

Universal Access, Human Right



Kabul, Afghanistan

The 21th anniversary of the World AIDS Day is being celebrated in a situation that the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has recorded 556 HIV positive cases of which 8 patients were died because of this disease.

NACP reported 2000 – 3000 positive all over the country along with 19000 Injecting Drug Users (IDUs). This program wants to decrease the above number to 0.5 percent by 2010. It has also established 10 Volunteer Counseling and Testing Centers (VCTs) in Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Badakhshan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Kunduz and Kabul Central Jail in collaboration with the aid agencies and other partners. In addition, there are 15 drop in center for high risk groups and 2 ART centers in Kabul and Herat.

Currently , Harm Reduction, Advocacy and communication in the different layers of the communities, testing the use of Opioid Substitution Therapies (OST) like methadone, Basic Health Packages for HIV/AIDS positives or HIV/AIDS at Risk Groups, Integration of the HIV/AIDS educational materials in the curriculum of the schools and universities, Health shelter Programs, Coordination of HIV/AIDS activities all over the country with related institutions like Parliaments, Police, Related Ministries, Provincial Councils, Mullahs, Support and advise media on wider and better coverage of HIV/AIDS at national level are the projects' activities that are presently being implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

In spite of the above activities and services , we still face stigma and discrimination, lack of access to the remote areas, political commitment, rapid improvement of injecting drug users, misunderstanding of HIV/AIDS transmission among communities and most at risk groups, interpretation HIV/AIDS positive as criminals based on the current laws, lack of financial support, weak national coordination in fighting this disease and lack of professionals and expertise nationwide are the main challenges against fighting HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan.

World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS 2007 reports shows that around 33 million of people are living with HIV/AIDS all over the world. In which 30.8 million are adults, 15.5 are women and 2 millions of such are children under the age of 15.

The Ministry of Public Health(MoPH) and National AIDS Control Program(NACP) are currently providing services all over the country in collaboration with International Donor Organizations like World Bank, USAID, UNICEF, WHO, UNIFEM, UNODC and other Coordinating & Implementing International and National Organizations like Constella Futures, Action Aid , AFGA , ICRC ,SCA and many more. NACP also plans to implement the National AIDS Strategy in consultation with donors, Afghan Government, NGOs, UN agencies, Civil Society, Parliament, media and different segments of the communities.

Helping person living with HIV/AIDS positive is our Islamic responsibility. Dear youth, respected intellectuals, wise leaders and aware Police and army, lets get together and stop HIV/AIDS spread in our war savaged country. HIV/AIDS positive people should be treated the same as the other human being because they are sick and need our support and assistance.

