

Ramadan charity campaign for Tuberculosis affected patients & families

Kabul (Sep 12, 09). The Stop TB Partnership Afghanistan is collecting Zakat and donations for Tuberculosis (TB) affected patients and families in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In response to a call from Eastern Mediterranean Partnership to Stop TB and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Stop TB Partnership is running a funds collection campaign for TB patients and their families in Ramadan. Ramadan is the holy month considered a preferred choice for charity among poor and deserving by Muslims throughout the world. The campaign has received an overwhelming response from all sections of society and a lot of cash and kind support is being generated in the campaign.

After endorsement by the Coordinating Board of the Partnership, the WHO based Secretariat in collaboration with TB Control Programme, WHO Office in Kabul and partner NGOs designed a campaign of different activities in order to mobilize local charity and donations throughout the month which started on August 21st. The Coordinating Board started with its own contribution to the collection and then disseminating the message among their circles.

In this regard, an exclusive seminar was also organized in Kabul Medical University attended by the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Public Health and other eminent figures from social, development, political and media sectors. Sub national partnership in Herat also organized similar event and is collecting funds for TB patients and families.

The Stop TB Partnership in Afghanistan was launched in 2008 and represents a coalition of social, development, political and media representatives committed to fight TB in the country. Housed by WHO Office in Kabul, the Partnership activities are being funded by CIDA and USAID support and are governed by a coordinating board. The Partnership work is being gradually expanded to sub national partnerships. After setting up a similar structure in Herat province, now efforts are being made to develop local partnerships in Kandhar and other provinces.

The Partnership very successfully mobilized more than 1.2 million school children on the eve of World TB Day 2009 under the banner of Million Youth March in the Eastern Mediterranean; it was the largest contribution by any EMR (WHO Region for the Eastern Mediterranean) country among 22 countries which collectively gathered 1.8 million youth on the occasion.



Chair of Afghanistan national stop TB partnership Pro.Obaidullha Obaid and parliamentarian's representative Miss Sharifa Zarmati Wardak in Ramadan donation campaign for TB Patients