

**Afghan Midwives Association**  
**International Day of the Midwife Event report**  
**May 2016**



**“Women and Newborns: the Heart of Midwifery”**

**Background:**

Every year, millions of women and newborns around the world are cared for by skilled midwives. Every day, thousands of babies are born, mothers are taken care of and lives are saved by midwives. Every May 5th, we dedicate one day to remind the world of these everyday achievements. On the International Day of the Midwife, Midwives celebrate the successes of midwives and focus on recognizing the importance of midwifery. It is also a day to reiterate and call attention to the improvements still needed to ensure that all women have access to a qualified midwife.

First commemorated on the 5th of May 1992, IDM celebrates midwives around the world and salute and appreciates their unique services for mothers and babies. Midwives provide essential reproductive health care for women and newborns in urban and rural setting, often in remote areas where other facilities are not available and resources are scarce. Midwives work with competency, confidence and compassion to provide respectful and high quality care and women and newborn are at the heart of such care.

### **Objectives:**

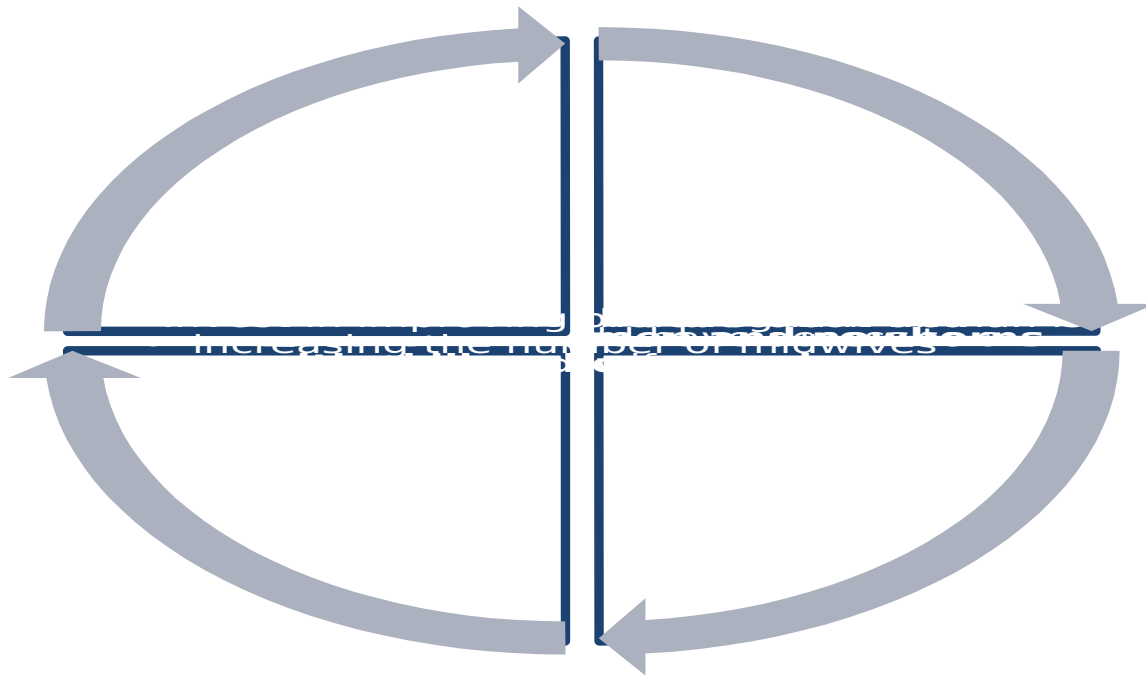
- Increase awareness of midwifery services
- Improve coverage of midwifery issues in media and inform the general public about midwives
- Highlights the crucial role of midwives in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
- Celebrate the achievements of midwives and progress made in improving maternal and neonatal care and midwifery services
- Motivate policymakers and decision makers to implement change by lobbying for adequate midwifery resources and recognition of the unique professional role of midwives



## Event report:

4th May 2016 – Afghan Midwives Association (AMA), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and USAID funded Jhpiego-HEMAYAT project commemorated the International Day of the Midwife #IDM2016 under the theme of “Women and Newborns: the Heart of Midwifery” at the MoPH Conference hall.

The event started with a walk called Run for Life. All the stakeholders and partners walked together and carried the key messages of the IDM- taken from the ICM resources packages.



The number of people participated IDM event was over 350, including VIPs; Dr. Najia Tariq, Deputy Minister for service provision Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Bannet Ndyabangi, UNFPA Representative for Afghanistan, Robin Martz and Mr. Gregory Adams USAID representative and Ms. Noorjahan Mawani AKDN ambassador in Afghanistan and other general directorates of ministry of public health.

“Midwives play a key role in reaching the Sustainable Development Goal that stresses on reducing maternal and newborn deaths. Midwives also play a key role in making sure that access to health services is equally available for all”, said Dr. Najia Tariq, Deputy Minister of Public Health.

“I have read in the Lancet Midwifery Series, and I strongly agree with it that midwives who are working in an enabling environment can provide 87% essential maternal care”, stated Nasratullah Ansari, Chief of Party HEMAYAT project.

Every year, three hundred thousand women die of causes related to pregnancy and birth and in the last three months of pregnancy or during child birth 3 million babies die globally. Afghanistan is one of the 73 developing countries which has the highest maternal and newborn deaths in the world. In Afghanistan 1 out of 50 women die during pregnancy or child birth. The problems are mostly due to lack of access to a midwife or other skilled birth attendance in delivering at home with the assistance of relatives or family members. Skilled birth attendance is drastically low, i. e. 45.2% of births are attended by a medical worker (NRVA 2013-2014).

“Let me congratulate the government and the people of Afghanistan for reducing maternal mortality and newborn deaths over the last decade by strengthening health systems especially investments in midwifery education and deployment.” said Dr. Bannet Ndyababangi, UNFPA Representative for Afghanistan.

According to the East Mediterranean Regional Office of World Health Organization, for Afghanistan currently has 3500-4000 midwives, however, in order to meet the 80% of need for midwives in the next five years Afghanistan need 12,174, and to meet the 100% need for midwives by 2030, Afghanistan need 15,217 midwives.

While a large number of educated midwives can save lives. It is also important that the quality of their pre-service education meets international standards and their practices are regulated by a functional and autonomous midwifery council, so Afghanistan can reach the goal that is ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths. Therefore, the Afghan Midwifery and Nursing act was developed by AMA and revised by a joint committee including, MoPH, AMA, White Ribbon Alliance, Cord AID, Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, Agha Khan University, UNFPA and HEMAYAT. A road map, a strategic plan, an action plan and as well as concept note for implementation of the act have been finalized. On this IDM 2016, all partners working for midwives in the country call upon the Afghan government to ensure midwifery regulation in Afghanistan is apriority and take necessary steps to pass the act.

Video show called Angeles which was made by UNFPA from Afghanistan shows how a midwife is selected from community and how she is working as



a midwife. And at the end, Ministry of public health appreciated a number of Midwives for their great contribution improving maternal& newborn health and gave them appreciation letter.

### **Celebration of IDM in south region:**

**Date:** 26/2/1395, Sunday

**Time:** 9:30 am- 1:00 pm

**Place:** Kandahar PPHD conference room

The AMA provincial branches in south region were successfully celebrated the international day of midwives by financial support of HEMAYAT, UNFPA and ACTD in Kandahar PPHD. The objective of the event was respect to midwifery profession and appreciates the hard work of all midwives especially those are working in south Region. 88 participants from Zabul, Helmand, Uruzgan and Kandahar provinces were attended the event.

Ms. Shogufa Sediqi as AMA representative welcomed all participants and then Mr. Abdullah Shamsi deputy governor of Kandahar province delivered his statement about role and importance of midwives in health system of Afghanistan. Dr. Ahmadullah Faizi Kandahar acting PHD remarked the role of midwives in maternal and child health and thanked from everlasting efforts of midwives. There were two other speeches from IHS and provincial hospital directors which indicates the role of midwives in treatments and prevention of obstetric fistula.



The event continued with presentation of Fatima Rahimi /AMA Kandahar provincial director about ICM key message and role of midwives in safe motherhood. Continuously, there was a short success from Ms. Geeti Saduzai which was about saving of a child life by a midwife. At the end appreciation letters for midwives and certificates for CME graduated students who had completed their three years commitment period were distributed. At the end, participants were invited to enjoy from eating delicious lunch.

### **Celebration of IDM in North region:**

**Venue:** Balkh IHS

**Date:** May 15th, 2016

**Time:** 9:00 AM -11:30 AM

IDM celebrated in North region with participation of 200 participants including midwives from Balkh, Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Samangan, Kunduz, Jawzjan, Faryab and Saripul provinces on 15 May 2016. The event hosted by AMA provincial branches in north region with financial support of HEMAYAT and AADA.



Celebration began with Holy Quran recitation and all prayed for better future of midwives and decreasing maternal mortality rate.

PHD of Balkh Dr. Mirwais Rabe had speech and he explained the policy of government and welcomed all the celebration day, he also congratulate the day to all midwives around the world.

Then AMA representative Ms. Maqsouda welcomed all and briefly presented the AMA activities in Balkh and touched to presence fact sheets of targets and achievements.

Representative of Governor Mr. Fyaz Mer Ayen had speech and conveyed the Governor messages to all midwives. The celebration finished by presenting awards to those midwives from North and Northeast Provinces that already



## **Celebration of IDM in the eastern region:**

**Date:** 26/2/1395, Sunday

**Place:** IDM in Nangarhar province

The IDM was celebrated in eastern region; total 200 Participants attended this ceremony. Kunar, Laghman and Nooristan provinces PPHDs, PRHOs and AMAs Provincial directors as well as 17 midwives from each province attended the said ceremony. Director of women affairs, representative of UNICEF and WHO, private sectors and hospital representatives were present as well.

The Ceremony was started by the opening speech of Deputy public health director Dr. Muqadisa, she said: “you the front line health workers that played effective role in diminishing maternal mortality rate from 1600 up to 327 deaths per 100000.” She also said we should struggles for the health of mother and child.

Kunar PHD, who was also attended this ceremony, he said midwives are the powerful human resources in health sectors because they are working in remote areas and do efforts for the health of mother and child. In addition, he added midwifery schools in the eastern region played effective role and represented qualified female health workers to the community that caused decreasing the maternal mortality rate.

Wahida Zahirzai who is the provincial director of AMA in Jalalabad, she thanked HEMAYAT for the supporting of this event and emphasized on role of midwives in high impact interventions.



The ceremony is ended by the last speech of director of women affairs. She said I am very happy that Afghanistan government is committed for the empowerment of women therefore, this event is cardinal sign of women empowerment.

### **Celebration of IDM in west region:**

**Venue:** Herat- Human rights conference hall

**Date:** May 12th, 2016

**Time:** 9:00 AM -11:30 AM



AMA Herat with support of HEMAYAT project celebrated IDM at west region on 12th May at Human rights conference hall with the slogan of Women and Newborns: the Heart of Midwives, more than 100 Participants from Herat, Farah, Nimroz and Badqis provinces attended the program.

Dr. Mohammad Asef kabir PPHD started the event with his speech. “The aim of today gathering is to celebrate midwives day and increase public awareness about the importance role of midwives in reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality” he said. He said that we need to focus on preventable cause of maternal death to reduce it.

After that, Mrs. Sunita Sahrif director of AMA Herat welcomed all the guests and delivered AMA president IDM message. Then Mrs. Wajita Saeed deputy of AMA Herat presented the AMA Herat activities including celebration of AMA 11<sup>th</sup> annual congress 2015 in Herat , participating in different events and

programs at national level, introducing midwives to the different workshops and advocacy meetings in different levels about challenges in front of midwives in Herat province.

Dr. Hanifi head of Institute of Health Science was the next one who had speech, He said that during the last years, IHS graduated many midwives according the national midwifery standards so fortunately now most of the public and private health facilities at Herat are equipped with skilled midwives, even in remote area.

Mrs. Hashimi who was member of AMA presented the respectful maternity care. Event was continued with the role play of midwifery students. The story was about a lady that was pregnant and had home delivery with losing her kids in her last pregnancies. Now she came to the clinic while she was pregnant again. The midwife provided her information about ANC, and encourages her to come to the clinic for her delivery. Pregnant woman had new healthy baby at clinic and was encouraged by the midwife to give colostrum and breast milk to the newborn. Using the FP counseling for the mother was the last part of Drama.

The event concluded with appreciation and awarding ceremony of best midwives from Herat, Farah, Nimroz and Badqis provinces. Ceremonies came to end with serving the refreshment.

#### Annex I: IDM Agenda – Kabul

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
09:15- 9:30	Midwives walk	H.E Deputy Minister and Midwives
09:30-09:35	Recitation of the Holy Quran	Ms. Zuhra Sadat
09:35-09:40	National Anthem	
09:40-09:50	Welcome of Honored guests by General Director of GDCM	Dr.Muhibullah Zieer
09:50-10:00	Opening speech by H.E. Deputy Minister of Public Health	H.E Deputy Minister Ms.Najia Tariq
10:00-10:10	AMA Speech and (Key message of IDM 2016)	Fahima Naziri AMA Acting President
10:10-10:20	Remarks of AMA Founder and International Confederation of Midwives Technical Advisor	Ms.Pashtoon Azfar Ziayee
10:20-	Remarks from USAID	USAID representative

10:30		
10:30-10:40	Remarks from UNFPA	UNFPA representative
10:40-10:50	Short video	UNFPA
10:50-11:00	Award distribution	
11:00-11:10	Closing and refreshment	

## Annex II: IDM Agenda- Provincial Levels

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activates</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>
9:00-9:10	Recitation of Holly Quran	
9:10-9:20	Welcome speech	
9:20-9:30	PHD speech	
9:30-9:40	Governor Representative speech	
9:40-9:50	IHS director speech	
9:50-10:00	AMA president speech	
10:00-10:10	ICM key messages	
10:10-10:40	Role play	
10:40-11:00	Award distribution	
11:10-11:20	Closing	

## Annex 111: Abbreviations

ICM: International Confederation of Midwives

IDM: International Day of Midwives

PPHD: Provincial Public Health Directorate

IHS: Institute of Health for Science

CME: Community Midwifery Education