



Eye Care Integrating for a Sustainable Development

To reduce avoidable blindness in Kabul and four provinces in eastern and south-eastern Afghanistan

Country

Afghanistan

Population

Kabul & four provinces in eastern and south-eastern Afghanistan

Duration

January - September 2023

Donors

Fred Hollows Foundation

Background

Eye care is an integral part of primary healthcare. However, in Afghanistan eye health is not prioritised and more than 400,000 people are blind and 1.5 million people are visually impaired. Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss representing 60% of all cases, yet 92.5% of people living with cataracts are not able to receive sight-restoring treatment due to accessibility of services and costs. Rural and remote regions are the most restricted from accessing these services.

HealthNet TPO, with the support of the Fred Hollows Foundation, has been improving eye screening, treatment and promotion of eye health for children, adults and vulnerable people living across the country. Since 2016, we have supported the Kabul Medical University Eye Hospital for the treatment of eye conditions including cataract surgeries. In addition, eye camps establish in the remote provinces to reach the deprived population and to do cataract surgeries.

Objectives

The project aims to increase access to quality eye care services for people living in remote and rural areas. The project has the following objectives:

- Establish a functional and sustainable leadership structure for eye health in Afghanistan;
- Strengthen information collection on eye health, eye care service delivery and barriers to access in Kabul province;
- Strengthen primary eye care, and the integration of eye care within primary and secondary healthcare;
- Strengthen key institutions' capacity to plan and deliver National eye Health Workforce Plan in Afghanistan;
- Deliver accessible quality care services in Kabul and four eastern and south-eastern provinces.

Activities

- HNTPO coordinated outreach camps in targeted rural and remote communities (Urozgan province);
- Build capacity of staff at the Kabul Medical University Eye Hospital to provide equitable quality eye care;
- Provide screening, advanced diagnostics and cataracts surgeries in the static clinic in Kabul;
- Provide support to Nangarhar regional hospital for cataract surgeries;
- Support three provincial hospitals in Khost, Kunar and Laghman for eye care services and cataract surgeries;
- Procure pharmaceuticals, consumables and equipment to the mentioned hospitals.

Past projects

Since 2016, with the support of the Fred Hollows Foundation, the project has significantly contributed to reducing the prevalence of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in the target province by offering screening services for eye patients, cataract surgical services, and capacity building of eye health workers.

In 2022, 47,009 individuals were screened for eye health problems and 3,438 cataract surgeries were performed in the provinces of Kabul, Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar.

In 2021, more than 31,000 people received eye care services.

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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