

FRENCH MEDICAL INSTITUTE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN (FMIC):

Phase III: Expanded Medical Complex

PROJECT BRIEF

Background

Following 40 years of ongoing conflict and strife, Afghanistan has undergone a challenging economic transition over the past 10 years, which has resulted in the need for significant institutional development, namely within health and social sectors. Health facilities in the nation's capital city, Kabul, which is home to more than five million people, not only face resource limitations, but also struggle with dismantling organizational and structural challenges. As a result, it is estimated that 150,000 Afghans seek health treatment abroad each year. In fact, according to the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health, approximately US \$300M is spent on medical tourism in neighbouring countries.



Figure 1: Map of Afghanistan

In response to the high demand for localized quality services, the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC) was established in 2006 through a unique partnership between the Governments of France and Afghanistan, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), and La Chaîne de L'Espoir. Now a 169-bed tertiary health facility, built over three acres in Kabul, FMIC has undergone several enhancements, including the addition of in-patient cardiac unit, a Women's Wing and the introduction of maternal care services, making it the largest hospital supported by public-private-partnerships in Afghanistan. Patients seeking quality healthcare not only visit FMIC from the nation's capital, with over 40% traveling short and long distances from 33 surrounding provinces.

In addition to providing access to care for the most vulnerable, FMIC began operating its' Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Residency Programme in 2012 to address the need for more medical specialists in Afghanistan. Now home to the latest teaching and learning facilities, and accredited by the MoPH and the Government of Afghanistan, the PGME program continues to be implemented with active support of the Aga Khan University (AKU) in Pakistan.

Expanded Medical Complex: A Broader Vision for Health Services in Afghanistan

Building off the strides in enhancing access to care for and access to training resources for medical specialists, FMIC has recognized the need to establish the third phase of its operations, the Expanded Medical Complex. The Expanded Medical Complex is envisioned to serve as an intellectual and tertiary referral hub, to be placed within the existing integrated health delivery system of AKDN in Central Asia, which is in development through the work of the Aga Khan University (AKU), Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) in collaboration with developmental and financing partners, such as the Government of Afghanistan, Government of France, and others such as La Chaîne. The hub will be positioned as a centre of excellence in service delivery, education, training and research. Internal medicine, general surgery, emergency medicine and family medicine will be practiced in addition to

specialties including cardiac services, neurosciences, orthopaedics, digestive and renal diseases and oncology. Strong diagnostic facilities, including radiology, laboratory, neurophysiology, cardiopulmonary will supplement the development of acute medical facilities. The new academic programmes will include: a 4-5 years Postgraduate Medical Education Program in Internal Medicine and Surgery and their subspecialties, including Family Medicine, a 2 ½ years Post Registered Nurses BSc in Nursing (Post RN BSC.N) Program, a 2-4 years Allied Health Program in 16-18 disciplines, a robust Continuous Medical Education Program for health professionals, and a comprehensive Research Support Unit for conducting relevant need based research in health and development focusing on key priorities areas in health and development in Afghanistan.



Figure 2: Rendering of Phase III of FMIC

The anticipated budget for the 17-acre Expanded Medical Complex is approximately USD \$41 million, which covers the costs of infrastructure construction and 10 years of operation. While currently in the planning and design phase, it is anticipated that the Expanded Medical Complex will be roll out in phases, beginning with 50 beds over 113,000 square feet, with initial construction and equipment costs budgeted at USD \$22 million and USD \$7 million respectively.

Role of Public Development Banks

In alignment with the successes of strategic partnerships established through the AKDN, the current and envisioned state of FMIC exemplifies the value add of public development banks (PBDs) in financing innovative infrastructural developments that contribute to strengthening health systems. In particular, the partnership with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) since 2006 has amounted to a USD \$28.4 million contribution which has been signed in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network. This unique partnership is a clear example that illustrates the success of international development financing between bilateral financing partners and an international development agency, which aligns strongly with the priorities established by the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health. Notably, the successes of this partnership has led to the additional contribution of USD \$1.7 million to further support the implementation of emergency COVID-19 response measures, which have been implemented to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 within the health facility, as well as to support FMIC's COVID-19 testing facility.

Now, to support the growing need for specialized, accessible, and affordable services, AFD has committed to continue investments in FMIC through the administration of a USD \$1.7 million financing model to support the planning and design of Phase III, featuring the Expanded Medical Complex (EMC).

