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COHAFA 17 DEVGEN 30 COASI 31 COHOM 44 GENDER 14 SAN 64 RELEX 185 INTER-REP 14

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	2 February 2023
To:	Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
Subject:	Afghanistan
	- presentation by MSF

Following the COHAFA meeting of 2 February, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by the Médecins Sans Frontières (1)(2).

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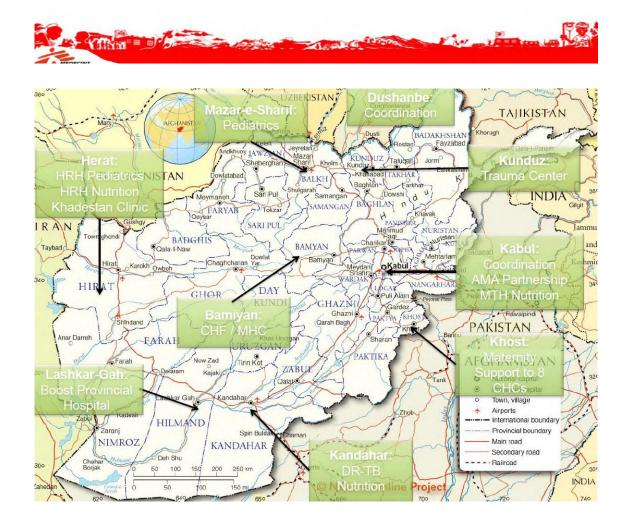
Médecins Sans Frontières International, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 928308827208-10.

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AFGHANISTAN

MSF



MSF in Afghanistan: 2022 at glance



- 323,000 ER admissions
- 70,000 OPD consultations
- 48,000 patients hospitalized
- 14,000 surgeries
- 43,000 deliveries
- 26,000 TB patients consulted
- 16,000 malnourished children
- 15,000 measles.



To do that:



- 3,000 people (+/- 110 Int'l)
- +/- 40% women
- + 50% of medical and paramedical are women
- A Common frame: Secondary and/or specialised medical care



A man-made disaster



- US and NATO debacle
- · At the cost of the Afghans
- Abrupt cut on fundings
- · Political and financial sanctions
- · "Int'l community" hiding behind the UN and aid organizations
- · Humanitarian assistance can't fix it
- IEA Government (Kabul bypassed, Kandahar, Cohesion, other militant groups, ...)



Tough policies and social control



- General population
- Civil society organisations
- Political parties
- Media
- Women:
 - > Ban on education
 - > Ban on social activities
 - ➤ Ban on leisure
 - > Ban on work: civil servant, NGOs
 - > ...



Ban on female NGO workers



- A lot of meetings, little result
- No unified position within IEA but...
- Some NGOs who suspended, slowly resuming
- Health sector (for now) exempted
- Donors hiding behind the HCT
- MSF:
 - Not affected but impacted
 - Raising our concerns to the IEA



Health exemption obviously not satisfactory



- Direct engagement with the IEA
- Trying to reach out to the decision makers
- Stating our concerns and impact of the directives
- Trying to build 'alliances'
- Sectorial / regional differences
- Ban unlikely to be reversed



Approach?



- Do not comply with what we were not asked to
 - > What we don't want to implement
 - > What we can't implement
- · Access to medical care to all, how to do it if:
 - > Segregation patients / staff
 - ➤ Gender based discrimination
 - Men-only teams
 - > Dress code: male & female
 - > Taliban presence: Vice and Virtue
 - ➤ Chaperon (Mahram)
 - > ...



Tough times ahead



- · Ongoing reflexion:
 - ➤What, where, how, ... but not at any cost.
 - ➤ Discussion on redlines / red flags
 - ➤ Principled but not dogmatic
 - ➤ Pragmatic but not cynical
 - ➤ Prospect?

