



The 2014 United Nations Human Development Report, which measures the key dimensions of a population's quality of life, ranked Afghanistan in 171st place out of 188.

Infant mortality in Afghanistan is high, with around 70 deaths per 1000 live births; this ratio is 23 times higher than in Italy. Meanwhile, the mortality rate among children under five is 97 deaths per 1000 live births.

Over the past forty years Afghanistan has been ravaged by conflict, causing high numbers of civilian casualties, many of whom were maimed by explosive devices and landmines. Despite the increasing clearance activities, Afghanistan is still one of the world's most heavily land-mined countries. Currently, the Government only controls a small part of the territory; many of the southern and central provinces experience fighting and bombing on a daily basis. The resulting instability in the country has also produced large numbers of refugees.

In addition, recent estimates indicate that in Afghanistan over 9 million people have limited or no access to health facilities, which are insufficient to meet the needs of the population. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are only two doctors, five nurses and midwives, and less than one pharmacist per 10,000 inhabitants. By comparison, in Italy, there are 38 doctors, 54 nurses and midwives, and 11 pharmacists per 10,000 people.

Increasing episodes of violence against healthcare - 119 only in 2016 - produce effects that extend far beyond the moment of the attack and its immediate aftermath. Attacks on medical facilities not only affect the personnel and infrastructure directly targeted, but also the population depending on them for receiving adequate health care.

The Surgical Centre for War Victims in Kabul, opened in 2001, is EMERGENCY's second surgical centre in Afghanistan, specialising in war surgery.

Over the last five years the conflict in Afghanistan has intensified dramatically, resulting in an increasing number of people with war injuries in need of medical assistance. Security conditions in the capital are deteriorating. Kabul province recorded 1,758 civilian casualties, the most of any province in Afghanistan in 2016.

In 2016, an average of 9 war victims were admitted to the Surgical Centre every day, one in five was a child. 2016 records show a 6% increase compared with admissions in 2015, and a 152% increase when compared with 2010. Thanks to the upgrade of the surgical block and the increased hospital capacity, 16 surgeries were performed every day in 2016.

The Surgical Centre is linked to a network of 11 Primary Health Clinics (PHCs) and First Aid Posts (FAPs) opened by EMERGENCY in Central Afghanistan. These PHCs and FAPs are located in Mirbachakot, Maydan Shahr, Ghazni, Chark, Gardez, Pul-I-Alam, Tagab, Sheikabad, Andar, Barakibarak, Gurband. Urgent cases in need of surgery are transferred to the Surgical Centre in Kabul by EMERGENCY's ambulance service.

EMERGENCY also operates PHCs in the Female Orphanage, the Male Orphanage, the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre and the main prisons of the city, including the Female Prison.

Thanks to this field network, over 9,000 patients were referred to secondary health facilities in 2016.

EMERGENCY's international staff has always been involved in the training of local staff and the Surgical Centre in Kabul has been officially recognised by the Ministry of Health as a centre for emergency surgery and traumatology training.

In 2016 EMERGENCY renewed the collaboration with the WHO and the Ministry of Public Health aimed at fostering the capacity building of health staff working in high risks provinces and districts. EMERGENCY organises training courses on the stabilisation and management of traumatised patients in mass casualties and pre-hospital basic life support. The project, which will conclude in May 2017, will involve 250 health workers.

Activities: Surgery for war and landmine victims.

Facilities: Emergency room, Out-Patients Department, Laboratory and Blood Bank, X-ray Department, 3 Operating Theatres, Sterilization, Intensive Care Unit, Sub Intensive Care Unit, 6 Surgical Wards, 1 CT Scan, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy. Store rooms, kitchen, cafeteria, laundry, maintenance, 3 offices, generator room, meeting room, children's room and playground, mechanical workshop.

Number of beds: 120 beds

International staff: 1 general surgeon, 1 orthopaedic surgeon, 1 anaesthetist, 1 resident anaesthetist, 1 X-ray technician, 1 lab technician, 1 biomedical technician, 6 nurses, 1 physiotherapist, 1 program coordinator, 1 medical coordinator, 1 administrator, 2 logisticians, 1 technician.

National staff: 325 medical and non medical staff

From the beginning of the activities to December 2016:

Outpatient consultations: **109,872**

Admissions: **41,038**

Surgical operations: **54,949**

From January to December 2016:

Outpatient consultations: **6,903**

Admissions: **4,182**

Surgical operations: **6,061**