



# Afghan Midwives Association

## Mother's Night Event Report

Kabul – Ministerial palace of Afghanistan

5<sup>th</sup> September 2016



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<b>Name of Event</b>	Mother's Night event celebration
<b>Date of Event</b>	September 05, 2016
<b>Venue of Event</b>	Ministerial palace of Afghanistan

<b>Type of Event</b>	<p><b>Side Event:</b> Advocacy and Facilitating of discussion between policy makers and mothers</p> <p><b>Organized by:</b> Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) with close coordination of Afghan Women Network</p>
<b>Number of Participants</b>	250

## ***1. Introduction***

Since 2005, each year Afghan Midwives Association celebrates Mother's Night. In 2016 Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) successfully celebrated the 5th Mother's Night event with financial support of JHPIEGO HEMAYAT project and close cooperation of Afghan Women Network (AWN) at Ministerial palace of Afghanistan. The Purpose for this vital event and gathering was advocacy and facilitating effective and efficient discussion between policy makers and Mothers under the theme of "Let's focus on solutions to improve Maternal and Neonatal Health".

- 1 Advance participatory dialogue
- 2 Make MNH a priority
- 3 Increase accountability
- 4 Improve transportation and referral systems
- 5 Strengthen equality and humane, equitable care

## ***2. Commencement of Event***

The event started by warm welcoming and recitation of the Holy Quran by the Afghan Midwives Association (AMA).

### 3. Speeches

- President of AMA, we are here this night to advocate mothers and neonatal health and Political pressure from the input the community, particularly pregnant women in order to create and implement policies lead us to achieve SDG3, Studies show that midwives play a key role in the society in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in decreasing the maternal and neonatal mortality and ensure access to basic health services in the world, Access to professional midwives for women and newborns deemed to be a big need for the present and the future. to ensure that we have enough competent and professional midwives in line with norms of ICM to care of Mothers and Newborns the Afghanistan government should continue their support to regulate and strengthening midwifery professionals .
- The representative of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has given her speech and in her speech she mentioned that the fruitful efforts in improving maternal and neonatal health in Afghanistan extraordinary results as well as seek broadly and without doubt playing the role of midwives in this area is appreciated. Despite all the maternal mortality rate is 327 per 100,000 live births in Afghanistan, This means that we are still halfway. Still more midwives need to decrease the number of maternal mortality in the country. In addition, she mentioned that in this important gathering I request from Prominent government figure, respected parliamentarian, representative of ministries, representative of national and international INGOs to support us in this aim to decrease maternal mortality in Afghanistan.
- Representative of Women's Affairs delivered her speech and she started with this theme: Midwives caring children and mothers during living and dying moments. And she mentioned that it our great pleaser and appreciated that every year Afghan Midwives Association with close coordination of the Ministry of Pubic Health and Afghan Women Network to conduct mothers night event to draw attention of health workers to maternal and child health, this gathering will be strengthen of coordination of relevant departments, at the end she announced that the Ministry of Women Affairs repeated again its suggestion which appointed out last year in this event that we are still waiting to receive list of 34 best midwives and nurses from 34 provinces of Afghanistan to appreciate their hard work and activities in their related provinces.
- The representative of UNFPA delivered his speech and he thanked the Afghan Midwives Association for brining us together today to raise awareness about the many important aspects of women and girls health especially when they are reborn as mothers with a new birth in Afghanistan; and he added that this high level advocacy event such as Mothers Night is absolutely a logical and necessary next step in the evolution of Afghanistan's public health

care system and it is pleasure of stakeholders who are involved in this process. This is the forum where I would like to advocate for the establishment of the council. A council as a legal authority will ensure the application of nationally recognized professional standards to ultimately improve the quality of accessible health services, and he also mentioned the support of UNFPA in a range of activities in partnership with MoPH and AMA, he also mentioned that UNFPA will continue its support for provision of quality midwifery services throughout Afghanistan to save mothers' lives.

#### ***4. Discussions between Mothers and Policy Makers***

##### **A. Mothers**

1. Two of my pervious children have born normally, in this time when I was pregnant for third time and my contraction it got more hours and I went to clinic the weather was cold and the roads were closed due to heavy snow, after I reached to the clinic I deserved the operation because of my fetuses that was not in normal position in my tummy. But unfortunately in the last three years before in the mentioned clinic there was lack of operation possibilities and a mother came to delever her baby but due to abnormal position she was a candidate for the operation; but there were no possibilities for this purpos and the roads were closed and there wasnt any option to be refered her for the other HFs for opration.
2. I just want to share the problems of mothers in our village, we live in the area where the roads are always closed for 6 months and is traffic not allowed during this period. People come to clinic and get the medication they need to travels many hours and even one full day to reach the HFs by horses and donkeys, due to these challenges they are not deciding to go to HFs; However, they will only go to the HFs until they face the critical problems and complications. Unfortunately, when accepting this difficult path they had hours to reach a health facility. First, the staff of clinics will not communicate with them well, second, lack of health services, lack of examination and medication facilities are not enough, people are discouraged and those who prefer good economic will travel to Kabul and those who are destitute just will pray to God.
3. My previous child was born at public hospital; I am not satisfied with the state of health of hospitals, Public hospitals are full of wastes, cockroaches, insects, rats and cats that are always traveling in the atrium and nobody have attention to these issues, I didn't slept all the night from fear of insects and I was very annoyed but nobody took care of these problems. Unfortunately, my husband doesn't have enough financial possibilities to go to hospital, however visiting private hospitals require enough money. In this stage I am very depressed and confused, thus I highly request the Ministry of Public Health to address the aforementioned issues in order to provide quality services for Afghan mothers.

4. When I was eight months pregnant the contractions was started then I went to Barchi public hospital they asked me to be there for one day and tomorrow they said we didn't have enough space you should go to another hospital with out any transportation facilities we reached at Estiqlal Hospital Health care provider of the mentioned hospital were slept and their communication was not good with us they refer us to other hospital when we reached at Rabia Balkhi hospital my baby normally born and he was normal first after we reached at home in the second they my baby dead and I am very disappointed to faced this problems, So I kindly request the policy makers to take attention to solve this problems especially to provided transportation facilities for refer systems.
5. I want to share my good memory with you all that fortunately my all child born at home with help of TBA and all of my children are normal and I didn't faced any problems and complications, so in this stage I plan to be at home for my next delivery.

## **B. Policy Makers**

- I really appreciate and thanks Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) and Afghan Women Network for conducting Mother's night event and invite mothers from remote areas of Afghanistan to be in important gathering and share their stories and challenges which they are facing in their communities, concerning mother's speech I would to we announced that we are committed to continue our support to development of health quality sever, and she mentioned that health care providers conditions are not good and it first we know and we should solve the health care providers problems to improve the quality of health services.
- As we know that rash of clients of HFs especially public hospital are much and the health care provider will not have time to rest and we should understand health care provider also and we should recognize the best health care provider and appreciate them to encourage for their better performance and activities



## ***6. Conclusion:***

Mother's night is a special opportunity for the sharing of problems and successes in improving maternal health in Afghanistan has been and still is a night to defend and support of safe motherhood and the commitment

## ***7. Achievement at the end of the evening:***

- Raising public awareness about safe motherhood and public support to improve maternal health in Afghanistan
- Increased support for decision-makers to establish policies regarding the improvement of maternal health
- Strengthen the capacity of the Afghan Midwives Association for advocacy to improve maternal health
- Raising public and political awareness and call for action to improve maternal health and improving maternal health in Afghanistan creation of the media

