



**AFGA Newsletter**

**Fourth Quarter 2022**

## Table of Contents

AFGA Participation in IPPF General Assembly Meeting in Bogota Columbia .....	1
AFGA Organized Its 52 <sup>nd</sup> General Assembly Meeting .....	2
International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) .....	3
AFGA Conducted Y-Peer Training of Trainers.....	4
Y-Peer Network General Assembly Meeting .....	5
Family Planning Demand Generation Training .....	6
AFGA Distributed Winterization Kits to Vulnerable Families .....	7
Response to Flood-Affected Population .....	9
Refresher Training on IPES and MISP.....	10
AFGA Conducted RHCS and eLMIS Training.....	11
Training Program on Child Marriage, GBV, and SRHR for Youth Volunteers.....	12
AFGA Conducted Sayanapress Training.....	13
Successful Completion of Stream-III Earthquake Response Project.....	14
RMNCAH and AFGA Joint Monitoring.....	15
AFGA Newly Established Warehouses.....	16
Providing Health Services in Emergency Situations.....	17
Saving Lives through Timely Health Intervention.....	18

## AFGA Participation in IPPF General Assembly Meeting in Bogota Columbia

Mr. Najibullah Samim, the AFGA CEO attended the IPPF General Assembly meeting during November 21 - 25, 2022 in Bogotá, Colombia, hosted by Profamilia Colombia - a member association of IPPF. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of IPPF that takes place every three years. Almost all IPPF member associations participated in the General Assembly. Apart from other agenda items, the IPPF's three years strategic plan was reviewed and approved and new members of the Board of Trustees were elected.

During the general assembly, recognizing AFGA's achievements, the IPPF Board of Trustees presented an award for "**Outstanding Collective Contribution by a Member Association to the Advance of SRH**".



Besides, AFGA successfully completed all the requirements of the IPPF accreditation process. AFGA's accreditation was approved by the IPPF Board of Trustees, therefore, AFGA will continue its operation and activities as a fully accredited member of IPPF for the next four years. These big achievements were celebrated by AFGA management and Staff.

The AFGA governing board and management are highly proud of the award and sincerely thank the IPPF for this valuable award.

**IPPF Award to AFGA on  
Outstanding  
Collective  
Contribution  
by a Member  
Association to  
the Advance  
of SRH**

## AFGA Organized Its 52nd General Assembly Meeting

December 17, 2022 – Kabul: Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA) organized its 52<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly Meeting at the Safi Landmark Hotel in Kabul. The meeting was attended by the general assembly volunteer members, the AFGA Board of Directors, and the management team.

Dr. Nasrin Oryakhil, the board president, welcomed the participants and reviewed the meeting agenda, where the general assembly members approved the agenda with no addition.



Dr. Mohammad Marouf Sameh the Governing Board Vice President had a speech about AFGA operations activities and achievements throughout the year 2022. He also added that despite all economic and political challenges which directly affected all the national and international NGOs, AFGA not only maintained its position but also expanded its activities to other provinces of the country in order to provide services to the vulnerable population.

Mr. Najibullah Samim, the CEO of AFGA, presented the achievements of AFGA in 2022. He also reviewed the AFGA's current projects' activities, including the Core Fund, UNFPA, NORAD, BMZ, Sprint and Stream-III. Mr. Samim admired the ceaseless efforts of AFGA employees during 2022.

The General Assembly members also appreciated the achievements and congratulated the AFGA Board and management for their efforts in making these achievements happen.

AFGA volunteer members which were eligible nominated themselves for different positions on the AFGA Governing board. After the election process; Ms. Seema Ghani was elected as the new President of the Board for AFGA, Dr. Adela Mubasher as the new board member, and Ms. Fatana Kamal Wardak as board secretary (Youth member).

The newly elected board members thanked all members for their votes and promised to do their best for the further progress of AFGA in the years ahead.

The AFGA CEO and management appreciated the board members' efforts during their work with AFGA and presented them with awards. The Board also recognized the excellent work of the AFGA CEO and his team and therefore presented him with an Award.



## International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)



Mr. Najibullah Samim, the CEO of AFGA, and Mr. Tariq Mahmood Farman the project officer of AFGA participated in the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Pattaya – Thailand, during November 14-17, 2022.

The conference was attended by a network of advocates, researchers and scientists, community and government leaders, health practitioners, economists, conveners, civil society members, and youth. The main purpose of this conference was family planning and its important role in the international health sector.



ICFP asked all the humanitarians, advocates, researchers and scientists, health practitioners, economists, conveners, civil society, faith actors and young people to submit an abstract regarding their Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) projects (experiences, lessons learned, achievements and barriers) ahead of this conference.

The AFGA participants had the privilege to present two posters and one oral presentation during the conference on SRH services, to 3,500 participants from 125 different countries. The AFGA's Midwifery Help Line (MHL) and Community Outreach Midwives interventions were admired by the participants. This conference is conducted every 3 to 5 years.



## AFGA Conducted Y-Peer Training of Trainers

AFGA conducted a 5-days Y-Peer Training of Trainers (ToT) for 27 male Y-Peers, in Kabul during October 2 – 6, 2022. The training focused on adolescents in humanitarian settings, youth, family planning, quality of time, decision-making, healthy lifestyle, mental health, HIV, child marriage, effective communication, and public speaking.

The training aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge regarding the course outlines, improve the capacity of trainers and peer educators in delivering training, and promote youth-led initiatives and innovative programs.



Adolescents and youth in Afghanistan comprise a large group whose power and engagement could benefit positive community changes and their health and well-being. Building on this enormous power, utilizing an effective and engaging education approach in non-formal settings is crucial where evidence-based peer education capacity building can fill the gap.

*“The Y-Peer ToT training program helped us learn important topics. The training enabled us to be familiar with our peers from different organizations and make a strong bond among youth.”*

Mohammad Mustafa  
Participant



The Y-PEER network in Afghanistan has been actively working since 2016 and has trained thousands of youths. Through the support of UNFPA and AFGA, Y-PEER Afghanistan Network nationally organizes the ToT on peer education to equip young people with skills to promote health and well-being initiatives with their peers on the community level.



## Y-Peer Network General Assembly Meeting



December 12 – 15, Kabul: In line with AFGA's commitment to strengthen Y-PEER's governance, AFGA assisted Y-PEER in organizing its General Assembly meeting for the year 2022.

The meeting was attended by participants from different provinces of Afghanistan including; Herat, Nangarhar, Khost, Kandahar and Kabul.

During its general assembly meeting, the Y-PEER Network elected its core team members and coordinators at the provincial level for the year 2023. Additionally, it revised and approved the Network Bylaws.



Y-PEER is a youth network for the youth and Y-PEER Afghanistan launched this election with the presence of active team members to assure all members of their participation in decision-making activities, and gave them the right to choose, change, approve and implement rules in a secure and transparent environment and as desired to do their own productive activities.

adolescents' where everyone works together to realize their goals for their peers according to the rules and regulations approved by the youth to provide education on issues related to healthy lifestyle.



## Family Planning Demand Generation Training

AFGA conducted a series of two-day training programs on Family Planning Demand Generation on the Community Level for 512 religious' scholars during the fourth quarter of the year 2022 in Kabul.

The training was organized in 8 batches for the community leaders and religious scholars of Wardak, Ghazni, Bamian, Daikundi, Logar, Badghis, Herat, Farah, and Ghor provinces.

In the first training which was conducted in Kabul province 98 community leaders from Ghazni participated, in the second training, 107 community leaders from Logar Province participated.



In the third and fourth training, 70 community leaders from the western region including Badghis, Ghor, and Farah provinces participated.

In the fifth round of the training 44 community leaders from Bamian province participated. The sixth round of training was organized for 50 community leaders from Daikundi Province. The seventh and eighth batches of training were organized for 137 community leaders from Herat province.



Participants were happy and appreciated the AFGA initiative for conducting such trainings.

***"We are thankful to AFGA and UNFPA for organizing this training. We will try our best to share our learnings with the community and will educate them about family planning according to the Islamic point of view.***

Abdul Majid  
Community Leader, Logar

The purpose of the training was to emphasize on the role of religious scholars in the improvement of family planning, reproductive health, and the importance of Islamic education in mothers' and children's health.

AFGA always tries to organize capacity-building programs for the communities in order to have healthy families.



## AFGA Distributed Winterization Kits to Vulnerable Families



Through financial support of UNFPA, AFGA distributed humanitarian winterization Kits to vulnerable families in Kabul, Logar, Parwan, Kapisa, Maidan Wardak, Panjshir, and Jawzjan Provinces.

In the first round of kits distribution, AFGA distributed winterization kits to 300 vulnerable families in the Istalif District of Kabul Province on December 27, 2022.

In the second round of kits distribution, 361 vulnerable families from the Surkh Parsa district of Parwan Province received kits.

In the third round, the AFGA team distributed Humanitarian Winterization Kits to 350 vulnerable families in Maidan Wardak Province.

In the fourth round, 300 families in Baraki Barak District of Logar Province benefited from the winterization kits.

The kits distribution was continued in other provinces including Kapisa, Panjshir and Jawzjan provinces and 1,000 vulnerable families received the humanitarian kits.

The humanitarian winterization Kits distributed to vulnerable families included 2,311 blankets and 7,733 tarpaulins.

The purpose of distributing the humanitarian aid packages is to help the affected families return to their everyday lives.

Residents and local authorities in mentioned provinces expressed their appreciation and gratitude towards AFGA humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable families.

*“I was dreaming about sleeping under a warm and smooth blanket, thank you AFGA for your humanitarian aid.”*

Jawid

Baraki Barak District Resident, Logar

AFGA always tries to help the affected and vulnerable population all over the country through its humanitarian aids.



## Response to Flood-Affected Population

During August 16 - 22, 2022, heavy flash floods happened in the central region of Afghanistan, impacting Logar and Maidan Wardak provinces.

These flash floods caused severe damages to the residents of Logar province where 20 people lost their lives, 30 people were injured, 3000 residential houses were destroyed, 7000 livestock were killed and thousands of hectares of land were destroyed.



To respond quickly, AFGA, through financial support of IPPF, planned to provide the Minimal Initial Services Package (MISP) to Khushi and Baraki Barak districts of Logar province. Starting in October 2022, AFGA continued providing MISP for three months.

The AFGA Stream-III project team provided services through two mobile clinics in Khushi and Baraki Barak Districts of Logar Province. In each fixed clinic, the team consisted of one gynecologist, a midwife, a medical doctor and a nurse..

Part of its plan, AFGA distributed Clean Delivery Kits to visibly pregnant women and dignity kits to 100 vulnerable and flood affected women and girls in Khushi and Baraki Barak Districts of Logar Province.



AFGA also supported its clinics with five kits (RH-kit 5) for treating Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and three Clinical Delivery Assistance (CDA) kits (RH-kit 6) for better services provision in the target areas.

With the initial target to reach out to 7,800 clients in three months, the project team reached 11,434 clients and provided 17,492 services, showing a remarkable overachievement.

The AFGA services proved to be very effective and the communities and the local authorities are quite happy with AFGA services.



*We wholeheartedly thank all these doctors. No doctor had ever come to our village before. We used to take our patients to the Khushi district and some of our patients lost their lives before getting to the hospital. May Allah keep these doctors safe and give them long life. They helped us a lot. They came here, checked us, gave us medicine, and signed us off."*

Dawa Jan  
Logar, Khushi Resident

AFGA continued the provision of services for another 1 month (till January 31, 2023) by receiving a no-cost extension approval from the donor. AFGA commits itself to quickly respond to such disasters as and when happens.



## Refresher Training on IPES and MISP

Under the NORAD-funded project, AFGA conducted a training on the Integrated Package of Essential Services (IPES) and Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) during October 3 - 5, 2022 for 22 midwives of Kabul and Logar provinces.



The training aimed to enhance the capacity of midwives in SRH, MISP, and Quality of Care (QoC) to help mothers and newborns in emergency delivery situations and provide quality health services to the clients.

*"I thank AFGA for organizing this training that enhanced our knowledge about SRH, MISP, and QoC. The topics covered in the training will help us to take care of mothers and their babies in critical situations."*

Firoza Stanikzai  
Midwife, Logar Province

To fulfil its capacity building commitments, AFGA will continue organizing such training for the midwives of other provinces too.



## AFGA Conducted RHCS and eLMIS Training



AFGA, through the financial support of UNFPA and technical support of RMNCAH Directorate of MoPH, conducted two rounds of 5-day training program on Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) and Electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS).

The second round of training was organized for 31 participants (23 male and 8 female) from different entities of eastern provinces including Nangarhar PPHD, Laghman PPHD, Kunar PPHD, Nooristan PPHD, HNTPO, SCA, AADA and AFGA technical representatives in Nangarhar, during December 11 – 15, 2022.



The first round of training was organized for 33 participants (20 male, 13 female) from different entities of northern provinces including Balkh ARCS, Jawzjan SAF, Faryab AADA, Samangan BDN, Faryab MMRC, Balkh PPHD, Faryab PPHD, AFGA Balkh and Sar-i- Pul PPHD, Balkh BDN, Sar-i-Pul SAF, Samangan SCA, Samangan PPHD and Jawzjan PPHD in Balkh, during October 16 – 20, 2022.

The training participants appreciated AFGA's efforts for organizing this training and emphasized on the continuation of such trainings.



## Training Program on Child Marriage and SRH for Youth Volunteers

Supported by UNFPA, AFGA's Integrated Youth Center, conducted a series of five-day training programs on child marriage prevention, family planning, SRHR, and mental health for 225 participants including 122 male and 103 female youth volunteers in Ata Turk Hospital in Kabul, during the fourth quarter of 2022.

The training was conducted in 9 batches, 5 batches for male and 4 batches for female youth volunteers, which started in October and ended in December 2022.

All the trainees were happy with the contents and quality of the trainings provided and confirmed their commitments to share their learnings with their peers.

*"It was a great opportunity to take part in this important and useful training. I thank AFGA and UNFPA for all their efforts. I believe that learnings from this training will help me and other participants in their personal and professional life."*

Nasrin Ahmadzai  
Student, Rana University

Through this training, the capacity of youth was enhanced on mentioned topics and enabled them to share the learnings with their peers. AFGA will continue to conduct such trainings in the coming weeks.





## AFGA Conducted Sayanapress Training

Supported by the UNFPA, during the Fourth quarter of the year, AFGA conducted a series of training programs on Sayanapress for the Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Logar, Ghazni and Daikundi provinces whereby a total of 277 CHWs were trained.

The main purpose of the training was to train the CHWs to understand better the overall health conditions of the mothers in the country, the prevention of mothers' and newborns' death, and the importance of distance between the deliveries.

In the first training that was conducted in Logar province, 24 CHWs participated, and in the second training, conducted in Daikundi province, 101 CHWs participated. In the third training, 152 CHWs of Ghazni province received the training.

The trainees admired the AFGA's efforts for conducting this training and requested AFGA to continue organizing such training for other CHWs too.

AFGA organizes capacity-building training programs for CHWs and Community Outreach Midwives (COMs) to enable them to provide high-quality health services to communities all over the country.



## Successful Completion of Stream-III Earthquake Response Project

With completion of the Stream-III project in Khost and Paktika provinces, the AFGA project team operated through two fixed and two mobile clinics in Paktika and Khost provinces. In each fixed clinic, one gynecologist, a midwife, a medical doctor, a nurse, and two security guards worked. In addition, each mobile clinic had one medical doctor, a midwife, and a driver who carried them to remote and hard-to-reach areas to provide MISP services.



Additionally, AFGA distributed Clean Delivery Kits to visibly pregnant women and dignity kits to 150 vulnerable women and girls affected by the crisis. AFGA also supported its two fixed clinics with five kits (RH-kit 5) for treating Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and three Clinical Delivery Assistance (CDA) kits (RH-kit 6) for better services provision in the target areas.



**With the initial target to reach out to 20,000 clients in three months, the project team visited 42,477 clients and provided 99,531 services, showing a remarkable overachievement.**

The AFGA services proved to be very effective and the communities and the local authorities are quite happy with AFGA services.

AFGA continued the provision of services for another 15 days (till October 15, 2022) by receiving a no-cost extension approval from the IPPF. AFGA commits itself to quickly responding to such disasters as and when happen.



## RMNCAH and AFGA Joint Monitoring

AFGA through UNFPA financial support and technical support of RMNCAH conducted three rounds of monitoring field visits from Herat, Balkh, and Nangarhar provinces' health facilities during the fourth of 2022.

In the first monitoring field visit, the Balkh province 7 Health Facilities including Mashi, Negari, Ali Chopan, Shir Abad, Dehdadi, Khasa Paz, Kamp e Sakhi, and Ali Abad were monitored during October 16 -20, 2022.

In the second monitoring field visit, the Herat province 11 Health Facilities including Noorul Madina, Sehat, Afghan Arya, Afghan Max, Wardak Salam, Ghalib, Mehraban, Hakim Farabi, Quds, Elahi, and AFGA FWC have been monitored during November 13 - 17, 2022.

In the third round of the joint monitoring field visit, the Nangarhar province 8 Health Facilities including Buland Ghar, Kama, Rige Shahmurad Khan, Joi Haft, Sangar Sarai, Najmul Qura and Najmul Jahad have been monitored during December 10 - 15, 2022.

The purposes of these joint monitoring field visits were to conduct multiple coordination meetings with relevant health departments and directorates and implementation partners, to collect and understand Pharmacists and Midwife's feedback on the quality, sufficiency, utilization, and effectiveness of the Family Planning Commodities provided to Health Facilities, and to oversee the Family Planning Commodities management process and stock management.

Findings of the monitoring visits show that those HFs that have started the distribution of Family Planning commodities are happy with their quality.



## AFGA Newly Established Warehouses



To be able to reach the vulnerable populations affected by disasters at the soonest, AFGA through UNFPA financial support established four warehouses in four regions, Kabul, Balkh, Herat, and Kandahar. The Kabul warehouse is used for central region provinces including Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir, and Logar provinces.

The Balkh warehouse is used for northern region provinces including Samangan, Jawzjan, Sar-e-pol, and Faryab provinces.

The Herat warehouse is used for western provinces including Badghis, Farah, and Ghor provinces.

The Kandahar warehouse is used for the southeast region including Zabul, Oruzgan, Helmand, and Nimroz provinces.

12000 winterization kits have been stored in each warehouse.

All warehouses are equipped with security cameras and fire extinguishers.

Each warehouse has 2 supply chain assistants, 1 guard, and 1 stockkeeper.

Through establishment of these warehouses AFGA aims to reach out the affected population of the country at the soonest.



## Providing Health Services in Emergency Situations

The patient, named Malalai, is 35 years old woman who lives in the Khushi District of Logar province. 15 years is passing since her marriage but she doesn't have any child, therefore, her husband married another woman.

During the past years, she had serious health problems but neither her husband took her to the hospital, nor she had permission to go to a doctor.

Dr. Masouda Aziz Ahmadzai, a Gynecologist, and one of AFGA's medical staff under Stream-3 Flood Emergency Response Project in the Mobile Health Team (MHT) provides Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP).

Dr. Masouda along with other team members visited their target sites to provide services, and at that time this patient was very worried and upset.



The patient visited AFGA's MHT and Dr. Masouda communicated very friendly with her so that she could freely speak about her health problems privately to Dr. Masouda. The patient cried too much because of the distance and not being able to receive health services. Dr. Masouda, after taking her consent, some examinations, and physical check-ups, took her time in a special and well-equipped room inside AFGA MHT in Khushi district, and after an examination, and Drape +Prep, Polypectomy was performed with local anesthesia.

Fortunately, after a few days, she revisited AFGA mobile clinic and really appreciated Dr. Masouda for saving her from a very huge problem. She said that she couldn't believe that one day her problems will be solved in their own district.

*"I couldn't believe that one day my health problems will be solved in my own district, thank you AFGA for providing health services in our door steps."*

Malalai  
Logar Resident

## Saving Lives through Timely Health Intervention

Hava gull Hosseini, a 25 years old midwife. is the mother of one child and lives in Dowlat Abad district of Balkh province where access to even basic health facilities is a challenge.

She is the only health worker who lives there and her presence is too important for the population of Dawlat Abad. Like other midwives providing SRH services under the AFGA's NORAD project, she also achieved new experiences like using technology in providing services in the field and capacity building through many pieces of training during this project. She is grateful for the NORAD project.

Here are two important cases which she covered successfully and at the right time during her duty as outreach midwife of the NORAD project.

During this period, she provided various types of services and witnessed many types of health cases as a result of poor knowledge of people to understand medical conditions because there was no health worker to give them information, which then resulted in the malpractice of health staff.

One of the patients who was suffering from severe pre-eclampsia, day by day her condition got worsened and developed seizures.

As a result, her family members, take her to a local Mullah and he burned her tongue, nose, and neck for that she is under the effect of (Jinn). When her health condition got severely worsened her family members brought her to the hospital. Doctors diagnosed eclampsia and tried their best to treat the woman successfully.

One other case that she shared, is about a client who was in labor, and after many unsuccessful attempts by TBA and midwives of a clinic, she did not deliver instead they harm the patient more by malpractice. I evaluate the condition of the patient and realized that I must refer her to the health center for better management the client survived and the staff of the health center appreciated my job, so I refer her at the right







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