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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Higher Education Project (HEP): Medical Education Component

OVERVIEW

The Medical Education Component of the Afghanistan Higher Education Project (HEP), which began in 2009, aims to improve pre-service medical training offered in Afghan public universities to better meet health workforce needs. The project works with Kabul Medical University (KMU) as well as other provincial medical schools, to establish a well-trained cadre of doctors who are able to offer high quality services in accordance with the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS). Additionally, this component of the HEP project will help strengthen the nursing workforce and design a Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum.

ACTIVITIES

USAID, in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and other stakeholders and advising bodies focus on the following activities:

- Develop and improve teaching methods, clinical rotations, public health competencies, English language training, and computer-based hands-on practice
- Conduct short courses and seminars in clinical medicine and public health topics for faculty using both Afghan and international instructors
- Strengthen the curriculum offered at medical schools for both undergraduate education as well as graduate education for doctors and nurses
- Update the curriculum so that the content reflects current evidence-based best practices
- Work with a task force and faculties to tailor the teaching content to the real-world application of knowledge vital to Afghanistan's public health and healthcare needs

RESULTS

- Created a joint Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Public Health Task Force on Public Health Education
- Held a series of short courses on public health nutrition, principles of public health, and biostatistics
- Launched Afghanistan Medical Education Community portal as a digital resource for training Kabul Medical University in English
- Developed a research methodologies course for KMU faculty and students
- Graduated the first class of nurses from KMU with a four-year degree in Nursing in April 2010

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