



MEDICAL REFRESHER COURSES FOR AFGHANS - MRCA

Medical Refresher Courses for Afghans (MRCA) is a French NGO, entirely health oriented. Set up in Oct. 1985 in Paris, it provided Afghan refugees in Pakistan with integrated health services from 1986 to 2004. Other health services were later implemented in Afghanistan: in Chak-e Wardak from 1994 to 1997, in Kabul Maiwand Hospital since 1996, in Charikar Provincial Hospital (Parwan province) from 2002 to 2004, in Logar since Dec. 2004 and in Baghlan since Aug. 2006.



Midwifery Training in Pole Alam

From its establishment in 1986 in Peshawar upto its present projects in Kabul, Logar or Baghlan provinces, MRCA has launched various health-training projects in different medical specialities and has been providing medical assistance to the Afghan population, particularly to the most vulnerable groups: women and children, refugees.

MRCA CURRENT PROJECTS

MRCA LOGAR PROJECT

In 2004, MRCA received a grant from the European Commission (EC) to implement the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) in Pole Alam, Mohammed Agha, Khoshi, Azra and Kharwar districts of Logar province. MRCA established its Provincial Sub-Office in Pole Alam and started fieldwork in Dec. 2004. As of June 2006, MRCA extended its activities to the whole Logar province, including Charkh and Baraki Barak districts.

Health Facilities and Posts in Logar

District Hospitals (DH): 3

Comprehensive Health Centers (CHC): 5

Basic Health Centers (BHC): 18

Basic Emergency Obstetrics Center (EOC): 2

Mobile Clinic: 1

Health Posts (HP): 270

MRCA presently supports and runs 29 health facilities in Logar. Female staff was found for almost every health facility and male medical doctors for most BHCs. MRCA encourages health workers from Kabul and other locations to move to Logar and, if possible with support of communities, provides accommodation facilities and jobs to their spouse or a family member.

MRCA got additional funding from the United Nations Population Fund Afghanistan (UNFPA) for two EOCs in Azra and Kharwar, in order to ensure access of pregnant women to safe and clean delivery facilities. These two districts are geographically located in remote areas with extremely bad roads, where unavailability of obstetric service has been leading cause of maternal mortality. 24-hour service is now available in both districts.

MRCA provided motorbikes for the Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) and the

Community Based Health Care (CBHC) program, in order to improve vaccination and community health services to be operated through a planned number of 270 health posts.

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY UNIT (RSU)

Since 1996, MRCA is running a 30-bed rehabilitative and plastic surgery Unit in Maiwand Hospital in Kabul. This program is a vital contribution to the rehabilitation of disabled people, with reconstructive surgery services concerning mostly congenital disabilities (cleft lips, cleft palates, club feet, etc.), burn after-effects and neoplasms. It annually provides an average of 2300 patients with OPD services and more than 1200 surgical interventions.

The RSU is also a teaching hospital for plastic surgeons. It is placed under the Ministry of Higher Education and the Kabul Medical University umbrellas and presently is the only habilitated training center in Afghanistan for rehabilitative and plastic surgery.

MRCA is presently in the process of launching a new reconstructive surgery program in Mazar-e Charif, with support from the French Government.

MIDWIVES SCHOOL IN LOGAR AND BAGHLAN

The Logar Midwifery School was established in Pole Alam in August 2006 with financial support from UNFPA. 21 students from remote and barely accessible areas are receiving training there. MRCA opened another Midwifery School in Baghlan Province (Pole Khumri) in November 2006, with 23 students from 13 districts.

Nationwide educational standards are used in both midwifery schools. Their implementation was endorsed by the National Midwifery Education Accreditation Board (NMEAB), as part of the Community Midwifery Education Program (CMEP), a national plan for decreasing maternal and child mortality in the country.

22 Years of MRCA activity in numbers

OPD services (No of patients)	1,354,693
IPD services (No of patients)	65,195
Surgical operations	33,969
Gynecology/Obstetrics	75,801
Dental services (No of patients)	113,944
Laboratory exams	431,154
Radiography	64,883
Physiotherapy	39,196
Immunizations	543,178
Health Education	901,154
Training (different categories)	3,837

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MRCA MISSIONS

1. To contribute to the restoration of the Afghan health system through the provision of training courses for the improvement of the medical and managerial skills and knowledge of the Afghan health personnel.

2. To contribute to the improvement of the health status and the reduction of mortality and morbidity amongst Afghans, through the provision of health education, preventive and curative health care services.

MRCA PRIORITIES - MRCA commits itself to contribute to the implementation of health services for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan and therefore fully supports, in general, the Afghan Compact and, in particular, the guidelines encompassed in the Ministry of Public Health “National Health Policy 2005-2009 and National Health Strategy 2005-2006 – A policy and strategy to accelerate implementation”. This commitment sums up in the following priorities:

- Reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
- Reducing child mortality
- Reducing communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Institutional development and capacity building

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING - MRCA Training Of Trainers program includes ultra-sound, plastic surgery, disabilities, mental health, family planning, child care, infection prevention, etc.

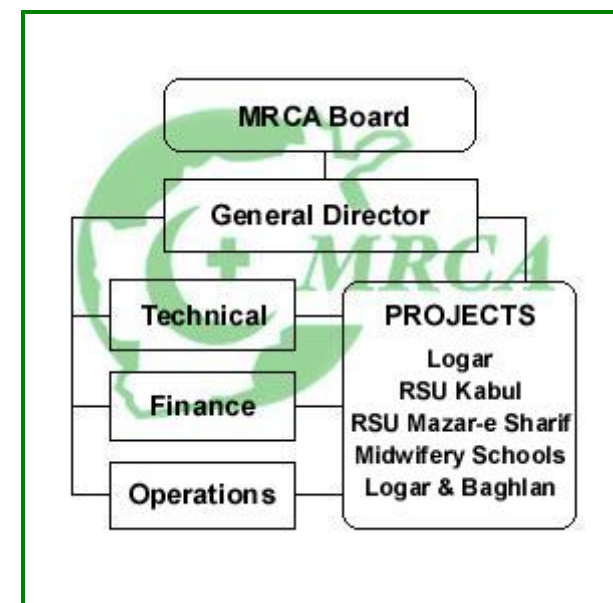
MAIN DONORS - MRCA mainly achieves its objectives with financial support from the European Commission, the French Government, the Japanese Embassy in Afghanistan, the UNFPA, the World Health Organisation and the World Bank.



Emergency Obstetrics Center team in Mango (Kharwar)

MRCA HUMAN RESOURCES

A group of volunteers based in Paris, France, is responsible for fund raising, development of strategy, policy, control and supervision of the organization's overall activities. Field projects management is under the responsibility of an Afghan General Director who leans on hundreds of Afghan staff and a very few expatriates.



IN 2007, MRCA HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE AFGHAN POPULATION WITH HEALTH SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR 22 YEARS !