Organization for Promotion of Health & Community Development

Annual Report-2024



Organization for Promotion of Health & Community Development

Director's Foreword:



I am proud to present OPHCD's 2024 Annual Report, showcasing our resilience, impact, and unwavering commitment to serving vulnerable communities across Afghanistan. Despite ongoing challenges, we have expanded our reach and strengthened our programs, thanks to the dedication of our team and the support of our partners.

In 2024, OPHCD implemented 9 life-saving health, nutrition, and education initiatives with a $ 3,795,500 portfolio, reached about 1,707,148 beneficiaries. Our 531 (251 male, and 280 females) strong workforces, 53% of whom are women, managed 300 health facilities across 22 provinces. Key milestones include:

- Establishing 20 fixed health clinics in Helmand and Urozgan Provinces, enhancing immunization services.
- Screening and treating over 1.4 million individuals for acute malnutrition in target provinces.
- Launching a Community-Based Nutrition Program in Urozgan, Faryab, and Jawzjan Provinces with UNICEF.
- Establishing of 6 Health Camps in Kandahar City and Zaray District through UNICEF.
- Providing Healthcare to nomadic populations through 2 Mobile Teams in 6 Districts of Wardak Province.
- Expanding Education access in Chardara District, Kunduz Province with Infinite Foundation Netherlands.
- Conducting 2,888 Cataract Surgeries and distributed 5779 eyeglasses across nine provinces.
- Initiating TSFP and Community-Based Nutrition programs across multiple provinces.

These achievements reflect our deep commitment to equity, compassion, and sustainability. Looking ahead, OPHCD remains dedicated to innovation and collaboration, ensuring vulnerable populations receive the support they need.

Thank you for your trust and partnership.

Mohmmad Aziz Paewastoon
General Director

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About Us:

Who we are:

The Organization for Promotion of Health & Community Development (OPHCD) is a distinguished non-governmental organization in Afghanistan, committed to enhancing public health, community development, and education. Registered with the NGOs Department of Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Public Health, OPHCD operates independently and impartially, advocating for equitable resource allocation and quality services delivery. With a dedicated team proficient in public health, water sanitation, education, and community development, bolstered by a decade of national and international NGO experience, OPHCD excels in policy development, project implementation, and grant management. Ensuring transparency and accountability through comprehensive reporting, OPHCD strives for sustainable impact at local, national, and international levels, embodying a beacon of progress in Afghan communities.



Vision:

An empowered society with sustainable and self-reliant health, social, and economic stability.

Mission:

OPHCD, as a non-governmental organization, is striving for the well-being of the people through the promotion of health and nutrition status, education, WASH, protection of human rights, economic stability and sustainable development of the communities with a focus on the women and children, drugs users, IDPs and other marginalized group of the society with an equitable manner.

Core Values:

1. Accountability & Transparency
2. Honesty and Integrity
3. People centeredness
4. Performance excellence

OPHCD's Journey:



2017

APRIL
01ST

Establishment of OPHCD and Registration with Ministry of Economy

JULY
9TH

QRCS – Feasibility Study Project

YHDO – Capacity Building project



2017



2018

AUGUST
1ST

QRCS – End of Project Assessment



2019

STEMBER
1ST

Provision of Emergency Nutrition services for <5 years children and PLWs of nomad population



2019

DECEMBER
1ST

Prevention of blindness through provision of eye care services and conducting Cataract

JANUARY
1ST

Therapeutic and Supplementary Feeding Project



2020



OCTOBER
15TH

The Infinite Foundation – Community Based Education Program in Kunduz Province

2020



2021

JULY
1ST & 15TH

- Provision of PHC for Nomad Population in Wardak Province
- Implementation of CBNP Project
- Event Base Surveillance Training

2022



2023

OCTOBER
1ST

Therapeutic and Supplementary Feed Project

2023

AUGUST
1ST

Implementation of Community Midwifery Education program for 24 students from 5 provinces of the country



NOVEMBER
11TH

BMGF through ACF – Strengthening Routine Immunization Project



SEPTEMBER
20TH & 27TH

- Community Based Nutrition Intervention for Faryab and Jawzjan Provinces
- Cataract Eye Surgery – Phase II





JANUARY
1ST

Implementation
Targeted
Supplementary Feeding
Program in Helmand
and Urozgan Provinces

2023 2024 Moving Forward with Strong Commitment

OCTOBER
08TH

Establishment of 6 fixed
Health camps/clinics
covering 24 sites
located in the
populated slums of
Kandahar city and Zarai
District



OPHCD is active in the following areas:



OPHCD's Geographical Coverage: 22 Provinces



THE YEAR 2024:

The year 2024 marked another successful chapter for the Organization for Promotion of Health & Community Development (OPHCD), with substantial achievements and a profound impact on local communities. Throughout the year, OPHCD executed Eight projects, employing a dedicated team of 518 staff members, and achieved a total annual financial turnover of **USD 3,795,500**. Our initiatives reached over **1,707,148** beneficiaries across **22 provinces**, reflecting our broad and effective outreach.

OUR IMPACT:

The Organization for the Promotion of Health & Community Development (OPHCD) has significantly improved Afghan communities by enhancing health, education, economic opportunities, and resilience. Our maternal health clinics, health education, and mobile services have reduced mortality rates and increased healthcare access. Educational programs have raised literacy and enrollment, particularly for women and girls. Economic initiatives have promoted financial stability, and community engagement has strengthened local governance. OPHCD remains committed to transparency and a people-centered approach, driving sustainable development and empowering marginalized groups across Afghanistan.

Key Impact Figures:

- Project Implemented: **9** in **22** provinces of Afghanistan
- Employees: **531(251 male and 280 female)**
- Financial Turnover: **USD 3,795,500**
- Beneficiaries Reached in 2024: **1,707,148**
- Nutrition: **1,078,565**
- Health Sector: **628,563**
- 10% Improvement in pregnant women registering in the first trimester (early registration) for antenatal care services in 2024
- 20% Improvement in the average number of pregnant women accessing antenatal care clinics.
- 5% Improvement in documentation of high-risk pregnancy referrals
- 30% Reduction in Maternal Anemia.
- 6% Reduction in Stunting among children under five years of age.
- 40% Reduction in Early Childhood Developmental delays in children under three years of age.

OPHCD's Category wise Achievements

1. Provision of Health

Strengthened routine Immunization programs through the delivery of integrated primary health care services, acute undernutrition prevention, and treatment programs in selected districts of Helmand and Uruzgan provinces, Afghanistan.

About the Project:

Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), in partnership with Action Against Hunger (AAH), Established 20 Sub-Health Centers (10 in Helmand and 10 in Urozgan) for Strengthening routine Immunization programs through the delivery of integrated PHC services, acute undernutrition prevention, and treatment programs in 9 districts of Helmand and Uruzgan provinces, Afghanistan.

This project aims to:

- Improve access to maternal and child routine immunization programs, including BCG/OPV0 vaccinations, in Helmand and Urozgan provinces.
- Raise awareness about the benefits of maternal and child immunization and boost community acceptance of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) services.
- Contribute to the interruption of wild poliovirus transmission and prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Ensure access to undernutrition preventive and curative services, as well as basic primary health care and sexual and reproductive health services in the target areas.

In the remote and challenging regions of Helmand and Urozgan, the SRI Project has made a profound impact on the lives of thousands, bringing hope and transformation where it was needed most.

Funded by: GPEI through AAH

Coverage: Helmand & Urozgan Provinces

Duration: 11 November 2022 to 31 Dec- 2024

Budget: USD 1,936,453

Project Staff: 160

- Male 70
- Female 90

Total 397,961 Beneficiaries Reached in 2024:

- **232,202** OPD consultation conducted
- **25,295** ANC visits conducted
- **8,829** PNC visits conducted
- **1,709** normal and assisted delivery conducted
- **14,550** Family planning visits conducted
- **13,203** children 1 years received Penta-1 vaccine
- **10,773** children under 1 years received Penta-3
- **22,831** CBA Women received TT2+ vaccines
- **56,528** Children under 5 years Screened
- **4,371** Children under 5 detected SAM
- **7,670** Children under 5 detected MAM

Success Story:

A Mother's Determination Saves Her Child with the help of Routine Vaccination and Inspires a Family

In the Urozgan province of Afghanistan, in a home near Sha Walli Aka Mosque behind Tajarai Clinic, lives a young girl named Zahra, the daughter of Mohammad Ghani and Najeba. Despite opposition from her husband's family, who held negative views about vaccination, Najeba was determined to protect her daughter from preventable diseases.

Najeba, a frequent visitor to the clinic, constantly heard doctors emphasize the importance of routine immunization. She wanted her first child, Zahra, to be strong and healthy, unlike her husband's nephew who suffered from malnutrition. Understanding the critical importance of vaccinations, Najeba decided to take Zahra to the clinic every month secretly to ensure she received all necessary immunizations.

Zahra's immunization journey began at birth with the BCG, Hep-B, and OPV-0 vaccines. At 6 weeks old, she received OPV-1, Penta-1, PCV-1, and Rota-1. Continuing with the schedule, at 10 weeks, Zahra received OPV-2, Penta-2, PCV-2, and Rota-2, and at 14 weeks, she got OPV-3, Penta-3, PCV-3, Rota-3, and IPV. At 9 months, Zahra was given OPV-4 and Measles-1, and finally, at 18 months, she received her last scheduled vaccine, Measles-2.

Thanks to these vaccinations, Zahra remained healthy and strong, rarely falling ill. She was noticeably healthier than other children in the household. Najeba adhered to all the advice from the vaccinators, keeping Zahra clean, cutting her nails, and avoiding dirt and contaminated water.

One day, when Zahra's cousin contracted measles along with other children in the family, Zahra remained unaffected. The family was astonished and Zahra's grandfather, puzzled by her immunity, questioned Najeba. Seizing the opportunity, Najeba revealed the truth about Zahra's vaccinations and the benefits they provided.

Zahra's grandfather, realizing the wisdom in Najeba's actions, expressed gratitude for Zahra's health and decided that all children in the family should receive routine vaccinations. This decision marked a significant shift in the family's attitude towards immunization, influenced by the clear evidence of Zahra's well-being.

Through her determination and commitment to her daughter's health, Najeba not only safeguarded Zahra but also inspired her family to embrace vaccination, ensuring better health for all the children in their care. The success of Zahra's story highlights the crucial role of routine immunization in protecting children from preventable diseases and fostering a healthier community.

2. Implementation of Emergency Nutrition Services for children under 5 years and Pregnant and Lactating women of the Nomad population.

About the Project:

Afghanistan continues to grapple with a severe nutritional crisis, exacerbated by limited access to essential services and frequent droughts. Of the country's 34 provinces, 22 are in a state of nutritional emergency. Annually, approximately 2 million children under five and 485,000 pregnant and lactating women suffer from acute malnutrition, with 600,000 children experiencing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), significantly raising their risk of mortality. Undernutrition among women and adolescent girls leads to poor birth outcomes, perpetuating the cycle of malnutrition. Despite expanded treatment efforts, many nomadic populations remain underserved, leaving about 1 million acutely malnourished children without adequate support.

In response, since September 2019, the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), funded by DWW Turkey, has been implementing the "Emergency Nutrition Services for Children Under 5 Years and Pregnant and Lactating Women" project. Operating across 29 nomadic health facilities in 15 provinces, the initiative, now in its third phase, focuses on addressing the critical nutritional needs of nomadic communities. The project aims to:

- To create an enabling environment for provision of nutrition services with implementation of IMAM strategy through capacity building and training of the staff of the nomad health clinics.
- To improve social and behavior change of the nomad community regarding the nutrition status, identification and early case detection of the children and PLWs suffering malnutrition.
- To assess the nutrition status of the nomad population for evidence-based planning and decisions.
- To decrease morbidity and mortality due to acute malnutrition in nomad population.

Funded by: Doctors Worldwide Turkey

Coverage: 15 provinces of Afghanistan

Kabul, Logar, Khost, Nangarhar, Kapisa, Baghlan, Faryab, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Helmand, Wardak, Parwan, Laghman, and Takhar

Duration: Jan-2024 to December 2024

Budget: USD 314,000 USD

Project Staff: 44

- Male 16
- Female 28

Project Beneficiaries in 2024: 260,618

Nutrition Food (RUTF, RUSF, & Super Cereal) Distributed: 507 MT

Total of 260,618 Beneficiaries reached in 15 provinces during 2024:

- **121,071** Children under 5 years Screened:
- **11,142** Children under 5 years admitted and treated in MAM Nutrition program.
- **6,628** Children under 5 years admitted and treated SAM Nutrition program.
- **110,988** PLWs Screened for their nutrition status.
- **10,789** PLWs admitted and treated in MAM program

Success Story:

Zainab's Transformation: From Hunger to Health in Afghanistan's Nomadic Communities

In the remote expanses of Logar province, Afghanistan, Zainab, a 27-year-old mother of three, faced an unrelenting battle against malnutrition. Her children, aged between two and five, were visibly weakened by hunger and illness. Living in a nomadic community, Zainab struggled daily to find enough food and medical care amidst a harsh environment where both were scarce. Her children's health was deteriorating, and Zainab's hope was fading fast.

Everything changed when the "Emergency Nutrition Services for Children Under 5 Years and Pregnant and Lactating Women" project, funded by Doctors Worldwide Turkey (DWW) and implemented by the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), arrived in her area. Since September 2019, this vital initiative has been addressing the dire nutritional needs of nomadic families across 15 provinces in Afghanistan. When the project's mobile health team reached Zainab's village, they conducted a crucial screening that revealed her children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

With urgency and compassion, the project team enrolled Zainab's children in their comprehensive treatment program. They received Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and essential nutritional supplements, tailored to address their severe malnutrition. Alongside the nutritional support, Zainab was educated on effective feeding practices and how to maintain her family's health with the limited resources available. This holistic approach provided not just immediate relief but also empowered Zainab with knowledge and tools to sustain her family's well-being.

The transformation was remarkable. Within weeks, Zainab's children began to regain their strength. Their once sunken eyes brightened, and their energy returned. For Zainab, seeing her children play and laugh again was a profound relief. Her family's improved health was not only a testament to the effectiveness of the project but also a beacon of hope in a community where such interventions are a rare lifeline.

Zainab's story is a compelling example of the impact that targeted nutrition programs can have. The support from OPHCD and DWW has not only saved lives but has also restored hope to families like Zainab's. By addressing the immediate needs of malnourished children and providing vital education to caregivers, the project has created a lasting change in the lives of Afghanistan's nomadic populations. Zainab's renewed hope and her children's health reflect the profound difference that dedicated efforts in emergency nutrition can make in transforming lives.



3. Prevention of Blindness and Conducting 2888 Cataract Surgeries Project in 9 Provinces of Afghanistan

About the Project:

In Afghanistan, blindness and visual impairment pose a significant public health challenge, with approximately 400,000 individuals affected by blindness and nearly 1.5 million experiencing visual impairment, according to the World Health Organization. Cataracts account for 60% of blindness cases in the country. However, the annual capacity for cataract surgeries is insufficient to meet the demand, with only 20,000 surgeries conducted each year. This gap is further exacerbated by conflict-related injuries and other eye conditions, such as glaucoma and trachoma.

In response to this urgent need, the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), with generous funding from the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), initiated the "Prevention of Blindness and Conducting 3,021 Cataract Surgeries" project. This initiative is a pivotal effort to address preventable blindness and improve eye health outcomes across Afghanistan.

Project Goal:

- To contribute in reduction of preventable blindness, especially for vulnerable and marginalized group of people living in deep rural and isolated areas of Afghanistan
- To increase access to the quality health services for those people suffering from cataract in Afghanistan

Specific Objectives:

- To facilitate 2,892 cataract surgeries for needy people in 9 provinces of Afghanistan.
- To distribute more than 2,892 lens during the selection of cataract cases in the provinces.

Funded by: QRCS/ARCS Afghanistan

Coverage: Ghazni, Zabul, Farah, Badghis, Faryab, Takhar, Badakhshan, Helmand and Paktika

Duration: Sep 2023 – Sep 2024

Budget: 17,173,704 AFN

Project Staff: 7

- Male 7
- Female 0

Total of 53,549 Beneficiaries reached in 9 provinces during 2024:

- **2,888** (1400 male, 1488 female) Cataract surgeries conducted
- **20,868** (11771 male, 9097 female) received cataract medical examinations
- **5779** (3331 male, 2448 female) received Eye Glasses
- **24,014** individuals (male and female) received health education messages and brochures on public health awareness for poor patients with eye diseases

Success Story:

A New Dawn for Noor: Restoring Sight in Afghanistan

In the heart of Ghazni province, Noor, a 68-year-old farmer, had been living in a world of darkness. For the past three years, cataracts had gradually robbed him of his vision, turning his once vibrant and fulfilling life into a daily struggle. Simple tasks, like tending to his crops or watching his grandchildren, had become nearly impossible. The shadow of his blindness loomed large, casting a pall over his life and the lives of those around him.

The turning point came in 2023 with the launch of the "Prevention of Blindness and Conducting 3,021 Cataract Surgeries" project by the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), supported by the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS). This initiative was a beacon of hope for countless individuals suffering from cataracts across nine provinces in Afghanistan, including Ghazni. Noor's village was among those selected for this vital program, which aimed to restore vision and improve quality of life through comprehensive eye care services.

Noor's journey began with a health camp set up in his village, part of the project's extensive outreach. During the screening, Noor was identified as a candidate for cataract surgery. The team of ophthalmologists, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and expertise, performed the surgery at a local clinic. The operation was a success, and Noor's cataracts were removed, restoring his sight to near-normal levels.

Post-surgery, Noor was provided with a pair of corrective glasses, enhancing his newly restored vision. The immediate impact was transformative. For the first time in years, Noor could see the faces of his grandchildren clearly and return to his fields with renewed energy and purpose. His world, once shrouded in darkness, was now filled with color and clarity. The joy and relief in his eyes were palpable, not just for him but for his entire family.

Noor's story is a powerful testament to the life-changing impact of the cataract surgery project. By addressing preventable blindness through timely surgical interventions and providing essential support services, OPHCD and QRCS have illuminated lives and restored hope to those in need. Noor's renewed vision has not only brought light back to his life but has also inspired his community, demonstrating the profound difference that access to quality eye care can make.



Figure 1Health education on primary eye care conducted by the project team in Takhar province Eye-camp in May-2024

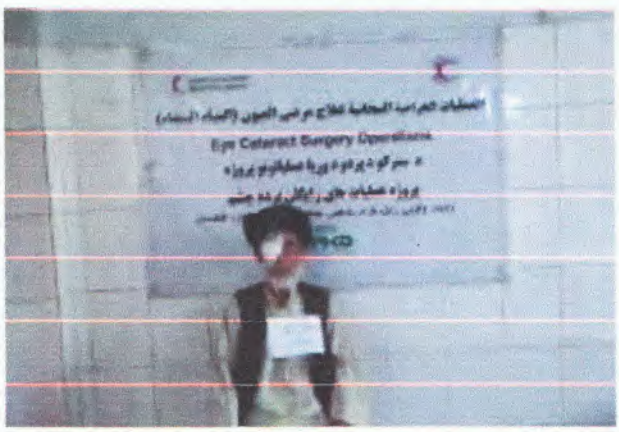


Figure 2 Takhar province an elder operated for eye cataract by the project team in Takhar province Eye-camp in May-2024

4. Fixed Health camps/clinics covering 24 sites located in the populated slums of Kandahar city

About the Project:

In 2023, the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), in collaboration with UNICEF, launched the Health Camps project in Kandahar city's slums. This initiative was designed to address critical health challenges in the southern region of Afghanistan, where approximately 1,847,429 children under five face significant barriers to polio vaccination. With over 40% of this population frequently missing polio vaccinations, the risk of transmission, particularly in Kandahar province, remains high. The region had also reported a high incidence of wild poliovirus type-1 (WPV1), underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive vaccination efforts.

Project Objectives:

- Enhance Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) Coverage: Ensure comprehensive vaccination for children, focusing on reducing missed doses and improving overall immunization rates.
- Improve Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) Services: Provide essential services including nutrition support, infant feeding practices, and routine immunizations.
- Promote Health-Seeking Behaviors: Integrate Social and Behavior Change (SBC) interventions to encourage vaccination and improve health practices within the community.

Funded by: UNICEF

Coverage: Kandahar provinces
24 locations/sites of the populated slum areas of Kandahar city

Duration: October 2023 to June 2024

Budget: AFN 79,850,720

Project Staff: 66

- Male 30
- Female 36
- 30 Mahram

Total of 165,614 Beneficiaries reached in Helmand and Urozgan provinces during 2024:

- **97,111 OPD Consultation conducted**
- **12,497** ANC visits conducted
- **5,876** PNC visits conducted
- **11,270** Family planning visits conducted
- **3,514** children under 1 years received Penta-1
- **3,435** children under 1 years received Penta-3
- **10,097** CBA Women received TT2+ Vaccine
- **17,695** children under 5 years Screened
- **1,345** children under 5 detected SAM
- **2,774** children under 5 detected MAM

Community Based Nutrition Intervention program (CBNI) in 521 HPs of all 7 districts of Urozgan province

Project Overview

In 2023, the Community-Based Nutrition Program (CBNP) was launched in Urozgan with support from UNICEF and in alignment with Ministry of Public Health guidelines. The program was designed to address critical health and nutrition challenges in Afghanistan, where over 56% of the population lacks timely access to primary healthcare and nearly 20 million people face significant food insecurity. This dire situation is compounded by high malnutrition rates affecting approximately 4 million people, including 3.2 million children under five. The CBNP aims to enhance Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) services, tackle urgent nutrition needs, and improve overall community health outcomes.

Goal:

The overall objective of the CBNP Project is to reduce preventable deaths, illness, and disability related to malnutrition through introduction and implementation of:

Objectives of the Project:

- Increase awareness about nutrition by building the capacity of health staff, Community Health Workers (CHWs), and local communities.
- Improve nutrition-related behaviors and key practices at the community level.
- Strengthen community involvement and support.
- Enhance early detection and prevention of malnutrition.
- Strengthen the linkage between communities and health facilities.

Funded by: UNICEF

Coverage: Urozgan provinces

- Urozgan Center
- Khas Urozgan
- Dharwad, Char Chino
- Chora, Gizab
- Chinarto

HFs: In the coverage areas of 29 HFs having active HPs and CHWs

Duration: 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Total budget: USD 891,664

- Cash: USD 659,667
- Supplies: USD 231,997

Project Staff: 22

- Male 17
- Female 5

Total of 257,786 Beneficiaries reached during 2024

- **510** Community Mobilization Sessission (CMS) conducted.
- **2,054** CHWs and volunteers received two days CBNP refresher training.
- **2,394** Food demonstration sessions conducted.
- **31,444** Children under 2 years weighted for growth monitoring at community (at least 60% of children U2)
- **8,725** children under five years old with SAM and MAM referred to the health facilities during food demonstration sessions
- **20,400** Individuals attended CMS sessions
- **83560** children 06-59 month received MNP through semi-annual campaigns.
- **194,549** adolescent girls (10-19 years) received Iron Folic Acid tablets through the quarterly campaign in Urozgan
- **104** CHWs received one-day capacity building training on IFA supplementation

Success Story:

Nourishing Hope: Maimona's Journey Through the Community-Based Nutrition Program in Urozgan

In the remote district of Gizab, Urozgan province, Maimona, a mother of three, faced a heartbreaking challenge. Her youngest child, Tariq, was severely malnourished, a plight all too common in their community where food insecurity is widespread. With limited access to nutritional support and healthcare services, Maimona struggled to provide the necessary care for her son, witnessing his declining health with growing concern.

The launch of the Community-Based Nutrition Program (CBNP) in 2023 brought a glimmer of hope to Maimona's village. Funded by UNICEF and aligned with Ministry of Public Health guidelines, the program aimed to address critical nutrition challenges in Urozgan. Trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) and volunteers visited Maimona's community, offering vital services including food demonstrations, growth monitoring, and nutritional supplementation.

Maimona's interaction with the program proved transformative. Tariq was enrolled in the Community Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (CMS) sessions, where he received essential Multi-Nutrient Powders (MNP) and Iron Folic Acid (IFA) supplements. The program's focus on early detection and treatment of malnutrition ensured that Tariq received timely and effective care, significantly improving his health.

As Tariq's condition improved, so did Maimona's hope. With the guidance and support provided by the program, Maimona learned valuable nutritional practices and gained access to resources that empowered her to better care for her children. Tariq's recovery not only restored his health but also alleviated Maimona's worries, transforming her family's life for the better.

Maimona's story is a testament to the impact of the CBNP in Urozgan. Through targeted interventions and community support, the program has made a tangible difference in the lives of those facing severe nutritional challenges. Maimona's renewed hope and Tariq's restored health underscore the program's success and its role in fostering healthier, more resilient communities.

5. Community Based Nutrition Intervention program (CBNI) in 878 HPs (331 in Jawzjan, & 547 in Faryab) of all 26 districts of Faryab (15) and Jawzjan (11) Provinces.

Project Overview

In 2023, the Community-Based Nutrition Program (CBNP) was launched in Jawzjan and Faryab with support from UNICEF and in alignment with Ministry of Public Health guidelines. The program was designed to address critical health and nutrition challenges in Afghanistan, where over 56% of the population lacks timely access to primary healthcare and nearly 20 million people face significant food insecurity. This dire situation is compounded by high malnutrition rates affecting approximately 4 million people, including 3.2 million children under five. The CBNP aims to enhance Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) services, tackle urgent nutrition needs, and improve overall community health outcomes.

Goal: The overall objective of the CBNI Project is to reduce preventable deaths, illness, and disability related to malnutrition through implementation of CBNI follow-up in Faryab and Jawzjan province.

Objectives of the Project:

- To improve technical knowledge and capacity of the health staff, CHWs and the communities through conducting CBNP trainings and Community mobilization sessions (CMS)
- To Strengthen community role in early case detection and referral of malnourished <5 children and PLWs to the nearby HFs
- To Improve behavior / key practices in regard to the nutrition at the community level.
- To Improve prevention of malnutrition and strengthen the link of community & Health facilities.

Funded by: UNICEF

Coverage: Jawzjan province (11 Districts), and Faryab Province (15 Districts)

HFs: In the coverage areas of 59 HFs (36 in Faryab, and 23 in Jawzjan) having active HPs and CHWs

Duration: 1 Oct 2024 to 31 Dec 2025

Total budget: USD 2332330

Project Staff: 22

- Male 17
- Female 5

Total of 383,180 Beneficiaries reached in Jawzjan and Faryab provinces during 2024.

Jawzjan Province:

Total of 148,722 Beneficiaries reached during 2024.

- **8** Project management staff received 7-days TOT training on (CBNP, MNP, C-WIFS)
- **17** Community Mobilization Sessions conducted
- **6** CHS received 7-days TOT training on (CBNP, MNP, C-WIFS)
- **680** Individuals attended CMS in Jawzjan
- **1,890** children under 2 years old growth monitoring conducted in Jawzjan
- **17** Food Demonstration Sessions conducted
- **1690** Children under 5 years screened
- **90** Children under 5 years referred to the HFs for nutrition treatment.
- **166** CWHs received MNP one day training
- **84,182** children under 5 years received MNP first round.
- **166** CHWs received one day IFA training

	• **59,496** adolescent girls 10-19 years received IFA tablets • **331** Individuals received behavior change one day training. **Faryab Province:** **Total of 234,458 Beneficiaries reached during 2024.** • **5** Provincial supervisors and project coordinator received 7-days TOT training on (CBNP, MNP, C-WIFS) in Faryab province. • **129,274** children under 5 years received MNP first round. • **105,179** adolescent girls 10-19 years received IFA tablets

Photos:



6. Provision of PHCs to the Nomads' population through supporting two Nomad MHT in 6 Districts of Wardak province of Afghanistan

Project Overview

In 2023, the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), with funding from Médecins du Monde France (MdM), launched a critical initiative in Wardak province to address healthcare gaps among the nomadic populations. The region, home to 68,129 nomads, faced severe challenges due to inadequate healthcare services, with only one semi-functional Mobile Health Team (MHT) serving the community.

This project aimed:

- To contribute in increasing access of the marginalized nomad population to the integrated PHC and nutrition services.
- To provide integrated primary health care including RMNCH, EPI and mental health to the nomad population.
- To vaccinate eligible children and women and prevent the occurrence of vaccine-preventable disease outbreak in the nomad population.
- To ensure access of the nomad malnourished <5 children and pregnant & lactating women to undernutrition preventive and curative services in the target areas.
- To improve awareness of the nomad communities in regard to the personal and community health & hygiene and its role in the socio-economic status of their households

Funded by: Médecins du Monde France (MdM)

Coverage: Maidan Wardak Province

- Center
- Jalrez
- Hesa awal Behsood
- Center of Behsood

Duration: July 2023 to May 2024

Budget: Euro 82,511

Project Staff: 10 Medical professional staff

- Male 3
- Female 7

Total of 11,466 Beneficiaries reached during in 2024:

- **6,762** OPD patients examined & treated.
- **472** pregnant mothers received ANC and **172** mothers received PNC
- **165** CBA women received family planning services,
- **599** Pregnant mothers have received TT2+ vaccine.
- **382** under two-year children have received measles and penta3 vaccination.
- **156** women received Mental Health Consoling.
- **78** under 5-year SAM children detected, enrolled in OPD SAM and provided RUTF while
- **88** under 5-year MAM children diagnosed and enrolled in OPD MAM program and provided RUSF
- **350** PLWs received Super Serial and MIYCN Consoling

	• **2,242** under 5-year children in have provided screening • **661** under 2-year children in have provided Growth monitoring

Success Story:

A Life Transformed: Shiba's Journey to Health and Hope in Wardak

In the remote expanse of Wardak province, where healthcare services are scarce for nomadic communities, **Shiba**'s story illustrates the profound impact of the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD). **Shiba**, a mother of two, faced a heartbreaking challenge: her youngest child, Alia, was suffering from severe malnutrition, a condition that left the toddler frail and often ill.

Before OPHCD's intervention, **Shiba** struggled to access the care Alia desperately needed. The nomadic lifestyle and lack of nearby medical facilities meant that Alia's health deteriorated, leaving Shiba feeling helpless and anxious. However, the arrival of OPHCD's mobile health team, funded by Médecins du Monde France (MdM), marked a turning point.

During one of their visits, the mobile health team conducted a thorough assessment and identified Alia's severe malnutrition. They immediately provided essential therapeutic foods and vitamins, crucial for her recovery. The team also offered Shiba practical advice on nutrition and child care, tailored to the challenges of their nomadic life.

With these interventions, Alia's health began to transform. She started gaining weight, her energy levels soared, and her overall well-being improved markedly. Shiba, empowered by the support and education provided by OPHCD, felt a renewed sense of hope. She now has the tools and knowledge to better care for her family's health, ensuring a brighter future for Alia.

Shiba's experience highlights the incredible difference that targeted healthcare services can make. OPHCD's initiative has not only saved Alia's life but has also brought hope and tangible improvements to the lives of nomadic families in Wardak, demonstrating the power of compassionate and effective health interventions.

7. **Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnourished (MAM) children age 6-59 months and Acute Malnourished Pregnant & Lactating Women (AM-PLW) through 263 HFs in all 21 districts of Helmand and Urozgan provinces**

Project Overview

Despite tangible progress the health sector of the country, still 56.6% of the population have access to the PHC HFs in less than 30 minutes1. 28.3 million people – two-thirds of Afghanistan's population – require multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in 20233. Nearly 20 million people are projected to be acutely food-insecure including more than 6 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)4. Around 4 million people are acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children under the age of five years5 While undernutrition contributes to 45% of child deaths in Afghanistan6. More specifically, the information from the "Afghanistan Nutrition Cluster Caseload calculation 2023 HNO/HRP" reflected that Kandahar, Helmand, Urozgan, Zabul and Nimroz provinces are in Nutrition emergency.

This project aimed: Moderately malnourished children 6 – 59 months and pregnant and lactating women received treatment and have improve their nutrition status.

Specific Objectives:

- To treat moderate acute malnourished children age 6-59 months and acute malnourished Pregnant and Lactating women in target areas during the project period.
- To increase nutrition awareness of pregnant and lactating women and MAM children's caregivers andpromote optimal behaviors among them through social behavior change communication (SBCC)
- Food distributed in sufficient quantity and quality in a timely manner to targeted beneficiaries
- SBCC messages deliveredto pregnant & lactating women and MAM-CH caregivers

Funded by: WFP Afghanistan

Coverage: 21 Districts, and 214 HFs in Helmand and Urozgan Provinces

•**Helmand:** 14 Districts (Lashkargah, Mosa Qala, Marjah, Babaji, Nah-E-Seraj, Garmser, Baghran, Nad Ali, Nawzad, Nawa-e-Barakzi, Sangin, Kajaki, Washir, Khanashin)

•**Urozgan:** 7 Districts (Trinkot, Chorah, Khass Urozgan, Charchino, Deh Rawood, Chenarto, Gizab)

Duration: January 2024 to December 2025

Budget: 145,430,816 Afghani

Project Staff: 208 Management and HFs staff

- Male 49
- Female 159

Total of 176,981 Beneficiaries reached during 2024:

109,067 Children aged 6-59 months reached in MAM Nutrition program.

67,914 AM-PLWs reached in MAM Nutrition program.

2061.5 Food items (RUSF & Super Cereale) distributed.

167,825 SBCC messages delivered to pregnant & lactating women and MAM-CH caregivers.

Success Story:

The Story of Spoogmai: A Mother's Journey to Better Health

Spoogmai, a 31-year-old mother, lives in a remote area of Urozgan province, where she faces the daily challenges of raising her three children. One of her children, Samir, who is just two years old, was weak and struggling to gain weight. He frequently fell ill, which deeply concerned Spoogmai. However, she was unsure of how to address his condition and felt helpless in improving his situation.

When Spoogmai learned about a nutrition program available at a clinic located some distance from her home, she made the difficult decision to travel in search of help for Samir. Upon arriving at the clinic, the nutrition staff conducted a thorough screening and confirmed that Samir was malnourished. The team took the time to educate Spoogmai about the critical importance of nutrition and how supplementary feeding could help improve Samir's health. She was provided with Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and Super Cereal, not only for Samir but also for herself, as she was diagnosed as malnourished and pregnant at the time. The clinic staff carefully demonstrated how to use the supplements correctly to maximize their benefits.

Spoogmai was encouraged to return regularly for follow-up visits at the clinic to monitor Samir's progress. Over the following months, she diligently followed the nutritional guidelines provided

Photos:





8. Capacity Building program

In 2024, the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD) implemented a comprehensive capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills and effectiveness of healthcare professionals and community health workers in Afghanistan. This initiative featured a major project and targeted training programs designed to improve both health systems and staff competencies. By focusing on critical areas such as healthcare delivery and facility management, OPHCD aimed to address gaps in service provision and align training efforts with its mission and strategic priorities.

The capacity-building efforts were centered on fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation. Through rigorous training, strategic education, and collaborative partnerships, OPHCD sought to enhance the quality of care and ensure efficient operations within the healthcare system. Supported by thorough monitoring and evaluation, these initiatives were intended to build a strong foundation for long-term growth and sustainable impact, ultimately contributing to a more effective and resilient healthcare system in Afghanistan.

9. Targeted Trainings and Development Programs:

This year, our training programs have made remarkable strides in enhancing the capabilities of our healthcare workforce, effectively addressing a range of specialized needs. The IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) program has been pivotal in equipping doctors with advanced skills to manage common childhood illnesses, thereby improving child health outcomes. Concurrently, the MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support) training has empowered counselors with critical skills to address mental health and psychosocial issues, offering vital support to individuals dealing with trauma and stress. Our IMAM (Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition) training has significantly advanced the expertise of nurses and midwives in diagnosing, treating, and preventing malnutrition, leading to enhanced nutritional care. The EPI Initial Training has ensured that vaccinators are adept at vaccine administration and immunization data management, which is crucial for combating vaccine-preventable diseases. Additionally, Surveillance Training has bolstered our ability to monitor disease outbreaks and health trends, enabling timely and effective public health responses.

Furthermore, our comprehensive training efforts have strengthened key areas of healthcare management and community engagement. The HMIS (Health Management Information System) training has improved the proficiency of healthcare professionals in managing and reporting health data. The IYCF/MIYCN (Infant and Young Child Feeding/Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition) training has focused on optimizing infant and young child feeding practices, alongside maternal nutrition, to enhance nutritional outcomes. Nutrition SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) training has established consistent and high-quality standards for nutrition services delivery. Micro Planning and HMIS Revised training have refined our planning and data management capabilities. The CBHC (Community-Based Health Care) Training for COOs (Chief Operating Officers) and CBHC Initial Training for Community Volunteers have advanced strategic management and grassroots health care initiatives. Lastly, IPC (Infection Prevention and Control) and Social Mobilizer Training have reinforced infection control measures within healthcare settings and fostered community health engagement. Collectively, these training programs underscore our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional care and enhancing health service delivery across all levels of our organization.

Supporting Primary Education in Kunduz Province of Afghanistan Transforming Futures through Community-Based Education in Chardara District

Project Overview:

In Afghanistan, despite notable progress in educational coverage and quality, approximately 3.7 million children remain out of school, with 60% of them being girls, as reported by UNICEF. The primary barriers to education include a shortage of schools, inadequate transportation, and geographical challenges, particularly in mountainous regions. These obstacles often result in long, discouraging commutes to school, making primary education a distant goal for many, especially in rural areas and for girls.

To address these educational challenges and enhance access to schooling, the Organization for Promotion of Health and Community Development (OPHCD), in partnership with The Infinite Foundation, has launched a community-based education program in Chardara District, Kunduz Province. This three-year initiative, funded by The Infinite Foundation, is designed to establish primary school classes in remote villages, aiming to significantly broaden educational access for children in the region.

Program Focus:

Establishing Community-Based Classes: Setting up primary school classes in isolated villages within Chardara District to expand educational opportunities for children.

Supporting Child Health and Well-Being: Providing each enrolled child with a daily 250 ml glass of milk and quarterly hygiene kits to promote their health and overall well-being.

Improving Educational Access: Enhancing access to quality education and supporting the educational development of children in the targeted region.

Funded by: The Infinite Foundation

Coverage: Kunduz Province, Chardarah District, Mohammad Jan Salarzai

Duration: 36 Months
October 2021 to October 2024

Budget: USD 3,124 including one-time meal (250 ml Cow Milk+ Biscuit)

Project Staff: 1

- Male 1
- Female 0

Project Beneficiaries

- 20 children aged 6-9 years in each class individuals
- 10 boys
- 10 females

Success Story:

Success Story: A Brighter Future for Sara in Chardara District

In the remote village of Mohammad Jan Salarzai, 8-year-old Sara faced the bleak prospect of never attending school. The nearest educational facility was miles away, and her family's financial struggles made daily commutes impossible. Sara's dreams of learning were shelved, leaving her future uncertain and her aspirations seemingly out of reach.

The situation began to change with the launch of a community-based education program by OPHCD, in partnership with The Infinite Foundation. This initiative established a primary school right in Sara's village, overcoming the barriers of distance and cost. Additionally, the program provided daily milk and quarterly hygiene kits, ensuring Sara and 19 other children received essential support for their health and education.

The impact on Sara has been transformative. With the school now in her village, she has excelled academically, particularly in math and reading. Her progress has been so remarkable that it has inspired her teachers and fueled her own ambition to become a teacher in the future. Sara's success story is a powerful example of how accessible education can spark hope and ambition in children.

Sara's journey demonstrates the profound difference community-based education can make. Thanks to OPHCD and The Infinite Foundation's efforts, children like Sara are gaining access to opportunities that were previously out of reach, transforming their futures and inspiring others with their resilience and success.

OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS:



























