

Position Paper



Country: Afghanistan

Committee: World Health Organization [WHO]

Agenda: Restructuring global healthcare systems post-pandemic

Ever since the dawn of modern times, Afghanistan has suffered numerous setbacks to its healthcare due to constant wars and instability, which forced most people living in the country to depend on aid from foreign countries. The location of Afghanistan also serves as a roadblock to any future developments in healthcare. Due to its landlocked status as a country, and its rugged terrain makes transport of important medical aid and establishment of local hospitals much harder to perform. Moreover, the recent collapse of the government in 2021 has also caused instability in the country.

But the current landscape is changing for the better in Afghanistan. The current era of peace has left time for the country to develop its healthcare effectively. Approximately 4% of the national budget is used in healthcare, with 80% of the funds being from international

donors. Afghanistan has taken important steps in restructuring its healthcare system, most notably by increasing the budget on its healthcare, recruiting doctors and midwives which has reduced both maternal and infant mortality rates by 55% and 48% respectively. Access to healthcare services have also increased in the rural areas with more than 2,000 hospitals in service. The Ministry of Public Health in Afghanistan also partnered with NGOs to provide adequate medical coverage in remote and urban areas.

Several challenges still affect the healthcare system even today, from the collapse of the previous government, causing instability in the region, inadequate medical coverage and high cost of transport of medicines in rural areas, just to name a few. However, Afghanistan is committed to solving these problems quickly and with help from the international community as a whole.