



9/16/2015

Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) 11th Annual Congress

“Midwives for a better tomorrow”



2015





Executive Summary:

The Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) held its 11th annual congress to discuss ways to improve maternal and newborn health. This year's theme was *"Midwives for a Better tomorrow,"* highlighting the contribution of midwifery to improving health outcomes in Afghanistan.

Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Herat's governor and Dr. Najia Tareq, Deputy Minister for Service Provision from Ministry of Public Health opened the congress. Over 420 people attended the two-day event. The AMA Congress brings together maternal and child health policymakers, providers and recipients annually and is the largest event of its type in Afghanistan.

Gov. Rahimi praised the midwives for their sacrifice serving those most in need. "I am sure that your profession is full of challenges and problems," said Gov. Rahimi. "You are serving in rural areas where basic comforts are not available for you and your families, but you have shifted your families to those places and serve your nation proudly."

Delivering remarks via video, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Health and Nutrition Office Director celebrated the midwives. "Time and again, midwives have proven their capability to support and provide one of the most basic rights: respectful care and skilled services for women during labor and delivery."

The Congress supports an open exchange of information for AMA members and partners on international advancements in midwifery and maternity services. It promotes collaboration with international midwifery communities and donors. Day Two featured a "Mini University" skills training, focused on teaching high-impact interventions to prevent maternal and child death.

Congress main objective:

The aim of the Annual Congress is to provide an opportunity to discuss and learn new approaches to care for mothers and families and to share midwifery experiences. The Congress will encourage members to exchange experiences and thereby provides opportunities for strengthening the networking among midwives and their colleagues. The interest and enthusiasm that midwives bring to the congress results in midwives returning to their communities and workplace being better informed and newly inspired to handle daily challenges and influence policy and decisions. The annual Congress serves as an effective manner for professional updating

- Review the AMA's annual report and highlights of the AMA situation analyzes.
- Describe and practice selected high impact RMNCH interventions and explore opportunities for implementation of these in Afghanistan.
- Discuss new initiatives for strengthening midwifery education.
- Share and reflect on midwives experiences of using evidence based practices.

Highlights of main proceeding of the congress;

The Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) 11th annual congress was conducted on 15 – 16 September 2015, (24 – 25 Sunbula 1394) at Molana Jalal – U – Din Mohammad Balkhi Hall in Herat province. The congress was organized with the generous support of HEMAYAT Project in collaboration with United Nation Fund Population Agency (UNFPA), and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and other AMA partners. Over 420 people including 350 midwives participated in the AMA 11th Annual congress. Jhpiego/HEMAYAT Project, UNFPA and AMA partners sponsored midwives from 34 provinces of Afghanistan to be part of this important gathering.

This congress was designed to provide midwives as health care professionals with important concepts and methods to improve quality of services by updating their clinical knowledge and skills according to evidence-based practices. Beside, midwives from all over the country attended this unique forum to share excellence in practice and knowledge, learn about the challenges facing midwifery and enjoy mutual support amongst colleagues.

Many have described it as their best experience of learning and updating their knowledge. Topics included to train midwives on the recent evidence based clinical practices, based on national needs, plenary sessions with a special focus on the AMA Strategic Plan for 2015-2020. The congress also offered some clinical topics in Family planning, Helping Babies Breathe, Clean and safe birth using AMTSL, Essential Care for Every Baby, Uterine balloon tamponade ...

Midwives from very remote area of Afghanistan came to Herat and enjoyed two days not just learning but also networking and interacting with others to share their lesson learned and experiences.

First Day of Congress - 15th September 2015

Opening session:

H.E Mohammed Asif Rahimi, governor of Herat province, welcomed the guests and delivered his opening speech; “Make sure that you midwives serving mothers and children in the country, we agree that midwives save the mother and child life and to promote safe and healthy generations for the people of Afghanistan. The maternal mortality rate decreased from 1600 of 327/100000 live birth and this is big achievement in last decade. This event is conduct to share your experience and development in midwifery services which will be very useful, also share your problems during forming duties in different parts of Afghanistan and try to find solution for these problems”. He said that the midwives play a very important role in the health services.



First lady video message:

H.E. Afghanistan first lady Rula Ghani joined the event via video message; “Maternal and child health is a vital for a healthy society. Access to health facilitates is a basic need to decrease the maternal mortality rate. Unfortunately about 327 of 100,000 mothers lose their lives that is why still more work and efforts are needed to improve the maternal and child health.” She said; “midwifery council should be created to ensure the safety of services by midwives. We need more health facilities especially in remote provinces of the country. Thanks from respectable midwives with their sacred duty to ensure health and safety of mothers and children.”

Deputy Minister remark:

The Deputy Minister of MoPH, H. E. Dr. Najia Tariq: “The 11th annual congress is an opportunity for Afghan midwives to renew commitment for safe motherhood and providing high quality service. You become a role model for other associations in the country; they will follow your path”. She continued: “According to the annual report almost 350,000 mothers die due pregnancy complication and delivery world widely. More than half of 59% maternal death occurs in low income countries which are affected by natural and unnatural disasters. Due to lack of skill birth attendant or lack of access to emergency obstetric services or delay in supply of services in health facilities and also lack of health care when needed, women lost their lives.”

USAID message:



The USAID representative; “Midwives of Afghanistan have to prove their capability to support and provide one of the basic rights, respectful care and skill services for women during labor. To the midwives, I want to thank you for your genius profession.” She said that the midwives play an important role in saving mothers and infants lives. The USAID will continue to support midwives to increase their numbers to have competent midwives delivery their vital health services throughout the country. And she said that the midwives are the champion of the community. **Midwives are in front line and it is the task of midwives to reduce the maternity rate and help the community to build a healthy and strong nation.**

AMA Achievements:

Highlights of AMA achievements had been presented by president of the AMA - Ms. Feroza Mushtari. The AMA is the technical body for midwifery education, professional development and policies that enable every midwife in Afghanistan so midwives can practice the highest level of care for the mothers and newborn of the country. Therefore, for the first time in Afghanistan, 76 students are studying higher education through Bridging Midwifery program and direct bachelor Midwifery, initiated and technically supported by AMA.

Initiation of the process of establishing Midwifery and Nursing Council in Afghanistan, as a regulatory body for regulating midwifery and nursing professions and decentralization of the AMA activities such as celebrating International Day of the Midwife (IDM) in all five zones and 11th annual congress holding in Herat were also another achievements of AMA for professional development.

The AMA vision is to be recognized as model association nationally, regionally and internationally for midwifery profession and women empowerment so the AMA has played a critical role for establishing the Midwives Alliances for Asia (MAA) as one of the founders with cooperation of Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Philippines ; to advance the goals and aspirations of midwives in the attainment of improved Reproductive Health Outcomes for women, their newborns, children, adolescents and families during the reproductive cycle, using the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) midwifery philosophy and model of care.



Overview of International Confederation of Midwives:

Mrs. Pashtoon Azfar Zyaee presented the overview of ICM in the congress, and the main points of her presentation were as follows:

- ICM is an umbrella body for Midwives Associations founded in 1919. Headquarters in The Hague the Netherlands
- Membership organization, now with over 121 members in 108 countries and increasing
- Sole representative of midwives and midwifery globally

Vision

A world where every childbearing woman has access to a midwife's care for herself and her newborn

Mission

To strengthen member associations and to advance the profession of midwifery globally by promoting autonomous midwives as the most appropriate caregivers for childbearing women and in keeping birth normal, in order to enhance the reproductive health of women, and the health of their newborn and their families.

Status of RMNCH Services in Afghanistan;

The status of RMNCH Services in Afghanistan had been presented by Dr. Zelaikha Anwari, Reproductive Health Director MOPH. (Please refer to Annex 3)

Panel Discussion "Midwives for a better tomorrow";

As the Millennium Development Goals come to an end in September, this was the last chance to shine a spotlight on midwifery before the world enters into a new era so a panel came together to discuss about Midwives for a better tomorrow.

They highlighted the importance of having midwives involved in the work to achieve the new set of goals called the Sustainable Development Goals and create a brighter future for mothers, babies, and families. This discussion had been focused on commitment of all relevant stakeholders from Ministry of Public Health, Justice, Higher education, Women affairs; International Confederation of Midwives; First lady Office; Parliament and Donor agencies such as HEMAYAT/USAID and UNFPA to more investment in midwives and midwifery for the wellbeing of mothers and newborn. . (Please refer to Annex 4)



AMA Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020

The main objective for this session was developing the AMA strategic plan for 2016 – 2020. As result of group works the below areas had been discussed and pointed out;

1. Regulation;
 - Advocacy for AMNC establishment;
 - Identify and lobby with authorized sectors of the governments who have influence to support the AMNC establishment process
 - Advocacy for an independent and permanent council for midwives and nurses
 - Create an appropriate system to ensure quality accreditation of midwifery education & practice
2. Capacity building;
 - Scaling up of the midwifery degree programs including bridging program and direct entry
 - Increase the number of trainings and update the training packages based on new standards
3. Next steps-Career path;
 - Create opportunities for midwives to continue their higher education on Master and Doctoral levels even abroad the country
 - Increase job opportunities for midwives to work on managerial levels
 - Unify midwifery program
 - Design online courses on local languages
 - Produce eLearning modules on local languages

Skill demonstrations:

- Helping Babies Breath skill, 56 participants in two batches
- Clean and safe birth using AMTSL, 50 participants in two batches
- Uterine Balloon Tamponade - an advance intervention for managing PPH, 140 participants in two batches
- Postpartum Intra Uterine Contraceptive Devices, 40 participants in four batches
- Essential Care for Every Baby, 40 participant



Election and announcement of AMA's New Executive Board

One of the most important events of 11th annual congress was transparent election of Executive Board Members of AMA in which almost all AMA members participated in election for next 3 years in a totally democratic atmosphere.

Election committee:

Dr. Ahmad Eklil, Dr. Rahila Juya, Dr. Ehsanullah Shahir, Dr. Najibullah Naimi, Dr. Nafisa Nasiri and Sayed Omar were the election committee members for election of AMA new executive board.

Election:

For the AMA's New Executive Board; total 43 midwives are nominated from different provinces. The election committee distributes voting sheets among the midwives, then they collect sheets from

- For the first time the congress had been evaluated by participants
- Training need assessment of midwives was the another initiatives in 11th annual congress (Please refer to Annex 5)

Annexes;

- Annex 1: Agenda
- Annex 2: Participants list
- Annex 3: RMNCH Presentation
- Annex 4: Panel discussion
- Annex 5: Training need assessment result

Annex 1; Agenda

AMA Congress 2015

Midwives for a better tomorrow

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) is to advocate for the midwifery profession and strengthen the role of midwives to ensure the wellbeing of the women and their families in Afghanistan. The AMA has been established since May 3, 2005. Thereafter, it has grown significantly across the country and has had great achievements over the years. To facilitate achievement of the AMA goals, an annual congress is held each year and AMA acknowledges the technical and financial contribution of its stakeholders.

In May 2015, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recommitted to renewing the promise for Maternal and Child Survival. Midwives are vital in achieving the continued progress and sustainable development in reducing maternal, neonatal, and child mortality and the provision of quality accessible, affordable and easily available, maternal, neonatal and child health care.

The AMA is pleased to announce its 11th annual congress with the key theme of **Midwives for a better tomorrow** to highlight the contribution of midwifery and midwives to improved health outcomes in Afghanistan to date and to advocate for an expanded and strengthened profession in the next 5 years.

The aim of the Annual Congress is to provide an opportunity to discuss and learn new approaches to care for mothers and families and to share midwifery experiences. The annual Congress also serves as an effective manner for professional updating.

AGENDA Day 1: 15 September, 2015

Time	Subject	Presenter
08:30- 09:25	Registration Recitation of the Holy Quran National Anthem	AMA team
09:25 - 09: 30	Welcome Speech	H.E. Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Governor of Herat Province
09:30 - 09:35	First Lady Message	H.E. Rolla Ghani
9:35 - 9:40	USAID Message	
09:40 - 09:45	Opening Speech	H.E. Dr. Najia Tariq Deputy Minister for service prevision
09:45- 09:55	Summary of the AMA Annual Report	RM. Feroza Mushtari AMA Acting President
09:55- 10:10	Key note presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview MNH situation in Afghanistan 	Dr. Zelaikha Anwari Reproductive Health Director- MoPH
Session 1: Midwifery achievements in recent years at the global, regional, and country levels		
10:10- 10:45	Special Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of ICM in supporting midwifery 	Mrs. Pashtoon Azfar- ICM
10.45- 11:00	Tea Break	
11:00- 12:30	Panel discussion- midwives for a better tomorrow.	Chairperson: Dr. Mohammad Asif Kabir- PHD Herat Panelist: 1. First lady Office: H.E.Dr. Fawzia Alam

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. ICM: Pashtoon Azfar 3. MoPH: H.E. Dr. Najia Tariq 4. MoHE: H.E. Dr. Nafisa Naseri 5. MoJ: Dr. Ab. Rauff Herawi- Minister Advisor 6. MoI& C: H.E. Mr.Minawi 7. Parliament: Mrs. Dehqannezhad and Mrs. Wazhma Safi 8. UNFPA- Dr. Makhiraira 9. HEMAYAT-Dr. Faridullah Atiqzai
<p>12:30- 01:30</p>	<p>Lunch and Prayers. Poster, Photo and Quilt exhibition</p>	
<p>Session 2: Preparation for AMA Strategic plan 2016 - 2020</p>		

08:50- 10:30	Concurrent sessions - Information updates	Chairperson: RM. Fahima Naziri
	<i>Main hall: 50 minutes (25 minutes each)</i>	
	A. Respectful and dignified maternity care & patients charter right	RM. Feroza Mushtari
	B. Essential Competencies for basic midwifery practice and teachers of midwives.	Mrs. Pashtoon Azfar, ICM / Dr. Niazmal UNFPA
	Mini University: Each participants will attend 2 of the following concurrent sessions (15 mins each)	Dr. Popal
# 1: Cord Care use of chlorhexidine	Dr. Faizi/ Dr. Rasheda	
# 2: FP with focus on LARC/FP 2020		
# 3: Empowering women and families through MAMA Message) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Communication Technology for MAMA message 	Dr. Rastgar / RM. Massoma Jafari Mr. Sayed Omer	
10:30-10:45	Tea Break	

10:45-12:30	Skills Sessions - (90 minutes)- 5 skills & 10 stations <i>Station 1:</i> Helping Babies Breathe <i>Station 2:</i> Clean and safe birth using AMTSL <i>Station 3:</i> Essential Care for Every Baby <i>Station 4:</i> Uterine balloon tamponade - an additional intervention for managing PPH <i>Station 5:</i> PPIUCD	Chairperson: RM. Hellai Gharshin RM. Fahima Naziri RM. Parween Omerzai RM. Hamida (Afshar) RM. Massoma Jafari & RM. Shakila Abdali Dr. Rahila Juya
12:30 - 01:30 Lunch and Prayers		
Session 4: AMA new executive board election		
01:30 - 02:30	<u>Election of AMA New Executive Board</u> Election and announcement of new executive board	Chairperson: Mrs. Pashtoon Azfar
03:00 - 04:00	Closing remarks: - New AMA President	

Annex2: VIP Participants list

Name of VIP	Position	Organization
H.E Fawzia Alam	Health advisor	First lady office
Mrs. Wazhma Safi	Representative	Parliament
Mrs. Dehqanezhad	Representative	Parliament
H.E Najia Tariq	Deputy of Minister	MoPH

Dr. Zelaikha Anwari	Director	MoPH-Reproductive Health
Dr. Ab. Rauff Herawi	Minister -Advisor	MoJ
H.E. Mr. Khalil Minawi	Bakhtar News Agency Director	MOIC
Mrs. Marghalai Khara	Representative	Mow
Dr Nafisa Nasri	Representative	MoHE
Dr Ehsanullah Shahir	Representative	MoPH
Pashtoon Azfar	Global Advisor	International Confederation of Midwives
Dr Mohira Boboeva	RH Advisor	UNFPA
Dr Faridulla Atiqzai	DCoP	Jhpiego-HEMAYAT
Rasheda Formuly	Head of Department	FPD
Dr. Ab Aziz Tariq	Badghees PPHD	PLD
Dr.Ab Qayum Pokhla	Kandahar PPHD	PLD
Dr.Lal Mohammad	Zabul PPHD	PLD
Dr. Khan Aqa Miakhil	Urozgan PPHD	PLD
Dr.Abdul Hamid	Samangan PPHD	PLD
Dr. Kamawal	Nengarhar PPHD	PLD
Dr. Khawari	Badakhshan PPH	PLD
Dr. Safi	Takhar PPHD	PLD
Dr. Faruq Makhirales	Wardak PPHD	PLD
Dr. Ab Latif Qayumi	Laghman PPHD	PLD
Dr. Ab Zmarai	Farah PPHD	PLD

Annex 3:

The presentation is attached with the report.

Annex 4: Panel Discussion;

The panel discussion in presence of all 34 provinces midwives' representatives including Dr. Najia Tareq deputy minister of health services provision, Ms. Fauzia Alam from First lady office, Dr. Nafisa Naseri representative of MoHE, Mr. Herawi representative of MoJ, Mrs.Pashtoon Azafar Zyaee representative of ICM, Ms. Najla Dehqan Nezhad and Ms. Wazhma Safi Parliament members, Dr. Faridullah Atiqzai representative of HEMAYAT, Ms. Mokhira Boboeva representative of UNFPA conducted that charred by Dr. Mohammad Asif Kabir Herat PPHD. In the mentioned panel discussion series of question by participants raised and answered by panel as below details with more focused on their commitment to midwives for better tomorrow:

Question 1:

Midwives are motivated force for health services provision of all components of respectful maternity care, neonatal, children including BEmONC. Anyway most of them are not able to perform completely

access to quality health services in BPHS and EPHS framework. Increase of female doctors and nurses certainly help us on meeting our targets up to 2030, and we will try our best hope Afghanistan midwives help us in this purpose that without their collaboration we cannot achieve our goal.

Question 4:**What is the priority of UNFPA on midwives for better tomorrow?**

Answer4: (By Ms. Mokhira Boboeva from UNFPA)

- UNFPA with stakeholders will remain committed to support from MoPH programs on maternal and children health, and on this process by allocation of budget to establish family health house (FHH) for improvement of mothers and children health.

Question 5:**Diploma midwives are participating in health services provision including complications.**

- **What occupational opportunities do you see for bachelor and master degree midwives?**
- **Whether MoHE of Afghanistan will continue access to higher education for midwives?**

Answer5: (By Mrs. Nafisa Naseri, Representative of MoHE)

- All midwives without consideration of their documents according to international definition of midwife should be trained and registered in the country. Therefore we hope to be witness of establishment of council for registration and licensing, that representative of MoJ promised any kind of cooperation on process of Midwives council in MoJ. She added: We agree for progress of professional and educational progress of midwives up to bachelor degree. This program started under Kabul Medical University structure and those midwives graduated from diploma level can attend to entrance exam of that faculty and beneficiary of this chance. The MoHE has planned to arrange bachelor degree program at regional level.
- MoHE tries to coordinate with ministry of labor and social affairs for proving ground to deployment/recruitment of midwives. That has better use of graduated midwives for improvement of mothers and children health.

Question 6:

- **HEMAYAT project what kind of support will provide?**

Answer 6: (By Faridullah Atiqzai, Deputy Chief of Party from HEMAYAT)

- USAID funded HEMAYAT project will pay attention to mechanisms and implementation of midwifery programs and this project will cooperate with MoPH in following affairs:
 - o Improve access
 - o Improve quality of services
 - o Community awareness, demand
 - o Cooperation and coordination with MoPH on mothers and child health
- At the end all panel members agreed that: Midwives are the backbone of mother and child health, government and people should commit to their trust.

- Two parliament members (Ms. Najla Dehqan Nezhad and Ms. Wazhma Safi expressed their support on behalf of people and parliament.

Annex5: Training Need assessment of congress participants

