During the year the gradual progress being made in the improvement of health conditions and services in Afghanistan was maintained. There is an increasing awareness among the people of the importance of clean water supply and environmental sanitation. A health education conference, the first of its kind ever held in Afghanistan, was organized in Kabul in April 1959.

Amongst matters of health significance, the most important is the acceptance by the Government of the concept of malaria eradication. A law requiring compulsory vaccination against smallpox has been enacted, and the Government is considering a nation-wide mass vaccination campaign. In September 1958 a precedent was established when a group of six auxiliary nurse-midwives entered the Shararah Hospital for training; this was the first time that female students in this category agreed to live away from their homes and families. It is hoped that this will encourage more and more female auxiliaries to come forward for service in the country.

The Government's programme for expansion of hospital facilities is going forward. The new Women's Hospitals in Mazar-i-Sharif and Kandahar are nearing completion. Construction of a 300-bed hospital in Kabul has started. New hospitals are also under construction in Lashkar and Nad-i-Ali. Some progress has also been made in the construction of the building for the Institute of Public Health, although it is not likely to be completed for another year.

The major problem in public health administration, however, continues to be the shortage of trained personnel of all categories.

The University of Kabul has established a College of Pharmacy with a four-year course; thirty-five students have already been selected.
## Project List

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**Aim of the project.** To improve public health administration and services; to train medical and para-medical personnel; to co-ordinate national and internationally assisted health programmes.

**Assistance provided by WHO during the year.** (a) A public health officer and an administrative assistant; (b) Supplies and equipment.

**Probable duration of assistance.** Indefinite.

**Work done during the year.** A general review of all WHO-assisted projects has been carried out, and discussions have been held with the national health authorities on the future shape of WHO assistance. The lack of trained personnel in all fields continues as a major handicap to improvements in the technical services of the country.

The public health adviser attended a meeting with the Chairman of the Rural Development Commission and other officials to discuss the future plans of the Rural Development Commission. He paid visits to Kandahar and the Helmand Valley area in order to have a more accurate idea of the conditions prevailing in these areas as far as health of the inhabitants is concerned. The increase in population in the Helmand Valley area made that careful planning will be required in order to supply the necessary health facilities.

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**Aim of the project.** To consolidate the malaria control campaign which has been carried out under project Afghanistan 1 since 1949; to convert it by stages into a campaign for malaria eradication throughout the country.

**Assistance provided by WHO during the year.** (a) Three malariologists, an entomologist, two technicians and two secretary-stenographers; (b) An advisory team for four months; (c) Four regional fellowships of six weeks each; (d) Supplies and equipment.

**Probable duration of assistance.** Until 1965.

**Work done during the year.** A total of 1.57 million people have been protected by residual spraying and about 485,000 people by anti-larval measures. Surveillance carried out during the non-spray season covered a population of 257,434 in Kataghan and 190,000 in Nangarhar up to April 1959. The earlier promise of complete interruption of transmission in certain parts of the country was not fulfilled on account of inadequate
staff at various levels and lack of sufficient technical direction. It is also possible that *A. sacharovi* is a secondary vector in some parts of the northern provinces.

Based on the findings of Advisory Team No. 3, which assessed the programme in the northern and eastern provinces, a new plan of operations for malaria eradication has been developed by the Government in consultation with the Regional Office; this plan envisages increased WHO assistance by way of personnel, transport and supplies.

Training of national personnel in the Malaria Institute, Kabul, was continued. They were also trained in laboratory and field work.

Further UNICEF aid by way of DDT, transport, sprayers, drugs, etc., for 1960 was approved by the UNICEF Executive Board in March 1959.

### Afghanistan 13

Assistant to Faculty of Medicine,
University of Kabul
(Jan. – Aug. 1952; Sept. 1953 – )

**Aim of the project.** To develop on sound lines the Departments of Anatomy, Physiology, Preventive Medicine, Internal Medicine and Paediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine and to train national counterparts.

**Assistance provided by WHO during the year.** (a) A professor of paediatrics and a professor of preventive and social medicine; (b) Supplies and equipment.

**Probable duration of assistance.** Indefinite.

**Work done during the year.** The visiting professor of paediatrics completed his assignment at the end of 1958. The Paediatrics Department is now headed by national professors, for the first time in the history of Afghanistan. During the period of WHO's assistance, new case history charts and laboratory forms were introduced. The number of doctors and nurses rose to two professors, two assistant professors, three assistants and eight nurses. A major difficulty is the lack of textbooks.

The paediatric out-patient clinic, located outside the hospital premises, is poorly equipped. The WHO professor started a small clinic in the Paediatrics Department, since his efforts to improve the town clinic were not successful. The training of medical students in paediatrics was increased and now consists of about 140 lectures during the fourth and fifth years.

The visiting professor of preventive and social medicine continued his courses as part of the curriculum of the third, fourth and fifth years. Examination results have been very satisfactory. New buildings nearing completion will provide adequate accommodation for the office, museum and laboratory of the Department. A bus is being used for field work. The counterpart will leave on a two year fellowship in late 1958; a second assistant has been assigned.
Aim of the project. To reorganize, expand and improve facilities for vaccine production in order to provide adequate supplies of vaccine for the national health programmes; to train local personnel in the production of biological substances; to organize a suitable system for the distribution and use of vaccines.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A laboratory specialist; (b) Supplies.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1963.

Work done during the year. The laboratories in the Vaccine Institute are producing smallpox, cholera, TAB and rabies vaccines, and the work has continued to be satisfactory. It has now been agreed by the Government, WHO and UNICEF that international assistance will last for several more years.

The laboratory specialist (bacteriologist) who had been attached to the project since its beginning was repatriated during December 1958, and another bacteriologist succeeded him. The latter made certain recommendations for improving and maintaining the standards of procedure in production of vaccines, and these have been implemented.

Legislation for compulsory vaccination against smallpox was introduced during the year. Steps are being taken to gear the production capacity of smallpox vaccine to cope with increased requirements.

Aim of the project. To develop a sanitation section in Kabul Municipality; to plan and carry out a sanitation programme, including the design, operation and maintenance of sanitary installations; to train sanitation personnel.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A twelve-month international fellowship; (b) Assistance from the sanitary engineer assigned to the Rural Health and Training Unit, Gulzar (see below).

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1963.

Work done during the year. Efforts were continued to recruit a sanitarian. The sanitary engineer assigned to the Rural Health and Training Unit, Gulzar (project Afghanistan 26), gave guidance to the Municipality in its sanitation problems.

The counterpart of the former WHO sanitary engineer completed his fellowship studies in the USA in August 1958.
Afghanistan 23  Refresher Courses for Medical Officers

(Third course: 1 May - 21 Aug. 1958)

Aim of the project. To provide provincial medical officers with theoretical and practical training in modern methods of public-health practice.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) Thirty per cent of the cost of travel and of subsistence allowances of three medical officers from outside Kabul; (b) Assistance from WHO project staff and secretarial help; (c) Teaching equipment and textbooks.

Work done. The third course was attended by seven medical officers from Kabul and the provinces. A comprehensive programme in public health was carried out, with more emphasis on field work than in the two previous courses. As before, the participants showed great interest in public health, since they were following this group of studies for the first time.

Further courses of this nature will be organized in 1960 and subsequent years under a new project number.

Afghanistan 24  Health Education Adviser

(Oct. 1958 - )

Aim of the project. To develop health education in the area of the rural community development project; to collaborate with the Ministry of Education in promoting health education in teacher-training institutes and other educational institutions; to assist public health and education authorities with short courses in health education; to develop a national system of health education, using the personnel of various agencies.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A health educator; (b) A two-week international fellowship; (c) Supplies and equipment, including a vehicle.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1961.

Work done during the year. Plans were drawn up for developing health education in relation to schools (particularly with respect to teacher education), various training courses, special campaigns such as for malaria, and community development. Attention will be given to the preparation of materials for health programmes.

The health educator and her counterpart assisted in planning a course on personal hygiene and community health, to be given at the boys' teacher-training school. The participants will include practice teachers located in urban, suburban and rural schools. A similar course is being planned for girl student-teachers.

A first two-day health education conference, with seventy persons participating, was held in Kabul in mid-April. After short reports on current activities in health education were given, small groups considered specific ways of extending and improving these activities.
The WHO health educator gave a course in health education methods at the School for Sanitarians and, starting in April, began work with sanitarians in five villages in the community development project. Plans were made for educational meetings with mothers in the Shewaki area.

Afghanistan 25 Assistance to Public Health Laboratory, Kabul
(May 1956 - )

Aim of the project. To consolidate the work of the public-health laboratory at Kabul; to give further training to laboratory technicians.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A laboratory technician; (b) Two six-month regional fellowships; (c) Supplies and equipment.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1960.

Work done during the year. The post of laboratory technician, which fell vacant in April 1958, could be filled only in January 1959. The WHO expert's first assessment revealed a serious shortage of even essential materials and equipment in the laboratory. The Government is taking necessary measures to equip the laboratory properly, at least with essential items.

The duration of international assistance to the project has been extended as is shown above. The Director of the Laboratory is in the United Kingdom on a WHO fellowship for further specialized study.

Revised syllabi for training laboratory technicians and assistants were prepared by the new laboratory technician and submitted to the Government.

Afghanistan 26 Rural Health and Training Unit, Gulzar
(April 1956 - )

UNICEF

Aim of the project. To establish a rural health training unit; to develop the environmental sanitation programme; to promote health education work.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A public health officer, a public health nurse, a sanitary engineer and a sanitarian; (b) Supplies and equipment.

Probable duration of assistance. Indefinite.

Work done during the year. The full WHO team is in position, and the project has made steady progress.

The staff participated in conducting refresher courses for medical officers, sanitarians, fundamental education workers and village level workers. A new curriculum for village level workers was drawn up. The senior WHO officer took part in a sub-committee formed to work out a plan for a national training centre for rural development workers.
Training facilities were better organized. The Government continued to send various categories of health workers for training at the health unit, and doctors, nurses and sanitarians were also given some field training at the project area.

Attention was paid to the improvement of antenatal care and domiciliary midwifery services. Mass campaigns against typhus and smallpox were conducted. The records of the patients examined for tuberculosis were analysed.

The sanitation programme is developing satisfactorily, with a number of new latrines constructed and many improved. The village of Kishlak was provided with a piped water supply, and a length of concrete drain was laid in the bazaar area of Kamari. Three kinds of sanitary latrines were designed at the request of the Ministry of Education. A chain pump made from local resources and capable of delivering 1,200 gallons of water per hour was constructed on a well in Benihisar village.

The Government is still unable to provide an adequate number of national staff for the centre, and the necessity of using the students for service work at the Unit continues to affect their training. Transport limitations remain a problem.

Afghanistan 28
School for Sanitarians, Kabul
(July 1955)

Aim of the project. To train sanitarians for community health services.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) Two sanitarians;
(b) Supplies and equipment.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1961.

Work done during the year. Fourteen students of the first course qualified on completion of their in-service training. Nineteen of the twenty-one students of the second course were successful in the final examination and were posted for in-service training. Students of the third course continued to receive instruction in hygiene and sanitation, English and mathematics. The fourth course began on 21 January 1959, with twenty-one recruits.

The second sanitarian took up his appointment in March 1959.

The counterpart to the WHO sanitarian left for studies on a WHO fellowship (see Afghanistan 22). A substitute and a second counterpart to work with the second WHO sanitarian were appointed.

As the present school building was under a contract of lease which expired, makeshift arrangements had to be made to acquire another suitable structure. These frequent moves tended to retard progress.

The principal objectives of this project are progressively being implemented, though the target of twenty-five graduating students annually has not yet been reached.
Afghanistan 30  Assistance to X-Ray Department, Faculty of Medicine, Kabul (Nov. 1956 - )

Aim of the project. To upgrade facilities and to improve the standard of teaching in the X-Ray Department of the Faculty of Medicine; to train x-ray technicians in the operation and maintenance of equipment; to improve diagnostic facilities at the Aliabad Hospital, and to give training to doctors.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A short-term consultant (x-ray engineer).

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1961.

Work done during the year. The x-ray equipment supplied by WHO was installed by the WHO x-ray engineer attached to the Tuberculosis Chemotherapy Project, Madras. A consultant x-ray engineer for the project was recruited in May 1959, to inspect the x-ray unit already supplied and to train national personnel in radiography and in the maintenance of the x-ray equipment.

Afghanistan 31  Assistance to Institute of Public Health, Kabul (April - May 1956; Nov. 1956 - )

Aim of the project. To establish an Institute of public health for investigation, research and training of public health workers.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A consultant for one month; (b) A twelve-month international fellowship.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1962.

Work done during the year. A short-term consultant was assigned in November 1955. He made certain recommendations regarding the functional organization of the premises of the Institute and suggested some minor alterations in design. Advice was given on the equipment required, and a programme of fellowship training for the staff of the Institute was discussed.

Some progress was made with the construction of the building.

Afghanistan 33  Tuberculosis Country Adviser (June 1956 - )

Aim of the project. To review the work of the Tuberculosis Control and Training Centre, Kabul, and to make recommendations for its further development and expansion.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A consultant for eight weeks.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1961.
Work done during the year. In 1958 the consultant paid two visits, each of four weeks duration. He submitted a report in respect of each visit. The following are some of the recommendations which he made for the future development of the tuberculosis service in Afghanistan:

(1) Since the Kabul Tuberculosis Centre is not functioning as a teaching and administrative centre, a team consisting of a doctor, a laboratory technician, an x-ray technician and a health visitor should be given advanced training in an area with an economic background similar to that of Afghanistan.

(2) A nucleus of teaching staff (both doctors and technicians) should be permanently posted to the Centre.

(3) Facilities should be provided for systematic relief to the patients attending the Centre; domiciliary services should be extended and contact activities increased.

(4) A central registry should be set up at the Chaman Clinic for tuberculosis cases, particularly those which are infective. Systematic use should be made of such diagnostic facilities as are available in provincial towns.

(5) A BCG team should be sent for group-training in India, and if a transportable mass x-ray unit is procured, staff to operate the unit should receive similar training.

Afghanistan 35  Nursing Education
TA  (June 1957...)

Aim of the project. To develop the training of male and female nurses and midwives; to establish a training programme for auxiliary nurse-midwives; to plan the country's needs in nursing services.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A senior nurse, a public health nurse and two nurse tutors; (b) A twelve-month international fellowship; (c) Supplies and equipment.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1963.

Work done during the year. Training of the three groups of students in the Aliabad School for Male Nurses was continued according to the syllabus. The children's ward was taken over from the Surgical Department to be developed as a teaching ward.

At the School for Female Nurses, Mazar-i-Sharif, a new class of eleven students was enrolled. A survey of the sanitary facilities and water supply in the hospital was carried out, and recommendations for improvement were made. A refresher course for the head nurses and diploma nurses was carried out.

The training programmes for midwives at the Shararah Hospital School of Midwifery continued satisfactorily. A new class of fifteen students was admitted in January. Better methods of examination of patients are
being slowly accepted by the midwives, and follow-up visits after domiciliary confinement are now being made on the first, second, fourth, sixth, eighth and twelfth days, instead of the first six days, after delivery. A programme for training auxiliary nurse-midwives was started, with seven students from two sections of the community development area near Kabul. This was the first time in Afghanistan that female students had lived in a hostel. A full-time tutor has been appointed.

A series of lectures in elementary anatomy and physiology and first aid was given in the School for Sanitarians.

The senior WHO nurse educator joined the project in October, and the fifth nurse tutor is under recruitment. Two additional acting counterparts have been provided, making a total of three.

Afghanistan 36  Fellowship

Health Statistics: A three-month fellowship for study in India.

Nursing: A twelve-month fellowship for study in Switzerland.

Laboratory Technique: A six-month fellowship for study in India.

Sanitation: Four twelve-month fellowships for study in Lebanon.

Afghanistan 38  Domiciliary and Hospital Supplies

Aim of the project. To supply equipment for the expansion of hospital services.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. Supplies and equipment, including ambulances, instruments, sewing machines and hospital linen.

Afghanistan 45  Typhus Control

Aim of the project. To evaluate the typhus control measures in operation in the country.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A short-term consultant; (b) Supplies.

According to his report, the organization for the dusting operations in Afghanistan is satisfactory. No cases of typhus have been reported for the last three years, but, since over 25% body louse infestation is still being found, the potential for further cases exists. Resistance tests have shown a lowered susceptibility by the louse to 10% DDT in the Kabul area but not in Kandahar.

In view of his recommendations, WHO has accorded technical approval to the Government's plan to extend the coverage to an additional two million people over and above the two million now being protected. Special attention will be paid to nomads. Operations in 1959/60 will include a change from DDT to BHC in the Kabul area, but a continuation of 10% DDT in Kandahar and other new areas. UNICEF will continue to provide insecticides and equipment.