



PRESS RELEASE

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Ministry of Public Health and USAID Kick Off Tuberculosis Control Project

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, AFGHANISTAN – On Thursday, April 30, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), launched the Challenge TB campaign. The campaign aims to improve the ability of Afghan doctors and healthcare workers to detect and treat Afghans suffering from tuberculosis (TB).

TB is an infectious disease that kills approximately 13,000 Afghans every year. While TB can be cured with the correct treatment, far too many people are never diagnosed. Afghans living in crowded urban areas are particularly vulnerable to TB. In addition, increasing access to detection and treatment in rural areas, where access to healthcare services can be limited, is a challenge. USAID, through the Challenge TB project will work with doctors and healthcare workers in the public and private sectors to improve early detection and screening, as well as expand treatment for those affected.

The Challenge TB campaign will focus on Afghanistan's five largest cities – Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar, Herat, and Jalalabad – as well as reaching rural communities in 13 provinces – Baghlan, Badakhshan, Herat, Takhar, Jowzjan, Faryab, Bamyán, Khost, Kandahar, Nangahar, Balkh, Ghazni, and Paktika – to improve TB services for over 50 percent of Afghanistan's population.

Challenge TB is part of USAID's investment in improving health services for all Afghans. The five-year, \$15 million program will assist the MoPH to achieve its goal of stopping TB in Afghanistan.

For more information about USAID's programs and interview requests please contact USAID/Afghanistan at (+93 (0) 700-114060) KabulAIDdoc@usaid.gov, <http://www.usaid.gov/Afghanistan>

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 50 years."



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