



**Improved access to primary health care, mental health psychosocial care services, and community outreach for newly arrived and protracted IDPs; returnees, and the most vulnerable population in Kabul**

**OHW Background**

Organization of Human Welfare (OHW) is a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-political organization, the OHW was established in 2007 with the Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan under registration number 1014. OHW recognizes the need for a paradigm shift of transiting from humanitarian to longer-term improving basic services to people in need and remains a catalyst for change and contributing towards building a resilient Afghanistan of hope, tolerance, and social justice, where poverty is overcome and people live in dignity and sustained services.

**Project Overview**

OHW has been actively implementing vertical health project to deliver primary health care to the Internally Displaced Persons, returnees, and most vulnerable populations residing in informal & formal settlements across Kabul Province. This project is operational through seven health facilities, comprising four BHC+ centers and three BHC. The project employs over 45 female staff members across these facilities, significantly contributing to job creation for women. The project was launched in response to the critical needs of the vulnerable IDP and host population, who suffer from high mortality and morbidity rates due to their displacement from areas affected by armed conflict, natural disasters, and economic hardships. The majority of these displaced individuals have relocated to Kabul City because of ongoing conflicts and instability in their original regions. Many live in overcrowded and contaminated living conditions, which heighten the risk of communicable diseases and exacerbate nutritional deficiencies, particularly affecting women and children due to lower vaccination coverage and poor health conditions. The recent developments of evicting IDPs from informal settlements has placed many IDPs in highly vulnerable situations. Many IDPs are reluctant to consider returning to their places of origin without assurances of financial support and employment. This underscores the complexity of the situation, highlighting the need for support mechanisms to address the multiple challenges such as eviction threats, housing, and access to health facilities.

**Key Project Activities & Outputs**

OHW has implemented the Primary Health Care Project from May 2021 to April 2024. The project has demonstrated exceptional performance against its set indicators. During the project period, a total of 38,957 consultations were conducted across all health facilities. This includes 21,649 antenatal care (ANC) visits (first visit), 9,235 postnatal care (PNC) visits, and 5,199 children under one year receiving the Penta3 vaccine. Additionally, 4,740 children under one year received the measles 1 vaccine, and 16,322 cases of mental health disorders were treated. The project also provided 4,402 women with TT2 vaccinations, conducted 58,815 nutritional screenings for children under five, and performed 14,069 growth monitoring check-ups for children under two years. Furthermore, 21,090 lactating and pregnant women received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) messages, and 501,454 new outpatient department (OPD) cases were registered, with 63,794 OPD re-attendances. These achievements reflect the project's success in delivering health services to KIS/IDPs in Kabul province through the operation of seven health facilities.

**Project Duration:**

01 May 2021 To 30 April 2024

**Supported by:**

German Federal Foreign Office - GFFO

**In Partnership with:**

The Johanniter International

**Location:**

Afghanistan, Kabul 5th, 8th, Char Asyab, Paghman, QaraBagh, MirBachkot, and Shakardara Districts

**Project Objectives:**

Contributes to reduction in mortality and morbidity, improved access of the chronically vulnerable Host community, IDPs and refugees to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services

**Target Beneficiaries:**

77,000 individual people

## OHW Expectation

OHW urgently seeks the support of donors to ensure the continuation of our basic health services in underserved areas. Our mission is to extend these critical services long-term to support the most deprived and vulnerable populations, including children, women, men, pregnant and lactating women, and people with disabilities.



Without continued funding, our health projects in these regions could face discontinuation, potentially leading to a precarious rise in mortality and morbidity rates among children under five and pregnant women. This scenario could exacerbate the prevalence of communicable diseases and malnutrition, already pressing issues. The Ministry of Public Health, despite its best



efforts, lacks the capacity to fully address these needs, with recent WHO reports indicating that around 30% of the Afghan population remains without access to essential healthcare services. Your support is critical to preventing such dire outcomes and ensuring sustained health improvements for these vulnerable communities.

## Testimonial

*"Greetings to all. As a community elder of Barikab village, I extend my gratitude to OHW, & its donors & partners for the invaluable services provided at this clinic. This facility is an important resource for our community, offering different services taken from wound care, childbirth services, to treatment for various illnesses. This clinic includes essential components such as a well-equipped pharmacy, emergency ward, delivery ward, obstetric examination room, and vaccination services.*

*The continuation of these services is very*



*important to our families and communities living in this remote area. Should OHW decide to discontinue this project, many family members would face severe risks, as they cannot afford the transportation cost of their patients to Kabul for treatment. The current situation is dire, with many people struggling under challenging conditions and lacking the means to seek alternative medical care.*

*We urgently appeal to OHW and the donors to continue supporting this project. Your continued funding is essential to maintaining these important services and alleviating the hardships faced by our community. We are deeply grateful for OHW's support and the positive impact it has had, and we hope for continued assistance to help us navigate these difficult times.*

*Thank you for your consideration and generosity."*

- **Zarin Gul** – Head of Village

## Impact

The implementation of this project has significantly impacted communities living in remote areas, especially for



children under five and pregnant/lactating women. Notable improvements include reduced mortality rates, better nutritional status, and enhanced prenatal and postnatal care. By educating the public about disease prevention and



providing free access to essential health services, the project empowers individuals to embrace healthier behaviors and overcome barriers to care. These efforts have collectively fostered a more informed and



healthier community, contributing to long-term improvements in health and well-being.

## URGENT APPEAL: Sustaining Vital Healthcare for Vulnerable Communities in Kabul

### The Challenge:

Afghanistan is grappling with a multifaceted humanitarian crisis, stemming from decades of conflict, internal displacement, economic collapse, and recurrent natural disasters. Recent political changes and disease outbreaks have further exacerbated the situation, severely straining healthcare access. An estimated 13.3 million people lack regular medical services, a situation compounded by shrinking safe spaces for women. Economic deterioration has pushed over 95% of Afghans below the poverty line, with millions of children suffering from malnutrition annually.

Despite improved healthcare infrastructure since 2003, including increased health facilities and skilled workers, Afghanistan continues to face significant challenges. These include high maternal and child mortality rates, inadequate secondary and tertiary healthcare, and significant challenges in managing non-communicable diseases and mental health issues.



This project aims to address these critical healthcare challenges in Afghanistan by providing nutritional and psychosocial support to recent returnees, internally displaced populations living in informal settlements and IDP camps, and the most vulnerable host communities in Kabul province. By targeting this vulnerable group, the project will work to improve their overall health and well-being, helping to bridge the gap in access to essential medical services. The nutritional support component will address malnutrition, particularly among children, while the psychosocial support will provide much-needed mental health services and counseling. Through this multifaceted approach, the project seeks to alleviate the suffering of internally displaced Afghans and

contribute to the resilience of the broader healthcare system in the region.

Our seven health facilities provide essential primary healthcare services, including maternal and child health, mental health support, and nutritional care.

However, lacking funding threatens to dismantle these critical services, leaving thousands without access to life-saving care. We urgently appeal to donors to help us sustain our vital work and ensure the health and well-being of the most vulnerable populations in Kabul

### Proposed Activities:

- **Continue Operating Seven Health Facilities:** We will maintain our existing network of seven health facilities, providing a comprehensive range of primary healthcare services.
- **Expand Mental Health Services:** We will increase our capacity to address the growing mental health needs of the community, particularly among women and children affected by conflict and displacement.
- **Strengthen Community Engagement:** We will intensify our outreach efforts to ensure that all vulnerable populations, including those living in remote areas, have access to our services.
- **Train Local Healthcare Workers:** We will invest in training local healthcare workers to build long-term capacity within the community and ensure the sustainability of our project
- **Provide Medicine and Transport to Hard-to-Reach Areas:** We will ensure that essential medicines are delivered, and transported to remote and underserved areas where they are typically unavailable.

### Outreach

#### Beneficiaries:

77,000 individuals per year

#### Targeted Groups:

Most Vulnerable Communities, IDPs, and Returnees

#### Socio-Demographic:

Children, women, PLWs, PWDs, and those living in poverty

#### Expected Timeline:

We aim to continue our project for at least two years, ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of essential healthcare services to vulnerable communities in Kabul

#### Minimum Budget Required:

**62,695 \$/ Per month**

### Contact Person(s):

For further information and to discuss potential partnerships, please contact:

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*“Together, we can make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people in Kabul. Your support is essential to ensuring their health and well-being.” – Shahabuddin Hamdard*