



COURS MÉDICAUX DE RECYCLAGE POUR AFGHANS

MEDICAL REFRESHER COURSES FOR AFGHANS

WHO ARE WE?

INTRODUCTION

Medical Refresher Courses for Afghans (MRCA) is a French NGO, entirely health oriented. Set up in October 1985 in Paris, it provided Afghan refugees in Pakistan, with integrated health services from 1986 to 2004 in Peshawar. 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 Province since December 2004, in Baghlan Province since November 2006 and in Mazar-e Sharif since December 2007.

Missions

- 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.
- 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 services.

Main Donors

MRCA mainly achieves its objectives with the financial support from the European Commission, French Government, Embassy of Japan in Afghanistan, the UNFPA, the World Health Organisation and the Hungarian Baptist Aid.

Human resources

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

MRCA CURRENT PROJECTS

Logar Project

Thanks to a grant from the European Commission (EC) in December 2004, MRCA implemented the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) in Pol-e Alam, Mohammad Agha, Khoshi, Azra and Kharwar Districts of the Logar Province. In August 2005 MRCA got additional funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the functioning of two Basic Emergency Obstetrics Centers (EOC) to ensure access of pregnant women to safe and clean delivery facilities in Azra and in Kharwar districts, located in remote areas with extremely bad roads, specifically during winter, and unavailability of obstetric services.

MRCA renovated both Pol-e Alam and Mohammad Agha District Hospitals – where no operation theater was functioning – and provided adequate equipment and supplies to the 20 health facilities placed under its responsibility, with due respect to BPHS requirements – including motorbikes for the vaccination and Community Based Health Centers programs – and achieved the recruitment of both male and female staff.

In August 2006, the French NGO AMI (Aide Médicale Internationale) handed over to MRCA all the health facilities run in Baraki Barak and Charkh Districts, including one District Hospital. As a result, MRCA is to date in charge of 28 HFs and three EOCs in the Logar Province, funded by the EC and the UNFPA respectively.

Community Midwifery Schools

MRCA is running two Community Midwifery Schools which provide theoretical and practical training as designed in the nationwide Community Midwifery Education Program.

A first one started in August 2006 in Pol-e Alam, Capital of Logar Province, thanks to UNFPA funding. A graduation ceremony for the first batch of 20 community midwives was held on December 25, 2007, with attendance of HE Dr. S. Fatimie who awarded the graduates. A second batch is on the way.

In November 2006, MRCA opened another Midwifery school in Pol-e Khumri, capital of Baghlan Province, thanks to WHO and French embassy funding. A first 23-trainee batch is presently completing their curriculum. A second 11-trainee batch is soon to start, thanks to HBAid funding.

Rehabilitative Surgery Units (RSU)

Thanks to funding from the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and from various private funds, MRCA is operating the only two reconstructive surgery units in Afghanistan. These programs provide a vital contribution to the disabled people's wellbeing improvement.

The first one, a 30-bed Rehabilitative and plastic Surgery Unit (RSU) located in the previous plastic surgery Unit of Maiwand Hospital in Kabul, has been operating non-stop since 1996. RSU is the only teaching hospital habilitated for the training of plastic surgeons in the country, through a 3-year training curriculum. From its start, six surgeons, including two women, graduated from RSU, and three more are getting trained in this specialty.

A second 20-bed Burns Reconstructive Surgery Unit (BRSU) - 5 beds are dedicated to severely burned patients - opened within the campus of Mazar-e Sharif Regional Hospital (Balkh Province) in December 2007.

MRCA PREVIOUS PROJECTS

MRCA Peshawar Hospital Project

From April 1986 till August 2004, MRCA's 85-bed teaching hospital, in Peshawar, within the Integrated Training Center (ITC) premises, provided out-patient and in-patient services to Afghan refugees as well as to Afghans coming from Afghanistan for treatment. The hospital had gynecology, obstetric, nutrition rehabilitation and growth monitoring, ear-nose-throat (ENT), orthopedics, general surgery, urology, dentistry, immunization and health education services. This hospital had three well-equipped operation theatres and the required supportive services such as Laboratory, EKG, Ultrasound, Radiography and blood bank. Moreover, the MRCA Peshawar Hospital was a teaching hospital that provided training to different categories of health personnel from numerous NGOs, as well as to female students from Medical College.

Chak-e-Wardak Hospital Project

MRCA ran the Chak-e-Wardak Hospital from April 1994 till October 1997. The hospital provided surgical, medical, gynecological/obstetrics and pediatric Out-Patient and In-Patient Departments. MRCA set up refresher training courses for all core staff of the hospital in the Peshawar Hospital premises.

Charikar Hospital Project

MRCA operated the Parwan Provincial Hospital, which is located in Charikar city, from April 2002 till October 2004. The capacity of that hospital rose from 28 to 80 beds in 18 months and is now providing out-patient and in-patient services in gynecology, obstetric, pediatric, medical, orthopedics, urology and general surgery. The hospital has two well-equipped operation theatres and the required supportive Units such as Laboratory, Radiography, Ultrasound and blood bank.

Hygiene Training

Thanks to funding from the French Embassy in Afghanistan, MRCA ran in 2007 a training program aimed at improving hygiene good practices in the university hospitals of Kabul city, Maiwand and Ali Abad.

Updated May 16, 2008