



Prevention and control of communicable diseases

Scaling up innovative approaches to respond to TB and malaria challenges and strengthening health system initiatives in Afghanistan.

Country

Afghanistan

Location

Herat, Nimroz, Farah, Badghis, Ghor, Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, Zabul, Kunar and Laghman.

Duration

Jan - Dec 2023

Donors

The Global Fund

Background

Communicable diseases including malaria and tuberculosis (TB) continue to be a major public health concern in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has one of the highest incidences of TB in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, with an estimated 13,000 deaths every year. An estimated 73,000 people were infected with TB in 2020 (WHO), however these figures could be higher as many people could not be diagnosed and treated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rising insecurity.

The region also has the world's third highest malaria burden, accounting for 11% of cases in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region. Over 76% of Afghans live in at-risk areas, particularly along the southern and eastern regions.

HNTPO's efforts to reduce the prevalence in TB is dedicated to the south western region (Herat, Ghor, Nimroz, Farah, Badghis, Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul). We work in high-risk regions of Laghman and Kunar provinces to reduce, prevent and treat malaria.

Project objectives

To reduce the number of people living with and dying from TB and malaria across Afghanistan, particularly among vulnerable populations including children

Tuberculosis: to reduce the prevalence of TB by focusing on TB screening, testing, laboratory diagnosis and treatment.

Malaria: To control and decline prevalence rates of malaria cases provinces through case management and vector control interventions within 121 health facilities, 766 health posts and at a community level.

Activities

Tuberculosis

- Screening of vulnerable and high-risk populations including prisoners, IDPs, returnees and children at targeted focal points;
- Household contact management and suspect management in all clinics and hospitals;
- Referral of TB suspected cases by community health workers;
- Improve the quality of TB laboratory services and enhance diagnostic network on drug-resistant TB, including rapid diagnostic methods;
- Training for medical doctors, nurses, lab technicians and private practitioners on diagnostics and treatment;
- Decrease stigma and introduce concepts of human rights;
- To improve accessibility to TB care and control services;
- Strengthen diagnosis and management of pediatric TB cases.

Malaria

- Improve diagnostic at health facilities and health posts.

- Examine all suspected cases of malaria with rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) and by microscopic tests (where laboratory facilities are available).
- Provide timely treatment of first-line antimalarial treatment for all confirmed cases.
- Distribute long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to pregnant women and children through mass campaign and education of correct use in targeted districts.
- Improve access through health facilities linking pre- and anti-natal care visits.
- Training clinical staff and community health workers on malaria diagnosis and treatment.

Past projects

In 2022,

- 15,791 people treated for TB;
- 226 health facility staff and 60 private practitioners received DOT training to decrease drug-resistant TB prevalence;
- 44 MDs trained on drug resistant TB in Herat and Kandahar provinces;
- 42 midwives were trained on TB identification within 11 provincial hospitals, increasing detection among minors.

Malaria

- Successful mass campaigns in insecure districts - 819,473 LLINs have been distributed since the start of the project in 2019.
- An additional 58,335 LLINs have been distributed to pregnant women and children directly from health facilities.
- 210,267 people have been tested and 40,182 confirmed cases received antimalarial first-line treatment at health facilities.

With support from



HealthNet TPO

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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