

MSF IN AFGHANISTAN (SEPTEMBER 2021):

✦ **Helmand:** In September, MSF-supported Boost hospital faced a steep increase in patients as road safety in the province improved and people could travel more easily, but most medical facilities remained closed or inoperative. A yearly record high of 22,400 patients presented to Boost, about 4,500 more than the previous peak in March. MSF provided an average of 550 consultations/day in the ER compared with an average of 426/day between January and August. The 300-bed hospital exceeded capacity throughout the month of September with a daily average of 327 hospitalized patients; the previous eight-month daily average was 281. The intensive therapeutic feeding centre operated at over 200% bed occupancy throughout the month, with an average of 91 patients admitted per week.

✦ **Herat:** At MSF's inpatient therapeutic feeding centre (ITFC), the number of malnourished children needing hospitalization between June and September 2021 increased by over 40% compared with the same period last year. MSF increased the number of beds from 42 to 75; still, the ITFC was under significant pressure in September, during the busiest days there were 87 patients admitted at the same time.

✦ **Kandahar:** In addition to its regular drug-sensitive TB and drug resistant TB programme in the province, MSF launched a temporary emergency response in Spin Boldak district. From 9 September to 7 October, MSF provided 1,388 outpatient consultations including to 438 children under five (mainly for diarrhoea, respiratory infections and malnutrition) and provided drinking water to hundreds of families living in an informal settlement for internally displaced people.

✦ **Khost:** The MSF maternity widened its admission criteria as of 15 August to improve access to obstetric care during that period of uncertainty and assisted 1,649 deliveries in September, the highest number this year. While total number of patients increased, the ratio of complicated deliveries and number of newborn admissions decreased in comparison with previous months: expectant mothers who could have had normal deliveries with good neonatal outcomes at primary healthcare facilities may have chosen to give birth at the MSF hospital for lack of adequate services elsewhere in the province.

✦ **Kunduz:** MSF treated 554 patients for trauma injuries including 173 surgeries. Compared with August, number of violent injuries fell considerably while accidental injuries more than doubled. On 8 October, the trauma centre received 90 patients following an explosion at a mosque.