Action for Development (AFD) provides health care and health systems improvements in Afghanistan.

We train midwives and community health workers; we operate a health clinic in Kabul; we educate disabled and street children; we advocate for women’s rights and we provide emergency help in heating and sanitation.

Our programmes emphasise accountable management and good governance. We work through the Afghan Ministry of Public Health and we directly involve local leaders and community members.

What is the cost of kindness?

Thanks to generous assistance from donors and individuals, AFD has:

- treated over 1,000 patients per month at our Comprehensive Health Center.
- trained midwives in four provinces in 2015 and aims to expand to other provinces.
- educated 600 differently-abled girls and boys. We have integrated 75 children into formal education and 15 young men have found employment.
- distributed 110 Gravity water filters to vulnerable families following landslides in Badakhshan. A total of 747 persons benefitted, including 475 children under 15.
- distributed stove heaters in emergency winterization support to Badakhshan province.
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

Our Comprehensive Health Centre (CHC) treats an average of 1,200 patients every month, primarily women and children under the age of five.

The ongoing success of our CHC brings us closer to achieving our goal of reducing maternal and child mortality levels. A patient pays a fee of $1 for a consultation, diagnosis and provision of essential medicine. We waive the consultation fee for certain patients who cannot pay the $1 fee. (A comparable service in the private sector costs about $40.)

Furthermore, the Comprehensive Health Centre has trained 32 Community Health Workers to reach out to underserved urban and rural areas. Health Workers refer severely ill patients to the CHC for treatment and raise awareness about immunization, malnutrition and risk factors in newborns and pregnant women.

EDUCATION

The Rahyab School for Disabled Children in Kabul educates disabled children, with the aim of integrating them into the professions of tomorrow. The curriculum includes Braille classes, computer skills, music, embroidery, purse making, bicycle repairing, sewing, waiter training and other crafts and professions.

AFD will pilot a Street Children Back to School project for 1,200 street children in Kabul City. Educators will provide literacy, numeracy and English classes as well as free health services and nutritional support. Our staff is now securing funds to execute this project.

SANITATION

Few families in Afghanistan have access to safe drinking water. Dirty water presents serious challenges to public health and to development. Waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery and cholera are common and are a leading cause of death in children under five.

AFD has made water and sanitation a strategic priority for the future and will redouble its efforts in this sector.

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Meaningful improvements in health care require better conditions for girls and women. If Afghanistan is to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, it must train more local midwives and teach women and girls how to maintain their own sexual and reproductive health.

( Photo: United Nations Office, Geneva)