

HealthNetTPO manifesto

Yes, there's been a worldwide improvement in poverty reduction. Yes, people are getting healthier and, yes, they have better access to public services. But no, this does not include everyone!

There's one group left out, losing out, and even being *pushed* out. Billions of people at the bottom are excluded from such developments; they are 'disconnected' from any and all public services or basic security.

Almost half of the world's populations (45%) live on less than \$4 per day. 10% survive on less than half of that. That's not just poverty; it's a brutal obscenity, a social problem, a security issue, and a moral disgrace.

We don't do charity. For 25 years we have been working with people in communities where the violence goes beyond weapons and visible repression. Where malnourished children have no chance to develop their natural potentials, and an illegal abortion is safer than giving birth. We have a deep understanding of how being 'disconnected' destroys the basic foundation of any society: trust and minimum confidence.

We gain people's trust and help them to change their fate. We know health is not just the absence of disease, but an essential condition for a satisfying life. Health is much more than health care. Health is about cure and care. Health is the opposite of illness, and individuals cannot be healed in a sick society. Health is required for building communities that allow a secure and safe life.

We use health as an entry point into the worst situations. We build health systems and provide health care, but any lasting effect has to be built on healing the communities: health is a condition for change, and working on change makes people healthy.

We leave no one out. Our approach is aimed at the total community. We identify the most competent and daring agents of change – usually young women – and work with them on change. Health is the driver, but integration makes it happen. By working together on health, we re-connect individuals and groups. Old relationships are rediscovered, new ones are forged – and communities are mobilized against repression and exclusion.

Together, we connect by building new trust and empathy. Every day we prove that stronger relationships have a tangible, measurable positive impact on the health and well-being of everyone, everywhere. And no one is excluded, no one is 'disconnected'!

Approved by the board dd. 02 April 2019.