



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Saving Women's Lives by Taking Care to the Community

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Health Services Support Project
(HSSP), Chief of Party



Jhpiego: Innovating to Save Lives

Jhpiego prevents the needless deaths of women and their families.

- Founded in 1973
- Affiliate of Johns Hopkins University
- Currently working in more than 50 countries
- Experience working in 154 countries
- More than 900 employees worldwide

Jhpiego's Technical Expertise

- Jhpiego works on:
 - Family planning
 - Maternal and newborn health
 - Malaria
 - Cervical cancer
 - HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis



Jhpiego's Approach

- Jhpiego saves lives by:
 - Building local human resource capacity
 - Working in partnerships with government, nongovernmental organizations, universities, professional associations and communities
 - Strengthening health care systems
 - Developing evidence-based innovations and sharing best practices



Increasing utilization by improving quality & generating demand

Generating demand



Improving quality



Integrating gender



Educating & training





Background & Context



- Afghanistan has the second highest maternal mortality ratio in the world, at 1600 deaths for every 100,000 pregnancies.
- Current total fertility rate in Afghanistan is 6.6
- Contraceptive use is 300 times safer than pregnancy in Afghanistan.

Background & Context (cont)

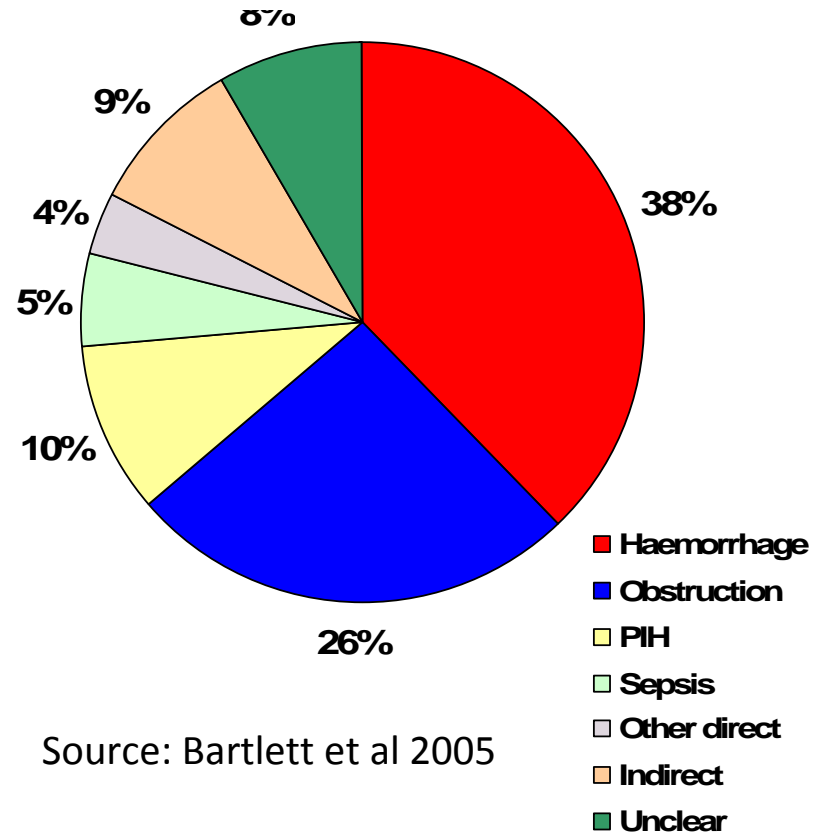


- 80% of the 32.7 million Afghan live in rural areas
- Cultural & geographic barriers limit access to health facilities
- Health service delivery is contracted out to non-governmental organizations that manage health facilities and staff, including community health workers (CHWs).



Background & Context (cont)

- 1 woman dies every 27 minutes and 78% of deaths are preventable
- The lifetime risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes in Afghanistan is 1 in 7; while in the US it's 1 in 4,300.
- Bleeding is responsible for about 38% of the maternal deaths, or approximately 7,600 women per year
- Afghan & US Government is committed to reducing maternal deaths



Prevention of Bleeding at Home Births







How to Prevent These Deaths





- Each and every woman should deliver at the hands of a skilled birth attendant.
- If she can't, an inexpensive and life saving drug called misoprostol should be taken right after the delivery of the baby and before the delivery of the placenta.
- We train community health workers to provide misoprostol and to educate women and their families about the drug and the importance of delivering with a skilled birth attendant.





Prevention of PPH at Home Birth in Afghanistan CHW Form

1. CHW's Name	2. Village/Health post	3. District
4. Name of the pregnant woman	5. Name of the husband	6. Drug serial #
 	 	<hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

	7. CHW visiting Homes (i)	8. Woman with no menstruation	9. Counting number of months	10. Education on BP CR and PPH	11. Participants ID card								
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Conclusions

- Life threatening bleeding during and after home births can be prevented by a trained community health worker through life saving counseling and misoprostol.
- Community health workers in Afghanistan are saving the lives of women who must or choose to deliver at home, using an evidence-based, low cost and life saving drug.



Community-Based Family Planning After Birth



Objectives



- To promote community-based counseling & distribution of family planning (FP)/ postpartum family planning by training and empowering community health workers to
 - Address misconceptions
 - Promote a natural method of FP that is 98% effective in preventing pregnancy if all 3 criteria are met (LAM)
 - Give the first injection of contraceptive
 - Provide counseling on other FP methods for breastfeeding mothers

Main Barriers



- Policy environment
- Misconceptions about the culture & Family Planning
- Lack of knowledge & skill

Conclusions



- By using the benefits of healthy birth spacing, LAM and transition to other methods, and by addressing cultural barriers, family planning has been accepted in a traditional culture like rural Afghanistan.
- According to the 2007 and 2009 household surveys, the number of people using modern contraception increased from 35.1% to 41.12%.

Community Midwifery Education



CME: Overview of Accomplishments

Established a national midwifery education system to train competent midwives and ensure quality education

- Developed training materials, trained faculty, and awarded grants to NGOs to implement
- Established accreditation system (AMNEAB) to ensure quality and standardization
- Provide technical assistance and supportive supervision to programs and graduates
- Support Afghan Midwives Association

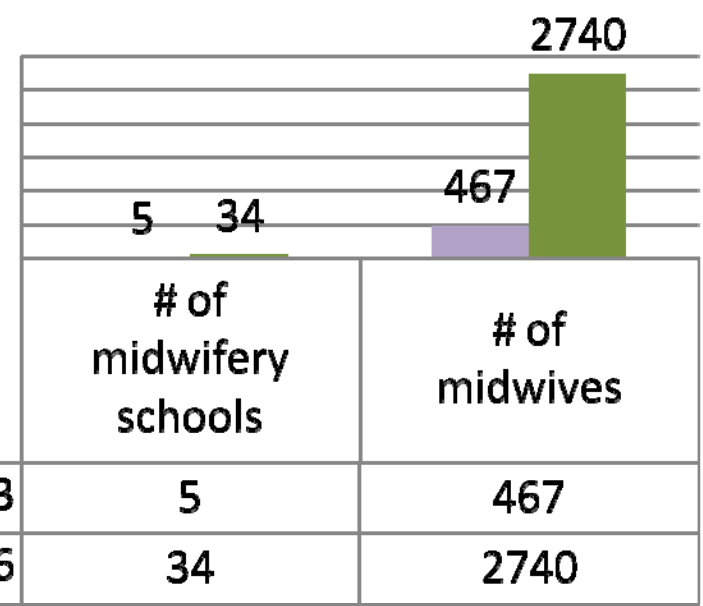




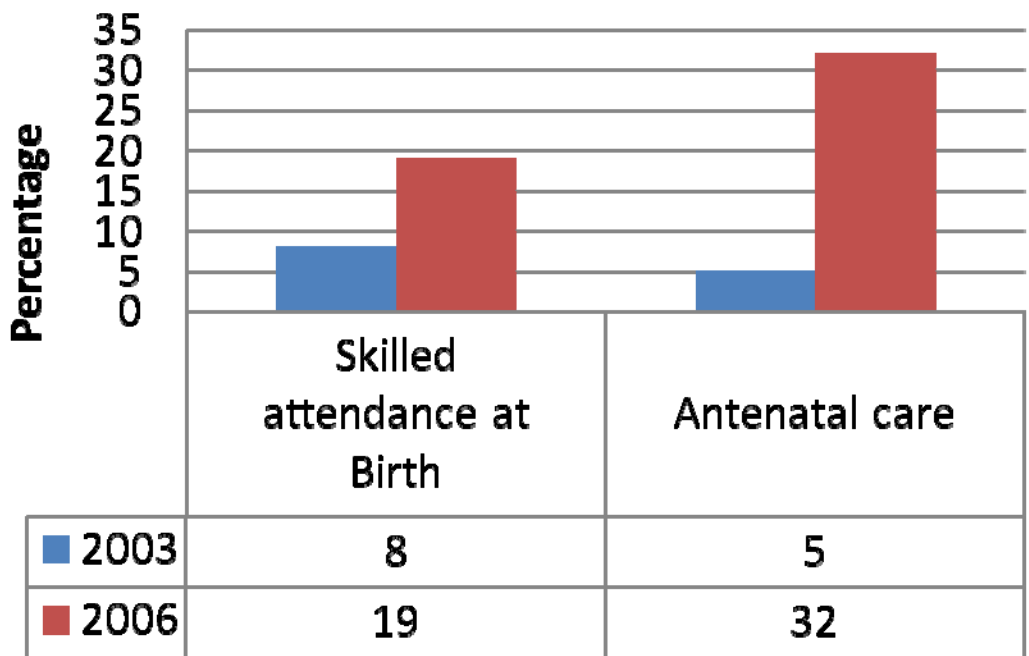
Afghanistan THEN AND now?

Corresponding number of midwives

Numbers of women



Percentage of receiving care from a skilled birth attendant



From the Mouths of...

- “I am happy with the midwife. Previously there was no midwife in our village and women were suffering bleeding and their children were dying. Now thanks to God, we have a midwife and since have not seen a pregnancy death.”
- “In the beginning, people thought that I might be a dayee (traditional birth attendant) and would not be effective. Now, they know me as a women’s specialist and they respect me and say that I solve their women’s problems.”



Community-Based Interventions Save Lives!



Thank You! Questions?



Photos by Jhpiego staff, NGO grantees
& Kate Holt

