PRESS INFORMATION

THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

EU makes available EUR 8 Million to continue improving the Afghan Mental Health and Disability services

Kabul, 22 November 2015

Today, the European Union Delegation to Afghanistan and the Ministry of Public Health of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan organized a ceremony to mark their continued cooperation towards the improvement of delivery of public health services.

The European Union will award two grants with a total value of 8 million EUR to support the expansion and improvement of services to people living with disabilities and mental disorders. This EU-funded program will be implemented over the next 3 years. More than 400 health professional - physiotherapists and psychosocial counsellors - will receive diploma training and will be deployed in public health clinics after graduation. The program will also support a number of governmental institutions and departments and raise awareness of hundreds of other health workers in the fields of mental health and disability.

"My congratulations to Handicap International and to the Health Net International on their successful bid. I have every confidence that you will implement the training projects effectively and efficiently, using approaches that will have a sustained, and quality impact on the quality of life of those with mental health problems and those with some form of disability. I also sincerely thank the European Union for deciding to address these two important subjects with substantial amount of money. Your contribution is much valued by the Government and my ministry." said H.E Dr Ferozuldin Feroz, Minister of Public Health of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

"There is an urgent need to build the skills and capacities to be used now and in the future for the treatment and care of disability, mental illness and psychosocial distress. This partnership between the European Union and the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan responds to critical needs and will bring about positive results" said Maurizio Cian, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Afghanistan.

The EU has invested more than 25 million EUR from the start of its support to these two priority areas. These funds contributed to providing institutional support, developing human resources and delivering of disability and mental health services.
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