


The human face of tuberculosis in Sudan



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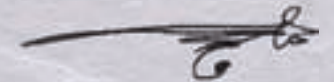


Foreword

Tuberculosis is a major public health problem in Sudan and annually thousands of people die of the disease, which is both curable and very much preventable. Through the national tuberculosis control programme, the Government has been striving to detect a greater number of cases, provide care to tuberculosis patients and involve other sectors in tuberculosis control efforts. However, greater input and the serious engagement of all segments of society are required in these efforts. The media could play a larger role by enhancing awareness of the disease among policy-makers and the public; the private health sector could contribute by referring suspected tuberculosis patients to public tuberculosis care facilities; and communities could socially and economically support patients with families and donors increasing their assistance. For the elimination of tuberculosis in Sudan, efforts need to be coordinated in partnership.

Working together to assist the Government in facing the challenges was the rationale behind the creation of the Stop TB Partnership in Sudan in 2008. Guided by the commitment of personalities, such as Her Excellency the First Lady, Fatima Khalid, the forum of partnership is truly reflective of a collective resolve to fight tuberculosis, involving nongovernmental organizations, the media, the business community and international technical and aid organizations.

This reportage is yet another medium through which to show our support for those affected by tuberculosis in Sudan. It takes inspiration from the real life stories of people affected by tuberculosis and shows images of the people who work with, and treat, tuberculosis patients. While we may have a long journey in eradicating this disease, we are working hard towards that goal and our vision is for all patients to be free of tuberculosis and to regain their formerly healthy and productive lives. This is a vision for all tuberculosis patients that will be realized.



Professor Awad I Awad
President, Stop TB Partnership Sudan
June 2010

Introduction

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations with the most ethnically and linguistically diverse populations on the planet. Negatively affected by conflict and political and economic uncertainty, the worsening humanitarian situation is a victim of these circumstances. Among the many health, socioeconomic and development challenges that the country is currently facing, tuberculosis represents just one of the challenges.

In Sudan, historically, the incidence of tuberculosis started increasing at the end of the 1930s/the beginning of the 1940s, coinciding with the start of the Second World War. In recognition of the urgency of the problem, the Government initiated a pilot tuberculosis control programme based on hospitalization, supervision and prompt investigation of contacts. WHO was at the forefront of this effort and in the 1950s, the Organization sent expert missions to assist the Government's efforts. In 1993, the Federal Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, launched a nationwide tuberculosis control programme based on adoption of the directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) strategy.

However, despite the long history of tuberculosis care and the progress made in Sudan, the country is still ranked among the top three countries with the highest tuberculosis burden in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The case detection rate is under 50% and people are dying of a completely preventable and curable disease.

This is an unfortunate and saddening truth.

The reportage "The human face of tuberculosis in Sudan" presents the untold stories of those affected by tuberculosis. Through compelling images, the reportage details the seriousness of the situation and displays in graphic images the toll of the disease on those affected. The images highlight the resilience, endurance and courage of the people of Sudan—men, women, young and old—and the urgency of the humanitarian crisis and plight of those affected by tuberculosis. The urgency with which these people require assistance and essential tuberculosis care services is evident on every page and the message is loud and clear—"THERE IS A NEED TO ACT AND ACT NOW!"

The Regional Office is sincerely thankful to the Government of Sudan, the Stop TB Partnership in Sudan and to the communities for working with, and allowing, us to produce this reportage. We hope that this will help bring tuberculosis back into sharp focus after being neglected in light of the other challenges facing the country today. We also hope that these images will encourage donors to be proactive in supporting tuberculosis care and the society at large in extending its much needed help to the Government of Sudan to fight this deadly, but preventable and curable, disease.



TB patients waiting for medical examination.



People are waiting for their turn to be examined.



People suspected of having TB arrive at the hospital every day.



Mother sitting at her son's bedside. This little boy has TB.



A mother with her children patiently waits in line to see a doctor.



This man has finally recovered from a very serious condition.



He needs to undergo an expensive operation, which costs about US\$ 10 000.



Women waiting patiently for relatives in the hospital.



A TB patient being weighed before medical examination.



Medical examination of a TB patient.



A TB patient being examined by a doctor.



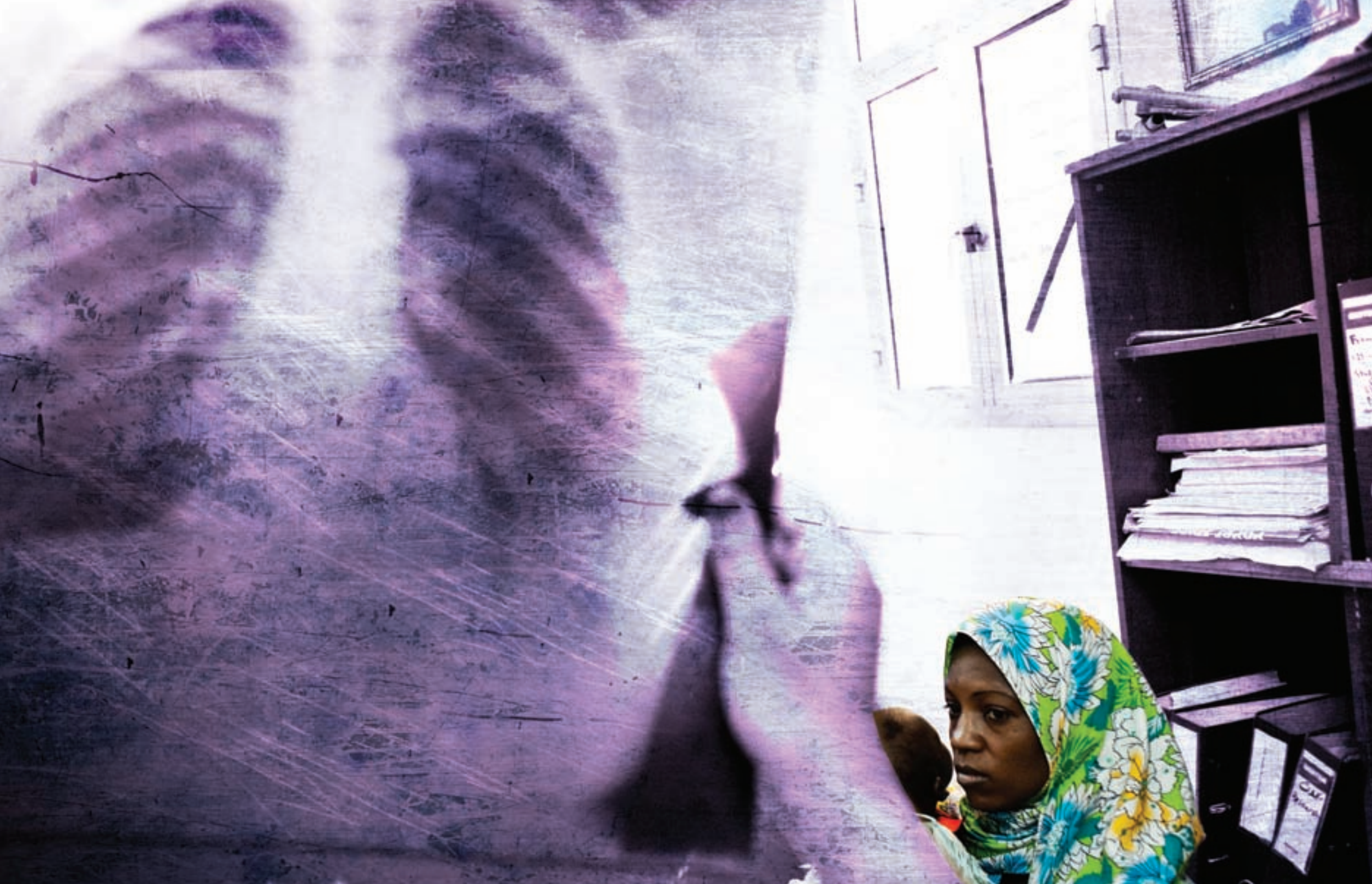
This little boy may have TB.



This young child has been standing in line waiting to be examined by a doctor.



Medical examination of a man with TB.



A doctor examines the chest X-ray of a TB patient.



Wondering about the future.



Discussing the day's work.



The little boy in the background is feeling much better now.



A doctor registering new cases of joint HIV/TB infection.



Doctors examining sputum smears.



A doctor on her rounds in the hospital.



A woman with TB is weighed in preparation for medical examination.



The health of this young girl is gradually improving.



A woman waits to hear the results of her chest X-ray.



Sleeping under a bednet, a rare privilege for many.



TB patient in therapy.



This man has been really ill with a severe cough.



A doctor examining sputum smears.



A patient about to take his TB medication.



A young woman takes her TB medication at a health centre inside a refugee camp.



Patients waiting in line to be tested for TB.



The fight against TB in the midst of poverty is often a difficult struggle.



Patients with suspected TB wait in line to be tested for the disease.



A woman waits patiently with her child to see a doctor.



A doctor writes up patients' notes.



This woman is feeling much better after receiving the treatment she needs.



The human face of tuberculosis in Sudan presents the untold story of those affected by tuberculosis in Sudan through compelling, graphic images. Tuberculosis is a major public health problem in the country with thousands of people dying annually of this completely preventable and curable disease. Despite a long history of tuberculosis care and control in the country, Sudan has one of the highest burdens of the disease in the Region. It is hoped that the images shown in this book will encourage donors, nongovernmental organizations, the media, the business community and international, technical and aid organizations to be more proactive in supporting the Government of Sudan in tuberculosis care and to work more closely in partnership towards greater tuberculosis control efforts and the elimination of the disease from the country.

For further information contact

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Stop TB Partnership

Eastern Mediterranean Partnership to Stop TB  الشراكة الإقليمية
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