




USAID | AFGHANISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MEMORANDUM

November 29, 2016

TO: John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General for
Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)

FROM: Herbert Smith, Mission Director 

SUBJECT: Mission Response to Draft SIGAR Review Letter titled:
“USAID-Supported Health Facilities in Baghlan” (SIGAR
SP-113E/SIGAR-17-YY-SP)

REF: SIGAR Transmittal email dated 11/15/2016

USAID thanks SIGAR for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Review.

USAID welcomes the feedback that the 30 health facilities visited by SIGAR in Baghlan province are open, operational, and benefiting the local community. Per your review, the majority of community respondents reported the health facility was “very useful” for the community, and that feedback is helpful. This information is consistent with the monitoring information we receive from the World Bank and demonstrates that USAID resources, through the support we provide to the World Bank-administered System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) program, continue to provide access to healthcare, even in remote, difficult-to-reach locations.

It is important to note that, while GPS coordinates are an extremely useful tool, there are alternate means by which these health facilities can be located. The Ministry of Public Health maintains a Health Management Information System which contains a list of all health facilities and includes (but is not limited to) the geographic location (including the provincial district), facility identification number, facility name and the physical address. As such, health facilities can be found through a variety of means, including the use of GPS coordinates, physical addresses and the assistance of the local population. For example, to ensure that clinics were delivering high quality care under the Partnership Contracts for Health (PCH) project, USAID mobilized local

Afghan staff and independent monitors familiar with the areas to visit, observe, and evaluate the health facilities. USAID/Afghanistan appreciates the utility offered by strong geospatial datasets and has recently finalized guidance for Mission project managers and implementing partners to standardize the collection of geospatial data. Additionally, the Agency is undertaking organizational steps to institutionalize the use of geospatial data inside USAID and across its U.S. Government and nongovernmental partners.

USAID remains committed to helping Afghans receive high-quality health care services through the World Bank-administered SEHAT program. These efforts continue the USAID-managed PCH project, which ended in June 2015, and previously supported the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to deliver basic health services to more than one million Afghans every month. The health facilities in Baghlan province that were previously funded under the USAID-managed PCH program, including those visited by SIGAR, are now being funded through the World Bank-managed SEHAT program. Thus, the responsibility for management and oversight of these health centers, including the potential use of geospatial coordinates, has transitioned to the Ministry of Public Health with the support of the World Bank-administered SEHAT project.

Lastly, we appreciate the information provided regarding the maintenance needs for several Afghan government-owned facilities. USAID will inform the World Bank and the Ministry of Public Health of these maintenance issues.

cc: Robert Clark, Controller, USAID/Afghanistan
Daniel Wartko, U.S. Embassy/Kabul
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