



موسسه خدمات صحی و انکشافی افغان

Afghan Health & Development Services

# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



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ANNUAL REPORT



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# PREFACE

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Another year has come and gone. Unfortunately, peace has not returned to the devastated war shattered Afghanistan. The word "PEACE" in Afghanistan is becoming an imaginary phenomenon that no one seems to have the ability to reach. Of course, PEACE has been the core subject of every national and international forum, seminar, workshop, conference, and symposiums, but so far none of the initiatives resulted in a mechanism to be used for bringing real PEACE and resolving the on going conflicts in the country.

AHDS in its own capacity strives to participate in the process of peace in a completely different manner. The organization has dedicated its efforts to humanitarian activities through offering Primary Health Care Services, building and rehabilitation of essential projects and structures as well as human resource development in the hope of providing a sustainable livelihood to target communities and paving the road for establishing real peace.

Despite of financial difficulties experienced during this reporting period, the tremendous work accomplished by AHDS is the result of endless efforts of AHDS' staff, especially the field staff who worked day and night with dedication and commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the staff of AHDS for a job well done. I would also like to extend my gratitude to AHDS' partners who provided generous monetary and technical support that enabled AHDS to achieve its set objectives.

Aziz R. Qarghah  
Director

# INTRODUCTION

Afghan Health and Development Services (AHDS), an organization founded by Afghans, is a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-political organization. Since being established in April 1990, AHDS has concerned itself in rehabilitating Afghanistan's health sector and providing comprehensive primary health care services to the needy Afghan population. The organization has matured significantly in the past decade, having grown from operating eight health facilities with 30 staff in 1990/91, to running 38 health facilities (of various categories) with over 260 staff members in 2000. In the past ten years AHDS has established 56 health facilities in the following provinces: Logar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Kandahar, and Urozgan of which one is a Regional Training Center (RTC). 18 of the health facilities have been handed over to local authorities.

AHDS considers it a privilege that it has the opportunity to serve the bereft people of Afghanistan. AHDS provides ever-increasing access to health services through its health facilities especially for mothers and children in its target areas.

In the first half of 1999 AHDS was in a trying situation in that it was unable to secure definite funding. MSF-Holland backed part of AHDS' primary health care program in Urozgan Province. The rest of the health care program,

which is based solely in Khandahar Province, was accepted in theory by the European Union but no funds were released at that time. In the previous year (1998) funding from the European Union was late so a part of the funding remained unused at the end of the year. AHDS appealed for a four-month extension into the year 1999. The European Union failed to respond at all to our proposal. Being disappointed by AHDS' primary donor, AHDS decided that to sustain its core program of mother and child it would have to cut costs. To obtain this goal AHDS ceased to operate 12 basic health posts (BHP) in February 1999. The European Union belatedly accepted that the program be continued into the first four months of 1999. For the remaining two months of the first half of 1999 AHDS sustained itself using its own resources.

The second half of 1999, AHDS was running on limited bridge funding. This funding was generously provided by mainly UNICEF and MSF-Holland but AHDS also received aid from WFP, UNOPS, and WHO. Since AHDS was running on bridge funding it was only able to keep its MCH centers, MCH/CHCs, BHCs and 12 BHPs operational thus caring for the needs of mothers and children but decreasing all other medical support to the bare minimum. Unfortunately the 12 BHPs, whose operations were suspended in the first half of 1999, were not reinitiated in that year.

## Mission Statement

AHDS' primary goals are to participate in the rehabilitation of Afghanistan's health care system and provide health and development services to meet the current and future needs of the Afghans living in and returning to Afghanistan.

# AHDS' POLICIES

**Development/Rehabilitation:**

Due to the past 21 years of war and conflict, the socioeconomic infrastructure has been severely dismantled in Afghanistan. AHDS attempts to develop a satisfactory base for humanitarian activities through building and rehabilitation of essential projects and structures as well as human resource development. By the end of AHDS' mission the well installed projects with qualified manpower and fully equipped basic constructions can continue to serve the communities.

**Equitable service:**

Considering impartiality, AHDS serves all Afghan communities on an equitable basis regardless of ethnic, religious, and political concerns.

**Focus on women and children:**

Even before the war, Afghanistan's health and nutrition situation was among the worst in the world, especially for women and children. Infant and under-five mortality rates are at 165 and 257 per 1000 live births since 1995. The maternal mortality rate has more than doubled, from 640 per 100,000 live births in 1990, to 1700 per 100,000 in 1996 (UNICEF). One reason for these high rates is likely the economic collapse and consequent pressures on maternal and child nutrition. Other reasons include deterioration of access to safe water and sanitation, destruction of urban health services, and insufficient funding for the rural health networks. Therefore, AHDS always has brought the most vulnerable i.e. women and children in focus of any kind of assistance.

**Community based set-up:**

Close involvement of the communities will be promoted, fostered and sustained throughout each project cycle. Any project requires full community participation at every stage, to guarantee its sustainability. Without it, no services could or would be established. The community must be one, which is actively seeking, and contributing to, efficient social and developmental services for themselves. The active participation of local communities in the program is clearly indicative of their confidence as well as desire to protect and maintain the set-up.

**Affordability and effectiveness:**

Considering the poor socioeconomic infrastructure of Afghanistan, AHDS likes to utilize the most efficient, economic and essential technologies and programs. They should be simple enough to be easily handled and maintained and efficient enough to fulfill the basic demands of the target communities.

**Decentralized system:**

AHDS targets the most deprived, vulnerable, and remote communities, where they cannot reach the centralized facilities, which are almost always located in urban area with a limited catch-up spectrum. Therefore, AHDS starts the project from remote village and district levels in a centripetal manner. In this way the basic needs of communities will be prioritized and satisfied in a timely manner.

**Integrated approach:**

It is a proven fact that to reach the ultimate goal "health for all" is practical only through an integrated primary health care approach. AHDS would like to implement all of the 8 components of Primary Health Care in its target areas. While community participation and health education are kept in the center of AHDS' health activities, maternal and child health, immunization, control of locally endemic diseases, provision of essential drugs, treatment of common ailments, nutrition, and water/sanitation are important means of its health service delivery.

# TARGET AREAS IN 1999

The target areas for this project are in Southwest Afghanistan, more specifically Kandahar City, eight districts of Kandahar Province and two districts of Urozgan Province. An alphabetical enumeration of the areas is listed below:

1. Arghandab
2. Arghistan
3. Daman
4. Dand
5. Deh Rawood
6. Kandahar City (Loiwiala)
7. Khakrez
8. Maywand
9. Panjwaie
10. Shahwalikote
11. Tirinkote

## Beneficiaries:

The total number of beneficiaries in the target districts with primary health care activities was estimated at 1,056,905 individuals including:

176,609 children	< 5 years
64,000 children	< 2 years
35,000 children	< 1 year
197,430 women	15 - 45 years of age

(Based on Afghanistan Projected Total Population 1997, on the basis of UNIDATA 1990 population estimates).



**Location of AHDS' Health Facilities**



# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

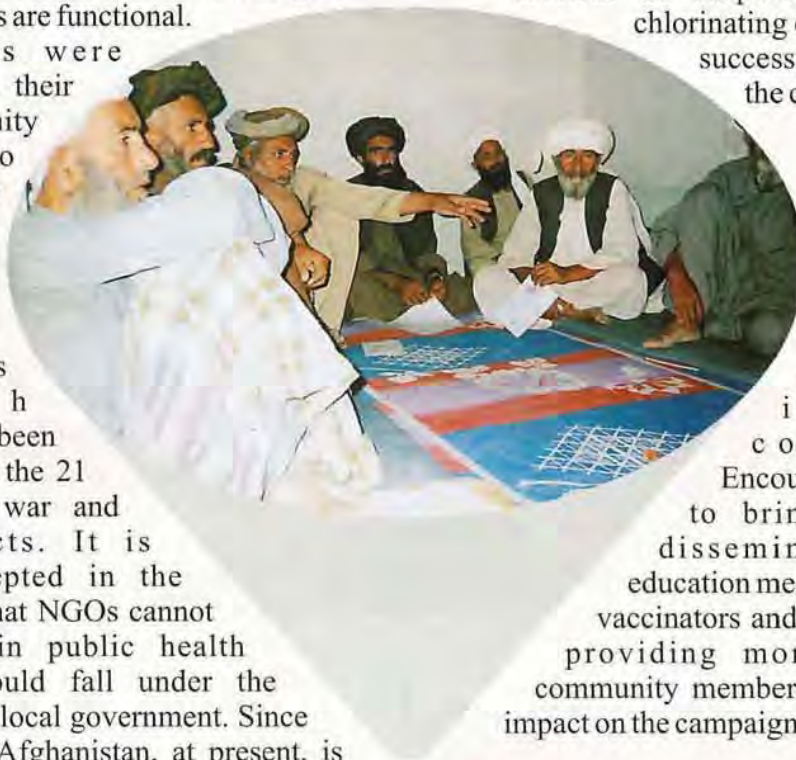
AHDS has managed community health committees in districts and main villages, where health facilities are functional. The committees were encouraged to urge their respective community members to participate and play an active role for their health and rehabilitation.

Afghanistan's health infrastructures have been disintegrated due to the 21 years of imposed war and internal conflicts. It is unanimously accepted in the development field that NGOs cannot indefinitely sustain public health programs that should fall under the responsibility of the local government. Since the government of Afghanistan, at present, is unable to meet the health care needs of its people, AHDS has fostered community participation to help partially sustain its health care program.

The health committees have monthly meetings in which AHDS' technical staff participates. The committees widely participated in the anti-cholera and polio eradication campaigns.

The community leaders' and community health committees' participation in controlling and preventing the spread of cholera helped to reign in the chances of an outbreak.

Circulation of health education messages, early referral of suspected cases, and the chlorinating of water sources were successfully performed by the communities.



In the Polio eradication NIDs participation of the community health committees and other community members is highly commendable.

Encouragement of people to bring their children, dissemination of health education messages, facilitating the vaccinators and volunteers' jobs, and providing moral assistance to community members had an outstanding impact on the campaign's success.

The community contributed for the improvement and provision of wells 14%, and for the provision of latrines 56%. The community contributions were both physical and financial. They helped the project by digging wells and its surrounding area, provision of locally available construction material like sand, gravel, rock, raw bricks, wood etc. and participation in the carrying of commodities where it is not possible by a vehicle.



Under the cost recovery scheme in clinics, monetary contributions from the communities were more than US\$ 31,402 during year 1999. The community participation in the cost recovery program aims at creating the feeling of ownership amongst the population thus increasing the interest in developing and maintaining their health services and facilities.

The people eagerly participated in projects for promotion of their health status. The health committees encourage the community members to participate in making decisions directly effecting their own health and to help financially where feasible.



# CO-ORDINATION with other AGENCIES

Coordination with others in the field is vital for rehabilitation and development. AHDS tirelessly meets with other non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the United Nations agencies (UN) in order to promote co-ordination in the southwest of Afghanistan. AHDS works on its current relations with other organization and tries to cultivate new relations to ultimately help the people of the target southwestern region. AHDS has actively participated in the meetings of Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB), Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), South West Afghanistan and Baluchistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC), Afghanistan Programming Body (APB), Technical Coordination Committee (TCC), and Regional EPI Management Team (REMT) etc.

AHDS has had close contacts with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Medicine Sans Frontier (MSF), World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Health Organization (WHO), Health Net International (HNI), Guardian, IbnSina, Afghan Development Association (ADA), Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), the Danish

Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), Mustashfa-e-Omar hospital, Alkhedmat, Afghan Doctors Association in Germany (ADAG), Islamic Aid Health Center (IAHC) and Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) to exchange ideas, share experiences and information, and coordinate their activities.

AHDS and UNOPS launched a joint TBA training program in the "4 Peace Districts" of Khandahar; Shahwalikote, Arghandab, Daman, and Dand. As a result of the co-operation between AHDS, Guardian and HNI it was agreed to integrate their vertical health programs into AHDS health facilities in the region. AHDS, at this moment, is carrying out the HNI's malaria control project in Shahwalikote, Arghandab, Maywand, Deh Rawood, and Panjwaie at mother and child comprehensive health centers (MCH/CHC) as an integrated part of its primary health care activities. Also the physiotherapy project of Guardian for the disabled is effectively serving the people of Arghandab District.

# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

AHDS' regional training center (RTC) is designed to improve the quality of health services through appropriate human resource development. AHDS' RTC facilitates training/refresher courses, seminars, and workshops for both AHDS' staff and many other organizations that work in the southwestern region of Afghanistan. The WHO, UNICEF, MOPH, IbnSina, IAHC, Alkhidmat, Mutashfa Omar and ADAG organizations all make use of and gain from our RTC.

All training programs, scheduled at the beginning of the year were carried out. In addition to the scheduled training programs the RTC has constantly kept on top of the issues at hand by doing inspections on the quality of work at AHDS' health facilities and assessing the training needs of its staff. Based on this they review and adapt their teaching material when needed and offer extra training when and if the need arises.

The training plan was prepared on the basis of:

- Familiarization of newly employed staff with concepts of mother and child health, primary health care, health education, management etc.
- Determining the refresher course needs and contents during routine supervision
- National concerns like Breast Feeding week
- Seasonal widespread diseases like cholera, acute respiratory infection and so on.



## Activities of Regional Training Center in year 1999

### TRAINING WORKSHOP/SEMINARS:

Subject	Participants' groups and	No.	Duration	Organizations attended
<b>February</b>				
Approval of treatment protocol workshop	District Health Officers	12	2 days	AHDS
<b>April</b>				
BHW refresher course	Basic Health Workers (BHW)	10	13 days	AHDS
EPI workshop	Vaccinators	10	2 days	MOPH, IbnSina, AHDS
Nutrition seminar	Doctors and mid-level health workers MLHW	13	2 days	AHDS
<b>May</b>				
PHC seminar	Doctors, MLHWs	13	2 days	MOPH, ADAG, AHDS, IAHC, IbnSina
<b>July</b>				
BHWs refresher course	BHWs	10		AHDS
<b>August</b>				
Breast feeding workshop	Female Health Workers	121	7 days	All health organizations in Southwest region
Malaria seminar	Doctors and MLHWs	18	2 days	AHDS, MOPH, ADAG, ARYA, Mustashfa-Omar, IbnSina, Alkhedmat, IAHC
<b>September</b>				
Management workshop	DHOs and managers	13	3 days	AHDS, MOPH, HNI, REMT
<b>October</b>				
Training of Trainers (TOT)	TBA trainers & Health educators	10	2 days	AHDS
<b>November</b>				
Nursing refresher course	Nurses	7	10 days	AHDS
Acute abdomen seminar	Doctors and MLHWs	12	2 days	AHDS
<b>December</b>				
Rational use of medicine	Doctors, MLHWs & Pharmacists	10	2 days	AHDS
Safe Motherhood Initiative (SMI) workshop	Female Health Workers	25	7 days	AHDS

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

<u>Jan - Mar:</u>	➤	Planning and preparation of teaching material and learning aids.
<u>June:</u>	➤	Participation in conducting oral rehydration therapy/health education system (ORT/HES) seminar for five provinces of the region, supported by WHO.
<u>July:</u>	➤	Control of Diarrheal Diseases (CDD) on job training for staff of Mirwais hospital.
	➤	Participation in development of a plan for control of diarrhea and cholera in the region.
	➤	Translation and distribution of Cholera prevention practical guidelines for health educators and BHWs.
<u>August:</u>	➤	Participation in technical coordination meeting.
	➤	Participation in one-week breast-feeding campaign.
	➤	Participation in polio eradication NID (national immunization day) micro planning in the region.
<u>September:</u>	➤	Provision and distribution of new health education material.
<u>October:</u>	➤	Participation in mid term review of health plan in the region.
<u>December:</u>	➤	Review and update of health education prime messages manual.
	➤	Revision of AHDS treatment protocol.

# The PRIMARY HEALTH CARE program

## Overall Objective:

The overall objective of the AHDS Integrated Community Based Primary Health Care Program is to reduce morbidity and mortality rates with special focus on mother and child by increased accessibility to curative, preventive, and promotive care through cost effective, affordable primary health care interventions.

## Specific objectives in year 1999:

1. To provide comprehensive health services to the target populations through fully operational AHDS health facilities.
2. To reduce the incidence of the main vaccine preventable diseases (tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, pertussis, diphtheria, measles, and tetanus) by increasing immunization services to the target populations.
3. To improve community members' behavior and attitudes towards health related issues and problems, especially within the female population regarding the importance of using safe drinking water and acquiring proper sanitation habits.
4. To improve safe birth practices by increased access to trained traditional birth attendants (TBA) in remote areas.
5. To improve the capability of the local health work force by offering continuous training.
6. To increase community participation and support in the rehabilitation and operation of their health network.

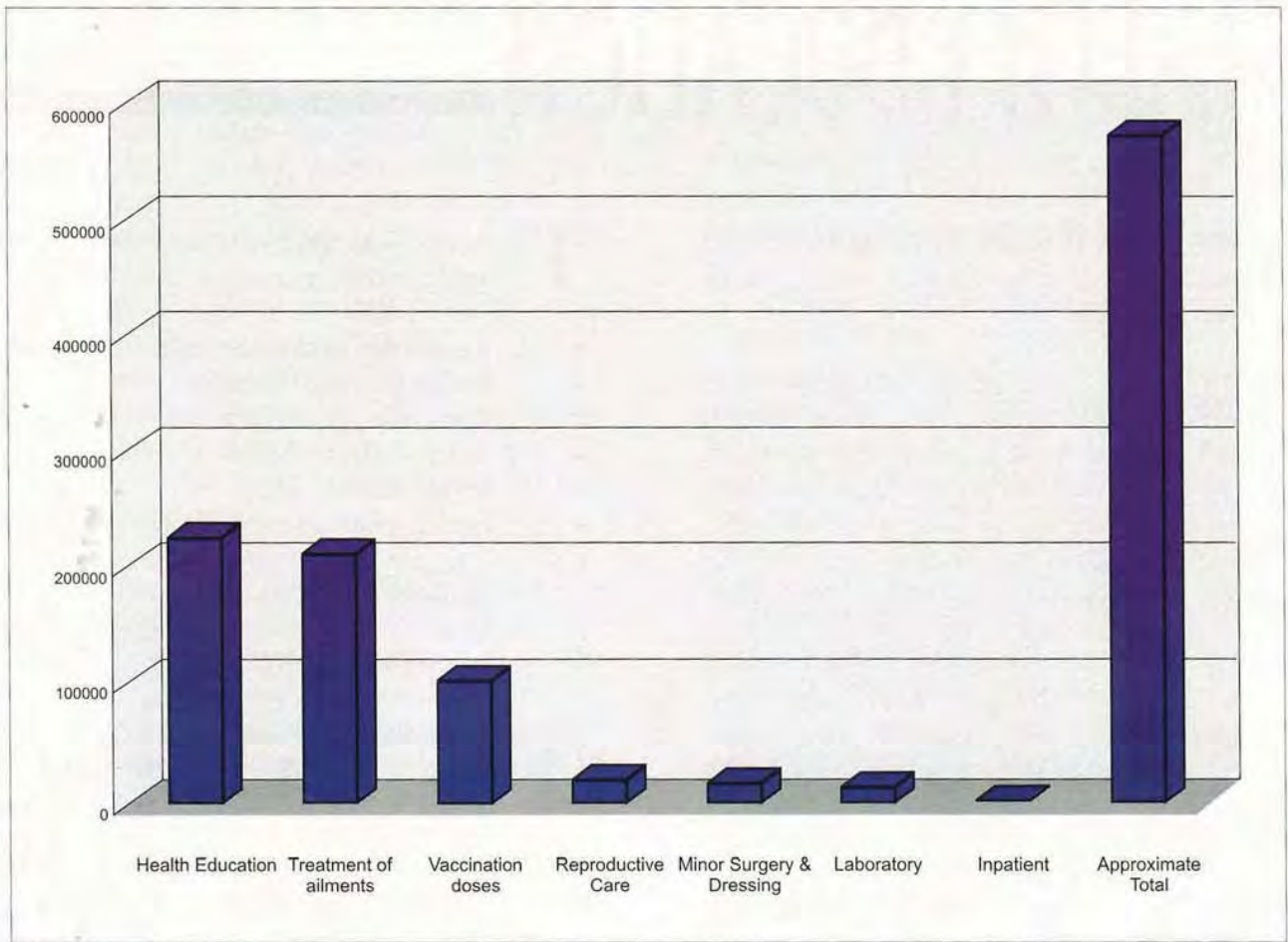
7. To provide safe drinking water facilities, tackling the root causes of water born diseases and non-hygienic conditions, by digging and improving 150 shallow wells and installation of hand pumps.
8. To promote the use of sanitary latrines in communities by recruiting 750 families to accept and use sanitary latrine facility at their homes.

AHDS has strived to bring all the 8 components of the primary health care objectives to the target areas. Even though all the components were not launched in all the target areas, still the majority of them are in practice. AHDS was able to provide water and sanitation to only two target districts. AHDS was not able to address the nutrition component adequately.

## COMPONENTS OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

1. Health Education
2. Water and Sanitation
3. Immunization
4. Nutrition
5. Maternal and Child Health
6. Control of Communicable Diseases
7. Provision of Essential Drugs
8. Treatment of Common Diseases

Different types of health services provided by AHDS health facilities are summarized in the chart on top of next page.



Give a hand  
to participate,  
by endowing public health,  
in emancipating  
health and peace!

# HEALTH EDUCATION

**A**HDS health network was able to provide health education to 226,410 people during the reporting period.

**B**oth female and male educators have provided health education to individuals visiting health facilities, to community members in villages as well as to students attending schools and madrasas. In order to reach more people, AHDS hired two couples (married) for Tirinkote and Deh Rawood districts to do door-to-door health education that focused on safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene related issues. The 761 trained traditional birth attendants (TBA) and outreach vaccination teams also played an important role in the health education efforts. In addition, AHDS circulated a large quantity of printed health education material i.e. leaflets and calendars, which have influenced the behavior of the beneficiaries residing in the target areas.

**T**he health education sessions included the following prime messages:

- Acute respiratory tract infection (ARI)
- Breast feeding/Weaning
- Correct usage of medicine
- Diarrhea/Dehydration
- Drug abuse
- Family planning
- Hygiene/Sanitation
- Immunization
- Mine awareness
- Nutrition/Malnutrition

**A**HDS successfully implemented the main components of PHC, health education, increased awareness of community members about the importance of clean water and sanitation. Due to the needs of the communities the top priorities for health education in the second and third quarters were cholera/acute diarrhea, oral re-hydration and water/sanitation.



Teaching people how to use ORS, and informing them about the risks of diarrhea and the importance of its prevention took place at health facilities and within the communities. The technical staff at the health facilities and community members widely participated in the chlorination of water sources.

**T**hroughout the year the staff of AHDS tried not to miss any opportunity for social mobilization. The staff took advantage of the national immunization days (NID), during the second and fourth quarters of the year, to educate the people of the target areas about polio and means of eradicating it.

**T**he national week of breast-feeding was in the first week of August. AHDS emphasized the value of this practice throughout the region. One of AHDS' female doctors had the chance to participate in the "breast feeding workshop" for master trainers conducted by UNICEF/WHO in Peshawar. Then she facilitated training seminars for all female health providers in the Southwest region with the support of UNICEF, WHO and MOPH. A total of 121 people participated in the

seminars. During the promotional week, all of AHDS' technical staff dedicated most of their time in disseminating prime messages on breast-feeding. AHDS fully participated in making the breast-feeding week a special event in its health facilities and in the communities where the organization provides services.

**C**ommunity health committee members and other village representatives passed out messages promoting breast-feeding as well as cholera prevention and polio eradication at social gatherings such as Friday prayers. Due to this kind of participation the community awareness as a whole increased. Because of this increase in awareness people were more willing to bring their children for polio vaccinations and chlorinate water supplies. AHDS' field office on a daily basis receives more and more requests for the provision of more wells and latrines.

**A**HDS found the chance to include sexually transmitted diseases (STD) into the routine health education prime messages because of frequent incidences of vaginitis and pelvic inflammatory diseases.







## MOTHER and CHILD HEALTH

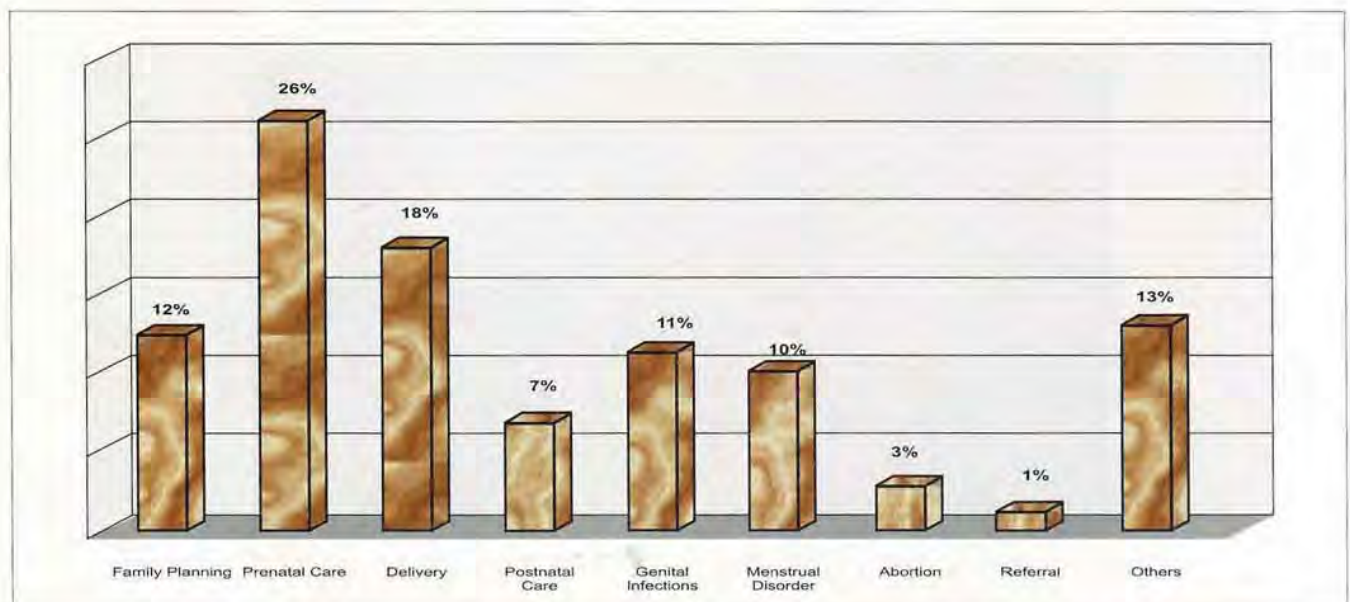
AHDS' objective is to reduce maternal and child mortality rates through its health services offered mainly at MCH centers and by trained traditional birth attendants (TBA).

AHDS has 10 maternal and child health care centers (MCH) as well as 761 TBAs in the target southwestern region of Afghanistan. To facilitate the needs of the mothers and to assure efficient health services AHDS has posted a female TBA master trainer in its regional office who is in constant contact with the MCH coordinator at the main office.

The MCH clinics provide health education, family planning, prenatal care, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, management of childhood diseases, and treatment of gynecological problems. MCH centers are

sufficiently manned by female staff, which is made up of M.D. doctor, nurse, health educator, TBA trainer, and other support staff. In addition to the MCH clinics all AHDS health facilities cover the necessities for children's health.

All in all, 77,586 women and 83,856 children were treated in AHDS health facilities during 1999. The number of beneficiaries for maternal services was 19,494. From the total maternal health care the following percentages are outstanding: prenatal care 26%, delivery at clinic and home 18%, family planning 12% and genital system infections 11%. Only 1% of all the obstetric/gynecology cases attended AHDS' MCH centers needed to be referred to Mirwais hospital located in Kandahar City, which receives support from ICRC and MSF.



Percentage of different maternal health cares out of total 19,494 cases recorded in AHDS' MCH centers

### Traditional Birth Attendants:

The training of traditional birth attendants has proved to be a culturally acceptable and cost effective way to promote the save motherhood initiatives in the target area. The Daie, old women of villages who help mothers during the delivery of babies, are retrained by AHDS TBA trainers according to the WHO guidelines in a two-week course after which they each receive an initial TBA kit. This year alone AHDS has trained 241 new TBAs. This brings the total from 520 TBAs to 761. The TBA trainers of each district supervised the TBAs on a regular basis.

While supervising the TBA trainers would provide the TBAs with refresher courses and supplies where needed. TBAs greatly benefited from the supervision and monthly meetings. The monthly meeting served as a good opportunity for data collection, refresher training, and the exchange of ideas and experiences between participants. Assisting mother before, during, and after delivery do not sum up the usefulness of the TBAs. They also provided a good source for promoting health education on prenatal care and diarrheal diseases/dehydration. They also referred cases with potential complications to MCH centers.



### Children:

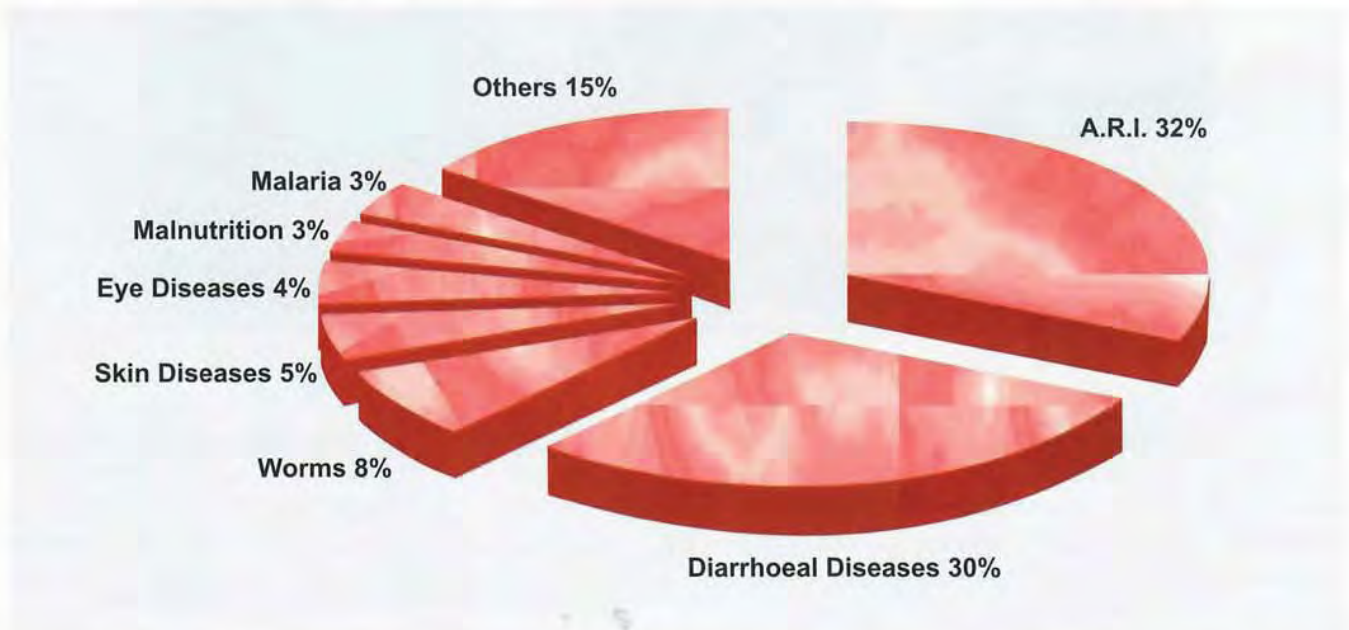
39.4% of all the beneficiaries of AHDS' curative health services were children of less than 15 years of age. Management of childhood illness is integrated into AHDS' primary health care service as an important part of MCH. AHDS provides treatment for sick children and essential

medication for free. Vaccination against six killer childhood diseases and health education especially on acute respiratory infection, diarrheal diseases and nutrition are valuable steps that are taken to improve health of the children.



The under five years age group children is the most vulnerable and has higher morbidity and mortality rates. Disease patterns in this age group, recorded in AHDS facilities during the reporting period, show that instances of acute respiratory infection (ARI) and diarrheal disease

(DD) are the most frequent followed by worms, skin diseases, eye diseases, malnutrition and malaria. This shows that increased service and supplies should be dedicated to the prevention and curing of ARI and DD.



Percentage of top 7 diseases among less than five years age children treated in AHDS' health facilities in 1999

# IMMUNIZATION

AHDS strives to reduce the incidences of vaccine-preventable diseases in the target areas. There are 12 active Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) fixed centers that work out of AHDS' MCH and basic health centers (BHC). UNICEF supported this project by providing vaccines, cold chain, incentives, and training of the staff. Each of the 12 fixed centers are staffed by two male vaccinators who perform in-clinic and out reach activities. The vaccinations provided are for the six-killer diseases of children: Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Pertusis, Tetanus, and Measles. On top of this AHDS employed female vaccinators

to work in MCH centers who attract a larger number of women. This helped especially in protecting against maternal tetanus. In this reporting period, only a few cases of measles, tuberculosis, and poliomyelitis were reported but no cases of diphtheria, pertusis, and tetanus. Male vaccinators arranged to spend more time on outreach activities, which consequently increased the immunization coverage. The outreach program is carried out from the EPI fixed locations on a regular basis (8-12 days per month) to better serve remote areas and increase immunization coverage.





**A**HDS is an active member of the Regional EPI Management Team and the Provincial EPI Management Team in the Southwestern region. The organization has been directly involved in the daily supervision of EPI activities, vaccine transportation to the fixed centers, and payment of incentives to vaccinators.

**A**HDS has had the honor to participate actively in Polio eradication national immunization days in Kandahar and Urozgan provinces. AHDS district health officers worked as district NID coordinators and managed the implementation of the vaccinations. It was an honor for AHDS to work for such a valuable measure, which helps to save the lives of children and assists to prevent future deaths and disabilities. Our assistant project coordinator was assigned as Provincial NID Coordinator for

Urozgan Province. He has done an exceptional job and has arranged the first social mobilization march in Tirinkote. Polio eradication NIDs supported by WHO and UNICEF were successfully carried out by AHDS in its target areas. There were two rounds of national immunization days, one in spring and another in fall, with two subsequent polio vaccine doses one month apart. The spring NIDs were on May 9-11 and June 13-15. The autumn NIDs were on October 25-27 and November 27-29. These campaigns were a major step towards a better and healthier life for children.

**A**lthough the outcome of EPI is not within the range of what was projected for the area, the total number of vaccine doses administered shows a gradual upward trend, which gives AHDS reason to be optimistic for the future.

# WATER and SANITATION

**I**ntegration of a water and sanitation component of AHDS' Primary Health Care Program allowed us to better reach both goals. AHDS through a pilot project planned to dig new wells and upgrade existing wells by adding pumps. On top of this AHDS constructed 750 sanitary latrines in Tirinkote and Deh Rawood districts of Urozgan Province. This was to help prevent water-borne and sanitation-related diseases and as a result decrease the morbidity and mortality rates in the target areas.

**I**n rural area, people have traditionally relied on irrigation canals, open ponds, Karez (underground tunnel), rivers, springs, and unprotected shallow wells as the source of their water needs. Unfortunately, most of these water supplies are contaminated and are not potable.

**T**he women and children are usually the ones responsible for attaining the water needed in

the households. A lot of time and effort is wasted in carrying water from the source to the house as the water sources are usually far from the houses. It goes without saying that this task becomes very burdensome for pregnant women and young children especially in hilly areas. Therefore, wells providing safe water sources in villages not only prevent disease but it also increases the quality of life of the population of the target area.

**I**n remote areas of the target districts, people are not accustomed to use latrines. The men use open fields far from their houses and the women defecate in designated open areas in their compounds. Careless spread of human waste is a major contributor to the transmission of infectious disease. In addition it is very difficult for women to find a private site, which creates unnecessary psychological burden.





**I**n the past five years, that AHDS has worked in Tirinkote and Deh Rawood, AHDS has observed relatively high morbidity and mortality rates, and found that water-borne diseases are a major cause. Due to inadequate supply of potable water and poor sanitation practices cholera cases have been a constant threat to the residents of these areas.

**T**he first stage of the project was digging and improvement of 150 wells in target villages, which was carried out from mid May 1999 to August 31 of 1999. In the second stage the wells were improved more to ensure water safety and

November and December 1999 to AHDS regional office. The installation process of hand pumps was started immediately, and 19 were completed by end of December. 23 latrines were built and people are using them in both target districts by the end of December. By this project, AHDS provided access to sanitary latrines for family members including women, children and elders.

**T**he project will be hopefully completed in next 3 months (continuation in year 2000).

# TREATMENT OF COMMON DISEASES

213,029 patients were treated in AHDS health facilities in year 1999. It is important to note that women and children were the major beneficiaries of the services provided thus indicating very good results in reaching the objectives of the program. 75.8% of the people receiving curative services were women and children.

The curative services are provided by AHDS' 2 mother and child health centers, 1 comprehensive health center, 8 mother and child/comprehensive health centers, 2 basic health centers and 12 basic health posts in Kandahar and Urozgan provinces.

The curative services include treatment of common and locally endemic diseases, minor surgery, provision of medicines, and routine laboratory examinations. The MCH/CHC facilities are equipped to deal with emergency cases around the clock, with night staff on duty.

Considering the budgetary constraints, and knowing that AHDS was running on bridge funding, the functional health facilities have helped greatly the people of the target areas.

The most common

diseases among children found in AHDS target areas were acute respiratory tract infection and diarrheal diseases, which made all together 62% of cases in the vulnerable less than 5 years age group. The most common morbidity causes for adults were also acute respiratory tract infection and diarrheal diseases. In addition peptic diseases, musculo-skeletal disorders, anemia, malaria and urinary tract infection were predominant burdens of people's health.



Treatment of common diseases is one of the important components of primary health care. The reason for this is that not all people are familiar with community health, and will not readily believe that preventative and promotional measures will increase their health until they see it for themselves. AHDS provides medical consultation and free essential medication. It should be mentioned that to encourage community participation a trivial fee has been charged for each visit by a patient.



**AHDS health statistics during 1999 in Kandahar and Urozgan Provinces**

	<1, Male	<1, Female	1-4, Male	1-4, Female	5-14, Male	5-14, Female	>15, Male	>15, Female	Total
January	851	660	1433	1168	2224	1598	3652	3962	15548
February	1063	817	1530	1227	2122	1754	4343	7003	19859
March	612	497	1227	1093	1423	1290	4881	5093	16116
April	966	727	1420	1121	1826	1670	4094	5629	17453
May	907	910	1671	1461	1951	1697	5036	8025	21658
June	638	495	1074	984	1842	1279	4519	5161	15992
July	777	740	1398	1164	1752	1164	4959	6732	18686
August	755	662	1209	1121	1426	1265	3810	6872	17120
September	709	626	1556	1184	1770	1207	4484	8017	19553
October	948	782	1328	1009	1618	1187	4511	8153	19536
November	668	623	995	831	1296	1126	3500	6245	15284
December	606	559	1063	929	1398	1177	3798	6694	16224
Total	9500	8098	15904	13292	20648	16414	51587	77586	213029
Percentage	4.5	3.8	7.5	6.2	9.7	7.7	24.2	36.4	100.0

Women > 15	Children < 15	Women and Children	Men > 15
77586	83856	161442	51587
36.4%	39.4%	75.8%	24.2%

**Top 7 diseases among <5 years age group**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
A.R.I.	1911	1871	1410	1065	971	945	761	1044	1063	1350	1211	1334	14936
Diarrhoeal diseases	696	757	672	1311	2356	1368	1642	1541	1106	1025	728	740	13942
Malnutrition	149	152	174	198	167	149	84	86	95	147	149	82	1632
Malaria	84	104	90	115	233	191	210	125	148	125	69	23	1584
Worms	366	594	355	455	337	212	158	130	329	254	97	261	3548
Eye Diseases	145	192	101	115	91	123	64	109	415	298	153	192	1998
Skin diseases	204	310	173	209	172	178	152	177	179	233	106	110	2203

**Top 7 diseases among >5 years age group**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
A.R.I.	3397	4173	2279	2345	2140	2037	2405	2204	2758	3270	3319	3626	33953
Malaria	273	438	341	570	1210	1210	1185	876	697	620	264	192	7876
Diarrhoeal diseases	891	1228	1021	1244	1588	1422	1835	1563	1197	883	791	765	14428
Musculoskeletal Disorders	1065	1055	698	1063	942	979	947	989	571	852	791	568	10520
Urinary Tract Infection	312	354	394	517	624	554	533	510	641	616	628	446	6129
Septic Diseases	1036	1258	929	1075	1244	1162	1321	1193	1236	1189	998	1872	14513
Anaemia	240	648	434	672	694	571	607	802	777	997	859	648	7949

**In - patients**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Total	104	134	81	89	282	112	327	261	97	96	89	89	1761

**Laboratory**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Total	342	976	913	931	1586	1980	1190	1754	731	1517	629	629	13178

**Minor Surgery and Dressing**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Total	1272	1027	1297	1268	1357	1410	1598	1557	2010	1178	945	945	15864

**Health Education**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Total	16725	21458	18123	18457	21984	17729	20233	19226	19971	20154	15509	16841	226410

**Immunization**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
BCG, < 1 year	898	840	716	683	601	473	215	505	590	578	549	621	7269
OPV1 + DPT1, < 1	823	780	517	497	586	507	472	490	928	639	557	648	7444
OPV2 + DPT2, < 1	531	541	442	445	527	394	379	449	435	525	507	632	5807
OPV3 + DPT3, < 1	514	473	530	560	420	435	424	437	533	448	466	605	5845
OPV4, < 1	900	389	298	316	225	261	123	240	315	278	258	354	3857
Measles, < 1	396	745	585	531	354	360	234	412	482	490	512	93	5194
BCG, 1-2 years	861	885	659	645	411	482	516	507	487	388	270	457	6568
OPV1 + DPT1, 1-2 years	823	902	528	504	404	509	502	542	439	461	281	490	6385
OPV2 + DPT2, 1-2 years	585	487	445	451	436	437	313	430	425	305	274	488	5076
OPV3 + DPT3, 1-2 years	731	435	483	517	399	382	350	311	492	376	260	464	5200
OPV4, 1-2 years	880	367	273	288	233	246	217	217	248	252	93	274	3632
Measles, 1-2 years	1797	2764	1100	938	481	491	426	508	571	535	357	764	10732
Women, TT1	875	1182	1084	1102	1245	1095	954	831	898	831	694	595	11386
Women, TT2	693	798	557	841	940	640	719	718	631	699	395	440	8071
Women, TT3	319	610	637	652	572	377	399	438	407	596	389	369	5765
Women, TT4	390	375	360	336	489	342	367	226	324	351	300	196	4056
Women, TT5	252	301	236	226	388	185	237	251	162	204	195	112	2749

**Reproductive Health**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Family planning	144	242	173	165	227	173	159	150	164	195	213	344	2349
Menstrual disorder	158	184	143	109	192	188	155	133	134	171	167	131	1865
Prenatal care	278	484	302	299	368	412	372	449	595	573	416	505	5053
Postnatal care	83	147	95	100	114	132	60	86	220	91	60	86	1274
Delivery	20	57	13	5	12	12	18	14	19	26	120	28	344
Delivery by TBA	324	262	275	328	231	154	172	423	300	247	249	192	3157
Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases	150	217	150	154	168	108	123	196	159	246	216	311	2198
Pregnancy toxemia	3	9	4	3	11	7	12	4	6	10	0	9	78
Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding	40	50	61	62	53	66	22	35	78	70	39	101	677
Abortion	14	55	32	17	69	61	38	37	74	40	32	45	514
Infertility	47	102	50	61	77	89	63	61	92	68	80	55	845
Others	64	65	87	48	36	94	98	75	134	88	72	48	909
Referral	18	14	24	14	19	17	21	18	27	17	17	25	231
TOTAL	1343	1888	1409	1365	1577	1513	1313	1681	2002	1842	1681	1880	19494



## CONTROL of COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

AHDS has actively participated in control of communicable diseases in Urozgan and Kandahar provinces.

9,460 malaria cases were found and successfully treated in the target areas. AHDS provides health education on malaria eradication, gives anti-malarial drugs, and distributes bed-nets to the community members. Health Net International (HNI) supports malaria eradication program by providing technical advice, anti-malarial drugs, subsidized drug impregnated bed-nets, and incentive for health workers in 5 districts.

The most critical problem of the year was the cholera outbreak in the region, which caused a great deal of suffering among the afflicted populations. A total of 28,379 cases of acute diarrhea were recorded in AHDS facilities, which were treated carefully to avoid further spreading the disease. 963 cases of suspected cholera including 9 deaths were reported from AHDS target districts. The incidence was respectively higher in Tirinkote, Maywand, Deh

Rawood, and Arghistan districts. The contamination is usually caused by unsafe water sources and inadequate sanitation. Fortunately, the outbreak came under control with the help of the timely assistance of MSF-H and WHO. The epidemic was calmed down in October. Participation of the community health committees in controlling and preventing the spread of cholera was essential in reducing the outbreak.

There were national immunization days for polio eradication supported by WHO and UNICEF in spring and autumn. Polio is one of the prevalent and most devastating diseases among children, in Southwest region. AHDS was one of the main stakeholders in the campaigns with successful results in Kandahar and Urozgan provinces. The community members were very interested and responded well to the NIDs.

WHO supports our tuberculosis control program in Shahwalikote district by providing anti-tuberculosis drugs, laboratory facility and technical advice.



# NUTRITION PROMOTION

**T**he only but vital measure for nutrition promotion that AHDS has been able to handle yet is health education. The health educators used group discussions, flip charts, and food demonstrations for propagation of good nutrition habits for pregnant and lactating women as well as children.

**T**he prime messages consist of the importance of three nutritious food groups i.e. body building foods (e.g. protein containing foods), energy foods (e.g. fat and carbohydrate containing foods) and protective foods (e.g. vitamin and mineral containing foods). Female

and male health educators instructed people, especially mothers about the steps for weaning babies and what supplementary food should be given to pregnant and lactating women. Food demonstrations were done once a week in Mother and Child Health clinics to show mothers how to provide clean complete nutritious meals from locally available food. In sessions the mothers and health educators cooked porridge and beans/rice mixture and present children at the clinic consumed it. World Food Program support was much appreciated.

A large proportion of morbidity rate among women and children in developing countries is caused directly or indirectly by undernutrition.

# PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS

AHDS provides most of the essential drugs for patients who come to the health facilities. The drugs are chosen according to WHO's list of essential drugs compared to what the field requirements are. Common diseases in the area indicate, which types and quantity of medicine are required. To be specific about the quantity, the number of cases is multiplied by the dose of drug per day, which is in turn multiplied by the number of treatments per day. Different lists are curtailed according to professional expertise and

patient load of different types of health facilities. The medicines were purchased from Pakistan multinational companies on a quarterly basis. There are 2 lists of Pakistan based companies prepared by MOPH. One indicates the companies, which are recognized as producers of quality drugs based on standards, and the other shows low quality medicine provider companies. AHDS always considered the lists and almost all of the medicine provided in the year 1999 were from the acceptable multinational companies.



# MONITORING

The monitoring and evaluation of the project was carried out by all feasible means. Ensuring quality and coverage of offered services, supervision and monitoring of overall project activities as well as health services are carried out regularly. The project coordinator, technical manager and staff of the regional training center performed regular visits on monthly basis. In addition the technical support unit (MCH coordinator and medical coordinator) and finance team (finance director and accountant) from the main office have visited the project sites several times, supervised the project implementation and activities and provided the required technical support and guidance.

In addition a consultant with the financial support of MSF-Holland was hired to

# EVALUATION

objectively assess the overall managerial aspects of the organization. AHDS has already started the review of some basic pertinent managerial policies based on the consultants' findings and recommendations.

An evaluation team from International Rescue Committee (IRC) was assigned by the Netherlands Refugee Foundation to evaluate the pilot water & sanitation project of AHDS in Urozgan Province in December. Generally, outcome of this project is evaluated effective and a potential to aid additional improvements in the future. Some shortcomings are also pointed out by the team, which will be considered in the next projects to adapt a higher standard of work.



UNICEF and WHO staff have visited field activities and provided valuable technical advice for improvement of services.

To insure the quality of services and performance of AHDS' health facilities, MSF-Holland's expatriate professional staff assessed the programs in Kandahar and Urozgan Provinces, which showed satisfactory performance of AHDS' health services and

produced meaningful recommendations to improve the services. The assessment of Kandahar MCH centers was done in May 1999, and assessment of Urozgan primary health care project in September 1999.

MOPH staff and local authorities also supervised several times and were impressed by progress of the work.



# FINANCE

AHDS experienced somewhat rigid financial ups and downs during 1999. It was very difficult to cope in the vague situation where European Union (EU) had not sent any funding for operations 1999 and they did not give timely green light for the requested no cost extension by AHDS. It resulted in the closure of 12 basic health posts in Kandahar Province and limited the health services in the rest of health facilities for the first six months. In June 99, European Union decided to approve the no cost extension for the first four months of 1999. Fortunately, the Urozgan part of the health operation throughout

the year was financed by MSF Holland. Also Kandahar operation was financed by co-funding from humanitarian organizations mainly UNICEF and MSF-H as well as WFP, UNOPS and WHO for the second half of the year.

Stichting Vluchteling (SV) and UNICEF funded a pilot water and sanitation project in 2 districts of Urozgan Province.

The following table summarizes financial situation and donors of AHDS during year 1999.

BUDGET LINES:	DONORS' CONTRIBUTION (IN US\$)									TOTAL
	AHDS	EU	MSF-H	UNICEF	SV	UNOPS	WFP	WHO	COMMUNITY	
Services		1,299	19,484	9,924	3,600					34,307
Supplies		18,223	73,713	28,604	630	10,215	5,100	6,000		142,485
Construction		121		12,338	7,162					19,621
Operation	21,444	48,190	154,424	30,232	18,508				31,402	304,200
TOTAL	21,444	67,833	247,621	81,098	29,900	10,215	5,100	6,000	31,402	500,613





# CONCLUSION

The fifth year of AHDS efforts to rehabilitate primary health care in Kandahar and Urozgan provinces reached to its end seeding propitious hopes for future harvest. It was a year that AHDS experienced financial uncertainty causing in shrinkage of services and cautiously proceeding. In spite of this AHDS could provide tremendous health services especially the mother and child health care in the areas where no other means were available.

Significant improvements in the year were introduction of two experienced female staff in management team of AHDS and training program for female staff. AHDS employed a female doctor as MCH coordinator and a female TBA master trainer to improve quality of mother and child health care in the region. Considering the Taliban's rigid policies its great to be able to provide training workshops in Kandahar Province for female health service providers of AHDS and other organizations working in the region.

AHDS found itself tough enough to propel in the hard situation faced in year 1999. But it was learning a hard way to never rely on one donor. Multiple donors should be sought for the future projects to eliminate possibility of facing to blind paths. The already built community based primary health care program in target area is extremely invaluable to be stopped by just the simple words "please wait for approval of budget" or "the priority is changed".

## AHDS' HEALTH FACILITIES

No.	PROVINCE	DISTRICT	VILLAGE	HEALTH FACILITY	
1	Kandahar	Arghandab	District Center	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
2		Arghistan	District Center	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
3			Sundorzay	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
4			Yousuf Khail	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
5		City	Loiwiala	Mother and Child Health center (MCH)	
6			Kabul Shah	Regional Training Center (RTC)	
7		Daman	District Center	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
8			Jakan	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
9		Dand	District Center	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
10		Khakrez	Chinar	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
11			District Center	Basic Health Center (BHC)	
12			Lam	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
13			Nasir	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
14		Maywand	District Center	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
15		Panjwaie	District Center	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
16		Shahwalikote	District Center	Basic Health Center (BHC)	
17			Kajoor	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
18			Khairtoot	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
19			Kundelan	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
20			Lwala Wiala	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
21			Paryan	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
22			Suzni Achekzay	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
23			Wayand	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
24	Urozgan		Deh Rawood	Baghal	Basic Health Post (BHP)
25				Dehzak	Basic Health Post (BHP)
26			District Center	Mother and Child/Comprehensive Health Center (MCH/CHC)	
27			Kakrak	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
28			Labolan	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
29			Miandow	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
30			Segzai	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
31		Tirinkote	Garmab	Basic Health Post (BHP)	
32				Kakrak	Basic Health Post (BHP)
33				Kali Kala	Basic Health Post (BHP)
34				Kala Now	Basic Health Post (BHP)
35				Sufian	Basic Health Post (BHP)
36				Surmorghab	Basic Health Post (BHP)
37				Town	Mother & Child Health center (MCH)
38			Town	Comprehensive Health Center (CHC)	

**A** *HDS entreats you to participate in the process of peace for the indigent people who have lost their wealth and health by dedicating your time, empathy, advocacy and monetary inputs.*

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