

23 November 2021 – With all the odds against her – born too early, born too small – the tiny baby in the neonatal intensive care ward at Malalay Maternity Hospital in Kabul is still clinging on, struggling for every breath, grasping every extra minute of life.

She does not know it, but those caring for her are also struggling on, minute by minute, doing what they can to keep a health system they built – one sophisticated enough to save tiny premature babies like this from collapsing around them.

“See this intravenous fluid we are giving this baby – a tiny baby like this needs an infusion pump to make sure we don’t give too much and overwhelm her. We have none,” says Dr Atiqullah Halimi the senior paediatrician in charge of the neonatal intensive care unit.





She is the head of the Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Government of the State of Palestine, Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine.