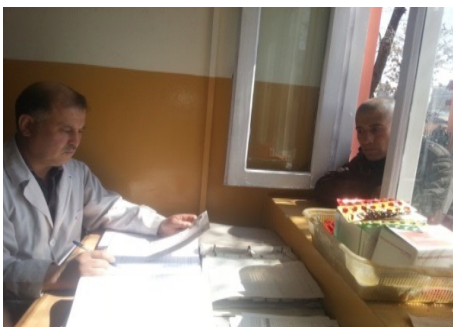


## SUCCESS STORY

### When the System Works, One Person Can Make a World of Difference

**Over the years, Urban DOTS has been implemented by TB CAP, TB CARE I, and now Challenge TB, all funded by USAID...[and] has expanded from just 22 health facilities to 85.**



MSH

*Mirzayei registering and informing a TB patient about the duration of TB treatment and other important information*

***“I feel very happy when a TB patient is successfully treated. I am thankful to Challenge TB for providing me with the knowledge to identify, diagnose, and treat TB patients effectively.”***

***-- Hayatullah Mirzayei,  
Nurse, Barchi Hospital,  
Kabul, Afghanistan***

Afghanistan faces high rates of tuberculosis (TB)—particularly in densely populated Kabul—as well as considerable challenges to providing effective TB control in the context of a fragile state.

In 2009, the USAID-funded Tuberculosis Control Assistance program (TB CAP) helped the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) introduce the Urban DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course strategy) approach to stem the epidemic in Kabul. Over the years, Urban DOTS has been implemented by TB CAP, TB CARE I, and now Challenge TB, all funded by USAID. From 22 health facilities in 2009, Urban DOTS is now provided in 85.

One of these is the 100-bed Barchi Hospital in the crowded subdistrict of Nahia. Before Urban DOTS was introduced, this hospital had shown little progress in finding, diagnosing, treating, or reporting on TB.

Today, Barchi tells a very different story. And although it takes skilled teams, drugs, equipment, and functioning health care systems to make TB care work, certain individuals stand out, reminding us that one dedicated person really can make a difference.

Hayatullah Mirzayei has been working as a DOTS nurse at Barchi Hospital since 2013, when TB CARE I trained him on standard procedures for case detection, diagnosis, and treatment. Today, Mirzayei manages more than 90 TB patients each day. He diagnoses 70-80 new TB patients each quarter. Mirzayei also trudges the streets of Kabul to search for contacts of TB patients, screen them, and get children under the age of five on preventive therapy.

More than the numbers he deals with, the trust he has built among patients and their families has led to dramatically improved adherence to treatment. Health officers say that Mirzayei’s efforts have played a major role in seeing Barchi’s treatment success rates jump from 78 percent in 2013 to more than 90 percent today.

Ever modest, when congratulated, Mirzayei said, “I feel very happy when a TB patient is successfully treated. I am thankful to Challenge TB for providing me with the knowledge to identify, diagnose, and treat TB patients effectively.”