



Health in Afghanistan: Significant Progress on a Long and Challenging Road

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Outline of the Presentation

- Background
 - Health Situation in 2002
 - MOPH's Response
 - Health System
 - Over all Health Achievements
 - Conclusions
 - Challenges
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Country Context

- Pop'n = 25 Million
- 650 000 km²
- 34 provinces
- GDP ~ 300 dollars/ capita/year
- Civil War since 1978
- 1-2 million people died
- >5 million refugees
- 80% rural



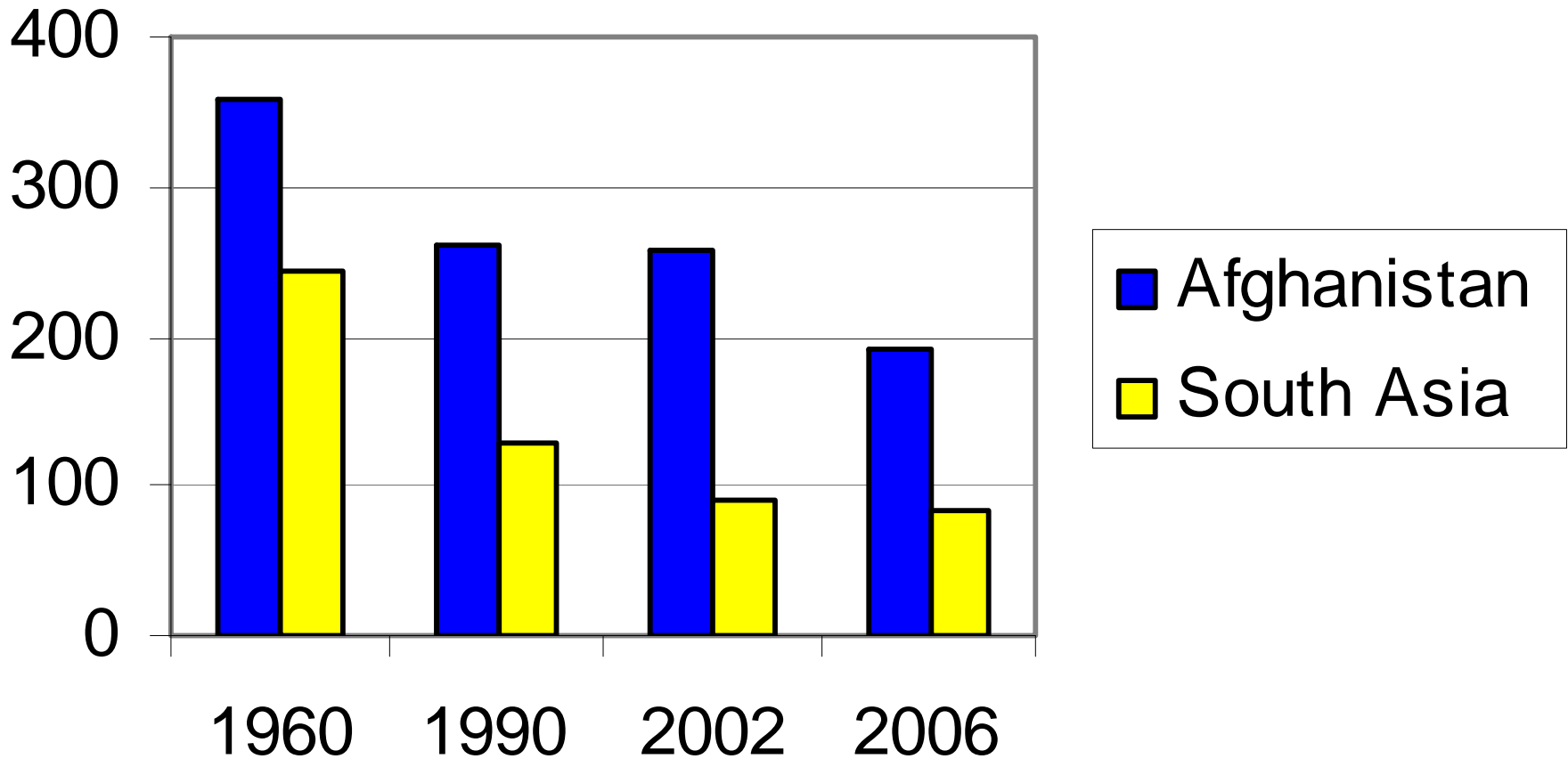
Health System in Afghanistan

- Health Committee (Shora)
 - Health Posts
 - Sub Centers
 - Basic Health Centers
 - Comprehensive Health Centers
 - Districts Hospitals
 - Provincials Hospitals
 - Regional Hospitals
 - Others
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Health indicators

- Life expectancy at birth: 47 years for men and 45 years for women
 - Under-five child mortality rate: 257 deaths per 1,000 live births per year
 - Maternal mortality ratio estimated at 1600 per 100,000 live births per year, one of the highest in the world
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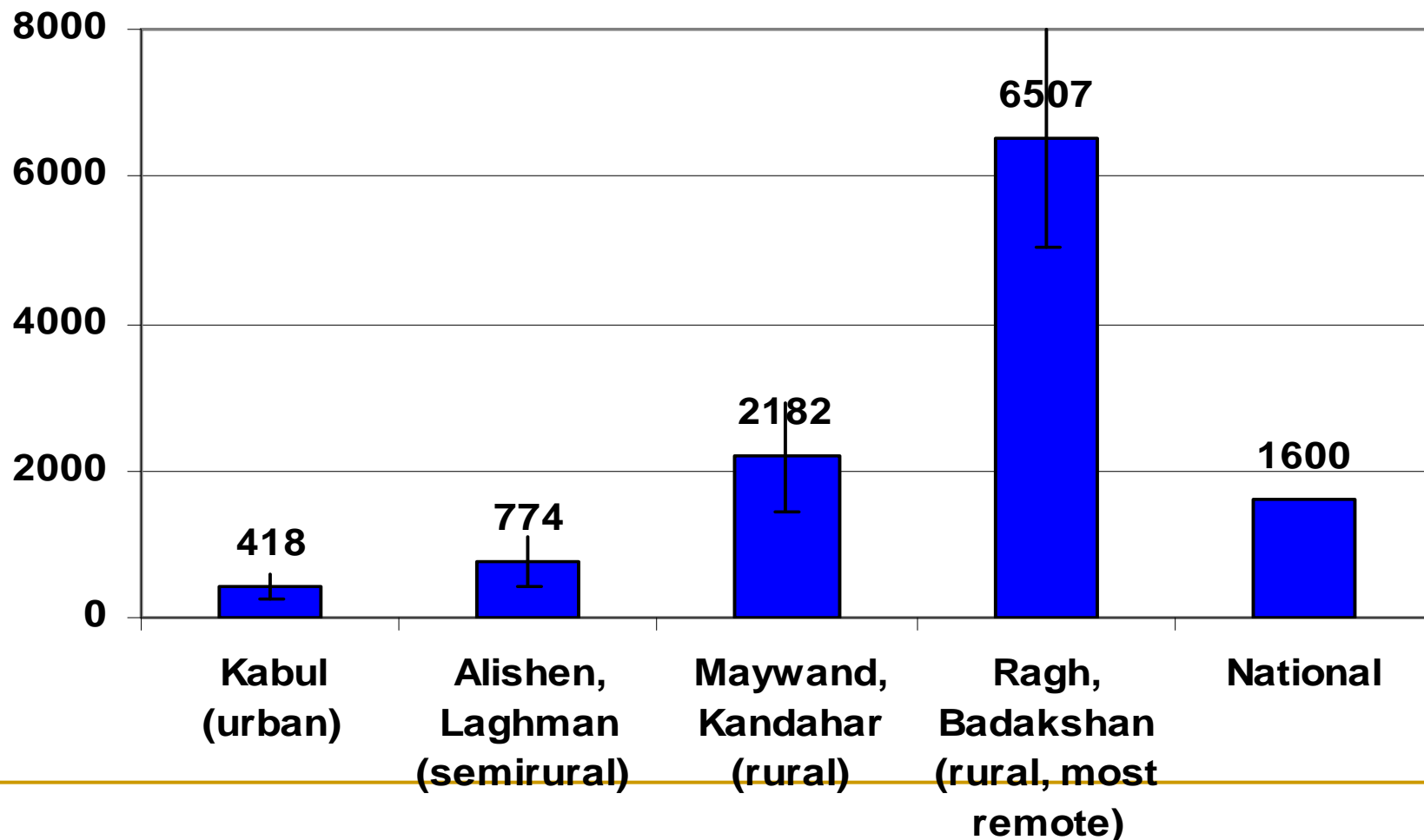
Afghanistan had high U5MR in 1960 and was decades behind other countries



Health System Situation—Post-Taliban 2002

- Health system infrastructure:
 - Inequitable distribution of health services
 - Insufficient numbers of health workers
 - Many clinics and hospitals damaged by war, earthquakes and neglect
- MOPH had limited capacity
- Little coordination of NGO activities

Inequalities were very serious, MMR much worse in rural and remote areas



The MoPH Response:

- Established the “Basic Package of Health Services”
- Signed contracts with NGOs on a very large scale – 90% of Afghans live in areas served by NGOs
- Provinces have been assigned to donors facilitate coordination
- Competitively recruited Afghans to work in MOPH at market wages

The MoPH Response:

- Training of community midwives
 - Established “Essential Package of Hospital Services”
 - Invested heavily in monitoring and evaluation
 - Household surveys done in 2003, 2005 and 2006
 - HMIS initially poorly functioning but improved over time with USAID assistance
 - Health Facility Surveys since 2004
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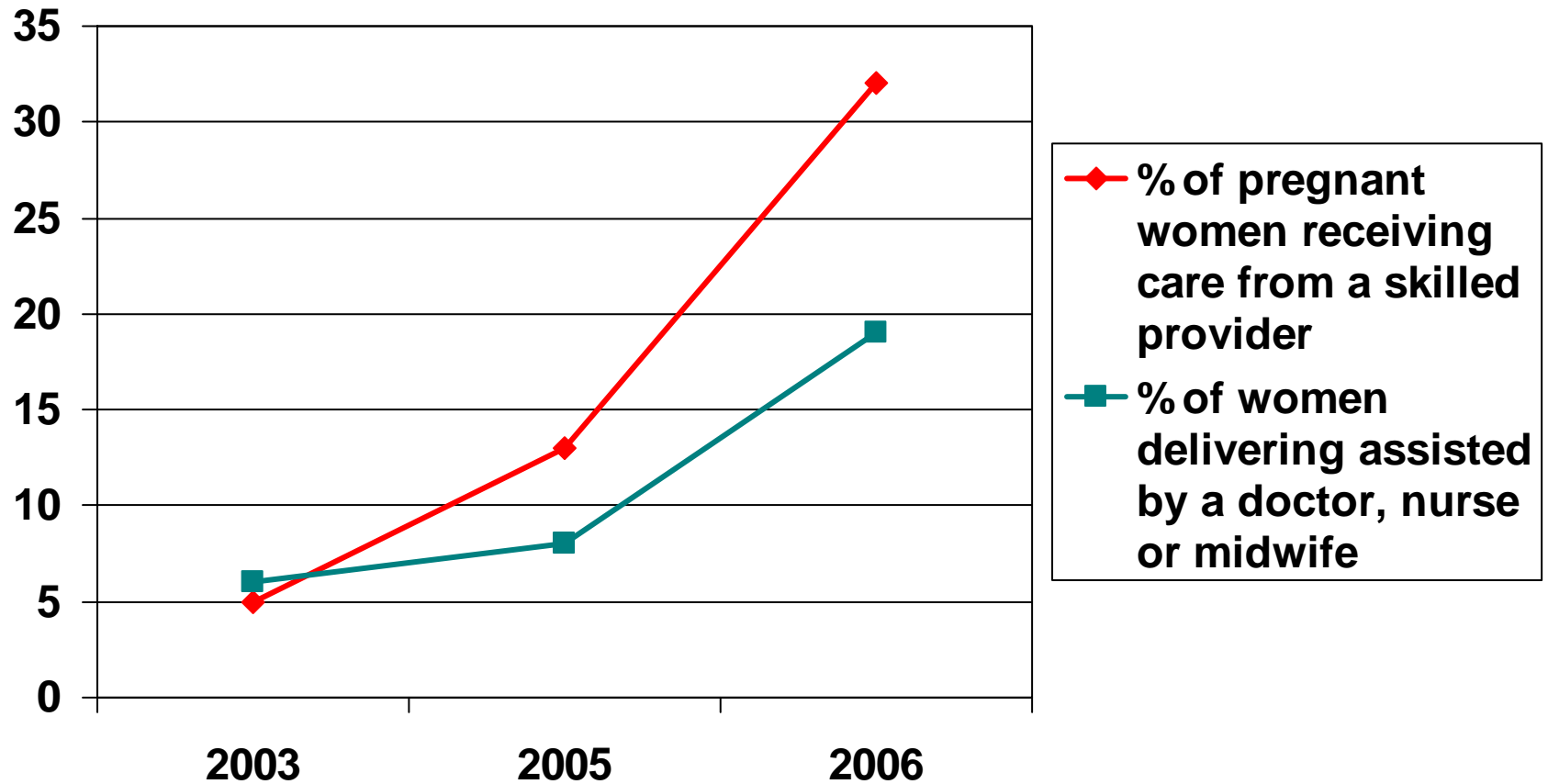
The Results of the Investments: Improvements in Health



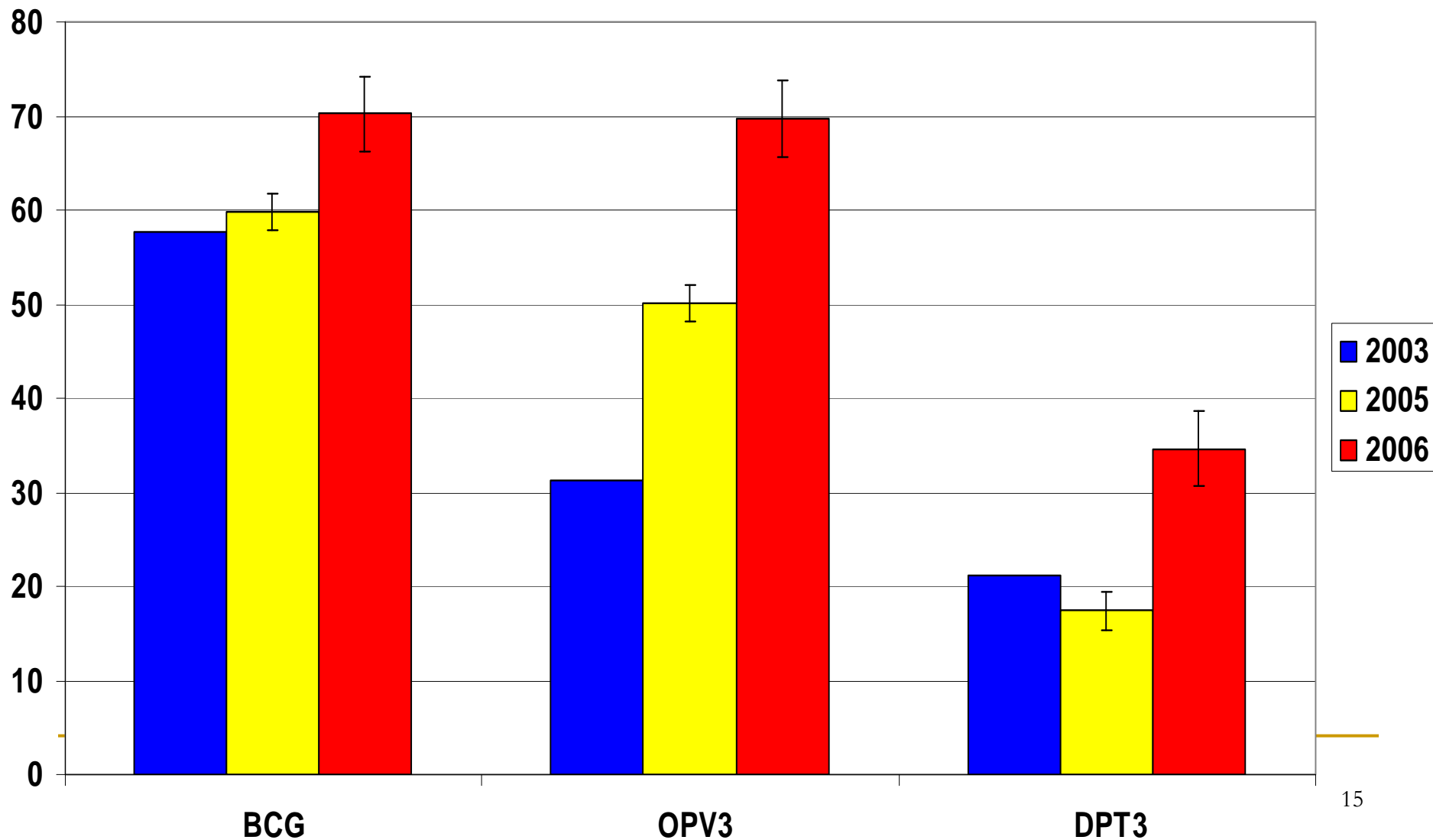
Results So Far

- Increase in functioning health facilities from 496 in 2002 to 1700 in 2009
- Percent of facilities with skilled female health workers increased from 24.8% in 2002 to 82% in 2007
- TB case detection rates have increased from 15% to nearly 55%
- Under 5 mortality reduced from 257 to 191 (ahead of MDG target)
- Infant mortality rate reduced from 165 to 121
- Could achieve full immunization of newborn children by 2012

Improved Access to Primary Health Care



Changes in Routine Immunization Coverage





Summary

Substantial progress has been made:

- Accessibility to basic health services is improving
 - Quality of health services is improving
 - Provision of health services is focused on children, women and the poor
 - Mortality rates of children and women are declining
 - Enhanced health system and well designed health policies and strategies
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Conclusions

- The health of Afghan women and children is in a better state today than in 2002
- We have achieved much, but much remains to be done
- Our capacity to manage the health system is improving
- The financial and technical assistance from the Donors has been crucial in saving lives and improving the health status of the people of Afghanistan
- We are focused on dealing with priority health problems that affect the rural and at-risk populations

Challenges

- Infant, child and maternal mortality remain highest in the region and one of the highest in the world
- Many communities continue to have inadequate access to health services
- Insecurity is a major problem
- Expansion of enhanced hospital services
- Standard ambulances for enhanced referral system

Further health gains require sustained support from donors and our partners for the long-term

Reason for fast Development

Defining our real need

Set priorities

Coordination of all involved partners

Leadership commitment

Given priority to the rural area

Competitively recruited of skilled Afghans to work in MOPH at market wages

THANK YOU!

