Public Health in Afghanistan

Global Health Web Forum Series

Dialogue4health

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Dr. Abdul Tawab Kawa Saljuqi, MD, MPH Candidate

Photo by Luke Powell
Content

• Afghanistan’s Demographic Situation
• Briefing on Public Health System and Current situation
• Question and Answer
Afghanistan

(647500 km$^2$)

2.2 times

Larger than

Arizona

(295,254 km$^2$)
Demographic Situation

- Population: 24 million \( \text{CSO, 2007} \)
  - Female / Male Ratio: 49/51

- Literacy Rate: 35-40% 
  (Basic reading and writing) 
  (Ministry of Education 2007)

- GDP: USD 426 \( \text{ (WB) 2008} \)
Life expectancy

- Life expectancy is 43 years, compared to 59 years for low-income countries worldwide.

Source: WHO
Drinking Water

Moreover, only 13 percent of Afghans have access to safe drinking water and 12 percent to adequate sanitation.

UNICEF best estimates 2008
Electricity

- Access to electricity: among the lowest in the world.
- The situation has however improved in Kabul, Mazar and Hirat
Education

- More than 7 million children to school 2.5 million girls
- More than 4500 schools all over the country
- More than 170000 teachers
- Implementation of Healthy School Initiative since 2006 with MoPH and UNICEF

Source: Afghan Ministry of Education website
Agriculture

Agricultural Production: wheat, fruit, nuts, wool, mutton, sheepskins, lambskins

Major Agricultural Exports: Nuts, fruit, spices

Agriculture: 31% of GDP, 80% of employment
Security

- More than 80% of international assistance spent on security
- 83,000 US forces
- 45,000 ISAF and NATO
- 70,000 Afghan National Army

United States Accountability Office report on Security in Afghanistan

Figure 1: Average Daily Reported Enemy-Initiated Attacks by Type in Afghanistan, May 2003 to August 2009

- Average daily attacks on International Security Assistance Force and coalition forces
- Average daily attacks on civilians
- Average daily attacks on Afghan National Security Forces
- Total average daily attacks

Source: GAO analysis of DOD data
Religion

Islam (99%)
Others (1%) (Hinduism and Christianity)

International Relation

Surprise Visit of Obama to Afghanistan to eat some healthy Food!
March 28 2010

Photo from White House photo gallery
Present Health Situation

Present Health Situation

- Two main strategies for health care provision: Basic Package of Health Services and Essential Package of Hospital Services, contracted out.
A five year communication strategy for Afghanistan

Based on 8 Gaps

Proposes 8 Strategies

Supported by a Policy

And five year Action Plan

After 2 years of struggle
Key Players in Health System

- Ministry of Public Health
- NGOs
- Community
- Governmental Organizations
- Private Sector
- Donors
- Legislation
- UN
Health Financing

- USAID
- EU
- WB
- Other: JICA, CIDA, DFID, AFD, ADB
- A very small amount from national revenue
Health Facilities and Referral System in BPHS

- Health Post 9780
- Basic Health Center 782: 30,000 people
- Comprehensive Health Center 371
- District or Provincial Hospital 60

Referrals:
- From Health Post to Basic Health Center
- From Basic Health Center to Comprehensive Health Center
- From Comprehensive Health Center to District or Provincial Hospital
- From District or Provincial Hospital to Comprehensive Health Center
- From Comprehensive Health Center to Health Post
# The BPHS Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Level</th>
<th>Key Staff</th>
<th>Population Coverage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Post</td>
<td>2 CHW (male/female)</td>
<td>1,000-1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Health Center</td>
<td>1 Nurse (male), 1 Midwife/Community Midwife, 2 Vaccinator, 1 Community Health Supervisor (5+2)</td>
<td>15,000-30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Health Center</td>
<td>2 Doctors (m/f); 2 Community Midwives; 2 nurses (m/f); 1 Lab Tech; 1 Pharmacy tech., 2 Vaccinator, 1 Administrator, 1 Community Health Supervisor (12+4)</td>
<td>30,000-60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Referral Hospital</td>
<td>4 Doctors (m/f), 1 surgeon, 1 anesthetist, 1 Pediatrician, 4 Midwife, 10 nurse, 1 X-ray tech, 2 Lab Tech, 1 Pharmacist, 2 Vaccinator, 1 Dentist, 1 Dental Tech, 1 Administrator, 1 Community Health Supervisor (31+7)</td>
<td>100,000-300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: Basic Package of Health Services 2005
Contents of BPHS

• Maternal and newborn health
• Child health and immunization
• Public nutrition
• Communicable diseases control
• Mental Health
• Disability
• Supply of Essential Drugs

Source: BPHS of health services 2005
Progress of Health Indicators

Photo by Hadi Zaher
Health Indicators before 1978

Afghanistan had high U5MR in 1960 and was decades behind other countries.
Health indicator after fall of Taliban

Ahmad Jan Naeem’s presentation in International Conference on Primary Health Care, Doha 2008
Maternal Mortality Ratio 2002

Ahmad Jan Naeem’s presentation in International Conference on Primary Health Care, Doha 2008
Improvement from 2003 to 2006

Ahmad Jan Naeem’s presentation in International Conference on Primary Health Care, Doha 2008
Key Development Indicators

• Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births: Down from 129 in 2006 to about 111 in 2008.

• Under-5 mortality rate, per 1,000 live births: Down from 191 in 2006 to about 161 in 2008.
Indicators (cont)

• **Prenatal care to pregnant women:** Up from 11% in 2004 to 49% in 2008.

• **Child immunization rates:** Up from 12% in 2005 to 33% in 2008.
Health Service Utilization

• Health service utilization increased among project area populations from a rate of 0.3 consultations per capita annually at the outset (2003) to 1.64 per capita by the mid 2009.
Progress in Percentage of Health Facilities with at least one female health worker, Afghanistan 2003, 2008

Health Information Management System (HMIS), Afghan Ministry of Public Health
Community Health

- Presence of more than 20000 Community Health Workers
- Communication and vaccination Campaigns

Photo by CBHC Department, Ministry of Public Health
Community Participation

• Community interaction by Partnership Development Quality (PDQ) and Participatory Learning Approach (PLA) strategies
Progress in institutional Delivery, ANC and FP Utilization

Health Information Management System (HMIS), Ministry of Public Health
Polio vaccine Coverage

Health Information Management System (HMIS), Ministry of Public Health
BCG coverage

---|---|---|---
55% | 60% | 65% | 80%

Health Information Management System (HMIS), Ministry of Public Health
Full Immunization in Afghanistan

Health Information Management System (HMIS), Ministry of Public Health
DPT Coverage in Afghanistan

Health Information Management System (HMIS), Ministry of Public Health
Question and Answer