



Provision of Healthcare Services in Afghanistan

Delivery of a Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS), Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) and other health services in Afghanistan

Country

Afghanistan

Location

Kunar, Khost and Laghman Provinces

Duration

Feb - Dec 2023

Donors

UNICEF

Background

Afghanistan is experiencing an extensive and complex humanitarian crisis caused by several decades of conflict, large-scale internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, increasing poverty, major drought, increasing food insecurity and malnutrition, and a rise in disease and mortality. Whilst Afghanistan's health system made considerable progress over the period of 2003-2021, these gains are at risk of being reversed, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the take-over of power by the de-facto authorities causing the near collapse of the economy and health system.

Adequate health facilities are still lacking, particularly for communities living in rural areas, where the need is greatest. An estimated 9.5 million Afghans are still underserved and do not have any regular access to health services particularly in rural area. The outbreak of diseases, including measles, Dengue fever and acute watery disease, and the rise in malnutrition and mental health concerns stretch the already overburdened and underfunded health system.

Objectives

HealthNet TPO strives to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Afghanistan, particularly women and children. It aims to enhance access to quality health services within Khost, Kunar and Laghman provinces. Health services focus on maternal, new-born, infant and child health, reducing the incidence of communicable diseases and improving nutrition.

- The provision of the basic package of health services (BPHS) within primary health care facilities, including district hospitals.
- The provision of the essential package of hospital services (EPHS) at provincial and regional hospitals.

Activities

- Providing quality health services to the people of Afghanistan via:
 - Laghman: 1 provisional hospital, 2 district hospitals, 8 comprehensive-, 18 basic- and 27 primary-health centres, 1 prison clinic, 1 mobile health team, 1 trauma centre and 409 health posts.
 - Kunar: 1 provisional hospital, 2 district hospitals, 9 comprehensive-, 17 basic- and 31 primary-health centres, 1 prison health clinic, 1 mobile health team, 357 health posts.
 - Khost: 1 provisional hospital, 12 comprehensive-, 8 basic- and 20 primary-health centres and 349 health posts.
- Provide training to health staff, project staff and managers to improve knowledge and capacity;
- Improve gender equity, expanding access to female providers, gender awareness training and preparing health promotion materials;
- Manage pharmaceutical supplies and other medical and non-medical logistics;
- Infrastructure and maintenance of basic health and hospital facilities;
- Infection prevention and control and medical waste management;
- Strengthen health management information system (HMIS 2021);

- Improving referrals across all levels
- Support the integrated surveillance systems
- Oversee and coordinate the work of mobile health teams and community health workers
- Management of health emergencies due to outbreaks and natural disasters.

Basic Package of Health Services include:

- Maternal and new-born health,
- Child health and immunisation,
- Public nutrition, screening and management of malnutrition,
- Treatment of communicable diseases (TB/Malaria/HIV-AIDS),
- Mental health education, diagnosis and treatment,
- Disability and physical rehabilitation services
- Regular supply of essential drugs
- Enhance community and facility level nutrition services
- Prison health services
- Immunisation and polio eradication

Essential Package of Hospital Services include:

- Inpatient services
 - General and specialised surgical services,
 - Obstetrics and gynaecology services,
 - Paediatric services (including therapeutic feeding centres)
 - General and specialised medical services,
 - Ophthalmology and ear, nose and throat,
 - Mental health and psychiatric services,
 - Dental services,
 - Forensic medicine,
- Emergency department (24/7),
- Outpatient services,
- Hospital pharmacy,
- Laboratory, blood transfusion and blood bank,
- Scanning including X-ray, CT and ultrasound,
- Endoscopy

Previous results

HealthNet TPO started its operations in Afghanistan in 1994 in Nangarhar province, with a package of primary healthcare services. Since, it has continued to be present across the country implementing primary and secondary healthcare services. In 2003, it continued with the BPHS under the Sehatmandi project and EPHS in 2014. For almost three decades it has contributed to the overall increase in health status of the population, particularly women and children.

Key achievements in 2022,

- 11,830,040 people received outpatient consultations through our health facilities in Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Khost provinces;
- 13% of health facilities in Afghanistan were managed or supported by HealthNet TPO including 296 public health facilities (14 hospitals, 276 primary healthcare centres, 3 prison health facilities and 3 Mobile Health Teams);
- 4,362 health facility workers were trained including 430 medical doctors, 623 nurses, 322 midwives, 16 lab technicians, 64 pharmacists, 49 surgeons, 2,718 management and support staff;
- 209 health facilities across the country were rehabilitated;
- 351,219 people were identified at a community level by our community health workers and referred to health services;
- 150,472 women could deliver their babies safely within our support health facilities;
- 64,917 children under 5 were treated for severe malnutrition through our therapeutic feeding programme within BPHS/EPHS 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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