



# *Resilience in the Face of Challenges*

UNFPA Afghanistan  
2024 Annual Report





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## Message from the Country Representative

**It is with great pleasure that I present the 2024 UNFPA Afghanistan Annual Report,** which details the highlights of the Country Office's work over the past year.

We reached 13.7 million Afghans – 78 per cent of them women and girls – with essential reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services. These services were delivered through 995 service delivery points across all 34 provinces, managed by 18 implementing partners. This figure represents a significant 48 per cent increase in beneficiaries, or project participants, served compared to 2023.

Beyond quantitative achievements, our endeavors have resulted in tangible improvements in lives, notably through the provision of critical maternal healthcare and safe childbirth facilitated by qualified midwives, as well as psychosocial support services delivered by trained female counselors.

The past year was marked by significant milestones. The expansion of our programme's geographic reach to include Panjshir and Maidan Wardak, both mountainous and remote provinces in central Afghanistan, has effectively extended our maternal health and psychosocial support services to encompass the entirety of Afghanistan. We opened 89 new Family Health Houses and deployed 58 more Mobile Health Teams to reach more people, especially those in the most remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Despite encountering various challenges to our programme implementation, we maintained resilience and adaptability, ensuring the continuity of vital services for women and girls who rely on our facilities for their health and well-being. We ensured that the services we provided responded to the needs of affected population by listening to the voices of communities we served.

Our achievements are a testament to the unwavering dedication of my team, the invaluable support of our donors and implementing partners, and the confidence placed in us by our target project participants. We express our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to our accomplishments.

While we anticipate that 2025 may present us with a unique set of challenges, our unwavering commitment to providing on-the-ground support to those most in need, in conjunction with the steadfast backing of our partners, ensures that we will stay on course and continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve.



**Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah**

**Country Representative  
UNFPA Afghanistan**



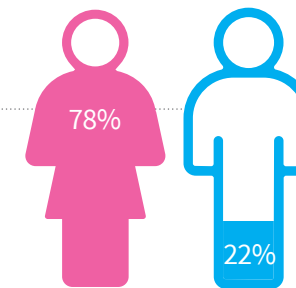
# 2024 *at a Glance*



## POPULATION REACHED:

**13.7 million**

10.73 million females  
2.97 million males



## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:

**34** provinces **305** districts

## SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS:

**995**

## FEMALE FRONTLINE WORKERS:

**3,103**

## POTENTIALLY AVERTED:\*



**383,213**

unintended pregnancies



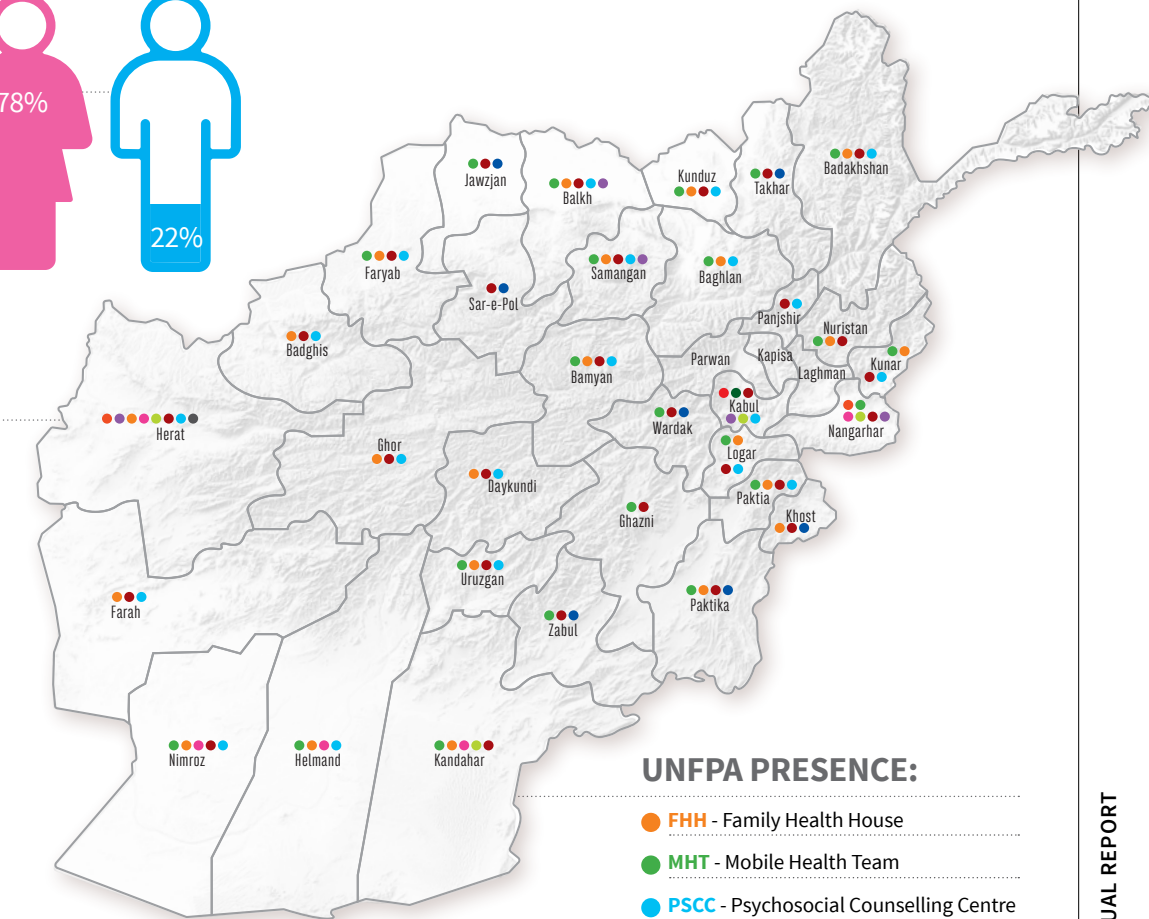
**5,944**

maternal deaths



**22,248**

neonatal deaths



## UNFPA PRESENCE:

- FHH** - Family Health House
- MHT** - Mobile Health Team
- PSCC** - Psychosocial Counselling Centre
- YHL** - Youth Health Line
- PSS Clinic** - Psychosocial Support Clinic
- MCHC** - Mother and Child Health Centre
- MYC** - Multipurpose Youth Centre
- PSS Team** - Psychosocial Support Team
- MHL** - Midwifery Helpline
- BHC** - Basic Health Centre
- ZP** - Zero Point Health Facility
- TC** - Transit Centre Health Facility

\*Estimates based on a UNFPA modelling exercise.





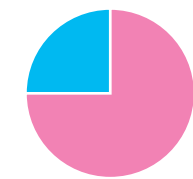
# 1 Maternal and Reproductive Health

## Key Figures

### POPULATION REACHED:

11.1 million





8.3 million females 75%  
2.8 million males 25%



**533 midwife-led Family Health Houses (FHH)** ensured access to quality integrated reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services for 4 million people in the most remote areas in 26 provinces. Vaccination was integrated into the FHH services to support the prevention of common childhood diseases and maternal infections. Psychosocial support was also piloted in 16 FHHs, as well as adolescents and youth services in 10 FHHs.

263 Mobile Health Teams and 28 Static Health Facilities ensured provision of maternal, reproductive health and psychosocial support services to 7 million people, comprising returnees, internally displaced persons and isolated host communities.

The Midwifery Helpline responded to 34,349 calls mostly from midwives in remote communities seeking support with complex maternal cases, including pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum complications, as well as newborn care. About 70 per cent of the cases were complicated and life-threatening.

Service delivery points	Population reached	Female	Male
 <b>533</b> Family Health Houses	4,064,339	79% 3,229,835	21% 834,504
 <b>1</b> Midwifery Helpline	34,349	100% 34,349	
 <b>263</b> Mobile Health Teams	6,261,588	72% 4,494,265	28% 1,767,323
 <b>28</b> Static Health Facilities <sup>1</sup>	793,075	72% 573,158	28% 219,917

<sup>1</sup> Static health facilities include 3 Zero Point Clinics, 3 Transit Centre Clinics, and 22 Basic Health Centres



Programme adaptations based on community feedback on reproductive health services and mobile health teams

Maternal and reproductive health services

Feedback	Actions
Improve the services (i.e. waiting room space, provision of drinking water in the FHH).	UNFPA developed a new FHH design that features adequate space for waiting areas. UNFPA has also requested implementing partners to ensure the provision of clean drinking water in the facilities.
Increase night shift staff.	UNFPA conducted monitoring on the need to increase the number of midwives in the FHHs due to greater demand for services, and advocated to donors on the need to increase midwife capacity (from one to two midwives) in the FHHs. This will be rolled out in all sites as funds become available.
Increase the number of items for Mama & Baby Kits.	UNFPA acted by assessing the quality, necessity, and costs to cover the needs of as many mothers and newborns as possible.
Provision of ambulances to access emergency care.	Ambulances have been deployed in several provinces and will continue to be procured as funds become available.
Include immunization services in the FHHs.	UNFPA partnered with UNICEF to bring immunization to local communities through FHHs. This is an ongoing coordination to expand in the FHH services.

Mobile health services

Feedback	Actions
Build boundary wall in the MHTs to improve confidentiality during the consultation.	UNFPA mapped the transitional MHT facilities and included costing to build boundary wall to strengthen privacy and confidentiality during service delivery.
Include non-RH services such as nutrition, immunization and outpatient medication and supplements.	UNFPA, with support of UNICEF, integrated immunization services. Nutrition is under consideration for integration in MHT services.
Support winterization with blankets and tarpaulins.	UNFPA established a dedicated plan for winter response, including regular dialogues with donors to address the needs of women and girls during winter. Blankets and tarpaulins are part of the winter response.
Mobilize night shift MHTs.	UNFPA will raise awareness to communities that MHTs are not meant for 24-hour service. However, it provides quality services in hard-to-reach areas to allow women to access RH services.





## 2 Psychosocial Support Services



## Key Figures

### POPULATION REACHED:

2.32 million





2.28 million females 96%  
40,306 males 4%



UNFPA operationalized Mother and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) in all 34 provinces as an innovative and transformative community-based approach for the protection and empowerment of Afghan women and girls. Services included psychosocial case management, counselling, basic health and reproductive healthcare, youth engagement, awareness-raising, vocational skills training, provision of Dignity Kits, and referral services.

Psychosocial Counselling Centres (PSCCs) located within hospitals in 31 provinces provided free and confidential support to women and girls, including medical care, psychosocial support, and referrals.

Five PSS Clinics, established in the earthquake-affected provinces of Khost and Paktika in 2022, continued to provide lifesaving reproductive health care, and psychosocial support and community awareness activities. Three PSS Teams also continued to support remote districts of Herat province affected by the devastating earthquake in 2023 by promoting well-being, equipping women and girls with stress-coping tools, and strengthened resilience in the affected communities.

Service delivery points	Population reached	Female	Male
 <b>94</b> Mother and Child Health Centres	<b>1,926,266</b>	<b>1,926,266</b>	
 <b>56</b> Psychosocial Counselling Centre	<b>247,920</b>	<b>247,920</b>	
 <b>5</b> PSS Clinics	<b>119,063</b>	66% <b>78,757</b>	34% <b>40,306</b>
 <b>3</b> PSS Teams	<b>28,109</b>	<b>28,109</b>	



Programme adaptation based on community feedback on psychosocial support services

Feedback	Actions
Expansion of PSS services in MCHCs.	<p>Psychosocial support has been integrated into reproductive health services to address the overall PSS and RH needs in affected communities.</p> <p>In addition to tailoring/sewing activities in MCHCs, UNFPA included embroidery, and recreational activities (jam, pickle and cookies/cake-making). Traditional carpet weaving, knitting, ornament-making, and beadwork are being considered in the Vocational Skills Training.</p> <p>UNFPA will assess the need to establish more service delivery points for PSS to enhance access for women and girls.</p>
Provision for more Dignity Kits.	<p>UNFPA is advocating for increased provision of Dignity Kits through resource mobilization.</p>
Improve access for women with disabilities in PSS services.	<p>UNFPA increased funds to improve access of women with disabilities to PSS services, including transport fee and access-related support such as building ramps and provision of wheelchair. This support needs to be expanded in many other locations.</p> <p>UNFPA conducted a study with women with disabilities on customization of Dignity Kits to improve the appropriateness and quality of support for women with disabilities.</p>



*I feel more at peace, knowing that no matter how much I grieve, I cannot bring back the son that I have lost. I'm grateful for the psychosocial support I received.*

*Sajida, Nangarhar Province*



# 3 Adolescents and Youth Integration in Humanitarian Response



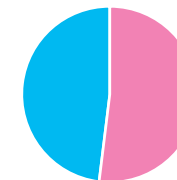
## Key Figures

### YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED:

228,617

118,075 females  
110,542 males




52%  
48%



**The Youth Health Line, a nationwide toll-free hotline service** providing confidential youth-friendly health information and support for adolescents and youth, remained a critical lifeline for young Afghans. By addressing sensitive topics such as reproductive health, mental well-being, and psychosocial support services, the YHL empowered adolescents and youth to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Seven Multipurpose Youth Centres (MYCs) provided safe, inclusive spaces for young people through healthy lifestyle awareness raising, psychosocial counselling, life skills education, and livelihood activities. The interventions not only strengthened young people's resilience and social cohesion but also fostered self-reliance, enabling them to actively contribute to their communities as agents of positive change.

Two Integrated Youth Centres (IYC) served as a vital hub for young people, offering information on healthy lifestyle for females and males, and menstrual health management for adolescent girls in Giyan District of Paktika Province, a marginalized area. The IYC fostered resilience, promoted healthier behaviors, and addressed critical gaps in adolescent and youth health education.

Service delivery points	Population reached	Female	Male
 <b>1</b> Youth Health Line	<b>167,465</b>	51% <b>85,952</b>	49% <b>81,513</b>
 <b>8</b> Multipurpose Youth Centres	<b>32,646</b>	53% <b>17,174</b>	47% <b>15,472</b>
 <b>2</b> Integrated Youth Centres	<b>28,506</b>	52% <b>14,949</b>	48% <b>13,557</b>



Programme adaptation based on community feedback on adolescents and youth programmes

Feedback	Actions
Increase life skills programmes in MYC, including English classes.	8 MYCs established life-skills education component to address the needs of young people.
Ensure transparency in the selection process for adolescents and youth programmes, especially for young girls.	UNFPA implemented guidance for implementing partners to ensure a transparent selection process.
Increase awareness raising sessions on early/ child marriage.	UNFPA integrated Youth Educators to conduct awareness sessions on early/ child marriage, drug prevention, and healthy lifestyles in 88 MCHCs, 12 BHCs and 27 FHHs. The programmes will be expanded to 59 new FHHs in 2025.



*I lost motivation and developed anxiety. I thought there was no reason to live anymore. The Youth Health Line’s support helped transform me into a more positive person with a purpose in life.*

Adolescent girl, Kabul



# 4 Emergency Supplies



*Receiving this Dignity Kit is a great relief. Being pregnant and struggling financially, I cannot afford to visit a clinic or buy hygiene products. This kit has been a huge help; it not only provides soap and sanitary pads but also gives me a sense of care and dignity.*

Mother, Balkh Province

## Key Figures

PEOPLE DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM EMERGENCY SUPPLIES:

1.7 million

### Supplies distributed

### Population reached

 <b>3,485</b> Interagency Reproductive Health Kits	<b>1,256,616</b>
 <b>417</b> Interagency Emergency Health Kits	<b>417,000</b>
 <b>11,360</b> Mama & Baby Kits	<b>11,360</b>
 <b>24,861</b> Blanket and tarpaulin sets	<b>24,861</b>

The Country Office benefited from its prepositioning strategy and mobilized supplies from its prepositioned stocks for the UNFPA-supported service delivery points. As part of the emergency response preparedness, the Country Office maintained 618 Interagency Reproductive Health Kits, 16 Interagency Emergency Health Kits, 19,885 Mama & Baby Kits, and 26,000 blanket and tarpaulin sets in its regional warehouses. These kits are expected to reach 178,020 direct beneficiaries during emergency response.

In 2024, the Country Office established an efficient supply chain operations at the Termez Cargo Centre in neighbouring Uzbekistan in partnership with the World Food Programme and in close coordination with the UNFPA Uzbekistan Country Office. The cargo centre provides a safe and efficient logistics route and is now utilized for UNFPA's strategic stockpiling and distribution, ensuring enhanced speed, reliability, and security of humanitarian supply deliveries from other countries into Afghanistan.

Four dedicated youth professionals played a key role in ensuring supply chain transparency nationwide, strengthening Last Mile Assurance efforts for 13 implementing partners by collecting updates for quarterly supply reports. Through rigorous monitoring and real-time reporting, the youth volunteers contributed to a 100 per cent improvement in last-mile verification, ensuring essential goods reached intended beneficiaries efficiently.



# 5

## Coordination

### Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility

The GBV AoR strengthened and enhanced GBV coordination at both the national and sub-national (regional) levels. By December 2024, the GBV AoR achieved 116 per cent of its target beneficiaries per the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, reaching more than 2 million people. By mobilizing its partners and members, the GBV AoR effectively delivered critical, multi-sectoral services, including provision of lifesaving activities (e.g., PSS case management, psychosocial support services and referrals), distribution of Dignity Kits to women and girls and awareness-raising. Overall, the GBV AoR is progressing well with the integration modality, despite the limited space, as partners continue to work together. These efforts have been instrumental in reaching vulnerable populations across Afghanistan, providing essential support and protection to those in need.

### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

UNFPA leads inter-agency PSEA efforts in Afghanistan, significantly reducing the country's global risk ranking from highest to fourth in 2024. This improvement in the "protection" category, from a score of 6.1 to 4.9, reflects the impact of collaborative work and joint leadership by UNFPA and International Medical Corps on behalf of the UN Country Team in advancing safeguarding measures. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee manages these rankings to prioritize and address SEA risks in high-risk environments.

During the past year, the PSEA Network transitioned from a UN Task Force to an inclusive PSEA Network of over 300 entities, including UN agencies, NGOs, and CSOs, with 45% female representation. The Network also established a focal point helpline and feedback mechanisms to ensure timely and effective SEA incident responses.

### Accountability to Affected Populations and Disability Inclusion

Community voices were substantially amplified in the 2025 Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan through UNFPA-led community consultation and validation exercises with affected women, men, young people, persons with disabilities and humanitarian partners. The Afghanistan Community Voices and Accountability Platform, hosted by UNFPA, supported humanitarian clusters and partners in adapting programme methodologies, which led to course-correcting interventions based on community preferences in 2024.

The 2024 system-wide accountability monitoring, largely informed by women and girls, revealed successes and challenges in safe access, assistance quality, and protection. Community Voices Bulletins, informed by rapid community discussions following severe floods in the West and North, provided real-time needs and priorities, influencing response strategies. UNFPA led the design of AAP and PSEA centrality in the HCT-endorsed Afghanistan Accountability Index, strengthening commitments to people-centred action. Additionally, 3,234 frontline team and service providers received training on accountable, protection-sensitive, and inclusive programming.

*I had suicidal thoughts, but after receiving psychosocial support, I feel much more hopeful, and my negative thoughts have lessened. I'm grateful for the help I've received.*

*Female community member, Logar Province*



*I started my own business, supporting tailors and selling clothes. I learned the business development skills at the Multipurpose Youth Centre. The place provided us with the space to learn, and interact with each other. I have my hope back.*

*Arya, Balkh Province*

## Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in Emergency (RMNCAHiE) Working Group

In 2024, the 33-member RMNCAHiE Working Group achieved significant milestones in enhancing maternal and reproductive health during emergencies under the Health Cluster umbrella. Through comprehensive preparedness initiatives and responsive actions, the group strengthened community resilience, enhanced health outcomes, and fostered collaboration among its members and stakeholders.

In 2024, the RMNCAHiE Working Group successfully established a network of regional warehouses to preposition essential medical and non-medical supplies. This initiative significantly improved emergency preparedness by reducing response times and ensuring that critical resources, such as IARH Kits, Menstrual Hygiene Management Kits, Mama & Baby Kits, Dignity Kits, and blankets and tarpaulins, are readily available during crises.

## Adolescents & Youth Working Group

Through sustained coordination, strategic planning, and capacity-building efforts, the AYWG has made significant progress in strengthening adolescents and youth engagement in humanitarian action. A national pool of trainers was established following a Training of Trainers on working with young people in humanitarian crises. This cohort will conduct capacity-building in 2025 and beyond to improve humanitarian workers' skills in adolescent and youth-responsive interventions.

The AYWG interactive dashboard was updated with members' 2024 5Ws data. Member organizations provided services to 759,646 young people (679,280 female, 80,366 male), including 10,658 young people with disabilities who received targeted support.





# 6 Humanitarian Access



**UNFPA Access significantly** contributed to interagency humanitarian access coordination through strategic guidelines, document co-authorship, and contingency planning participation. An Internal Guideline for Engagement offered technical direction for staff and implementing partners on engaging with de facto authorities while upholding humanitarian principles and minimizing risks. UNFPA resolved 96 critical access challenges reported by partners within 24 hours and integrated foresight analysis into planning, proactively mitigating risks by anticipating policy changes through scenario planning and risk assessments.

# 7 Resource Mobilization



**TARGET:**  
**\$216 million**

**RECEIVED:**  
**\$176 million**

**81%**

**The Country Office successfully secured funding for** women and girls in Afghanistan, amidst numerous competing priorities within underfunded humanitarian emergencies. The office facilitated partnerships with new entities to provide multi-year support and diversified funding sources, encompassing private sector contributions and individual donations.





Thanks to our partners:









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afghanistan

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every childbirth is safe and  
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