all maternal deaths in Afghanistan.**
- **MoPH has made EmOC a cornerstone of Afghanistan’s maternal health activities.**
- **From 2006-2001, number of BPHS facilities providing EmOC increased from 26 to 78.**



UNFPA Photo




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE







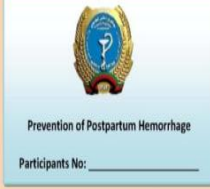

AFGHANISTAN

Introducing Key Community-based Interventions



USAID Photos


Prevention of PPH at Home Birth in Afghanistan
CHW Form

1. CHW's Name	2. Village/Health post	3. District
4. Name of the pregnant woman	5. Name of the husband	6. Drug serial #
		
		
		
		
Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Participants No: _____		



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Improving Quality

- **Developed quality assurance standards**
- **Engaged communities to define quality**
- **Introduced quality improvement collaborative method to accelerate improvement in health outcomes**
- **Annual Balanced Scorecard to Monitor Performance**



USAID Photo



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Other Success Factors Contributing to overall Improvement in the Health Sector

- Forging effective partnerships
- Empowering Women
- Implementation and procurement reform
- Building host country systems and capacity
- Innovation





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Despite the Success, Work Remains

- **Although gains in the health sector have been significant, Afghans continue to face serious health challenges**
 - **Two-thirds of women still give birth at home without a midwife or skilled attendant;**
 - **more than half of the women under age 20 have no formal education;**
 - **maternal mortality is still unacceptably high.**
- **One in 13 children dies before their first birthday, one in 10 children dies before age five, and one Afghan woman dies from pregnancy-related causes every two hours.**





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Despite the Success, Work Remains

- **A long-term partnership between Afghanistan and the international community remains critical.**
- **USAID/Afghanistan is committed to maintaining and building on the gains made over the past 10 years.**



AKDN Photo