



## **SANS FRONTIÈRES: AFGHANISTAN, A DIFFERENT STORY**

In October 2008 we received a request for help for a hemophiliac Afghan boy of 3. This single case turned into an opportunity to build up a project which tried to overcome the problem beyond one family's emergency.

The programme launched by Fondazione Paracelso in 2009 equipped Afghanistan with a clinical and social facility providing care for hemophiliacs. This was a network project, realised with the financial support of Novo Nordisk and contributions from a number of public and private bodies and institutions.

First of all, thanks to a contact with Cooperazione Italia-Afghanistan, an Afghan doctor and some laboratory technicians were selected and accommodated at Fondazione Paracelso headquarters; they worked for five months side by side with Italian specialists at the "A. Bianchi Bonomi" Hemophilia and Thrombosis Centre in Milan, acquiring the necessary clinical and laboratory expertise. After this, with the support of Sysmex Co., UK, we fitted out the laboratory that had been opened at the Esteqlal Hospital in Kabul with electro-medical equipment and finally we contributed, materially and conceptually, to the establishment of the Afghan Hemophilia Association, a fundamental element for the patient's and his family's social assistance and information needs, in fostering the health authorities to step up their efforts to help hemophilia sufferers and a prerequisite for joining the World Federation of Hemophilia, a point of reference and meeting place for international cooperation programmes.

At the end of October 2011, a small delegation composed of Andrea Buzzi, the President of Fondazione Paracelso, Dr. Flora Peyvandi, the Director of the Milan Hemophilia Centre, and a cameraman that documented the journey and the mission went to Kabul on behalf of and on the instructions of WFH to check that everything was there that was necessary for the operations of this embryonic but vital care network.

The newly formed Afghan Hemophilia Association was admitted to WFH at the World Congress, held in Paris from 8 to 12 July 2012. This indispensable recognition was the final aim of the programme that enabled Afghanistan to be independent of the need for alms from the odd willing benefactor, opening up the way for twinning with medical centres and associations in other parts of the world, training healthcare professionals (doctors, physiotherapists, orthopaedicians, nurses, social workers and psychologists) and constant donations of medicines for the treatment of hemophilia, without which both adult and child patients' expectation of life is dramatically low.

At this point the project was technically concluded, but not the Fondazione Paracelso's commitment: thanks to the collaboration of Centro Nazionale Sangue (CNS, the Italian Blood Center), the Milan main hospital IRCCS Ca' Granda Foundation, FedEmo and Kedrion, and the support of AVIS, CRI (the Italian Red Cross), FIDAS and FRATRES, at the end of a process which brought in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and State-Regions Conference, on 17 April itself (World Hemophilia Day), a military aircraft took the first substantial donation of Italian medicines to Kabul, a literally life-saving resource for the patients. In the meantime the laboratory had been supplied with reagents and disposables for the whole of 2013.



**Fondazione Paracelso**  
Per l'emofilia e patologie affini

The last piece in this very concrete project was the Fondazione Paracelso's launch of an appeal to **sponsor** Afghan hemophilia patients: out of the 100 that have been diagnosed up to now, 80 live between 120 and 150 kilometres from Kabul, a distance that, in Afghanistan, entails a day's journey on broken roads and precarious means of transport, to be undertaken with a child or adult in pain with an ongoing haemorrhage. Donations for this project, which is already operational, are an enormous help for the future lives of its beneficiaries.

All those who decide to donate any amount are welcome (50 euro is enough to pay for a car with a driver to fetch a patient and take him or her to the Kabul Hemophilia Centre). Fondazione Paracelso will publish periodic statements of account of the donations received and the amounts spent. It guarantees that the proceeds will be used down to the last cent for the purpose specified.

**FONDAZIONE PARACELSO ONLUS**

**sort code IBAN IT11E0504801601000000049228**