

Afghanistan tuberculosis portrait exhibition being held in Germany



A photo exhibition "*STOP TB - The Afghanistan Portraits*" carrying portrait photographs of people who are affected by the disease is being held in Germany these days. The photos were collected and facilitated by WHO Afghanistan and taken by the international humanitarian photographer Laura Salvinelli. Shot in western Afghanistan, the photos show malnutrition, poor living conditions, war, and displacement factors facilitating the spread of the disease. Afghanistan is a high burden country where tuberculosis is a major health problem. Around eighty percent of the victims of the disease in this country are women.

The exhibition will move to "The House of the Region" beginning from April 20th. The exhibition contains detailed text researched and written by National Stop TB Partnership in Afghanistan, WHO and the German microbiologist Matthias Stehr, who is also the exhibition's curator in Germany. The exhibition explains the historic

background of the country, the living conditions of the Afghan people and the strategies for the fight against tuberculosis in Afghanistan.

The exhibition is presently shown at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation from December 2013 onwards until April, 2014. From April 20th to May 30th, the exhibition will be shown to a broader audience at the "House of the Region" in Hannover. The exhibition venue is located next the campus of the tuberculosis health center in Hannover, the capital of the federal state of Lower Saxony.

The details are available at the following links

<http://www.tiho-hannover.de/aktuelles-presse/aktuelle-meldungen/aktuelle-meldungen/article/fotoausstellung-stop-tb/>

The exhibition is part of the joint efforts by WHO Office in Afghanistan and the National Stop TB Partnership Afghanistan to highlight the challenges associated with tuberculosis in the country. With expected withdrawal of NATO forces from the country in late 2014, it is expected that resources from donors will also shrink which is expected to affect progress in TB control negatively. The exhibition highlights that tuberculosis is still a major health concern in this war ravaged country and tuberculosis affected and survivors need continuous support.