

NOOR NEWS

Light for Afghanistan

NOOR HAS COME HOME!

A long term dream came true when the Deputy Minister of Public Health officially inaugurated the new NOOR Eye-care Training Centre (NETC) on Darulaman Road in Kabul last year. This took place on World Sight Day, 14 October 2012, with the Deputy Minister cutting a ribbon to make the official opening. The celebration included many partner organizations and there was good media coverage. Having our own, purpose build hospital allows NOOR to again have its main work in Kabul on one compound. Before, we were scattered across three locations in the city in buildings belonging to other people. And, one year on, what difference has this made?



14 October 2012

We hear from staff working in the new building.

'NOOR is famous in Afghanistan – so where we are matters to people. Being here, on Darulaman Road, means that the hospital has a large site and well located. When NOOR started, we were in the building next door to this one (currently the Cure hospital), so we have come back to where we started – this is good for NOOR and good for Afghans.'

'The new building is clean with plenty of rooms – every single section of this place is different but good. It is a good place to work. Where we were before was old and small. And the garden here is beautiful.'

'The difference is that the building has been changed to a hospital. It has made my job a lot easier – I can meet other managers whenever I want, so co-ordination and co-operation is easier. And my home is nearer, as well!'



October 2012

'This new building is big which means we can see more patients. More operations take place, more people are helped. It is also clean – that is really important. As we are now all together in one building, it is much easier to see colleagues, ask them questions and get the answers straight away.'

'It is cleaner and better for the students on the Ophthalmic Technician course – there is a good classroom. For the students, being next door to administrative colleagues as well as the hospital services makes the practical element of their course easy to set up. They can go straight from lectures to practical sessions – they don't have to factor in travelling time which is always complicated in Kabul.'

'The atmosphere here is calm and even relaxing – people like it here.'

Hopefully, these words give a flavour of what it is like to work here. Also, nearly every patient comments on the gardens and the cleanliness of the hospital. We were also delighted to install a central heating system within 45 days - whilst still working with patients! This means that we can work through the winter weather and still give patients the service they need.



October 2013

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