

# State of Afghanistan's Midwifery 2015





په افغانستان کې د قابله  
گۍ وضعیت، کال ۱۳۹۳

وضعیت قابلگی در  
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## Afghanistan's Midwifery profession at a glance

- **20<sup>th</sup> Century:** King Amanullah sent 12 women from his family abroad to be trained in nursing and midwifery
- **1979:** After the Soviet invasion, the health system was brought into ruins and devastated the midwifery profession
- **1996:** The Taliban took control and berried women from attending school
- **2002:** 467 midwives serving the entire country
- **2004:** Community midwifery education started
- **2014:** Two streams of higher education for midwives started
- **2014:** Around 4600 midwives are serving today



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## Community Midwifery Education (CME)

- Started as a pilot programme in( 2002 – 2004)
- The 2 years CME program was scaled up in 2005
- The CME program is culturally accepted and made it possible for women to receive training near their own community
- Students after completion of 10<sup>th</sup> grade are selected from and by rural communities with the ownership of local communities
- Currently there are 22 midwifery schools and by 2018, they will be increased to 31



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## Deployment and Retention of Community midwives

- Most of midwives are deployed in their own communities after completion of studies
- Hardship allowance provided
- Strong support by the community members
- Opportunity for higher education on a bachelor degree
- In-service training



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## Contribution of the CME programme

- In 2002 MMR was 1,600/100,000 and in 2010, 327/100,000 (AMS, 2010)
- 28% increase in skilled deliveries
- A six-fold increase in qualified midwives since 2002
- Improving the status of women in Afghanistan
- Engagement of women in the midwifery profession has led to political and social empowerment
- Gained support, trust and collaborative approaches from government, donors and civil society





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## The role of the Afghan Midwives association(AMA)

- The voice of the profession and for gender equity
- Running a mentorship program for midwives
- Developed the Policy and Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery services
- Working towards Afghanistan Midwives and Nurses Council
- Promoting Higher Education for Midwives
- Advocacy Campaigns for the midwifery profession and safe motherhood



# The Contribution of Partners

- Design and implementation of the CME program
- Design and implementation of the Family Health Houses Initiative
- Establishment of an accreditation system for midwifery programme
- Developed and implementing midwifery policies and strategies
- Developed and implementing midwifery on a higher education
- South-South Collaboration with Iran
- MHTF fund to support midwifery activities



## The way forward

# Advocating for availability

- Increase the number and efficiency of professional midwives
- Improving recruitment and retention policies
- Improving career pathways
- Strengthening community engagement





## The way forward

# Advocating for accessibility

- Providing essential services free of charge
- Improving recruitment and retention of midwives especially in rural areas



# The way forward

## Advocating for acceptability

- Development of policy on acceptable safe practice
- Improve implementation of the Nursing and Midwifery Policy and establishment of the Midwives and Nurses Council
- Improved working environment for midwives
- The incorporation of modules on respectful care into midwifery education



## The way forward

# Advocating for quality

- Strengthening the midwifery education based on international standards and delivered by trained faculty members
- Improve regulation through a strong and well supported Afghanistan Midwives and Nurses Council
- Continuing support to the Afghan Midwives Association

# THANK YOU

(remember... Midwives save lives)