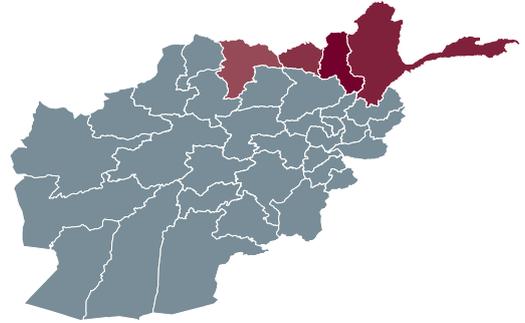


German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Focus on Health Care



Context

In Afghanistan, average life expectancy has risen substantially in recent years and is now around 60 years. However, the maternal mortality rate is still high, with 396 deaths for every 100,000 live births – compared with just four or five in Germany. Afghanistan also has one of the world’s highest child mortality rates: for every 1,000 new-borns, one in ten will die before the age of

five. More than 32% of under-five year olds are malnourished. Medical care is inadequate, particularly in areas outside Kabul. Many of the country’s health facilities are dilapidated and poorly equipped.

Objective

As a result of the German government’s efforts, sustainable improvements are achieved in basic health care provision for the urban population. This includes a properly functioning health system with a modern hospital infrastructure, hospital management systems and qualified staff.

Measures & Results

KfW has been working on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office since 2006 to rebuild, renovate and expand health care facilities and build new ones in the north of the country. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is advising the Afghan Ministry of Public Health on the improvement of health care provision and is assisting it with the construction of a Mother and Child Health Competence Centre (MCHCC). Additionally, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has been working to help eradicate the polio virus since 2014.

Overview	
Programmes	Rebuilding the Balkh Regional Hospital in Mazar-e Sharif, and Construction of a new Mother and Child Health (MCH) Centre Capacity Development at the Regional Hospital in Mazar-e Sharif for Setting Up a Mother and Child Health Competence Centre (MCHCC) Renovation/Construction of the Provincial Hospital in Feyzabad (Badakhshan) Renovation/Construction of Hospitals and Health Centres at Seven Locations in Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces Support for Polio Eradication
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) Norwegian government
Partners	Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)
Implementing organisations	KfW Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Provinces	Badakhshan, Balkh, Kunduz and Takhar provinces
Programme objective	A properly functioning health system with a modern hospital infrastructure, hospital management systems and qualified staff improves health care for the population in Northern Afghanistan.



Regional Hospital and Mother and Child Health Competence Centre

Reconstruction of the hospital:

After a fire destroyed Balkh Regional Hospital in the centre of Mazar-e Sharif, a new hospital complex has been built, with a total of 360 patient beds, 21 intensive care unit beds, seven operating theatres, an x-ray and laboratory diagnostics unit, an accident and emergency unit, and telemedicine facilities. The renovated regional hospital has been in operation since 2012, serving as a central hospital for the city's 350,000 residents and a referral hospital for up to six million people in the surrounding area.

Regional competence centre:

As an academic teaching hospital with an associated nursing and midwifery school, the institution plays a key role in training young medical and nursing professionals. 500 staff members have taken part in training courses, practical on-the-job instruction and advisory sessions to date. The University of Freiburg in Germany is the hospital's training partner.



52,000 staff members
received health care training

Management consultancy services:

GIZ is advising the hospital's administrators on the introduction of a modern management system. As a result of the system's implementation, workflows have been restructured, the flow of patients reorganised, allocation of space optimised, patient records digitised, and warehousing, waste disposal and maintenance enhanced. Performance has improved across all departments.

A professional team of twelve well-qualified technicians ensures that installations and equipment work properly. The hospital can now carry out all necessary repairs and maintenance work itself.

Mother and Child Health Centre:

Work began on the construction of a new Mother and Child Health Centre in 2016. When opening in mid-2018, the centre will have almost 300 beds, enabling it to provide quality obstetric and paediatric care.

Feyzabad Provincial Hospital

KfW is carrying out renovation and expansion work on the Provincial Hospital in Feyzabad. A new diagnostics and therapy centre has since been built and made operational, and construction work is currently under way on a new ward with an additional 76 beds. The hospital is also undergoing reorganisation to enable it to serve as a referral hospital for some one million people in Badakhshan province. It is operated by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). Hospital managers are participating in AKF management training and online health courses to prepare them for their new tasks. This training is being financed in part by Norway, the construction of a unit for mothers and new-borns envisaged in the hospital's development plan is yet to begin.

The hospital has since seen a 30 to 50% increase in outpatient and inpatient treatment.

Seven more hospitals and health centres in Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar

Seven more hospitals and health centres have been built or expanded in the Northern provinces of Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar and fitted with the necessary medical equipment. The new constructions include patient buildings, operating theatres, as well as x-ray and laboratory facilities. Training on childhood illnesses, mother and child nutrition, laboratory analysis, technical maintenance and administration is providing medical staff with the specialist knowledge they need to manage health care provision. The seven health care institutions cater for a total of four million or so residents in the three provinces.

Polio eradication

BMZ is providing a total of EUR 40 million to assist Afghanistan in its efforts to eradicate polio. The country is taking part in the United Nations' Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Germany is co-financing initiatives by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). These include measures to procure (oral) polio vaccines and cold-chain equipment, activities for monitoring polio epidemiology in the country, as well as technical support.

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