



## **COVID-19 and Beyond: Sustaining Infectious Disease Hospital Services**

### **Country**

Afghanistan

### **Population**

Kabul, Nangarhar, Khost

### **Duration**

Kabul: Feb - July 2023  
Nangarhar: April - Sept 2023  
Khost: April - Sept 2023

### **Donors**

World Bank

### **Background**

As of the 25th October 2022, there have been 625,740,449 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 6,563,667 deaths globally. In Afghanistan, there have been 202,240 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 7,819 deaths reported through WHO dashboard. As the COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing pandemic, new sub-variants may cause a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases, there is a need to sustain COVID-19 services ensure essential preparation and response to a possible surge.

During the pandemic, COVID-19 hospitals were supported and managed by HNTPO to respond to the large influx of patients and manage virus transmission. The WHO has planned to reshape these COVID-19 hospitals into infectious disease hospitals, expanding their response capacity to cover the priority infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics, including COVID-19, measles, acute watery disease (AWD)/cholera and dengue fever.

## Objectives

Protect the population of Afghanistan and reduce the prevalence and spread of infectious diseases including COVID-19, measles, AWD/cholera and Dengue Fever. The project will ensure the resilience of Afghanistan's hospital healthcare to combat outbreaks and epidemics of infectious diseases. The project will:

- Maintain hospital services for patients of COVID-19/SARS, respond and mitigate the threat posed by COVID-19 in Afghanistan;
- Strengthen national health systems preparedness and capacity to respond to public health emergencies;

COVID-19 facilities and infectious disease hospitals include:

- The Afghan Japan Infectious Disease Hospital in Kabul.
  - The COVID-19 department will function in capacity of 60 beds, which will serve critical cases received from all the hospitals in Kabul and surrounding provinces.
- 1 regional hospital in Nangarhar with a capacity of 581 beds including 32 for infectious diseases.
- Fatema-tu-Zahra primary health centre in Nangarhar with 120 beds and 12 allocated for infectious diseases.
- University teaching hospital with 120 beds and 8 allocated for infectious diseases.

## Activities

- Manage and isolate COVID-19 suspected and confirmed cases with enhanced management and isolation of severe cases;
- Improve prevention of COVID-19 and infectious diseases through risk communication and promotion of healthy behaviours;

- Ensure regular supply of oxygen, medicines and other materials to the COVID-19 department at infectious disease hospitals in Kabul and Nangarhar;
- To ensure infection prevention and control measures at all health facilities;
- Carry out training to enhance capacity of healthcare providers;
- Facility Management of Afghan Japan Hospital;
- Supervision, Monitoring, Reporting, and Data Management.

## Past Projects

Since the start of the pandemic, HNTPO has ensured the provision of testing, vaccination and treatment for patients of COVID-19. In 2021, HNTPO coordinated and managed COVID-19 hospitals including the Afghan Japan Hospital, one of only five hospitals offering treatment for COVID-19 in the country and the only COVID-19 hospital in Kabul.

In 2022, we established two COVID-19 hospitals and a rapid response team to provide COVID-19 response services, including community surveillance, treatment and psychosocial counselling. Mobile health teams travelled to remote and hard-to-reach communities raising awareness and offering preventive support, referrals and psychosocial support. We also improved clinical staff capacity and led to 197,843 COVID-19 vaccinations and 56,142 people reached through our interventions.

## With support from



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is an international non-profit organisation that supports communities in fragile and conflict affected settings to regain control and maintain their own health and wellbeing. We believe that everyone has the inner strength to (re)build a better future for themselves and those around them.

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