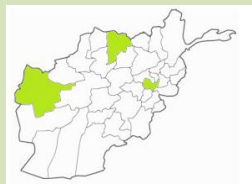




Support for Victims of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)

2018

SGBV total budget	CHF 3.6 mio, 2015-2024
Swiss total contribution	CHF 1 mio, 2015-2018
Partner	Medica Afghanistan
Geographic focus	Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat cities



Context

In Afghanistan, gender disparities are stark in all spheres of life and the high prevalence of domestic and gender-based violence are a disturbing consequence of complex inequalities and social constraints. Studies suggest that 87 percent of Afghan women experience at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence.

Many victims of gender-based violence never report being assaulted and do not seek treatment because of the shame and social stigma attached to it. For those who do so, they face low quality health care system, which fails to adequately consider the specific needs of women and girls affected by gender-based violence, and deliver them effective treatment.

What does SGBV do?

Through its programme, Medica Afghanistan trains public health institutions and staff in the stress and trauma-sensitive approach (STA) in order to improve the quality of care.

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programme's results, Medica Afghanistan also actively engage at policy and advocacy level to bring to the attention of decision makers and relevant institutions, especially the Ministry of Public Health, on the importance of the trauma-sensitive approach and its inclusion into the health care services.



Group counselling, Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh Province, © Medica Afghanistan.

What has SGBV achieved so far?

Medica Afghanistan developed a training manual on the trauma-sensitive approach, and with the support of this document, trained over 80 health practitioners (nurses, doctors and midwives) and health administration professionals (e.g. hospital management and members of the Ministry of Public Health) in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif hospitals.

Statement of one of the participants in the training sessions:

By understanding about psychological trauma and trauma reactions, I remembered the reaction of my patients mainly in rape cases, now I feel sorry that I didn't know how to deal with or why I did not send her to counsellors. I will seriously tackle this point in the future

Moreover, Medica Afghanistan could increase the awareness of the Ministry of Public Health on the topic, and has succeeded in including the stress and trauma-sensitive approach into its Mental Health.