



The photographs have been produced with the support of the National Stop TB Partnership in Afghanistan and WHO. The photography exhibition "STOP TB - The Afghanistan Portraits" is an exhibition of portraits of people with TB taken by the international humanitarian photographer Laura Salvinelli in western Afghanistan.

TB is a disease of poverty. In Europe, infectious diseases were eradicated by medical advances and improved living conditions from the middle of last century. However, annually around 9 million people fall ill with TB and 1.3 million die from the disease. Malnutrition, poor living conditions, war and displacement contribute to its spread.

Especially in Afghanistan, a country that experienced war and during the last 30 years, tuberculosis is a major health problem. Around 80% of the victims of the disease are women.

The causative agent of the disease is the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that is transmitted through coughing and sneezing. Although the disease is curable, the treatment becomes more complicated by the emergence of resistant variants of the pathogen.

Salvinelli is representative of positive photography. With her impressive portraits Salvinelli does not show "victims" of the disease, but human beings with individuality and dignity. The exhibition contains detailed text researched and written by representatives of the National Stop TB Partnership in Afghanistan, WHO and the German microbiologist Matthias Stehr, the exhibition's curator in Germany.

The exhibition explains the historic background of the country, the living conditions of the Afghan people and the strategies for the fight against tuberculosis in Afghanistan. It is being shown at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation from 20 December 2013 to 15 April 2014.

From 20 April to 30 May the exhibition will be shown to a wider audience at the "House of the Region" in Hannover. The exhibition venue is located next the campus of the tuberculosis health center in Hannover, the capital of the federal state of Lower Saxony. The opening session will include a high-level panel discussion with scientists, public health experts and ex patients who have been cured of the disease.

[Photo exhibition \(in German\)](#)

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