



SIGAR

Office of the Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Wade Warren
Acting Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development

Dear Administrator Warren:

I am writing to alert you to a safety matter that warrants action by your agency. As you know, SIGAR is conducting site inspections at USAID-supported health facilities throughout Afghanistan.¹ USAID's support for these facilities is intended to enable health service delivery by providing funding for staff, basic supplies, and utilities, and is not intended to fund the construction or refurbishment of health facilities. While our site inspections at these facilities focus on the accuracy of location information maintained by USAID and the Afghan government and the operational status of the facilities, one aspect of our site inspections includes photographing and conducting a basic review of the structural integrity and general safety of the buildings at each site. As the enclosed photographs show, facility 2132² in Khost province appears to have severe structural damage that threatens the safety of facility staff, patients, and visitors.

In April 2017, we conducted site visits to 20 health facilities in Khost province, Afghanistan, supported by USAID through the through the World Bank-administered System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) program. Following each site visit, SIGAR analysts and engineers examined the status of the facilities. Though still operational and being used to treat patients, we found that the structural damage at health facility 2132 is substantial and needs urgent repairs in order to ensure the safety of facility staff, patients, and visitors. Upon examining several photographs of health facility 2132, SIGAR engineers concluded that the building is not safe for use as a health facility or for any other purpose.

As seen in the photos below, SIGAR engineers found the beams, column, and roof of the facility are severely damaged, and that clinic staff used wooden beams to temporarily support the roof.

¹ USAID's \$259.6 million Partnership Contracts for Health (PCH) program provided support for the operations of health facilities in 13 provinces throughout Afghanistan. That program began in July of 2008 and ended in June 2015. Immediately following the conclusion of the PCH program, USAID began providing funding to support the same health facilities through the World Bank-administered System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) program, which is scheduled to run through June 2018.

² To encourage further Afghan cooperation with our site inspections in other provinces, and to protect sensitive identifying information of clinics, we are using the unique USAID facility identification number rather than the facility name.

Photo 1: Health Facility 2132



General View of health facility 2132

Source: SIGAR April 26, 2017.

Photo 2: Damage to Health Facility 2132



Damaged roof, beams and column, unsafe temporary wooden column installed by staff to support the roof.

Source: SIGAR April 26, 2017.

Photo 3: Structural Damage to Support Beam and Wall at Health Facility 2132



Source: SIGAR April 26, 2017.

Photo 4: Structural Damage to Roof Beam and Ceiling at Health Facility 2132



Source: SIGAR April 26, 2017.

Photo 5: Internal damage and cracks at Health Facility 2132



Source: SIGAR April 26, 2017.

Photo 6: Wall failing and ceiling sagging at Health Facility 2132



Source: SIGAR April 26, 2017.

Of particular concern at health facility 2132 is the number of staff and patients in the facility at any given time. According to staff interviewed at the facility, it provides health services to 70-120 patients per day, from approximately 20 surrounding villages. While conducting our site inspection, we observed roughly 15 patients at the facility.

SIGAR strongly urges USAID to immediately contact its partners in the SEHAT program (i.e., The World Bank and the Afghan Ministry of Public Health) and alert them to the unsafe conditions at facility 2132. We are concerned that continued use of the building puts the lives of staff, patients, and visitors at risk, and that the building is not safe for use until remedial actions are taken.

We conducted our work in Kabul, Afghanistan; Khost, Afghanistan; and Washington, D.C. from April 2017 through July 2017, in accordance with SIGAR's quality control standards. These standards require that we carry out work with integrity, objectivity, and independence, and provide information that is factually accurate and reliable. For more information on the policies and procedures and quality control standards for conducting special project work, please see SIGAR's website (www.SIGAR.mil) SIGAR performed this special project under the authority of Public Law No. 110-181 and the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Should you or your staff have any questions about this project, please contact Mr. Matthew Dove, Director of Special Projects, at (703) 545-6051 or matthew.d.dove.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,



John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

CC:

William Hammink
Assistant Administrator for Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs
U.S. Agency for International Development

Mr. Herbert B. Smith
USAID Mission Director for Afghanistan




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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MEMORANDUM

July 26, 2017

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

FROM: Herbert Smith, Mission Director 

SUBJECT: Mission Response to Draft Alert Letter titled: "Structural
Damage at Health Facility 2132" (SIGAR SP-173/SIGAR-
17-XX-SP)

REF: SIGAR Transmittal email dated 07/18/2017

USAID thanks SIGAR for alerting us to the structural damage at Health Facility 2132. USAID has informed the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the World Bank of the situation through official letters dated July 23, 2017.

cc: Ravindral Suaris, Controller, USAID/Afghanistan
Joan Simon Bartholomaeus, U.S. Embassy/Kabul
OAPA Audit
Chris La Pietra-Fung, Acting Director of the Office of Health and
Nutrition, USAID/Afghanistan