



**French Medical Institute for  
Mothers and Children**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



# Contents

02

2020 AT A  
GLANCE

04

MILESTONES

06

CHAIRMAN'S AND  
CEO'S MESSAGE

08

HIGHLIGHTS

10

OUR PATIENTS

15

TELEMEDICINE

16

SERVING THE  
DISADVANTAGED

18

BUILDING CAPACITY

22

OUR PARTNERS  
AND SUPPORTERS

23

OUR FUTURE

24

BY THE NUMBERS

Many of the photos in this report were taken prior to the pandemic, at a time when universal indoor masking was not required.

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# 2020 at a Glance

9,475

ADMISSIONS

153,861

CLINIC VISITS

449,092

LABORATORY TESTS

79,405

RADIOLOGY PROCEDURES

3,482

SURGERIES

1,296

BABIES DELIVERED

4,482

TELECONSULTATIONS



40,984

PATIENT WELFARE  
RECIPIENTS (INCLUDING  
5,031 INPATIENTS)

\$2.7 MILLION

IN PATIENT WELFARE  
PROVIDED\*

63

ONLINE TRAINING  
SESSIONS

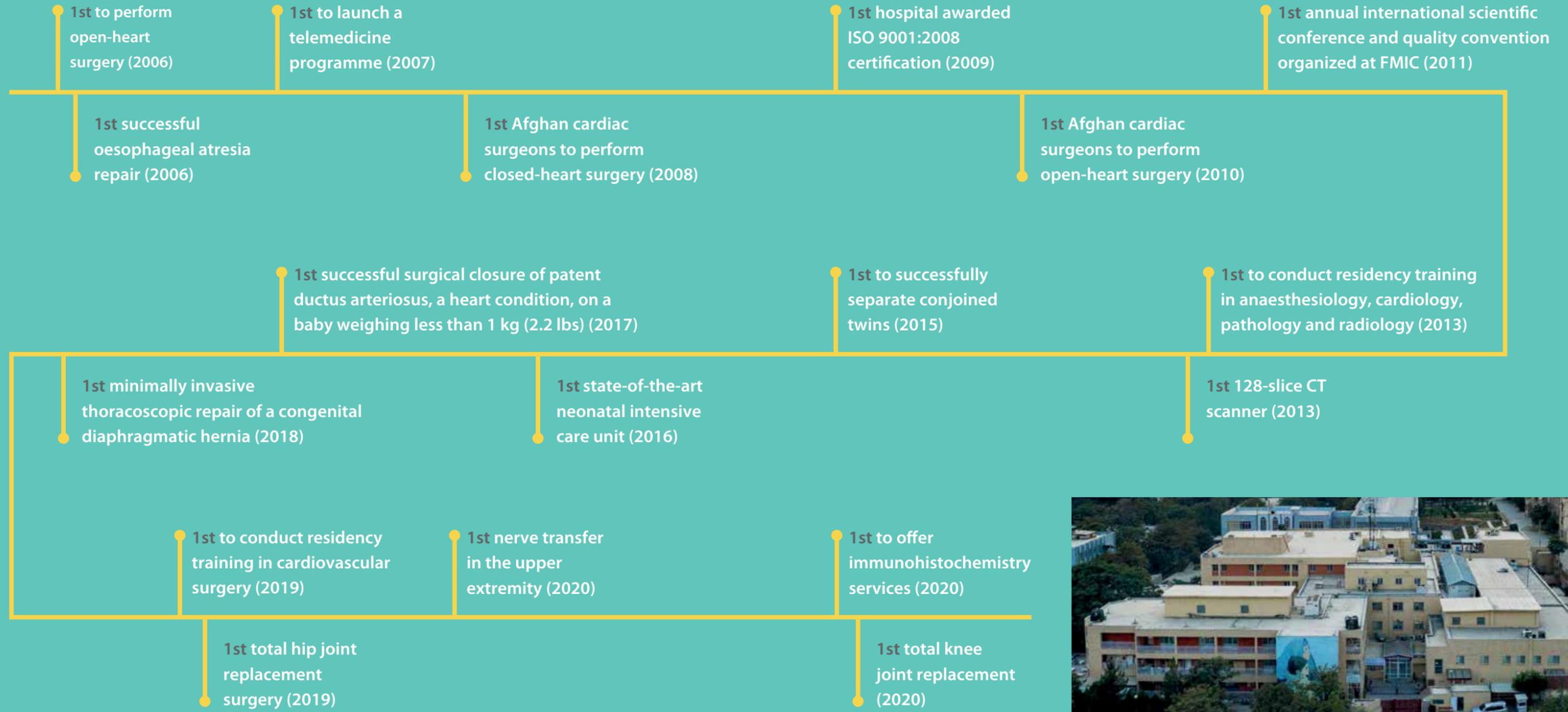
869

ONLINE TRAINING  
SESSION PARTICIPANTS

\* \$ = U.S. dollars  
throughout this report

# Milestones

FMIC has been the first hospital in Afghanistan to perform numerous surgical procedures, train specialists in multiple medical specialties and record a variety of other achievements.





# Chairman's and CEO's Message

The year 2020 was not a good one for the planet, or for humankind. The coronavirus pandemic swept across the globe, killing millions and causing one of the greatest economic crises the world has ever experienced. Nations and institutions struggled to adapt and survive. Afghanistan was not spared, nor was the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC).

In responding to the pandemic, FMIC sought to ensure its unique skills and resources were available to support the Afghan Ministry of Public Health in its management of the COVID crisis. It provided credible COVID testing; trained Afghan caregivers at the Afghan-Japan COVID treatment hospital and elsewhere; established a 10-bed COVID treatment unit; and continued to function as a safe haven for non-COVID patients, providing care to patients who needed its unique services, many of which are not available elsewhere in the country.

While responding to the pandemic, FMIC continued its outstanding accomplishments in other areas. In March 2020, it held its 5th Postgraduate Medical Education convocation, graduating 12 residents in seven disciplines. In May, a barbaric attack at a Kabul-based hospital resulted in devastating injuries to an eleven-hour-old newborn, Amina, whose mother was killed in the same attack. Amina was rescued and brought to FMIC. Wounded by gunfire,

her injuries included a severed artery and veins, a cut sciatic nerve, and an open fracture of her femur. Thanks to the work of FMIC cardiovascular surgeon Dr Najeebullah Bina and his colleagues, Amina lived and her leg was saved from amputation. Her care received international media attention.

In December, FMIC conducted its 10th International Scientific Conference and Quality Convention. Held online due to COVID-related restrictions, it attracted hundreds of national and international delegates. That same month, we learned that the World Health Organization and its partners named three FMIC nurses to their *2020 List of 100+ Outstanding Women Nurses and Midwives*.

Like hospitals around the world, FMIC experienced financial difficulties in 2020. Nonetheless, unlike many hospitals, FMIC was able to avoid reducing staff salaries or eliminating jobs. The institution's founding partners – the Government of France, the Government of Afghanistan, the Aga Khan University and La Chaîne de l'Espoir – all provided essential support to ensure not only the institution's financial viability, but to enable it to continue to provide high-quality services and to introduce new services. Indeed, the partners provided FMIC with \$3.5 million more than was originally committed in 2020. Without that support, FMIC's accomplishment of its mission would have been in jeopardy. Because

of it, in 2021 and beyond, FMIC is well positioned to continue offering care that meets international quality standards and to fulfill its mission of educating and training Afghan health professionals who will improve health across the country.

FMIC's Board Members who live outside Afghanistan deeply regretted their inability to travel to Kabul in 2020, due to the pandemic, to provide in-person support and recognition of the staff's accomplishments. The Board established a special COVID Committee that met with management, via tele-conference, nearly twenty times. The Board hopes it provided good counsel and support to the management team as it sought to implement necessary strategies. We cannot give enough credit to the team members, and the entire staff, for their outstanding performance during a time of crisis. We are proud of them and of FMIC's performance.



**Lee Hilling**  
Chairman, FMIC Board



**Aziz Jan**  
Chief Executive Officer, FMIC

# Highlights

## Immunohistochemistry

In 2020, FMIC became the first hospital in Afghanistan to offer immunohistochemistry services. Immunohistochemistry is used to diagnose certain cancers – including carcinoma of the breast and prostate – and to predict how certain tumours will respond to a given therapy. The Hospital’s capabilities now include the use of cryosection, which allows for the rapid diagnosis of biopsies taken during surgery, helping to inform surgical decision-making. In 2020, FMIC performed 383 immunohistochemistry tests for 170 patients.

## Adult General Surgery

In light of Afghanistan’s shortage of health care services for adults, FMIC has been steadily increasing the number of services it provides for adults in recent years. In 2020, the Hospital began offering adult general surgery. Oncology surgery, liver surgery, laparoscopic surgery, emergency surgery and gastrointestinal surgery are all provided by two outstanding adult surgeons, both of whom are Afghans. FMIC provides a wide range of services for adults, including cardiology, orthopaedics, neurology, psychology and emergency care.

## New Patient Portal

FMIC introduced a patient portal called Family Hifazat (Family Care). FMIC patients can now access their health information from anywhere and at any time through a web portal or mobile application. Family Hifazat is secure, confidential and easy to use, providing FMIC patients with 24-hour access to their personal health records, including diagnostic results, imaging, medications, vaccines, clinical appointments and discharge summaries.

## Protective Measures

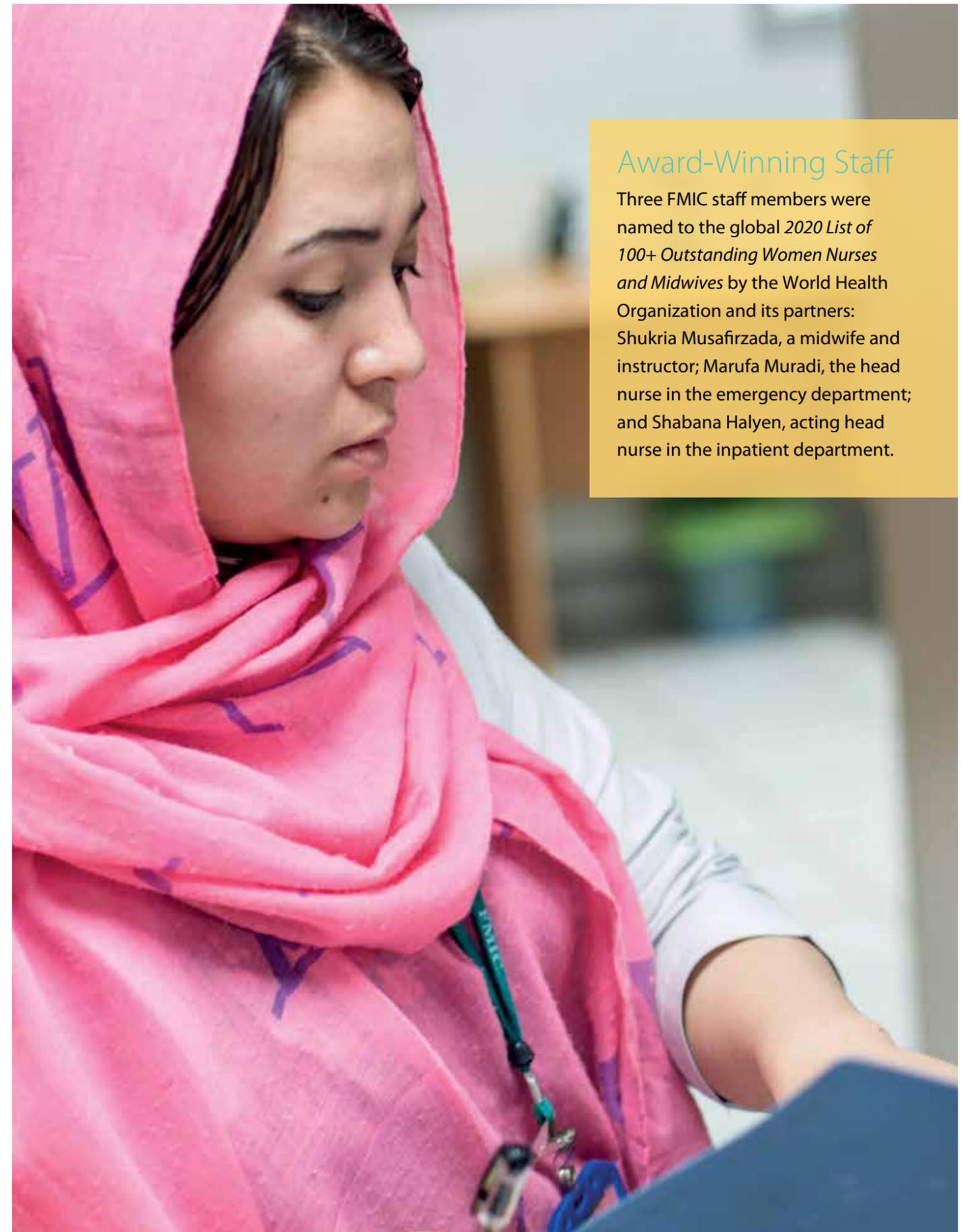
Within days of the pandemic being declared, FMIC acted promptly to ensure that the hospital is a safe environment for its patients and staff. A pre-screening triage process was established to check all incoming patients for infection and front-line staff were equipped with personal protective equipment. Social distancing and mask-wearing were made obligatory at FMIC for both staff and visitors, and hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies were made readily available throughout the hospital. Action was also taken to protect employees considered to be at higher risk, such as pregnant women and older individuals.

## COVID-19 PCR Testing and Treatment Centre

FMIC was selected by the Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) to be one of the few hospitals in Kabul to provide PCR testing for the novel coronavirus and treatment for COVID-19 patients. The decision was made after the Ministry and the WHO performed a quality check of 435 sample tests that were carried out by FMIC. The Hospital’s COVID-19 treatment centre included 10 general beds and five intensive care beds. During 2020, the hospital carried out 5,580 PCR tests and cared for 80 COVID-19 patients.

## Award-Winning Staff

Three FMIC staff members were named to the global *2020 List of 100+ Outstanding Women Nurses and Midwives* by the World Health Organization and its partners: Shukria Musafirzada, a midwife and instructor; Marufa Muradi, the head nurse in the emergency department; and Shabana Halyen, acting head nurse in the inpatient department.



# Our Patients



## Bibi Amina

An 11-hour-old baby's life was saved by FMIC after her mother was shot and killed in a terrorist attack on a Kabul hospital on May 11, 2020. Amina was brought to FMIC's emergency room with multiple gunshot wounds, suffering from multiple bone fractures and a huge loss of muscle and skin tissues. She was admitted to the Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and a team of radiologists, orthopaedists, anaesthesiologists, cardiologists, neonatologists and nurses began caring for her. A successful surgery was performed, with no complications, enabling Amina to make a full recovery. Her case earned national and international attention, and she remains a symbol of the hardships Afghanistan has endured and the strength and resolve of its people. Amina's family paid nothing for her care, thanks to FMIC's Patient Welfare Programme and the support of individual donors.

## Samira

After Samira was born, her parents noticed something was wrong with her right arm. When she was three months old, they took her to a hospital in their native province of Baghlan, which referred her to La Chaîne de l'Espoir and FMIC. At FMIC, Samira was diagnosed with a brachial plexus birth palsy – an injury to the nerves between the neck and the shoulder that often occurs during a difficult delivery. After physical therapy failed to make a difference, doctors at FMIC opted for a surgical approach. Dr Royeen Dehzad, an FMIC orthopaedic surgeon, performed the first upper-extremity nerve transfer in Afghanistan. Samira is now undergoing physical therapy and is improving fast. Her smiles bring hope to her parents, who get excited every time she picks up her toys to play. As Samira's family could not afford the cost of her care, FMIC's Patient Welfare Programme covered 100% of the cost. The family was also provided with free transport to and from FMIC and free accommodation at its Women's and Children's House.



## Zabihullah

The owner of a small bakery in a suburb of Kabul, Zabihullah began to suffer from pain in his left knee when he was just 20. The severity of the pain gradually increased and he finally lost the ability to walk. After nine years, during which he visited numerous hospitals and doctors in Kabul, his family brought him to FMIC. At FMIC, MRI images showed that Zabihullah was suffering from a rare case of atrophy in his left knee muscles leading to joint deformity. A total knee replacement was conducted by orthopaedist Dr Khatab Osmani. Within a month, Zabihullah was able to walk again without any support. He is expected to be able to return to normal activities.



## Batool

A 13-year-old girl living in Kabul whose father is a security guard at a market, Batool was suffering from fever, weakness and inflammation. Although she visited many hospitals and clinics in Kabul, her condition did not improve. Finally, her family brought her to FMIC. Dr Jamil Rasooly, an FMIC paediatric specialist, diagnosed her with sepsis – a serious infection. Surgery was performed to drain her abscesses, and she spent 20 days in the Hospital's intensive care unit. Given her family's limited income, FMIC's Patient Welfare Programme covered 61% of the cost of her care.



## Abubakr

Abubakr is a little boy who lives in central Afghanistan, where his father struggles to earn a living as a driver. Abubakr was suffering from bladder exstrophy, a birth defect in which the bladder protrudes through the abdomen and cannot function normally. His family was planning to take him abroad for treatment, until he was referred to FMIC. At FMIC, Dr Homayoun Atiq Ghairatmal, a paediatric surgeon, performed a surgery known as an ileal conduit diversion that will help Abubakr to lead a more normal life and avoid damage to his kidneys. Abubakr's surgery was paid for by FMIC's Patient Welfare Programme. The family was also provided with free transport to and from FMIC and free accommodation at its Women's and Children's House.

## Mujtaba

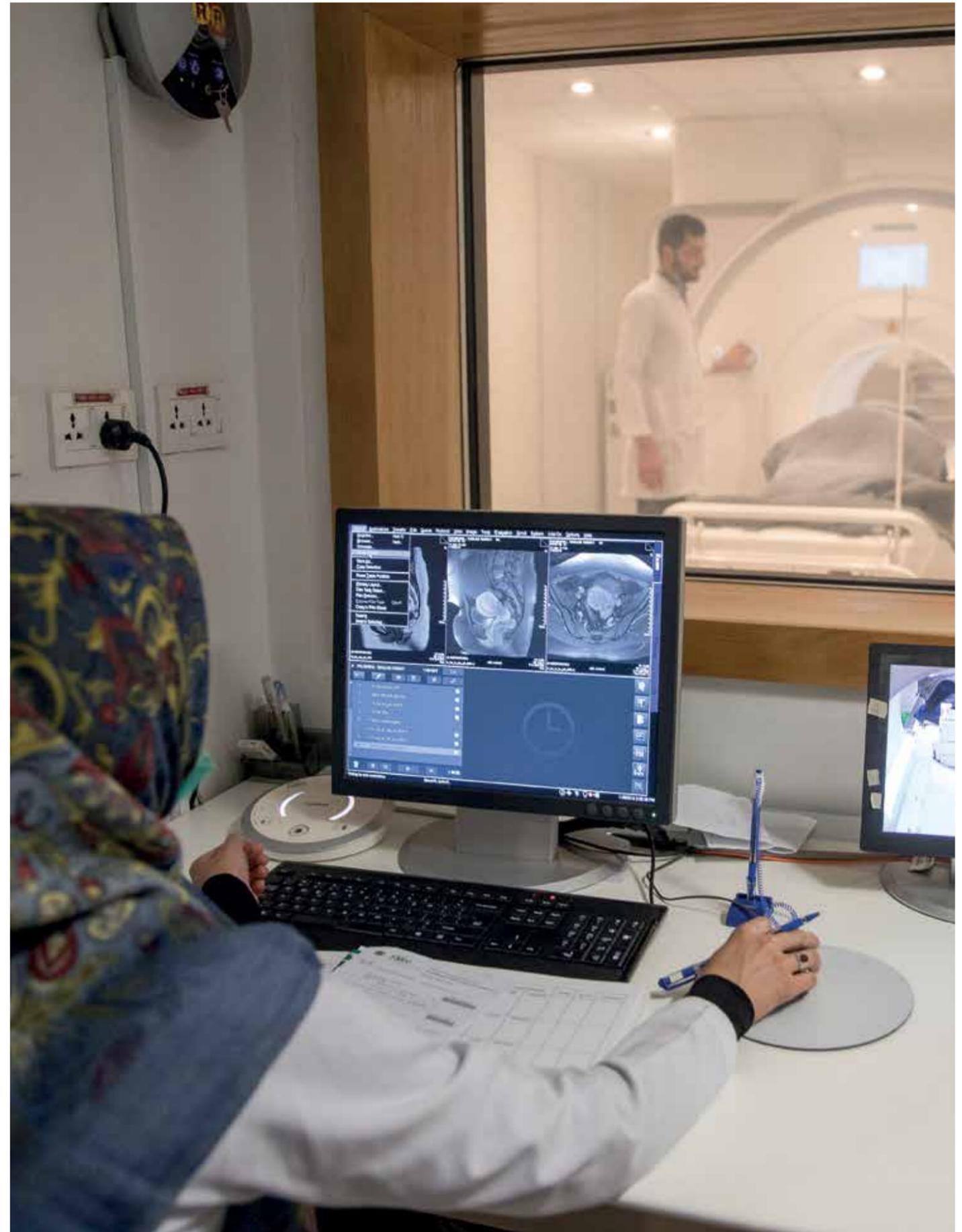
Mujtaba, 6, lives in the Argo District of Badakhshan Province. His father is a day laborer. Mujtaba suffered a broken foot and received medical care in Badakhshan, but his foot failed to fully heal, leaving him with a dangerous fracture. Eventually, he was referred to FMIC, where orthopaedic surgeons performed a bone graft. Within a week, Mujtaba was able to walk without pain. FMIC's Patient Welfare



Programme paid for Mujtaba's care, given his family's limited income. His family also received free transport to and from FMIC and free accommodation at the Hospital's Women's and Children's House.

## Romal

Romal is a 9-year-old boy from Parwan province. His father is an agricultural laborer. Romal was experiencing terrible pain in the area of his left kidney. Doctors at other hospitals believed he had only one kidney and were unable to reduce his suffering. Finally, Indira Gandhi Hospital in Kabul referred Romal to FMIC. At FMIC, doctors discovered that while Romal had an ectopic left kidney (meaning the kidney was not in its normal position), it was functioning normally. He was given medication for an infection, which eliminated his pain. Romal's treatment was paid for by the Patient Welfare Programme and by donations from FMIC's staff as part of the Hospital's Ramadan *Zakat* Campaign.





# Telemedicine



**BPH:** Bamyán Provincial Hospital  
**FPH:** Faizabad Provincial Hospital

Across Afghanistan, people lack access to quality health care services. Since 2007, FMIC’s eHealth programme has been improving access to care and training. In 2020, FMIC doctors provided teleconsultations for patients at Bamyán Provincial Hospital and Faizabad Provincial Hospital (a handful of teleconsultations were also provided to the Aga Khan Medical Centre in Khorog).

FMIC is also connected to specialists at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, the Necker Hospital in Paris, La Chaîne de l’Espoir and other institutions in France and Europe. Physicians at these hospitals provide teleconsultations to FMIC doctors and review MRI, CT scans and mammograms sent by FMIC.

FMIC’s telemedicine programme provides patients in remote areas with convenient access to FMIC’s specialists, saving them the time and money associated with travel to hospitals in Kabul and elsewhere. The programme has been especially valuable during the COVID-19 pandemic, given the dangers and difficulties associated with travel.

In 2020, FMIC provided 4,482 online patient consultations and teleradiology and telepathology consultations. 1,718 consultations were provided to Bamyán Provincial Hospital and 1,723 consultations were provided to Faizabad Provincial Hospital.





# Building Capacity

FMIC continues to build the capacity of Afghanistan's health workforce through its Postgraduate Medical Education programme, continuing medical education programme, in-house training, medical missions, annual conferences and online learning programmes.

## Postgraduate Medical Education

The Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) programme was established in 2012 in collaboration with the Aga Khan University (AKU) and Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health to train specialist physicians. The PGME programme offers theoretical, practical and research training in eight disciplines: anaesthesiology, cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, orthopaedics, paediatric medicine, paediatric surgery, pathology and radiology. A number of these are the only programmes of their kind in Afghanistan. As part of their training, residents spend time at the 710-bed Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, which is accredited by the US-based Joint Commission International and the US-based College of American Pathologists. They also spend time at other hospitals in Kabul. FMIC's Research Support Unit provides scientific seminars and workshops to residents and other interested physicians, as part of FMIC's efforts to encourage research activity at the Hospital and in Afghanistan.



In March 2020, 12 doctors graduated from FMIC's PGME programme at a ceremony attended by representatives of FMIC's founding partners, national and international NGOs, media and civil society organizations. Among the graduates were two women, one specializing in paediatric surgery and one in paediatric medicine. Currently, the PGME programme has 25 residents in eight disciplines, seven of whom are women.

In December 2020, FMIC launched a Female Enrichment Programme to support women and individuals from remote areas seeking to join the Hospital's PGME programme. The three-month programme provided them with the opportunity to take courses in subjects such as anatomy, physiology and pharmacology prior to taking the PGME entrance examination. Seventy women participated. The programme was supported by Global Affairs Canada.

## COVID-19 Training for Public Hospitals

FMIC trained 355 employees from the Ministry of Public Health and public hospitals, including the Afghan-Japan Hospital, in COVID-related subjects, including the use of personal protective equipment, infection control, caring for severely ill patients and

PCR testing. Training was also provided to more than 300 staff from agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network and the World Health Organization.

## Online Professional Development

FMIC's online learning programme provides health care professionals across Afghanistan with convenient access to training opportunities. FMIC doctors provided training sessions for staff at Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar, Bamyán Provincial Hospital, Faizabad Provincial Hospital and Baharak District Hospital. In 2020, a total of 63 online training sessions were conducted for 869 participants.

## Nursing Education Services

FMIC's Nursing Education Services (NES) trains nurses, midwives and other staff at FMIC and other hospitals. During 2020, NES training sessions were attended by 8,712 participants from FMIC, the Ministry of Public Health, Bamyán Provincial Hospital, Faizabad Provincial Hospital, Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar and hospitals in Mazar Sharif, Herat and Kunduz. Sessions covered a wide range of topics, including Peripheral Intravenous Catheters, Paediatric Advance Life Support and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support. The majority of sessions were conducted in person, either at FMIC or at the other hospitals.



### Continuing Medical Education

FMIC believes that education is the cornerstone of a sustainable and effective health care system. The hospital provides a variety of opportunities for medical professionals to advance their knowledge and skills through continuing medical education courses. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FMIC was forced to limit the number of in-person CME sessions. In total, twelve CME sessions were held on a variety of topics in ophthalmology, gynaecology, pathology and other subjects. A total of 219 individuals participated, including 201 participants from outside of FMIC.

### Medical Missions

Every year, scores of health professionals organized by La Chaîne de l'Espoir and the Aga Khan University visit FMIC to help the Hospital provide care and to share their knowledge with FMIC staff. While the number of medical missions was limited in 2020 due to the pandemic, 16 experts in obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthesiology, cardiac surgery and general surgery managed to visit FMIC.

### In-House Training

FMIC is committed to enhancing the capacity of its staff by providing opportunities to learn, grow and develop new skills. In 2020, the Hospital's Training and Development programme organized 16 in-house training sessions on a variety of topics. In total, 706 participants benefited from these in-house training sessions. Additionally, a number of employees attended conferences and specialized training programmes in India, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Germany and Pakistan. Subjects included cardiac surgery, orthopaedic surgery, radiology and congenital heart diseases.

In 2020, the Infection Control team trained health care and administrative staff on important safety topics. Forty-four sessions – including nine online sessions led by the Aga Khan University and two online sessions led by La Chaîne de l'Espoir – were held for 877 participants. The main purpose of these sessions was to ensure that employees understand and follow COVID-19 protocols.

### Scientific Conference and Quality Convention

FMIC held its 10th Annual International Scientific Conference and Quality Convention, marking a decade of constant efforts to nurture a culture of scientific inquiry and evidence-based knowledge creation in health care in Afghanistan. A hybrid event that blended in-person and online presentations, the conference brought together medical practitioners and researchers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Europe, Africa and elsewhere. The conference theme was "Universal Health: Accessibility, Quality and Research in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Keynote speakers included Mr David Martinon, Ambassador of France in Afghanistan; Dr Abdullah Fahim on behalf of the Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan; Mr Lee Hilling, chairman of the FMIC Board; Dr Eric Cheysson, President of La Chaîne de l'Espoir; Dr Adil Haider, Dean of the AKU Medical College, Pakistan; and Mrs Sheherazade Hirji, AKDN Diplomatic Representative for Afghanistan.

### Community Engagement Programme

FMIC has established a friendly relationship with the communities around the hospital. In 2020, despite lockdowns, eight free health awareness sessions were conducted for 383 members of neighbouring communities. The topics for these sessions were identified in consultation with the representatives of the adjacent communities and included COVID-19, women's health, back pain and vision and dental health. In addition, three tree-planting campaigns were conducted, with more than 500 trees being provided to help create a greener environment in the area.



## Our Partners and Supporters

Each of FMIC's four founding partners – the Government of France, the Government of Afghanistan, the Aga Khan University (an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network) and La Chaîne de l'Espoir – continues to play an active role in the support and development of FMIC. In addition, support by bilateral donors continues to enhance the sustainability of FMIC's programmes and the provision of quality health care services for the people of Afghanistan.

FMIC receives funds for its Patient Welfare Programme from the French government (through Agence Française de Développement, AFD), La Chaîne de l'Espoir, His Highness the Aga Khan and individual donors. It receives funds for capacity

building programmes from AFD and Global Affairs Canada (GAC); and for the Postgraduate Medical Education programme from AFD and GAC.

In 2020, the Government of France, La Chaîne de l'Espoir, His Highness the Aga Khan and AKDN provided FMIC with a total of \$7.3 million. This was \$3.5 million more than they had originally committed to provide in 2020.

To date, FMIC's founding partners and other donors have invested AFN 7.6 billion (\$111.3 million) in the Hospital.



## Our Future

Our expansion will enhance our contribution to Afghanistan's health care system and enable access to an even wider range of health care services.

FMIC aims to develop into a 550-bed teaching hospital. Our expansion will further enhance our contribution to Afghanistan's health care system and will enable more people to access a wider range of health care services. FMIC will also continue to train health care providers from other hospitals and develop a substantial research programme.

The expanded medical complex is currently under design. The new facilities will provide space for research activities, additional Postgraduate Medical Education programmes and enhanced diagnostic facilities and medical services, including in adult general surgery, cardiology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, neurosciences, oncology, orthopaedics and renal diseases.

# By the Numbers

	2006-18	2019	2020	Total
Admissions	62,110	9,420	9,475	81,005
Clinic Visits	1,155,132	169,765	153,861	1,478,758
Deliveries	1,753	1,205	1,296	4,254
Radiology Procedures	658,191	81,791	79,405	819,387
Laboratory Tests	3,670,203	461,708	449,092	4,581,003
Surgeries (All)	31,519	3,580	3,482	38,581





French Medical Institute for  
Mothers and Children  
Behind Kabul University of Medical Sciences  
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[www.fmic.org.af](http://www.fmic.org.af)



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



La chaîne  
de l'espoir



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DE L'EUROPE  
ET DES AFFAIRES  
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*Liberté  
Égalité  
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