



WORLD TB DAY AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan ranks 22nd on the list of the highest TB-burden countries in the world. Considering TB's predominance and the fact that TB affects people in the most productive age groups (15-44 years) of society, the Ministry of Public Health has recognized TB as one of its priority concerns.

TB CAP began supporting the National TB Control Program of Afghanistan (NTP) in October 2008. One of TB CAP's goals is to improve equitable access to quality TB care for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. In light of this goal, one of TB CAP's main activities in 2009 was to support the NTP on World TB day.



Objectives

The main objectives of this initiative were to mobilize communities, institutions and authorities to support the National TB Control Program and TB patients in

general. Marches were conducted and recreational events organized to raise public awareness about TB transmission, treatment and prevention, while also

reducing the existing social stigma and empowering people living with TB.

Methodology

TB CAP supported 13 local provinces to celebrate World TB Day. The World TB day celebrations were coordinated with parliamentarians, local government authorities, donors and stakeholders in the provinces. In addition, the Stop TB partnership, the Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs, Religious Affairs and the Ministry TV and radio channels contributed by broadcasting TB messages, dramas and organizing round table debates on TB. Head scarves and caps were also printed with TB

messages, which were distributed to school children in approximately 100 schools in these 13 provinces.

Results

TB CAP staff in Afghanistan report that these activities have led to a greater awareness of TB amongst the Afghan population, which has improved case detection and encouraged existing TB patients' to adhere to their treatment. The fact that these activities took place with such high participation in such an unstable environment already shows the commitment and enthusiasm of the participants. The activities have also led to the renewed commitment of care providers and have strengthened the support from the Afghan government authorities to the communities and TB patients to provide equitable access to quality TB care for all.

Country Population	13,925,000
Est. number of new TB cases	48,144
Est. TB incidence (all cases per 100,000 pop)	346
DOTS population coverage	100%
Rate of new SS+ cases (per 100,000 pop)	132
DOTS case detection rate (new SS+)	41%
DOTS treatment success rate, 2006 (new SS+) (%)	78%
Est. new adult TB cases HIV +	68.1%
MDR-TB among all new TB cases	2.3%
All data is for 2007. WHO Global TB Report 2009	

IN SUMMARY

1. 85,000 school children from 100 schools in 13 provinces participated in the celebrations.
2. 50,000 IEC posters were distributed to 1,200 DOTS centers around the country
3. 30,000 head scarves and 55,000 caps were distributed to students with the slogan:

"I am stopping TB"

4. TB awareness messages were broadcast through health facilities and communities via round tables, clips and dramas. Example messages were:

"TB is a curable disease."

"TB diagnosis and treatment are free."

"If you cough for more than 15 days, go to your nearest health clinic for a check up."



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The Tuberculosis Coalition
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