
The role and importance of private providers in health service delivery and their contribution to health system strengthening in Afghanistan

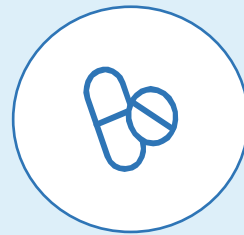
Dr Ajab Gul Niaz

Head of Health Rules and Compliance Directorate, MoPH

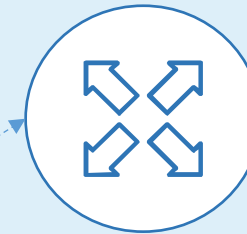
What do we mean by private health sector?

The private health sector comprises **all actors outside of government**, including **for-profit, not-for-profit, formal and informal entities**

Pharmacies and
Pharmaceutical
companies



Private
Health
Sector



Suppliers

Service Providers

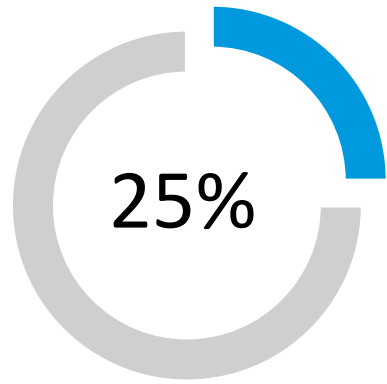


Traditional healers.

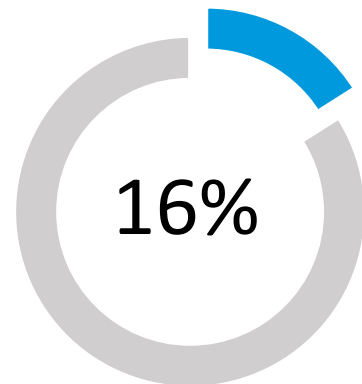
In Service Delivery...

the private health sector includes *individuals and organizations that are neither owned nor directly controlled by government and which are involved in provision of health services. It can be classified into subcategories as **‘for-profit’ and ‘not-for-profit’, formal and informal, domestic and international***

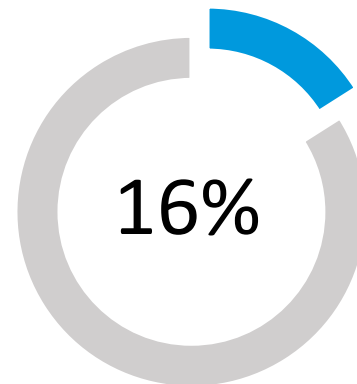
The private health sector provides a significant share of HRH



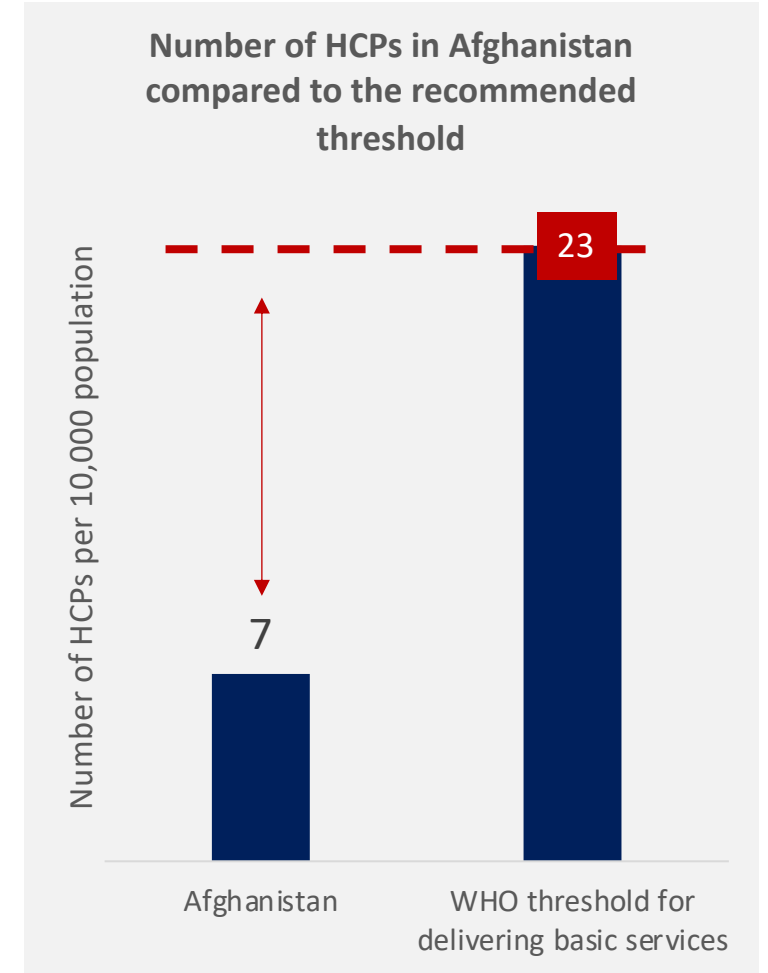
Doctors



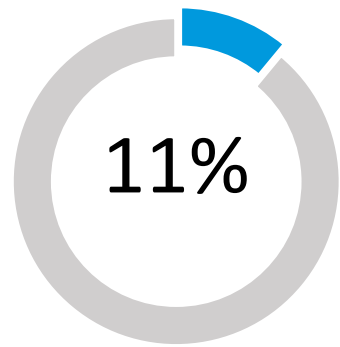
Nursing staff



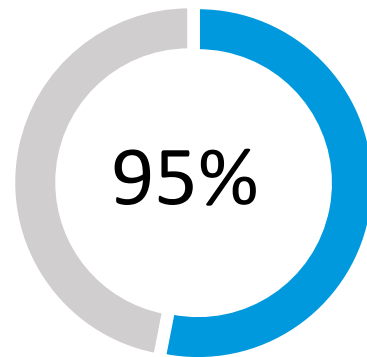
Midwives



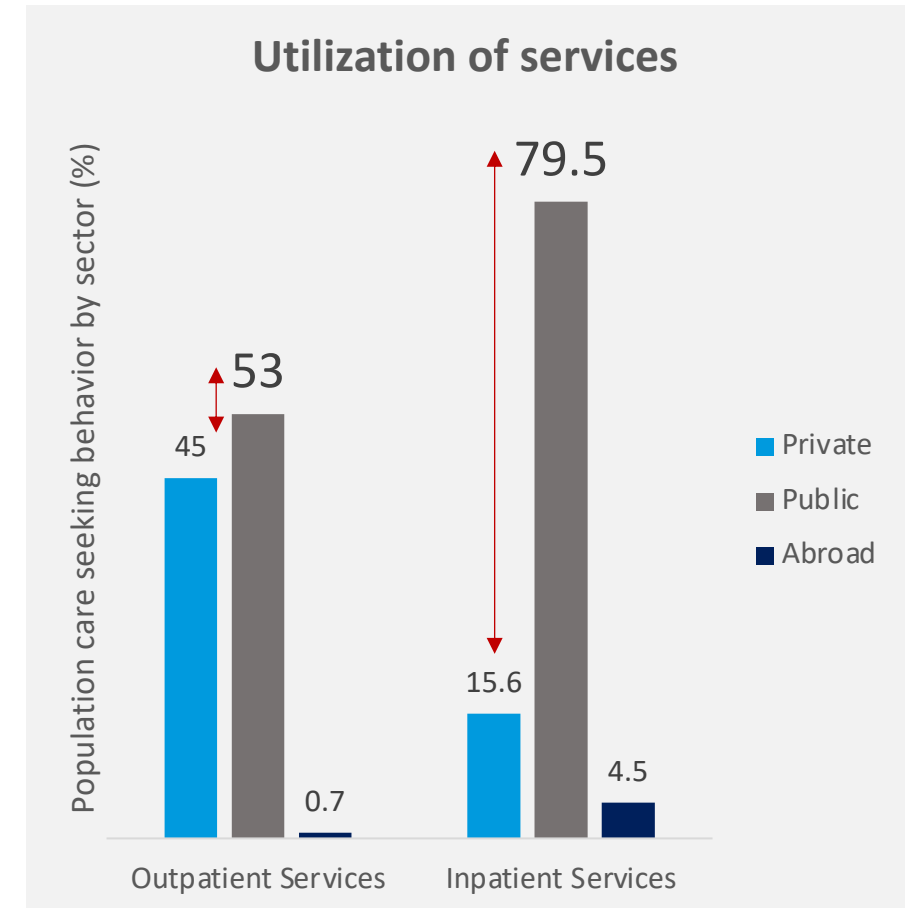
Ownership and utilization of private sector services



Medical Facilities

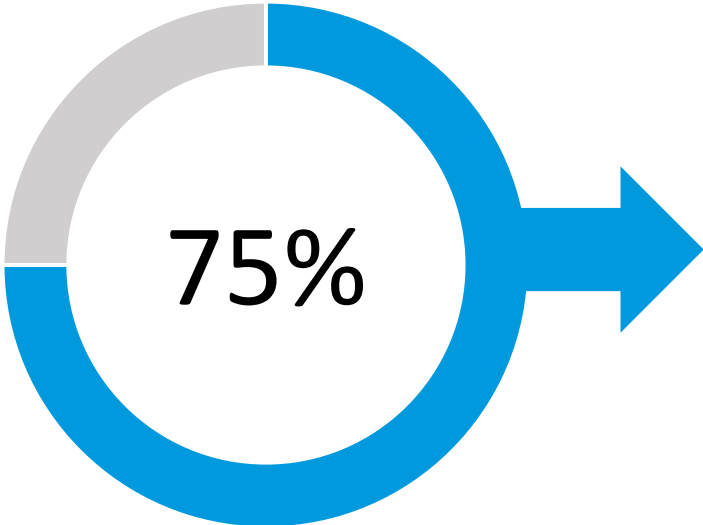


Hospital Beds



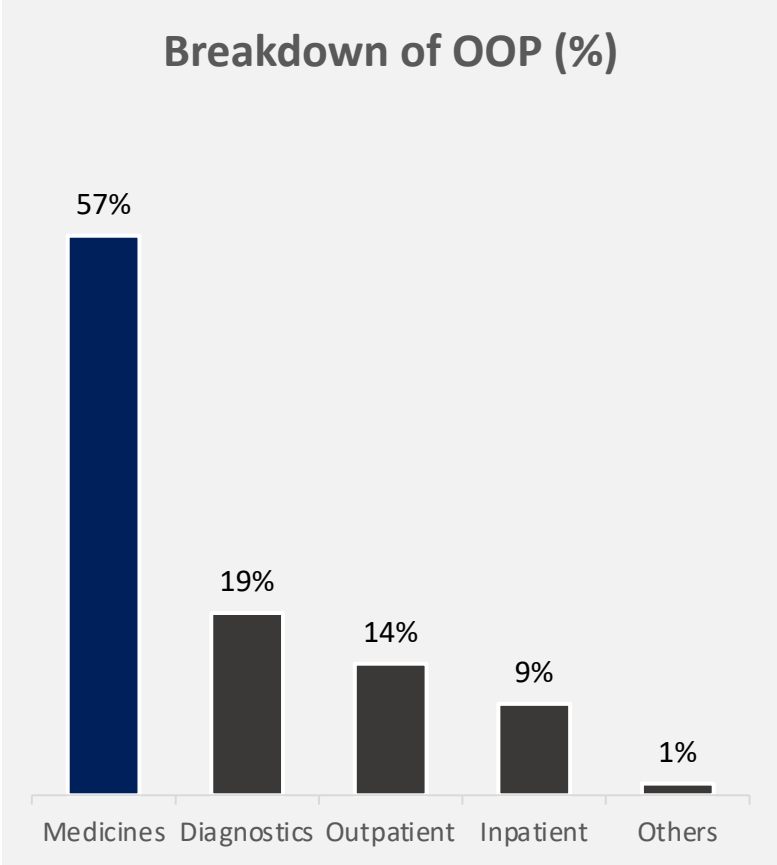
**Public sector share includes the utilization of services provided by NGOs for BHSP and EHSP services

Household Out of Pocket OOP expenditure



Household OOP expenditure out of THE in 2019

62%
of OOP payments were made to private health care facilities.




The private sector continues to grow...

Five-fold
increase
in the cumulative number of
private hospitals licensed by the
MoPH in just 11 years

MoPH 2015


Between 2009/10 and 2013/14

+60%



Private **laboratories**

+24%



Private **Pharmacies**

Central Statistical Organization 2009–14.

Quality of services at private facilities



24% and 21% of private and public clients respectively rated quality of private services as **POSITIVE**

POOR



Poor **enforcement**



Lack of **treatment protocols**



Lack of responsibility for **patient safety**



Lack of **monitoring capacity**



Poor **Infrastructure**



Limited **technical competencies**

What is private sector engagement (PSE)?

PSE in service delivery is defined as

“the meaningful inclusion of private providers for service delivery in mixed health systems”.



What opportunities does PSE present for Afghanistan?



Channelling investments to the country as opposed to seeking care abroad



Improved quality of services and accreditation-seeking behaviour

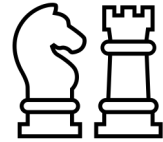


Increasing access to tertiary health care services

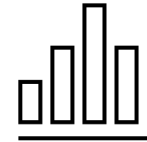


increased innovation, expertise, flexibility, resources and capacity

Challenges facing PSE



Lack of competition with the public sector



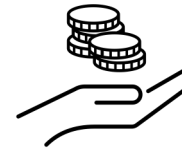
lack of information /sharing data



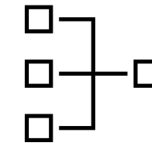
Political instability and lack of security



Limited enforcement of regulations



Reliance on donor funds



Private sector facilities are less likely to have an established management system, especially for HR processes

Thank You!

The role and importance of private providers in health service delivery and their contribution to health system strengthening in Afghanistan

To reference this presentation please use the suggested citation:

The role and importance of private providers in health service delivery and their contribution to health system strengthening in Afghanistan. WHO Country Connector on Private Sector in Health; 2022.