



STATEMENT

Toward a new era for Harm Reduction in Afghanistan

1st of July 2012

به سوی یک صفحه نوین برای کاهش آسیب در افغانستان

11- سرطان 1391

We are very pleased to inform you that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between **Médecins du Monde (Mdm)** and **Organization for Harm Reduction in Afghanistan (OHRA)**. This event took place in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 11th of Saratan 1391 (Shamsi calendar) – 1st of July 2012 (Gregorian calendar).

This major event is a great milestone in the hand over process of the model Harm Reduction program Mdm that has been implementing since 2006 in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

This program was aiming to introduce Harm Reduction in the country at a time we get first evidences there was a concentrated HIV epidemics among people using drugs. To tackle this challenge, the comprehensive UN package of 9 services has been introduced and implemented on a 5 years timeframe in partnership with Ministry of Public Health. Some major steps were NSP in 2006, ART in 2009 and methadone as OST in 2010. But Mdm was as well concerned to enlarge the range of services delivered to people using drugs and has defined a 12 components package including peer based Naloxone distribution to manage overdose cases.

Targeted Information, Education & Communication	Provider Initiated Testing & Counselling	Needle Syringe Exchange & Condom promotion
Prevention & Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections	Prevention, Diagnosis & Vaccination for Hepatitis	Prevention, Diagnosis & Treatment of Tuberculosis
Prevention, Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS & Anti Retroviral Therapy	Opioid Substitution Therapy through methadone	Promotion of Human Rights for People who use Drugs
Mental Health & Social Support	Socio-Economical Reintegration	Overdose Prevention & management

Furthermore this program aims to disseminate the provision of Harm Reduction services all over the country throughout a major capacity building component. Afghan Harm Reduction NGOs, law enforcement officers, religious leaders, others key local stakeholders have been trained throughout the national Training and Resource Centre established in Kabul in 2009. This comprehensive approach contributes actively to the promotion and the social acceptability of Harm Reduction in Afghanistan.

OHRA/MdM Memorandum of Understanding objective is to hand over this program to a national NGO. Currently a first partnership agreement has been signed on behalf on this MoU. This partnership agreement hands over immediately 10 out of the 12 Harm Reduction components to OHRA. A second partnership will be signed in 2013 to go on in the hand over process.

We consider that a process of “afghanization” of the model program is a crucial pre-requisite to go further in scale up and increase the nationwide coverage rate. We hope this process will as well contribute to reduce current barriers to methadone.

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OHRA has now to be considered as your major correspondent regarding Harm Reduction in Afghanistan.

- Executive Director: Dr Amin Zemaray – ohra.af@gmail.com
- Program Manager: Mr Ahmad Farhad Habib – ohra.manager.af@gmail.com

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On the same time, a community-based organization of/for people using drugs has been created: **Afghan Drug User Group (ADUG)**. ADUG is still in a building process in partnership with International Network of People Using Drugs (INPUD).

- ADUG representative: Mr Abdur Raheem Mohammad – afghandun@yahoo.com

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MdM will provide technical support in the following months to those two Afghan NGOs.

- MdM contact in Kabul: Miss Raphaëlle Moras, Training and Partnership Support Coordinator – trcco.mdmafghanistan@medecinsdumonde.af
- MdM responsible of mission, MdM Board member: Mr Olivier Maguet – olivier.maguet@medecinsdumonde.net