

A project to establish a clinical and social assistance infrastructure in Afghanistan

In a challenging team effort, a network project was carried on by Fondazione Paracelso Onlus between 2009 and 2011, training a physician and a lab-tech from Esteqlal Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, equipping a laboratory with the necessary electro-medical devices, and establishing an association of patients, fundamental for purposes of providing social support and information to families, raising awareness and putting pressure on the health authorities to encourage them to step up their focus on hemophilia. The project was led in strict collaboration with WFH, the ultimate goal being getting admission to the only world organization as for hemophilia, hub for international cooperation programs.

This will allow for Afghanistan to be emancipated from their past dependency on a few (very few to be honest) well-meaning small donors, opening the way to long-distance twinning projects between HTC's and NMOs from across the world, the training of healthcare professionals (physicians, physiotherapists, orthopedic therapists, nurses, social workers and psychologists) and donations sustained over time of pharmaceutical products for the treatment of hemophilia, without which, as we all know, life expectancy for patients, both children and adults alike, is alarmingly diminished.

At the end of October 2011 a small delegation (one from Fondazione Paracelso, one from Milan HTC) site-visited Kabul to make sure that this embryonic yet vital assistance network had everything it needed to become operational.

Back to Italy, Fondazione Paracelso established connections with Italian organizations and authorities, achieving an agreement which will take to Esteqlal Hospital 300.000 IU/year of CFC for 2012-2014.

A brief video to document our trip and mission in Afghanistan has been shot, reconstructing the evolution of the project, the steps taken to meet the relevant requisites, and its genesis.

