

**Committee:** International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)

**Country:** Argentina

**Topic 1:** Stabilising the distribution of medical assistance in Afghanistan's conflict post-pandemic

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**Afghanistan** is a landlocked multiethnic country located at the crossroads of Central and South Asia. Lying along important trade routes connecting southern and eastern Asia to Europe and the Middle East, Afghanistan has long been a prize sought by empire builders, and for millennia great armies have attempted to subdue it, leaving traces of their efforts in great monuments now fallen to ruin.

The country is predominantly mountainous with plains in the north and the southwest, which are separated by the Hindu Kush mountain range. The aforementioned country's forbidding landscape of deserts and mountains has resulted in high autonomy and culturally separated communities. Main communities of Afghanistan are Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, and Uzbeks. As of 2021, these ethnicities are totally 40.2 million. Endless war continues to unify these subcultures.

Nowadays in Afghanistan people abide in a chaotic environment after the USA's retreat. New Taliban government raises concerns for possible blocking of foreign humanitarian aid and medical services. Afghanistan's already crumbling education, health and utilitarian systems have collapsed. Especially after post-pandemic and war hospitals reached their full capacity seen in the example of Boost hospital in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province. The hospital has been operating beyond capacity since September and had a bed occupancy rate of 121 percent in January. According to the World Bank *"The economic and development outlook is stark. Sharp reductions in international aid are driving a collapse in basic health and education services."* Lack of health tracing and medical care is one of the most important issues of Afghanistan which causes people's misery ve hardships.

Covid-19 precautions are rarely applied to the public. Precautions are elective and there is no such thing as social distancing, wearing of masks in public places. According to the Reuters, 7.5 percent of Afghanistan is vaccinated against Covid-19. Also there are doubts about Covid's reality and effectiveness of preventive measures on the public. Besides pandemic; also sanitation, hygiene and facilitation of freshwater are always concerns for Afghanistan.

As **Argentina** we will be pleased to participate in attempts to resolve problems in both the medical assistance distribution network and supply of medically proficient people and decrease the agony of Afghan residents. We are ready to deploy volunteers for multi-purposes and distribution teams to transport medical supplies. Teams could be containing defensive units, logistics staff and doctors/nurses to apply cures and recommend people to correct healing methods.

## Bibliography

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