

Maternal Newborn Health Registry - Afghanistan

A project funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

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Summary:

Badakhshan province in Afghanistan has one of the highest recorded maternal and newborn mortality rates in the world. Recent survey have shown that over the last 10 years there have been dramatic improvements in these indicators, as evidenced by survey data. In order to track and understand these changes, we have established a prospective, population-based active surveillance mechanism for pregnancies and pregnancy outcomes in Badakhshan province. All pregnant women in the study clusters are identified registered and their outcomes tracked for 6 weeks post-delivery. The primary purpose is to quantify and understand the trends in pregnancy services and outcomes over time in the defined, low-resource geographic clusters and estimate population-based statistics on stillbirths, neonatal and maternal mortality as the basis of health care policy. The data from the registry also help investigators plan future studies in this district. In addition, the data from the registry will provide an opportunity for planning intervention studies and for the measurement of primary and secondary outcomes of such trials and ultimate dissemination of the results as the basis of public health policy.