



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 4, 2016

TO: John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General for
Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)

FROM: Tamra Halmrast-Sanchez, Acting Mission Director

SUBJECT: Mission Response to Draft SIGAR Review Letter titled
"USAID-Supported Health Facilities in Kabul (SIGAR
16-90-SP)

REF: SfgAR Transmittal email dated 12/21/2015

USAID thanks SIGAR for the opportunity to comment on this Review Letter.

USAID welcomes the feedback that all 32 of the visited facilities provide health services to their local communities in a manner that meets or exceeds the expectation of the community members interviewed.

USAID has helped the Afghans receive critical health services over the past decade and is committed to continuing those efforts. The USAID Partnership Contracts for Health (PCH) project which ended June 2015 provided technical assistance to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to deliver basic health services to more than one million Afghans every month. The World Bank-administered System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) program continues this effort.

USAID ensures that adequate oversight occurs for all USAID-supported projects. In the past, USAID carried out direct monitoring of the PCH project and currently provides oversight of the World Bank-managed SEHAT program through reviews of third party monitoring reports and Health Management Information System (HMIS) publications. We are pleased that in this review SIGAR located all 32 USAID-supported clinics they inspected in Kabul, and affirmed their importance to the Afghan communities. The MoPH continues to improve GPS accuracy. Recently the MoPH, with support from

WHO, conducted a health facility rationalization and functionality assessment where they updated the GPS coordinates in 14 provinces. In all remaining provinces, the HMIS department of the MoPH updated the GPS coordinates.

Under the PCH project, USAID mobilized local Afghan staff and independent monitors familiar with the areas to visit, observe, and evaluate the clinics. USAID's monitoring of the PCH-supported clinics in Kabul identified issues with bathroom cleanliness, access to electricity and site security. MOPH is addressing these. Their efforts are continuing under SEHAT and SIGAR's recognition of maintenance concerns will be brought to the MoPH's and the World Bank's attention so that remediation can occur.

All 32 of the SIGAR-visited facilities are now funded through the World Bank-managed SEHAT program. USAID notes SIGAR's observations that some of these government-owned clinics have structural and maintenance problems. USAID, through our partnership with the World Bank and the European Union, will continue to support the MoPH in maintaining these facilities.

cc: U.S. Embassy/Kabul Coordination Directorate