



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Public Health  
Office of the Minister  
Public Relations Department**



**Press Release**

**Dr. Sayed Mohammad Amin Fatimie, Minister of Public Health of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan participates in White House Summit on International Development**

**Kabul; October 28, 2008:** On October 21, Dr. S.M. Amin Fatimie delivered remarks at the White House Summit on International Development in Washington, D.C. Attended by President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, musician and activist Bob Geldof, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, and other public and private-sector leaders, the Summit focused on the Bush Administration's core principles that have transformed the U.S. approach to international development by linking assistance with results. This approach is producing historic, life-saving results for millions around the globe.

This Summit, coordinated in conjunction with USAID, the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator at the Department of State (OGAC), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), brought together a wide range of country beneficiaries, faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders in the international development community, including public, private, and nongovernmental leaders from the United States and the developing world.

During delivering his remarks, Dr. Fatimie mentioned about a “quiet revolution” occurring in thousands of villages in Afghanistan which has helped empower Afghan people to develop and to take greater control over their lives. Construction of hundreds of health facilities, establishment of a very good network of basic health care clinics and small hospitals, training of hundreds of community midwives who are recruited from remote rural areas and who return after 18-months training to their districts, training of 20,000 community health workers, half of them women, who voluntarily provide health education on nutrition and hygiene and who treat common killer diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia are success stories of health sector in Afghanistan.

He added that the Afghan Government takes great pride in the fact that the US Government has agreed to provide \$218 million in direct assistance to the MOPH over the next five years to support NGOs in the provision of the Basic Package of Health Services in 13 provinces. This assistance is coming directly to the Afghan Government and not through a third party. The MOPH was certified as meeting the standards of fiscal and grants management to receive the funds directly, something that happens only rarely.

He added that Afghans are very thankful people and appreciating the very generous support of America in the development of Afghanistan and bringing changes and results for Afghanistan. **Afghans are considering Americans as liberators who are in Afghanistan to help Afghans bring peace, stability and prosperity to their country. Peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan will very much help in the global stability, peace and development.**

Dr. Fatimie also participated in a meeting at the US Department of Defense (DOD) on 24 October. Participants were Dr. SW Casscells, Assistant Secretary of defense for Health Affairs, senior representatives from the Secretary of State, WHO office in USA and its Headquarter, USAID and DHHS. At the meetings health and nutrition situation in Afghanistan was discussed. Support from the Government of USA especially in the area of health sector was appreciated. The Health Facility Development Plan of Afghanistan was presented at the meeting. The plan envisages construction of 419 health facilities. Out of these facilities 310 are currently operating in the rented private houses and 109 are newly established. DOD promised to send a mission to Afghanistan for assessment of this plan in November 2008. In addition the USA side also committed to support construction of three provincial hospitals in Nemroz, Farah and Nooristan provinces. Naval Medical Academy also showed their willingness to support Afghanistan in the area of telemedicine.

The following unfunded priorities of MoPH Afghanistan once again presented to the participants and they promised to support them.

1. Proposal and functioning of **419** health facilities
2. Covering the remaining 15% of population (6 million) with basic health services
3. establishment of mobile health clinics for hard to reach population and underserved areas
4. provision and expansion of diagnostic and curative services
5. equipping of laboratories, especially for drug quality control and for detection of hazardous chemical and biological substances
6. Improve capacity of MoPH in various areas, particularly, accountability, transparency and sound management in Kabul and provinces
7. Establishment and activation of health facilities for the treatment of drug users
8. Establishment and activation of health facilities for the treatment of mental disorders
9. Establishment and activation of centers for the treatment of road accidents, trauma cases and burn cases
10. Effective planning for the occupational health
11. Provision of 10 units of laser for the treatment of Leishmaniasis by private sector
12. Provision of drugs and supplies for the control of seasonal diseases like pneumonia and diarrhea by a Canadian organization.

A summary working report of Dr. Fatimie's visit will be available from the MoPH website shortly.

To read more on the Ministry of Public Health's activities, please visit: <http://www.moph.gov.af/>

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