

MSH IN AFGHANISTAN

MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH (MSH) is a global nonprofit advisory organization that provides governments, health organizations, and the private sector with the strategies, tools, and management support to effectively and efficiently deliver high-functioning health systems.

Photo Credit: MSH/AFIAT

MSH began work in Afghanistan in 1973, implementing a program to strengthen the Ministry of Public Health and support the expansion of primary health services. Since 2002, MSH has worked with health authorities to rebuild the country's health system and put basic service delivery mechanisms in place, including a basic package of health services and an essential package of hospital services. Even after the withdrawal of US troops in August 2021, more than 400 of our staff are still working with local partners and communities across the country to ensure that children have appropriate nutrition and women can give birth safely, strengthen tuberculosis (TB) services, provide COVID-19 vaccinations, and ensure that people can access the medicines they need.

OUR APPROACH

We strengthen essential health systems to help make the country more resilient and to accelerate women's participation in public health, service provision, and community engagement. MSH operates in hundreds of health facilities in every province to provide training, support, and capacity building.

“SERVE MY VILLAGE, MY DISTRICT, AND MY PEOPLE”

A key objective of our work in Afghanistan is to increase the understanding and treatment of malnutrition—particularly for children under five. Through participation in our training and mentorship programs and the provision of educational materials, health workers develop the technical skills and knowledge necessary to identify and refer severe acute malnutrition cases for treatment—and save lives.

Hadiya* is one of more than 850 health care workers who received training through our Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive (AFIAT) program. And for five-year-old Omar*, this training proved to be lifesaving. During a follow-up visit with Omar after outpatient treatment and ready-to-use therapeutic food, Hadiya discovered that he was not gaining the weight expected. Using the knowledge and skills she learned through AFIAT, Hadiya detected complications and referred her young patient for inpatient care. After returning home, Omar received an additional five weeks of outpatient treatment, as well as counseling on complementary feeding. Three months later, Omar is happy and healthy, his complications thoroughly treated, and his weight and measurements well within the proper range. Because of AFIAT, Hadiya and her colleagues can now “provide nutrition services with strong knowledge, skills, and practice,” explains Hadiya. “[The AFIAT program will] serve my village, my district, and my people.”

*Name changed for privacy reasons.

OUR WORK

Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive (AFIAT)

MSH implements AFIAT, USAID's flagship health systems program in Afghanistan, which aims to:

- ✓ Improve the quality of primary and secondary health and nutrition services for women and children in targeted rural areas
- ✓ Increase access to high-impact and evidence-based health and nutrition services
- ✓ Enhance adoption of optimal health and nutrition behaviors by communities and households
- ✓ Collaborate with partners to plan, finance, and manage resilient health services in the provinces of Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Bamyan, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Parwan



In-person training at Bamyan-Shahidan comprehensive health center in Afghanistan. Photo credit: MSH/AFIAT

We are also supporting efforts to strengthen TB services in the major cities of Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Mazar-e-Sharif.

Urban Health Initiative (UHI)

Our work also involves improving the health outcomes of women and children and other vulnerable populations living in Afghanistan's urban areas through the USAID-funded UHI. UHI works to:

- ✓ Strengthen local capacity and stewardship
- ✓ Improve access to primary and secondary health services
- ✓ Improve the quality of public and private health services in urban areas of Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Mazar-e-Sharif

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

In addition to the US Agency of International Development (USAID), our partners in Afghanistan include Jhpiego, CARE, Intellectap, Internews, BAO Systems, Project ECHO, Terre des Hommes, VIAMO, and local Afghan organizations.

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 MSHHealthImpact

 Management Sciences for Health

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For more information on our work in Afghanistan, please visit www.msh.org or contact us at communications@msh.org.