



Name of Event	Mother's Night event celebration
Date of Event	May 05, 2014
Venue of Event	Ministerial palace of Afghanistan

Type of Event	Side Event: Advocacy and Facilitating of Discussion between Policy Makers and Mothers Organized by: Afghan Midwives Association (AMA)
Number of Participants	250

Since 2005, each year Mother's Night is celebrated by Afghan Midwives Association. In 2014 the 10th Mother's Night event was successfully celebrated by Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) with financial support of Save The Children (SC) and close cooperation of Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) at Ministerial palace of Afghanistan. The Purpose for this vital ceremony was advocacy and facilitating effective and efficient discussion between policy makers and Mothers.

1) Commencement of Event

The event was started by warm welcoming by Afghan Midwives Association with Holy Quran Recitation by AMA .

2) Speeches

The Representative of AMA , every woman has the dream of child, and waiting for that moments to be mother, so after almighty Allah it is the job of midwife to give healthy child to mother and healthy mother to her family, and it is just possible in case that we have a educated, trained, sympathetic and well-known midwives.

The Country Representative of Save the Children Mr. Paul has given his speech and in his speech he mentioned that in United Nation's Report about Mortality and Infants Afghanistan has made great growth in reduction of mortality.

He added that the safest country in World for mothers is Finland and the worst country is Somalia, and has had a considerable development in terms of making itself a better country for mothers, and it is 146th country in the world.

He further added that as reports show that Mortality has been reduced by 25% in Afghanistan and it is good achievement, but still Afghanistan needs to work enough hard to make Afghanistan a better place for Mothers.

3) Presentations

Presentation 1: The Brief Journey of Afghan Midwives Association, Vision ,Mission, achievements was presented by Afghan Midwives Association, for further information please find attachment (A).

Presentation 2: State of the World's Mother Report 2014 was presented by Save the Children, According to this report since 2000; Afghanistan has made a dramatic progress in reduction of maternal mortality. According to this report, Afghanistan is not among the 10 worst places to be a mother any more while in 2010 and 2011 Afghanistan was one of the worst place in the world to be a mother. For further information please kindly find attachment (B)

4) Discussions between Mothers and Policy Makers

A. Mothers

1. I went to a midwife for my infant in my tummy to ask her for my health and my infant health, and Midwife said that you have already lost your infant in your tummy , so I got too much sad and I went to another midwife, and I told to the midwife about my condition and I have mentioned as well as about my history when I went to another midwife, after checking the midwife said that you and your baby is healthy and you should go to Hospital during birth of child, then we went to hospital and after sometime my baby got birth and I and my family was really happy about my health and new born baby health.
2. I have a 9th month baby in my tummy and I am scared too much that how will i pass the moments that baby will be born, because I am really scared and I have heard that in many governmental and personal hospitals , pregnant women during child birth faced with many problem and they lose their baby and their own life , thus kindly I request from Minister of public health to consider these issues with strong commitment.
3. I have give birth to my second child in Kabul, and I have found some developments in health sectors, but still we are missing and I request from minister of public health to consider the hospitals and low quality of services and also poor behavior of health servants.
4. I have took my sister to a hospital and she was pregnant and after some moments, my sister started bleeding, and Midwives and doctor said, please take your sister to another hospital because we cannot do anything more and if she die here, thus our hospital will be defame.
5. It was my first baby I went to hospital and my baby was born , but after my baby was born doctor said that your baby do not have heart, so I said how it is possible baby without heart, and they took him to oxygen and give him kenola in his hear but after sometime I lost my baby.
6. We want to know that what males accomplished concerning mothers and women rights, we have many Policy Makers but they are behaving with their wife/family/ woman in a wrong methods, thus we kindly request MoPH to consider this issue through supporting education

B. Policy Makers

- I really appreciate and thanks Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) for conducting Mother's night event, concerning mother's speech I would to mention that Afghanistan has made progress in health section, but as I have heard the voices of mothers, really it was sad memories and we (MoPH) working on a manual about medical ethics and behavior , and we are hoping that it can help us more and more, although Afghanistan has made good progress but we have a long way forward, that needs to be worked enough hard.
- For better and good ethics and behavior of medical staff we need to reduce working hours , because midwives and doctors are working much more ours, more than 8 hours and when they get tired so they cannot make good behavior and also cannot make good and effective discussion with people/ patients and customers.
- Concerning mother's speech about fear during pregnancy and child birth, she can take help form their family, experienced midwives and doctors.
- For enhancement of quality of medical staff skills and medicine, a strong monitoring system should be established to monitor and control the whole health system and also there is miscommunication between health staff and people, even though some of health staff is working hard, but at the end people do not make a thanks from them for their hard work.
- We should find out why medical staff conduct misbehavior or miscommunication, because some of them are working 24 hours and in this case they are unable to be a good wife for their husband, a good mother for their children and good doctor/midwife for their patient , and also they need to study daily to update their knowledge and skills , but because of 24 hours working they cannot be a good doctor for their patient and good women for their family .
- Medical practices should be started and also we should work on medical ethics and behavior to be changed positively.
- We have had for more than 3 decades war and conflict in our country, thus it has completely put negative effectives on people, society and whole community system, thus for this reason we need to have effective contribution of media. Health programs should be supported through media, and in this case we can increase awareness of people and as well medical staff.
- Strong and effective Monitoring system is very necessary , we have monitoring system for midwifery now, but staff for this system is not midwifery professionals, thus in each unit we need professionals and competent officials.
- Minister of Public Health: We Make special thanks from all you to participate in this vital workshop and today here I would want to express my happiest memories during my work here as minister of public health , During my all trip to different provinces of Afghanistan and capital, I participated in many graduation ceremonies of midwives, and it was a great moments and memories for me; midwives, showed practically that how they give birth to women, and it was great to see the competent ability of midwives.

5) Conclusion and signed compromised made on below points

Contributing to improve maternal and child health care services by improving the quality of services and preventing un-safe practices through:

- Establish a regularity Body (Council)
- Strengthening the standards of maternal health care practices
- Supporting the process of approval midwifery/ nursing acts.

6) Attachments (Presentations)

- Afghan midwives Association (AMA) journey and achievements (attachment (A))
- State of the World's Mother Report 2014 by Save the Children (Attachment (B))