



CHARIKAR HOSPITAL PROJECT

History

The Charikar Hospital is located in Charikar, Capital city of the Parwan Province, near to most governmental offices and Kabul – Mazar highway. In the past, this hospital was the provincial hospital of Parwan and it served the Parwan and Kapisa provinces (Shamali area). In order to respond to the need of the people of the Shamali area the Afghan government decided in 1992 to expand and upgrade the hospital to 100-bed complex. Construction of new infrastructure in addition to the previous building begun but, unfortunately, due to on-going fighting in the area, the construction was not completed.

Located on the frontline during the five years fighting between the Northern Alliance and the Taliban, the hospital suffered loss of its staff that fled the area, as well as significant structural damage. As a matter of fact, no health care was provided there on those times, apart from a First Aid Post for war related victims.

MRCA reactivates the Charikar Hospital in April 2002

Thanks to the NPO-RRAA NGO that took in charge the rehabilitation of the old hospital building, the medical activities restart on the first week of April 2002, through EU/ECHO and French MAE funding. The hospital has an initial capacity of 25 beds, which is far below the needs of the population of the area, as there is no in-bed health facility in the area, just a very limited number of clinics run by NGOs.

Every day, up to 500 patients, mainly women and children, are attending the Out-Patient Department (OPD) located in two rooms of the building whose construction was stopped due to the fighting, building that is in very poor condition. OPDs are available for medical, pediatrics, surgery (general, urology, ear-nose-throat (ENT) and orthopedics), and gynecology (referral cases only). IPD activities restart in pediatrics, surgery, gynecology/obstetrics (severe cases only) and medical.

MRCA begins to gradually replace the existing equipment from the operation theater – still fitted with timeworn equipment that goes back to the Communist Government period –, laboratory, X-ray as well as furniture of the patients' rooms. Facing lack of space within the hospital complex premises, MRCA rents a house close to it and installs there its Office, as well as laundry, kitchen, storage and training rooms.

As the public electrical network is not operating at all, MRCA installs a generator for supplying electricity to the hospital (3 hours per weekday or for emergency purposes only, due to the generator condition) as well as pumps and pipes for water supply from the canal, as there is no water supply system available.

Renovation of buildings continues from November 2002

Renovation of buildings continues from November 2002 mainly with the renovation of the building so called “New Building” that was not completed due to above-mentioned fighting, thanks to URF Architects and TTM, supported by DKW funding.

Renovation of the New Building forces MRCA to find another location for OPDs. In December 2002, three tents lent by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are installed in the yard for that purpose. They will stay there for more than one year. OPD activity never stops, even during winter. Surgery OPD is relocated in covered rooms. Average of 350 patients is attending the OPD daily.

In spring 2003, the shell of the new building is completed, kitchen is shifted to a small building back of the yard, well is sunk out and water tower is built – but not all water supply issues are solved –, operation theater is fitted with new equipment, and two ambulances are operating thanks to the donation from the Belgian NGO Solidarité Afghanistan Tournaisis (SAT). The capacity of the hospital rises to 32 beds, but some beds are installed in the corridor, due to lack of available space.

Funding problems are faced during summer 2003

Huge funding problems are faced during summer 2003 and affect the good running of the hospital. Hopefully, thanks to SAT, activity can restart at fall, at normal pace, for six months.

New building is inaugurated in March 2004

Delays are affecting the date at which the New Building is available. Tents are still in use in the yard for OPD during the 2003-2004 winter. A few days before Now Ruz, on March 18, 2004, Dr. Soheila Sediq, Minister of Health, proceeds to the inauguration of the New Building in presence of many guests and TVs. Shifting begins the day after and two weeks later patients are moved to the new premises. Tents for OPD are taken down.

The capacity of the hospital rises to 80 beds. A very well equipped operation theater is now available (2 operating tables), as well as new and high-quality X-ray, ultrasound, EKG, laboratory, blood bank, furniture for patient rooms, etc. Office and training rooms are also available within the New Building.

In October 2004, Charikar Hospital Project is handed over to MoH

Informed in April 2004 that the Ministry of Health (MoH) will run on its own all the health facilities of the Parwan Province as soon as possible, MRCA prepares itself to hand over the Charikar Hospital Project to the MoH, while continuing to run the Project thanks to World Bank/MoH bridge funding. The Charikar Hospital Project is handed over to the MoH on October 31, 2004.

In 31 months, 267 000 patients received medical treatment and 500 training sessions were performed

In the 31 months during which MRCA was responsible for the management and the running of the Charikar Hospital Project, more than 267 000 patients – most of them were women and children – attended the hospital for medical treatment, and 153 000 received health education in the waiting rooms. Almost 13 500 patients were admitted in IPD and almost 6 000 surgical operations were performed.

More than 500 training sessions were given to medical and administrative staff within the hospital premises, for on job training or refresher courses. Moreover, one gynecologist was sent to Belgium for six months training.

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