



AFGA NEWSLETTER

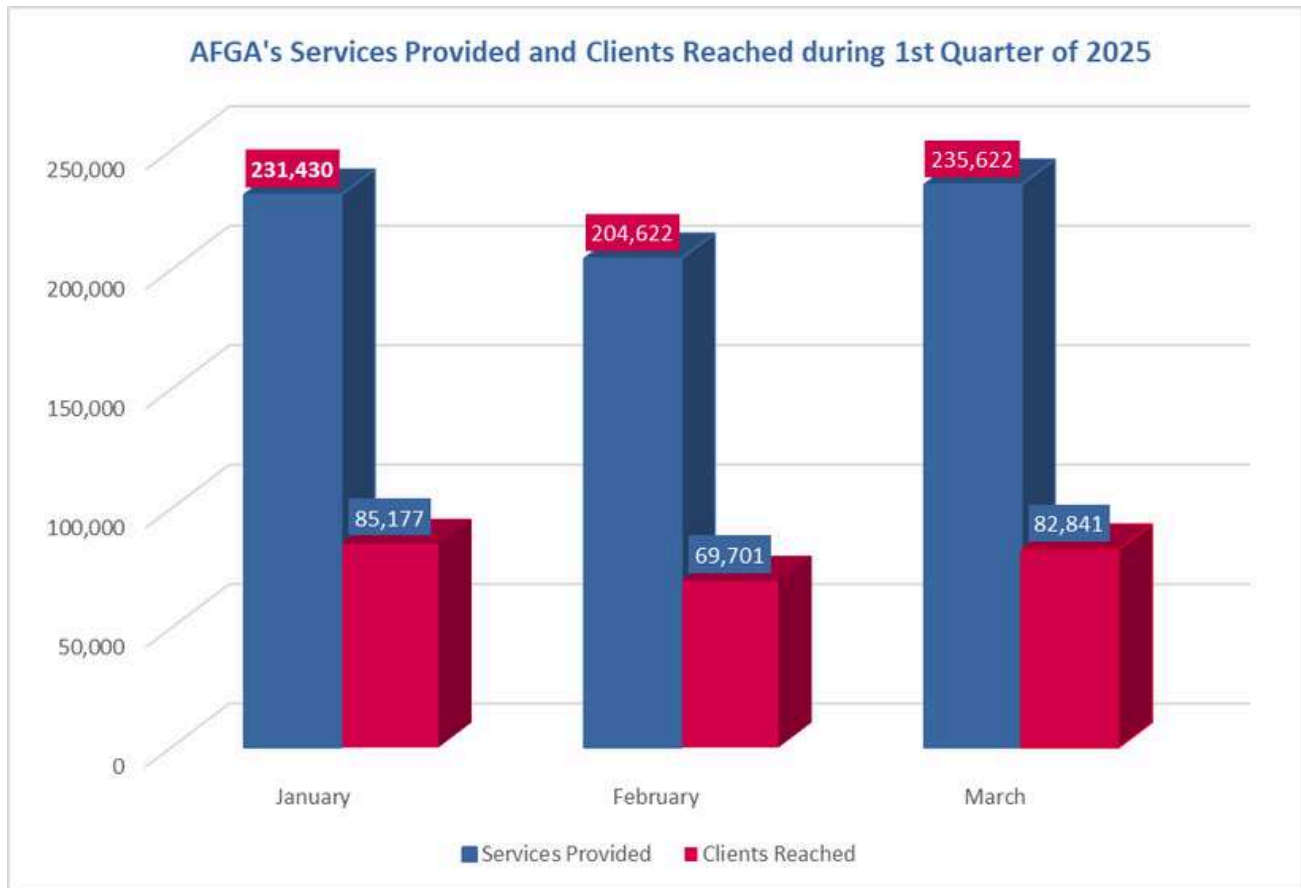
1st Quarter 2025



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AFGA Achievements During the Quarter



During the first quarter, a total of 237,719 clients were reached and a total of 671,674 services were provided through 113 Service Delivery Points: 16 Mobile Health Clinics, 10 Static Clinics, 85 FHHs, one Midwifery Helpline (MHL) and one Basic Health Center (BHC), in 11 provinces. The achievements are in line with AFGA's overall annual targets for the year 2025.

Establishment of AFGA's Mother and Newborn Hospital (MNH)

AFGA established its first Mother and Newborn Hospital (MNH) in the 6th District of Kabul City in February 2025. The MNH is currently being supported through IPPF/NORAD.

The MNH is a comprehensive healthcare center dedicated to improving maternal and newborn health outcomes. By integrating advanced medical care with compassionate services, MNH provides a safe and supportive environment for women and newborns during all stages of pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care. It is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and a team of skilled professionals.

MNH is committed to addressing the diverse needs of families and ensuring the well-being of mothers and their babies. MNH's primary focus is on quality and client satisfaction rather than fee amounts; thus, a wide range of MNH Services are free of charge, while MNH provides 60 to 70 % discounts to its clients on several services.



MNH provides a wide range of essential services, including but not limited to:

- Normal and assisted deliveries.
- Comprehensive antenatal and postnatal care.
- Emergency obstetric and neonatal care.
- Cesarean sections and gynecological surgeries.
- Neonatal intensive care for at-risk newborns.
- Contraceptive services and counseling.
- Ultrasound and diagnostic tests.
- Management of high-risk pregnancies and complications.
- Vaccinations for mothers and newborns.

To support the underprivileged and vulnerable communities, MNH provides several free services, such as:

- Routine vaccinations for newborns.
- Essential counseling sessions for those in need.
- Emergency obstetric care for life-threatening conditions.
- Basic family planning services.

"The Mother and Newborn Hospital is the first hospital established by AFGA through the financial support of IPPF's NORAD-3 Project. The hospital's OPD section operation started on March 1st, 2025, and the full 24-hour operation of the hospital started on April 5th, 2025. The hospital is offering quality OPD, ANC, PNC, Delivery, Vaccination, Cesarean, pharmacy, and ultrasound services through professional medical staff."

Dr. Nazia Safi, Hospital Manager, MNH



MNH Facilities



Conduction of CHW Training

Under its RESPOND 2 Project, AFGA concluded one round of 6-Day Community Health Workers (CHW) Training Program for 20 participants in Parwan Province during the first quarter of 2025. The training was conducted with close coordination and technical support of Parwan Public Health Directorate (PPHD).

The main purpose of this training was to enhance the skills of FHH Community Health Workers (CHWs) to identify various cases in society and make accurate referrals while providing comprehensive information about health-related issues. The training also aimed to improve CHWs' skills in identifying different illnesses and providing accurate counseling to the patients in their areas.

The training covered various topics about reproductive health including; ANC, PNC, delivery, Family Planning, nutrition, mental health, referral system, and etc.

"This training enhanced our capacity in different Reproductive Health topics. I am grateful to AFGA and IPPF for organizing such a beneficial training program."

Fatima
Community Health Worker, Parwan

AFGA organizes capacity-building training programs for CHWs to enable them to provide awareness raising services about reproductive health to the communities.



Conduction of Integrated Minimum Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Training



AFGA Conducted one round of the 3-Day Integrated Minimum Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Training for 15 Family Health Houses (FHHs) Midwives in Balkh, Afghanistan during the first quarter of 2025 under its NORAD-3 project. The training was conducted with close coordination and technical support of Balkh Public Health Directorate (PPHD).

The training covered essential topics related to IMAM, including: acute malnutrition and its diagnosis, SAM and MAM in children and their mothers.

The training was aimed to enhance the capacity of the FHH Midwives in Integrated Minimum Acute Malnutrition and enable them to diagnose, treat, and care for their clients in their catchment areas and FHHs.

"This was a beneficial training that enhanced our capacity in different malnutrition topics. I wholeheartedly thank AFGA for conducting such a training program. We will share our learning with our other colleagues and serve our community."

Husnia
Family Health House (FHH) Midwife, Balkh



AFGA organizes capacity-building training programs for its service providers on different topics to enable them to provide timely and quality reproductive health services to the communities.

Last Mile Assurance (LMA) Project

During the First quarter of 2025, AFGA continued the Last Mile Assurance (LMA) Pilot Project activities through 48 volunteers from Kabul, Herat, and Balkh Provinces. These LMA volunteers were assigned to support the team's effort in the distribution of different kits and commodities, assist in public awareness-raising activities, and assist in stock counts and basic assessments of commodities that might be damaged, expired, or out-of-stock.

During the period, 48 LMA youth volunteers continued their visits to 22 hospitals, 160 clinics, and 10 Family Health Houses (FHHs) at the central, western, and northern regions, and assessed the distribution of medical supplies to Service Delivery Points (SDPs). They monitored the efficiency of distribution, medicines' expiration dates, and items' quality and quantity, as well as notifying of the discrepancies. Their observations aimed to ensure that essential supplies were reaching the intended beneficiaries effectively and promptly. Additionally, one male volunteer was assigned to assist with eLMIS data entry at the AFGA main office in Kabul.

The volunteers ensured that the distributed items reached the intended beneficiaries and found that the medical supplies were being distributed in a timely and effective manner.

The LMA pilot project essential purpose is observing the UNFPA Afghanistan supply program to Implementing Partners (IPs) including reproductive health (RH) commodities, modern contraceptives, life-saving maternal health medicines, winterization kits, dignity kits, and adolescents' girls' menstrual hygiene management kits in the hands of beneficiaries who need them the most and etc.



US Funding Cut and its Effect on AFGA Service Provision

During the quarter, the AFGA faced challenges due to a US Funding cut that directly affected two projects of AFGA, UNFPA and LHSS, due to which several Service Delivery Points (SDPs) and a huge number of staff were suspended, unfortunately. The operation of both projects was suspended, and suspension letters were issued to the relevant staff till further notice.

Thus, the AFGA management conducted emergency SMT and board meetings to find possible alternatives. There was good progress towards this, and AFGA managed to find alternative sources of funding for the Mother and Newborn Hospital (MNH) and Ultrasound services, hence no disruption of service provision in these SDPs.

AFGA also had several discussions with UNFPA top management to seek their financial support to resume the suspended activities at the soonest.

Further, the AFGA management was busy with fundraising activities and had several discussions and meetings with the other donors, and had submitted proposals where some of which had already been approved. With these new projects/funding support, AFGA will be in a better funding situation and will be able to resume activities in certain suspended health facilities.



Timely Health Intervention Saved the Life of a Mother and her Baby

On Monday, April 7, 2025, a pregnant 23-year-old woman named Silsila came to the AFGA Mother and Newborn Hospital in Kabul. She was in her last month of pregnancy when her labor pain started, and she could not bear it, besides, she was bleeding till she reached the hospital.

Dr. Shafiqa Durrani, the hospital's Gynecologist, after checking her health condition, found out that Silsila and her baby are both not in good health. Therefore, Dr. Durrani, along with Dr. Zoya Bakhshi, immediately prepared the patient for the Cesarean section. The operation started, and after 20 minutes, she safely delivered a healthy baby girl.

Silsila says: "I am grateful to the qualified doctors of the Mother and Newborn Hospital who saved mine and my child's life. Thank you, MNH, for your valuable services to the mothers and their families."



Dr. Nazai Safi the MNH Hospital Manager says: "This is the first cesarian case after starting the full operation of the AFGA Mother and Newborn Hospital which was successfully handled, and the mother and her baby are safe and in proper health condition."

Dr. Safi added: "The mother and newborn hospital is the first hospital established by AFGA through the financial support of IPPF's NORAD-3 Project. The hospital's OPD section operation started on March 1st, 2025, and the full 24-hour operation of the hospital started on April 5th, 2025. The hospital is offering quality OPD, ANC, PNC, Delivery, Vaccination, Cesarean, pharmacy, and ultrasound services through professional medical staff."



A Lifeline in the Desert: Zahra's Journey to Survival

Zahra*, a mother of ten children living in the rural Dara-e Turkman village of Surkh Parsa District of Parwan Province, faces daily struggles. With an elderly husband who has a disability, the family endures economic hardship. They live in an area far from any health facility, and access to healthcare is limited. Despite the challenges, Zahra has always done her best to care for her family. However, after giving birth to her youngest child three months ago, her situation took a dire turn.

Zahra suffered from retained placenta, a life-threatening condition where the placenta remains inside the uterus after delivery, causing heavy bleeding. Alone at home, with no way to afford travel to a far-off hospital, she was in critical condition. Her only hope lay in the Dawlat Khani Family Health House, supported by the IPPF Respond-2 Project and run by AFGA.

In a moment of desperation, Zahra managed to reach the FHH Midwife Khalida, who works at the clinic, recalls the urgency of the situation. "When I found Zahra, she was bleeding already, and her life was at risk." She says. "Without immediate care, she could have lost her life and her baby." Khalida immediately performed a safe removal of the retained placenta and conducted life-saving post-delivery procedures for six hours, stabilizing Zahra's condition.

Zahra, grateful for the timely intervention, says, "We live in a desert under a desperate situation. God sent the midwife to save my life. Without the FHH, I wouldn't have been able to afford the care I needed." Today, Zahra and her baby are healthy, and she regularly visits the FHH for health check-ups and vaccinations.

Since its establishment, the Dawlat Khani FHH has provided life-saving care to thousands of people, delivering essential services such as maternal and child healthcare, outpatient care, nursing, vaccinations, health education, and referral services to the district hospital via ambulance.

AFGA operates 15 such FHHs supported by the Respond-2 Project across three provinces of Parwan, Kapisa, and Logar in Afghanistan, providing life-saving services in remote, underserved communities.

Zahra's story highlights the life-saving impact of the Dawlat Khani FHH, offering hope where it's needed most. Thanks to timely care, Zahra and her baby are healthy, with a future now filled with possibilities.





Glances





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